

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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One World Trade Center, IBEW-built and rising 1,776 feet above lower Manhattan, is now open for business.

## In Lower Manhattan, A Tower Rises on Holy Ground

**N**early 5,000 days after the attacks on 9/11 and seven years after construction on One World Trade Center began, tenants are moving into the tallest skyscraper in the Western Hemisphere.

### ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER OPENS

The 16-acre site will always be holy ground. The plunging waterfalls in the footprints of the fallen towers will always be a pilgrimage site.

The 1,776-foot-tall tower, however, is not for memory; it is for work.

"We never stopped being there," said Ken Forsberg, Local 3 steward for One World Trade Center.

Local 3 members built the original World Trade Center 40 years ago and nearly 3,500 will tell their chil-

dren and grandchildren they had a hand in the reconstruction. In 2003, Forsberg was one of the many journeyman who made the daily descent down the 480-foot ramp to rebuild what was lost. In 2009, he returned as steward for the whole site, a task he shared with others as the scope of the work expanded.

For some, it was too much.

"A few guys would tell me 'I can't come to the job. I get emotional. It's all I think about,'" Forsberg said. "I have nine years down there and an absolute attachment to the site. I still get choked up. The amount of time you spend doesn't toughen you any. It doesn't fade the raw memories."

FREEDOM TOWER *continued on page 2*



## 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 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

It's the tallest building west of the Mississippi River — and it's being built by Los Angeles Local 11 members. When complete, the Wilshire Grand Tower will stand 73 stories high and will create nearly 12,000 construction jobs. [YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](http://YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker)

### Vimeo

Detroit Local 17 is running a boot camp for aspiring tree trimmers who are starting out in the business. From careful climbing to the nuances of heavy duty gear, these members literally learn the ropes from the ground up. [Vimeo.com/IBEW](http://Vimeo.com/IBEW)



### HourPower

With the help of the IBEW, Wisconsin Public Service — along with the SPE Group — are moving over 90 miles of overhead construction and taking it underground. [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com)



### ElectricTV

Robert Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data and Analytics, provides his insider's perspective on where the construction industry and the economy are headed in the next year. [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net)



# In Lower Manhattan, A Tower Rises on Holy Ground

Finishing it doesn't either. There is still the horror of the 2,753 people killed, including 21 IBEW members. Local 3's lost 17 are memorialized on the face of Local 3's hall. Four more were lost from Local 1212. On the back side of the memorial to the IBEW dead is a pledge to rebuild what was destroyed.

One World Trade Center is not the first, or even the second office building to open on the site. Building 7 opened in 2006 and Building 4 opened seven years later. The memorial opened on the 10th anniversary of the attacks and the long-delayed museum opened nearly two years ago.

But for Forsberg—for all of New York—without a flag flying over a finished Tower One, the pledge to rebuild was a promise unfulfilled.

Opening the doors of the tower to working men and women who will work in the building, not on it, is the start of a new page in the city's story. The hole in the skyline where the towers were hasn't been filled, but it is not as empty either.

"For years I'm looking around and watching this not be done. People came to the site and just saw fences up. It was like we were on our knees for a long time," said Elliot Hecht, Local 3 business representative for Lower Manhattan. "There were a lot of delays, but once construction started, we did what we do best: build. Now, you just look up now and think, 'This is really incredible.' We are very proud of what we have accomplished."

Ever since the days when members of Local 3 ran emergency services to keep the smoking wreck of Ground Zero lit, the IBEW has been there. At the peak of construction, Hecht said, 1,100 members passed through the layers of security each day.

There have been many milestones along the way to One World Trade Center's opening, markers celebrated with speeches and the tolling of bells from Trinity Church nearby. The May 2002 end of the recovery operation. The 30-ton Adirondack granite cornerstone, laid July 4, 2004. The raising of the first steel beam in April 2006 was broadcast live around the world. The foundation was completed January 2009. The steel plate that raised it higher than the Empire State Building was placed April 2012.

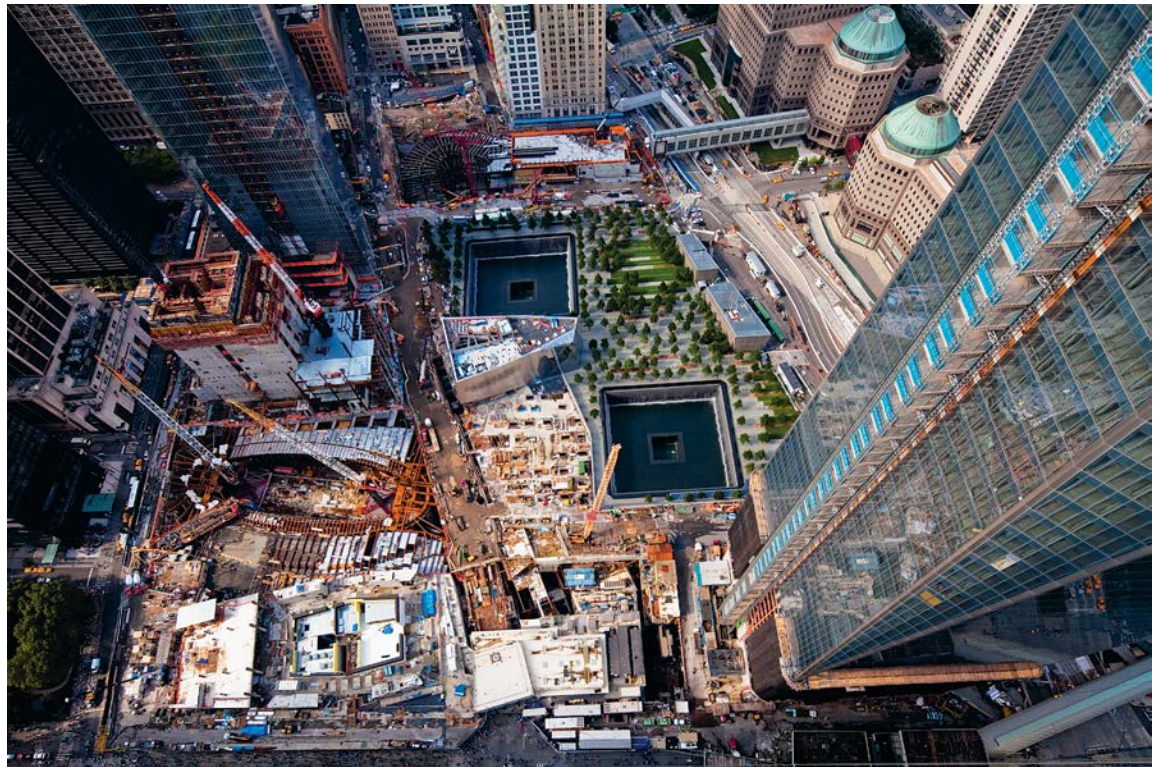
But for Hecht, the most emotional moment was May 10, 2013, when the 408-foot spire rose into place.

"When that spire went up and we knew the names of the lost Local 3 members were engraved on the beacon, you want to talk about feelings?" Hecht said. "That was a real special day."

The first tenants at One World Trade Center were from Condé Nast, publisher of GQ, Allure, Bon Appetit, Vanity Fair, Vogue and the New Yorker. Forsberg said he passed them in the halls, in the marbled lobby and on the street.

"There is me standing there watching them. We got butterflies. They're stepping out of a cab and they've got butterflies," Forsberg said. "It's not a construction site anymore. Now it's occupied by regular people doing everyday jobs."

They will occupy an unprecedented



*The building watches over the footprints of the Twin Towers, now permanent memorials to the lives lost on 9/11.* (Photos courtesy of SOM Architects Credit: Joe Woolhead)

building, "the safest in the world" according to One World Trade Center's owner, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The stairwells are 50 percent wider than required by code and pressurized to keep them smoke free. There is even a stairwell reserved for first responders. The stairs, sprinklers and elevators are protected by three feet of concrete. The first 185 feet of the tower is a blast-proof, above-ground bunker. All that safety takes up space, and although the top floor is called the 104th floor—same as the old towers—there are only 76 floors usable for office space.

Of course the work doesn't end for the IBEW now that tenants are moving in. Only 25 floors have been fit out, and unlike most other construction trades, electricians don't leave just because the windows are up. Forsberg expects a few hundred journeymen to be working on the tower for at least a few more years. Even when the final office space is finished, much work remains at the site. Looming largest, less than a block away, is the replacement for the destroyed commuter rail and subway station. The bleached backbone of its arching columns look more like an archeological dig than a future commuter hub.

But with every office that opens, or apartment that is filled, the glow of life gets brighter, the roots deeper, around that terrible scar.

"Lower Manhattan was a 9 to 5 community. You came for work and that was it. Now, this whole area is changing," Hecht said. "We've been building hotels, schools and new residential towers. It is back as part of the city."

It has become something different. "They are moving in. We did it. Job well done," Hecht said. ■





# Another Manufacturer Heads South Bosch Security Systems Abandons Pa. Members

“I feel horrible and betrayed. It’s depressing, life-changing, stressful. What other words can I come up with?” says Deb Kubala, a 37-year member of Lancaster, Pa., Local 1666.

In April, Kubala and 51 co-workers will lose their jobs at a distribution center owned by Bosch Security Systems, a division of Germany-based Robert Bosch GmbH, the world’s largest supplier of automobile parts.

Bosch’s desertion of Lancaster adds another layer to its reputation as a corporate giant that promotes adherence to collective bargaining rules at home overseas while looking for loopholes everywhere else.

After the shutdown, the remaining production stock in Lancaster—speakers, fire alarms and surveillance products—will be shipped to Bosch’s new 150,000-square-foot warehouse in Greer, S.C., directly across the street from a mammoth nonunion plant owned by another German manufacturer, BMW.

Bosch, which employs more than 300,000 people across 350 subsidiaries in 60 nations, says moving south will lower transportation costs and better serve its customers.

“It appears to me Bosch is leaving here because they despise their obligation to the union,” says Kubala, a stocker and tow motor operator.

She and her fellow union members have struggled through and survived agonizing concessionary negotiations with three RCA successors: General Electric, Burle Industries and Philips. They lost sick leave and vacation time and had labor grades trimmed even before Bosch purchased Philips’ security holdings in 2002.

But Kubala, who has served the local as a chief steward and as a member of the executive board and numerous negotiating committees with RCA, Burle and Philips, says she and her fellow union members had never seen in the other owners the Bosch brand of callousness and hardball collective bargaining.

Bosch squeezed the local into replacing the workers’ defined benefit pension plan with a \$2,000 yearly contribution into their 401(k) accounts. The company pressed the union into trading away post-age 65 health care insurance for a \$14,000 cash payment upon retirement.

The latest contract, which expired in 2012, is still unsigned. And Bosch has instituted a draconian absentee control policy. Kubala says it dishonors the loyalty of the vast majority of union members, noting that even amidst the bitter tensions of a looming shutdown, workers continue to diligently perform their jobs.

Bosch, which declared 2014 revenues of \$52 billion, has rejected the union’s request to provide tuition reim-



*Bosch GmbH prides itself on adherence to high labor standards, but has established a reputation in the U.S. of playing hardball with unions.*

bursement to displaced members of Local 1666.

In February, Local 1666 Business Manager Karen Stine, a 10-year employee, described the strained relationship in a letter entitled “Bosch Workers Being Abandoned,” posted on Lancaster Online.

“The employees have shown long-time loyalty—many spending most of their adult lives (30-plus years) contributing to the success of the company,” she wrote. “Bosch has decided to toss us aside in the search for monetary gain, cheaper labor and tax breaks. ...”

Third District International Representative Pasquale Gino, who services the local, says he checked Bosch’s claim that they are saving millions in leases on property in South Carolina.

“Those savings are exaggerated,” he says. “This move is primarily about driving down the wages and benefits of workers—to the tune of nearly \$1 million a year—and eliminating their obligation to collectively bargain,” he says.

On the surface, Bosch’s shutdown is excruciatingly typical. Pennsylvania’s union density is 14.6 percent. South Carolina’s union density is 3.4 percent. Employers will race to the bottom.

“But Bosch practices one kind of labor relations at home and then turns the tables in the U.S.,” like some other European producers, says Third District International Vice President Don Siegel.

Robert Bosch, which is privately owned, with 92 percent of its shares held by a charitable foundation, touts its commitment to fairness for workers.

The disconnect between Bosch’s public pronouncements and its practice in the U.S. was noted in a 2010 report by Human Rights Watch.

The report opened with an account of a 2004 strike at a Bosch packaging equipment factory in Wisconsin where workers fighting against wage and benefit cuts were threatened with perma-

nent replacement.

Bosch’s conduct was alarming, said Human Rights Watch, since the company publicizes its commitment to an International Labor Organization core standard prohibiting threat or employment of permanent replacements to break strikes and violate workers’ rights to freedom of association.

Stine and her members say they want the word to spread far and wide about Bosch’s mistreatment of IBEW members in the United States. The chances are good. A strategic partnership was recently formed between the IBEW, CWA and members of the German union IG Metall to support organizing in U.S. facilities operated by Siemens. IG Metall also represents workers at Bosch.

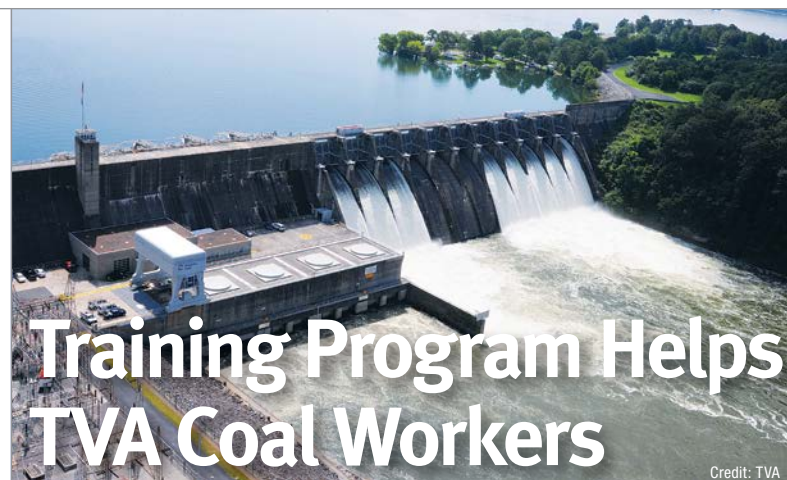
Kubala and her co-workers wonder what life will be like for the workers who replace them in South Carolina.

“Let me tell you, the workers there will need a union. I hope the union shows up and organizes,” says Kathy Pennell, a 37-year employee and a former president of Local 1666.

Kubala says, “My girlfriends and I have been talking about helping workers who need to organize unions. What are young people going to do if this stuff keeps happening?”

“I was proud to work for RCA, the very first plant to manufacture color picture tubes,” Kubala says. The union’s influence became immediately clear. She recalls her first supervisor telling her in 1978: “For the first 30 days [of probation] you are mine. Then Local 1666 has you.” I got involved at age 21 and was proud to be part of one of America’s most powerful unions,” she said.

After Bosch shuts down, Local 1666’s membership, once in the thousands, will plummet to 37. Remaining members include tradesmen who maintain the Burle Business Park and a few workers at Photonis, a manufacturer of vacuum electron devices. ■



## Training Program Helps TVA Coal Workers

Credit: TVA

In response to declining natural gas prices and new Environmental Protection Agency regulations, the Tennessee Valley Authority—the federally-created utility created by Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s—has been weaning itself off coal-generated power, retiring 11 coal-fired units and idling seven more in the last few years.

By next year, only 32 of TVA’s 59 original coal plants will remain in operation.

“TVA is working to achieve a more balanced portfolio and meet increasingly stringent environmental regulations,” said Bob Dalrymple, vice president of coal and gas operations.

While good news for the environment, it’s bad news for coal plant technicians who face layoffs as more plants shutter.

But a new collaboration between TVA management and the IBEW is helping transition these workers into new positions at the utility. The hydro technician training program taps into the skill and experience of coal operators to place them at the TVA’s many dams and hydropower plants.

“The program cuts down on training time and saves management money,” said Tenth District Vice President Robert Klein. “If you take someone off the street and try training them from scratch, you’re talking about a very long process. But through this program, we’re using people already familiar with a lot of what it takes to do the job.”

In the past, any TVA employee transferring to another division had to start at the bottom as a trainee. Previous service and training was not recognized. For some workers, the pay cut could be as much as \$30,000 a year.

“It put a big hardship on families,” said Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 721 Business Manager Curtis Sharpe. “There was nothing in our contract that credited experience.”

The wave of coal plant closings sparked efforts to better transition laid-off coal workers into the utility’s hydro division.

“We looked at what went into the hydro training and what went into the coal one,” Sharpe said. “Some of it was redundant, so we focused on teaching them what they didn’t know.”

The hydro training program lets workers learn on the job, with the pay gap between trainee and technician closing within 12 to 15 months as opposed to 36 months under the old transfer system.

More than 10 employees are in the program, with more expected in the future.

While not every coal-plant employee can be placed into a hydro job, Sharpe says the program is an important step forward in helping keep skilled workers at the TVA.

“Programs like this provide an opportunity for our highly skilled employees impacted by the coal plant changes to continue their TVA career and help TVA serve customers with low-cost, reliable generation,” Dalrymple said. ■

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## The Rooftop Revolution

# How Will Distributed Generation Change the Grid?

Each day, tens of thousands of Americans become part of an energy revolution simply by flipping a light switch.

Whether for financial or environmental reasons, buildings that historically relied solely on electricity produced far away in large power plants now make a portion of their energy needs right at home.

This individual decision, played out at thousands of homes and businesses every week across North America, is having a transformational impact on the economics of the utility business and raising important questions about the grid itself.

Together, this so-called “distributed generation” solar power is still less than 1 percent of the total U.S. power supply, but that is changing with startling speed. The international consulting firm McKinsey recently predicted solar distributed generation will grow 10 to 30 times larger by 2020.

“The North American grid is the largest and most complex machine in human history, the key to our country’s economic future. And it will see more change over the next 10 years than we’ve seen in the last 100,” said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. “How it is done will have a huge impact on the jobs and futures of hundreds of thousands of IBEW members.”

The energy revolution is being driven by retail customers who buy power from a utility when the sky is dark, but buy less as the sky brightens and the solar array on their roof goes to work.

Often there will be times when these solar systems produce more power than the customer is using. In most states, the system owners then have the right to start sending electricity back out into the grid and the utility must buy it.

These homeowners become part-time electricity customers and part-time electricity suppliers, something that was never imagined when the grid was designed and built over a century ago.

### How Distributed Generation Works

Once millions of rooftop solar systems are installed and connected, the nature of the electricity distribution system will have been altered. Where the meter used to mark the destination of electric power, now it is a revolving door.

This isn’t about large-scale solar, wind or hydroelectric installations selling dozens, sometimes hundreds of megawatts of power wholesale. For utilities and regulators, no matter the fuel, power produced at large-scale installations can easily be seen and, more importantly, controlled before it is sent out over the transmission and distribution system.

Distributed generation is millions of tiny grid-connected installations, almost always rooftop solar photovoltaic arrays on houses, shopping malls and office buildings. Instead of carrying power from



There are more grid-connected homes producing power every day, creating opportunities and challenges for the future of the energy system. Credit: Photo used under a Creative Commons license courtesy Gray Watson

relatively few, very large and constantly-running power plants to millions of energy consumers, power flows at varying rates into the grid from all directions. The physical structure of the grid—the millions of miles of wire, substations and transformers—is not designed for this networked energy flow. And neither are the regulations or economics of the grid.

A coalition of labor unions, utilities and environmentalists is warning that the undeniable benefits of distributed solar could be swamped by increased costs, reduced reliability and an unfair shift of the cost of going green onto the backs of the poor. Germany, which is leading the world in installation of distributed solar and renewable power generation, is seeing each of those.

“There are many questions about how this will work that we don’t know the answers to,” said Jeff Hamel, an executive director at the Electric Power Research Institute, a non-partisan think tank in Washington D.C. “But the grid is very integrated, very connected and we want to make sure that the engineering and economic decisions create an affordable, accountable and reliable clean energy system.”

The problem is that the solar rooftop revolution is moving much faster than the regulators and engineers.

### Opening One-Way Streets to Two-Way Traffic

The first electrical distribution system built in Great Barrington, Mass., in 1886, and the 21st century continent-spanning grid we have now follow basically the same physical model: producers make wholesale energy, utilities buy it, sell it to retail customers and deliver it over the grid.

Electrons go in one direction, money goes the other.

No longer. With distributed generation, energy flows both ways along lines and through transformers and substations that were designed for one-way traffic.

As nearly every state has so-called “net-metering” rules in place that allow customers to run the meter backward, in effect, the utility is required to take all the energy distributed solar can produce, and pay retail rates for much of it.

“The problem is that we’ve spent trillions of dollars creating a grid that isn’t designed for that,” said IBEW Utility

Department Director Jim Hunter.

Since 2006, the price of installed solar systems has dropped 75 percent and residential solar capacity has grown 50 percent each year to more than 2,200 megawatts, according to the Solar Energy Industry Association. Commercial and industrial rooftop solar has grown even faster, from 191 megawatts in 2006 to more than 4,000 megawatts in 2014.

While wires can carry electrons both up and downstream as easily as pavement can carry cars one way or another,

keeping traffic flowing smoothly is another matter. If all the signs, on- and off-ramps and stoplights point in only one direction, disaster is almost inevitable. If you let those cars loose before you prepare the system, the potential for problems is extremely high (see sidebar on the German experience with renewables).

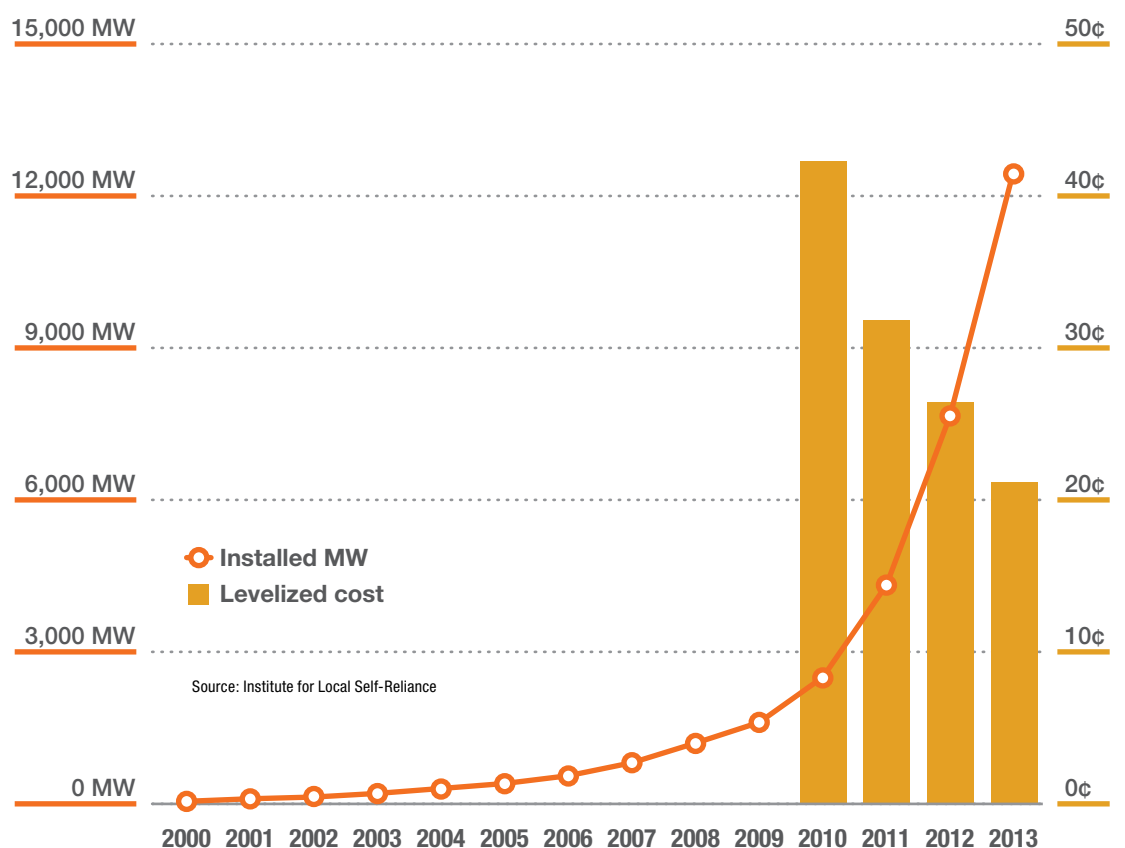
For the average American utility, these technical challenges are surmountable. A robust system of sensors that track the status of all parts of the transmission and distribution system and large scale energy storage would solve many of the problems created by renewables. If system operators could control water heaters and HVAC systems as easily as combined-cycle natural gas plants, they would have much greater flexibility matching load to power, as well as power to load.

But many utilities are facing the reality that reliability in this new world requires an unavoidably expensive kind of redundancy. In the Pacific Northwest, for example, where wind power is a large part of the power generation mix, system operators keep more than 1,000 megawatts of hydroelectric capacity in reserve in case wind power suddenly slows.

Keeping a cheap, consistent power generation method in reserve is pretty expensive insurance, but it is much cheaper than the options available to areas without hydro power. Most other places have to build and maintain a reserve supply of much more expensive—and more polluting—natural gas-burning peaker plants.

“The problem for utilities isn’t mainly technical. All the technology to do this exists. The hard part is figuring out

### Installed Solar Capacity & Levelized Cost (U.S.)





how to get it paid for," Hunter said.

As Germany is finding out, failure to integrate the new distributed energy resources can cause huge problems. Solar alone jumped from less than 2 percent of total energy production to nearly 21 percent in the last 10 years. By comparison, the U.S. share of renewables—solar, wind and hydroelectric—started higher than Germany—nearly 6 percent—but has grown to only about 13 percent.

The result has been an increase not only in energy prices but a decrease in reliability and the unintended consequence of turning back to less earth-friendly fuels.

"The Germans get nearly a quarter of their power from wind and solar but, overall, the system is less reliable, more expensive and dirtier," Hunter said. "It will not be easy to come to an agreement to adapt the utility business to these changes, but it will be a whole lot cheaper than letting the train derail."

## Efficiency and Equity

Maintaining the infrastructure of the grid is built into every monthly utility bill. But nearly every state allows the owners of distributed generation systems to reduce—possibly even eliminate—their utility bill when they make more power than they use. The full cost of maintaining the grid—which Edison Electric Institute estimates at \$25 billion a year—gets shifted to everyone else.

A recent study issued by the California Public Utilities Commission estimated that this so-called "cost shifting" will exceed \$1 billion a year by 2020, raising energy costs on average \$60 a month. Not surprisingly, the study found that those bearing the brunt of the cost increase earned just more than half the annual income of the households with distributed generation equipment.

"There is no simple solution to these problems, but I think there is a simple idea that should drive the process: people should pay for what they use," Hunter said.

## The Striking Success of Net Metering

When distributed generation was still in its infancy, states created a host of subsidies and incentives to encourage it.

One of the most popular incentives is "net energy metering" where the meter rolls forward when energy is used from the grid, stands still when the building is self-sufficient and rolls backward when the solar panels produce more power than it needs.

The distributed solar generators sell power to utilities at retail rates, which can be anywhere from five to 15 times higher than wholesale, EEI reported.

It proved enormously popular, and



**‘There is no simple solution, but people should pay for what they use.’**

— Utility Department Director Jim Hunter

43 states, the District of Columbia and three territories have some kind of net-energy metering regulations in place.

The problem is that less than half the cost of providing energy comes from generating it. A power plant by itself doesn't do anyone much good until it is connected to the hundreds of thousands of miles of transmission and distribution line, and the tens of thousands of substations that make up the grid. Building and maintaining that system costs a great

deal: 37 cents of every dollar charged by utilities, according to EEI.

"There is value just in the connection to the grid, but it is not appropriately valued in the rate structure," said Hamel from the Electric Power Research Institute.

## Signs of a Solution

The broad outlines of a market redesign are not complicated, Hunter said, but getting

rates to reflect grid use has been a tough sell. Efforts to require state regulators to allow utilities to charge for grid access and services have been met with opposition from environmentalists and the companies installing roof-top solar systems—nearly all of which use nonunion workers.

One of the biggest fights has been in Arizona, home of the highest per capita ownership of roof-top solar in the nation. There were more than 18,000 residential roof-top solar arrays installed by the end

of last year and 500 permits are requested every month.

Last summer, the utility Arizona Public Service requested approval from regulators for a monthly grid-use fee based on a solar systems size. Environmentalists worried that increasing the cost would drive new solar installs down. Installation and sales companies worried the same would happen to profits.

The request was ultimately approved, but much lower than APS had asked for. Instead of \$60 to \$100 a month for the average 7-kilovolt system, the fee was set at about \$7 a month.

Other states have imposed access fees—including California—but Hunter says other models can be created to ensure fairness without increasing rates. In Massachusetts, for example, instead of a fee that would raise rates for everyone, regulators established a minimum bill amount to make sure everyone paid something. Other states are considering paying for distributed solar production at the wholesale, not retail, rate.

"States across the country are taking a second or third look at the whole range of incentives and utility rate structures," Hunter said. "In every case though, regulators need to hear from us that keeping the grid reliable and affordable is not negotiable." ■

## Germany: Learning the Hard Way about Renewables

In the last decade, Germany has spent nearly \$140 billion on green energy in a policy known as "Energiewende."

Under it, Germany has seen a much larger and faster move to renewable and distributed generation than any country in the world and there are worrisome signs that integrating it into the existing grid is much more difficult than anyone foresaw.

The result has been unquestionable renewable energy growth. Solar alone has gone from 1/50th of national capacity to 1/5th and renewable energy met a record 25 percent of annual demand in the country. Almost half of that capacity is owned by farmers and homeowners, said Bloomberg News.

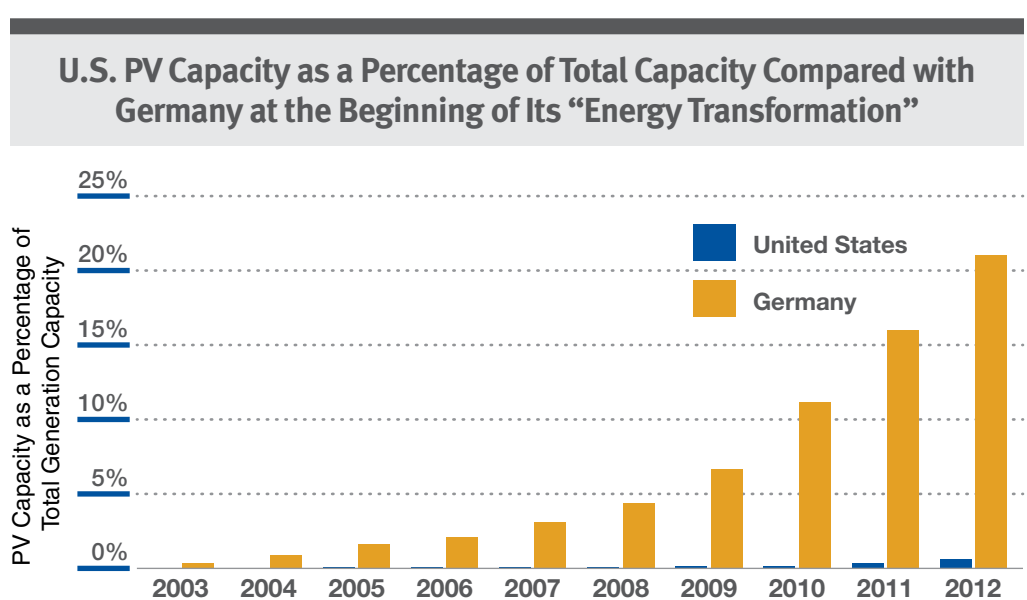
However, energy prices have nearly doubled since 2000, reported the news magazine Der Spiegel, from \$0.18 cents per kilowatt-hour to \$0.37.

In the U.S., the average cost is only \$0.10 per kilowatt.

Some of that cost has come because 1,000 megawatts of nuclear power cannot be replaced by 1,000 megawatts of solar (what happens at night?) or wind (what happens when the wind doesn't blow?). Germany has tried to ensure reliability by building hundreds of megawatts of redundant renewable capacity over a wide area, planning nearly \$40 billion of new transmission lines to bring it online.

German utility officials have been forced to intermittently fire up dozens of coal plants, which run most efficiently and cleanly as baseload producers always on the burn. The result has been a 68 percent increase in coal consumption since 2010 and carbon production nearly flat despite the increase of carbon-free energy production.

But even as consumers are paying more, utilities are losing billions of dollars as the wholesale cost has been bid down nearly 60 percent since 1998, the Institute for



Energy Research found. Renewable energy installations have been so heavily subsidized and cost so little to run, they are out-competing many other energy sources.

There are also important services provided by base-load, always-available power plants that keep voltage levels constant across the grid that are not provided by solar and wind power.

The result has been a reduction in reliability and quality across the grid. A 2013 story in the Economist magazine found that private German companies have spent billions building small-scale power generation and on-site blackout protection to get the reliability they can no longer count on.

In 2013, the European Union energy commissioner,

Gunther Noettinger, said that development of distributed solar generation in Germany was "getting out of hand."

"The problem isn't renewables," said Utility Department Director Jim Hunter. "The problem is failing to make the investment in the grid and the rules that govern it."

Hunter said Germany's experience underscores the need to make holistic decisions on transitioning from fossil fuels to renewables. It also makes clear another potential cost of the permanent shutdown of hundreds of U.S. coal plants.

"As bad as it has been for Germany, if they didn't have the option of using those coal plants, things would have been a whole lot worse," Hunter said. ■





## Alaska Member Wins World's Longest Snowmobile Race

*“There are other snow machine races out there. This is Daytona. This is the Superbowl.”*

Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 member Scott Faeo and his teammate Eric Quam won the 2015 running of the longest snowmobile race in the world, the Iron Dog, Feb. 28.

This is Quam's second win and Faeo's first, but the journeyman inside wireman for Yukon Electric in Anchorage comes from snow machine racing royalty. His father, John, won a record-tying seven Iron Dogs.

“There are other, smaller races out there. This is Daytona. This is the Superbowl,” Faeo said.

The first half of the race follows the 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail from Anchorage to Nome made famous by the annual dog sled race. But then the Iron Dog route loops back another 1,000 miles to Fairbanks in the heart of the Alaskan interior. Over seven days of racing, racers traverse open tundra, two mountain ranges, countless rivers and even race over the sea ice of the Bering Strait. Total distance is the same as a trip from Washington, D.C. to Las Vegas.

Quam and Faeo's victory was televised live throughout Alaska and was featured in an NBC Sports channel documentary that aired on March 30.

Alaska's premier snow machine race—they are only called “snowmobiles” by non-Alaskans—is run in stages for a week each February. Every racer rides their own snow machine, but for safety, racers pair up in two-person teams. To finish at all, you have to finish together. More than 40 teams competed in the top Pro Class, chasing the glory and \$50,000 first prize.

Only snow machines available to consumers off the dealer floor can be ridden in the race and racers usually have (at least) two, one for practice and an identical set-up for the race. Engines must be left bone stock but most racers will spend a lot of time and money upgrading the frame, suspension, lighting and gas tanks to handle the relentless abuse of the Iron Dog. Then there are the spare parts, the support airplane to carry the parts, gas for the 3,000 miles of training rides. Faeo said winning the race will just about give a racer the chance to break even.

The Iron Dog is a test of speed, but it is also a stern test of judgment. Riders normally face race day temperatures that plunge 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. At race speed wind chill can push the temperature to near minus 100. But the 2015 race was anything but normal.

“When it is 50 below it [is uncomfortable,] but it was never below zero this year,” Faeo said.

Instead of hundreds of miles of powder-covered wilderness, the first two days pounded across tawny fields of mud, dirt, rocks and a combination of all three known locally as a “tundra head.”

“When there is no snow, it's like plowing into a field of boulders,” Faeo said about the beach ball-sized clumps of grass and frozen dirt. “It was brutal.”

### The Iron Dog

“I knew it would be brutal, so we paced ourselves and saved our equipment,” Faeo said. “Some guys tried to push it and took a tumble. No mistakes. That was our goal.”

After two days racing north, the



Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 member Scott Faeo and his teammate Eric Quam celebrate their victory in the 2,000-mile Iron Dog Snowmobile race with Local 1547 business agent Waylon Knudsen, left, Quam, Faeo, Faeo's brother John and Faeo's father, also John. (Photos courtesy Waylon Knudsen)

teams crossed the first mountain range and approached the Yukon River. Like an ice-covered drag strip, this was the fastest part of the race. In years past this was a relatively smooth ribbon of ice that stretched out over the horizon—as long as you stay on the trail.

Nearly the entire 2,000 mile trail is marked out by the residents of the many small, often native Alaskan, villages along the way. It might be necessary to leave the trail, but racers know that anything could be hidden just under the snow.

“There are ice chunks and logs. You go off the trail, even 6 inches some places, you are asking for it,” Faeo said. “It is not cool to crash into one of those things at 95 miles an hour and go tumbling down the ice with your snow machine chainsawing after you.”

This terrifying prospect was immaterial this year because of a completely different, possibly more terrifying problem. Warm temperatures meant melting snow and ice. More water meant some rivers that are mirror-smooth sheets of ice most winters were not frozen at all, Faeo said, some running up to 40 feet deep. Other rivers were still frozen, but the ice was overtopped with running water.

This would seem to be an insurmountable barrier for nearly 800 pounds of sled, gas, rider and gear, but a quick search of YouTube proves a modern snow machine well handled is a versatile vehicle.

“You just scoot down one side of the river bed, get up some speed and try to keep [the throttle] as wide-open as possible to get over with enough left to jump out of the ravine,” Faeo said. “You just skip it across.”

To ‘just skip’ a snow machine across open water without bogging down and sinking (which happened to an unfortunate team from Minnesota) requires skill, firm resolve and a head of steam.

“I like to hit water at least going 40 miles per hour, but if it is a really long stretch, like a football field, you need to hit it at 60 or 70,” Faeo said.

### Possibly More Terrifying than Skipping a Sled Across a River

Faeo and Quam finished the third day strongly, but just behind them was the man tied with Faeo's father John for most

Iron Dog wins at seven, Scott Davis, and his teammate Aaron Bartel. Faeo's father John is retired from racing and the day before the Iron Dog began, he retired from his job as a machinist for Alaska Railroad. Throughout the race he was an instrumental coach for Faeo and Quam and flew their support plane. The win was on the line, but so was the record.

“Having the guy who was my dad's racing nemesis chasing me down was crazy,” Faeo said. “The whole social media was blowing up about the second generation. That was pressure on pressure.”

And yet there were greater challenges than the river crossings, Faeo said. The worst was farther north, as the race approached the halfway point at Nome, 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle. On the approach to Nome, racers occasionally cross Norton Sound, on the ice covered Bering Sea.

But this year, even the Bering Sea was not frozen solid.

To understand how rare this is, history is helpful. The Iditarod trail itself was created to supply the port city of Nome because Norton Sound froze over every winter. Before regular air service or snow mobiles, when the port was closed,

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Photo credit: Waylon Knudsen

*Average speed for this year's race was lower than normal—just under 50 mph—but that doesn't mean Faeo (pictured) wasn't hauling the mail when the conditions improved.*

the only way to supply Nome were dog sled caravans.

But the finish line was on the other side of those ice floes.

"The ocean was open," Faeo said. "Dealing with the waves and the current ... it was definitely sketchy. I mean if something happened out there, you are [in a heap of trouble.]"

## Winter Is Coming

Faeo and Quam came into the halfway point at Nome Feb. 24 with a 12-minute advantage, meaning they would be the first to leave when racing restarted after a mandatory rest for all racers.

And then winter arrived. The National Weather Service issued a blizzard warning for Nome the next day.

"Blowing snow with poor visibility will continue," it read. "Travel and outdoor activities will be difficult."

There are often advantages to leaving first, Faeo said, but he and Quam thought the 50 mph head winds and breaking trail through two-foot wind drifts would evaporate their lead. Faeo and Quam disappeared into the blackness of a midwinter morning fearing the race would slip away.

"We ended up clipping along pretty

good," Faeo said. By the first checkpoint 100 miles later they had extended their lead by nearly 20 minutes.

"We could see a little better because the sun had not risen," Faeo said. "When it did rise, it was very bright and the light was super flat. We could actually see better than the people behind us because the headlights made it easier to see through the snow."

By the end of the day, they added another half-hour and despite going off the trail for 10 miles and having to backtrack the next day, the lead held.

The final day of the race, Feb. 26, was timed so all the racers arrived in Fairbanks within a few hours of each other. Only 20 of those 37 pro teams that left Anchorage crossed the finish line. The first dropped out only a few hours from the starting line.

The victory has brought a great deal of attention to Faeo and Local 1547. Support from the snow machine and motorcycle manufacturer Polaris is set to increase. He signed a deal with Mountain Dew and producers from a reality TV show expressed interest in doing a show about the far north racing dynasty.

"It has been really weird," Faeo said. "It was cool bringing the giant trophy to my old high school, but it is kind of awkward being a small town celebrity."

## Good Racer, Good Electrician

"What makes Scott a good racer is the same thing that makes him a good electrician. He is fast, smooth and efficient," said Waylon Knudsen, business representative for Local 1547. "It is a logistical nightmare just to get out to some jobs, so once they get there, our members have to be able to do more than bend pipe and pull wire for the union to compete. You have to be the complete craftsman, and Scott is the best of that. He can race, and he can lay out the tools and strip down a

snow machine and rebuild it in no time."

Knudsen said having an Iron Dog winner as a member of Local 1547 has meant a great deal to the 5,000 members of Local 1547. Faeo brought his winning snow machine and trophy to the general meeting to share his win, and extend his gratitude to the local for supporting him in his winning run.

"There is a huge sense of pride, having a tradesman and one of our own win," Knudsen said. "Our members supported him, sponsored him, and we are even raffling off the winning sled to support the local's political action committee."

But Knudsen said Faeo's victory is also a story the local will be using as an organizing tool.

"Here's a working man with the time and resources to train for and then win a very difficult and expensive race. That means something when we talk to nonunion workers," Knudsen said. "Many local businesses get involved in this race too so it makes for a great ice breaker with them too."

Just as compelling as the win might be how he joined the IBEW. Faeo worked nonunion before his brother John badgered him to join up.

"He was hassling me to join," Faeo said. "He told me to quit [messing] around with no insurance, making Davis-Bacon wages but not doing anything with it. I had to go from being a journeyman to near zero, but it was worth it."

On the long list of people Faeo thanked he included his boss, Bill Haylor, the owner of Yukon Electric, for giving him the flexibility to train and race.

"Bill is big snow machine enthusiast so he's into it," Faeo said.

Faeo is already planning, for the next race, the title defense, the next challenge. He helped his brother build a machine for an ice race the weekend after the Iron Dog (he finished second) and he has his eye on some races outside of Alaska, in Michigan and Minnesota. He is preparing for long hours at work this summer to make time for the training, travel and racing he expects from a busy winter. "I want to bring some of our Alaska talent down to the Lower 48." ■



*Chicago Local 134's training center will soon boast state-of-the-art training in solar, wind, building automation and smart metering technologies.*

# Chicago Local Builds Renewable Training 'Field of Dreams'

If you build it, they will come.

That's akin to the mystical message at the heart of the popular 1989 movie "Field of Dreams," where an Iowa farmer—played by Kevin Costner—plows down his corn to build a baseball field, which becomes its own slice of heaven for the ghosts of pro players who have long since passed.

Chicago Local 134 assistant training director Harry Ohde may not be a farmer, but he is a key part of the IBEW team building its own field of dreams for electricians looking to learn about green technologies.

The new renewable energy training field at the IBEW-NECA Technical Institute—or IN-TECH, as it's known—will be a sprawling campus 15 miles southwest of downtown, boasting photovoltaic, wind, building automation and smart metering facilities.

And when it opens this fall, Ohde says the electricians will come.

"We want to open the training field

to other IBEW locals whether they are in Illinois or elsewhere," said Ohde, who has helped train electricians since 1995. "We want this training field to be the IBEW's nationally recognized training facility for renewables."

On the campus, a 100-foot cell tower rises over the landscape, which students will use to practice climbing and mounting antennae, a potentially dangerous task. Nearby, a 60-foot wind turbine and a massive solar array not only offer training opportunities, but they help contribute to the center's status as a net-zero facility—meaning that all power consumed by IN-TECH is provided by the technology generated there, with no carbon emissions. Other features include rooftop mounted solar panels, a solar carport and more.

With many companies going greener, IBEW contractors are looking to man more jobs, and the training that IN-TECH offers is particularly suited for that.

"We are hoping that more contrac-

tors will bring potential customers to visit and see firsthand all of the renewable energy options," Ohde said. "It can help show the customer that green technologies are the way to go if they are installed and maintained properly by IBEW electricians."

The facility was designed by Legat Architects, an area firm that prides itself on its green construction methods.

"It's the only place [electricians] can learn how to do all these different things," said lead architect Alan Bombick. "Other sites are exhibits, where this offers a real demo."

Ohde said the local is also in talks with an area community college to develop a certificate program for students learning renewables. The program could dovetail with the local's existing apprenticeship program, he said.

"IBEW 134 members are extremely excited about this cutting edge technology project," Ohde said.

Learn more at [www.ejatt.com](http://www.ejatt.com). ■



*Faeo said their success in the race depended on their skill in the garage before the race as much as their skill and speed in the saddle.* Photo credit: Waylon Knudsen



# THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

## Wisconsin Goes Right-to-Work

In March, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker signed into law right-to-work legislation that weakens the ability of workers to collectively bargain.

“Right-to-work is part of a national anti-worker agenda that won’t bring one job to the state or help a single family put food on the table,” said Stephanie Bloomingdale, secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO.

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 his counterpart in union-friendly states.

Employees in pro-worker states are also more likely to have job-based health benefits.

Ed Pilkington from the Guardian reports that the Wisconsin bill is almost a verbatim copy of model legislation developed by the American Legislative Exchange Council, a secretive ultra-right wing think tank that provides model bills on everything from eliminating safety regulations to anti-worker bills like right-to-work and anti-prevailing wage legislation.

Union members and their supporters rallied in Madison throughout the month. Some employers have also voiced their displeasure with right-to-work.

James Hoffman, president of Hoffman Construction Co., told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that the change to state labor law could devastate his business.

He says if employees can opt out of paying union fees, union-sponsored training programs will suffer. And that means less skilled workers for his company.

“Why are you doing this to my company?” he asked state Republicans.

For Madison Local 159 Business Manager Robert Doyle, it’s a reminder of



*Working families rallied at the state Capitol in Madison against Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's effort to pass right-to-work.*

the importance of voting for the right candidates. He also says it’s vital for unions to get more active and develop a stronger message that can connect with the broader community.

“Our opponents are using divide and conquer tactics to weaken our movement,” he said. ■

## IBEW to Lawmakers: Hit the Brakes on ‘Fast Track’

Imagine a future where companies looking to make a profit off of overseas sweatshops can sue countries trying to eliminate child labor. The corporations can also sue governments that enact any kind of labor law that puts people before profits. And health care costs in impoverished nations rise as big pharmaceutical companies fight to keep cheaper, life-saving drugs off the market.

Meanwhile, that huge sucking sound that came after NAFTA—the sound of jobs leaving U.S. shores—comes back around again, with even greater vengeance.

Sound like a premise for some dystopian science fiction movie? It’s not. It’s the likely reality if Congress goes ahead in approving so-called fast track authority for the highly-secretive

Trans Pacific Partnership.

The TPP would govern trade between the United States and 12 other Pacific-rim nations: Japan, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Peru, Singapore, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and Vietnam. Supporters, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable and President Obama, say the TPP will expand trade with some of the world’s most vibrant economies, representing close to 40 percent of world GDP.

Fast track, which was also authorized before NAFTA, would establish a process that allows no amendments and limited debate on the TPP when it is brought before Congress.

Critics of the deal question what good can come from a trade agreement where negotiations have so far been held in secret. Legislators, unions, environmental and other citizens groups have been excluded from the talks, while hundreds of corporate lobbyists have been inside the discussions from the beginning. Details about the TPP have only come from drafts leaked by the website WikiLeaks.

But a growing and vocal group of pro-worker lawmakers are urging their colleagues to take a step back and evaluate what the trade deal would spell for American working families.

On Feb. 26, several U.S. senators spoke out on the Senate floor on the need for a U.S. trade policy that puts the needs of workers and communities first. “The talent and tenacity of American workers hasn’t changed—but our leaders’ commitment to them has,” said Sen. Sherrod Brown

(D-Ohio). “And nowhere is that abandonment more clear than the free trade agreements we now approve with little oversight and minimal debate. We know that trade done right creates prosperity, and as a progressive, I want trade that strengthens the middle class here at home and lifts workers from poverty in America and around the world—not another NAFTA.”

In a Feb. 25 op-ed in the Washington Post, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) sounded the alarm on a portion of the TPP that she said everyone should be wary of: the so-called Investor-State Dispute Settlement.

“The name may sound mild, but don’t be fooled. Agreeing to ISDS in this enormous new treaty would tilt the playing field in the United States further in favor of big multinational corporations. Worse, it would undermine U.S. sovereignty,” she wrote.

“ISDS would allow foreign companies to challenge U.S. laws—and potentially to pick up huge payouts from taxpayers—without ever stepping foot in a U.S. court,” Warren wrote. “Here’s how it would work. Imagine that the United States bans a toxic chemical that is often added to gasoline because of its health and environmental consequences. If a foreign company that makes the toxic chemical opposes the law, it would normally have to challenge it in a U.S. court.

“But with ISDS, the company could skip the U.S. courts and go before an international panel of arbitrators,” Warren continues. “If the company won, the ruling couldn’t be challenged in U.S. courts, and the arbitration panel could require American taxpayers to cough up millions—and even billions—of dollars in damages.”

Lawmakers like Brown and Warren also argue that the TPP could be a NAFTA redux—with potentially far more dire effects, considering the current state of trade imbalances:

- The United States has a \$476 billion annual trade deficit—60 percent of which is with China.
- The U.S. economy has lost about 6 million manufacturing jobs and more than 60,000 factories since 2001.
- Of these lost jobs, 3.2 million are due to trade with China, nearly 700,000 have

gone to Mexico following NAFTA, and 60,000 have been lost to Korea since the Korea Free Trade Agreement in 2012.

The Korea agreement is regarded as the template for the TPP. The watchdog group Public Citizen states that since the deal, the U.S. trade deficit with Korea has surged 72 percent—indicating even more lost U.S. jobs as the economy was getting itself off the ropes following the Great Recession.

“For too long, our leaders have let multinational corporations dictate our trade rules at the expense of the middle class,” said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. “The results have been tragic: a growing trade deficit, stagnating wages and the disappearance of too many good jobs. We are ready to stand with President Obama in realizing the vision of a fair global economy. But first, he has to decide if his vision of trade puts working families and shared prosperity first.”

While many lawmakers are publically remaining quiet on whether or not they will support fast track for the TPP, some pro-worker senators like Brown and Warren have gone on record in opposition to the deal. Hill and other IBEW leaders are calling on members living in these senators’ states to call or email them and thank them for their support of fair trade and good, middle-class jobs. (See the list in our April story on [ibew.org](http://ibew.org) by following this link: [www.bit.ly/IBEW-TPP](http://www.bit.ly/IBEW-TPP).)

“I urge IBEW brothers, sisters and their family members to thank these brave lawmakers for having our backs. Rest assured, we will be holding other legislators accountable and asking them how they stand on the TPP and how they plan to help strengthen a U.S. economy that works for everyone.” ■

## Obama Vetoes Anti-Worker Bill, New Rules Enacted April 14

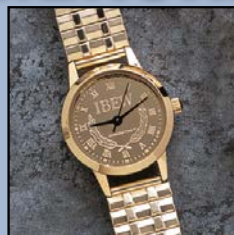
President Obama on March 31 vetoed a proposed bill that would have scrapped new rules designed to streamline union election procedures.

The National Labor Relations Board put new rules in place last December that will level the playing field for workers by updating filing procedures and allowing for quicker votes. Instead of waiting nearly a month—and usually longer—to vote, workers could cast ballots in as few as two weeks. The new rules went into effect April 14.

It was the fourth veto of Obama’s presidency. “Unions historically have been at the forefront of establishing things like the 40-hour work week, the weekend, child labor laws, fair benefits and decent wages,” Obama said after striking down Congress’ measure.

Congress had voted March 19 to roll back the NLRB’s decision, siding with big business groups who opposed the changes. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce called it an “ambush election rule,” saying it would stack the deck against employers

## IBEW MERCHANDISE



### Mouse Pad \$2.00

10" x 9" blue mouse pad with white IBEW logo.

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

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*Labor, consumer and community activists are calling on Congress to deny President Obama fast-track authority to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership.*



and “virtually eliminate employers’ opportunities to communicate their views, stifling a full and robust debate among employees about unionization.”

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka had called the House vote “a direct attack on workers and their right to be heard in the workplace.”

“Working men and women want an agenda from their Congressional leaders that raises wages and grows our middle class,” he said. “Instead, they have gotten Republican policies that roll back progress and silence workers while protecting their biggest donors. President Obama is right in his commitment to vetoing this harmful legislation, and congressional Republicans should focus their efforts on lifting workers up instead of shutting them out.”



*President Obama vetoed legislation that would have stymied new union election rules.* Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user Marc Nozell.

A May 2009 study of employer opposition to union organizing done by Cornell University researcher Kate Bronfenbrenner finds:

- More than 70 percent of employers hold one-on-one closed door meetings with employees during a unionization drive. 54 percent of employers threaten workers in such meetings, while 57 percent threaten to close the worksite.
- 75 percent of employers bring in anti-union consultants.
- 47 percent of employers threaten to cut wages and benefits.
- 34 percent of employers fire workers during a union campaign.

The IBEW produced an award-winning video in 2010 called “Workplace Democracy: Corporate Style” that highlights this issue. Watch it at [www.bit.ly/workplace-democracy](http://www.bit.ly/workplace-democracy). ■

## Right-Wing Targets Ind. Common Construction Wage

An Indiana law that leveled the playing field for building and construction workers on public projects for 80 years is on the verge of repeal by the state’s Republican-led legislature.

Ironically, Indiana’s Common Construction Wage Law was first established in 1935 as a Republican initiative, a response to out-of-state contractors undercutting Indiana firms with cheaper, less-skilled labor on public projects.

Under the statute, a five-person committee of taxpayers, industry experts and public agency representatives deter-

mines wages to be paid on public construction projects.

Projects like the Indianapolis International Airport and Lucas Oil Stadium, home to the Indianapolis Colts, have been constructed under the common wage.

“Today we’re paying a price for losing too many labor-friendly legislators in 2010 and even more in 2012,” says Indiana Political Coordinator Mike Daugherty. “Too many union members across the state failed to show up and vote their interests.”

For the past 10 years, Gov. Mike Pence and his predecessor, Mitch Daniels, have consistently spread the notion that letting construction wages fluctuate on the free market will save taxpayers money, Daugherty said.

On Feb. 23, the Indiana House of Representatives voted to repeal the common construction wage.

On March 1, the Indiana state Senate’s president snatched the bill repealing the common wage out of the hands of the chamber’s pension and labor committee. His action undermined his Republican ally, the labor committee’s chairman, who had called for a summer study committee to review the proposed legislation prior to any Senate vote.

The Senate, says Daugherty, is now poised to kill the bill before the current session of the part-time legislature adjourns for the summer. Only 10 of 50 state senators and 29 of 100 lower chamber members consistently support worker-friendly legislation, he says.



*Despite determined efforts of Indiana’s building and construction trades, legislators voted to end the common construction wage, jeopardizing standards in construction.*

“Big business is having their way,” says Kokomo, Ind., Local 873 Business Manager Chuck Griffin, who says anti-union contractors and their friends in public office have methodically weakened the common construction wage since 1995.

In 2012, the threshold for applicability of the common wage was raised from \$150,000 to \$350,000, reducing the number of workers it protected. And the composition of the five-person committee was changed to include an overtly anti-union entity.

In addition to an industry representative appointed by the awarding agency and an Indiana AFL-CIO representative, the committee had consisted of an appointee of the governor. The 2012 change provided for the governor’s appointment to be transferred to the vehemently anti-union Associ-

ated Builders and Contractors.

To defend the common construction wage, the IBEW, Indiana’s building and construction trades and their signatory contractors produced dozens of fact sheets for state residents and the media explaining how the wage builds strong communities, local shops and businesses and apprenticeship opportunities for youth and unemployed adults.

Testifying in support of the common wage in the Indiana House, Michelle Boyd, executive director of the Indiana Building Contractors Alliance, told legislators, “Indiana has a strong construction industry business base representing both small and large businesses. Together, these businesses invest more than \$42 million a year in apprenticeship training throughout the state of Indiana.”

Legislators opposing repeal include a bipartisan House delegation from heavily industrial Northwest Indiana. They counter the governor’s claim that terminating the common construction wage would save taxpayers money.

“When you’re dealing with taxpay-

ers’ money, you have to make sure the job gets done right and you’ve got quality workers doing that work,” said Northwest Indiana State Sen. Rick Niemeier. “Until somebody can show that eliminating this law is going to help that, I can’t support it,” the Republican told the Northwest Indiana Times.

While opponents expect the common construction wage to be repealed, some municipal public officials are pushing back. In South Bend, the city voted to continue paying prevailing wages no matter what the legislature decides.

Despite pockets of resistance, Daugherty expects an ongoing docket of anti-worker legislation as Pence and his party’s legislators continue to advance the anti-worker agenda of ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, supported by big money businessmen like the Koch brothers.

“Repeal of the common construction wage would be another tragedy for workers in a state where workers have already seen too much pain as its industrial base has declined,” said International President Edwin D. Hill. “Our adversaries in Indiana will continue to spread the false notion that cheaper construction is better for taxpayers. We must spare no effort to continually demonstrate to our neighbors how local communities benefit from the superior training, purchasing power and dependability of IBEW members and other proud workers in the building and construction trades.” ■

## ORGANIZING WIRE

### Neb. Local Welcomes New Members

The city of Grand Island, Neb., has voluntarily recognized five community service officers as members of Local 1597.

The new members enforce codes on property and parking, assist police and work with other city departments to resolve code violations or prepare evidence for court.

“We are pleased that more workers in Grand Island are seeing the benefits that come from being part of organized labor and the IBEW,” says Local 1597 Business Manager Dan Quick.

Quick says the service officers’ concerns centered on wages and safety. Without representation, they were not included in healthy wage increases negotiated by the local covering workers in Grand Island’s utility and finance department and wastewater treatment plant, Quick says.

The city’s voluntary recognition of service officers in February builds upon Local 1597’s growing success in organizing, collective bargaining and community engagement in Grand Island.

A January 2013 story in *The Electrical Worker*, “Nebraska Local Helps Defeat Water Plant Privatization,” details the local’s leading role in mobilizing city residents to stop the takeover of its wastewater treatment plant by a privately-held company, protecting the jobs of 13 workers who maintain the city’s plant.

The city had insisted in the past that its employees vote on whether to be represented. But times and relationships have changed as the union’s influence has grown. The city’s attorney, Bob Sivick told *The Independent* he expected the community service officers to want to be represented and that postponing a vote would result in “animosity which would have been needless.”

The initial organizing meeting with community service officers included Eleventh District International Representative Rich Michel, Lead Organizer Louis Spencer, Local 1597 Vice President Larry Grim and Quick. Workers signed union cards at the second meeting last December.

Nebraska, a right-to-work state, has its own court, the Commission of Industrial Relations, which rules on issues between labor and management. IBEW and Grand Island abide by CIR’s method of determining wages of public employees by comparing



*Community service officers in Grand Island, Neb., celebrate with leaders of Local 1597 after the city granted voluntary recognition, including them in wage increases negotiated by the local. From left are Isabel Kenhon, Christina Wemhoff, Rochelle Cellar, Donald Kerlin, Cody Harrie, Brandon Kopisch, Kala Suntych, and Local 1597 Vice President Larry Grim and Business Manager Dan Quick.*

the compensation of workers in municipalities with populations of similar size.

The latest survey on population and wages compared Grand Island with Rapid City, S.D., Iowa City, Iowa, and others, and found that wages in Grand Island lagged behind. So the city’s administrators and IBEW negotiated wage increases to be spread across the four-year contracts in effect covering the city’s bargaining units.

Community service officers will now be entitled to the same increases. Four part-time community service workers will share in any wage increases negotiated, but will not be part of the bargaining unit.

Local 1597 represents workers in 17 public employee bargaining units covered by 18 contracts in several cities and towns. ■



# TRANSITIONS

## RETIRED

### Donald Hartley



Utility Department International Representative Donald Hartley retired April 1, bringing to a close a 40-year career in the IBEW.

A native of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Brother Hartley was initiated into the IBEW in 1976. He joined Alexandria, Va., Local 699, after serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 to 1975.

Hartley, who comes from a family with deep roots in railroad unionism, worked as a lead lineman for VEPCO, now Dominion Virginia Power.

While at Dominion, he served as shop steward, chief steward, recording secretary, financial secretary and assistant business manager. He was also elected as a delegate and vice chairman to IBEW System Council U-1.

In 1999, Hartley was appointed senior business representative for the newly created Richmond, Va., Local 50.

In 2002, International President Edwin Hill appointed Hartley to the position of international representative in the Utility Department, where he was responsible for the administration of the utility collective bargaining agreement database. He specialized in all aspects of gas and electric transmission and distribution.

"I understood when I came to the International Office that many members ask the question, 'What does the IBEW do for me,'" says Hartley. "I saw my appointment as an opportunity to help answer that question by providing value-added service to the membership—listening to them, answering questions and providing information and statistics to help them."

Hartley says he and his wife, Sandy, look forward to moving from Northern Virginia to Richmond. Among his hobbies are woodworking and boating. He has two children, one son and one daughter, and two grandchildren. His daughter, Laura, is an educational specialist in the International Office.

On behalf of the members and staff of the IBEW, the officers wish Brother Hartley a long, healthy and well-deserved retirement. ■

## RETIRED

### David Appleman



Fourth District International Representative David Appleman retired effective March 1.

A native of Zanesville, Ohio, Brother Appleman was initiated into Columbus, Ohio, Local 71 in 1979, where he worked as a

groundman before entering the power lineman apprenticeship program.

Appleman and his brother, Steve, also a Local 71 member, followed their father, Charles, into the trade.

"My father was always a strong union member in Local 981, which later merged into Local 71. I grew up wanting to be a lineman," says Appleman. "When I joined the local union, I was one of those guys who couldn't say no when I was asked to help out."

Appleman's volunteering helped him get elected to Local 71's executive board and serve as treasurer before his appointment to two separate stints as assistant business manager.

For eight years—between his terms as assistant business manager—Appleman served as an instructor at the American Line Builders Apprenticeship and Training program, administered by the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association.

Appointed international representative in 1999, Appleman spent four years in professional and industrial organizing and serviced 10 telecommunications locals before his appointment as state political coordinator for Ohio, then for the Fourth District.

"I live in Wilmington, in a very conservative part of Ohio, and I plan to stay active in political campaigns promoting union values during my retirement," says Appleman, who plans to play a lot of golf and work on some volunteer projects in the community.

"I made a good choice following my father into the union," he said. "I know it's said a lot, but I truly believe the IBEW has been very good to me. I look around at the tragic shutdown of so many industrial plants, represented by the loss of 400,000 IBEW members in manufacturing, and I feel very fortunate I was a union lineman."

On behalf of the entire membership and staff, the officers wish Brother Appleman a long and healthy retirement. ■

## RETIRED

### Clayton White



Seventh District International Representative Clayton White retired Jan. 1 after nearly four decades of service to the IBEW.

Brother White was initiated into Amarillo, Texas, Local 602 as an inside wireman in 1977.

A third-generation IBEW member, he signed up as an apprentice after graduating high school.

"I worked a couple odd jobs here and there, but I always knew about the IBEW as a career option," he said.

He served as assistant business manager before becoming business manager in 1986.

During his tenure, he negotiated contracts for wiremen, utility and telecommunications workers throughout the Texas Panhandle region.

He also served as vice president of the local building trades council and the State Association of Electrical Workers.

In 2000, then-International President J.J. Barry appointed White to the Seventh District staff.

He serviced locals in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. He also led negotiations between the IBEW and some of the region's largest copper corporations in contract bargaining.

In retirement, he looks forward to fishing, golf and fixing up old cars—a lifelong passion of his.

"I've been very blessed," he said.

"Blessed that the IBEW has been so good to me and my family. Blessed to have such a wonderful career."

On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother White a happy, healthy and enjoyable retirement. ■

## DECEASED

### James M. Kilbane



We regret to report that retired Fourth District International Representative James M. Kilbane died on Jan. 23. He was 93.

A native of Cleveland, Brother Kilbane was initiated into Local 39 in 1941. Following three years of Army service during World War II, Kilbane went on to serve on the local's executive board, the apprenticeship committee and more. He served as business manager from 1965-1972.

He was appointed to the international staff the following year and primarily serviced utility locals throughout the Fourth District—Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. He retired in 1988.

"Jim brought a lot of levity to the staff," said retired IBEW Fourth District Vice President Paul Witte. "He was a happy person and had a really good attitude."

Kilbane was active in the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also devoted time to the American Turners, a national service organization founded in Cincinnati by German immigrants, and the Elks Lodge.

In retirement, Kilbane enjoyed golf, bowling and racquetball in his free time. "He was always a big supporter of the

IBEW golf outings," Witte said.

On behalf of the entire membership and staff, the officers send our condolences to Brother Kilbane's family. ■

## DECEASED

### Robert Sproule



We regret to report that retired First District International Representative Robert Sproule died on Feb. 20.

A native of Brandon, Mani-

toba, Brother Sproule was initiated into Winnipeg Local 2034 in 1958. He served on numerous committees, including negotiating, grievance, bylaws and pension committees. Sproule also served on the executive board for two years.

From 1971-1981, Sproule served as business manager of the local. He was then appointed to the First District staff and serviced a large swath of Canada, representing workers in all of the Brotherhood's branches.

"He totally believed in workers' rights and in education," said retired First District International Representative Vair Clendenning, who took over Sproule's duties upon his retirement in 1997. "He was forever going to bat for the underdog."

During his career, Sproule served on the Manitoba Legislative Labour Management Review Committee and the Pulp and Paper Labor Management Committee of Ontario. He was also active with the Royal Canadian Legion and helped fundraise and lend other support to the Winnipeg Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

On behalf of the entire IBEW membership and staff, the officers send our condolences to Brother Sproule's family. ■

# CIRCUITS

## Ala. RENEW Leader: 'We Have to Keep Reaching Out'

After finishing high school, Alabama native Brandon Cardwell had dreams of becoming an airplane mechanic. But after serving in the Air National Guard, his uncle, a union contractor, suggested an alternative career path: IBEW electrician.

Today he serves as assistant business manager of Montgomery Local 443. But his biggest job is to get the next generation of IBEW members engaged with their union.

Cardwell serves on the advisory committee of RENEW—Reach Out and Energize Next Gen-Electrical Workers—a union-wide initiative to inspire younger members to get active in their locals.

As a young worker, Cardwell began volunteering for tasks in the local soon after he joined more than a decade ago. One of the first things he did was to attend local-sponsored industry nights, where he talked with nonunion electricians about what it meant to work IBEW.

He also worked as an instructor with the Elec-



Local 443's assistant business manager, Brandon Cardwell, at the RENEW conference in Chicago.

trical Training Alliance (formerly the National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee).

His business manager noted his teaching skills, and soon Cardwell was named training director.

"I enjoy talking to people about the trade," he said.

He also appreciates the opportunity to talk with younger members about the importance of a being an involved, educated union member.

It's a tough job, especially being in the right-to-work Deep South. "A lot of the newer people feel disconnected from their union," he said. "They just aren't informed."

The first thing he tells them: be seen.

"People need to come to meetings, volunteer their time," he said. But, he says, the IBEW needs to do a better job at getting the message out about why it's so important.

"That's why RENEW is vital," he said.

In March, Cardwell, along with more than 400 other young IBEW activists, were in Chicago for RENEW's second conference.

Workshops were offered in everything from understanding the IBEW's history and structure and setting up a RENEW chapter to public speaking and media tactics.

Attendees also shared their stories and experience in building RENEW in their area.

Cardwell says he plans to take what he learned back to his local to encourage more RENEW activism.

You can find out more on RENEW's Facebook page at [www.bit.ly/IBEWRENEW](http://www.bit.ly/IBEWRENEW) (all caps). ■



# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in March 2015

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Birsinger, R. A.	1/14/15	16	Beckerle, A. R.	1/15/15	58	Grego, R. E.	1/12/15	124	Wilson, D. R.	12/24/14	196	Campbell, J. G.	1/2/15	349	Forgey, R. C.	11/26/14
1	Crecelius, R. E.	12/28/14	16	Harper, D. G.	1/27/15	58	Howey, R. V.	12/23/14	125	Beaman, L. A.	1/24/15	197	Sylvester, E. A.	1/8/15	351	Andro, C. G.	1/17/14
1	Eckhardt, R. V.	1/1/15	16	Rice, W. K.	2/21/15	58	Ismond, T. D.	12/25/14	125	Braden, G. N.	10/7/14	212	Kaufman, F. J.	1/24/15	353	Little, L. R.	1/11/15
1	Gassel, G. J.	2/12/15	17	Elliott, F. T.	9/19/14	58	Kloenhamer, R. S.	1/16/15	125	Gant, D. M.	2/4/15	213	Matthias, R. E.	1/18/15	353	Nolloth, R. W.	1/12/15
1	Harris, W. D.	1/4/15	17	Haydon, C.	11/22/14	58	Lee, A. W.	1/20/15	125	Jones, D. L.	10/28/14	213	Walsh, P.	1/8/14	353	Pleschberger, H.	12/24/14
1	Henning, B. R.	1/5/15	18	Stavang, R. C.	11/24/14	58	McInerney, R. G.	1/6/15	125	Morrow, H. P.	1/6/15	223	Dutra, R. J.	1/31/15	353	Pristach, J.	12/12/14
1	Hildebrandt, C. E.	12/31/14	20	Banks, W. P.	11/19/14	58	Pacilio, R. J.	12/21/14	125	Randall, H. E.	9/25/14	226	Fox, N. W.	12/10/14	353	St. Pierre, D.	12/28/14
1	Keck, J. J.	1/28/15	20	Burnett, B. E.	12/2/14	58	Preece, J. H.	10/19/14	126	Maurey, H. C.	1/6/15	226	Geisler, M. C.	10/29/14	353	Weaver, W. R.	8/6/14
1	Martin, J. D.	12/19/14	20	Isbell, J. F.	12/15/14	58	Randall, K. M.	1/11/15	126	Nichols, C. J.	1/17/15	226	Webber, K. D.	11/13/14	354	Larson, M. R.	2/4/15
1	Schneider, D. L.	1/31/15	20	Loza, F.	12/28/14	58	Runge, R. H.	12/31/14	126	Roberts, T. R.	1/2/15	230	Kilby, R. S.	12/9/14	354	McConnell, D. L.	10/27/14
1	Senf, D. O.	12/30/14	20	May, J. M.	1/16/15	58	Tabeling, R. K.	1/5/15	129	Manichl, A. L.	2/17/15	234	Orlando, R.	12/12/14	357	Benner, H. E.	2/20/15
2	Thomas, J. M.	1/19/15	20	Muller, W. A.	12/15/14	58	Wey, H. R.	12/18/14	129	Rodgers, J. P.	1/18/15	236	Anderson, J. H.	2/2/15	357	Gabel, J. E.	1/14/15
3	August, D. H.	1/14/15	20	Webb, T. R.	12/28/14	58	Wheaton, C. T.	12/22/14	130	Buras, A. J.	12/26/14	236	Boni, J. J.	2/19/15	357	Goldsworthy, R.	10/26/14
3	Bender, P.	1/23/15	21	Forbis, B. F.	12/24/14	60	Fuentes, J.	1/9/15	130	Clark, E. C.	11/18/14	236	Brust, H. C.	1/13/15	357	Mulick, M. D.	11/19/14
3	Byrne, B. J.	2/3/15	22	Falcone, S. S.	12/28/14	60	Swenson, S. A.	11/2/14	130	Daigle, W. E.	12/18/14	236	Iachetti, E.	1/18/15	357	Ortiz, E.	1/21/15
3	Callahan, J. F.	1/7/15	22	Garey, P.	12/6/14	64	Blue, J. N.	1/20/15	130	Leonard, G. P.	1/18/15	237	Ferritto, G. W.	12/20/14	357	Ricks, G. D.	6/13/14
3	Danielson, J. W.	1/16/15	22	Jaksich, D. M.	12/31/14	64	Zenn, J. L.	12/11/14	130	Meyer, D. W.	1/23/15	242	Zuck, C. E.	12/17/14	363	Gokey, E. E.	1/13/15
3	Doyle, T. F.	10/7/14	24	Landgraf, V. H.	1/3/15	66	Mueller, H. E.	2/1/15	130	Rodriguez, R. A.	12/21/14	245	Mohler, R. C.	12/21/14	363	Makela, V. A.	12/30/14
3	Fara, C. F.	3/11/14	24	Seavolt, R. W.	12/21/14	66	Ward, M. L.	12/12/14	130	Talamo, C. J.	1/2/15	254	Taylor, H. R.	1/30/15	363	Tolomeo, J. A.	10/23/14
3	Foote, W. W.	12/19/14	24	Spoonhour, C. C.	12/24/14	68	Davis, J. E.	1/30/15	131	Holt, C. J.	12/4/14	258	Evans, J. D.	10/16/14	364	Kuehne, S. A.	10/1/14
3	Frake, C. E.	1/7/15	24	Voyce, D. A.	11/1/14	68	Lee, R. E.	12/24/14	131	Rook, D. G.	1/30/15	258	Loach, G. H.	10/24/14	369	Calhoun, F. P.	12/19/14
3	Garon, R. L.	1/7/15	24	Williams, R. A.	12/3/14	68	McNamara, J. A.	1/2/15	134	Allen, T. P.	11/11/14	265	Woolsey, G. L.	11/3/14	369	Huckeby, H. M.	11/29/14
3	Gibbs, T. R.	12/12/14	25	Carpenter, R.	1/6/15	68	Terry, C. R.	12/5/14	134	Biehl, D. J.	1/22/15	269	Scull, J. T.	12/23/14	369	Schooler, G. L.	1/31/15
3	Gouveia, R. N.	1/3/15	25	Derosa, M. J.	2/13/15	70	Isbell, R. G.	1/18/15	134	Bloom, D.	1/14/15	270	Farr, P. E.	12/6/14	375	Zettlemoyer, C. R.	11/12/14
3	Granett, P. H.	12/30/14	25	Hutchens, E. J.	12/9/14	70	Pennington, J. D.	12/10/14	134	Borko, K.	12/16/14	270	Golliher, J. D.	12/19/14	379	Summerville, P. G.	12/18/14
3	Incandela, F.	11/22/14	25	Marchese, J. J.	12/14/14	71	Renicker, T. D.	1/27/15	134	Bush, W. H.	1/14/15	278	Cantu, G. F.	1/30/15	387	Christopher, K. E.	1/23/15
3	Kronimus, H.	1/8/15	25	O'Keefe, D. J.	12/12/14	73	Peterson, D. C.	12/23/14	134	Call, J. D.	2/1/15	280	Myers, S. L.	2/7/15	388	Newton, M. J.	11/21/14
3	Langer, R.	1/8/15	26	Blackman, J. B.	1/1/15	76	Bird, L. L.	2/20/15	134	Catino, F. C.	1/23/15	288	See, M. C.	1/28/15	401	Chamberlin, B. R.	12/9/14
3	Levy, E.	12/12/14	26	Manili, M. J.	4/13/14	77	Ames, L. D.	4/19/14	134	Cisneros, J. M.	8/8/14	291	Evans, E. E.	12/7/14	424	Cochrane, B. G.	11/22/14
3	Lynch, J. F.	11/9/14	26	McGowan, R. G.	12/31/14	77	Brice, H. B.	12/9/14	134	Curtin, N. P.	12/13/14	292	Gay, M. G.	2/13/15	424	Hagel, F. A.	11/15/14
3	Modica, F.	9/5/14	26	Medlin, L. B.	12/19/14	77	Deering, R. R.	12/13/14	134	Engberg, L. D.	7/23/14	292	Hendrickson, A. R.	12/20/14	424	Nobert, R. G.	11/14/14
3	Murphy, R. V.	1/3/15	26	Orlando, J. F.	11/28/14	77	Dryden, R. L.	8/25/14	134	Gibbons, F. H.	1/2/15	292	Madison, F. E.	10/23/13	424	Rosa, W. L.	1/30/15
3	Pavletich, T. J.	12/15/14	26	Ward, W. M.	1/22/15	77	Hink, H. L.	1/23/15	134	Haggerty, J. B.	12/25/14	292	Miller, J. H.	1/15/15	424	Ward, P. P.	11/9/14
3	Peterson, C. V.	1/17/15	34	Eisele, W. E.	1/12/15	80	Edwards, A. R.	10/25/14	134	Heller, E. C.	2/14/15	292	Oslund, E. J.	1/20/15	428	Devers, J. E.	12/10/14
3	Regan, P. P.	10/21/14	34	Schierer, G. R.	2/9/15	81	Kenehan, W. J.	1/23/15	134	MacFarlane, P. J.	1/2/15	292	Putnam, W. F.	2/4/15	429	Baker, R. L.	1/20/15
3	Rusiecki, E. J.	1/12/15	38	Chebra, M. A.	12/5/14	84	Driggers, W. L.	10/21/14	134	Maly, R. F.	12/24/14	292	Walter, K. W.	11/5/14	429	Hiland, D. L.	1/20/15
3	Salem, R. G.	1/22/15	38	Frey, W. J.	1/24/15	84	Wehnt, J. M.	12/15/14	134	McDonough, E. J.	11/19/14	292	Wentz, R. E.	11/16/14	429	Jackson, P. M.	2/8/14
3	Sanchez, I.	1/10/15	38	Gallo, F.	12/19/14	86	Eck, E.	1/26/15	134	McKillip, R. W.	10/13/14	292	Winters, K. R.	1/13/15	435	Ryan, P.	10/10/14
3	Schoen, C.	1/2/15	38	Palladino, C. W.	1/5/15	86	Macomber, G. L.	4/27/14	134	Murphy, J. F.	1/18/15	300	Hackett, J. S.	1/28/15	441	St. Pierre, R. A.	11/20/14
3	Taubman, I.	1/12/15	38	Suhadolnik, D. P.	1/31/15	90	Popolizio, D. S.	7/6/14	134	Nelson, R. I.	1/1/15	301	Hunter, C. L.	12/3/14	443	Ballentine, V. D.	12/12/14
3	Westray, J. P.	10/25/14	39	Kilbane, J. M.	1/23/15	94	Cook, H. E.	2/13/15	134	Palma, T.	12/18/14	302	Jones, C. K.	11/29/14	443	Estes, W. A.	1/6/15
5	Britt, C. B.	1/22/15	41	Bookbinder, W. H.	2/1/15	96	Camerota, A. J.	1/21/15	134	Scheer, W.	8/1/13	302	Stewart, R. H.	8/23/14	446	Fallin, D. W.	11/28/14
5	Cheberenchick, J. L.	11/2/14	41	Cammarano, J. P.	1/9/15	97	Murphy, M.	12/24/14	134	Sloan, T. R.	1/20/15	303	Arthrell, G.	12/15/14	446	Vestal, L.	9/9/14
5	Palmer, E. H.	12/17/14	41	Kirbis, E. W.	12/27/14	98	Gross, H.	1/11/15	134	Sowinski, E. J.	12/18/14	303	Beattie, J. S.	1/29/15	456	Clausen, J.	11/26/14
5	Robbins, H. P.	11/25/14	41	Sciandra, S. J.	2/7/15	98	Haymaker, B. A.	11/25/14	134	Spatt, R. H.	12/29/14	303	Hallas, D. R.	12/20/14	456	Prongay, C. C.	2/9/15
6	Franklin, J. R.	1/23/15	41	Stroh, L. J.	11/14/14	98	Mellon, W. M.	1/4/15	134	Stemper, J. E.	12/4/14	303	Madden, F. D.	1/2/15	464	Wagner, M. H.	1/3/15
6	Hannah, A.	12/5/14	42	Haczynski, H. J.	11/25/14	99	McElheny, J. C.	12/6/14	134	White, E. O.	12/20/14	303	Thibodeau, J. G.	2/6/15	466	McCorey, W. E.	1/28/15
6	Hansen, R. T.	1/12/15	43	Baxter, J. W.	2/10/15	102	Brennan, P. W.	10/23/14	134	Wyman, W. O.	12/12/14	304	Jacobson, R. E.	11/10/14	474	Angle, H. W.	1/23/15
6	Ruef, R. E.	2/6/15	43	Coyle, C.	12/21/14	102	Carrigan, W. J.	1/8/15	134	Zubowicz, P. S.	2/1/13	304	Stover, W. W.	12/17/14	474	Dennis, T. L.	2/3/15
6	Welter, P. J.	1/18/15	46	Caddell, D. D.	12/26/14	102	Grindler, R. T.	2/21/15	141	Hall, E. D.	11/13/14	307	Martin, R. E.	10/17/14	477	Lutz, D. R.	7/27/14
7	Parent, G. J.	1/10/15	46	Deschenes, N. L.	3/10/14	102	Horling, R. S.	12/10/14	143	Acri, P. H.	11/3/14	317	Hall, H. C.	2/2/15	479	Spurlock, W. E.	9/3/14
8	Brint, R. L.	12/9/13	46	Evans, R.	1/9/15	102	Sheha, A. J.	10/26/14	145	Beason, J. L.	1/27/15	317	Harbour, V. W.	1/6/15	481	Werler, M. F.	5/5/14
8	Gray, D. E.	2/2/15	46	Hadsall, J. E.	2/6/15	103	DeYoung, K. D.	12/31/14	145	Dopler, D.	2/12/15	317	Hubbard, R. I.	12/21/14	483	Rubert, C. H.	9/30/14
9	Christian, R. W.	1/11/15	46	Healy, H. A.	1/4/15	103	Dunn, D. G.	11/2/14	145	Patch, S. E.	1/16/15	317	Sheets, W. L.	10/15/14	488	Schick, C. L.	3/13/14
9	Gibertini, R.	12/26/14	46	Moore, J. L.	1/4/15	103	Kelleher, J. W.	12/31/14	146	Birge, J. W.	2/5/15	317	Shumate, W. L.	12/31/14	488	Wood, D. A.	12/9/14
9	Redlin, G. A.	12/8/14	46	Sallee, D. A.	1/13/15	103	McGarrell, R. K.	12/31/14	146	Garecht, R.	2/12/15	317	Spears, D. L.	1/9/15	490	Collette, L. C.	12/9/14
9	Rose, P. L.	1/11/15	48	Ashland, N. L.	5/4/14	103	O'Donnell, K. J.	11/20/14	150	Dosenbach, R. R.	12/3/14	322	Zeleny, F. R.	12/20/14	490	Costa, M.	12/17/14
11	Barriga, G. A.	1/8/15	48	Cummings, W. H.	12/23/14	103	Popp, R. E.	12/26/14	153	Clark, S. L.	1/24/15	325	Root, R. L.	2/16/15	494	Doro, A. W.	1/25/15
11	Bergon, G. E.	1/1/15	48	Greeley, D. E.	12/13/14	104	Pearson, G. W.	11/21/14	153	Maeyens, T. J.	11/26/14	332	Clark, H. T.	1/22/15	494	Kluball, D. R.	11/21/14
11	Fitzgerald, T. E.	12/7/14	48	Hiatt, C. H.	2/6/15	105	Fritsch, W.	1/28/15	158	Mittnacht, G. M.	1/16/15	332	Hansen, O. P.	1/9/15	494	Schleif, L. S.	2/4/15
11	Goodale, J. O.	2/5/15	51	Blickensderfer, G. A.	1/31/15	105	Irving, J. S.	1/30/15	158	Sanders, E. J.	11/25/14	332	Jones, J. L.	1/17/15	494	Templeton, T. P.	1/16/15
11	Holmes, F. R.	10/22/14	55	Snyder, T. J.	8/30/14	105	Starr, R. E.	11/19/14	159	Endres, H. A.	12/28/14	332	Snashall, J. E.	1/13/15	494	Trinkl, J. F.	1/24/15
11	Martin, R. E.	12/8/14	56	Hart, K. P.	1/4/15	108	Diaz, F.	6/3/14	160	Fuller, G. L.	11/25/14	332	Von Handorf, D. J.	12/13/14	499	Larson, P. B.	11/22/14
11	Mitchell, G. E.	12/1/14	57	Collard, R. F.	1/27/15	109	Beckmann, M. K.	7/31/14	164	Daniels, D. L.	11/22/14	332	Walker, R. D.	1/4/15	502	Fletcher, E. E.	9/21/12
11	O' Neill, C. E.	11/25/14	58	Adamczak, G. J.	12/30/14	109	Laughlin, J. C.	1/9/15	175	Davis, R. B.	1/17/15						



# LOCAL LINES

## Fighting Right-to-Work

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws) ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 would like to thank all of our members for supporting local pro-labor candidates and standing up against another anti-worker, right-to-work campaign in Missouri.

Special thanks to Local 1 member, state Sen. Tim Green, who is government affairs director of the St. Louis Electrical Connection, for his efforts educating people across the state about the damage right-to-work would do to working families and our communities.

Congratulations to Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacobs on becoming the first organized labor leader to be appointed to the St. Louis Science Center Board of Trustees.

We mourn the death of the following members: Oliver Schmaltz, Daniel Senf, Robert Eckhardt, Bernice Westerhold, Robert Welker, Warren Eastman, Wesley Harris, Bruce Henning, James White, Jack Buol, Robert Guckes, Robert Birsinger, Othella Thompson, Christian Quernheim, Jerry Mott Sr., Eugene Harris, Michael Mikolay, John Keck, Donald Schneider, Campbell Collier, Billy Squires, Gerald Gassel, Eva Wisdom, Rodney Reynolds, Melvin Baumgartner, Donald Paulsell, Urban Abel, Richard Leahmann and Paul Lammert.

John Moyle, P.S.



The St. Louis Electrical Connection Float at the Cottleville, Mo., St. Patrick's Day Parade

## NRG Negotiations Underway

L.U. 15 (u) DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Negotiations have started with NRG covering our four coal burning plants. We will be discussing the contents of the collective bargaining and the benefits agreements, set to expire March 31. They will be combined into a single agreement going forward.

Kincaid Generating Station's sale to Dynegy is expected to be complete by the end of the first quarter in 2015.

Local 15 sent eight members to the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus in Atlanta. During the first two days there, they participated in the RENEW Youth Conference, providing youth with various educational workshops and networking opportunities. We also had 10 delegates attend the 27th annual Nuclear Conference.

We held a stewards school in January for about 18 new stewards and have two more schools scheduled before the end of April. Eight of our members also attended an arbitration school at the University of Illinois, put on by the university and the Sixth District.

Our members raised over \$4,000 in donations to help pay for experimental drugs for the son of a member fighting brain cancer.

Christine Watkins, R.S.

## Elections Have Consequences

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t) DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Union voters in Illinois are seeing the dark side of the man they elected governor. Upon taking office, Bruce Rauner immediately went on the attack to blame unions and their members for the state's problems. His first action was to sign an executive order and file a federal lawsuit banning "fair share" payroll deductions. He's now encouraging local governments to establish right-to-work zones and to opt out of prevailing wage agreements.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan issued opinions explaining his right-to-work zones violate federal labor laws and that project labor agreements must be honored because communities can't opt out of them. She emphasized they benefit workers and the communities. The billionaire disagrees and will continue his fight for the wealthy.

War has been declared against all of us. We will win if we all get involved today and fight in solidarity. In future elections we ALL must vote for the people who will work for us instead those who want to take our wages and benefits from us.

Bob Przybylinski, R.S.

## Excellence for All

L.U. 37 (em,u&o) FREDRICKTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—At its last quarterly meeting, the Local 37 executive board unanimously approved adoption of the IBEW Code of Excellence program. Although initially rolled out to the construction side, the program is a natural fit for any local that recognizes the importance of being responsive and adaptable to economic reality.



IBEW Local 37 executive board and staff

The program has a simple but powerful premise: if we bring the best skills, highest quality of work, and best work ethic to the workplace every day, we benefit the union and the employer.

It renews our commitment to personal responsibility, professionalism and safety and gives members motivation to perform at the highest standard.

To survive in today's economy, we must continue to be the best at what we do, bring more value for the dollar, and make every hour at work count. At the end of the day, it's really about always doing the right things to ensure the IBEW is always "The Right Choice."

Members of Local 37 can expect an official launch of the COE program in the coming months.

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

American information technology workers with H-1B visa holders from India. In December, SCE got the right from the California PUC to recover \$3.3 billion from ratepayers to pay for the cost of the permanent shutdown of the nuclear power plant. Top SCE officials also cashed in millions of dollars in stock options.

The common theme is executive greed. The local is fighting back at the bargaining table, in the media, at the state capitol and in Washington, D.C.

We successfully negotiated contracts with Alta Gas and San Bernardino Special District, and we had a successful organizing effort at Abengoa Solar Generation.

We are sad to report the passing of Kevin Rowe, Melvin Johnson, Robert Padilla, Todd Tinder, Daniel Jaime and Ted Tibbs. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

Stan Stosel, P.S.

## 'Contentious Negotiations'

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow) DIAMOND BAR, CA—This Memorial Day, remember those who gave their all so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have.

Local 47 is engaged in contentious negotiations with SCE. They came to the bargaining table with more than 150 proposals, and 100 were takeaways. At the same time, SCE replaced more than 500 non-represented,



Local 47 Business Manager Pat Lavin leads more than 1,200 members at a protest in front of Southern California Edison's Rosemead, Calif., headquarters.

## 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	(ws) Warehouse and Supply
(ei) Electrical Inspection	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting	
(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing	
(es) Electric Signs	(mar) Marine		

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



## Life Saving Awards

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t,u&uow) SPRINGFIELD, IL—Brothers Rod Adams, Matt Fricke and Don Putnam were awarded one of the highest honors in the IBEW, the Life Saving Award. On Aug. 6, 2014, they, along with Brother Joshua Simpson, were assigned to replace a 40-foot pole in a backyard easement.

Simpson and Putnam were working on the pole transferring the secondaries, or lower voltage lines. Simpson was attaching a residential service line to the secondary when he made contact with the energized secondary wire. He received an electrical shock and lost consciousness. Putnam freed Simpson from the energized secondaries, then performed a pole top rescue and safely led Simpson to the ground, with assistance from Adams. On the ground, first aid was administered until emergency personnel arrived.

Brother Simpson was fortunate that his IBEW brothers responded effectively and efficiently, or his injuries may have been a life-changing or life-threatening event.

Please work safely, and give eight hours of work for eight hours of pay.

*Karlene Knisley, B.R.*



L.U. 51 Bus. Mgr. Jim Bates, Don Putnam, Bus. Rep. Matt Moore, Rod Adams, Josh Simpson and Matt Fricke

## Tireless Organizing

L.U.53 (lctt,o,rts&u) KANSAS CITY, MO—Business Manager Steve White reports that work is looking good with some unfilled calls still available.

He would like to recognize organizer Jeanette DeLaGarza for her efforts signing on three new contractors. Jeanette is also working on agreements with two others. Her efforts are paying off.

The annual Local 53 crappie tournament is scheduled for June 6.

The local has ongoing negotiations with BPU, Independence Power and Light, WPC in Wyandotte County, and the city of Independence.

Be safe and spend it where you make it!

*James Burks, V.P.*

## Members Celebrate 60 Years of Service

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u) SALT LAKE CITY, UT—After 60 years of operation, the Carbon coal fired steam generating plant will undergo a decommissioning process beginning in 2015. The plant was built by a union workforce and has been operated and maintained by



The coal fired steam generating plant that employs Local 57 members will soon undergo a decommissioning process.

Local 57 members since commissioning. The plant has provided at least 70 families at any given time during the 60-year history proud careers and competitive wages and benefits. We are sad to see this facility go. The Carbon plant will close five years short of its life expectancy, and could have generated reliable and economical electricity for another 20.

New federal guidelines and Environmental Protection Agency standards and rules about regional haze and mercury emissions are behind this early closure. Local 57 believes that coal must continue to be a major portion of the power generation solution in order to provide the reliable and economical electricity that residential and industrial customers have come to rely on.

*Scott Long, P.S.*

## Busy Summer Coming

L.U. 99 (govt&i) PROVIDENCE, RI—It would seem to be difficult to be thinking about the summer when snow banks are taller than we are, but a dose of hope might warm us up; and the job outlook for the summer of 2015 is looking better than it has for quite some time. We have \$918 million of new construction jobs on the books and \$354 million of it is electrical work. Many Local 99 members may have a busy summer. Now we just need a thaw.

IBEW Local 99 and Cranston, RI, Local 2323 will be hosting our first spring Motorcycle Run May 17. The ride will benefit Pink Heals of Rhode Island, a 100 percent volunteer cancer support network. The rain date will be May 24.

The ride will start and end at Local 2323's union hall at 22 Amflex Drive in Cranston. We will have an after-ride event there, including a cookout and activities for children.

You do not have to ride to attend this event. Registration will start at 10 a.m.

*William Smith, P.S.*



Local 99 has made it standard procedure for all members to meet the Code of Excellence. The goal is letting the community know about it at the Potowomut Fire Station in Warwick, RI, done by Wyman and Sons Electric.

## Busy Year Anticipated

L.U. 105 (catv,i&o) HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA—Happy 2015, brothers and sisters. This is my first entry as the new press secretary for Local 105. Reflecting back on 2014, Local 105 had a great year, with full employment and we were in the position to employ travelers. Thanks to our sister locals in Alberta and British Columbia for providing opportunities for our members to work in their jurisdictions.

We experienced growth in our membership numbers as well as our market share. The majority of our work was in the institutional, commercial and green energy sectors. Those projects include the new Oakville hospital, a 100-megawatt solar project—the largest solar farm in Canada to date—and the new Maple Leaf Foods plant. We are anticipating another busy and steady year in our jurisdiction. Our local PAC is preparing for the upcoming federal election,



Hamilton, Ontario, Local 105 members on the Grand Renewable Solar Project in Cayuga.

which will be later this year. We expect it to be a historic election for working families across Canada and we encourage everyone to educate yourselves on all of the issues. Be involved in your union and attend meetings monthly.

*Kyle Nelson, P.S./R.S.*



## Congratulations Brother Patrick

L.U.109 (u) ROCK ISLAND, IL—Business Manager Gary Greubel presented Larry Patrick of Ottumwa with a retirement watch and pin. Larry retired as a crew leader gas mainman journeyman with 34 years of service. Congratulations Larry!

*Denise Newberry, R.S.*

## Organizing, Organizing, and Organizing

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u) DENVER, CO—Recently, PEAK Reliability, RC Training Department employees in Loveland, Co., and Vancouver, Wash., voted to join Local 111. Congratulations and welcome to this group. Negotiations are imminent.

Also, we would like to welcome Yampa Valley Rural Electric Association's employees. They voted on Jan. 9 to become members of the IBEW. We are preparing for negotiations, and wish to thank everyone who assisted.

Saying goodbye isn't easy. We wish to extend our thanks to Brother Rich Sisneros, who recently retired from PSCO. Rich wore many hats for this local. He was a very active member of the IBEW for 38 years and served our local union in multiple capacities (chief steward, functional joint apprenticeship committee, subject matter expert, advancement committee member, field area rep, and other committees). He was elected to the executive board in 2007 and remained a board member until his retirement. We wish Rich the best of luck and greatly appreciate his years of service to Local 111. He will be missed.

*Mike Kostecky, P.S.*

## Shop Steward Training

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u) PORTLAND, ORE.—The local union recently held its 13th annual Casino Night.

More than \$1,000 was raised for the Brotherhood Fund, which provides assistance for members in need. We also donated approximately 900 pounds of food to a local food bank. And many members registered for our death benefit fund. With the support of our sponsors, it was another successful event. Thanks to all who attended this annual tradition.

Shop stewards are reminded to register for this year's shop steward training classes. Classes will be in Portland and Pendleton on April 23 and May 19 respectively. You must pre-register with approval from your business representative. With ever-changing policies and increased scrutiny from management, shop stewards continue to provide an invaluable service. If you are not currently serving as a shop steward and want to learn more, talk with your shop steward about attending this training.

Throughout our jurisdiction, members are facing a variety of frustrations on the job. Please work with your shop steward and/or business representative to address issues, especially those involving other members.

*Marcy Grail, A.B.M.*

## Anticipating a Good 90<sup>th</sup> Year

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,spa&u) ROCK ISLAND, IL—Local 145 had a successful blood drive again this year. We extend a heartfelt thank-you to the members, family members and retirees who donated. Because of your participation, once again we surpassed our projected goal! We thank and congratulate Jon Pohl, our blood drive coordinator, for his dedication to this great community cause.

Congratulations to our 41 new apprentices sworn into IBEW membership at our annual "Pack the Hall Night" in March. We had a large turnout—standing room only—as members and retirees gathered to celebrate the success with our newly sworn members. It's always great to witness the brotherhood and sisterhood coming together!

The spring's warmth has started to energize our long awaited construction season despite the many weather delayed projects. We anticipate another good year in our jurisdiction.

We are proudly celebrating the 90th anniversary of Local 145 commencing in April with a few special events being held throughout the year!

*Dan Larson, P.S.*

## 'A Much-Deserved Retirement'

L.U. 177 (bo,ees,i,mo,o&pet) JACKSONVILLE, FL—Fifth District International Vice President Joe Davis and the president of the Florida AFL-CIO, Mike Williams, visited for Brother Eddie Dedmon's retirement sendoff. In his 44 years in the IBEW, he served as president, organizer/assistant business manager and business manager. He also served as president of the North Florida Building Trades and the North Florida Central Labor Council.

In 2005, International President Ed Hill called on Dedmon to serve as Fifth District international



## LOCAL LINES

representative and later as the Fifth District organizing coordinator. We wish brother Dedmon a happy, healthy and much-deserved retirement.

Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shad Kahn presented the city with a plan for developing the shipyards with 1 million square feet of office space, 100,000 square feet of commercial space and more. We will be competing with nonunion contractors with standard wages and little or no benefits. Business Manager Russell Harper has already been in communication with the mayor, and meetings are being planned.

Employment in the Jacksonville area has gotten better but isn't where it needs to be yet. Thanks to locals that have been able to employ our traveling brothers and sisters.

Alan Jones, P.S.

## Anti-Worker Attacks

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u) SPRINGFIELD, IL—Elections matter. Gov. Bruce Rauner is promoting his "right-to-work-for-less" agenda in certain areas in the Land of Lincoln—a threat to working folks everywhere. Rauner also signed an executive order nullifying all project labor agreements statewide. Over 100 projects that would have had PLAs are now open to nonunion, out-of-state contractors.

Local 193 will not be moving forward with the Future Gen. 2.0 project. Funding is not available; therefore 2,000 local trade jobs are not going to happen.

Area schools will be having several projects this spring. Several IBEW jobs are in the projects.

Central Illinois just experienced its 11th coldest February on record. It needs to warm up and start looking like spring. We must get ready for the Cardinals, White Sox and Cubs. Be safe.

Our condolences go to the family of our member, Marion Jewell.

Donald Hudson, P.S.



Local 193 members Josh Baugh and Dan Casson, stationed in Kuwait.

## Mission: Solidarity

L.U. 231 (i,rtb,spa&u) SIOUX CITY, IA— We recently had elections for new officers. We already have also organized two new committees. The Brotherhood Committee, consisting of members from various age groups and classifications, will focus on rebuilding local solidarity and be responsible for purchasing T-shirts, planning family events and boosting local morale. The Centennial Committee will plan the celebration for Local 231's 100th anniversary in 2016, which will include a banquet, live band and dancing.

John DiBerardino, Mbr. Dev.

## Preserving Nuclear Power

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u) TOLEDO, OH—At the time of this writing, Local 245 is still engaged in negotiations with the Sinclair Group, the owners of our NBC affiliate, Channel 24. They are hoping to have these

negotiations concluded very soon. Hats off to our brothers and sisters over there for their patience while this process keeps moving forward.

On the nuclear side, Business Manager Larry Tscherne sat as a panel member and spoke at a Nuclear Matters event at the Davis Besse plant. Nuclear Matters is a bipartisan campaign that engages and informs policy makers and the public of the importance of preserving U.S. nuclear plants because of the reliable, affordable and carbon free electricity they produce. Tscherne spoke in regards to our members and the local economy, and the impact it would have if Davis Besse were to be shut down.

In an effort to get our minds off of the cold and bitter weather, Local 245 is turning its attention to planning some warm weather events, such as a motorcycle run and a Mud Hens ball game. More information on these events can be found on our Local 245 website at [www.ibew245.com](http://www.ibew245.com).

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.

## Marching Into Spring

L.U. 269 (i&o) TRENTON, NJ—Despite a stubborn winter that seemed to overstay its welcome, there was plenty of green to be seen around central New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania as our members marched in the local St. Patrick's Day parades in Mercer and Burlington counties in Jersey and Bucks County in PA. For the crowds, it's not only a chance to "get your Irish on"—it's also an opportunity to connect with the organizations and workers they share their community with. For our local, it is a chance to show our sense of pride and commitment that we take in our profession and in the towns and cities that we call home. As for the kids that line the parade route? Well, let's face it: it's all about the free candy!

On the work front, projects continue at The College of New Jersey and Princeton University, providing employment. The project labor agreements on these sites ensure that local unions will provide the labor. Our thanks go out to those working hard behind the scenes to put our membership in the best possible position to secure ongoing and upcoming jobs.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

## 'Lifetimes of Service'

L.U. 295 (em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u) LITTLE ROCK, AR—About the time you are receiving this publication, Local 295 will be having its annual picnic for active and retired members! As we enjoy the good food and even better fellowship, we would like to congratulate the following brothers for a lifetime of service to the IBEW: George Alberson, 55 years; Robert Bowers, 55 years; Homer Buck, 55 years; Wayne Dunnahoo, 55 years; Wendell Williams, 55 years; and Henry C. Warren, 60 years.

David Stephens, A.B.M.

## Hopes for Hospital Project

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u) COLLINSVILLE, IL—In the recent past, work in the inside branch had improved. But over the last few weeks, we have experienced a slowdown again with layoffs from various contractors. We have been waiting on a certificate of need vote from the governor-appointed committee regarding the proposed St. Elizabeth Hospital project.

We welcome Steve Dufft, who will represent the utility branch. Steve worked at the City of Highland as a journeyman lineman. In addition to Ameren, he

will represent the cities of Highland and Waterloo plus Monroe and Clinton counties.

It didn't take our new governor long to begin attacking the working class. At this point, all I can say is cheer up because it will get worse.

Local 309 recently lost two active members to retirement. Mike Faust, journeyman tree trimmer, had served on our executive board since 1996. He also had served on numerous tree trimmer negotiating committees. Scott Nicholson, journeyman wireman, served on the wiremen's pension committee and numerous wiremen's negotiating committees.

Both members served selflessly and always rolled up their sleeves to work when asked.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

## Moving Forward Together

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st) LE SUEUR, MN—Happy May Day, brothers and sisters. May Day, a cultural celebration of spring, is also known as International Workers Day, a day to honor laborers, the working class, and the labor movement. "Mayday" is also the distress signal used worldwide to broadcast a life-threatening emergency.

With negotiations concluding in June, we as a local are addressing some distress signals. We need to maintain the job conditions our forefathers earned and in their honor improve on them for future generations.

A labor union is a labor movement. Together we will move forward. Attend, participate, and vote at the upcoming negotiation meetings. Be proud of the Brotherhood we belong to.

If it's not made in America, you don't need it.

Tom Small, P.S.

## Plan to Play, Play the Plan

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa) DES MOINES, IA—It has been announced locally that the JATC has selected Brother Steve Hansen to be the new training director. We are sure you will prove to be an asset to the electrical education of the entire local.

There is a pin party scheduled for March 14th. After that the next social event on the calendar is the summer picnic at the Labor Park on May 30th.

Labor is always strong on a work site but when the brothers and sisters get together on their own time, the unity engendered through these engagements is superb testimony to the basic strength of the union. Solidarity is beneficial in all aspects of work and play. So, "plan the play and play the plan."

The work outlook remains strong through all of 2015.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

## Sad News

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se) LAS VEGAS, NV—It is with great sadness that we announce the death of retired Brother Joe Fleig, on Feb. 8. Brother Joe moved to Las Vegas in 1958 and became an apprentice in 1960. He was an apprenticeship instructor from 1965-85, and training director for three years. In 1992 he became an assistant business manager and retired in 1996. His son, Jack, and grandson, Jonathan, are both wiremen of 357. Brother Joe will be missed.

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.

## Pedestrian Bridge Opens

L.U. 369 (em,es,i,lctt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u) LOUISVILLE, KY—Local 369 members did a fantastic job installing the lighting for the "Big 4" pedestrian bridge across the Ohio River.

The Waterfront Development Corp. awarded the job to Advanced Electrical Systems. Foreman Mike Lilly and the crew from AES installed the nearly \$2 million display, including approximately 1,500 computerized lights capable of producing every color of the spectrum. The bridge was converted from a railroad bridge about two years ago. It has turned into a popular attraction downtown with over 1 million visitors making the two-mile trek across the border to Indiana and back.

Not pictured but also worked on project: Ron Dean, Terrence Goodlett, Bob Eiler, Daniel Miles, Matt Klein, Tanner Allen

John E. Morrison Jr., P.S.



The Local 369 crew that installed the lighting for the "Big 4" pedestrian bridge across the Ohio River includes Al Brown, left, Vaughn Mason, Maurice Leavell, Justin Schmidt, Nick Murphy, Kenny Hornback, Mike Lilly, Bob Watts, Tommy Carnes and Chris Jorris.

## Honoring Member's Service

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i) ALLENTOWN, PA—On Feb. 25, Craig "Ziggy" Siegfried became the 11th member in our 100-year history to receive the prestigious Harry B. Parks Sr. award, honoring his service to the IBEW. Parks served as Local 375's business manager for more than 40 years.

Siegfried became a journeyman wireman in 1977. He has served as a steward, foreman, and general foreman on projects throughout his career. His service also includes over 15 years on the JATC, executive board as well as serving as vice president. We offer our thanks for his dedication to the IBEW.

Our local's 3DYC youth caucus held a clothing drive to benefit a local charity, the Neighborhood Center. The 3DYC also participated in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters "Bowl for Kids' Sake."

We held an Industry Day to recruit new members and contractors on Feb. 20. We wish to thank all the sponsors who helped make it happen.

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



Harry B. Parks Sr. Award recipient Craig R. Siegfried, right, with son Tim.



## Thinking Outside the Box

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u) POCATELLO, ID—The local has been throwing around the idea of signing a staffing company here in Local 449. We have been building a relationship with the owner of one of the companies here. The thought is that we have a great organizing tool by showing the nonunion contractors our skills without them feeling they have to sign an agreement with the IBEW. Then, when we have IBEW members working side by side with non-union workers and making better money and benefits, this will bring nonunion contractors to the table to sign with us. The next theory is that when the contractor likes our manpower and the work we do, we can then go to the contractor and save them money by signing with the IBEW as opposed to using the staffing company. This is just one of the out-of-the-box ideas that we are trying here at Local 449.

We would like to wish Brothers Steven Jones and Scott Davis a happy and well deserved retirement! We also mourn the deaths of Brothers Eugene Pickens and Harold Kapp. They will never be forgotten!

*Joe Maloney, Mbr. Dev. Rep.*

## Encouraging the Next Generation

L.U. 479 (i&u) BEAUMONT, TX—Apprentices have been hard at work volunteering to give back to the community.

Work on the Nederland Little League “Field of Dreams” baseball complex not only provided youth with a place to play baseball, it gave our apprentices additional on-the-job training. Thanks to each apprentice involved and also to training staff for allowing such a project to happen.

Members acknowledged that in order for this local to survive, it needs the younger generations to step up. In January a RENEW group was formed and three delegates were sent to the Chicago RENEW Conference in March. They returned with ideas on how to carry the group further along.

*Christopher Reeves, Mbr. Dev.*



*Beaumont, Texas, Local 479 apprentices volunteered their time to build a new Little League field.*

## Members Helping Members

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s,spa) INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Congratulations to IBEW 481’s newest class of journeyman wiremen who topped out in December 2014. Great job on making it through your apprenticeship, and best of luck as you start your new careers as journeymen. Remember to continue to be active and involved with the local union.

In February, the IBEW 481 Basketball League hosted the 5th Annual Cornhole Tournament with all proceeds going to the IBEW 481 Help Fund. Congratulations to winners Chad Jackson and Matt Wilkerson. Local 481 members always step up to help their fellow brothers and sisters when the opportunity arises. Thank you to all who participated.

Also in February, our local union completed the

latest installment of our 481 Forums. These meetings educate the membership on the current activities of the local union, and inform them about future plans. A special thanks to Business Manager Steve Menser and staff on a job well done.

*Blake Andrews, R.S.*



*Local 481 members Chad Jackson, left, and Matt Wilkerson won the local’s 5th Annual Cornhole Tournament.*

## Alternative Classifications Bring Work

L.U. 551 (c,i&st) SANTA ROSA, CA—Greetings from Northern California.

This winter has seen a slow start in getting our members to work. Some of our brothers and sisters travelling to our sister Bay Area locals are picking up calls until work breaks here this summer.

Marin General Hospital just went to bid last week. It will be all union under a project labor agreement, and we are getting word that the Casino Hotel may start later this year as well. Thanks to our sister locals for employing our members. I know when we had our big casino job we kept a lot of travelers busy and we appreciated the help.

Recently we completed a big solar winery project because of the CW/CE classification. Had we not had this mix of six JWs, six CWs and five apprentices, this project would have gone nonunion. We expect to pick up more work for our brothers and sisters with the help of the CW/CE classification and the willingness of our contractors to use it.

We remove our hard hats for brothers that have passed: Edwin Tapley and Robert McKusick.

*Denise D. Soza, B.R./P.R.*

## Job Picture Improving

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa) SAGINAW, MI—Some good news for our state is that there have been many major projects going on. Many people have been put to work near their homes and are going to remain working for a while. These big jobs that have come up



*L.U. 557 journeyman wireman Mike Wesolek works on a fire alarm at the Kmart building in Saginaw.*



*Local 569 EWMC members receive a proclamation from San Diego City Council*

are helping renew the economy all over Michigan and are putting many men and women to work, which is a great thing.

Our local is now looking for new apprentices to enter our industry. With many of the members retiring in the next 10 years, we need new, trained people to help fill these positions. The only way to survive is by gaining a strong, skilled and intelligent younger generation of electricians to continue the heritage of organized electrical labor.

We recently have had three of our members retire with their international pensions. We would like to congratulate Jenine Eastman, Gregg Iles and Bob Orr. Congratulations on retirement and the hard work and commitment you have put toward our trade. We wish you a healthy and happy retirement.

*Howard Revard, P.S.*

## Honored For Community Outreach

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa) SAN DIEGO, CA—In recognition of excellent community outreach, San Diego City Council proclaimed February 24, 2015, “IBEW Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Day.” Our members have facilitated apprenticeship career days that engaged hundreds of community members and provided information on our opportunities to earn while you learn.

The City of El Centro also recently recognized Local 569 members for donating 500 hours of labor to provide lighting at a local park.

Local 569 is also engaging with our members and communities to speak out against the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) fast track legislation, a trade proposal that threatens our jobs as well as democracy and the environment. We’ve participated in “Stop TPP Fast Track” rallies, press conferences and light brigades, and we encourage our members to take action today: <http://bit.ly/1CiBil6>.

Thanks to the members that joined us at the 2015 Mardi Gras Light Parade in El Centro, and the MLK Parade in San Diego. We had a great time with beads, balloons and IBEW pride!

We hope to see all of our members and their families at the picnic on June 20.

*Gretchen Newsom, P.S.*

## A Tall Order

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st) DUBLIN, CA—Local 595’s executive board has appointed David Thoni as president. Brother Thoni has served on the executive board, and was a past vice president and instructor at the JATC. At 6 feet, 8 inches, he will be seen from the podium from any seat at the hall as he chairs our mem-

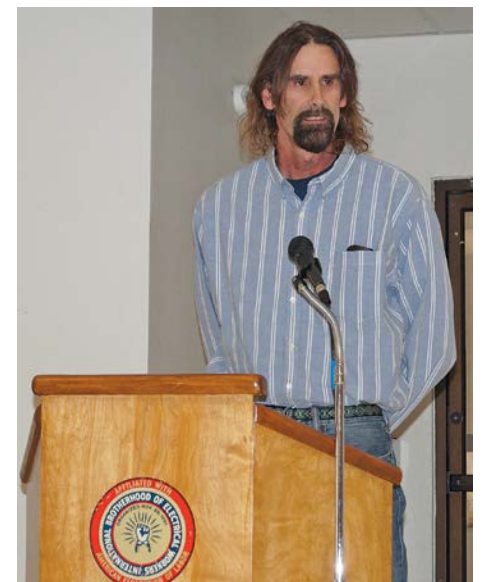


*At a Senate hearing about proposed anti-worker legislation are Pablo Gurule, left, Marvin Velarde, Ron “Cundio Ron” Vigil and Wally Archuleta.*

bership meetings. The position opened when Greg Bonato accepted a business representative position from Business Manager Daniel Chivello.

February was Black History Month; Bridget Hall was honored at our 2nd annual Appreciation Dinner. Sister Hall is the past president of our local Electrical Workers Minority Caucus chapter, tutored and mentored countless apprentices, is lead electrician for the University of California Berkeley’s high voltage division and a JATC trustee and executive board member.

*Bob Tieman, B.R.*



*Local 595’s new president, Dave Thoni.*

## Anti-Union Bills Killed

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u) ALBUQUERQUE, NM—This year’s 60-day legislative session in Santa Fe ended on March 21. Most of the session was spent trying to pass an anti-union public works bill and a so-called “right-to-work” bill.

The public works bill would have allowed non-union contractors to pay the survey rate instead of the prevailing wage rate for any state job that was \$60,000 or less. The union-busting right-to-work bill was passed in the House but was stopped in committee in the Senate.

Throughout the 60-day session, union mem-



## LOCAL LINES

bers showed up at the Roundhouse to support killing the bills. On Sunday, March 8, so many of our members showed at a Senate hearing that it was requested the meeting be moved to a larger room. Unfortunately, the request was denied.

We have three more years of this SO GET OUT AND VOTE!

If anyone is not registered to vote, call the hall and someone will get you signed up.

We send condolences to the friends and families of Percy Kirk, Jerry D. Turner, Franklin D. Mize and Arthur Velarde.

Don't forget: the union meeting is on the third Saturday of the month.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

## Work Picture Updates

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar&mt) HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—The work picture in Unit No. 1 is good at this time with about 170 members working at the \$400 million infrastructure renewal project at the shipyard in Halifax. Unfortunately, only one member from Unit No. 2 has been dispatched to this site. Other projects are the 34 wind turbines at the South Canoe site and the convention centre, which is still running very slowly.

The precipitator at the pulp mill in Unit No. 2 is the only significant project going on in that area. Even if the fish oil plant in Mulgrave goes ahead, there will not be nearly enough work for all the members in that unit. We are trying to secure travel calls from busier locals.

Renovations are ongoing in the office space of our new career college. We hope to move our office sometime this summer. The new building will house four trades and the Mainland Building Trades Council office. Once moved, we will start setting up to deliver our current JATC programs as well as apprenticeship core programs and block theory training. This is truly a big step forward.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.



Local 625 Business Manager Tim Swinamer (right) presents 50-year membership certificate to Bro. Henry Moore.

## Make a Difference

L.U. 627 (u) FORT PIERCE, FL—With an optimistic outlook, I hope the refueling outage at the St. Lucie nuclear power plant is complete by now. The publication deadline requires a little forward thinking, to remain relevant.

June 13 is the date, so prepare for the annual Ironman fundraiser. Clean up your clubs, sharpen your darts and get some chalk on your cue stick. The dollars raised by the Ironman event go to support our community affairs fund and returns to the community and our children. Brother Mueller has emailed the forms for you to complete. Please take a few minutes, and fill out your entry forms. Your participation will truly make a difference.

The inaugural motorcycle run was a big success for our local, with approximately 100 participants in attendance. Special thanks to all the members who made this event a memorable day.

Be safe at all times and watch out for the other person.

Ray Vos, P.S.



Unit One cooling tower at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant in Ohio.

## Nuclear Helping Hand

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u) PAINESVILLE, OH—We want to thank our sister locals for supplying the needed manpower for the recent refuel outage at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. For this outage, they have added "Fukushima modules," plant modification required in the aftermath of the catastrophe at the Fukushima nuclear facility in Japan. Due to this added work we will have at least 100 electricians on site.

Jim Braunlich, P.S.

## Strength, Unity in Solidarity

L.U.683 (em&i) COLUMBUS, OH—Hopefully by the time you are reading this the snow is melted, because Local 683 is proud to be hosting the 44th Annual IBEW Softball Tournament Aug 7-9. Any locals or teams requesting information, please contact Brother Jeff Hinton at [hinton38@yahoo.com](mailto:hinton38@yahoo.com).

We also are looking forward to our local Union Sportsmen's Alliance wall-eye trip to Lake Erie in May.

Members are encouraged to attend union meetings and voice their thoughts and opinions. This is how we will become stronger, building solidarity and unity within our union.

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

## Safety This Summer; Voting This Spring

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se) GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—We are all looking forward to the warm months ahead but always use good judgment while enjoying the summer. Taking your kids

to that favorite lake or pond? Check the water before jumping in. Using powered water craft? Stay aware. We often get distracted during the summer: longer daylight, less rest, planning activities, vacations etc. Don't let these distractions compromise your safety on the job either. Yes, we hear about it daily on the job, but don't get complacent. Statistics consistently show an increase in injuries on the job during the summer months.

Municipal elections will be 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5. Visit [IndianaWorkersVote.com](http://IndianaWorkersVote.com) to check your polling place. It is imperative that we show up to the polls and vote. The politicians who seek to oppress working people, especially organized labor, know if we are active voters or not. It is all that many of them pay attention to. Have a great summer! Be safe.

Dan Waldrop, B.M.

## Great Clay Shoot

L.U. 915 (i&mt) TAMPA, FL—We had our annual work party on Valentine's Day but that didn't stop about 20 faithful members from leaving their sweethearts for a few hours to do some routine maintenance around the hall. It was a cold day but the fellowship was well worth the time. From trimming the palms to doing minor repairs, we took care of business in record time. We were also glad to have Brother Lindy Wooten feeling well enough to cook for us. Thank you to those who came and donated your time to take care of your hall.

The Union Sportsman's Alliance held another successful clay shoot in our area. Over 120 trade craftsmen, contractors, end users and clients attended. This event has been very successful in bringing union trades together with the industries in our area for a day of fun and building relationships. It is growing larger every year and we are proud to have this event in our jurisdiction. We are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Theresa King, P.S.

## Employment Opportunities

L.U. 995 (i,o,rts&spa) BATON ROUGE, LA—Last year, the Louisiana State Workforce Commission announced an increase in industrial facility expansions between Baton Rouge and Lake Charles to take place in the next five years, costing over \$84 billion. This figure did not include the much-needed transmission and distribution construction needed to support these industrial expansions. Our local union is already seeing more employment opportunities for



Local 915 work party volunteers

our members to man these jobs.

To accommodate the need for more members to fill these positions, we are doing several things. First, we have spent money to air the IBEW-produced commercials on all of our local channels. This has proven to be a great success in organizing and apprenticeship outreach. In fact, we have organized over 100 new members in 2014, and we hope to top that number in 2015 by utilizing both the commercials and the efforts of our organizers, our officers and our members.

In the last few weeks we have organized two new contractors: Lynch Construction, which is in one of our area paper mills, and Turn Key Technical Solutions, which has signed inside and outside letters of assent.

Keith W. Brand, P.S.



Electrical Training Alliance Executive Director Todd Stafford visits Local 995's training facility to assist during an instrumentation class.

## Helping Our Community

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u) SYRACUSE, NY—In response to the IBEW's youth initiative Reach out and Engage Next-Gen Electrical Workers' (RENEW) efforts to get members involved in their communities, Local 1249 hosted a toy drive at the union hall for Toys for Tots and helped the CNY Food Bank at state Sen. David Valesky's electronic recycling event. The toy drive was a huge success, collecting toys for more than 30 children. At the recycling event, members helped collect and sort over 100 tons of electronics. We thank everyone who has been involved in helping Local 1249 help others, and hope that as our group grows we can expand our efforts throughout the state.

Jennifer Schneider, P.S.

## Welcome to New Members

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u) INDIANAPOLIS, IN—The local will be gaining an additional 111 members through organizing Asplundh Tree Expert Co. employees who are working in AEP's service territory within Indiana. The election was won in February with a



67-8 vote. The local is working with tree trimmers at multiple employers throughout Indiana as others are seeking to join our organization.

Our contract with Duke Energy is set to expire on May 1. The local has been negotiating with the company since February to protect the interests of our membership. Our negotiations committee has a diverse background of multiple job classifications, each bringing their unique experience and perspective to the table.

We have been seeking candidates for our apprenticeship programs at ALBAT. We have had a long history of opportunities to bring in apprentices for electric line construction and traffic signal work. We are in the process of adding apprenticeships for substation and tree trimming jobs. These are all highly demanding careers that require our members to hold true to our focus on safety and craftsmanship.

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

### California, Here We Come

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t) BALTIMORE, MD—Great news: Amtote was awarded the tote contracts for all of the California racetracks, contracts that we had over 25 years ago. Now we have them back, to go along with the resigning of all the New York Racing Association racetracks, which we also had some 25 years ago. We will be taking over the contracts from SportTech in September 2015. This should add up to about 50 new members from the California area and possibly jobs for members who may want to move there.

Things are looking up in 2015 for Local 1501 as, in addition, we have a new contractor at our NASA location in Greenbelt, Sierra Lobo, and they have taken the union contract in total. We have some medical issues we are working out with the new contractor and I can't thank Vice President Fred Richards and his committee enough for getting us up to the final settlement.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.

### Outstanding Work Projections

L.U. 1579 (i&o) AUGUSTA, GA—The IBEW chairs the Augusta Central Labor Council, an active group that includes building trades unions, postal workers, transportation workers and the teachers union, among others.

The CLC does a very good job at bringing in our mayor, members of Congress and others to discuss issues that matter to working families. Local 1579 is always at the table communicating the concerns of the IBEW. If you have any concerns that the council or any of these politicians can help you with, let me know.

Work projections for 2015 are outstanding. The manpower throughout the jurisdiction is expected to increase; the manpower on the Vogtle Project alone is expected to double. The Salt Waste Project, Mixed Oxide Project (MOX) and Eisenhower at Ft. Gordon will all increase in numbers as well.

Local 1579 is getting ready for another apprenticeship graduation. If you are fortunate enough to work around these new journeyman, encourage and help them in any way you can. They are the future of the IBEW; we wish them well in their new journey.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

### The Spring Rush

L.U. 1759 (u) CASPER, WY—Greetings brothers and sisters. We would like to recognize Kermit Klepper on his retirement March 25. Kermit was a member of the IBEW for 33 years and his attitude and expertise will be missed in the Rocky Mountain region. Congratulations Kermit!

We would also like to welcome the new members of 1759: Vance Brown, Jonathan Taylor, Patrick Winstead, Mitch Gates, Mike Morris, Chris Longaker and Jeff Albertson. At press time spring has started in most areas and most of 1759 and other utility locals are getting ready for their busiest time of the year. We remind everyone to look out for each other and stay safe out there.

Jason Mengwasser, F.S.



Local 1759 member Kent Franklin, an electronic equipment craftsman for the Western Area Power Administration, hikes up Seminole Mountain Microwave to troubleshoot.

### Verizon Negotiations Starting

L.U. 2325 (t) WORCESTER, MA—Aug. 1 marks another milestone for IBEW Local 2325 and Verizon as our current contract expires. We have begun ramping up efforts to mobilize and prepare for what could be another protracted round of bargaining. In 2011 bargaining lasted for 15 months with Verizon attempting to whittle down the benefits our contract provides to union membership.

Under the leadership of Business Manager Dave Keating we are preparing our members for another fight by implementing new ideas for mobilization. We will start informational picketing and morning rallies earlier than usual, showing solidarity in our workplaces. We have a new mobile database of members with contact information. With it, we can distribute information and bargaining updates. We will be eliciting public support as to our goals and the roles our members play in the community.

The bargaining process takes resolve, commitment, dedication and solidarity.

Mike Tortora, R.S.

## In Memoriam continued from page 11

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
545	Bryant, R. G.	12/30/14	702	Leneave, E. D.	12/20/14	2085	Shoffner, R. M.	12/16/14
553	Bayse, D. E.	12/15/14	702	Norton, H. R.	12/30/14	2149	Reis, J. J.	12/26/14
557	Beck, R. J.	12/29/14	706	Flagtwt, B. L.	1/8/15	2150	Stoffel, Z. K.	11/11/14
558	Alexander, K. T.	1/21/15	712	Attaway, W. C.	12/20/14	2166	Gagnon, R. J.	12/16/14
558	Brown, R. G.	1/19/15	712	McMinn, E. F.	12/22/14	2166	Mareno, J. P.	8/28/14
558	Maloney, W.	11/14/14	712	Tooch, F. A.	12/28/14	I.O. (5)	Fonas, G. T.	12/10/14
558	Reid, J. H.	11/15/14	714	Heitsch, J. W.	12/28/14	I.O. (6)	Lloyd, J. C.	2/5/15
558	Suggs, G. H.	12/19/14	716	Cornelius, E. L.	12/1/14	I.O. (134)	Hoskins, G. A.	1/17/15
558	Woolbright, G. J.	11/20/14	716	Mayfield, J. E.	2/20/15	I.O. (134)	Judson, L. W.	11/6/14
567	Botting, C.	1/13/15	716	Sellers, C. L.	12/16/14	I.O. (134)	Klimek, E. J.	6/19/13
569	Yunker, L. H.	9/13/14	721	Brewer, E. F.	11/30/14	I.O. (134)	Leeb, M. S.	12/12/14
574	Pool, L. D.	1/17/15	721	Young, G. E.	12/29/14	I.O. (137)	Salisbury, R. T.	2/2/15
576	Cox, W.	1/22/15	723	Wyrick, F. C.	1/1/15	I.O. (763)	Young, L. D.	12/24/14
576	Mayeaux, R. P.	12/26/14	728	Bell, H. E.	1/15/15	I.O. (1049)	Esposito, F.	12/10/14
577	Gamsky, T. M.	12/31/14	728	Dospoy, C. E.	1/22/15	Pens. (70)	Tipton, W. C.	1/5/15
583	Young, J. W.	12/16/14	734	Alley, E. L.	12/19/14	Pens. (103)	Carmody, J. R.	12/25/14
584	Dawson, D. J.	1/13/15	738	Pool, J. C.	1/9/15	Pens. (176)	Eddie, B.	12/18/14
584	Goins, O.	9/23/14	756	Card, C. C.	2/11/15	Pens. (323)	Pearce, R. G.	12/17/14
584	Ragsdale, L.	10/8/14	756	Kash, L. E.	1/31/15	Pens. (323)	Schultetus, J. P.	1/9/15
586	Bradley, G. M.	11/24/14	756	Oliver, J. L.	12/24/14	Pens. (561)	Parent, B.	10/25/14
586	Brown, T. D.	1/17/15	760	Bastarache, J. M.	12/27/14	Pens. (629)	Macdonald, A. D.	12/31/14
586	Wardle, R. G.	11/16/14	760	Brogden, W. J.	2/4/15	Pens. (637)	Johnson, O. W.	12/10/14
595	Alisea, B.	6/11/14	760	Roberts, J. F.	12/21/14	Pens. (686)	Stefanoski, E.	1/14/15
595	Vandevanter, G. D.	12/18/14	768	Ausk, K. L.	12/2/14	Pens. (814)	Justis, J. L.	1/21/15
596	Carder, R. W.	12/17/14	768	Franks, C. R.	1/20/15	Pens. (848)	Ruiz, L. A.	12/15/14
601	Studnicki, T. J.	2/18/14	768	Ost, L. R.	1/5/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Adkison, J. T.	12/14/14
602	Brown, W. W.	12/10/14	769	Williams, M. A.	12/4/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Arakawa, I.	12/29/14
602	Comer, D. V.	1/4/15	784	Thayer, A. R.	1/15/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Barker, S. L.	12/26/14
605	Singletary, T. H.	12/4/14	804	Kompf, W.	12/14/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Beckman, A. T.	2/7/15
606	Baker, R.	1/7/15	852	Cheatwood, E. J.	12/1/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Brown, L. R.	11/29/14
611	Wood, J. O.	12/26/14	859	Murray, W. G.	12/18/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Buonocore, F.	12/10/14
613	Carroll, L. E.	12/14/14	861	Domingue, L. J.	1/19/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Cabral, J. N.	8/3/14
613	Duncan, J. C.	1/19/15	898	Bannert, G. L.	12/22/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Caldwell, J. W.	1/8/15
613	Jarrell, B. A.	12/14/14	903	Breaux, C. J.	1/3/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Danielson, R. L.	12/7/14
613	Stewart, R. P.	12/23/14	903	Harriel, G.	1/28/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Deffes, R. A.	12/16/14
613	Taylor, D. T.	1/15/15	934	Leach, F. R.	12/25/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Delape, D. D.	11/22/13
613	White, E. O.	12/30/14	952	Ruiz, R. B.	1/10/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Didion, T. A.	12/12/14
632	Carr, J. F.	12/24/14	968	Atkinson, P. E.	11/12/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Erdman, L. B.	1/17/15
640	Dearing, J. H.	12/13/14	968	Blair, J. M.	12/31/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Erickson, B. E.	10/24/14
640	Richardson, S. K.	9/8/14	969	McKee, D. A.	12/29/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Fitch, G. O.	1/7/15
640	Watson, R. W.	2/3/15	993	Muller, R. F.	1/22/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Gehrman, A. B.	2/14/15
640	Wright, C. L.	12/8/14	993	Thompson, P. O.	2/14/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Gurley, E. S.	12/4/14
649	Higgins, J. S.	11/22/14	993	Whitely, W. J.	12/14/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Harbert, H. J.	10/28/14
659	Bushnell, H. T.	12/12/14	995	Bonaventure, J. B.	11/14/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Hillemann, N. A.	11/3/14
659	Graves, J. R.	12/19/14	995	Nesbit, G. B.	7/5/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Hocking, H. S.	11/14/14
659	Yost, H. W.	1/20/15	1116	Ramirez, C. C.	1/4/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Hotzel, A. W.	2/4/15
659	Zwan, N.	12/1/14	1141	Henson, D. J.	12/2/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Jackson, W. E.	12/25/14
661	Prokop, E. A.	3/25/12	1141	Robison, P. E.	1/20/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Julian, A. A.	11/25/14
665	Geiger, J. N.	12/12/14	1141	Roth, M. D.	2/1/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Kneece, D. L.	2/4/15
666	Smith, M. D.	2/3/15	1141	Williams, G. R.	1/19/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Ladouceur, N.	10/23/14
668	Christopher, J. R.	1/10/15	1147	Henke, H. H.	1/15/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Legot, L. T.	1/8/15
668	Fry, L. D.	4/28/14	1158	Dombroski, R. J.	7/13/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Lortz, R. E.	12/1/14
668	Plantenga, T. J.	1/6/15	1186	Nakagawa, T.	8/23/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Mackowiak, J. A.	1/4/15
676	Carpenter, R. L.	9/17/14	1186	Yokoyama, R. I.	11/20/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Malok, J. J.	12/1/12
682	Allen, R. L.	1/25/15	1186	Yuen, A. D.	12/2/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Mansfield, W. O.	12/21/14
682	Easterwood, H. E.	5/2/14	1191	Upthegrove, A. R.	11/26/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Miller, A.	1/5/15
683	Chan, Y. O.	2/4/15	1205	Jones, A. L.	11/6/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Miller, D. E.	1/19/15
683	Creekmore, D. L.	2/25/15	1245	Merritt, L. L.	1/1/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Neltnor, L. J.	1/24/15
683	Dempsey, H. E.	2/1/15	1245	Simpson, M. M.	1/26/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Paradis, R. J.	12/30/14
683	Fannin, D. R.	11/30/14	1289	Yocum, W. H.	1/20/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Perschon, C. A.	12/9/14
683	Mabin, R. D.	8/20/13	1316	Pearson, C. F.	12/29/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Phillips, C. O.	12/26/14
683	Powell, B. D.	1/25/15	1319	Novack, E. J.	12/26/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Reihl, V. N.	11/11/14
683	Scheel, M. D.	1/31/15	1323	McConnell, K. L.	12/30/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Singleton, C.	12/30/14
683	Truelove, H. L.	12/31/14	1393	Franklin, L.	11/24/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Snyder, H. L.	1/26/15
684	Brown, W. E.	1/19/15	1393	Tracer, J.	1/27/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Strong, G. W.	2/2/15
684	Kline, G. I.	12/19/14	1412	Hensley, J. H.	2/13/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Swanson, R. W.	11/26/14
697	Brown, R. A.	10/15/14	1579	Hull, R. P.	1/21/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Tagliatalata, B.	6/8/14
697	Hilton, R. E.	12/29/14	1579	Miller, C. E.	1/12/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Taylor, W. E.	11/2/14
697	McCorkle, E. J.	1/27/15	1579	Nappier, B. E.	12/27/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Walker, J. R.	12/29/14
701	Cook, A.	2/27/15	1852	Wadden, B.	10/15/14	Pens. (I.O.)	Walls, E. E.	1/19/15
701	Kemble, L. W.	11/26/14	1925	Pope, E. E.	12/12/14			
702	Kiehna, M. L.	1/29/15						

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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**

## An Enduring Symbol



**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

**N**early 200 songs have been written about the carnage of 9/11 since the Twin Towers toppled. But over 40 years before Alan Jackson sang about how the "world stopped turning," the "Grim Cathedral" commemorated by Canadian folk artist David Francey first emerged as a place that fused tragedy and majesty.

Sixty construction workers who died building the first World Trade Center rest unheralded. But their sacrifices and the dedicated work of thousands more are eloquently expressed in the words of Local 3 steward Ken Forsberg, who says, of One World Trade Center, "We never stopped being there."

One World Trade Center is rising, an enduring symbol of perseverance in the face of overwhelming danger and adversity. Our brothers and sisters in Local 3 who inhabit this holy space in body or spirit promise to never forget the 21 IBEW members who died on 9/11.

Anyone who has been moved by the solemn cadences and haunting echoes of Local 3's Sword of Light Pipe Band knows their promise is resolute, a pledge to continue to honor the work of a handful of courageous men who came together in 1901 to organize the city's electricians.

"We never stopped being there." That proclamation defines Local 3's importance and stature not just in this corner of Manhattan, but in every borough and bend of the Big Apple.

From building legendary skyscrapers to standing up for the rights of workers outside its own ranks; from maintaining a city's aging infrastructure to building affordable housing and pioneering pension plans for its own members, Local 3 and its 27,000 members have been there, a beacon of trade unionism in a city of wealth and power.

If you and your family find yourselves in New York, visit One World Trade Center. And, as you reflect on the tragedy of its origins, share the pride of IBEW brothers and sisters whose hard work helps one of the world's great cities endure. ■

## Pass the 'Grow America Act'

**T**he Highway Trust Fund is how the federal government funds road, rail and port projects that, aside from connecting all parts of the country to the world, puts people to work and keeps America's economy humming. The \$50 billion the fund provides each year is leveraged by cities and states to raise billions more to keep bridges from collapsing, trains from derailing and potholes filled and if Congress does not act, the fund will go broke May 31.

The problem is that the highway fund is filled only part way each year by the 18.4 cent per gallon federal gas tax. Each year there is a \$16 billion shortfall that creates uncertainty across the country, as state and local officials are never sure of federal funding. The gas tax hasn't changed in 22 years and has been falling short of what we spend, and more importantly, what we need to be spending for years.

So what happens when the money dries up? Our roads, rails, ports and waterways are like the circulatory system of the economy and the United States is not looking good. One in four of our bridges are deficient. Sixty-five percent of our roads are rated less than good by the Department of Transportation. Traffic jams are like blocked arteries and Americans waste 5.5 billion hours a year going nowhere. The American Society of Civil Engineers—think of them as the heart doctors for the American economy—gave the U.S. a D+ in their 2014 report card.

If you heard that from your doctor, you would quit smoking, eat better and get some exercise. You'd take action.

But what has the U.S. Congress done? Very little. Needed projects are going unfunded, states are postponing or canceling others, jobs are lost and lives are put at risk.

We can and we must do better than that.

President Obama has proposed the Grow America Act, a six-year, \$478 billion bill that would go a long way toward fixing what can be fixed, replacing what can't and building what we need and don't have. The \$176 billion increase in spending over the life of the bill isn't paid for with more debt or higher gas taxes, it's funded by a 14-percent tax on the \$2 trillion American corporations have parked overseas.

It's smart tax reform married to the kind of investment our government should be making and it ends the uncertainty about the Highway Trust Fund that has stalled projects and killed jobs. Every member should contact their senators and representatives and ask them to support the plan. ■



**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”

### Taking a Stand

On March 7th, union and nonunion workers stood side by side in protest of Scott Walker's visit to Dubuque and his terrible influence on American politics. As the local registrar and organizer, I understand the severity of the current path our country is on. Local 704, along with the Dubuque Federation of Labor, other local unions, Iowa AFL-CIO and the Delaware County Democrats, made a statement in little old Dubuque. More than 100 people showed up with one thing on their mind: solidarity! Thanks to the Delaware County Democrats for their help and wonderful pictures they took. Union members need the support of nonunion groups and workers if we are to succeed. The UAW posted pictures and shared @DelcoDemoracts on Twitter. If we are to have true solidarity, we need all the help we can get.

*Peter Hird, Local 704 member  
Dubuque, Iowa*

### Portability Accessibility

President Hill's April editorial, "Tomorrow is Here," says that we, as members, need to "get on board" with what's going on in the construction industry in prefab, BIM models, etc. I agree it's headed in this direction and have worked on several BIM projects that progress faster than a project that doesn't, as the computers find conflicts before they become an issue in the field.

President Hill also said our locals need to hire more organizers to bring more non-signatory contractors into the fold. I know our organizers have talked to dozens of non-signatory contractors, many of whom have expressed interest in becoming union, up to the point that they read the bylaw that gets the organizer pushed out the door: PORTABILITY!!

As soon as a non-signatory contractor reads he can only take four of his 25 men into another county, he's done talking. Why would he want to sit men that have worked for him for years and hire new guys just because he has a project out of his jurisdiction? This archaic bylaw is preventing us as a union from growing. We still need to keep apprentices in the county, if only to keep unscrupulous contractors from sending them hundreds of miles away because they are not allowed to quit. A journeyman wireman should have full portability as long as he/she clears into that local and pays working dues there.

A contractor is going to hire apprentices out of the local to keep his labor rate down and if he has more work in that county, they will turn out as a JW for him. They will hire JWs, as not everyone wants to travel, or they don't have the manpower for the project. They will also hire as the shop grows and is awarded more work. More union contractors mean more work for all of us.

For those who say out-of-town contractors are going to swoop in and steal all our work, non-signatory contractors have been doing it for years. Contractors don't want to be out of business any more than you want to be out of work. The competition will force them to start bidding all the jobs rather than just the ones they know they will get and make their desired profit, which brings us back to prefab, BIM models, and everyone getting on board with the new age.

*Randy Long, Local 441 member  
Santa Ana, Calif.*

### Underwriting PBS

I would like to take this opportunity to commend you on the media clip that the IBEW sponsors during the news program on public television. It is well done as it shows the workers of the IBEW involved in the critical jobs that are so important in American life. While I never had the pleasure of being a member of the IBEW, my grandfather was a pioneer in your organization. My father, my uncles, my brothers and now my son are members of the IBEW.

All unions should be undertaking this sort of media campaign. Once again, keep up the good work.

*Mike Benefield  
Terrebonne, Ore.*

I've been watching the PBS News Hour for years. It is with pride that I see that the IBEW is a supporter of this important neutral venture.

*Eric David, Local 11 retiree  
Los Angeles*

## 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).

# Ore. Local Honors Minority Legacy

Even before Rickey Brame Sr. hung up his inside journeyman wireman's tools two years ago, the Portland, Ore., Local 48 member's musings often turned to rich stories spanning the journey he and other African-American electricians have navigated through their local union.

Collecting tales, not just the sagas already known, but also the whispers of the electrical trade and his local union, come naturally for a guy who once hung around his father's popular barbershop, or, as he calls it, "the black man's country club."

Brame and some co-workers asked his local union and NECA for help. In January, their labor-management committee produced a detailed history, "A Rising Tide of Diversity in the Oregon-Columbia Chapter of NECA and IBEW Local 48 Since World War II."

"I asked myself, first, why are there still so few second-generation black members in the local? And then I asked why can I walk through the hallways of Local 48 and not see faces of some of the leading minority men and women, the heroes like Mark Smith. One of 21,000 shipyard workers who paid dues to the IBEW during World War II, Smith arrived in Portland with an advanced college degree, became a journeyman inside wireman and was appointed deputy state labor commissioner in 1952, the highest position ever achieved by an African-American at the time.

Brame knew that Smith was an exception. As the war ended, hundreds of other black shipyard workers, including his father, who had migrated north from Arkansas, were laid off. Local unions were reluctant to recruit them. Six of 14 labor unions even refused admission to African-Americans. Local 48 was the only union to admit black workers on an equal basis. But race relations on the job were still rough, mentors were too scarce and many black workers didn't apply.

Brame's request to Local 48 Business Manager Gary Young for help uncovering history and putting it on display was timely.

The local and the National Electrical Contractors Association had just commissioned an elaborate history exhibit to coincide with Local 48's 100-year anniversary in 2013, hiring a local freelance writer and historian, Alan Guggenheim, to research the local's roots. The exhibit is still on display at the NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center.

Guggenheim was put back on the research trail. In January, he released the 52-page pamphlet, full of oral histories and newspaper accounts of minority



*'You have to know where you're coming from to know where you're going,' says retired inside journeyman wireman Rickey Brame Sr., who proposed Local 48 document the history of its minority members.*

workers overcoming obstacles and winning support for justice on the job.

After his co-workers read about the challenges minority workers faced, says Brame, "I've heard reactions from both black and white workers like, 'Are you serious?'"

Stories of courage and persistence are personified by workers like Mary Gleason, a shipyard electrician who turned out of her apprenticeship at age 47 and became the first woman electrician in the nation to collect full benefits under the IBEW pension plan in 1962.

Well-known contractors are chronicled like "Buzzy Allison, Reid Grasle Jr. and NECA manager Robert P. Burns. Together with Local 48 business managers including Ed Barnes, Herman Teeple and Clif Davis, they formed a minority recruitment partnership with the Urban League of Portland that continues to this day.

The history includes members like former Local 48 Business Manager Keith Edwards, the first African-American elected to lead an IBEW inside electrician local, who is a retired Ninth District international representative.

And the account celebrates the unsung heroes. Folks like Sam Whitney.

A member since May 1943, Whitney was the first African-American in Local 48 to earn his journeyman wireman's card in the postwar era. He encouraged and trained minority apprentices, and was the inspiration for a support group that included most of the local's black electricians in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Upon his retirement in 1971, his successors, Brame included, continued meeting as the "Sam G. Whitney Association." The group became the nucleus for what is now the local chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.

Brame tells young workers, "You can't just go to work and go home and ignore your local union. You owe it to the folks [like those featured in "A Rising Tide"] to keep their legacy alive."

"Local 48 and Alan Guggenheim did an excellent job on 'Rising Tide,'" says Keith Edwards, president of the national Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. "I see their efforts as a work in progress. We need to tell the whole story of minorities in the IBEW." Edwards says he hopes other local unions will follow Local 48's example and the Electrical Training Alliance (formerly the National Joint Apprenticeship Training Center) will incorporate the history of minorities in the union in its curriculum.

Brame looks around the community where he grew up and still resides. He still gets together with his old neighborhood friends, black, white and Asian to reminisce and catch up. Most of them have moved away. The neighborhood has been gentrified. High rises have replaced single-family homes. "It hurts me that I never see Local 48 electricians building them," says Brame.

"Local 48 needs to get bigger and get more work. We can't get there without being even more open to everyone who wants to come in," he says. ■



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

## New Brunswick Local's Safety Hat Trick

**N**B Power workers celebrated a major safety milestone earlier this year. Three of the utility's generating stations each achieved 2 million man-hours of work without losing time to an accident.

"Two million hours without a lost-time accident is an amazing and impressive achievement," said New Brunswick Local 37 member Ron Zinke. Zinke is co-chair of the labor-management safety committee at the Belledune generating station. "It's a testament to the focus of our members and their ability to get the job done right and get it done safely."

The achievement is the result of an ongoing partnership between Local 37 and NB Power management to raise safety standards and ensure safe working conditions throughout the company.

It all started 23 years ago. In 1992, an apprentice lineman was killed while working in the woods of New Brunswick, stunning labor and management alike.

The IBEW began holding monthly meetings with NB Power devoted exclusively to safety, while educating members on the importance of safe working practices.

A number of successful joint initiatives led NB Power to compile a record as one of the safest utilities in Canada, eventually enjoying two 12-month periods without any lost time to accidents.

But the focus on safety started to slip, with the company falling in national safety ratings three years ago.

"It was a reminder that we needed to re-focus on the problem," said Local 37 Business Manager Ross Galbraith, who also represents the Eighth District on the International Executive Council.

After looking at some of the best safety practices from other utilities and IBEW locals throughout the country, in 2013, the top officers of Local 37 and NB Power signed a joint safety commitment agreement, encouraging every employee to uphold safety standards—at all times.

"Safety is so much more than a safety hat and boots," said NB Power CEO Gaëtan Thomas. "It is important for us to re-engage our commitment to safety with real, concrete actions."

The agreement laid out five points for employees and management:

- Follow the rules
- Refuse unsafe work
- Report incidents
- Lead by example
- Have courage

Galbraith says letting members know that they have not only the right, but the duty, to refuse unsafe jobs was particularly important.

"I tell members at every meeting, 'if something doesn't seem right, if it seems dangerous, don't do it. Stop and reevaluate,'" he said. "We'll back you up, it's the

law so the province will back you up, and as management has made clear, the company will back you up."

The company and Local 37 also review a weekly list of "high potential near misses," or almost-accidents to give workers and management a better idea how to avoid potential disasters in the future.

**"I tell my members, 'If something doesn't seem right, if it seems dangerous, don't do it. Stop and reevaluate.'"**

— Ross Galbraith, Fredericton, N.B., Local 37 Business Manager

Galbraith also says getting leaders and supervisors on board is vital to the agreement's success. "Everyone in a leadership role has a strong part to play in this. It can be so easy to look the other way, and

get the work done, but will there be some unsafe shortcuts?" he said. "We expect all of our leaders to champion safety on the jobs they oversee and lead by example."

It's not just their generating stations where this focus on safety is having an impact. New Brunswick residents suffered through brutal weather last winter, including blizzards, ice storms and major winds, causing massive blackouts throughout the province. They also experienced a significant storm in the summer that uprooted thousands of trees and also caused extensive outages. Despite these tough and hazardous conditions, NB Power didn't experience one single accident-related lost-time incident.

"Members realized that our goal is to make sure we all go home in one piece at the end of the day," said Galbraith. "It's OK to slow down and make sure you have a well-planned approach with a focus on safety and following proper procedures. The work will get done more quickly that way anyway, and it's a lot safer." ■

## Le coup de chapeau de sécurité du Local au Nouveau-Brunswick

**É**nergie NB Power vient de célébrer une étape importante plus tôt cette année en matière de sécurité. Trois des plus grandes centrales électriques ont chacun réussi à accomplir deux millions d'heures de main-d'œuvre sans la moindre perte de temps due aux accidents de travail.

« Deux millions d'heures de main-d'œuvre sans la moindre perte de temps due aux accidents de travail sont des réalisations très impressionnantes », mentionne Ron Zinke membre du local 37 au Nouveau-Brunswick. Zinke est coprésident du comité patronal-syndical en sécurité à la centrale électrique de Belledune. « Cela démontre que nos membres ont la capacité de réaliser une bonne qualité de travail sans présenter un danger. »

Cette réalisation est le résultat d'un partenariat continu entre le local 37 et les gestionnaires d'Énergie NB Power où conjointement ils ont renforcé les normes de sécurité à appliquer pour assurer un environnement de travail sécuritaire à travers l'entreprise.

Tout a commencé en 1992, il y a 23 ans au moment où un monteur de lignes apprenti a été tué alors qu'il travaillait dans les forêts, un évènement marquant autant pour le syndicat que pour la direction.

La FIOE et Énergie NB Power ont désormais tenu des réunions mensuelles

consacrées entièrement à la sécurité au travail, tout en éduquant les membres sur l'importance de pratiquer son métier en toute sécurité.

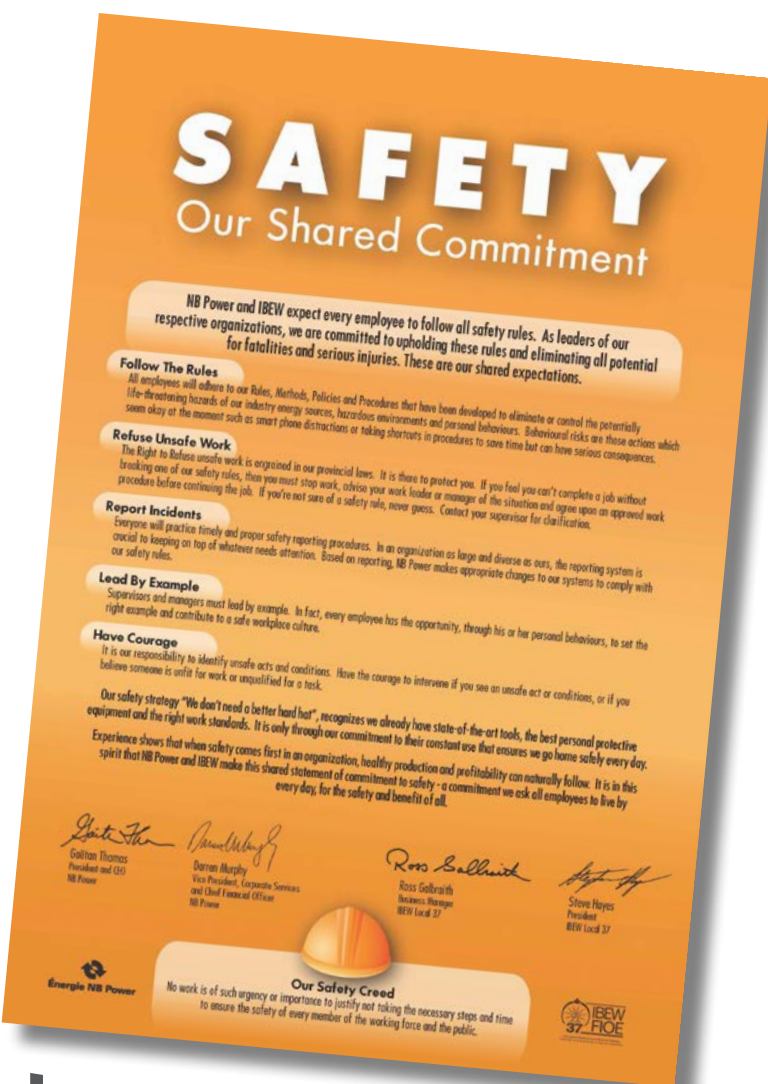
Compte tenu de ces initiatives conjointes fructueuses, Énergie NB Power a réussi à compiler un dossier afin de se classer parmi les meilleures entreprises sécuritaires du service public au Canada pour éventuellement profiter de deux périodes de douze mois sans perte de temps due aux accidents de travail.

Cependant, l'état de ces mesures de sécurité préventives commençait à perdre de leur efficacité lorsque la compagnie s'est cotée en matière de sécurité à l'échelle nationale depuis trois ans.

« Ceci nous a rappelé qu'il fallait se concentrer davantage sur le problème », dit le gérant d'affaires Ross Galbraith du local 37 qui représente aussi le Huitième District au conseil exécutif international.

Après avoir étudié les meilleures pratiques des autres compagnies de service public et d'autres locaux de la FIOE en matière de sécurité à travers le pays, en 2013 les cadres supérieurs du local 37 et Énergie NB Power ont collectivement signé un accord dans le but d'encourager chaque employé à maintenir les normes de sécurité—en tout temps.

« La sécurité au travail représente beaucoup plus que des bottes et des



casques de sécurité », dit le PDG Gaëtan Thomas de Énergie NB Power. « C'est important pour nous d'approfondir notre engagement pour la sécurité avec des mesures concrètes. »

L'accord souligne cinq points pour les employés et la direction :

- Suivre les directives
- Refuser un travail dangereux
- Rappporter les accidents
- Montrer l'exemple
- Avoir du courage

Galbraith précise aux membres que c'est important qu'ils reconnaissent leur droit et que c'est aussi leur devoir de refuser de pratiquer leur métier dans un environnement dangereux.

Galbraith insiste : « à chaque réunion, je soulève aux membres que si cela ne semble pas convenable et potentiellement dangereux, ne l'acceptez pas ». « Nous allons vous appuyer, c'est la loi, donc la province va également vous appuyer, tout comme les gestionnaires ont mentionné, ils vont vous appuyer ».

L'entreprise et le local 37 consultent l'historique des « quasi-accidents » pour en fin de compte donner une meilleure idée aux travailleurs et aux gestionnaires de quelle manière on peut éviter les catastrophes dans un avenir rapproché.

Galbraith mentionne que c'est essentiel d'avoir l'engagement des dirigeants et

des superviseurs au succès de l'accord. « Chaque personne en poste de direction détient un rôle primordial. C'est toujours plus facile de détourner le regard et de compléter son ouvrage, mais ces raccourcis peuvent-ils également comporter un impact dangereux? Nous nous attendons à ce que nos dirigeants de chaque département soient des champions de la sécurité en vue de promouvoir l'exemple ».

Ce n'est pas seulement à cet endroit où que l'on retrouve l'accent sur ces mesures de sécurité. Les Neo-Brunswickois ont souffert dans des conditions météorologiques brutales l'hiver dernier, y compris des blizzards, des tempêtes de verglas et des grands vents. Ces climats ont causé des pannes d'électricité massives à travers la province. Ils ont pareillement vécu une tempête importante durant l'été où des milliers d'arbres ont été déracinés occasionnant des pannes électriques généralisées. Malgré ces conditions difficiles et dangereuses, Énergie NB Power n'a perdu aucun temps relié aux accidents de travail.

« Les membres ont réalisé que notre but est de repartir chez soi sain et sauf », dit Galbraith. « Nous devons toujours prendre notre temps afin de planifier une démarche sécuritaire avec des procédures appropriées. Cette façon protocolaire achève le travail rapidement et en toute sécurité. » ■