

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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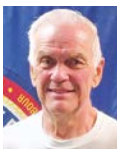
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## IBEW News



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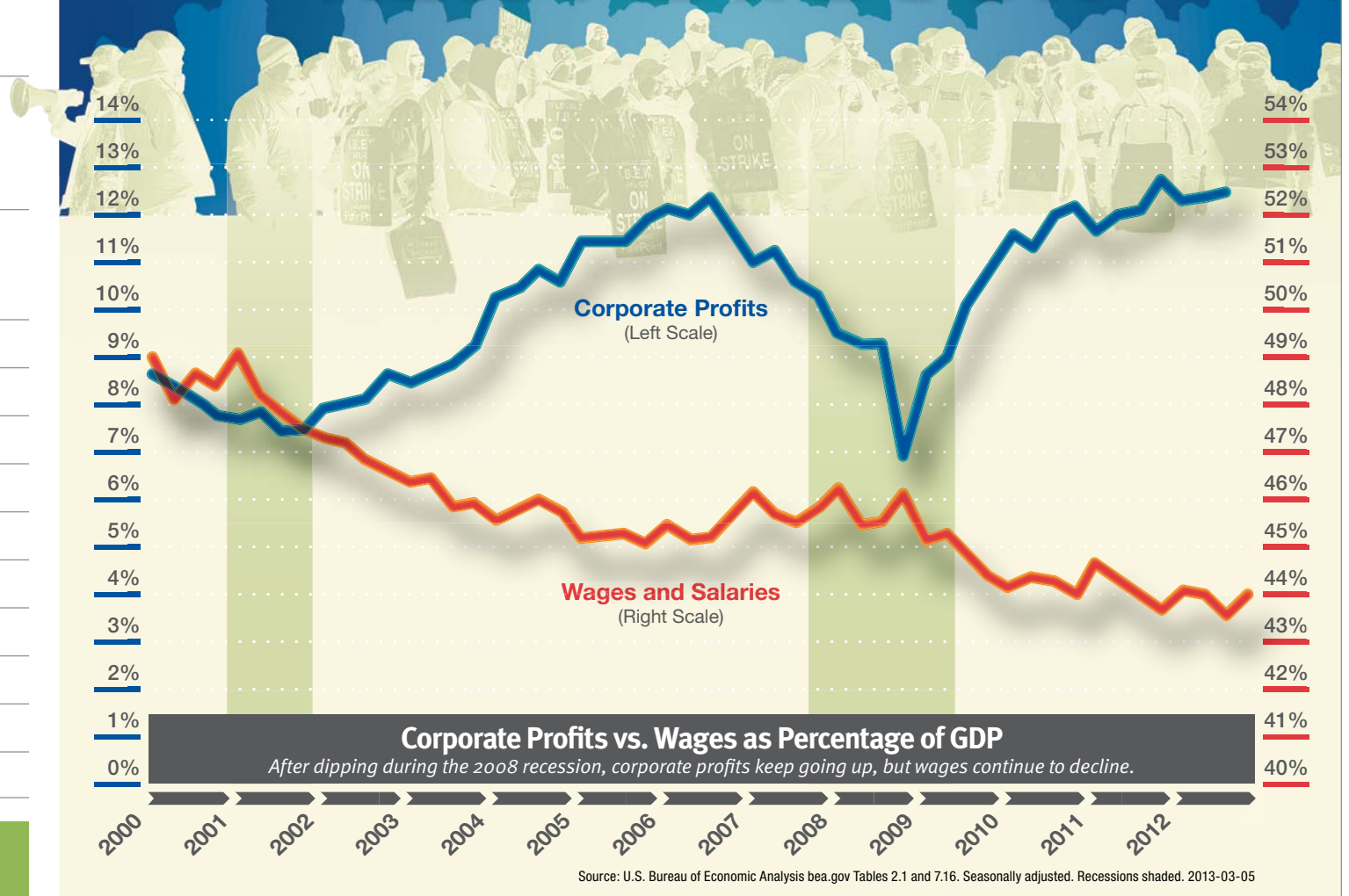
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## HARD BARGAINING: Corporate America's NEW PLAYBOOK



### Corporate Profits vs. Wages as Percentage of GDP

After dipping during the 2008 recession, corporate profits keep going up, but wages continue to decline.

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**W**hen the Great Recession struck with full force in 2008, many companies demanded deep concessions.

Workers across North America, including thousands of IBEW members, made numerous sacrifices to help their employers make it through those tough times.

Since then the economy has made a major turn-

## RECORD PROFITS AND RAW DEALS

around—but most of its benefits are going to the top 1 percent of earners.

Profits have hit an all-time high. At the same time, wages as a percent of the economy have hit an all-time low.

Even at unionized companies, IBEW negotiators are confronting cash-rich employers who have replaced mutually beneficial collective bargaining with a winner-take-all, adversarial relationship—an approach some union activists are calling “hard bargaining.”

“There are companies out there struggling, but even companies that are doing well are bullying everyone like it is still 2008,” said IBEW Manufacturing Department Director Randy Middleton. “They don’t need the concessions, their survival doesn’t depend on givebacks, but they know workers have been afraid and they’ve sharpened their knives.”

Across the nation, profitable companies like Rockwell Collins, Schneider Electric and GE are demanding the closure of pensions, pay freezes and higher health care costs.

Even a company like Southern California Edison, which has maintained a constructive relationship with its workers for decades, recently hired a union-busting lawyer to lead negotiations.

The trend is clear: corporations can afford to pay higher wages, they just aren’t, and every day

**HARD BARGAINING** continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

## HARD BARGAINING: Corporate America's **NEW PLAYBOOK**



FairPoint Communications employees in New England have been on strike since Oct. 17. 'It's difficult for people trying to make ends meet, being on a picket line in five feet of snow in 8-degree weather,' said the IBEW's Bob Erickson.

companies are paying their workers less.

"Every business knows, in the long run, we rise together," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "But what we are finding now are companies in one industry after the next, squeezing their workers without ever giving a thought to how it might end."

### In California, 'Union-Busting 101'

For decades, Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 and Southern California Edison enjoyed a fruitful relationship, negotiating strong contracts beneficial to both employees and the company.

That is, until this year.

Negotiations on a new contract have been poisoned by the company's refusal to bargain in good faith, said Local 47 Business Manager Pat Lavin.

Local 47 represents more than 4,000 workers at Southern California Edison.

"When we first sat down for pre-bargaining last year, we were led to believe it wouldn't be contentious," said Lavin, who also represents the Seventh District on the

International Executive Council. "Instead we got hit with 150 takeaway proposals."

Among the company's demands are cuts to overtime, weakening of seniority rules and cutbacks to paid sick leave and vacation.

Management hired anti-labor lawyer Adam Abrahms to assist with bargaining. He boasts on his website that he has assisted in more than 100 anti-union campaigns, including beating back organizing drives at San Francisco International Airport and decertifying a unit of the California Nurses Association.

Most galling, said Lavin, is the fact that the top officers cashed out more than \$90 million in Edison stock options last year. "They're making bank, while telling us to make givebacks."

Members have been taken by surprise by the company's insistent demands, especially considering the close working relationship Local 47 enjoyed with the company.

The IBEW often lobbied on behalf of Southern California Edison on legislative issues in Sacramento. Most recently, Local 47 worked with management to devise an agreement between the local building

trades and the company around staffing the shutdown of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, SCE's nuclear plant.

"The help we gave SCE kept the company going," said Lavin. "In my 15 years as business manager and 48 years as an IBEW member, I've never seen Edison's management treat its workers with such disrespect."

SCE's anti-worker approach isn't limited to union members. In February, the company announced it would lay off more than 400 information technology workers and replaced them with workers from India. Many of the new employees are in the United States as guest workers.

The H-1B visa program "was supposed to be for projects and jobs the American workers could not fill," one SCE IT worker told Computer World. "But we're doing our job. It's not like they are bringing in these guys for new positions that nobody can fill."

Local 47 members have been encouraged to contact management to register their disapproval with the company's "hard-bargaining" approach.

The contract, which expired Dec. 31, has been extended.

"This has the tone of nothing more than simple union-busting 101," said a Local 47 bargaining update newsletter. "We will stick to the path we are on to obtain a reasonable and positive outcome to these proceedings."

### Holding the Line in New England

A difficult contract negotiation can test the mettle of even the most dedicated trade unionist.

For nearly 2,000 FairPoint Communications workers in New England who have been on strike since Oct. 17, the long winter and dwindling personal finances have been a profound test of solidarity and camaraderie.

"In many ways, it's drawn people closer together, IBEW and CWA, who share a common interest," said Bob Erickson, IBEW international representative from the Second District. "We've seen a

lot of strength. This group of union members has done an outstanding job.

"At the same time, people want to get back to work," he said. "This is tough on everybody. It's difficult for people trying to make ends meet, being on a picket line in five feet of snow in 8-degree weather."

In February, workers in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont entered their fifth month on strike. FairPoint has sought millions in concessions, canceled health benefits for strikers, slashed pensions and wants to outsource highly-skilled New England jobs to low-paid, out-of-state contractors.

The unions and FairPoint agreed to mediation talks in Washington, D.C., with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service beginning Jan. 4. Under the terms of mediation, both the unions and FairPoint are prohibited from commenting on negotiations.

In the meantime, workers and activists have been doing what they can to keep morale high while confronting the hard financial realities of being off the job.

"We're not looking to get rich, we're just looking to sustain our families," said Mike Gauthier, a FairPoint service technician and member of Montpelier, Vt., Local 2326. "We offered the company a compromise that would save them millions in health care costs, but they refused. We've got to stand up for our families and for good jobs."

One thing helping workers like Gauthier make it through is a strike fund established by the union leadership. So far, fellow members and supporters have contributed about \$250,000.

"A lot of workers who were having a really hard time were able to get Christmas gifts for their kids, money to buy heating fuel, grocery store gift cards and some help with their mortgages," Erickson said. "Without the strike fund, a lot of people would be in worse financial shape. I'm talking lost homes, repossessed vehicles—it could be a lot worse."

North Carolina-based FairPoint purchased Verizon's landline network serving Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont in 2008. Lacking the resources and experience to maintain a vast telecommunica-

tions infrastructure, FairPoint soon went bankrupt—a possibility that the IBEW had warned about during the sale. Hard work from employees like Marc Jutras, who has 15 years with the company, helped put FairPoint back on solid ground. But the company has insisted on cutting back wages and job security from the workers who helped them right their fiscal ship.

**'We'll ... hope for a resolution soon, so these hard-working and skilled members can get back to work.'**

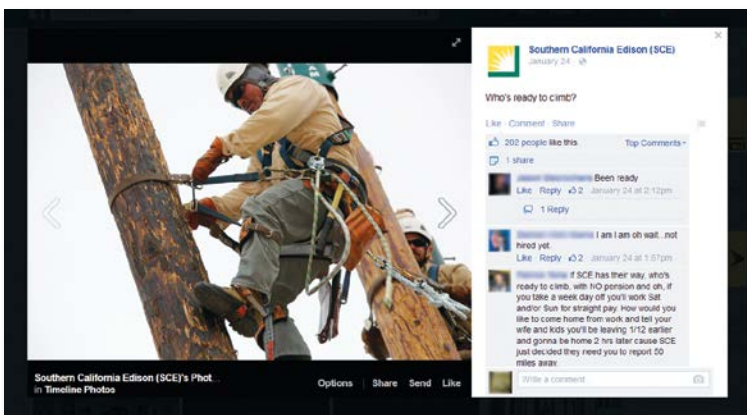
—Bob Erickson, international representative

"We've made concessions—we've worked overtime to get this company to be what it is today," Jutras said in one of four television ads that ran in New England markets calling on FairPoint to return to the bargaining table. "We've brought them through bankruptcy. All we're looking to do is get back to work." The ads can be seen at [www.bit.ly/IBEWFairPointAd](http://www.bit.ly/IBEWFairPointAd).

While parties' lips remain sealed on the specifics of the federal mediation, Erickson said issues are moving forward.

"The fact that we're talking under the auspices of federal mediation is a huge boost to morale," he said. "We've been able to focus on the core issues and move the process along. There's no timetable for making decisions, but talks will continue. We'll keep making progress and hope for a resolution soon, so these hard-working and skilled members can get back to work."

The unions' bargaining committee—consisting of representatives from Manchester, N.H., Local 2320; Montpelier, Vt., Local 2326; Augusta, Maine, Local 2327; and CWA Local 1400 in Portsmouth, N.H.—highlighted the significance of members' efforts in a Jan. 31 letter: "Make no mistake. Our allies all over the country are watching this histor-



Southern California Edison's social media channels, including the utility's Facebook page, promote its workers, but behind the scenes, the company is demanding employees give up major concessions.

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## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

### www.ibew.org

The IBEW's official website has a new look, with improved layout and easier navigation. The new [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org) is a one-stop shop for union information.

### YouTube

A union company succeeding in the South? Believe it. At Virginia's Delta Star, members of Lynchburg Local 2173 who build industrial grade transformers are winning business. Take a trip inside the company's factory: [YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](http://YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker).

### Vimeo

More than 4 million riders board New York City's subways each weekday. When city leaders wanted to build a new track extension, they called IBEW Local 3. See members in action as they construct the Big Apple's first new tunnel in decades: [Vimeo.com/ibew](http://Vimeo.com/ibew).

### HourPower

Today on HP, you can watch a new series we are calling "Watts New" featuring the newest products in the electrical industry. Check it out at [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com)!



### ElectricTV

Right now on [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net), we show you how the NECA-IBEW team is training the best electrical workers around in Knoxville, Tenn., and IBEW Local 760.



*IBEW members working at Schneider Electric (top) and General Electric (left) faced the closure of pensions to new hourly hires despite record profits at both companies.*

new hourly hires.

"They seemed shocked that we said no," Middleton said. "The only reason they offered was that we had agreed to it somewhere else. They didn't even bother with a business justification."

Despite productivity growth over 3 percent in 2013, contract negotiations at Schneider were relentlessly negative and the dispute was only resolved after a two-week strike by more than 200 workers at Schneider's Ohio plant.

"I don't think these companies are really thinking this through," Middleton said. "They may not be intending this, but the trend now is that to get a decent contract, you have to strike."

Middleton says next in the firing line for most companies will be health care benefits. Even with costs falling for the first time in decades, profitable companies are still trying to shift workers into high-deductible plans that cost more and offer less.

Defense manufacturer Rockwell Collins made nearly \$1 billion in profits last year, but in contract negotiations with their 2,000 Iowa IBEW members, they attempted to raise deductibles and reduce benefits. Six weeks of negotiations sweetened the final offer but it was another case of high profits and high productivity growth benefiting stockholders and management and leaving the workers not much better off.

"At the end of the day, we only succeed when the company succeeds, but too many companies have convinced themselves it isn't true the other way around," Middleton said. "It's greed and it won't end well."

### ADT 'Playing the Game'

ADT is a company following a well-worn playbook to prevent its workers from collectively bargaining.

Nearly 20 technicians working for the multinational home and office securi-

ty struggle unfold. They have been moved by your unity, your commitment and your strength. They know that you are standing up not just for your own jobs, but for dignity, respect and fairness for all working people."

To donate to the members' strike fund, visit [www.gofundme.com/IBEW-CWA-Strike-Relief](http://www.gofundme.com/IBEW-CWA-Strike-Relief).

### Putting the Squeeze on Manufacturing Workers

Although the relative size of manufacturing in the U.S. economy has stayed nearly the same, since 2000 nearly 5.7 million jobs have been lost, according to a report from the Brookings Institution, a nonpartisan think tank.

Manufacturing is still highly profitable, for manufacturers.

But even as profits have grown, wages have sagged. Fewer people do more and more specialized jobs, but still make less.

"In 2008, workers everywhere were terrified about losing their jobs and told companies they just wanted to keep their

jobs," Middleton said. "So the companies took them at their word and declared all-out war."

First companies went after wages, Middleton said. Time after time, companies in the black offered one-time payments to current employees to allow lower wages for new hires.

"We've seen the data and two-tier wage structures cause dissension in the shop and hurt corporate performance, but they keep coming to the table and demanding it," he said.

Recently, however, Middleton said companies are focusing less on squeezing more from wages and instead, attempting to eliminate pensions.

In 2011, General Electric pulled in more than \$14 billion in profits. That same year it closed its pension plan to new hourly hires and moved them all into 401(k) plans.

In 2013, Schneider Electric, the French multi-national electronic components manufacturer, earned more than \$1.8 billion in profits. As contract negotiations began for nearly 600 IBEW-represented members, Schneider proposed ending retirement benefits entirely for



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

## First District Readies for Federal Election

**G**ood jobs. Training and apprenticeships. Retirement Security. The right to collectively bargain. These are just some of the issues facing Canada's working families when they go to the polls in October's federal election.

While seven months away, the First District has been educating IBEW members since the start of the New Year on the importance of being an informed union voter.

A video message for IBEW members was posted on the IBEW Canada's YouTube channel on Jan. 16, featuring International Vice President Bill Daniels and international representatives explaining why they are voting in the upcoming election.

"On Oct. 19, you have the opportunity to vote in the next federal election," Daniels says in the video. "Get educated and vote for the party or the candidates that best represent you, your career and your family."

The video encourages members to get involved in their local political action committees and volunteer with a campaign. "Make sure your voice and your vote count in 2015," Daniels said.

A slow economy has driven down wages and living standards, while nearly a decade of Conservative rule has shifted the ground against working families in favor of big corporations and Bay Street.

The economy still has not fully recovered from the 2008 recession, with few new jobs being created.

"This latest [jobs] report simply pounds home the point that underlying Canadian job growth remains anemic," economist Sal Guatieri told the Financial Post last summer. "And, even those modest gains are almost entirely concentrated in piping hot Alberta, with the rest of the country managing just 0.1 percent growth in the past year."

Income inequality is expanding in

Canada. A report from the Broadbent Institute shows the top 10 percent of Canadians have seen their median net worth grow by 42 percent since 2005. At the same time, the bottom 10 percent of Canadians saw their median net worth shrink by 150 percent.

"This unequal distribution—particularly for the wealthiest and poorest 10 percent segments of the population—challenges the narrative that suggests Canadians are getting wealthier across the board," said the report.

The Conservatives have taken a strong anti-union turn, passing Bill C-525, which makes forming a union in the federal sector more difficult. Tory MPs are also promoting Bill C-377, which singles out unions with onerous financial reporting

requirements, while exempting other membership organizations.

There has also been talk by some MPs about introducing American-style right-to-work laws, overturning the Rand formula, which provides for automatic dues-check.

Other major issues facing Canadians include:

- **Retirement Security.** Prime Minister Stephen Harper has chipped away at Canada's retirement system, hiking the eligibility age for Old Age Security to 67, while refusing to beef up the Canada Pension Plan. Canadians relying on the CPP receive on average \$18,000 a year—less than the federal minimum wage. Harper has also proposed legislation that would make it easier for private sector employers to

walk away from their pension obligations to their retirees.

- **Mobility.** IBEW electricians in the construction sector often must travel long distances for jobs. The Canadian building trades are calling for a construction mobility tax credit—a personal tax exemption for construction workers and apprentices to help cover relocation expenses.
- **Infrastructure.** Canada's aging infrastructure is in increasing need of renovation. Unions and many provincial lawmakers are calling on the federal government to increase infrastructure spending this year, which would boost jobs and growth. Approval of energy pipelines projects—for both natural gas and oil—would help reinvigorate

Canada's energy sector, which has been hurt by the rapid drop in oil prices.

The First District will be sponsoring two political "schools"—one in Ontario for members in eastern Canada and another one in British Columbia for members on the West Coast—to train members on election law and mobilizing members to vote.

"We're trying to grow a grassroots movement in every province in Canada," said First District Political Action/Media Strategist Matt Wayland. "We want to have local activists on the ground and ready to go when the election occurs."

While scheduled for Oct. 19, Harper could move up the date if he so chooses.

Go to [www.ibew.org/1stDistrict](http://www.ibew.org/1stDistrict) to see the video and learn more. ■

## Le Premier District se prépare pour l'élection fédérale

**D**e bons emplois, les formations et les apprentissages, la sécurité des retraites, le droit de négocier collectivement; il s'agit là que quelques-unes des réalités problématiques auxquelles les familles des travailleurs du Canada devront affronter lorsqu'ils vont se rendre aux urnes à l'élection fédérale en octobre prochain.

Alors que nous sommes à sept mois de cette période, depuis le début de la nouvelle année le Premier District tente d'instruire les membres de la FIOE sur l'importance d'être bien averti à titre d'électeur faisant partie d'un syndicat.

Un message vidéo pour les membres de la FIOE a été affiché sur la chaîne You-

Tube de la FIOE Canada (*IBEW Canada's YouTube channel*) le 16 janvier, mettant en vedette le Vice-président international Bill Daniels et les représentants internationaux expliquant pourquoi ces derniers votent pour l'élection fédérale de 2015.

Daniels cite dans le message vidéo : « le 19 octobre, vous aurez l'occasion de voter à la prochaine élection fédérale. » « Soyez avertis et votez pour les candidats ou le parti politique qui représente le mieux votre carrière et votre famille. »

Daniels cite : « Assurez-vous que votre voix et que votre vote compte en 2015 » ; le message vidéo a pour but d'encourager les membres à s'impliquer dans les comités d'action politique de leur local et de se porter comme travailleur bénévole dans une campagne électorale.

Après une décennie de règne du parti conservateur, le ralentissement de l'économie a entraîné une baisse de salaires et de qualité de vie affectant les familles travailleuses au profit des grandes entreprises et Bay Street.

Même qu'avec quelques nouveaux emplois créés, l'économie n'a toujours pas pleinement récupéré de la récession de 2008.

Dans une entrevue accordée au *Financial Post*, l'économiste Sal Guatieri a expliqué que : « Ce dernier rapport [emplois] souligne tout simplement que la création d'emplois canadiens demeure faible. Même si ces gains modestes proviennent surtout de l'économie effervescente de l'Alberta, le reste du pays n'a réalisé que 0.1 pour cent de croissance économique dans la dernière année. »

L'inégalité du revenu s'accroît au Canada, un rapport de l'institut Broadbent démontre que le décile de revenus supérieurs des Canadiens a vu croître leur

valeur nette médiane de 42 % depuis 2005. De même manière que le décile de revenus inférieurs des Canadiens a vu baisser leur valeur nette médiane de 150 %.

Ce rapport souligne que : « la distribution est inégale, plus particulièrement pour les segments de 10 % de revenus supérieurs à celui du 10 % de revenus inférieurs de la population ; la narration conteste en mentionnant que dans l'ensemble, les Canadiens deviennent plus riches financièrement ».

Les conservateurs ont pris une forte mesure antisyndicale en passant le projet de loi C-525 qui rend la création d'un syndicat plus difficile dans un secteur fédéral. Les députés fédéraux font également la promotion du projet de loi C-377 qui distingue les syndicats en exigeant des déclarations financières pénibles, tout en exemptant les autres organisations.

On a aussi entendu parler que certains députés veulent introduire la loi sur la reprise du travail à l'américaine, en renversant la formule Rand qui prévoit la déduction automatique des cotisations syndicales.

Autres enjeux que les Canadiens doivent affronter inclus :

- **La sécurité de la retraite :** le premier ministre Stephen Harper a ruiné le système de retraite du Canada en escaladant l'âge de l'éligibilité pour la sécurité de la vieillesse à 67 ans, tout en refusant de renforcer le régime de pensions au pays. Les Canadiens qui comptent sur le RPC gagnent en moyenne 18 000 \$ par année, moins que le salaire minimum fédéral. Harper a aussi proposé une législation qui permet les employeurs du secteur privé de se dissocier de leurs obligations en matière de pensions envers leurs retraités.

- **Mobilité :** les électriciens de la FIOE dans le domaine de la construction doivent souvent parcourir de longues distances pour leurs emplois ; les syndicats des métiers de la construction du Canada demandent un crédit d'impôt sur la mobilité de la main-d'œuvre dans la construction. Autrement dit, une exonération d'impôt qui aidera les travailleurs de la construction et les apprentis à couvrir les frais de déplacement.

- **Infrastructure :** l'infrastructure vieillissante au Canada nécessite d'être restauré ; les syndicats ainsi que de nombreux législateurs des provinces demandent au gouvernement fédéral d'augmenter les dépenses en infrastructure cette année, ce qui stimulerait la création d'emplois et à promouvoir la croissance.

Le Premier District parrainera deux « écoles » politiques ; une en Ontario pour les membres de l'est du Canada et l'autre en Colombie-Britannique pour les membres de l'ouest du Canada. Ce mouvement a pour but de former nos membres sur la loi électorale ainsi qu'en les mobilisant pour aller voter.

Matt Wayland de l'Action politique et stratège en média du Premier District, déclare : « nous essayons de développer un mouvement populaire dans toutes les provinces du Canada. Nous voulons avoir des militants locaux sur place et prêts au moment de l'élection ».

Bien que l'élection est prévue pour le 19 octobre prochain, Harper peut tout de même devancer la date s'il le désire.

Pour visionner le message vidéo et pour de plus amples informations, veuillez vous servir de ce lien internet : [www.ibew.org/1stDistrict](http://www.ibew.org/1stDistrict) ■

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The IBEW's founders not only charted a course toward excellent safety and exceptional skill. They had a vision that members would be some of the brightest minds in the labor movement.

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# THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

## This Just In: PLAs Work

A special Massachusetts state commission recently confirmed what the IBEW has been saying for decades: project labor agreements work.

In its report, the special commission on the use of project labor agreements in road, bridge, and rail projects found PLAs promote quality, prevent labor disputes and help projects finish on time and under budget.

"The commission recommends the use of a PLA for any public infrastructure project," said the report. [We] found PLAs to be particularly beneficial on [large] public infrastructure projects."

Project labor agreements are pre-hire, project specific agreements that govern wages and working standards on construction projects.

The commission was established in 2012. The five-member body was appointed by top state officials.

The commission took testimony from industry experts, studying more than 20 years of PLA case studies.

- Among the report's key findings:
- PLAs keep projects on time, streamlining the construction process and resolving disputes quickly, helping project completion.
  - PLAs save money by keeping projects on schedule, preventing unnecessary overruns.
  - PLAs prevent labor strife by giving employers and employees the tools to bargain collectively.

The commission also found that PLAs aren't just appropriate for large-scale projects—smaller jobs can also benefit, citing a recent PLA-governed construction project for the Braintree school system that cost less than \$25 million.

"The commission's findings confirm what the evidence has always shown," said Massachusetts Building Trades Council President Frank Callahan. "PLAs are a time-tested business tool that has been used successfully in both the private and public sectors to deliver quality construction, on-time and on-budget." ■

## Ky. Lawmakers Push Right-to-Work, County by County

Kentucky Democrats successfully maintained control of the state house last November, effectively dashing Republican lawmakers' goal of passing right-to-work-for-less legislation.

But that hasn't stopped right-to-work advocates from trying to push the legislation on the Bluegrass State by other means.

So far, three counties have approved local right-to-work ordinances.

Leading these efforts is the American City County Exchange, a municipal offshoot of the American Legislative Exchange Council, an ultraconservative think tank that churns out model



'PLAs are a time-tested business tool that have been used successfully to deliver quality construction, on-time and on-budget.'

— Massachusetts Building Trades Council President Frank Callahan

anti-worker legislation for state lawmakers across the country.

The idea of pushing local right-to-work bills was hatched last summer at meetings of anti-union groups in Washington, D.C.

"The possibilities of rolling out a local RTW [campaign] in a non-RTW state deserves a full-court press by those of us

who care about free market economics and allowing communities to make the best decisions for their people,' declared [ACCE director] Jon Russell, a baby-faced partisan of the right who was sandwiched between Andrew Kloster of the Heritage Foundation and Patrick Gleason of Americans for Tax Reform," Moshe Marvit at the Nation reported late last year.

Right-to-work laws weaken workers' ability to collectively bargain by making it harder for unions to collect dues, driving down wages and benefits. The average worker in a right-to-work state makes \$1,500 less a year than their counterparts in union-friendly states according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Employees in pro-worker states

are also more likely to have job-based health benefits.

Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers has shown interest in passing local right-to-work laws, sending a letter to the state attorney general earlier this fall inquiring about the legality of county lawmakers passing their own labor laws.

Critics say the move is patently illegal. As Marvit reports:

"When asked by The Nation whether [former National Labor Relations Board chair Wilma Liebman] believes that the National Labor Relations Act permits this reading, she replied, 'No. And it's not even a close question.' She read aloud the relevant provision of the act to me, paused, and then explained, 'Section 14(b) is clear. It says 'state or territory.' That means no local or municipal ordinances."

Section 14(b) amended the original NLRA by allowing states or territories to go right-to-work under the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act.

Former Bowling Green Mayor Eldon Renaud told the Bowling Green Daily News that Warren County's ordinance (the first one passed in the state) is against state law and that right-to-work legislation would require a vote from the legislature.

"It's pretty absurd what they're trying to do," said Renaud, who is a UAW leader. ■

## TRANSITIONS

### DECEASED

#### Donald Lounds



The officers are saddened to report the passing of retired First District International Vice President Donald Lounds on Jan. 12.

A native of Oshawa, Ontario, Brother Lounds was initiated into Local 894 in 1960. Two years later, Lounds began serving on the executive board of the

local, which has since been amalgamated into Toronto Local 353. He was elected business manager in 1970.

"Donald Lounds was a good and loyal servant who performed well in whatever role he was asked to play," says retired First District Vice President Ken Woods, who preceded Lounds in office.

In 1974, Lounds was appointed to the First District staff and assigned to Alberta and the Northwest Territories,

'He performed well in whatever role he was asked to play.'

— Ken Woods, former First District Vice President

primarily servicing the telephone industry. He served as an appointee of the provincial government on a workers' compensation board and the Canadian Standards Association.

In 1979, Brother Lounds was reassigned to the First District Office and served as executive assistant to Woods from 1987 until he succeeded him in 1997.

"Donald really had my back in some of the tougher

straits we were negotiating," says Woods.

At the time of Lounds' retirement in 2003, he was a member of the executive board of the Canadian Building and Construction Trades and a general vice president of the Canadian Labour Congress. He also served on the boards of the Construction Sector Council and the Canadian Labour and Business Centre.

In retirement, Brother Lounds split his time between Haliburton, Ontario and Port Orange, Fla. He enjoyed golfing and fishing.

On behalf of the membership and staff, the officers send our deepest condolences to Brother Lounds' family. ■

### DECEASED

#### Jerry Harris



The IBEW regrets to report that former Eleventh District International Representative Jerry Harris died Dec. 14. He was 71.

Brother Harris was initiated into Kansas City, Mo., Local 53 in 1967. He later transferred his card to the now-defunct Sedalia, Mo., Local 814. He worked as an outside construction lineman until 1982, when he became a journeyman lineman, employed by Missouri Public Service.

Local 814's executive board appointed him business manager five years later. Harris led the local through turbulent times for the utility industry, particularly as deregulation gripped the country.

He served as a member of the Missouri Public Service Commission's task force on utility restructuring, helping to stop the deregulation of the state's utility

industry. He also served as a leader of Missourians for Affordable Reliable Electric Service, a statewide coalition formed to save good energy jobs and affordable power for consumers.

"In those days, discussing deregulation could be pretty combative at times," Harris told the Electrical Worker in 2008. "We had heavy opposition from some staunch supporters in the Republican Party. But through the efforts of the Brotherhood and our allies in the state Legislature, we were able to keep good-paying union jobs in place for working families."

Then-International President J.J. Barry appointed Harris to the Eleventh District office in 1998, where he serviced construction and utility locals in Iowa and Missouri.

"Jerry was one of those rare people who took that extra step to help a member out," said Mike Baker, who succeeded Harris as Local 814 business manager. "He always had the IBEW at heart."

Brother Harris retired in 2008.

A native of Nebraska, Harris served in the United States Navy after graduating from high school. He was also a member of Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge and served as a deacon for the Golden Valley Christian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Ann, two children and four grandchildren.

The officers, staff and members of the IBEW offer our condolences to his family and many friends. ■

'Jerry was one of those rare people who took that extra step to help a member out.'

— Mike Baker, former Local 814 business manager



## CIRCUITS

### Poll: Americans Will Pay for Grid Upgrades

More than 40 percent of Americans east of the Mississippi, and just over a third of those to the west, are willing to pay at least \$10 a month more on their utility bills for grid upgrades according to a poll released this summer by Harris Interactive. The average U.S. utility bill in 2012 was just over \$105 a month according to data from the Energy Information Agency.

One possible explanation for the difference was that respondents east of the Mississippi were three times more likely to report a power outage (three percent against one percent.)

The poll, conducted for GE's Digital Energy business, surveyed more than 2,000 voting-age Americans last spring.

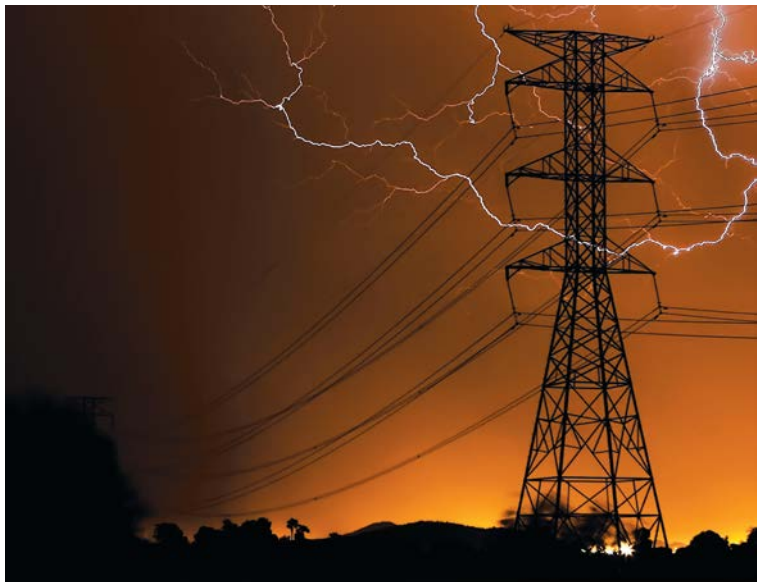
The poll also found that more than 80 percent of respondents wanted their

utility to do more to encourage energy conservation and nearly the same number wanted their utility to increase renewable energy generation with solar, wind and geothermal biogas.

The poll also asked questions about the public's understanding of the grid. More than 50 percent believed weather was the greatest threat to the grid. In the Northeast, 61 percent thought so.

Utility Department Director Jim Hunter said the poll provided valuable support for investments in manpower and infrastructure.

"There is nothing in this poll that we haven't known anecdotally, but accurate polling data is very useful when we talk with lawmakers and regulators," Hunter said. "But, a lot of this is just common sense. The more our lives depend on electronic devices, the more people realize how important the grid is. A smartphone isn't very useful if you can't charge it." ■



A recent Harris Poll found many Americans would pay more for electricity if it were used to make the grid more reliable.

## IBEW ON DUTY

### Military Service Card: Benefit for Members on Duty

For more than 100 years, IBEW members have answered the call and served their nations in war and in peacetime—a tradition that carries on today.

For members on duty, an IBEW-issued military service card will maintain membership and boost pension benefits.

Whether it is for a first-time enlistment or a deployment, the IBEW will cover dues for members on active duty.

But to get a military service card, members must follow these procedures:

- A member must be in good standing. In other words, they have to be current on their dues up through the month of entrance.
- The military service must last longer than 90 days.
- A member must present a copy of an official enlistment or call to duty order to their local's financial secretary that indicates the active duty date.
- Within 60 days of being released or discharged from military service, the member must deposit the card with the financial secretary of the issuing local and resume payment of dues.
- A member must provide their local's financial secretary with discharge papers (DD-214) indicating the date of discharge.



The IBEW's military service card allows members serving in uniform the opportunity to stay current with their dues.

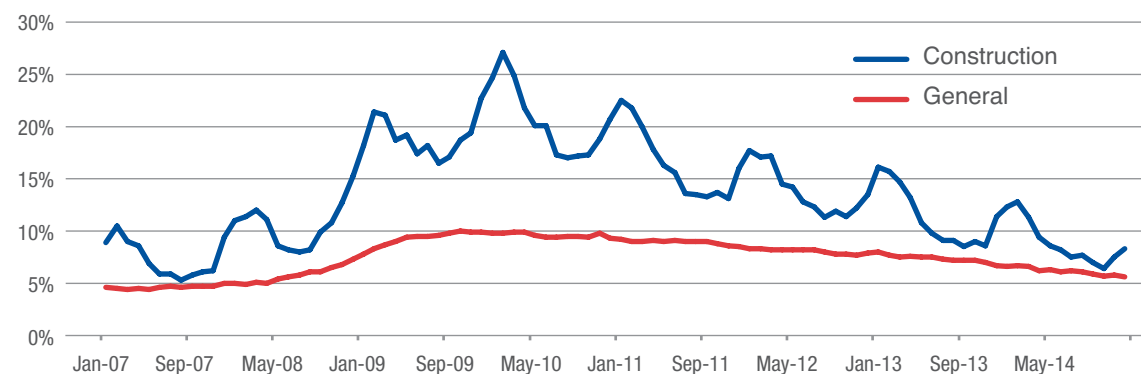
Service in all military branches in both the United States and Canada are covered. First-time enlistees are eligible, as are members of the National Guard and military reserves.

Members who re-enroll in the active service after their initial commitment expires without being required to do so are ineligible for a military withdrawal card.

For more information, contact the Per Capita Department at the International Office at [percipita@ibew.org](mailto:percipita@ibew.org) or (202) 728-6225. ■

### Construction Versus General Unemployment

Construction unemployment is usually higher than overall unemployment, but during the Great Recession, it far outpaced the overall number. Construction unemployment has been closing in on the slowly falling overall rate, but the highly cyclical nature of construction employment—falling in the winter and rising as the weather improves—still leaves it much higher than the general population for much of the year.



### Construction Unemployment Lowest Since 2007

Construction unemployment last year was at its lowest level in nearly seven years. At 8.9 percent, 2014 was the first time annual construction unemployment was below 10 percent since 2007, according to data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Monthly construction unemployment also fell below seven percent—to 6.4 percent in November—for the first time since the beginning of the Great Recession.

"I'm actually surprised the number is that high based on what I am seeing," said Eighth District International Vice President Jerry Bellah, whose district encompasses Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. "It isn't everywhere and the big population centers are definitely doing the best, but we are in a growth mode in the U.S. and Canada."

Bellah said the outside numbers are even better and the concern there is managing the work.

"I feel a lot better than I did 18 months ago and now is the time to focus on organizing and training," he said, "The No. 1 job is always making sure we capture the work while we grow."

Bellah said he is seeing positive signs that locals are responding, with increasing membership across the Brotherhood and a large jump in the number of apprentices.

While a vast improvement over 2009 (19 percent) and 2010 (20.6 percent), at 8.9 percent construction unemployment still lags far behind the general unemployment rate of 5.6 percent.

"The big change in this recovery is private money is just sitting on the sidelines," Bellah said. "Companies are cash rich but not hiring and I think the offshoring of manufacturing has meant they don't have to spend." ■

business leaders who might not otherwise be thinking about the issues and accomplishments of working people," said Media Department Director Mark Brueggenjohann. "These messages show the diversity of our membership and also our ambition as a union to have a greater say in national conversations."

The spots will run through the middle of May. ■

### RENEW Leader Energizes New Generation of Local 3 Activists

You could say that the IBEW runs in New York City Local 3 member Chris Erikson Jr.'s blood. His father serves as business manager, as did his great-grandfather, Harry Van Arsdale Jr., and great-uncle, Thomas Van Arsdale, and there was never much question that he would follow them into the trade.

So when the 30-year-old Erikson began his apprenticeship in 2007, he was well aware of the tradition of struggle and solidarity that made Local 3 what it is today.

But it's something many workers of his generation don't understand.

"A lot of them haven't been told about this history and why they have to be involved in the union if they want to protect the lifestyles we enjoy."

For more than a century Local 3 has been the leading force in the New York City labor movement. Both Van Arsdales led not only Local 3, but the New York City Labor Council as well, leaving big shoes to fill for the next generation of members.

Since 2013, Local 3's Young Worker Committee has focused on getting young IBEW members involved in the local and educating the next generation of leaders.

Erikson chairs the committee. "One of our most basic tasks is communications," he says. "We want to start talking with new apprentices as soon as they join and spell out to them why it's so important for them to be involved with Local 3."

Education is key, he says. The committee hosted a labor youth conference last September that was attended by more than 300 young workers. In addition to Local 3

### IBEW Underwrites PBS

After launching successful national television advertising campaigns during NFL games and on cable news programs, the IBEW is extending its message to new audiences.

In the first week of January, 30-second underwriting messages began running during the week on the flagship public television programs the News Hour and Washington Week.

The ads, produced by the Media Department and adapted from the commercial ads, extend the campaign to raise the IBEW's profile and that of organized labor.

"There is a lot of misinformation—to put it generously—about who organized labor is," said International President Edwin D. Hill. "I am proud that we are in a position to lead a change in that conversation."

The IBEW is the first union to underwrite the News Hour and the first to run a 30-second sponsorship message nationally on public television. Historically underwriters have been large corporations, foundations and defense contractors.

"This is an opportunity to get our message in front of decision makers and



members, the event attracted young members from other NYC building trades.

The committee ran workshops on the major challenges facing young workers and how the labor movement can address them, including using social media to communicate. It also sponsored short plays dealing with working class issues.

Community service is another top goal of the committee. "We've helped clean up parks, worked with church outreach programs for needy residents, helped install lights for Little League fields," he said. "It's a reminder how important it is for everyone to come together."

It's not all work however. Social events are vital for getting new members involved. The committee sponsored a big concert at Local 3's union hall that attracted more than 200 members and their families last summer.

Erikson is now bringing his experience in organizing young workers to the Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers (RENEW), the IBEW's initiative to get young workers involved in the union. He represents the Third District on RENEW's 12-person council.

"Education, community and social involvement are what we can do to move the NYC labor movement forward," he said.

Go to [www.facebook.com/pages/IBEW-3rd-District-Youth-Caucus](http://www.facebook.com/pages/IBEW-3rd-District-Youth-Caucus) for information on youth organizing in the Third District. ■

## At EWMC Conference, Young Workers Serve Community

Giving back. It's a fundamental premise of the IBEW and the labor movement in general.

That's why about 60 members of the IBEW's RENEW group gathered Jan. 15 in Atlanta to help renovate and beautify a community home for children in need.

Members of the young workers' group traveled to the city to attend the 25th Electrical Workers Minority Caucus conference.

"It was really an eye opener to see

what the kids there needed," said Seattle Local 77 member Damian Hernandez, a lineman working for Lewis County Public Utility District.

Members gathered at the United Methodist Children's Home to paint offices, perform yard and gardening work, assist with trash collection and more. The organization offers shelter for families with small children, houses older youth who are in transitional living programs and facilitates foster care.

"It gives you a good feeling inside," said Hernandez, 35, who is a shop steward and serves on several committees at his local. "We all had our conference shirts on, and we just got into action. I've never done a community service activity where there were so many people."

The conference was planned to coincide with Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, Jan. 14-18. Each EWMC conference includes a day of service in the host city's community. Numerous faith-based and community service organizations across the U.S. mark the weekend with service activities in the spirit of King, who once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

About 600 IBEW members, including nearly 200 young workers, attended this year's conference.

"It's inspiring to help an organization like the children's home, and it's great to be working alongside so many people dedicated to the cause of making sure we have an inclusive union," said Houston Local 716 member Mike Jackson, 31. The fifth-year apprentice serves on the Young Workers Advisory Council for the AFL-CIO.

The RENEW contingent also hosted its own day-long seminar Jan. 14, which featured workshops on technology and communication skills.

"Young workers are often seen as the fountain for energy, excitement and passion," said International Representative Tarn Goeling. "But enthusiasm alone can't wipe away generations of struggle. We must always carry our collective beginnings within our hearts and grow from the lessons our predecessors learned."

"Like" RENEW's official Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RENEW](http://www.facebook.com/RENEW). IBEW. ■

## El Paso Local Hits Wage Theft



Nonunion Texas electrical contractors looking to turn a quick buck on prevailing wage projects often look for projects in El Paso.

Located on the Rio Grande River just across from Juarez, Mexico, the city teems with workers vulnerable to wage theft, targeted by contractors who pay them less than the prevailing rates by misclassifying the actual work they perform.

Last year, two workers who had been working as electricians on a large bus maintenance shop for the Sun Metro, the local bus company, showed up at El Paso Local 583's union office. They told organizer William Markwell that, despite performing electrical work, they were being paid as laborers by Beltran Electrical Contractors, a nonunion outfit. Their hourly rates of pay hovered at a meager \$7.90 per hour. Markwell had already had suspicions about wage theft after following the bus shop project on IBEW's Project Tracker.

It wasn't Local 583's first encounter with Beltran. A few years back the local had issued a complaint about the company using unlicensed electricians. Beltran was fined \$750.

"This stuff happens constantly in our area," says Markwell. Beltran, like other contractors charged with wage theft, said they made a mistake. "But it wasn't a mistake," says Markwell. "It's how Beltran [and other irresponsible contractors in the border town] bid jobs," calculating their savings from paying improper rates.

Markwell investigated the electricians' complaint and found they weren't even reported on the company's certified payroll. But they brought pictures of the electrical work they performed along with pay stubs. Sure enough, they were performing electrical work and working well below scale. He reported the wage theft to the city.

The electricians, who had moved on to work for another contractor, went back to Beltran asking to be paid the difference between laborer rates and electrician pay. Beltran cut them checks but Markwell says they were still left shortchanged.

Soon, more Beltran electricians were contacting Local 583 with similar complaints. Markwell spoke with the local union's attorneys, who advised him that Beltran was liable for fines of \$50 per day for violating prevailing wage requirements. Markwell heard the city was consid-

ering withholding its final payment to Beltran pending a settlement of the worker misclassification issue. He was told the issue would be discussed at the next city council meeting.

Working with Lift Up El Paso, a local coalition of union, faith and community groups, Markwell addressed the city council on the need to address Beltran's conduct. The city's attorney announced El Paso was withholding payments to the Urban Associates, the general contractor that enlisted Beltran for the bus facility, until the wage theft issue was resolved.

As the city tries to recover lost wages for Beltran's workers, Local 583 and Lift Up El Paso are working to pass an ordinance that would prohibit companies that have been convicted of wage theft from being able to bid for contracts by the city. A similar ordinance was passed in Houston.

The El Paso City Council passed a nonbinding resolution opposing wage theft in 2011. But it contained no enforcement procedures.

Jed Untereker, legal director for the Paso Del Norte Civil Rights Project, told the El Paso Times that an ordinance would call for creating a database of "bad actors" who have been found guilty of wage theft by civil or criminal courts or by state or federal agencies. ■

## ORGANIZING WIRE

### Clean Coal Workers Organize in Ill.

Members of Springfield, Ill., Local 51 working in Bartonville have operated and maintained the Edwards coal-fired power plant for generations, all through the national debate over the role that coal will play in our nation's energy future.

Seeking to reduce unhealthy emissions, Dynegy, owners of the station located south of Peoria, utilizes Clean Coal Solutions. The Colorado-based company uses a proprietary process to reduce mercury and nitrous oxide emissions by refining coal headed into bunkers to be burned. Local 51's operations and maintenance members worked alongside Clean Coal Solution's crew of eight.

Madison, Wis., Local 965 and Kansas City, Mo., Local 53 have negotiated contracts covering Clean Coal Solutions workers at two power plants. But the company's crew at Edwards was not represented by a union. So, seeking greater job security, wages and benefits, workers signed authorization cards for Local 51.

In August, a representation election was held and the workers voted 8 to 0 for a voice on the job with the IBEW.

"Clean Coal Solutions has been a good company to work with," says Local 51 Assistant Business Manager John Johnson.

Robert Stuart, business manager of Local 53, said his local negotiated a five-year agreement with the company in 2011 providing for healthy wage increases each year.



Members of Springfield, Ill., Local 51 who maintain and operate Dynegy power plants encouraged workers at Clean Coal Solutions to vote for a voice on the job with IBEW.

"When Clean Coal Solutions first arrived at an IBEW-represented power plant in Southwest Missouri, we took the position that contractors working full time on the premises should be organized. Clean Coal Solutions had no real experience with unions, but didn't stand in our way," says Local 53 Business Agent Dexter Drerup. Since negotiating an agreement, says Drerup, "We generally work out almost all problems before they become grievances."

Johnson says a good first contract has been negotiated covering workers at

the Edwards power plant and, after winning an NLRB representation election with the Operating Engineers by an 8-0 vote, a new Local 51 unit has been formed at another Dynegy power plant in Baldwin, Ill., southeast of St. Louis.

More units could follow. Dynegy has a fleet of over 35 power plants nationally. While some may be shut down as a result of falling natural gas prices and increasing regulations, says Johnson, many will continue to run and are likely to turn to Clean Coal Solutions or other companies to reduce carbon-based emissions. ■



New York Local 3 Youth Committee Chairman Christopher Erikson Jr. welcomes young workers to Local 3's youth conference.



# LOCAL LINES

## IBEW Amateur Boxing Champ

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—IBEW Local 1 congratulates 25-year-old apprentice Jurmain McDonald on his victory at the Frost Electrical Supply trade show and amateur boxing event, bringing his amateur record to 6-1 with four knockouts. McDonald put on an energizing performance winning his fight early in the second round with a technical knockout. We look forward to following both his IBEW career and his boxing career.

Special thanks to our brothers and sisters in the St. Louis Electrical Worker Minority Caucus for their successful annual children's coat drive. For the recent drive, more than 200 coats were collected—bringing the 11-year total to more than 6,000 coats provided to needy children throughout our area. Thank you to Local 1 members Leon Arties, Jim Brown, Yvette Goods and Sylvester Taylor as well as Local 1439 members Curtis Tungstel, Carl Burke and Derrick Carter for their outstanding community service.

We invite everyone to visit our new website at [www.ibewlocalone.org](http://www.ibewlocalone.org). Bro. John Kahrhoff, Local 1 recording secretary and business representative, has done an amazing job coordinating the modernization of our website and the addition of new functionality for our members and visitors alike. Check it out and stay tuned for more improvements soon.

We mourn the death of several members: David Emanuel, James Blankenship, Raymond Eisele, Clara Williams, Donald Jacquemin, Carl Webb, Timothy Jones, Charles Wick and John Martin.

*John Moyle, P.S.*



IBEW Local 1 apprentice Jurmain McDonald (facing camera) won his bout at the Frost Electrical Supply trade show's amateur boxing event.

## Solar PV Installation

L.U. 7 (i), SPRINGFIELD, MA—The crew from IBEW Local 7 installed another quality product for electrical contractor E.S. Boulos Company Inc. at the Cottage Street solar photovoltaic site in Springfield. [Photo, top right.] Congratulations to all involved for a job well-done.

*Mark Kuenzel, Tr. Dir.*



IBEW Local 7 crew at a solar installation jobsite in Springfield, MA.

## In Tribute & Service—EWMC National Conference

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—In honor of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Local 11 members attended several events in January. These included the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's MLK breakfast and 30th Annual MLK Day Parade, held Jan. 19. Also in January, an 18-member delegation from the Los Angeles Chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus attended the 25th Annual EWMC National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA. The EWMC event included a Young Workers Conference and a Day of Giving and Community Service.

California recognized Cesar Chavez Day in 2000. Cesar Chavez was a farm worker, labor organizer and civil rights leader who co-founded the United Farm Workers. Most of our collective bargaining agreements in Local 11 recognize this day as a holiday, observing it the same day as the Los Angeles Unified School District. If you have the day off, join us in our Cesar Chavez Golf Tournament on April 6, 2015 (location to be determined). Last year 30-40 members participated. Contact Mario Barragan by email



At a Local 11 golf tournament (from left): Eric Brown, apprentice coordinator/treasurer; Luis Arida, civil service business agent; Gary Tomlin, dispatcher/business agent; and Mario Barragan, organizer.

at [Barragan@ibew11.org](mailto:Barragan@ibew11.org) for more information.

Remember to vote on March 3 in citywide primary elections. Look for our endorsements on our website [www.ibew11.org](http://www.ibew11.org).

*Diana Limon, P.S.*

traffic signal apprentices, and line clearance tree trim apprentices.

God bless the IBEW. Please remember to work safe!

*Dean Bradley, B.M.*



Local 17 members Don Stone (front row, far left), Tom Ford (back row, third from left) and Al Schroeder (back row, right) present coats to Children's Aid Society.

## '21 Days of Giving'—Community Outreach Program

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—In 2015, we are continuing our "21 Days of Giving" community outreach program. The idea for the program began during the 2013 holidays with our first ever local-wide food drive. We built on that success in 2014 and held a school supply drive followed by a toy/coat drive during the holidays.

Now that we've completed a few different types of fundraisers and are working with more charities, we are learning what works and are making some adjustments to be more successful.

One of the important lessons we learned is that many organizations hold food drives during the holidays and that generosity, while appreciated, overwhelms many food banks. What many don't realize is that by the time summer arrives, many food banks need to be replenished. Throughout the school year many children rely on school lunches for nourishment. During summer break many kids go hungry. To help with that need we will move our food drive to the spring season.

Our community outreach program is a work in progress. We believe that by getting involved in the communities where we live and work we will become a stronger union.

*Bob Przybylinski, R.S./P.S.*

## RENEW Committee Takes Action

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—Congratulations to Don Stone, Tom Ford and Al Schroeder for taking the lead and starting the Local 17 RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) Committee. They wasted no time putting together a coat drive that provided more than 500 coats for underprivileged families just days before Christmas. Our RENEW Committee is looking for more volunteers. The committee is already planning the next couple of entertainment events here at the hall. Please contact our office for more information, or visit our website at [www.ibewlocal17.org](http://www.ibewlocal17.org).

The work picture remains great with standing calls for linemen. Most agreements are at full employment and are expected to stay that way. Contract negotiations for our Outside Utility Agreement were settled at the Council on Industrial Relations (CIR). We received a fair decision and felt "very represented" by the members of that committee.

Local 17 is one of three National Utility Industry Training Fund (NUITF) locations in the country. We are currently using that site to train cable splicers,

## Military Veterans Honored

L.U. 25 (catv,i&rts), LONG ISLAND, NY—Local 25 took some time out of our November and December general meetings to honor our military veterans. We invited

## Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

## Trade Classifications

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

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.





IBEW Local 25 honors its military veterans at a union meeting.

all veterans to attend and presented attendees with a special IBEW Local 25 collared shirt with "IBEW veteran" printed on the front. Some veterans could not make the November meeting, so Bus. Mgr. Kevin Harvey extended the invitation again for the December meeting. We had a great turnout at both meetings. Thanks to Bus. Mgr. Harvey and Pres. John Guadagno for making this happen.

We congratulate retiring Bro. Brian Kearney for his more than 40-year career with Local 25 as a journeyman electrician, shop steward, recording secretary and fund trustee. Brian sat on many contract negotiations and served Local 25 members and the IBEW well. We wish Brian and his wife a long and healthy retirement.

Saturday, Dec. 13, was the Local 25 Christmas party for all members and their families. Each child received a gift from Santa. All had a great time.

Work safe; turn off those circuits. Happy new year!

Tom Lawless, P.S.

### Triple Success for Safety

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—IBEW Local 37 members are celebrating a triple achievement for safety!

Our members achieved 2 million person-hours worked safely in each of three separate generating stations—Belle dune, Coleson Cove and Point Lepreau generating stations—for a total of 6 million person-hours worked without a lost-time accident.

Ron Zinke, IBEW co-chair for the Belledune Joint Health & Safety Committee (JH&SC) says this achievement doesn't happen without a strong focus on safety. "Two million person-hours without a lost time accident is an amazing and impressive achievement," Zinke said. "It is a testament to the focus of our members and their ability to get the job done right, and to get it done safely."

Coleson Cove JH&SC IBEW co-chair Malin Johnston noted that all workers had a role to play in safety. "It takes an effort by everyone to achieve such a milestone of 2 million person-hours worked," Johnston said.

Congratulations to our members in all three generating stations for reaching these safety milestones!

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

### SCE Contract Negotiations

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy St. Patrick's Day greetings to all!

We have begun negotiations with Southern California Edison for our General and Benefits Agree-

ments. We had a commitment to limit the scope of negotiations to wages and a few other issues. The company reneged on that agreement and came to the table with dozens of proposals—mostly all takeaways. This was at a time when the company's stock recently hit an all-time high. The company has retained outside counsel to handle its negotiations. Adam Abrahms, who identifies himself as a "union avoidance" attorney, is the company's chief spokesperson. Our negotiations committee is standing firm in the face of these challenging negotiations.

We recently ratified a three-year successor agreement with Davey Tree Experts, one of our line clearance contractors. The contract includes a 2 percent wage increase in January 2015; a 2.5 percent increase in January 2016; and a 3.6 percent increase in January 2017.

Our members at Bear Valley Electric also ratified a three-year successor agreement calling for a 2.5 percent wage increase in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

We are sad to report the passing of Luis Lambarén, Haw Chang and Guadalupe "Lupe" Martínez. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends. Live long, live safe and well. Work and buy union!

Stan Stosel, P.S.



At Local 47 Christmas party, Santa and Mrs. Claus (Riverside line crew supervisor Walter White and wife Mary) present children's gifts. Greeting Santa are Executive Board member and SCE lineman Rich Paul (back row, second from right) and family.

### Steward Training & Organizing

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL—On Dec. 16 last year, we conducted new steward training at our hall and 23 members attended. Thanks to IBEW Int. Rep. Clarence J. "C.J." King for conducting the training. Also, thanks to all our new stewards for their willingness to take on this important role.

In the state of Illinois, unions have the right to collectively bargain for the purpose of establishing an initial agreement for public employees. The process involves the employees signing a representation card and contacting the Illinois Labor Relations Board, which will in turn notify the employer to meet with the union. The parties have 90 days to sign a collective bargaining agreement, and if they fail to reach it, the

union may request mediation and arbitration.

Local 51 has successfully organized municipalities with this process. Our municipal contracts include agreements with the: Village of Chatham, City of Geneseo Electric & Waste Water, Village of Ladd, City of Oglesby, City of Peoria, City of Peru, City of Princeton Water & Electric, Village of Rantoul, Village of Riverton, and the City of Sullivan; our most recent additions are the City of Bushnell clerical workers, and the Village of Arthur.

Local 51 has a new website format and we encourage our members to visit it at [www.ibew51.org](http://www.ibew51.org). We will post updates to our job board as necessary, as well as get important information out to members in a timely manner.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.

### Annual Lineman's Rodeo: Solidarity of Membership

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY—Asst. Bus. Mgr. Charles Milos (a chief line mechanic A hot stick, National Grid, Eastern Division) attended the Annual Lineman's Rodeo in Bonner Springs, KS, back in October.

Following is what Bro. Milos had to say about the experience:

"While definitely a competitive event, on display were values we all hold sacred: solidarity, safety, knowledge, and pride in our livelihood. From the Expo, to the BBQ, and the competition, followed by an awards dinner, this was an event for the men and women who have dedicated much of their lives to the trade.

"In a competition, where one two-point deduction means the difference between 24th and 58th place in the individual events, acts of camaraderie were evident from start to finish. It was amazing to see the number of different teams who had completed the task share information and suggestions with those waiting in line to compete. Others in line, checking their gear and tools, would notice a broken tool, only to be given a spare from the lineman next to him.

"In a time when the negative issues seem to get [much of] our attention, it was refreshing to witness the strengths of our membership."

James Zabinski, V.P.



Local 97 journeymen (left to right) Joshua Barnes, William Hansbury, Robert Connors and Stephen Poppas at Lineman's Rodeo.

### Lighting Display at Union Hall

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI—Local 99 held its first Christmas/Holiday Lighting event at the union hall. Our local plans to make this an annual event.

Bus. Mgr. Mike Daley stated: "The response was tremendous. The room was filled practically to capacity, and this is only year one! Santa surprised wide-eyed children, and the adults [enjoyed] a potluck meal. Thanks to all who helped to build the display, set up for the event, prepare the food and beverages, and assist with event cleanup. We look forward to having the entire union in the lot next year!"

The holiday lighting is an LED display that runs for next to nothing in electricity. The display was planned to run for 60 days, from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m., every day of the week. And the design for next year's display is already underway!

"Feed 1000" had its annual Christmas dinner to feed those who may be homeless or in need. The dinner was held at the Rhode Island Convention Center—and Local 99 members once again manned the serving tables. Thanks to those who volunteered and remembered the true meaning of the holiday season. May you all have a happy and prosperous 2015!

William Smith, P.S.



IBEW Local 99 holiday lighting display installed at union hall.

### 2014 Holiday Festivities

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—Last December was a month of celebration and festivities for Local 103, starting with the Annual Children's Christmas Party. Over 400 children attended the event. They were entertained with face painting, magic and holiday movies. Even Frosty, Rudolph and the Grinch made an appearance, but it was Santa who stole the show. Santa spoke with all of the children and gave each of them a toy made by union labor. Thank you to all the volunteers who came down and helped out.

Our Brotherhood Christmas Party took place following our regularly scheduled union meeting. We were joined by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, who addressed the membership to express his enthusiasm about working closely with Local 103 during his term, and to wish us all a Merry Christmas. The night was full of smiles and laughter as members had a chance to talk with family, friends and past tool partners they had not seen in some time.

Recovery has been slow, but positive. Having had one-third of our membership unemployed at the height of the recession, Local 103 has now put many of our members back to work. With cranes continuing to appear on the Boston skyline, the projected work picture looks bright.

Kevin C. Molineaux, P.S.



Participants gather at a Local 51 new steward training session.



## LOCAL LINES

**'Transitions at Union Hall'**

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—In August 2014, journeyman lineman Christopher "Chris" Beckett joined the Local 111 staff as the new contact for Membership Development Construction. Chris brings 23 years of experience and knowledge to the IBEW. Always an active participant with the IBEW, Chris stepped up his game in 2012. He renewed his service as a union steward; was elected to the Executive Board; remained actively involved with training as a part-time instructor with Mountain States Line Constructors; participated on the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus; served as a delegate to the Denver Area Labor Federation; and participated in COPE and the Young Workers Caucus.

In December 2014, Senior Asst. Bus. Mgr. Bruce J. Lawlor retired after 25 years as an active agent representing our membership. We wish Bro. Lawlor the best in his future endeavors, new adventures and travels. Bro. Aaron Snyder, from PSCO Energy Supply, was hired as Lawlor's replacement to represent our members in the Denver power plants, Pawnee Power Plant, Rocky Mountain Energy, Blue Spruce and Fort St. Vrain.

Also in December 2014, Bro. William Ashley was appointed to the Local 111 Executive Board. Bro. Ashley is a journeyman lineman out of Unit 1 Construction and looks forward to this opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Please take the time to welcome the new faces around Local 111 as we embark on a new year with many challenges ahead.

Mike Kostecky, P.S.



IBEW Local 111 Bro. Christopher "Chris" Beckett.

**Safety & Organizing**

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—Happy new year! As we are fortunate to begin a new year, let's all commit to focusing on core IBEW principles: safety and organizing.

Our employer partners have a variety of safety programs designed to promote safe work environments. IBEW members should never lose sight of the responsibility to work safely. One of the most challenging circumstances that any of us face involves on-the-job injuries, because they affect not only the injured but also the co-workers. Please stay focused on your job each day. Use your training and make sound decisions to ensure not only your safety but also that of your fellow IBEW members and the public.

Everyone is urged to assist with organizing. We bring value each day through our safe, quality work—so, we must ensure that employers are not diminishing our wages, hours, and working conditions, or jeopardizing customers by selecting what employers may perceive as cheap labor. Please keep your business representative updated if your employer uses nonunion contractors.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.

**Festival of Trees Parade; 2015 Work Picture Promising**

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL—Greetings, brothers and sisters. We hope your holiday season was filled with family, friends and happiness! We extend best wishes for a wonderful and prosperous 2015 to you and your family.

IBEW Local 145 and the Quad Cities Chapter NECA joined hands for the annual Festival of Trees Parade. This cheerful parade is our community's kickoff to the winter holiday season. Together Local 145 and NECA sponsored and participated in the parade as helium "balloon handlers." We had a tremendous turnout of members and families. This show of community involvement is just one of the many ways we promote the IBEW/NECA partnership.

We wish to pay tribute to the memory Local 145 members who passed away in 2014. They are missed and will long be remembered.

We also wish to recognize all the brothers and sisters of this great Brotherhood. Let us remember everyone's hard work and commitment to our industry.

2014 was a good year for the Local 145 membership. The 2015 work outlook for our local is also very promising!

Dan Larson, P.S.

**Strong Work Picture**

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—The work picture for the year ahead looks great. The amount of work we are looking at should provide many opportunities for our members, as well as brothers and sisters from other locals, to find work.

Our local Christmas parties were very successful with almost 500 members, children and grandchildren present at the two events. Each year we have Christmas parties for members on both sides of the mountains. This year the west side enjoyed the Everett Children's Museum, where the kids participated in all kinds of activities. The east side had their party at the Toyota Town Center in Wenatchee, where the participants enjoyed ice skating. Food was provided for all who attended, and "Santa" also showed up and gave presents to the children. Thank you to everyone who helped to make these events a success.

There are many opportunities for our members to help out; for information on the various activities, please call the union hall. These events are only successful as long as the members volunteer to help out.

Remember, the union is only as strong as its weakest member.

Tim Silsbee, P.S.

**Two-Year Contract**

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Greetings, brothers and sisters. City Water Light & Power and IBEW Local 193 recently signed a two-year contract. Included in the contract is a modest wage increase of 1.2 percent for year one and a wage opener only for year two. CWLP will take three apprentice linemen in the upcoming fiscal year.

The 2014 "midterm massacre" by anti-labor GOP will become a bitter pill to swallow. We have a long two years ahead, as the GOP won control of the U.S. Senate and House—as well as many state legislatures—as a result of the midterm elections. Can we expect that so-called "right-to-work" laws will be proposed? That is indeed the case. Such measures always leave labor with "The Right to Work for Less!" New Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, never a friend to labor, will show us soon how bad it can be with a new "austerity" governor.

The IBEW Illinois State Conference will be held March 19-20 in Springfield. This will provide the



Attending Local 197 service awards presentation: Kelly Gorman (left), William Perschall, Bus. Mgr. Rich Veitengruber, Derek Bauer, Justin Powell, Robert Vesper, Shawn Dehaven, Russell Roberts, Pres. Mike Raikes, Dan Uhler, Tom Bunn, Matt Alsman and Chad Morris.

opportunity to discuss issues before the IBEW and the state of Illinois.

We look forward to a spring that hopefully will bring more 40-hour workweeks to the Local 193 jurisdiction. Illinois is saddled with debt and solutions are tough to enact.

The Chicago Cubs look to be more competitive this year, hopefully making for an interesting Cub/Cardinal series rivalry.

Donald Hudson, P.S.

**Solidarity & Participation**

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—We wish everyone a happy new year. In early December we held our annual Christmas party and pin ceremony. [Photo, above.] Congratulations to the service award recipients. The local thanks the pin recipients for their professionalism and longtime dedication to the IBEW. From the looks of smiles and sounds of laughter, it seemed clear that everyone had much fun. There was plenty of food and drinks, and some lucky attendees won door prizes.

As we move into the new year, we hope that others will get involved with the local's functions, whether by attending monthly meetings, volunteering for various projects, walking picket, or participating in any local union event. The "B" in IBEW is for Brotherhood—and we all can strive to strengthen the Brotherhood in 2015.

We thank the locals that are keeping Local 197 members working on the road. We hope we can get our members home this year. At the time of this writing the ground is frozen and there aren't a whole lot of projects getting ready to start.

In late spring/early summer, Illinois State University plans to build a new Center for Visual Arts, a \$54 million project. The state should soon be awarding contracts for the medical marijuana facilities, which could lead to putting our members to work.

Please stay active and involved with the local!

Mike Raikes, Pres.

**Newly Elected Officers**

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—Local 245 held its election of officers for a three-year term in September 2014. Re-elected to office were: Bus. Mgr. Larry Tscherne, Treas. Lisa Tracy and Rec. Sec. Mike Tscherne. Elected for a first term were Pres. Ray Zychowicz and Vice Pres. Robert Coffman. Re-elected to the Executive Board were: Ken Kurtz, Joel Reeder, Kris Szmania, Jack Schell and Tim Tscherne. New faces elected to the Executive Board: Steve Kirian and Bob Hamilton. We thank all the outgoing officers for their service and

look forward to working with all those elected.

Local 245 continued its tradition of ringing the bell for The Salvation Army Red Kettle drive on the day after Thanksgiving. This tradition started several years ago and continues with the help of our many volunteers, whose ages range from 5 to 85. Everyone participating has a good time and enjoys giving back to the community. Local 245 collected \$855 for the cause last year. We thank all who volunteered.

We will face some challenges in 2015, but if we work together we can overcome them. That's our strength in being union. Remember to work safe; your family depends on you.

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.



Local 245 Executive Board Chmn. Joel Reeder rings Salvation Army bell.

**University Stadium Project**

L.U. 257 (em,i,rtb,rts,spa&t), JEFFERSON CITY, MO—IBEW wiremen worked on the Mizzou Memorial Stadium renovation as part of the University of Missouri Tigers' move to the Southeastern Conference. The 16-month electrical project was completed by a 100 percent union workforce from IBEW L.U. 257 along with IBEW travelers from all across the area, often working six to seven days a week.

The total project was valued at \$46.5 million. The electrical portion of the project was a joint effort by Meyer Electric, Kaiser Electric and Guarantee Electric—and it was completed on time, on budget and accident free.

The renovation added 4,100 upper deck seats and 1,200+ premium seats. The project also included: new lighting as well as upgrades on the fire alarm, electrical power, data, phone, and speaker systems. New spectator amenities include: an expanded concourse; expanded/enhanced concession and restroom areas; new ticket office locations; more points of entry; and new field lighting.



Local 257 members and IBEW travelers at University of Missouri Memorial Stadium project jobsite.



The project was finished just in time for the Tigers' first football game of the 2014 season, and it set the team up for a great season. The university has plans for more renovations in 2015 and is expected to continue using union labor.

Note: Thanks to L.U. 257 Bro. Dave Hurst for providing information for this article.

Joel Vanderslice, P.S.

## 'Hope & Spirit of Giving'

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—Local 269 recently swore in the graduating apprenticeship class of 2015 as the local's newest journeymen. We wish the new journeymen all the best as they pursue their goals and aspirations. Their success is our sincere wish, for as we all know, a high tide raises all boats. As some of our older members begin a well-earned retirement, our new members will do their part to help keep the ball rolling.

Once again the spirit of giving was displayed at Bro. Jake Soley's annual benefit for the family of a terminally ill child. The family received a needed financial boost to help them deal with the overwhelming costs of supporting a sick child. Though the money may not change the ultimate course of events, it certainly may ease the burden.

And finally, what would the holidays at the hall be without a visit from old Saint Nick? The festivities brought smiles to the young (and not so young) alike. Members' families were invited to the union hall and the children had an opportunity to visit with Santa. Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. Happy 2015!

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.



Local 269 welcomes Santa and office staff helpers Rachel Chamberlain (left), Terri Nagel, Sherri Bowe, Tara Monte, Taryn Krin and Tracy Warney.

## New Unit Welcomed

L.U. 295 (em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), LITTLE ROCK, AR—Congratulations to the grounds maintenance employees who work for Pride Industries at the Little Rock Air Force base!

These employees chose to be represented by IBEW Local 295. They won a March 5, 2014, National Labor Relations Board representation election. We have since been able to negotiate a three-year contract, which is the start of building a better way of life for these employees.

It was good to see our local union staff working in a team effort with the IBEW International Professional & Industrial Organizing staff to make this happen. Welcome to the new IBEW brothers and sisters.

David Stephens, A.B.M.

## Work Picture Improves; Contract Agreement Ratified

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—The inside jurisdiction work picture has improved dramatically over just the last six months. There are currently 28 journeyman wiremen off as of this writing. Local 309 is actively helping the Southwestern Illinois Building Trades seek approval for construc-

tion of a new St. Elizabeth Hospital in O'Fallon.

The outside branch remains stable, while the outlook for 2015 appears better than last year.

Negotiations with Nelson Tree went smoothly with the ratification of a two-year agreement. We received a 3 percent wage increase for both years with a 25 cent increase to LINECO in the second year to be picked up by the contractor.

We will take a wait and see approach with the new Republican governor. We hope his pro-business stance won't be too anti-union. A poor showing at the polls by our members and the general public at large should be a lesson to all of us that an apathetic populace does not work in our best interest.

Our Annual 50 Year Luncheon was held at Sunset Hills Country Club last November. This event is always well-attended. Last year, we celebrated two special honorees: Billy N. Lewis, retired journeyman wireman with 70 years of service; and Robert L. Hartman Jr., retired journeyman lineman with 75 years of service. Congratulations to all those who received service awards at the luncheon.

I hope to see you at the next union meeting.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

## Wanted: Member Involvement

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN—Our contract expires in June this year. It is our contract. We are an assembled body—a union of members deciding what factors will influence our livelihoods, our careers and our trade. The business manager and staff do not decide our contract; they administer it. We, the membership, through the negotiating committee, make the decisions.

Area meetings to gather the membership's input concerning negotiations either have started or will be coming soon to your corner of the jurisdiction. The local union is making an effort to empower your involvement in the decision making process. This is the opportunity to suggest changes in contract language that will benefit the membership and the industry. Your direction is needed. Remember, it's not all about wages. Our working conditions are also of great importance.

Keep Americans working—buy "Made in USA."

Tom Small, P.S.

## Holiday Festivity

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ—On Sunday, Dec. 7, last year we had another successful Children's Christmas Party at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Williamstown, NJ. Thanks to all the Christmas party committee members for all their hard work. They include: Wayne Bumm, Jim Bresh, Don Morgan, Bill Hosey, Ray Listman, Dennis Kleiner, Joe Trumbetti, John Biondi, Chuck Della Vecchia, Ed



Local 351 Christmas party committee members.

Riser, Dan Cosner and Kathy D'Alonzo. Santa Jim Ruff also did a great job.

Dan Cosner, P.S.

## Volunteers Step Up

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—We wish to congratulate retired Bro. Al Harris on receiving his 35-year service pin! Brother Al has volunteered countless hours of his time and has served on many committees and on the Executive Board.

Throughout each year we have many gatherings for the members—from the Gary Pitts Golf Tournament to the family Christmas party.

We also have many pickets and banners around town in the constant fight for the rights of electricians. All of these events would not be possible without the constant support of the brothers and sisters of this local. We thank all of the volunteers who step up and step out to make all this happen!

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.



A night of celebration at Local 375 marks 100 years.

## Local Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Year

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i) ALLENTOWN, PA—On Nov. 15 last year, Local 375 celebrated its 100th anniversary. The event was held at the beautiful, union-built ArtsQuest Center at Steelstacks, in the shadows of the now refurbished blast furnaces of the former Bethlehem Steel Co. site. These blast furnaces serve as a symbol of the great American Industrial Revolution. Labor history was made here! Since some of the original 17 chartered members were steelworkers, it was fitting that this location was selected to cherish our 100 year history as well as celebrate our promising future.

Honored guests and speakers included IBEW Third District Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel, Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Bethlehem Mayor Robert Donchez, Jeff Scarpello, executive director of NECA Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter, and many political friends.

The evening began with a presentation by the Liberty High School Grenadier Pipes & Drums. Approximately 539 members and friends attended the event and all had a great night of good food, conversation and dancing. We thank all sister locals for their participation and support in making this evening possible.

The annual Christmas Party at our hall was Dec. 7. Over 200 members and their children attended and were treated by Santa (retired member Dale Clauser) and Elf (granddaughter Kaida). A magic show by Tom Yourasats delighted everyone.

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

## Political Action is Key

L.U. 429 (em,i,lctt,o,ptc,rtb&u), NASHVILLE, TN—2014 saw a busy work picture with calls going unfilled at times. We appreciate our travelling brothers and sisters who helped us to staff this work and keep our jurisdictional lines strong.

We call on the strength of the Brotherhood to keep in contact with elected public officials to encourage labor-friendly legislation and discourage anti-labor legislation.

In the past, we have seen harmful bills avoided as a result of our members' correspondence with legislators. Even when the opposition in Tennessee had a supermajority, such contact discouraged the state legislature from passing some bad bills that would have negatively affected working people.

Today we see the U.S. Congress controlled by members of the opposition. What worked in Tennessee could work nationwide. Pro-labor bills need our support to ensure passage. Lawmakers must be reminded that we are politically active and we vote. They must hear from us more frequently than from the opposition (which is daily). We must make our voices heard on matters important to workers.

Whether we give to COPE, assist in campaigns, vote for or correspond with labor-friendly lawmakers, we need to stay involved with our elected leaders. If we don't, our livelihood could be in jeopardy.

Please remember our Memorial Easter Egg Hunt and Pin Ceremony coming up this spring.

Cameron L. Bennett, P.S.

## IBEW Members Volunteer

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—The summer of 2014 found Local 449 members extending a hand and volunteering their time and skill to wire a Habitat for Humanity house in Idaho Falls. With the help of the current fifth-year apprenticeship class, the JATC instructor, and one of our new small shops, we were able to rough the house in and complete it later that summer. **[Editor's Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See "NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance," The Electrical Worker (Sept. 2014), and at www.ibew.org.]**

The local really came together to help the community and less fortunate families. A reporter from the local daily newspaper came down to the Habitat jobsite and interviewed a couple of us and wrote up a nice article, published in the Post Register. Community service projects like this and other Local 449 service projects have made a positive impact on residents in the community.

We wish Bros. Bob Hansen, Richard Byington, Ulan Ben Gregory, Kevin Norby and Kirk Thurman a well-deserved happy retirement!

We mourn the deaths of Bros. Charles Burk, Dean Wilhite and Melvin Danielson. They will never be forgotten!

James Smith, Mbr. Dev. Rep.



## LOCAL LINES



IBEW Local 453 crew at jobsite of Cox Hospital construction project.

## Officers Elected

L.U. 453 (govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), SPRINGFIELD, MO—Our 2014 election of officers resulted in new leadership. Newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Roger Mayfield, Pres. Kevin McGill, Vice Pres. Zack Holt, Treas. Tom Drake and Rec. Sec. Keith Jones. Keith Jones was also appointed as our new training director. Boots Wilson was appointed as organizer/assistant business manager.

Work has picked up in our jurisdiction, even going into Book 2 on some calls. The immediate work outlook is good, and Bus. Mgr. Mayfield has some ideas on increasing our market share.

Shown in the accompanying photo (at top, left) is the IBEW crew working on the new nine-story patient tower at Cox Hospital in Springfield.

Brad Cox, P.S.

## 2015 Work Picture Strong

L.U. 479 (i&u), BEAUMONT, TX—The work picture into 2015 is good with steady, continuous employment for Local 479 members along with traveling brothers and sisters. At this writing, approximately 275 traveling brothers and sisters are working in our jurisdiction. A big thank-you goes out to them for helping man our work.

Bro. Robert Truncala, who served as business manager/financial secretary in 2003-'04, passed away last Dec. 2. From 2002-'03 he served as an assistant. Robert served Local 479 well and will be missed.

Organizing is critical to our success. We have a market share of 47 percent. That is not enough. Our organizers are actively beating the bushes to find qualified workers to be a part of our family. We are in conversation with nonunion contractors in an effort to bring them into our union family. We are working with other crafts to gain overall market share. There is strength in numbers.

Congratulations to the class of 2014 apprentice graduates, who are now journeyman electricians. Special congratulations go to John Miller. He not only was our Apprentice of the Year but also won the Seventh District apprentice contest held in Oklahoma last May. John is now a full-time instructor for our first-year and second-year apprentices.

Jimmy Burk, B.M./F.S.



Local 479 class of 2014 apprentice graduates. Back row: Chad Morphew (left), Deborah Love, Mike Marioneaux, Kenneth Botley, Andrew Paulsen, Justin Weber, Brandon Hoffpauir, Jake Bradford, Justin Griffin, David Roccaforte, Tony Venable, Kevin DeLord and Taylor Williams. Middle row: Will Tanner, Doug Foster, Alberico Racomora, Dalton Holbrook, Nicolas McCormack, Justin Wilson, Josh Atwood, Blake Coutee and Josh Leblanc. Front row: Matt Foster, Kenneth Edwards, David Hayes, Richard Taylor, Josh Horton, Johnathon Miller, Brad Dorr, Brad Martinez, Kyle Bailey and Cade Reeves. Not pictured: Mark Rinando.

## Tribute for Career of Service

L.U. 527 (i,rts&spa), GALVESTON, TX—Local 527 announces the retirement of Sister Faye Trotter. In her 35 years at Local 527, Faye worked as assistant office manager for four business managers and has been an integral part of keeping the local on course due to her attention to details, dedication and genuine concern for the well-being of our members. She is greatly respected, appreciated and loved. We wish her a happy retirement.



Local 527 Sister Cathy Henderson retires.

Cathy Henderson, R.S.  
Apprenticeship Dir.

## Thanks to Volunteers

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—We thank everyone who volunteered their time during the 2014 midterm elections. Unfortunately, most of our candidates did not win the positions we hoped they would. On a good note though, state House Bill 5977, the bill that would have eliminated local prevailing wage



Local 557 member Nick Iles installs new lights for remodeling project at Kmart building in Saginaw, MI.



IBEW Local 569 members won approval by Imperial County Board of Supervisors for Wisteria Ranch Solar Energy Center project. The 250 megawatt solar power project will create hundreds of green jobs.

laws, did not gain enough support for a vote in the Statehouse and is now considered dead. This is very good news for our state, as the next two years will be very challenging for organized labor in Michigan.

We are proud to congratulate Andy Brickel and James Lamb for their completion of the apprenticeship program in January.

We wish to remind everyone to always be involved in your communities and at your local union hall. Please attend all union meetings as possible. That is a great way to learn more about what is happening at the local union level and receive information about upcoming events.

Howard Revard, P.S.

## 'A Year of Great Progress'

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—2014 was a year of immense progress for IBEW Local 569 and our members. We initiated 431 new members and organized 23 new contractors into the IBEW family. A record number of members volunteered during the midterm election season with 425 individual actions. Nearly 75 percent of our endorsed candidates won their elections. Nephi Hancock was our "super volunteer" and our own Nicholas Segura was elected to a school board.

We continue to benefit from California's "solar gold rush." New solar projects were recently approved with our support by the Imperial County Board of

Supervisors, which means more jobs for our members. We coordinated a new report that describes how California's solar boom generates good-paying jobs. Additionally, IBEW Local 569 celebrated the installation of 1,000 megawatts of clean, renewable energy in Imperial Valley.

Our local Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) conducted numerous outreach events to create new career opportunities. Kat Sax was awarded an IBEW International Founders Scholarship. San Diego City Council over-

turned its ban on project labor agreements. IBEW 569's softball team won the 2014 IBEW Ninth District softball championship.

2014 was a great year and we're heading into 2015 as a stronger local and labor movement, thanks to all of you and your hard work!

Gretchen K. Newsom, P.S.



Local 567 apprentice volunteers Geoffry Hosley (left), Travis Hale, Caleb Mulkern, Dan Morin and Dave Burns.

## IBEW Apprentices Volunteer—Community Service Project

L.U. 567 (i&mt), PORTLAND, ME—IBEW Apprentices contributed to a very worthy service project in the city of Portland, Maine.

A family in Portland was impacted by a tragic ATV accident in which the father was seriously injured. Area signatory contractors came together to remodel the family's home to make it handicap-accessible. IBEW Local 567 apprentices have contributed over 80 man-hours of combined labor to install the electrical work. NECA contractor E. S. Boulous Co. furnished material and supervision.

This was a commendable community service project and an excellent training opportunity for the apprentices, as well as being the "right thing to do." Please thank these apprentices for their contribution of time and effort during a busy season of the year. The apprentice volunteers included: Geoffry Hosley, Travis Hale, Caleb Mulkern, Dan Morin, Dave Burns, Adam Jalbert, Dave Duquette, Coty McGahey and Dave Tremblett.

Portland JATC is also working on other projects in the community and more will be reported about that in the future. **[Editor's Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See "NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance," The Electrical Worker (Sept. 2014), and at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).]**

Makes one proud to be IBEW!

Allan Shepard, Pres.

## Bay Area Rapid Transit Work

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA—Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) is extending the Fremont line six miles to our neighbors in the South Bay. IBEW Local 595 is supplying this project with more than 75 inside wiremen and sound & communication members.

In the 1960s when BART started construction on the three main lines, the contact rail (also known as the "third rail") was properly assigned to the IBEW. Over the past 25 years as BART expanded, another labor organization claimed all rails, including the contact rail, in their scope. Before the recent project started, Local 595 former business manager Victor Uno, Bus. Rep. Matt Maloon and current Bus. Mgr. Daniel Chivello successfully re-claimed the contact rail work.

On the BART project, the IBEW crew members have not only met the expectations of the contractor's unit rates but have also exceeded them, proving the lowest wage craft is not always the most profitable.

A 1 megawatt solar project for a Walmart store in Stockton was constructed by IBEW/NECA signatory contractor Bockmon & Woody Electric Company Inc. under a 25-day timetable. B&W was able to get com-





IBEW Local 595 contact rail crew members, from left: John Palacios (foreman), Jonah Gabriel, Joshua Williams, Jarred Douglas and Mark Lewis. Not pictured: Adam McAroy.

petitive on the project by utilizing the CE/CW program. Contractors willing to utilize the Market Advancement Initiative are getting back into private markets that we haven't been in for a long time. The inside wiremen, apprentices and CWs on the project have demonstrated the skill level and professionalism of IBEW Local 595 craftsmen.

Bob Tieman, B.R.

## Longtime Career Highlights

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—The 2014 children's Christmas party was a great success. Highlights included photos with Santa, great food, jumpers for the kids and a face painter. Thank you to all the volunteers and attendees.

After 41 years, Angela Horchheimer recently decided to retire. She started working with the local in 1973 as a secretary at the JATC. In those days, the JATC was located at our old union hall on 105 Texas Street. Subsequently, Angela worked as a clerk typist for Local 611's then-business manager John Milosevich. Over the years, she worked for 10 different business managers at Local 611, most recently as a secretary and bookkeeper. Angela was formerly married to John Webb of J&S Electric, and she has a son who is a Local 611 member. Highlights of her career included witnessing the local's construction of its new building and the local's celebration of its 100th year anniversary. Local 611 members will miss Angela. In retirement, she looks forward to traveling, gardening and more time with her husband, Steve, a retired member. We wish Angela all the best for a happy retirement.

Local 611 extends condolences to families of recently deceased members: Howard L. Collier, Robert E. Laird and James O. Wood.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



Recently retired Angela Horchheimer (second from left) with co-workers at Local 611 office.

## IBEW Lifesaving Award; Bright Work Picture for 2015

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—At our December 2014 general meeting, fifth-year apprentice Walter

Diaz received the IBEW Lifesaving Award. Bro. Diaz had decisively employed his first-aid training and saved his 11-year-old son from choking. Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. John J. O'Rourke, Local 617 Bus. Mgr. Mark Leach and SMJATC Training Dir. Kathleen Barber presented Diaz with a plaque, letter and pin commemorating his heroic action. Int. Reps. Dominic Nolan and Victor Uno were also in attendance for the presentation.

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

On Dec. 13, members and their families enjoyed the annual Christmas party at the hall. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped gather commemorative photos, gingerbread men, food and drink, seasonal arts and crafts, gifts for the children and a phenomenal electric train display for the festive occasion. Special thanks to Santa. His visits and photos with the children are always highlights of the local's holiday celebration.

The work picture continues to be the best the local has seen in several years. There is a variety of work, with projects that have a lengthy timeframe. 2015 is projected to be a new year of prosperity for Local 617 members and San Mateo County.

Dan Pasini, Pres.

## Review of 2014 Events

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Congratulations to the 32 members who achieved journeyman status in 2014. Those not previously reported are: Bros. Egbert Kroezen, Shawn Nguyen, Dustin Cummings, Spencer Armsworthy, Joe Dutin, Jeff Morris, Andrew MacInnis, Viorel Vasile and Sister Cheyenne MacDonald.

Only 12 members retired in 2014 so we are staying ahead of the "looming labour shortage." Not yet mentioned in previous articles was Bro. Clyde Barnes, who retired early in 2014.

The late Sister Catie Miller, who went missing in July 2014, tragically was determined to have been murdered. A memorial service was held Nov. 29, 2014. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family.

Fifty members and spouses attended the Retirees Dinner & Dance on Oct. 4.

On Nov. 22, approximately 140 parents and kids enjoyed a day on the farm with rides, games and food. Santa brought gifts for the children.

On Dec. 6, some 150 members and spouses attended the local's Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance. Everyone received a door prize, a great meal and an evening of good cheer. Spot dances were popular and great prizes were presented. Service pins were awarded to 22 members. Bros. Irving Marshall and Henry Moore received a special award for 50



Local 625 Bus. Mgr. Tim Swinamer (right) presents 50-year membership certificate to Bro. Irving Marshall.

years of service.

Thank you to all the members, spouses and families who attended these events, contributing to the spirit of Local 625. I hope more members attend events next year. They are memorable times for all.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

## Workplace Safety

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL—Brothers and sisters of Local 627, we must always remember the importance of workplace safety. Safety is not just a six-letter word. It is a way of life for IBEW members working in our industry.

Safety practices always require the utmost attention to detail. If you happen upon a situation where safety can be reinforced, stop what is happening and reinforce what you know. The safety record is not just a number—it reflects the lives of human beings.

Please support Local 627 in keeping our workplace safe and workers free from injury.

Ray Vos, P.S.

## Awards Meeting—Camaraderie & Solidarity

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rt,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—Local 673 celebrated with members, both young and old, at our Dec. 3 Awards Meeting. It is always great to swap stories with longtime members and former coworkers. One "old-timer" really caught my attention when he asked me to explain more about our relatively new construction electrician/construction wireman program.

He listened attentively as I described the CE/CW program and its intended result. I thought he might stop me and interject that this was just another load of bull classification that would create infighting and



Local 673 members Joe Gamiere (left), Rich Goodmanson and retiree Dan Ziemak look at a program from an early 1970s awards banquet.

lead to our downfall. But he heard me out and then said: "Jimmy, these kinds of issues are nothing new."

He explained a divisive issue that the local had to deal with when he was a young journeyman. The issue then was residential work. He told me about all the huge housing developments throughout our jurisdiction that were wired by inside wireman. The local was beginning to lose this work to the nonunion and it was proposed to adopt a then-new classification of "residential wireman."

The resistance at that time was great and many members were unhappy when this classification was approved—but it was either change or lose the work. His point was that we will always be under attack and we must be willing to do what it takes to preserve our work. It was a great evening and a great reminder that we have always faced great challenges, and that difficult decisions are just part of the job description for IBEW members.

Jim Braunlich, P.S.

## Work Outlook Positive

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—With the election and holiday season over, we are turning our attention to our upcoming contract negotiations. Our inside wireman contract expires in May this year.

Work has been slow, but the 2015 work outlook is very optimistic. Upcoming jobs starting in 2015 include a college dormitory project, county jail, casino hotel, hospital expansions, a county morgue and data centers.

A big thank-you goes to the 20+ members who volunteered for the "Union Cares/Union Shares" program, helping numerous unemployed union families from all trades with a week's worth of groceries during the Christmas holiday season.

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

## Spring Season Agenda

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—With major league baseball right around the corner, we welcome spring weather and the opportunities we will soon have to get outdoors more often.

Coming up on our spring agenda are several events. Our annual Spring Blood Drive will be Friday, March 20. In April we will have the Credit Union Annual Meeting and the start of the golf league. On Sunday, May 3, we will participate in the March of Dimes fundraiser.

These events offer opportunities to get involved and participate in local union activities with your fellow local union brothers and sisters. Additionally, the blood drive and March of Dimes events offer the opportunity to participate in community service.

At this early January writing, we don't yet have specifics to report regarding activities of the current state legislature, but we know for sure that the attack on labor, both union and nonunion, is still quite alive in Indiana. Unemployment and workers' compensation affect all working men and women in Indiana. Common Construction Wage protects wages and benefits for all construction workers in Indiana on state and municipal projects. Issues such as watered-down state licensing and certification requirements, "company store" legislation (the list goes on) stand as a reminder that we must stay engaged and active in the political arena.

Dan Waldrop, B.M.



## LOCAL LINES

## Training Facility Open House; Kudos to RENEW Committee

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our annual Christmas party last year was put on by our local's RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) Committee—and what a fine job they did.

With our usual Spanish flair dinner menu, a balloon bounce and a corn-hole-toss competition, there were activities for both the young and the young at heart. Lots of toys were donated as gifts for underprivileged children in the Tampa Bay area.

Jon Dehmel, the RENEW advisor, said the group took on the party as part of a larger mission where they were to pick one of the "objects" of the IBEW, as listed in the IBEW Constitution, and then do a project exemplifying that object.

Our recent open house for the new addition of our apprenticeship training facility was well-attended by members, city dignitaries and a crew from Electric TV. The new facility was dedicated in honor of Bro. Phillip Humphrey, who served as Local 915's apprenticeship director for 35 years. Much of the equipment was donated by area vendors, and the electrical work was installed by our own apprentices under the direction of our in-house instructors.

Remember the importance of saving Americans jobs. Look for the union label and buy "Made in the USA."

Theresa King, P.S.



Local 1393 RENEW Committee and volunteers delivered donated holiday gifts for a needy family.

## Spirit of Generosity; 2015 Safety Campaign

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Local 1393 members are awesome! The union won a grievance settlement in which one of our members was owed some back pay. This member chose to donate his back pay to a charity of our choice. Subsequently, the local's RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) Committee worked with the Jefferson County Salvation Army in Madison, IN, and we were able to "adopt" a family to assist during the Christmas season. Members from the greater Indianapolis area shopped for the family, and the office staff at the hall wrapped the gifts. Madison area members helped deliver the items to the family. Due

to the generosity of the member who made the donation, we were able to spend \$2,000 to bring a family some needed cheer at Christmas.

For 2015 we have started a safety campaign to draw attention to the state's Move Over/Slow Down law, which applies to utility vehicles as well as emergency vehicles and tow trucks. The law requires that drivers change lanes if it's possible to do so safely.



Local 915 RENEW Committee members and volunteers: Jennifer Risk (left), Michael Hubbard, Garrette Wright, LaQuan Ford, Bret Hardman, Steven VanOrder, Wilbur Crozier and Michael Slicker.

If not, drivers are to reduce their speed to 10 mph below the speed limit, and proceed with caution. The local had a reflective bumper sticker designed and many of our signatory companies have jumped on board and are placing the safety stickers on their vehicles.

At press time, we are in contract renewal negotiations with Duke Energy. Our current contract expires May 1, 2015.

Robert C. Fox, B.M./F.S.

## 'Reason to Celebrate'

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1439 will celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2015. The local was chartered March 16, 1945. We are grateful to members both past and present who fought for the quality of life we enjoy under our collective bargaining agreements. Within the next five years the "boomer" generation will pass the torch to the "X" and "Y" generations. It's imperative that the younger generations stay active in the local and continue to fight for our job benefits, wages and conditions.

Late in 2014 the local received positive news regarding Ameren's commitment to begin much needed apprenticeships in several different job classifications. Additionally, Alliant in Iowa has added two apprentice linemen within our jurisdiction. It is noteworthy that even in a so-called "right-to-work" state, all of the Local 1439 members at Alliant are active dues paying members.

In November the union hall conducted an informational meeting for those members interested in a lineman apprenticeship. Instruction was provided in the basic skills required to get into the overhead program. We thank Billy Howle, Tim Luley, Randy Eichholz and Chad Fletcher for giving their time on a Saturday to provide instruction to our prospective apprentices. The hall will continue to conduct training seminars for all job classifications where an apprenticeship is anticipated.

We foresee a number of anti-union bills being introduced during the 2015 Missouri legislative session. Please contact your state legislators to tell them you oppose any anti-worker legislation.

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

with our union and agreed to accept the existing labor agreement, if the company's bid was successful. When it was announced that Sierra Lobo won the contract, the company signed the collective bargaining agreement, and the existing union contract was extended for another year. The company also stated that health care would be "substantially equal" to what the previous employer had provided. Unfortunately, it soon became obvious that there were many differences, and our union requested negotiations in an attempt to resolve the differences. Some agreement was reached, but issues remain.

At a Local 1501 membership meeting on Dec. 16, 2014, a vote was taken not to accept the company's proposal. Other areas of the agreement were discussed. As of this writing, negotiations are continuing and are headed by Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie and Vice Pres. Fred Richards.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.

## IBEW Members Re-elected To Alaska Legislature



Alaska Rep. Chris Tuck, a Local 1547 journeyman wireman.

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t &u), ANCHORAGE, AK—IBEW members Chris Tuck, journeyman wireman, and Bill Wielechowski, associate general counsel, were re-elected to the Alaska House of Representatives and the Alaska Senate, respectively. State Rep. Tuck will serve as minority leader in the House.

Local 1547 has commissioned writer Shannyn Moore to record its history. Moore, a nationally recognized writer, is based in Alaska. The book, expected to be completed in July 2015, will focus on the essential role that IBEW members played in building the electrical and communications infrastructure for Alaska.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

# IBEW MERCHANDISE



### IBEW Auto Tag Frame \$6.00

Chrome automobile license plate frame with black panel & white letters, "The Right Choice." Fits most standard tag sizes.

### Pocket Watch \$100.00

Gold-tone case with chain, custom embossed dial, IBEW logo and date. Watches have a two-year manufacturer's warranty.

### IBEW Luggage Strap \$7.50

Provides extra security against luggage coming open unexpectedly. Bright blue color with IBEW script provides easy ID of your suitcase.

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

[www.ibewmerchandise.com](http://www.ibewmerchandise.com)

## IBEW Members at NASA

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Our members working at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, are employed by Sierra-Lobo, a subcontractor that recently bid on and won the subcontracting work being performed by our members. New employer Sierra-Lobo outbid QinetiQ NA.

Prior to winning the contract, Sierra Lobo met



A view of one of the projects Local 1501 members work on at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

## Wyoming Utility Local Update

L.U. 1759 (u), CASPER, WY—Greetings, brothers and sisters. Local 1759 has been busy with spring just around the corner.

The Western Area Power Administration and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are gearing up for the maintenance season. With our power plants and transmission grids all across the western United States, it is important to stay aware of what projects our members are working on. As IBEW professionals, we will get the jobs done on time and in a safe manner.

Local 1759 wishes to congratulate Bro. Orry Lesh on completing his apprenticeship as a substation electrician. Kudos, Orry!

Jason Mengwasser, F.S.



Local 1759 Bros. Jeff Lord and Jack Hatcher lower a lifting device down to a river outlet gate at Canyon Ferry Dam.



# RETIRES

## Support for Kids Foundation

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER—At our December 2014 meeting, we presented a check to the Michael Magro Foundation for Kids with Cancer, at Winthrop Hospital. Our club has been a supporter of this foundation for the last six years. Our late Bro. Joe Terino was an active volunteer at the children's cancer ward and through his efforts our club became involved with the Magro Foundation. With this recent check, our club will have donated more than \$10,000 in total as well as hundreds of toys for children in the hospital.

Retirees Club Treas. Joe DePuy, Chmn. Ed Weiss, Bro. Charles Frake and Sec. Ron Boehning presented the check to Mary Terino for the Magro Foundation. We hope this support helped bring enjoyment to the children in the hospital during the holiday season.

*John Milligan, P.S.*

## Retirees Assist Holiday Drives

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER—During the holiday season last year, members of our Retirees Club volunteered to assist the U.S. Marines with a Toys for Tots drive.

Twelve or more brothers went to the armory each day during the week to help with the project. We processed approximately 50,000 toys for the drive. We helped to take in, sort and then send out the toys to needy families.

On our one-day break for a holiday luncheon, we also raised \$1,300 for American Recreational Military Services (ARMS), a group that sends needed supplies to our military service people overseas and assists military families.

Retired Bro. Bill Fosgreen, who served in the Marines, has been a driving force for ARMS and the Toys for Tots drive. Special thanks go out to all of our members who have participated in these volunteer efforts.

*Frank Liffner, F.S.*



*Local 3, South Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club volunteers assist Toys for Tots drive.*

## Annual Food & Toy Drive

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER—Thanks to the generous support of our club members, our Annual Food & Toy Drive was a great success. We donated 350 pounds of food to Long Island Cares, and we donated two boxes of toys for the Toys for Tots drive.

Our Annual Holiday Party was a great affair. Attendees enjoyed lots of great food and music for dancing. It was a fun time for all. It was great to see old and new friends. Jack Foley, our chapter chairman, presented a service award to Eileen Doyle for all her hard work on behalf of the club. Thank you to our Chmn. John Schoenig and his wife, Cathy, for a

wonderful holiday party and toy drive.

Many thanks also go to Eileen Crisostomo for making all the beautiful favors for our holiday party.

We look forward to planning some interesting trips and informative guest speakers for our upcoming monthly meetings.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy year ahead.

*Harvey Goldman, P.S.*



*Local 3, Suffolk Chapter, Retirees Club Chmn. Jack Foley (left), award recipient Eileen Doyle and John Schoeng, holiday chairman.*

## Gold Club Members & Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—On Dec. 17 last year, our annual Christmas/Hanukkah luncheon was held, for the second year, at the Leewood Country Club in Eastchester, NY. There were 109 members and guests in attendance. A northeastern storm, with heavy rain and wind, did not deter our members from attending this holiday affair. Brave souls!

Six members, 80 years of age, received a Certificate of Special Recognition for their longtime service and dedication to the IBEW, and were installed as Gold Club members. Honored members in attendance were Frank Carnazza, Genaro Pasquale, Douglas Reid and David Urban. Honorees William Johnston and Joseph Masi were unable to attend; their certificates were mailed.

Former Chmn. Dominic Pironti was honored with a plaque for his 10 years of service as chairman of the Westchester/Putnam Retirees Chapter. Dominic was also presented with a gift of a new Calloway Hot X driver, to help him improve his game.

Dominic's wife, Roseann, was presented with a



*Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club honorees: David Urban (left), Frank Carnazza, Genaro Pasquale and Douglas Reid.*



*Local 6 retirees and guests at the 2014 Senior Sixes Summer Barbecue.*

bouquet of flowers, in appreciation for her hard work at all of our events.

Chet Maliszewski was awarded a trophy for making the lowest score at our annual Fall Golf Classic.

*John Rich, P.S.  
Bob Cuneo, P.S.*

## 'Senior Sixes' Extend Welcome

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 6, SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Greetings from the Senior Sixes retirees club. We have had a good year at Local 6 and we wish all our

IBEW brothers and sisters, active and retired, the same in 2015. [Photo, top right.] Thanks go out to the Senior Sixes officers, the Local 6 business manager, all local officers and membership for their support. We also thank the Local 6 and EISB (Electrical Industry Service Bureau) office staffs for their help in keeping things running smoothly for our monthly meetings.

We meet each month at our local's auditorium for a short business meeting and social lunch. In most cases the menu is selected and prepared by the retiree volunteers. The best part is sharing our experiences as we navigate and enjoy retirement. If you are a Local 6 retiree, get on the EISB mailing list to receive the monthly meeting agenda. Grab a fellow retiree and join us.

*Steve Walsh, P.S.*

## Benefit Raffle & Travel Plans

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC—Our club raffles off five cash prizes every November to raise money for our Medical Equipment Program. The winners last year were: Greg Tewell, Edward Moscati, Tina Campbell, Patrick Latham III and Marvin Wood. Thanks to all who bought raffle tickets. The funds raised keep our program that supplies medical equipment to our members and their families at no cost to the member! Items we supply include walkers, wheelchairs, hospital beds and much more.

Last year we traveled to England and Eastern Europe. In June we will fly to Hawaii, travel by

cruise ship around the islands and then return via Vancouver, Canada. We would love to meet some of our Hawaiian brothers and sisters. We have 40 some members and their families joining us this year!

Also in June, we will take our annual bus trip to the Amish market in Annapolis and then head for a crab feast. If you plan to be in the area, let Bro. Rick Warner know. This trip generally sells out.

Last November we presented service awards to four brothers: 30-year member Charles Cusack, and 40-year members George Harrison, Raul Barrientos and Joseph Brehon.

*Susan Flashman, P.S.*



*Local 26 Retirees Club Pres. Dick Bissell (second from right) with service pin recipients George Harrison (left), Charles Cusack and Raul Barrientos. Bissell is sporting his Santa beard. Not pictured: Joseph Brehon.*

## Retirees Annual Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT—On Oct. 15 last year, the Local 35 Retirees Club enjoyed a luncheon at Adams Mill in Manchester, CT. The retired members and their spouses or guests were treated to a wonderful lunch compliments of the local. Bus. Mgr. Bruce Silva and officer manager Vicki Dougherty also attended the luncheon. It was great for all of us to get together and enjoy catching up with one another.

We remember those members who passed on in 2014. Included in memoriam are: Sebastian Amanta, Donald Cassells, Robert Fuller, Joseph Gollner, Raymond Rector, Frank Rejman, Mark Carter, Thomas Finnie and Lance Schors.

The Retirees Club has been on its winter break. Club meetings resume in March. We hope to see everyone there.

Best wishes to everyone for a great year ahead.

*Kenneth R. White, P.S.*

## 2015 Events Scheduled

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD, CT—The Retirees Club invites anyone who is a retired Local 42 member to join them. If you would like to get out of the house or take a few hours from your busy schedule, come and join them.

Club meetings are held bimonthly on Tuesdays at the Local 42 union hall. Annual dues are \$12. Meet-



## RETIRES



Service pins were presented at the Local 110 Retirees Annual Luncheon.

ings start at 9 a.m. The meetings begin with discussion of upcoming business and events. Then attendees enjoy talking about old times over donuts and coffee. The Retiree's Club would love to have you. If interested, call us at 860-646-7297.

The Retirees Club thanks all the ladies in Local 42's office for their hard work to make these events enjoyable, and for all they do to make everyone feel welcomed.

Save the following 2015 dates: April 25 – Dinner Dance/Apprentice Graduation; (tentative) May 2 – Trap Shoot; June 6 – Annual Bike Run; June 27 – Dinner Cruise; July 11 – Chartered Fishing Trip; Aug. 29 – Annual "A" Picnic; Sept. 12 – Cod Trip; and Dec. 10 – Union Meeting/Christmas Party.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

## Officers Elected

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 43, SYRACUSE, NY—The Retirees Club held its election of officers in late 2014 for the upcoming year. Elected officers are: Pres. Dave Wierowski, Vice Pres. Fred Henecke, Treas. Jim Pagano and Rec. Sec. Jim Corbett.

Pres. Wierowski presented ideas on future meeting locations, including some where our local was involved in the electrical installations.

To date we've held a meeting at Local 43's new training building (featured in "Local Lines," The Electrical Worker, January 2015), and at the Honeywell Visitors Center on the shore of Onondaga Lake. The restoration work for the lake is in its final phases and has been a steady source of employment for Local 43 members. Other destinations mentioned included the Turning Stone Casino and the Destiny USA mall complex.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

## 2015 Events & Volunteers

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX—Once again Retirees Club members showed their appreciation and gratitude to military veterans by collecting funds and needed items for the Wounded Warrior Project. The donations were transported to the WWP headquarters at Fort Sam by Retirees Club Pres. Gene Chamberlain and his wife, Marilyn, after the Christmas meeting/luncheon.

Saying goodbye to the year 2014 was easy. Saying our goodbyes to our friends and brothers who passed on in 2014 was not easy. We will miss: Eric H. Constantin, Lamar Clanton, Robert "Bob" Boule, Eugene L. Nitschmann, Robert A. Schmidt and Sigrid "Buddy" Swenson.

This new year brings two exciting events hosted by the Retirees Club. At this writing a Silent Auction was scheduled for the February 2015 meeting; and the club's third annual Benefit Golf Tournament will be held April 25. For information about the golf tournament, call Gene Chamberlain at (210) 262-1927. Both of these events will raise funds necessary to finance the club's monthly meetings/luncheons.

The club meets the second Thursday of each

month (excluding June, July and August) at 12 noon, at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Training Build., 3630 Belgium Lane., San Antonio. To all L.U. 60 retirees: Please join us.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

## Service Award Recipients

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI—The Local 99 Retirees Christmas Party was Dec. 16, last year at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick, RI. We enjoyed a delicious five-course family style feast.

Retirees Club Pres. Robert Pierce and Local 99 Bus. Mgr. Michael Daley led a moment of silence in memory of brothers who passed away in 2014. Walter Chenes gave an invocation of prayer and love.

Pierce and Daley also presented 62 retirees with service pins in recognition of 25 or more years of service. George W. Smith received a 65-year pin. Service pin recipients also included 60-year members Milton Demers, Charles Peterson and Umberto Zanni; 55-year members Ernest Audet, Alfred Paolo and Robert Day; and 50-year members Alan Marchand, Joseph Precourt, Roger Therien and William Nash.

Awarded 45-year pins were: Stephen Clarke, Richard Cottle, James Crandall, Kenneth Demers, Thomas Dodd, Robert Ensher, Ernest Folco, John Giofreda, William Goodreau, Normand Jodoin, Joseph Karpowich, Raymond Lambert, Frederick Leigh, Ronald Maily, George Micielli, Raymond St. Jean, William Tabele, Robert Tulli, John Vinnitti, Barry Wakefield and Roger Williams.

Awarded 40-year pins: John Boretos, William Carbone, David D'Agostino, Richard Ethier, Robert Ferreira, Ronald Fuoroli, Robert Giacobone, Curtis Hymel, Robert Ide, John Lemme, Paul Marchesseault, John McElheny, Frank Oster, John Piccirilli, John Poland, Edward Rezendes, Kenneth Rooney, John Santagata, Anthony Simeone, Daniel Simoes, Thomas Sorafine, Joseph Truppi and Donald Waddington.

Frank Colucci, P.S.

## Annual Retirees Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 110, ST. PAUL, MN—We had our Annual Local 110 Retirees Luncheon on Oct. 2, 2014.

Approximately 475 retirees and guests were in attendance at the Prom Center for a great lunch and service awards presentation. [Photo, at top, left.]

Service pin award recipients included: for 60 years of service—Richard Elgaard, Kenneth Farber and Richard Svoboda; 55 years—Roy Anderson, Richard Lundahl, Charles Wagner, John Wagner and Walter Weber; and for 50 years—Leslie Crowell, John Heuer, David Jacobson, Alan Kaufenberg, Joseph Langevin, Alton Larson, Dale Malm, Kenneth Renfro, Richard Schmidt and Dwain Stowman. Congratulations to all.

Peter A. Koegel, R.S.

## IBEW Service Pins Awarded

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—We had our Christmas party Dec. 4, with 96 people in attendance. Hobnobber's Restaurant did an amazing job decorating the hall and catering our party. The food was excellent!

On Dec. 16, we had service pin night. Yours truly George Clesi, Harry "Buddy" Carver, Donald Ordonge, Ralph Zulli, Philip Fielding and Sidney Theriot received an IBEW watch for 60 years of service and five years in the Retirees Club. Dinner and refreshments were served and everyone had a great time. There were two 70-year pin recipients, and a host of members received pins for 50 to 25 years of service. Our next Retirees Club meeting is in March.

It is with sadness that I report the passing of two retired brother members. Robert Rodriguez, a 62-year member, passed away Dec. 21 last year. Jerry Tonglet, who was a 75-year member, passed away Dec. 22.

May God bless America and bring our military service men and women home. Best wishes to everyone for a happy new year ahead.

George Clesi, Pres.



Local 130 Bus. Mgr. Paul J. Zulli (left) presents service pins to Harry "Buddy" Carver (center) and Retirees Club Pres. George Clesi.

## Tribute to Life of Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—We are deeply saddened by the passing of Irvin Blaszyński on Dec. 14, 2014. He was our club's first president and founding member.

Bro. Blaszyński was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He was also a past president of North American Knights of Columbus.

In 1988 Bro. Blaszyński, with the help of Tim Bresnahan, then-Local 134 business manager, sent out 3,000 letters to retirees to form our Retirees Club. In February 1988, a total of 75 retirees attended the first meeting, and Irv Blaszyński was voted the first president of the Local 134 Retirees Club. Bob Regosh was elected vice president.

At that meeting Irv Blaszyński asked for seed money to start the club, so the seed money was raised by establishing a \$2 initiation fee. When Irv also asked for volunteers to serve as executive board members, 20 members volunteered to be nominees.



Local 164 presents service awards to retired members with 50 or more years of service.

In 2012 Irv was designated President Emeritus of the Retirees Club. He stayed active in the club until his passing. His two sons are also Local 134 members.

Our sincere sympathies go out to the Blaszyński family. On Dec. 14 the Retirees Club lost a brother and friend. He will be missed. I can imagine Irv now forming the first "angels retirees club" in heaven.

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.



Local 134 Retirees Club late-Pres. Emeritus Irvin Blaszyński with honorary plaque.

## Holiday Party & Camaraderie

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 164, JERSEY CITY, NJ—The Local 164 retirees association had their holiday party on Dec. 17 last year at the local union hall in Paramus, NJ. It was a rousing success. The food was great, the music was fantastic, and everyone enjoyed seeing familiar and "once-in-a-blue-moon" brothers and sisters. Over 120 people attended the gala party.

A large bouquet of thanks to Eileen and Tom Barry for putting the holiday party together, with help from Jim Myers (food) and Dave Judovin (music and photos). We had more helpers setting up, cleaning afterward and working behind the scenes. And of course, many thanks go to association Pres. Rich Dougherty and Jane Dougherty.

We also thank Local 164 Bus. Mgr. Dan Gumble and Pres. Tom Sullivan, who presented service award watches and pins to eligible members with 50 or more years of service. [Photo at bottom, right.]

We still have more events in 2015 to accomplish. Join in. There will be fresh- and salt-water fishing trips, golf outings, a Yankees baseball game, Atlantic City trip, monthly luncheons, and much more to enjoy.

To see the 30 photos taken at the holiday party, visit our popular, informative website at [www.lu164retirees.squarepins.org/photos.htm](http://www.lu164retirees.squarepins.org/photos.htm).

David Judovin, P.S.

## Welcomes & Farewells

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH—The Retirees Club Annual Christmas Party, held Dec. 3 at the Meadows, was one of the best attended events ever. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed great food, refreshments, door prizes and sharing stories from the past. Thank you to Local 212 officers and staff for their support and kindness toward the retirees through the years.



All Local 212 retirees are invited to join the club and renew old friendships. We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m. at the union hall.

Welcome to our new members: Ronald Lawhorn, Donna Ruehl, Paula Smith, Joseph LeBar, Ray Schrand, Richard Springer Jr., James Housefeld, Wilber Scroth, Bill Burkhart and Steve Jaeger.

Several of our members are having health problems. Please remember them in your prayers.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to families of recently departed Local 212 members: Thomas Crowell, Robert Kettner, Cola Harvey, Richard Durham, Palmer McGhee and Everett "Bud" Brown. Farewell, dear brothers. "The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."—Job 1:21. On a personal note, Bob Kettner and Bud Brown were two of the finest people I have ever known.

*Bob Schaefer, P.S.*

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 236, ALBANY, NY—The Local 236 Retirees Club invites all Local 236 retirees to join us at our next club meeting. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every other month, at 10:30 a.m., in the second floor conference room at the Albany Labor Temple. Besides planning the annual luncheon and reminiscing about the old days, the club distributes gift baskets and makes house visits to provide comfort to our retired members and their spouses during times of need.

The Retirees Club thanks everyone who helped plan last year's 40th Annual Luncheon, held Oct. 15 at Treviso in the Italian American Community Center. Once again the luncheon was a great success with more than 60 retirees and their spouses attending. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and our next luncheon.

*Jim Porter, P.S.*



*Local 236 Retirees Club Pres. Phil Clemens, former local union president, addresses the club's 40th Annual Luncheon.*

## Two Brothers Remembered

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—Our club had their last luncheon/meeting of 2014 as guests of Local 257 for our Christmas get-together. We thank Local 257 for the hospitality. Many thanks go to the decorating committee, Elaine Jurgensmeyer and Juanita Fischer, for the Christmas decorations. As in years past, instead of giving gifts we gave to a charity. Last year we collected \$800 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Thanks to all members for donating.

Sadly, we recently lost two members, B.J. Nichols and John O'Bannon. Bro. Nichols passed away Nov. 7, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. While in the Pacific Theatre, he worked as a signalman on tank landing ship USS LST-1079. He worked for 29 years as a dragline operator for a coal company in five different Eastern states. He retired in 1989 from Central Electric Co.

Bro. O'Bannon passed away Dec. 5 last year. As a young man, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy as Electrician's Mate 2nd Class. In 1947 he joined the IBEW as



*Retirees Club members enjoy Christmas luncheon at Local 257 Labor Temple.*

a union electrician. He was a member for more than 65 years and taught apprenticeship classes for Local 257 in Jefferson City for 30+ years.

We will greatly miss these two members. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Best wishes to all for 2015.

*Delores Melloway, P.S.*

## Breakfast & Service Awards

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 306, AKRON, OH—On Dec. 19, our retirees monthly breakfast meeting was held at our training facility to accommodate a larger turnout. Everyone enjoyed the catered breakfast buffet while catching up on the latest news. In addition, the retirees elected a new club president, John Hornacek. Congratulations and good luck, John.

At the local union meeting that night many retirees received service awards. A 65-year award went to Wilbur Repp. Awards recipients also included: for 60 years of service—Harold Albright, Franklin "Jerry" Bowers, Robert Cannady, Norman Hisao, Donald Kingan, Ronald Peck, Alvin Tasker, Joseph Tassone and John Weber; for 55 years—Frank Bindreiter, Gary Carpenter, Richard DeWitt, Gerald Ferrell, William Hose and Glenn Stoltz; and for 50 years—Myron Stewart.

Also we were privileged to have in attendance, along with current Bus. Mgr. Michael Might, two former business managers. They were: former business manager and former Fourth District international representative Dennis Johanyak, and former business manager and current Fourth District Int. Rep. David Moran.

Local 306 thanks all retired members and officers for their longtime dedicated service.

Unfortunately, we lost a few retired members last year. Gone but not forgotten are: retired Bros. Clifford Boggs, William Brant, Rodney Hubbard, William Monchack, Norman Toler, Duane Ganyard and Laverne "Bill" Dutt. We extend condolences to their families.

*Thomas Wright, Mbr. Dev.*



*Local 306 retirees attend December 2014 breakfast meeting.*

## 'Building our Community'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—On Nov. 30, 2014, we held our annual Christmas Dinner/Dance. More than 650 retirees and guests attended. Attendees included retirees who traveled from Locals 105, 120, 303, 586 and

804. What a great gathering of friendship and brotherhood.

On April 15, we will honor 329 Local 353 members at a service awards presentation. At our Annual Pin Presentation Breakfast, award recipients will include: four members to receive 70-year pins; 17 members to receive 65-year pins; seven members to receive 60-year pins; 44 members to receive 55-year pins; and 257 members to receive 50-year pins. This large

group of award recipients is the result of Local 353's having organized the high-rise sector in Toronto in 1964-65. Local 353 has approximately 750 living members with 50 or more years of service.

As recently reported in *The Electrical Worker*, the Local 353 NextGen committee acknowledged the challenge of our Retirees Club to organize a clothing drive benefit. [See "Toronto NextGen Growing, Giving," in the January 2015 issue of *The Electrical Worker*, pg. 9.] Monies raised will help fund two summer camps: Camp Kivita, a two-week camp for children with kidney transplants; and Camp Dorset, a summer camp for kidney patients and their families that offers 18 dialysis machines on-site. Both camps improve the quality of life for kidney patients and are within Local 353's jurisdiction. We are "Building Our Community Together."

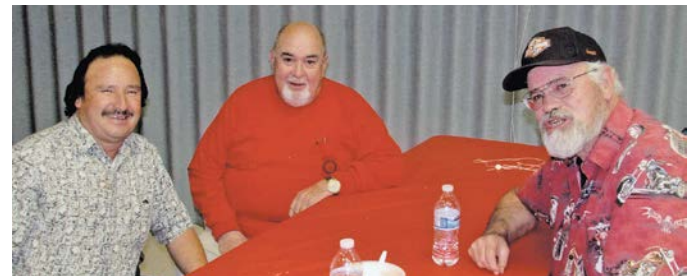
*Robert Rynyk, P.S.*

## Sarnia Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our club recently completed another successful year. Monthly attendance is healthy, peaking at 42 members who attended our annual Christmas luncheon. Janet Burdett and Marion Lawton planned the holiday affair, and our club sincerely thanks them.

Our former president, Bo Kohut, and former secretary-treasurer Ed McCormack retired from office last November, after 13 years leading our organization. Our group appreciates all they have done for us and we say, "Thank you, men, for everything."

George Mathieson is our new president, and Fred Sterling is our secretary-treasurer. We wish them much success in their new positions.



*At Local 611 Family Christmas Party: George Romero (left), Jenaro "Jr." Pedroncelli and Marlin Sprecker.*

In 2015 we will continue to come together to discuss old times, and make new memories. Our membership continues to change. We lost quite a few faithful members in recent years, but we also welcomed newly

retired members to our club. At our January meeting we held a minute of silence for a faithful member, Ralph Camden, who passed away Jan. 2. Also at the January meeting, we welcomed recent retiree Bob Laframboise. We are fortunate to have newly retired members joining us, bringing their energy and talents. Our club has so many talented people who give

of themselves for the benefit of all.

Best wishes to all for good health and happiness in 2015.

*Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.*

## 'We Can Make a Difference'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Greetings, brothers and sisters. The Local 611 Family Christmas Party in December was great. Volunteers fed about 550 people, adults and children. Santa Claus (Bro. Bill Thompson) gave the children Christmas stockings and posed for pictures, taken by Bro. Darrell Blair. Approximately 12 retirees and their guests attended.

November 2014 elections didn't go as we wished in New Mexico or across this great country—but we can make a difference in the 2016 election, not that far away. Our New Mexico Senate is holding its own; but if only three Democrats vote the wrong way, New Mexico could possibly become a so-called "right-to-work" state—and that is scary. Unfortunately, here in New Mexico, only 39 percent of eligible voters actually voted last November. I wonder how many union members voted, including retirees—apparently not as many as should have. We retirees must continue to support and encourage our younger brothers and sisters to register and vote. We can't complain about how things are for our children and grandchildren if we don't vote.

If any of you retirees are soon due for a service pin, please contact the hall to receive your pin.

We extend condolences to the families of several retirees who passed on since my last article (and through December 2014): Joe Hill, Robert F. Nelson, Tom Bachicha, Howard L. Collier and Robert E. Laird.

*Tracy Hall, Pres.*

## Retired 'Working Buddies'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 640, PHOENIX, AZ—The union hall was decked in its finest, and those attending our December meeting were treated to a free breakfast and special prizes in the raffle drawings. Jim Weaver, our treasurer, raffled off another of his rocking horse creations, won eventually by Mike Houston. Jim donates funds collected from ticket sales directly to the club. Thanks, Jim!



*Local 640 retired Bro. Warren Williams at December Retirees Club meeting.*

RETIREES continued on page 20





International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## Building Bridges? Or Slamming Doors?



**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

**W**hat makes a successful company? Wall Street traders have their answer: rising stock prices. But this attitude, which increasingly dominates the discourse in board rooms across America, comes at a cost for most Americans.

As Washington Post business reporter Steven Pearlstein put it in a recent column, almost everything wrong with today's economy—income inequality, lack of good jobs and cutbacks to training and research—is the result of what he calls “the cult of the stockholder.”

For some on Wall Street, employees aren't a vital ingredient in a company's success. They are a burdensome cost that needs to be trimmed to boost shareholder return.

Right now, this ideology is on full display at two IBEW-represented companies. In New England, nearly 2,000 workers are entering their fifth month on strike at FairPoint Communications. The reason: the company's refusal to bargain or back off its draconian demands—demands that would slash wages, retirement benefits and transfer skilled jobs to out-of-state contractors.

On the other side of the country, utility Southern California Edison is demanding rollbacks in everything from overtime rules to sick time. This is a company where its top executives cashed in more than \$90 million in Edison stock last year.

For the more than 4,000 IBEW members who have stood by this company, who put their lives on the line every day to make it work, management's confrontational attitude has come as a shock.

What Wall Street has forgotten—and what some of America's most successful business leaders throughout history knew—is that workers aren't just another commodity to be bought, sold and traded. They are a company's lifeblood.

As a union, we often disagree with management. But at companies like Southern California Edison, we could traditionally work out these disputes with mutually beneficial solutions. That's what collective bargaining is all about. It's an attitude that breeds both productivity and loyalty.

The my-way-or-the-highway approach to collective bargaining on display in California and New England—an approach that treats employees as a problem, not an investment—breeds resentment and contention.

It might impress some hedge fund manager in lower Manhattan—but it's poison to the long-term health of both business and the wider economy.

We are committed to building bridges and maintain good working relationships across the table. It's time CEOs stop listening to Wall Street and start talking to their employees. ■

## Tree Trimmers Rise Up

**W**hen it comes to dishing out common sense, Texas populist and worker advocate Jim Hightower has one of the best examples. It's something that his father repeatedly told him while growing up: “Everybody does better when everybody does better.”

Tree trimmers working under more than 80 IBEW bargaining agreements with Asplundh Tree Expert Co. have known this for years. With nearly 7,500 members across the U.S. and Canada employed at the family-owned company, workers have been winning better wages and conditions in a profession where the fatality rate is 10 times the average for all industries, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Now, more workers are getting even bolder. Since last July, nearly 800 Asplundh employees throughout the Fourth and Sixth Districts—in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia—voted overwhelmingly for a voice on the job with the IBEW. A handful of these votes were unanimous. And with about four in five workers voting, the “yays” total nearly 90 percent. As of this writing, six more NLRB votes are on the horizon, with more likely to follow.

While it's not always been easy for the employees, company attitudes toward the organizing drives are changing. CEO Scott Asplundh told *Transmission and Distribution Magazine*, “We put our heads together with the IBEW people and started training crew personnel to be crew foremen. I was surprised at the impact it had. Of course, all partners must work together. That's the theme of the entire operation.”

For the IBEW's continued growth, this campaign is incredibly significant. About 20,000 more Asplundh employees are without a union contract. If even a fraction of those continue to vote “union yes,” the IBEW will be closer to reaching its 2015 organizing goals, strengthening the Brotherhood.

But this isn't really about numbers. It's about people: men and women who know what it's like to pull marathon shifts doing emergency storm repair, working in trees or bucket trucks high above solid ground with chainsaws and other powerful equipment. You have to be careful. You have to trust your crew. You have to look out for one another.

Now that we've begun negotiations in Michigan and Ohio, I feel strongly that members and management can take Hightower's maxim to heart and recognize the mutual benefits we can offer each other. Let's keep up that momentum for even more brave workers who want to ensure the prosperity of their families—and their company. ■



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

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

**Send letters to:**

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

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

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# LETTERS

## TO THE EDITOR

### IBEW: Who We Are

Thank you very much for helping me explain to my friends and neighbors just what the IBEW means [through national television advertising campaign and television sponsorship of PBS programs NewsHour and Washington Week].

Before this, I only observed IBEW window stickers in Houston on the rear windows of Toyotas. Now I can show off my years of membership to the people who are unaware of what the IBEW is.

This gives me bragging rights, and I can spread them even farther than before due to the TV advertising presently going on.

I have been retired five years and intend to inform those around me just what my union is and what it is doing for the working class people in our country.

*George Laiacona Jr., Local 728 retiree  
Galveston, Texas*

### Been There, Done That

Having completed 60 years as an IBEW member, I was interested to read in the December 2014 edition of the "Electrical Worker" ["IBEW Offers Top-Notch Training"] that the IBEW has created a class to instruct electricians on becoming electrical contractors. This is long overdue. I did not see course content on overhead in business. I learned it the hard and expensive way.

When I first became a contractor in the 1970s as a master electrician, I had the knowledge and skills to bid and complete jobs, yet I was not making profits. I contacted the Small Business Administration for advice. Two retired gentleman who had run large corporations in the Midwest showed up one day to review my operations, much of which were kept in a large loose-leaf notebook.

At the time I had been in business about three months, and working 80 hours a week. They said that I had not been in business long enough to advise and that I should contact them in six months. I told them if I survived that long I would have figured it out somehow, and I did.

The problem was overhead, which I knew nothing about, so it was not included in my pricing. "Overhead" simplistically defined is anything you pay for that does not earn a return, such as office rent, telephones, secretaries, fuel and truck repairs, even postage stamps., etc. It turned out I had to keep a minimum of four electricians employed to meet my overhead.

As work assignments are handled through the hiring hall procedures, you finish a job and return to the hall and get another one. Sometimes you never even get to meet the management who write your paycheck, especially on large jobs. So classes on these subjects should be taught to the rank and file.

A long time ago a business agent once said to me, "To hell with the contractor. If he goes out of business, we will just send you to another job." Hopefully by now that attitude no longer exists and unions and contractors work as teams.

*Howard Gelbman, Local 349 retiree  
Miami*



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

### Pitching In, Welcoming All

Regarding the article "At EWMC Conference, Young Workers Serve Community," [The Electrical Workers Minority Caucus and young workers' groups] are those that have been historically under-represented within our union. White males are and have been the majority for decades ... it's not to alienate, it's to help those who have felt alienated in the past unify and organize within the IBEW. Also, any member can join these groups! You should!

*Amber Ray, Local 269 member  
Trenton, N.J.*

### Power Professionals

Local 3 IBEW electricians are the most talented in the world! I should know!! I'm a 38-year journeyman electrician in the "A" division!

*Bobby Agrella, Local 3 retiree  
New York*

## WHO WE ARE

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

# Boston Retiree, Union Leaders Hit the Bikes to Help Beat Cancer

**T**he road to finding a cure for cancer is both long and winding. And for the last three decades, Charles "Mickey" Rooney has taken that road—192 miles at a time.

Since 1981, the 76-year-old former president of Boston Local 104 has made a yearly trek across the Bay State by participating in the two-day Pan-Mass Challenge bicycle ride. The event serves as an annual fundraiser for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, one of the leading research and treatment facilities dedicated to finding a cure for the disease that kills more than 500,000 Americans annually.

Back then, Rooney and his family had never fashioned themselves as hardcore cyclists, he said. "We would go riding around Cape Cod, Gloucester, a few other places." But following his mother's cancer diagnosis, and hearing about the Pan-Mass, which began in 1980, Rooney decided to go all in.

**'There's no way to really describe doing the ride—it's just such a high. You're out there with thousands of riders who are there for the same reason.'**

— Charles 'Mickey' Rooney

"In the early days, you'd just raise a few hundred dollars and camp out during the ride," he said. But the event, like its appeal, has grown by leaps and bounds. Last year, 5,500 riders from across the country, each committing to raise thousands from individual fundraising, took the Pan-Mass annual donation levels north of \$40 million for the first time. Not bad, considering during the event's first decade, riders raised just shy of \$400,000 in all.

"Today, you have to commit to raising about \$5,000 per person to enter," Rooney said. Relying on the support of family, friends, colleagues and contacts in the Boston community, Rooney always easily clears this hurdle and has raised more than \$100,000 during his decades with the event. It's also become a family affair, with Rooney's children and—once they were old enough—grandchildren participating.

This year's Aug. 1-2 ride may be the capstone of Rooney's cycling career. After initially saying in 2014 that he was hanging up his cleats, "I'm going to do one more," he said, with one caveat: "I've been saying that every year for a while now," he said with a laugh.



Former Boston Local 104 President Charles 'Mickey' Rooney has raised more than \$100,000 for cancer research via the annual Pan-Mass Challenge bicycle ride. Local President Ryan Demeritt, left, and Treasurer/Assistant Business Manager Hugh Boyd hit the road with Rooney for last year's event.

Either way, Rooney's efforts to pass the torch to a new group have begun paying off. Last year, Rooney drafted two local leaders to participate: President Ryan Demeritt, 36, and Treasurer/Assistant Business Manager Hugh Boyd, 48.

Boyd likened it to a "motivational challenge" in a Local Lines article he wrote for the December 2014 issue of The Electrical Worker highlighting the race. Though he had done the ride in 1991, he said that he had gotten away from cycling and looked forward to the chance to get back into the saddle.

"We had to go buy bikes, gear, shoes—everything," Boyd said. "This was a whole new adventure for Ryan and I."

Demeritt said that he had training assistance and inspiration from one of his neighbors, who helped get him in the habit of waking at 4 a.m. to tackle 30 miles of road several times a week.

For Rooney—who's logged about 5,000 miles on Pan-Mass rides—there was no crash training or special routine. "You just get on the bike and do it," Rooney said. "It's time consuming, but you have to just make time for it and get to the gym." He makes a point of taking long rides each weekend, year round, to prepare.

Then there's the ride itself. Starting in Sturbridge about 60 miles west of Boston, riders tackle difficult hills as they thread their way east toward Cape Cod, then north up the peninsula the next day toward the finish line in coastal Provincetown.

"There's no way to really describe doing the ride—it's just such a high," Rooney said. "You're out there with thousands of riders who are there for the same reason, and people are along the side of the road waving, spraying you with hoses to keep cool. It's almost selfish to go do it. You feel like Ted Williams when he would hit a home run," referring to the famed

Boston Red Sox power hitter who racked up more than 500 home runs before retiring in 1960.

Demeritt agreed that the camaraderie of the event is a high point. "It's not a race—you're just trying to complete it. It's great to see people holding signs and cheering for you."

One of the most memorable—and motivating—moments of the ride comes toward the end, Demeritt said, when sponsors and volunteers line the road holding pictures of children who are battling cancer, while encouraging the riders to complete the trek. "To see what these kids are battling—it just keeps you going," he said. "You stop thinking about your tired legs and just remember why you did this, why you raised the money in the first place."

For Rooney, the Pan-Mass has become increasingly meaningful. He lost his wife, Dorsey, to cancer in 2006, and he has been riding in her memory ever since. Rooney also donates blood platelets numerous times a year. It's a two-hour process, and it provides blood-clotting cells needed for patients undergoing cancer treatments, as well as more than a dozen whole blood donations for transfusions.

Rooney joined the IBEW in 1963 after his term of service in the Marine Corps. The lineman by trade served as local president for much of the 1990s. He said his pension helps him have the time to do the kinds of training and fundraising necessary to complete the Pan-Mass Challenge year after year.

Local 104 leadership has actively started recruiting a team for 2015 and hopes to have at least 10 participants. Interested members are encouraged to call the local union.

Learn more about the ride and its fundraising mission at [www.PMC.org](http://www.PMC.org). ■



# Straight Facts on Pension Reform

Included in a recently passed congressional spending bill was a pension reform amendment that gives trustees of endangered multiemployer plans the power to make changes to benefits to avoid default and the draconian cuts that would accompany it.

The "Multiemployer Pension Reform Act" was supported by many plan trustees, businesses and labor unions.

Many of the act's provisions derive from recommendations contained in a report written by the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans, an advocacy organization supported by unions, business associations and retirement experts.

"This law gives trustees the tools to save troubled plans from insolvency and avoid drastic cuts for retirees," said NCCMP Executive Director Randy DeFrehn.

Multiemployer pension plans cover workers at multiple jobsites and companies and are jointly managed by labor unions and management groups.

They are particularly common in the construction industry, where the average worker can work for dozens or even hundreds of employers over a career.

More than half a million IBEW members and retirees are covered by multiemployer retirement plans.

The 2008 recession wreaked havoc on private-sector pension plans. While most multiemployer plans have returned to full health, a significant minority of them remain on the verge of insolvency.

Insolvent plans become the responsibility of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, an independent government agency that guarantees private-sector workers' pensions. However, the PBGC is also running short on funds, and is likely unable to guarantee benefits should larger plans become insolvent.

Below are questions and answers about the Pension Reform Act and what it means for you and your retirement.

## Q: Who is affected by the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act?

**The legislation only applies to multiemployer plans on the brink of insolvency.**

Less than 200 of the approximately 1,400 Taft-Hartley plans nationwide (all crafts and trades) are considered to be in financial danger. Healthy funds are expected to maintain existing benefit levels for retirees. Single-employer plans are not affected.

## Q: Why did unions support this change?

**Because it gives trustees the tools they need to rescue their plans from insolvency, avoiding dramatic cuts in benefits that would result from a PBGC takeover.**

In the past, trustees of defined multiemployer benefit plans were required by law to maintain existing benefits payments, regardless of the financial health

of the plan. For funds in danger of insolvency, this leads to a takeover by the PBGC. The PBGC isn't required to maintain existing benefits, often slashing payments by more than half for beneficiaries of insolvent plans.

The PBGC's precarious financial position makes it unlikely it will provide even minimal benefits in case of the failure of major pension plans. DeFrehn points to a plan in Delaware that was recently taken over by the PBGC. "Before the takeover, one retiree was getting \$4,000 a month," he said. "Now he's getting \$800 a month."

Under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act, trustees can avoid this worst-case scenario by making smaller cuts in benefits to avoid having to make much bigger ones down the road, preserving benefits for current and future retirees.

The act comes with numerous protections to prevent trustees from abusing their new powers:

- Only plans in immediate danger of insolvency that have exhausted all other measures can reduce benefit payments. Healthy plans (those in the

yellow and green zones as defined by the Pension Protection Act) are still required to maintain existing benefits.

- Any benefit cuts must be negotiated between the pension plan labor and management trustees and are subject to the review of plan participants.
- Trustees can't make cuts beyond what is necessary to make the fund solvent.

## Q: I'm an IBEW retiree. Does this affect my benefits?

**Not likely.** "The vast majority of IBEW/NECA multiemployer plans are healthy and are projected to remain so," said Larry Reidenbach, senior executive assistant to International Secretary-Treasurer Sam Chilia.

Participants in single-employer plans are not affected.

Those who want to learn more should contact their plan administrators or local union for the current status of their plan. ■

## RETIREES continued from page 17

One of our senior members in attendance was Warren Williams, a club member since 1990. Bro. Williams has been married to his wife, Denise, for 60+ years; he is a military veteran who served in the Korean War; and he is a spry 86 years old! Warren moved his family here from Iowa in 1954 and became an IBEW apprentice in 1955. He worked the next 35 years for contractors in and around Phoenix. Warren is proud of his union service, and he wears all of his earned service pins on his Roadrunner name badge.

We Roadrunners look forward to seeing Warren, as well as our many other members, at our monthly breakfast meetings, held the third Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. We do our best to have informative speakers, and it's always fun just to get together with old working buddies. We welcome your attendance.

*Daryl Knupp, P.S.*

## April 7 Retiree Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL—The Retirees Club met Dec. 4 last year at Bennie's Italian Restaurant in Marion, IL, with 20 members and three guests present.

Pres. Gary King called the meeting to order, thanked everyone for coming and wished attendees a Merry Christmas. The financial report and minutes from the Oct. 2 meeting were read and approved. The names of our fallen sisters and brothers were read for the months of October and November and a moment of silence was observed.

During discussion of new business, a request for the next meeting to be held at Ryan's in Marion

was made by Bro. David Cosimi with no objections to the request. Bro. Cosimi was appointed sergeant at arms, and approved by those present. Jim Nolen won the drawing and \$36 was deposited in the club's account. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

On Friday, Dec. 19, retired staff attended the local's staff Christmas dinner with current staff and Executive Board members.

The Annual Retiree Luncheon will be Tuesday, April 7, at Rend Lake for all retired Local 702 members and spouses. Please watch for a flier in the mail or contact the office at (618) 932-2102 to RSVP.

*Mark Baker, P.S.*

## 'Welcoming a New Year'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL—First, we wish you a happy and healthy 2015. We started our year off with our Annual Chili Cookoff. We had cool weather, which made it all the better. Congratulations to Bonnie Pettingill, our cookoff winner for this year. We thank everyone for participating. We also thank our judges for the event, including Rex Rawlins and Al Gurley. February brought our popular Low Country Boil, which is always well-attended. March is the month for our barbecue. We look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming club meetings.

With sadness, we report the passing of Bro. George "Hambone" Hamilton and Bro. John Oliver. Bro. Hamilton, a member since 1957, was well-known locally and by many across the country. Bro. Oliver was also a longtime member, since 1970. Both will be missed

and we send our condolences to their families.

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

*Diane Gibbs, P.S.*



*Local 756 Retirees Club Treas. Dow Graham congratulates Bonnie Pettingill, prize winner at the Annual Chili Cookoff.*

## Retirees Volunteer; Club Recruiting Members

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 948, FLINT, MI—For those of us in this part of the country, spring is just around the corner—which means the annual cleanup and lawn maintenance around the union hall will get underway.

For many years the Retirees Club has provided the lawn care service for the grounds around our union hall. This has been a great way for those of us who are

retired to give back to our local union. Our number of volunteers has dwindled over the past couple of years, and as a result additional manpower is needed to continue providing lawn care service and other maintenance for our union hall. The Retirees Club wishes to invite all retired members to consider joining the club and to also come out and lend a hand. This is a great opportunity to give back to the organization that has provided so much to us throughout our careers.

Our volunteers meet every Monday morning at 8 a.m. to provide services at the union hall. Hope to see you there. Please contact the hall for information.

The Retirees Club meetings are held the first Monday of each month starting at 9 a.m. Please join us.

*Jim Harris, P.S.*

## Holiday Dinner/Dance

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA—We had a combination Christmas dinner and dance on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014. Our attendance was down somewhat with approximately 70 people attending. The food as usual was excellent and the music was furnished by our local members.

A reminder: Our meetings are held the first Monday of every even month, at 8:30 a.m.

It is with regret that I report the loss of two of our retirees: Joe E. Watts and Garland "Bo" Davis. They will be missed but not forgotten.

The Retirees Club wishes all our brothers and sisters a blessed year ahead.

*W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.*