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Angola, once considered the most brutal prison in the U.S., is home to a mentoring and skills training program that gives prisoners a chance to succeed after lockup.

Larry Thomas, a solid high school linebacker, shared the dream of millions: an NFL career and a big paycheck.

It wasn't an outlandish aspiration for a kid from Marrero, La., just outside New Orleans on the west bank of the Mississippi, population 36,000. The place is home to gridiron pros like Reggie Wayne, Kordell Stewart, Norman Jefferson, Ryan Clark and Marty Booker.

But football wasn't to be. The streets beckoned. Thomas landed in prison, sentenced in November 2012 to 10 years in Orleans Parish Prison for simple burglary by Judge Laurie White. But there, where seeds of second chances are seldom sown, Thomas had a good harvest.

MAXIMUM SECURITY — AND — SECOND CHANCES

In a state stained by one of the highest incarceration rates in the world, Thomas earned his way into an innovative program, designed five years ago by White and another judge that would lead him to New Orleans Local 130, changing his life's trajectory and restoring his dreams. He was released from prison in February and has since joined the IBEW as a construction wireman.

"I've been received with open arms by the IBEW and my employer," Thomas says. "They are showing me the ropes to make an honest living, and IBEW is a brotherhood coming together for one common goal. I'm learning how to live a better life, a Christian, godly life."

After being assigned to a pre-fab facility, Thomas has moved on to working as a construction wireman on the building of the Louisiana Cancer Research Center.

"Larry is doing real well. He's conscientious and respectful. He's a quick learner and I just can't say enough good things about him," says his foreman J.W. Hazel.

"Re-entry" is today's lingo for programs that help prisoners rejoin life outside lockup. Experts say sound mentoring is indispensable.

For Thomas, that mentoring arose from an incongruous, seemingly impossible source of inspiration—the solemnly dedicated, skilled tradesmen at work on their own redemption: lifers at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, once considered the most brutal penal institution in the U.S.

It was an overwhelming frustration that led Orleans Criminal District Court judges White and Arthur Hunter, along with Angola's chief warden, Burl Cain, to establish Angola's re-entry program. Nationally-recognized, it pairs non-violent, non-sex-crime offenders with sentences of 10 years or less, like Thomas, with a skilled cadre among Angola's prisoners, more than 60 percent of whom are serving life sentences.

"I want to stop the crime cycle," says White, a

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LA. PRISON PROGRAM Offers Skills, Redemption

▶ Continued from page 1

Democrat, elected to a 13-year term in 2007. A former prosecutor and defense lawyer, White says she has felt powerless as nearly 60 percent of the offenders she sentences to Orleans Parish Prison return to the courtroom within three years of their release.

White considered the contradictions surrounding Angola, the largest maximum security prison in the U.S., with an 18,000-acre footprint. Larger than Manhattan, it is 135 miles northwest of New Orleans, bordered on three sides by the Mississippi River.

In a deeply red state where low taxes are an issue of almost religious resonance, Angola must be largely self-contained, running a cattle ranch, a vegetable farm and a manufacturing plant, all worked by the institution's 6,300 prisoners with profits going to Prison Enterprises, the self-funded business arm of the Louisiana Department of Corrections. Prisoners, including those who will never leave, are trained in every skill from horticulture to cooking and the trades and crafts necessary to maintain the institution's sprawling facilities.

The prison complex includes a Baptist bible college that issues four-year degrees to many prisoners who have become respected leaders among their peers. A TV station, radio station and quarterly magazine are all run by inmates.

At the judges' suggestion, Angola authorities asked some of the accomplished tradesmen and lifers who have transformed their lives to share dormitories with court-approved candidates and become round-the-clock coaches merging on-the-job instruction and social survival skills. Authorities took the unconventional step of asking inmates to run the program.

More than 100 prisoners and ex-offenders are now participating in the re-entry program. More than 60 have been released and administrators say recidivism is far lower than it has been with other programs over the years. State legislators representing other jurisdictions are trying to follow New Orleans' lead and establish similar programs on their home turf.

Throwing Out Tradition

Warden Cain has thrown tradition out the window by giving one inmate authority over another, says Perry Stagg, Angola's assistant warden for programming.



Perry Stagg

"That's a cardinal sin in prison management."

When they meet a mentor from the [predominantly black] Ninth Ward of New Orleans who has gone through some of the same things they have in life, re-entry participants are more likely to trust in the pro-



Mentor George Gillam, serving a life sentence, has earned degrees in Christian education and culinary arts.

"I felt I wanted to give back."

gram, Stagg says.

Hayward Jones is one of those mentors. He has spent 16 years in Angola on a life sentence and served as Larry Thomas's social mentor. "Larry was a good candidate for the program. He was like a sponge. As mentors, we're helping change outside communities from inside the prison by giving guys like Larry a chance everyone doesn't get."

Jones' fellow mentor, George Gillam, who has served 21 years of his life sentence, has earned his bachelor of arts in Christian education and a culinary arts degree while incarcerated. "I felt I wanted to give back," Gillam said. Too many of today's young prisoners, he says, have no reverence for authority.

"Larry admitted that he did wrong and then we challenged him to see what he can do right, mentally, spiritually and emotionally, to give himself over to the program," Gillam said.

Stagg says many of the mentors, who never had the chance to be role models for children, now take pride in newfound parental roles. Re-entry participants are required to stay in touch with their mentors after release. "I've seen mentors with tears in their eyes when they hear of one of the prisoners they have worked with straying from the path and getting in trouble again. It's like the men they mentor are their own children," Stagg says.

For two years before his release, Thomas learned about the electrical trade, getting hands-on experience working throughout the prison installing fiber optic cable for surveillance and other applications. "Larry asked a million questions," says Clifton Gremillion, the prison's communication department superintendent. "He's a real good guy and I always encouraged him to be a leader, not just a follower." Thomas's social mentors amplified that lesson.

"I learned from my mentors that sometimes you only get one shot at things. I don't have to have a life sentence to learn what life is all about. My family is very proud of me and excited I decided to turn my life around and do the right thing—to wake up every morning and go to work. Nothing is better than the way



New Orleans Local 130 member Larry Thomas, above, gained electrical skills as part of the re-entry program at Angola with the assistance of lifer Hayward Jones, left, his social mentor.

they look up to me," Thomas said.

The re-entry program is not without risks for offenders who choose to participate. While a 10-year sentence could be converted to two years for those who play by the rules, if they fail, they could end up doing more time than prisoners who forego re-entry but are rewarded for good behavior.

Finding Willing Employers

A re-entry program is only as successful as the number of employers who are willing to take a chance on hiring ex-offenders. After being approached by the court, journeyman inside wireman Sandy Theriot, director of Local 130's Electrical Training Alliance, went looking for a signatory contractor who would hire Thomas. She contacted Jason Schumm, director of the South Louisiana chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association.

"I found Larry's situation compelling," says Schumm, who was already working to answer a request from Kenneth Polite, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, to help launch a program seeking 30 area employers to agree to hire two ex-offenders each.

Polite, 39, attended high school in New Orleans, moving on to Harvard and Georgetown University Law School before being appointed U.S. attorney by President Obama in 2013. He says Louisiana's jails and prisons release 300 prisoners every month and "at every turn, these men and women are running into roadblocks" even though experts expect 86,000 job openings in Louisiana within the next two years,



many in the energy industry.

"We're trying to engage the business community to offer opportunities to released prisoners who have the greatest chance to succeed," Polite says.

'Soft Skills' Support On-the-Job Training

Job applicants coming out of Angola's program, Polite says, have 100 hours of 'soft skill' training, including victim awareness and financial literacy. Instructors even include a member of the Harvard University faculty. And their certification in one of 20 'hard skills' curriculums reduces the training investment required by their potential employers. "So far, re-entry has been pretty successful," Polite says. "And Local 130 has been a tremendous partner."

"This program is important because it gives back to the community and gives

individuals who have made mistakes in their lives and may not have had the same opportunities as most of our members a second chance at success," says Local 130 Business Manager Paul Zulli.

Still, it's not an easy sell getting contractors to hire former inmates, Schumm admits. To support his pitch, Schumm arranged for managers at a family-owned electrical contractor to tour the prison's training center and hear about Thomas's progress. Thomas's employer was won over. Thomas was hired.

Local 130's Training Director Theriot has expressed the hope that Thomas will further his education by entering the apprenticeship program.

Theriot says the re-entry program is essential to renew New Orleans. "Whole sections of New Orleans have per capita incarceration rates higher than third world countries," says Theriot. "And the sad part is many people who have not committed a violent crime are doing life because of repeat drug charges."

More employers need to follow the lead of Thomas's employer, she says.

"Thomas's attitude is infectious," Schumm says. "Here's a young man with a small child looking to reinvent himself."

Because of the new member's progress, the next candidate from the re-entry program will have an even better chance of being placed with a NECA contractor, adds Schumm.

"For the IBEW to grow and be truly respected by our neighbors and our political leaders, our locals need to reflect the composition of our surrounding communities," says International President Lonnie R. Stephenson.

That means, says Stephenson, supporting a diverse population of electrical workers, consisting of returning veterans, college educated men and women looking for more stable careers and ex-offenders who have everything to gain by participation in the electrical trade.

"The New Orleans re-entry program offers ample evidence that good jobs with a future are the key to reducing the number of men and women in our jails and prisons and reforming our nation's criminal justice system. The IBEW is proud to participate and we are proud of the success of Larry Thomas," Stephenson says. ■



Local 130 Business Manager Paul Zulli, right, says the program gives people 'a second chance at success.'

Labor Dept. Launches Investigation into Firing of U.S. Workers

The U.S. Labor Department said it is looking into Southern California Edison and two India-based outsourcing firms for potential labor and immigration violations.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the federal government is investigating whether SCE complied with the law when it fired nearly 500 information technology workers and replaced them with foreign workers brought into the country with H1-B work visas.

The H1-B program allows companies to hire high-skill foreign workers as long as it “will not adversely affect the working conditions of [U.S.] workers similarly employed.”

Workers who did not train their replacements or spoke publicly about the firing were threatened with loss of severance.

For Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 Business Manager Pat Lavin, even though the fired workers were not members, their firings demanded action, particularly in light of difficult contract negotiations between the company and utility workers represented by the IBEW. After decades of positive labor-management relations, rising stock prices and 13 consecutive years with annual profits above \$1.75 billion, SCE hired a notorious anti-union lawyer to lead talks.

“SCE seems to have forgotten what makes them profitable: their people,” said Lavin, who is also a member of the International Executive Council. “The fired workers were forced to train their replacements and forced to be quiet by a company that held all the cards. Just because they are not IBEW members doesn’t mean we won’t speak up for them. Someone had to.”

Local 47 members set up informational pickets at several SCE locations, demanding they reverse course.

Financial disclosure forms uncovered by the Economic Policy Institute say the foreign workers will make, on average \$50,000 a year less—not including benefits—than the average salary of the U.S. workers they are replacing. Only 30 percent of the outsourced work will be done in the U.S. by foreign workers. The rest, SCE reported, will be done overseas. Those salaries have not been released.

“This is a local utility built by Californians for Californians. For this highly profitable company to turn its back on the people who built it is revolting,” Lavin said. “The only real positive is that we actually have some leverage as a union and as citizens of California to try to turn this back.”

When the firings came to light this spring, lawmakers in Washington, D.C., expressed alarm. Letters requesting an investigation were sent to the Department of Labor signed by representatives and senators from both parties.

In a public statement, Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama said, “SCE ought to be the tipping point that finally compels Washington to take needed



Members of Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 protesting Southern California Edison’s replacement of U.S. workers with foreign contractors using H1-B visas.

action to protect American workers.”

Despite the calls, the Department of Labor Solicitor General M. Patricia Smith said there was insufficient grounds for an investigation. Unless someone directly affected by the firing complained, there was, she said, nothing they could do. And since the severance packages of most fired workers were contingent on their silence, that seemed to be the end of it.

Local 47 Steps Up

“That was [not good enough],” Lavin said. “I called up our lawyers and we took a close look at the law and decided together there was more that we could do than keep our picket alive.”

Lawyers for Local 47 sent a letter to the Los Angeles District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and

Hour Division.

“Local 47 and the employees it represents constitute aggrieved parties,” they wrote. “Indeed, many employees represented by Local 47 work regularly with SCE’s former IT employees and are dissatisfied with the technical support services provided by their replacements ... Local 47 is concerned that SCE’s continued use of these replacement IT employees will therefore jeopardize the work of

“SCE ought to be the tipping point that finally compels Washington to take needed action to protect American workers.”

—Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama

the employees it represents.”

The labor department never responded to the IBEW’s letter, but a short time later it announced an investigation was underway. In a June 10 statement, the Department of Labor reversed course.

“The Department has recently opened investigations related to Tata and Infosys’s provision of H1-B workers to SCE,” the statement read.

It was a victory. Of sorts.

“Finally an investigation.” Lavin said. “But until those jobs are returned to the people who lost them and no Americans again lose their jobs to an ill-thought out immigration scheme, this is just hand waving.”

It may be only that. The way the law is written, the layoffs are legal if replacement workers are paid more than \$60,000.

“It is a [terrible] law,” Lavin said. “It should be a wake-up call to every middle-class knowledge worker that thought they were somehow safe because they did the smart thing and got educated. Everyone is at risk of being replaced when everyone stands alone. My hope is that every IT worker who lost their job, whether their replacement is sitting in their former cubicle or a world away, gets their job back and the next day they vote to join the IBEW.” ■

Proposed Overtime Rule Could Grant Raise for Millions

On June 29, President Obama and the U.S. Department of Labor announced a plan to raise the threshold of overtime pay from \$23,660 a year to \$50,400 a year. This move would extend overtime pay to an additional 5 million American workers.

“That’s how America should do business,” the president wrote in an article for The Huffington Post. “In this country, a hard day’s work deserves a fair day’s pay. That’s at the heart of what it means to be middle class in America.”

Under current laws, any salaried worker earning less than \$455 a week is guaranteed time-and-a-half pay whenever they work over 40 hours a week—unless they are in a managerial or executive position. However, these positions are ill-defined and many employers award these titles without changing the duties of the employees.

Under the new rules, workers will qualify for overtime pay regardless of their titles. Employers will either have to pay the premium for extra hours worked, or redistribute tasks until each employee is down to 40 hours a week.

Working family advocates are hailing this proposed rule as a victory. AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka said, “Working people called on Obama to go bold, and his response will provide a much needed boost to our entire economy.”

“Working families across the U.S. should be celebrating this proposed rule,” said IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “Whether you already earn enough to support a middle-class family, or you’re pulling extra hours just trying to make ends meet, this benefits us all. Updating overtime protections means better wages for people

Five million more American workers could earn overtime pay under an executive order signed in June by President Obama.



in our communities, which means more money in local economies and stronger families. I applaud President Obama.”

The proposal is now subject to a mandatory 60-day comment period. Once approved, the new rule will go into effect in 2016. ■

CANADA'S MEMBERS *in* PUBLIC OFFICE

In the June issue of *The Electrical Worker*, we featured members who serve in public office in the U.S. They are not alone. Across Canada, dozens of IBEW members serve their communities and provinces in elected and appointed offices. Here are some of their stories.



James Leduc

Deputy Mayor
Bradford West
Gwillimbury, Ontario
Toronto Local 353

A member of Toronto Local 353, James Leduc has worked for 17 years as a control technician at the University of Toronto. Leduc, who coaches young athletes, first

got involved in his neighborhood in a growing community of 30,000 because he was frustrated at the lack of recreational opportunities.

He ran for councillor in 2003 and was defeated. But he was elected to the nine-member council in 2006 after a successful door-to-door campaign. He sat on the council for eight years. "I decided to take a bigger leadership role," says Leduc, who won office as deputy mayor, serving citizens, 90 percent of whom commute outside the city for work.

What are the main issues facing your community? A growing population demands improved sewer and water infrastructure. Our nine-member council, including an Ironworker and a member of Unifor (formerly Canadian Autoworkers), needs to plan for the future. Only one-third of the council is regularly supportive of union labour, but others pay close attention to the perspective of union members.

How does your union background help your work as a political leader? Building trades members are well-suited to help modernize infrastructure because of our experience in project management. We learn to control budgets and look at numbers. Public office is a great opportunity to tap our strengths and apply them to the electrical and mechanical needs of our communities. The IBEW has given me that experience.

Are local politics divisive? The union movement in Canada is under attack from politicians in different quarters and needs to make a strong case for employing union labour and investing in union training. However, municipal politics is the level where we don't align by parties. I always encourage my fellow councillors to be nonpartisan to be better able to talk to whoever is in power in the province and work with the local member of the legislative assembly, regardless of party label. This is the local level where you respect the resident.

Robert Mitchell

Minister of Communities,
Land and Environment
Prince Edward Island
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Local 1928



Robert Mitchell's political activism goes back to his youth, when he stuffed envelopes and built signs for Liberal Party candidates his father supported in his rural town on Prince Edward Island.

Today, Mitchell, who recently retired from Maritime Electric Co. Ltd. where he worked for 32 years as a lineman and control and communications technician, is the first cabinet member with the portfolio, "Minister of Communities, Land and Environment."

He ran unsuccessfully as an MLA (member of legislative assembly) in 2003, before winning the position in 2007, serving a riding (district) of 5,000.

Mitchell was considering running a campaign to be PEI's premier, but stepped aside for a Liberal Party colleague, a law school dean. After his colleague won, Mitchell was appointed to his cabinet.

Greg McFarlane

School Trustee
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Local 2085

Greg McFarlane, a member of Winnipeg Local 2085 became well-known to delegates of the IBEW's 38th Constitutional Convention in 2011 as the winner of the "IBEW Has Talent" contest in Vancouver.

After his family migrated to Winnipeg from Jamaica in 1981, McFarlane's father moved his family to Montreal, where Greg joined the military reserves. Upon completion of his service, he started and finished his apprenticeship program and joined Montreal Local 568. He later returned to Winnipeg as a Red Seal-certified electrician and a few years later worked as an organizer for Local 2085.

Today, McFarlane, 35, is a member of the executive board Local 2085, first vice president of the Winnipeg Labour Council, vice president of the Manitoba Federation of Labour, representing Manitoba's young workers and treasurer of an NDP ward organization.

After deep involvement in local political campaigns endorsed by the labour council, McFarlane, who coaches basketball on the side, decided in 2014 to run as a trustee for the local school board. He won the



election, receiving the most votes of nine candidates running for four positions, the youngest trustee elected in the division.

"I'm coming into public office as a worker, an activist, someone who is young, passionate and focused on the future not just somebody looking for a retirement," says McFarlane. "I have a one-year-old son who will be going to the school I represent at age 5. I want him to be prepared for real life."

Why are you interested in public education? "As chair of the young workers committee, I helped develop a scholarship fund in 2010 for young students who are succeeding and want to give back to the labor movement upon completion of their course or degree. I've found a way to make it sustainable through fundraising and investing. The award is open to community college, university and apprenticeship, labour history and business students that desire to use their skills to further the labour movement."

McFarlane's dual roles as a local union executive board member and school trustee were instrumental in helping develop a joint partnership with the school division's electrical trades program and Local 2085. "It's a great way to organize and train our apprentice at the grassroots and instill the Code of Excellence," says McFarlane. "Political action is important because we need to keep pressure on the governing bodies to maintain all we've fought so hard to get. "And what better way than to be in office and make change from there, top-down?"

Duane Leicht

Councillor/Mayor
Kipling, Saskatchewan
Regina Local 2067

Duane Leicht became a member of Regina Local 2067 in 1994 and has been working in the transmission switching stations of Saskatchewan Power since 2001.

"I've always been interested in politics," says Leicht, who placed his name into the running for councillor in his town of Kipling when one of the incumbents stepped down in 2002.

Leicht enlisted a couple of co-workers, retired farmers, oil field workers and staff from a local high school to promote his run. "I've never done much campaigning," he says. "I put a picture in the local newspapers and talked to folks in the local grocery store and hardware store." He won a seat on the six-member council and was unanimously elected mayor.



What are the main issues Kipling faces? Residential waste collection and the quality of drinking water are challenges. Property taxes haven't changed much. That makes it hard to install a \$5 million reverse osmosis water filtering system, a very expensive commitment in a town of only 1,100. Our biggest challenge was the shutdown of our local hospital a few years back. One doctor had left the community. Another doctor's license was pulled. We have free medical care, but communities compete for physicians.

How do you get along with your council peers? We are focused on the needs of local citizens. There is no partisan divide. I live on the same street with two of the councillors.

What keeps you inspired? There's some satisfaction when you see a big project come to completion. We had a ribbon cutting in May for a brand new hospital that serves several municipalities. Funding for hospitals is 20 percent local and 80 percent provincial. So we had to raise money with a special tax levy and by sponsoring dinners and auctions and soliciting bequests. One individual donated a house and three-quarters of his farmland.

"Everybody knows me. I can go to the supermarket to get groceries and end up being there two hours talking to people and answering questions. I love my district and now I'm delighted to be in a leadership position in the province," Mitchell says.

Who lives in your district? The district was once a bedroom community of Charlottetown, PEI's capital. We have a lot of retired professionals and younger professionals, but also have pockets of lower-income families and seniors.

What are the major issues facing Prince Edward Island? We have a great provincial hospital system. Serious health issues are dealt with immediately. But citizens want us to improve wait times for [less immediate] surgeries and tests.

Pesticide usage and taxes are concerns. We have lost some population to Western Canada where there are more jobs and higher wages. No one wants their taxes to go up, but our revenues are limited.

Our economy has improved and we have a phenomenal educational system, much improved from when I was young. Now, instead of a

ferry, we have a bridge that connects us to the mainland in New Brunswick. Because of our size, island businesses do face challenges that they perhaps may not face in larger jurisdictions. But having said that, our size is also one of our biggest assets.

How do legislators get along with each other? I would say we are combative but cordial. Every election, we have four parties contending—the Liberals, New Democrats, Greens and Conservatives. I think, for the most part, the candidates are quality people who put their names forward for the right reasons.

Legislators include some former government workers who belonged to unions, self-employed business people, fishermen, lawyers and retired members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

How does your trade union background inform your political work? I was a shop steward serving my local union on PEI before it was merged with Local 1928. Dealing with individual members and their problems was good training for me. And I was at many union meetings where things went much differently than the business manager had planned, just like in politics.

Supreme Court: EPA Overreached on Power Plant Rule

Decision keeps dozens of coal-fired facilities open, saves jobs

The Supreme Court on June 29 struck down a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule that would have potentially shuttered more coal fired power plants, undermining the viability of the electrical grid while playing havoc with thousands of good-paying jobs.

The case examined the EPA's regulation of mercury emissions from power plants under the Clean Air Act. In a 5-4 decision, the majority ruled that the agency misinterpreted the act by failing to consider the costs related to implementing the rule.

IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter said that while most of the 600 coal plants affected by the EPA's rule—which was passed in 2011—have already been decommissioned, the court's decision offers at least a temporary reprieve for about 150 of the newer plants that are crucial to providing the baseload power supply for the nation's energy mix.

These facilities—about 25 percent of those targeted by the EPA—were granted year-long extensions in 2014, due to their necessity to preserve the smooth operation of the energy grid.

"The good thing is that the plants that got the extension are still operating, but they're in limbo," Hunter said. "Will they have to close next April or not? It's still undecided."

Industry groups joined nearly half the states in suing the EPA after the 2011 ruling. At issue was the federal agency's calculations of projected health care savings generated by eliminating trace amounts of mercury from coal fired plants. What the EPA failed to do—and why the court ruled against them—was to take into account the billions of dollars it

would cost the industry to implement the rule, by adding scrubbers and investing in the operations and maintenance of new equipment.

"The EPA was looking for between \$5-6 million in savings—but it was going to cost the industry more than \$9 billion a year to get it," Hunter said.

Hunter and other IBEW leaders have spent time with lawmakers on Capitol Hill highlighting the importance of the union's expertise in assessing the nation's power supply. Last April, Hunter testified at a congressional panel urging senators to ensure the reliability of the grid. He recapped the union's 2011 warning to the Environmental Protection Agency predicting that prematurely removing 69,000 megawatts of coal-fired generation could cause blackouts during extreme weather emergencies. At the time, the EPA disputed the IBEW's numbers. The agency now confirms the union's predictions.

Hunter said the Supreme Court's ruling underscores the need to have



The Supreme Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency's 2011 rule on mercury emissions failed to factor in billions in costs to coal plants.

industry and the IBEW at the table when lawmakers discuss matters critical to the nation's energy future.

"We are having the EPA trying to set energy policy for the country," Hunter said. "But they're not experts in energy policy—or in reliability, cost, markets and all these other components of the electrical industry. But they're saying through

these various rules what they think the electrical industry should look like."

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) said the court's ruling was a positive move for the nation's energy and economic needs.

"Today's Supreme Court ruling sends a strong signal to the EPA that it must stop ignoring the economic damage its regulations are causing to our energy

sector and our economy," he said. "All West Virginians and Americans want to drink clean water and breathe clean air. All we are asking for is a partner and not an adversary in the federal government to work with states like West Virginia that produce domestic resources to make this country less dependent on foreign energy and more secure as a nation." ■

IBEW Fisherman Lands a Billionaire

New Haven, Conn., Local 90 member Greg Myerson was already world famous for catching the world record striped bass using a fishing lure of his own design.

Now Myerson has a new trophy to hang on his wall: a record financing deal scored off billionaire Mark Cuban.

"I went there looking to strike a deal with Cuban, so it turned out better than I could have possibly imagined," Myerson said of his May 1 appearance on the television show Shark Tank. "He's just the kind of guy who can make things happen for me."

Myerson appeared on the ABC television program where people with products to sell or ideas for businesses pitch them to a panel of five entrepreneurs who can choose to buy into the business.

His request was \$75,000 for 20 percent of his baby, the World Record Striper Co., the exclusive manufacturer of the rattlesinker, a sinker that does more than hold the lure down near the bottom where striped bass like to hunt. It is filled with glass and steel beads, and as he jerks the lure through the water, the rattling sinker neatly mimics the sound of lobsters clicking against the rocky bottom.

A few of the sharks took test bites but it was Mark Cuban—founder of MicroSolutions, broadcast.com, owner of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks and No. 603 on the Forbes list of wealthiest people—who took the bait and made a counteroffer: \$80,000 for 33 percent of the company.

But was it the best deal? Another shark circled. Kevin O'Leary, who made his fortune in the children's education business and made his reputation as a merciless cost-cutter. He now runs Stream Global, which O'Leary describes as "an international

New Haven, Conn., Local 90 member Greg Myerson seals a deal with billionaire Mark Cuban to back his Rattlesinker fishing lures.



(Photos courtesy ABC Television)



business outsourcing company."

O'Leary said he had an offer, but Cuban upped the ante. He told Myerson that if he even listened to the counter offer, simply heard it, Cuban's offer would disappear, like a fish that steals your bait.

"I wanted to hear the offers, but Mark put the pressure on me," Myerson said. "I could tell he wanted it most. If the other guy wanted a deal, he would have shouted it out."

So Myerson took Cuban's offer and

left O'Leary swimming.

The show was filmed in September, and Myerson has been hard at work using the \$80,000 to ramp up production. He has hired seven employees to make the rattlesinkers in Connecticut. He is also investing in improved packaging and distribution so every fisherman can have access to the lure that reeled in the largest striped bass in history, 81.8 pounds, and \$80,000, which, in \$1 bills, would weigh 176.2 pounds.

"I knew I wanted to run the business and with Cuban that was always the plan. Cuban also wanted to have another company that he owns, a fishing lure company, design new products, but after a few meetings with them it was decided that I would be designing products for them," he said.

As for balancing the burgeoning career as a fish-presario and life in the brotherhood, Myerson is taking it in stride.

"I'm still at work every day at the Connecticut Department of Transportation. I am still an electrician," Myerson said. "I have no plans to end either of these."

But he is in talks with a production company about a possible reality TV show. And then who knows.

"Like that show Duck Dynasty but Bass Dynasty," he said. "But no matter what, I will always be an IBEW member. Always." ■

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ElectricTV

Take a ride with ElectricTV.net, and see how getting around the Twin Cities just got cleaner and greener thanks to the IBEW/NECA team's work on the new Metro Green Line light rail project.



The Right Message, the Right Time New Technology, Tactics Win Workers in La.

For more than 34 years, Billy Roach had worked as an electrician on heavy industrial and commercial construction projects for nonunion contractors around his hometown of Baton Rouge, La.

Roach had never thought about joining the union. But in February, he got a phone call from an organizer with Local 995, the city's inside construction local, inviting him to an industry night, a union job fair. He showed up.

"I'd been to job fairs before sponsored by [nonunion] contractors," Roach says. "They would lead me out to the jobsite and I'd find out the pay, working conditions and hours weren't what they promised."

In contrast, says Roach, "IBEW organizers have shown honesty and integrity. They answer my questions without beating around the bush." After meeting with a few signatory contractors, Roach was put to work right away on a project for Accurate Electric. "I wish I had done this [joined the union] sooner," says Roach.

He is not alone. In IBEW's Fifth District, covering much of the South, new members are responding to the union's call to help signatory contractors staff a growing list of projects emerging from a recovering economy and an expanding energy industry. Since January alone, 268 new members have joined one of seven construction locals in Louisiana.

Across the district, \$300 billion of work has been pulled off the signatory contractors books for lack of manpower, says Fifth District Organizing Coordinator Ronnie Hickingbottom.

"The labor shortage is growing, but we're also starting to see some folks who ignored the trades and went to college deciding to work with their hands," he says. The need to recruit more locally-based electricians is amplified by the low number of travelers who head south for work due to traditionally lower labor rates in the region.

The secret to the wave of new successes, say local union and international organizers, is rigorously summing up 11 years of experience since the launch of the Florida Initiative in 2004—a path-breaking push that was the precursor to the IBEW's modern organizing program—and creatively experimenting with new technology and tactics.



Planning for an industry night are from left, Chad Lux, Shreveport, La., Local 194; District Organizing Coordinator Ronnie Hickingbottom; Jesse Fontenot, Lake Charles, La., Local 861; Lance Corner, Local 861; State Organizing Coordinator Dwayne Reeves; Jason Dedon, Baton Rouge, La., Local 995; and Ricky Oakland, Special Assistant to the International President for Membership Development.

Today's industry nights are promoted with compelling TV spots airing on local channels. Local unions are posting ads on Facebook and YouTube and leaving reminder cards at electrical supply warehouses. And, guided by GPS, organizers are traveling to remote job sites for face-to-face contact with nonunion electricians, all to boost and expand turnout. If a site is off-limits, lawn signs are staged for curious electricians at nearby intersections.

"The TV ads produced by the IBEW Media Department were awesome," Hickingbottom says. "And Facebook and YouTube ads are helping turn out 50 percent more electricians than before we started using these tools."

Despite inclement weather, a March 26 industry night sponsored by Local 995 and New Orleans Local 130 brought out 110 electricians. Forty-five were sworn in the same night. Jason Dedon, Local 995 assistant business manager, says the spike in work on petroleum and chemical plant work made reaching out to nonunion electricians even more difficult, as many work overtime on outages and new construction at the thirty-plus industrial facilities and other big projects. Working all channels of communication is drawing notice.

Dedon says a few contractors who had low expectations for the industry night were surprised by the quality of prospective members showing up.

Nearly 250 electricians turned out at another March 26 industry night sponsored by Birmingham, Ala., Local 136. The majority of attendees said they had seen

TV ads. Signatory contractors picked up 15 new hands, including 10 construction electricians and journeymen wiremen and five construction wiremen or apprentices. While the turnout was dampened because of traffic backups, the result of a nearby visit by President Obama, TV ads and lawn signs were still sending prospective members to the local hall weeks later.

If there's a maxim for the new wave of success, it could be, "We're better together." Today's industry nights are more likely to be sponsored by multiple local unions than in the past. Sharing media markets and pooling manpower and resources, Fifth District locals are pushing growth to the top of their agenda ahead of turf and jurisdiction. And after the nights are over, organizers tenaciously probe how things can be done even better the next time.

No electrician leaves the industry night without filling out a questionnaire about what motivated him/her to show up. And the data isn't stashed away in a drawer or file. It's immediately put to work to plan the next gathering.

Fifth District locals are also intensifying "top-down" organizing, knocking on the doors of nonunion contractors to open up an opportunity to discuss how they and their crews can both prosper in the Brotherhood. "We always try to find out who the gatekeeper is in the shop and establish a respectful relationship," says Hickingbottom, who says, "Fifth District Vice President Joe Davis has been behind our efforts 100 percent, assigning International Representative

Clay Leon to work alongside membership development department organizers.

Birmingham, Ala., Local 136 selected 205 top-down targets from OARS, the union's organizing accountability reporting system. After addresses of the non-signatory shops were loaded into a streets and trips database, a group of 10, including field, state and district organizers, visited 156 shops, leaving packages with information about the IBEW with most.

"Industry nights depend upon the close cooperation of NECA contractors and our local unions," Davis says. "We're getting a lot of nonunion electricians seeing what we have to offer as we plan one of our biggest industry nights yet in Orlando, Fla." ■



Baton Rouge Local 995 organizers Jason Dedon, left, and Cliff Zylks stand with one of 200 signs that were posted throughout the jurisdiction.

ELECTRICIAN INDUSTRY NIGHT

March 5th - 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

IBEW Local 130
3200 Ridgelake Dr.
Metairie, LA.
(504) 831-1372

IBEW Local 1077
Clarion Inn & Suites
501 Hwy. 190 North
Covington, LA.
(985) 735-1299

NECA / IBEW
POWERING
AMERICA

ELECTRICIAN INDUSTRY NIGHT

May 14th - 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

IBEW Local 505
2244 Halls Mill Rd.
Mobile, AL 36606

For more information call
(251) 476-0275

NECA / IBEW
POWERING
AMERICA

Local TV spots, organizers say, were key to boosting turnout at Fifth District Organizing nights.

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Members Enrich Canadian Leadership Tour

Good public policy should be the products of study and collaboration by a nation's leaders. All too often, however, the leaders doing the studying and collaborating are detached from the day-to-day lives of people affected by their decisions.

"It was an incredible journey that allowed me to see and learn a lot about my country and fellow Canadians."

— Kate Walsh, NextGen Initiative coordinator

That's what makes the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference unique. In 1983, Governor General Edward Schreyer proposed to regularly bring together leaders of industry, unions and communities to tour each of Canada's provinces.

This year's participants included Political Action/Media Strategist Matt Wayland, Strategic Coordinator/NextGen Initiative Kate Walsh and Greg Wright, business representative, New Brunswick, Local 37. They were selected upon the recommendation of Local 37 Business Manager Ross Galbraith, a member of the International Executive Council, who is one of the 1,500 tour alumni, participating in 2000.

Wayland toured Manitoba; Walsh visited Alberta; and Wright traveled across Ontario as part of the tour that has its roots in the Commonwealth Study Conference first held in the UK in 1956.

"I spent 60 hours on a bus with my fellow delegates, which included a mayor, corporate lawyers, chemical engineers and members of organized labour, to name a few," Wayland says. "We worked extremely well together and learned from each other." After the tour of Manitoba, Wayland and the others presented their findings to Governor General David Johnston and made recommendations for assisting some of the most innovative groups they met with awards of government grants.

Governor General Johnston is appointed by the prime minister to be the "arm and ear of the Queen," says Wayland. "He has a wonderful mind, asked tough questions and was personable from beginning to end."

Wayland toured 40 locations in Manitoba. He says one of the most inspirational visits was meeting managers and union representatives of the United Food and Commercial Workers at Maple Leaf Foods, Canada's largest meatpacker.

At Maple Leaf, the parties have been working together to assist temporary foreign workers who are helping to fill the nation's labour shortage pass tests and requirements for citizenship. The

UFCW hires interpreters to help the process. Both parties, says Wayland, act upon the notion, "If temporary workers are good enough to work here, they are good enough to be citizens."

Another highlight of the two-week tour was a visit to the Siloam Mission, located in Winnipeg's tough north end, which serves homeless and unemployed citizens. Medical volunteers, including chiropractors, dentists and optometrists, are available along with job placement services, meals, haircuts and new clothing. Administrators follow the progress of participants they dispatch to jobs. If temps are performing well, the mission works at finding them permanent employment. Volunteers staff a round-the-clock office that takes calls and email messages from current or prospective employers. The mission's operations director, says

Wayland, was called a "dream surgeon," for helping repair the dreams of folks down on their luck.

"The conference was an incredible journey that allowed me, as a Canadian, to see and learn a lot about my country and fellow Canadians. And I was able to share my view as a young union member with folks that had little to no understanding of the labour movement," Walsh says.

On a tour of Alberta, Walsh participated in a traditional Aboriginal sweat ceremony, including prayers and songs led by Hal Eagletail of the Tsuu T'ina Nation. Conferees heard from a survivor of Residential School, a program under which First Nation members were removed from the influence of their families and forced to assimilate into Canada's mainstream culture. The visit coincided with the release of Canada's Truth

and Reconciliation Report.

"The importance of knowing our shared history as Canadians, good and bad, was an important point of discussion, especially looking towards the future and understanding the necessity not to repeat the mistakes of the past," Walsh says.

"The IBEW is extremely proud of our members who are part of the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference," says International Vice President Bill Daniels.

While conference attendees engage as individuals, not as delegates of the union, says Daniels, "IBEW participants always bring union values and a spirit of social solidarity to the effort and establish lasting relationships helping the IBEW to influence Canada's future." ■



Greg Wright, left, business representative, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37; Kate Walsh, NextGen strategic coordinator; and Matt Wayland, political action/media strategist, were participants in this year's tour of Canada by the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference.

La légende de la photo : à gauche, Greg Wright le représentant d'affaires de la section locale 37 de Fredericton au Nouveau-Brunswick, Kate Walsh la coordonnatrice stratégique/l'initiative de NextGen et Matt Wayland de l'action politique/stratège en média du Premier District qui ont tous participé à la tournée de cette année de la Conférence canadienne du Gouverneur général sur le leadership.

Les membres enrichissent la tournée du leadership canadien

Les dirigeants de la Nation devraient entreprendre de bonnes politiques publiques ainsi que de bons consensus dans le but de bâtir de bons sujets d'étude et collaborations. Lorsque les leaders entreprennent ces études et collaborations, ils sont souvent détachés de la vie quotidienne des personnes touchées par leurs décisions.

C'est ce qui rend la Conférence canadienne du Gouverneur général sur le leadership unique. En 1983, le Gouverneur général Edward Schreyer a proposé de réunir chaque année des dirigeants de l'industrie, syndicat et communauté à faire la tournée de chaque province canadienne.

Les participants de cette année incluent Matt Wayland de l'action politique/stratège en média ainsi que Kate Walsh la coordonnatrice stratégique/l'initiative de NextGen du Premier District et le représentant d'affaires Greg Wright de la section locale 37 au Nouveau-Brunswick. Ils ont été choisis selon la recommandation du gérant d'affaires Ross Galbraith de la section locale 37. Ce dernier est membre du comité exécutif international et faisait partie des 1 500 participants de la Conférence en 2000.

Dans le cadre du voyage, Wayland a fait la tournée du Manitoba, Walsh s'est rendue en Alberta et Wright a voyagé à travers l'Ontario où ce trajet prend ses racines à la Conférence d'étude du Commonwealth tenu tout d'abord au Royaume-Uni en 1956.

« J'ai passé 60 heures en autobus

avec mes confrères délégués, incluant un Maire, des avocats de sociétés, des ingénieurs chimistes et des membres d'un syndicat. Nous avons extrêmement bien travaillé ensemble et nous avons beaucoup appris les uns des autres, mentionne Wayland. » Après sa visite au Manitoba, Wayland a formulé ses recommandations au Gouverneur général David Johnston au sujet des subventions et des bourses versées pour aider les groupes les plus novateurs qu'ils ont rencontrés.

Le Gouverneur général Johnson est nommé par le Premier ministre pour être « les yeux et les oreilles de la Reine, dit Wayland. » « Il a un esprit extraordinaire, il était sympathique du début jusqu'à la fin lorsque je posais des questions difficiles. »

Wayland a voyagé à travers 40 endroits différents au Manitoba. Il mentionne que la visite la plus inspirante a été la rencontre des gestionnaires et des représentants syndicaux des travailleurs et travailleuses unis de l'alimentation et du commerce (TUAC) chez Maple Leaf Foods, étant le plus grand emballer de viande au Canada.

Les parties chez Maple Leaf collaborent afin de venir en aide aux travailleurs temporaires étrangers qui comblent la pénurie de la main-d'œuvre pour passer les examens et les exigences demandées en vue d'obtenir leur citoyenneté canadienne. La TUAC emploie des interprètes pour faciliter le processus. Wayland souligne que « les deux parties

agissent avec conscience, car si ces travailleurs temporaires étrangers sont assez bien pour travailler ici, cela veut dire qu'ils sont assez bien pour devenir des citoyens. »

Un autre point souligné lors de cette tournée de deux semaines était la visite au Siloam Mission dans un quartier plutôt difficile situé dans le nord de Winnipeg où ils servent les sans-abri et les citoyens sans emploi. Il y a des bénévoles dans le domaine médical, tels que des chiropraticiens, dentistes et optométristes ainsi qu'un programme de service d'orientation professionnelle et de placement, ils donnent des repas, ils coupent les cheveux et fournissent de nouveaux vêtements. Les administrateurs suivent le progrès des participants qu'ils ont envoyé à ces emplois. Si ces candidats temporaires donnent un bon rendement, cela signifie que la mission pour leur trouver un emploi permanent a fonctionné. Il y a un personnel bénévole disponible 24 heures sur 24 pour prendre les appels et les courriels des employeurs actuels ou éventuels. « Le directeur des opérations de la Mission a été surnommé le "chirurgien de rêve", car il a aidé à concrétiser les rêves de personnes ayant perdu espoir, dit Wayland. »

« La Conférence était un parcours assez incroyable qui m'a permis en tant que Canadienne de voir et d'apprendre des choses sur mon pays et sur mes concitoyens au Canada. J'étais en mesure de partager mes points de vue en tant que jeune membre du syndicat avec des gens

qui en connaissent très peu au sujet du mouvement syndical, dit Walsh. »

Lorsque Walsh a visité l'Alberta, elle a participé à une cérémonie autochtone traditionnelle de purification dirigée par Hal Eagletail de la nation Tsuu T'ina qui comprenait des prières et des chants.

Les participants ont entendu d'un survivant des services de pensionnats, un programme visant les membres des Premières Nations d'être retirés de l'influence de leurs familles afin de les obliger à s'assimiler à la culture dominante du Canada. Cette visite a coïncidé avec le rapport de la Commission et de réconciliation du Canada.

« L'importance de connaître notre héritage partagé en tant que Canadiens, qu'elle soit bonne ou mauvaise est un point de discussion important, spécialement si on a un regard vers l'avenir tout en saisissant la nécessité de ne pas répéter nos erreurs du passé, dit Walsh. »

« La FIOE est extrêmement fière de nos membres qui ont fait partie de la Conférence canadienne du Gouverneur général sur le leadership, dit le vice-président international Bill Daniels du Premier District. »

Alors que les participants s'engagent en tant qu'individu et non en tant que délégués du syndicat, dit Daniels, « les participants de la FIOE apportent toujours des valeurs syndicales et un esprit de solidarité dans le but d'établir des relations durables tout en aidant la FIOE à influencer l'avenir du Canada. » ■

CIRCUITS

'We Told Them the Truth' N.J. Comcast Techs Beat Back Decertification Vote

Trying to organize shops at Comcast is, for many union activists, the ultimate David vs. Goliath situation.

The company boasts a weak record of taking care of its workforce, having jacked up employee health care costs, withholding more than \$160,000 in back pay to employees and more.

But despite a recent push by management and a few anti-union workers, technicians represented by East Windsor, N.J., Local 827 decisively beat back a decertification campaign that would have eliminated bargaining rights for dozens of members.

"The company got a couple of the guys who were not strong union people and persuaded them to try to go non-union," said Local 827 Business Agent Rich Spieler. "There were rumors that Comcast was going to give them stuff that the union could never get for them."

Joey Mastrogiovanni, a lead organizer for the union's Third District, said Comcast was "making them hollow promises, telling them they could get more money if

they got rid of the union." Mastrogiovanni said that this, coupled with many questionable discipline practices that he called "frivolous," set a climate that worked to stack the odds against many union supporters.

The group of more than 70 technicians organized in 2010—the first group ever to vote "union yes" at the telecommunications giant—and successfully negotiated a contract a year later.

But as the first four-year agreement's expiration date loomed last winter, a group of employees influenced by management circulated a decertification petition that garnered 17 signatures.

"It was a total anti-union effort, with captive audience meetings and other tactics," Spieler said.

But Spieler, along with Mastrogiovanni, International Representative Brian Brennan and a dedicated team of stewards and other committed activists, set out to make the case to the workforce that the IBEW remained the right choice for their futures. The team included stewards Al Wallace, Edgar Negron, Heath Stephens and Shawn Spraggs; chief stewards Glenn Yeary and Leah Connelly; recording secretary Diann Rose; and Veri-

zon steward Gavin Beachum.

"We worked hard, sending emails every week," he said. "We were on the phone with stewards all the time. With Business Manager and President Bob Speer, Joe (Mastrogiovanni) and other rank-and-file leaders, it was a total group effort."

In the end, the company's anti-union tactics came up short. The unit voted on Feb. 5 by a margin of 42-13 against the decertification. However, since both the company and the union had filed unfair labor practice charges, the National Labor Relations Board initially sealed the results. The board eventually dismissed all charges, and the vote was made public June 11.

"We did a better job of making the case for sticking together," Spieler said. "We told them the truth. The company would have their meetings with people in the daytime, and we would have a nighttime meeting afterwards where we would answer all their questions. That's what made the difference."

Mastrogiovanni notes that the votes for decertification were fewer than the number of people who signed the petition in the first place.

"It shows that even though some

might have momentarily wanted the union out, they changed their minds and hung together with the unit."

Local 827's negotiating committee is now mobilizing for its next collective bargaining agreement. ■

Worker Misclassification: Unfair, Expensive and All too Common

Misclassification of workers costs taxpayers billions of dollars, harms companies that follow the law and is much more widespread than previously thought, a new report from the Economic Policy Institute says.

Because misclassification is fraud, it is very difficult to know with precision how bad it is or where it is worst. But the report collects the findings of disparate state and federal investigations, court cases and IRS audits, to present a picture of a shadow economy of millions of exploited workers.

The report's author, Francoise Carré, found between 15 and 30 percent of employers designate workers who should be full-time employees as independent contractors. As a result, they avoid immigration rules, overtime and minimum wage laws as well as workers' rights protections that only apply to full and part-time employees, not contractors.

"This is terrible for the guys doing these jobs, no overtime, no organizing rights and no unemployment or health insurance, but it is also a disaster for the good guys trying to compete on the level," said the IBEW's Construction and Maintenance Department Director Jim Ross. "This report shows why it is so hard to find these criminals, and why they have to be punished."

The report issued June 8 estimates



the annual federal and state tax losses rise into the billions. They had no estimate for the lost income to the workers.

Misclassification also allows unscrupulous employers to skip their share of Social Security and Medicare taxes, state worker's compensation and disability insurance payments. According to the report—(In)Dependent Contractor Misclassification—by fraudulently misclassifying full-time workers as independent, employers can reduce their payroll costs 20 and 40 percent.

Misclassification happens in all sectors of the economy, Carré found, but it is more likely to happen when it is most profitable and easiest to hide under layers of subcontractors, a perfect description of the construction industry.

A 2001 to 2003 study in Massachusetts, for example, found nearly 20 percent of employers misclassified workers. In construction, nearly one in four employers misclassified at least one employee, but on average, they incorrectly identified half of their workforce as independent contractors.

Carré also found regional differences in misclassification. Not surprisingly, in states with already weak worker protections, misclassification is also more common. In Texas and North Carolina, the study found, nearly a third of construction companies misclassify at least part of their workforce.

"The loss of billions of dollars in tax revenue creates a significant financial burden for local, state and the federal government," Carré wrote.

The complete report can be found at www.epi.org. ■



New Jersey Comcast technicians overwhelmingly voted against a proposed decertification.

TRANSITIONS

RETIRED

Danny L. Johnson



After 42 years of service to the IBEW, Fifth District International Representative Danny Johnson has retired, effective Feb. 1.

Brother Johnson started working at GTE in 1973 after leaving the U.S. Army. He joined Tampa Bay, Fla., Local 824 and went to work as an

in-house lineman.

Johnson became a steward in 1976, chief steward in 1979 and nine years later a member of the executive board.

"It happened the same way every time I took a new position," Johnson said. "I would be complaining about something and say 'Someone needs to do something about this,' and the person I was complaining to would say I needed to step up."

Johnson came on staff as a business agent for Local 824 in 1990 and a year later was appointed assistant business manager. Seven years later, he ran for, and won, his first term as business manager.

Johnson said his most important accomplishment as business manager came in his second year on the job when he convinced GTE to roll the separate and dissimilar contracts with GTE, GTE Communications, GTE Data and GTE Supply into a single deal.

"It made negotiating cheaper and enforcing the contract cheaper, and that was important as our industry was really shrinking," Johnson said.

Johnson was appointed a Fifth District international representative in 2005, and was succeeded as business manager at Local 824 by current International Representative Robert Prunn.

"He was like a father to me," Prunn said. "I would really say I followed in his footsteps. Everyone who had been in leadership at Local 824 has."

Pruhn said Johnson's greatest moment as business manager was the negotiation with GTE's successor Verizon over the introduction of their fiber optic voice and data service. The company had reluctantly agreed to keep the work under the IBEW contract, but demanded the right to pick the first few rounds of employees who would get trained.

"We'd lost so much in our industry that seniority was really one of the only things left for people, so there

was a lot of resistance," Prunn said.

Johnson said he was ready to retire in 2005 when former International President Edwin D. Hill asked him to become an international representative. He said yes because he wanted to learn more about the variety of employers and contracts in the IBEW. Over 10 years, Johnson said he negotiated over 200 contracts in telecommunications and utilities and even in several paper mills owned by the notoriously anti-worker Koch brothers.

"It was awesome," Johnson said. "Every place I went, I got to learn their world."

Johnson served as vice president of the Florida AFL-CIO from 1998 to 2005, sat on the Florida Electric Workers Association executive board from 1997-2005 and was labor chair on the executive committee of the Greater Tampa Bay United Way.

"When you first join, you can't really see what brotherhood means or what it looks like," he said. "But by the end I see it for what it is. I have been around a lot of unions in my life and this is without question the greatest union in the country and it was an honor to work for President Hill and the IBEW."

Please join us in thanking Brother Johnson for his service to his brothers and sisters. ■

RENEW Reaching New Heights in Rockies

Denver Local 111 member Nate Gutierrez was an 18-year old looking to change his life and advance his prospects when he started an apprenticeship with the IBEW. As a journeyman lineman he was working 40 hours a week, but he wanted to do more.

"It's my place to give back," he said about his union involvement. So he approached his business manager, a move that would set him on the path to leadership and political activism.

Now Gutierrez is the Local 111 assistant business manager and a member of the RENEW (Reach out and Energize Next-Gen Electrical Workers) Advisory Committee representing the Eighth District, which consists of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. The job's not easy: the geography of the region means he can't visit locals as often as he wants.

He was scheduled to speak about the efforts of RENEW at the Eighth District progress meeting in July.

"I'm very grateful that Eighth District Vice President Jerry Bellah is on board with RENEW," Gutierrez said. "He's been really supportive of our efforts."

Among them is the RENEW toolkit he helped to put together. Almost two years in the making, the 40-page manual contains strategies for members hoping to start their own RENEW chapters, including sections about crafting purpose statements, structuring committees and creating mentoring programs.

Gutierrez hopes greater exposure will enable RENEW to reach a larger audience. "Sometimes there's hesitation from older members about a young worker movement," he said. "RENEW is about creating a whole new generation of leaders."

Gutierrez is active in his own chapter of RENEW, partnering his local's group with the Colorado Young Workers, a politically active organization of union members from all trades that supports working families from across the state. The CYW, along with RENEW, created a scholarship for young workers to attend the Grace Carroll Rocky Mountain Labor School, a program that trains union workers to become labor activists.

For more information about RENEW and its progress, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RENEW.IBEW?fref=ts. ■



In Ohio, the IBEW Spirit of Giving

IBEW members' good works are expressed through volunteer efforts by hundreds of brothers and sisters in communities throughout the United States and Canada each year.

Sometimes the level of giving is off the charts. A prime example is the success of the Columbus, Ohio, Local 1466-American Electric Power United Way Campaign, which received the Engaged Leadership Advocacy Award from United Way of Central Ohio for 2014.

"Volunteering and giving back to the community are what union members do," said Local 1466 Business Manager Daniel German. "Once you join the Brotherhood it really becomes second nature. We are privileged to donate our time and help our neighbors."

The Engaged Leadership Advocacy Award honors efforts to support the United Way Campaign. For the 2014 campaign, Local 1466 raised \$1.5 million, with \$983,301 donated by active and retired members. For the last three years American Electric Power has made a 50-cent match for every dollar raised by the union.

"It's gratifying for all of us to receive this recognition. It reflects the strong

effort our team has put into the campaign. We have a year-round engagement with the United Way, including a union member on their steering committee. American Electric Power has treated us as an equal partner in all of their publications, including recognition of our union in media materials. That level of respect gave us a welcome boost," German said.

The Local 1466-American Electric Power United Way Campaign collaboration began in the 1960s. In the 1990s, union members were given the option of donating through payroll deductions, when Barry "Bubba" Hickie became the driving force that started Local 1446 and AEP working together at a higher level.

Hickie mapped out a six-month campaign that included giving speeches

to union members about donating to the United Way and organizing community service projects.

Hickie focused the campaign on 25 union garages, recruiting a steward and an assistant for each garage. "I tried to set a tone where participation was more important than how much money we paid in. And I always brought food," he said. By the end of the six-month campaign, member contributions rose from 30 percent to 100 percent.

IBEW members also contributed their time and skills to a variety of community service projects as part of the campaign, including volunteering at a Girl Scout camp, painting and rewiring buildings and installing meter boxes. They also participated at a YMCA care day and in a



The IBEW-AEP partnership raised \$1.5 million last year. Accepting the United Way's Engaged Leadership Advocacy Award are from left, Dan German, president and business manager, Columbus, Ohio, Local 1466; 2013 AEP-IBEW Local 1466 United Way Community Champs Nathan Bronder and Ashley Weaver; and Nick Akins, AEP chairman, president and chief executive officer.

variety of local cleanup projects.

As part of the Local 1466 United Way Campaign for 2014, young leaders volunteered to donate their time to a day of action in support of a variety of community projects in Columbus. Union members

served hungry families at a local community kitchen and participated in a soap drive for Lutheran social services, which benefits Faith Mission and Choices, a domestic violence shelter. ■

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

W.Va. Republicans Ax State's Prevailing Wage Law

Anti-worker West Virginia lawmakers effectively scrapped the state's prevailing wage law on July 1, following a tense legislative session which saw working family supporters standing up to a recently emboldened GOP that won control of both houses in the state Capitol last November.

Charleston Local 466 Business Manager Joe Samples said that the law—passed in April—is going to have dire ramifications for his membership.

"For any job that's now awarded by the state or the county, we can be sure to see compensation fall—I'm talking wages, overtime, benefits," said Samples, who was one of many IBEW members who protested in the snow last February against the lawmakers' measure. "This is a bad day for West Virginia families."

State AFL-CIO President Kenny Perdue referred to July 1 as "Pay Cut Day," lambasting lawmakers who are looking to make it easier for low-wage, low-road contractors to usurp the jobs of skilled professionals.

"At a time when the focus should be on building our state's infrastructure and supporting our local workforce, the Senate president and House speaker have chosen to play politics with the pay of West Virginia workers, resulting in confusion and disruption within the state's construction industry," Perdue said.

Last November, Republican legislators started off the session hoping to completely gut the prevailing wage law. "They wanted full repeal," Samples said.

After months of negotiations between labor advocates, signatory contractors and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, the statehouse came up with a sort of compromise measure: calculate a new rate of pay based on the average earnings of men and women in the industry.

The new method tasked economists from West Virginia University and Marshall University in Huntington to partner



"In West Virginia, a lot of people vote Republican thinking that the GOP will not come after their paychecks," said Charleston Local 466 Business Manager Joe Samples.

with WorkForce West Virginia, an arm of the state's Department of Commerce, to develop a new wage scale that would take effect this summer.

But there was a catch. The GOP lawmakers pressured the groups to rely heavily on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. "This is a problem for union members, because the BLS numbers don't include benefits," said Dave Efaw, secretary treasurer of the state's building trades and an IBEW member. "So right there, you're losing your health care compensation right off the top." Another problem, Efaw said, is that the BLS numbers would offer a skewed average of all workers in industrial, commercial, and residential construction—incorporating both union and non-union pay rates into the data.

WorkForce West Virginia's preferred method was to issue more than 5,000 surveys to contractors and other similar businesses across the state to get a more representative sample of the pay scales, drawing criticism from GOP lawmakers.

The April law gave WorkForce West Virginia until June 1 to collect the data that would set the new wage, which was to go

into effect July 1.

"But there was no way," Efaw said, "just no way the group could get it done that fast—and the lawmakers knew that."

As the researchers and working family advocates lobbied the legislature for more time, GOP lawmakers voted last month to deny an extension.

Efaw and Samples said that WorkForce West Virginia should complete the data by late September, at which point, a new—likely higher—wage will go into effect.

Until then, IBEW members and the industry are in a lurch. Worse, Efaw said, even if the survey results get completed and a new wage is determined, some in the statehouse are likely to press again for full repeal of prevailing wage in next year's legislative session. That would nix all of WorkForce West Virginia's data and recommendations.

Samples and Efaw say the legislation bears the fingerprints of the American Legislative Exchange Council—a secretive right-wing organization that writes so called "model legislation" for anti-worker lawmakers. ALEC has been instrumental in helping governors like

Wisconsin's Scott Walker, Ohio's John Kasich and others pass union-busting laws like right-to-work, an end to collective bargaining and more.

ALEC has been particularly active in West Virginia, says Brookings Institute researcher Molly Jackman, where legislators introduced 10 ALEC bills in 2013 alone.

Freshman state Sen. Bob Beach posted a photo to his Facebook account of a fellow lawmaker who was browsing ALEC's website while the body was debating prevailing wage in March.

"In West Virginia, a lot of people vote Republican thinking that the GOP will not come after their paychecks," Samples said. "But repealing prevailing wage and passing right-to-work are among their top five objectives. The Republicans are looking for a low wage, not a fair wage."

Research from the Economic Policy Institute states that prevailing wage laws do not spike government contracting costs. Economist Peter Philips of the University of Utah also argues that scuttling the laws do not save taxpayer money, primarily because higher-wage construction workers exhibit better productivity and quality workmanship.

Perdue, of West Virginia's AFL-CIO, is urging the GOP lawmakers to reconsider their approach.

"The Legislature directed WorkForce West Virginia to undertake a complex process that is vitally important to West Virginia's construction industry, infrastructure needs and workers," Perdue said in a press release. "The Republican legislative leadership owes it to West Virginia taxpayers to allow adequate time to complete that process." ■

Correction

In the June issue's "IBEW's Members in Public Office" cover story, we incorrectly identified South Bend, Ind., Local 153 Business Manager Mike Compton as a city councilman in South Bend. Compton serves as a city councilman in Mishawaka, Ind. ■

ORGANIZING WIRE

First Agreement Sets Pace at Rail Contractor



New North Platte, Neb., Local 1920 members negotiated an agreement that includes a progressive wage scale providing for healthy bonuses as well as the establishment of grievance and arbitration procedures.

New bargaining units in the IBEW's railroad branch are rare. U.S. freight and passenger carriers are already union dense. While some smaller commuter carriers have been organized, big opportunities can be opened up at some of the companies that manufacture and service rail equipment.

Last year, 30 manufacturing workers at Greenbrier Rail Service in Hershey, Neb., voted to join North Platte Local 1920. Greenbrier's factory produces wheel and axle sets for freight trains. At the time, the Local 1920 bargaining unit was the first at the company's U.S. holdings. Greenbrier maintains collective bargaining agreements at plants in Poland and Mexico.

"Conditions were pretty rough. There wasn't a lot of respect at Greenbrier," says Local 1920 Chairman Mike Thiessen, who heard about problems at the facility from a friend. Thiessen got in touch with a few Greenbrier employees, established a volunteer organizing committee and, only two weeks later, obtained union authorization cards from 70 percent of the eligible workforce.

Negotiations on a first contract began in December and concluded in April. A new agreement was ratified in June.

"The talks went very well. We won some good points. So did Greenbrier, but they were very open and direct," Thiessen says.

The agreement includes a progressive wage scale providing for healthy bonuses in return for productivity improvements. Workers won an extra holiday and a change in scheduling that allows them more time with their families around Christmas and New Year's.

The most important gain, says Thiessen, is the establishment of a grievance and arbitration procedure and a just-cause clause. Greenbrier workers still talk about a text message management sent to all employees on a Friday night before the union vote where they threatened to "kick their ass" if employees didn't meet the plant's goals the next day.

Thiessen, who started out as a construction electrician in Omaha Local 22, says, "Like other journeyman inside wiremen, I complained about the International union without seeing firsthand how reps and directors serve the membership."

"We had tremendous support from [the] Membership Development Department," Thiessen says. Often, organizers would drop in unannounced at meetings with prospective members. "It kind of opened my eyes to the whole IBEW."

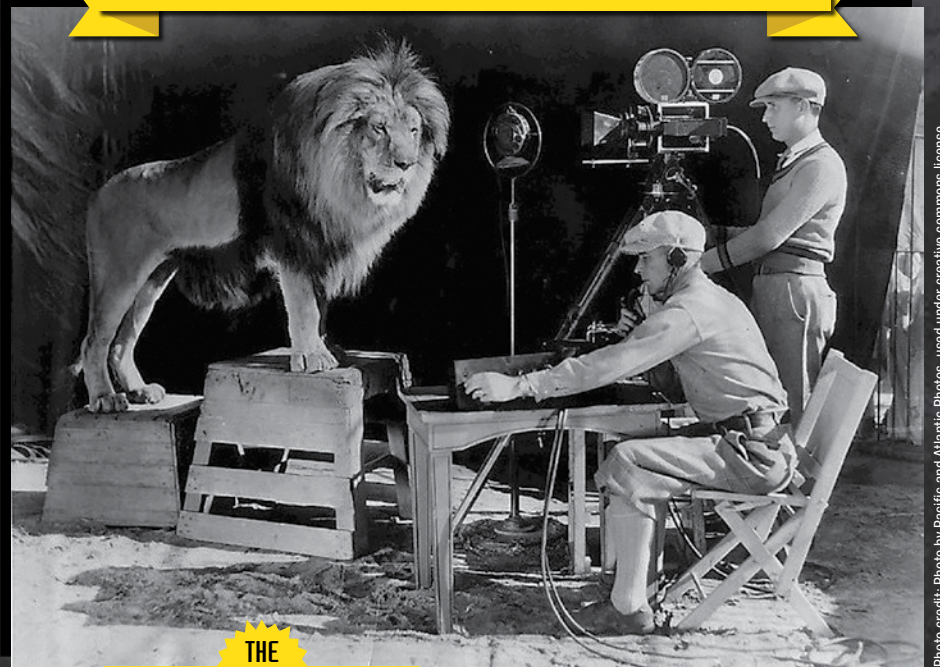
Most members are very satisfied with the first agreement, Thiessen says. There will be "growing pains" as Greenbrier workers integrate into the local union and managers and members establish new relationships, but members are hopeful about the future.

"It helped our campaign and first contract negotiation to have so much support from Membership Development," says Thiessen. "It supported our message that folks were joining the most powerful union on the planet."

The IBEW has active organizing campaigns underway at other Greenbrier locations in the U.S. ■

Manufacturing workers at Greenbrier Rail Service in Hershey, Neb., produce wheel and axel sets for freight trains.

IT'S TIME FOR



THE

IBEW'S PHOTO 2015 Contest

Enter Today!

Deadline: Nov. 30

1st Place: \$200

2nd Place: \$150

3rd Place: \$100

Honorable Mention: \$50

What makes a good photo? Is it the lighting or the contrast? Is it the colors or the subject? Maybe it's the story that's being told through the photo. Who better to convey the experiences and stories of IBEW membership through photography than members themselves?

For more than 16 years members of the IBEW from all over the U.S. and Canada have sent in images of their work. They capture shots that exemplify who we are as one of the largest and highly-skilled unions in the world. Now it's your turn.

Photo Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter more than one photo.
2. International Officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Photos can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, in color or black and white, on slides or prints. The preferred print size is 8"x10". For more guidance on electronic photo sizes, go to www.ibew.org. Click on the Photo Contest button, and see the "Contest Rules and Photo Guidelines."
4. All submissions become the property of the IBEW Media Department.
5. Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g. a safety committee, a linemen's rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
7. Photos previously published in IBEW publications or the website are not eligible for submission.
8. The preferred method of entry is through the Photo Contest application on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org.
9. If entering via U.S. mail, please fill out the contest entry form and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest and mail it to the IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001.
10. Fifteen finalists will be selected and posted on www.ibew.org for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Electrical Worker.

Contest Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

City and state _____

Zip code _____

Phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Local union number _____ IBEW card number _____

Photo description _____



HAVE YOU MOVED?
Notify us of an address change electronically

www.ibew.org/addresschange

LOCAL LINES

New Contract Agreements

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Greetings, brothers and sisters. Congratulations to Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill on his recent retirement. We appreciate his dedication and years of service to the IBEW and wish him well in all his future endeavors. Also, congratulations and best wishes to newly appointed IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson, former Sixth District international vice president.

Our business office has been very busy this year with contract negotiations. Agreements were reached for new Inside and Residential contracts, as well as a new contract with manufacturing company Marathon Special Products.

The Local 8 hockey team once again competed in the IBEW Hockey Tournament this year in Toronto, Canada. The first time in the "A" division, we fell to Windsor, Local 773; Ottawa, Local 586; then to Sarnia, Local 530. Congratulations to Sarnia on becoming champs after a well-battled tournament.

Mike Brubaker, P.S.

'Making a Difference'

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO—Madison Tatinski, the daughter of Local 12 journeyman Joseph Tatinski and granddaughter of retired member Larry Tatinski, has been making a difference in people's lives. She was chosen as Colorado's Youth Volunteer



Local 12 office manager Kathie Runco to retire.

of the Year by the Prudential Spirit of Community awards program. Madison received national recognition in Washington, D.C., in May for her ongoing efforts collecting shoes for those less fortunate. She began the drive over a year ago and has collected over 350 pairs of shoes, which have gone not only to the needy close to home, but also as far away as Guatemala and Mexico. "When I started this, I never imagined it would grow like it did," Madison said. At 11 years old, she is humble and compassionate beyond her years. Great job, Madison!

And speaking of those who make a difference in people's lives, Local 12 office manager Kathie Runco will retire at the end of August. She has been the glue that holds it all together for over 23 years. We are planning

an informal gathering for Friday, Aug. 14, after 5 p.m. at the union hall. Stop by and say thank-you for all her years of dedicated service. We will miss you, Kathie.

Susan Johnson, P.S.

Spirit of Brotherhood; Licensing Requirements

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—Local 16 congratulates new IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson on his recent appointment. Congratulations also to newly appointed Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. David J. Ruhmkorff. Both of these gentlemen have consistently promoted the highest values of the IBEW, and Local 16 appreciates their support over the years. Best wishes for the utmost success in their new positions.

The annual Turkey Testicle Festival was held in April. This event and the outpouring of brotherhood were once again successful in raising several thousand dollars for members in need. Many thanks to all who made the event possible and to everyone who attended this worthwhile function.

Despite overwhelming pressure from recent state legislative actions, the work situation for organized labor is still fairly strong in the Evansville area. However, many of the most prominent projects for the next few years will have specific licensing requirements. Every local member is strongly encouraged to check with the JATC or the union hall to make sure they meet the required criteria so that they will be fully employable when the time comes to man this work.

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

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

VDV Apprenticeship Program

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—Early this spring we held our Annual Drug Screening event. We tested over 340 journeymen, apprentices, CEs and CWs. To encourage member participation, we simultaneously held a tool and Red Wing boot sale. The cost of the tools and boots was subsidized by our LMCC fund. Bro. Joe Mills Jr. won the flat-screen TV donated by tool supplier PCS.

Local 24 successfully negotiated a raise for the voice-data-video techs. We have also rejuvenated the VDV Apprenticeship Program, with classes starting this fall.

Effective Jan. 1, we were able to increase the Future Pension Credit Value by two dollars. Effective



Local 24 Bro. Joe Mills Jr. (right) wins TV and greets PCS reps.

July 1 we were also able to increase all retiree pensions by \$50 per month. This increase more than offset the retiree health care increase, enabling retiree's to maintain top of the line health care and a great pension.

Have a safe and fun summer and remember to attend the union meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Gary R. Griffin, B.M.

Members Ratify Contracts

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Local 26 thanks IBEW Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill for his service and all his support. We extend to him our best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement!

Agreements were reached on both the Inside and Residential Agreements. The new contracts were ratified at special-called meetings in May. The new Inside and Residential Agreement books will be printed up and mailed to each member.

Congratulations to the 2015 apprenticeship graduates. Graduation ceremonies were June 6. It was a delight to see so many supportive family members and happy apprentice graduates! Best wishes to all!

The DAD's Day Golf Outing was a huge hit. Over 500 golfers participated and spanned over four courses. Thanks to all who volunteered, sponsored and participated! We were able to make a sizeable donation to Dollars Against Diabetes.

Both the Manassas, VA, picnic and the Edgewater, MD, picnic were a great success. The picnics provided fun for our members' families. It was great to see a fabulous turnout.

We mourn the recent loss of members Timothy A. Baldwin and Richard E. Hall.

Best wishes to recent retirees: Stephen Beard,

Lawrence Fattorini, James Landen Jr., Juan Cadima, Mark Gates, Patrick Gleason, Bradley Houska, Gary Huff, Frank Johnson, James Laddbush, Aubrey Marlow III, Michael Phelps, Wayne Reep, Daniel Ruefly, Winston Smith, Charles Sullivan Jr., James Tomlin, Michael Valeika, Stephen Zimmerman and Gary Heath.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

IBEW Community Service

L.U. 34 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL—Local 34 members have always been active participants in their local communities. This tradition of community service continues at Local 34.

We thank the members who participated in the Children's Hospital of Illinois Telethon or donated to it. With the help of IBEW members and the other trades, over \$3,800,000 was raised for the hospital.

Participation by our members in the community is extremely important and enhances labor unions' public image. Countless political or commercial organizations try to discredit unions as greedy, self-centered or lazy. This could not be further from the truth. By participating in our communities as volunteers, contributors or civic participants, we portray the true nature of our unions and our members. We also thank our members who donated their time or money to assist with Bro. Daren Adams' benefit for his son Cooper.

Local 34 congratulates Bros. Marty Clinch, Tom Keith, Berry Miller and Pat Carroll on their retirement.

Welcome to new members Darren Quick, Kyle McMurtry, Aaron Feit, Mathew White, Brian Schwind, James Martin, David Hudson and Jarod Brien.

Our condolences go out to the family of Albert Mustain, who passed away on April 11.

Marc Burnap, P.S.

Big High School Construction Project is IBEW Win

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Being able to report that Local 38 members are working on a John Marshall High School construction project is a huge victory for the IBEW. (See photo, page 13, top left.) This job was originally awarded to a nonunion electrical contractor who started working on the site. When a lawsuit was threatened because of our contention that federal dollars should trigger Davis Bacon prevailing wages for the project, work was halted and rebid and the job was awarded to a union contractor. Since being turned around, this job has provided over 30,000 man-hours for Local 38 members.

We anticipate several large projects coming our way that are expected to start soon and provide many man-hours for Local 38. These jobs include the Criti-

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) 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. 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	(u) Utility	(tm) Transportation Manufacturing
(ei) Electrical Inspection	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(uow) Utility Office Workers	(ws) Warehouse and Supply
(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers		
(es) Electric Signs	(mar) Marine		

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

cal Care Pavilion at Metro Hospital, the Thisledown Racino upgrades and the data center for Parker Han-nifin. Awards for these projects are expected to be made soon.

We hope to see everyone with more than 25 years of service at the Old Timer's Picnic on Aug. 1.

Dennis Meaney, B.M./F.S.



Local 38 members on the jobsite at John Marshall High School with Zenith Systems: M. Frey (left), W. Buczak, T. Sackett, J. Knize, S. Wardrope, K. Hopkins-Bey, J. Angersola, R. Rubovich, D. Wallace, N. Roppel, A. Angersola, J. Long, T. Knotek and F. DeJesus.

Summer Activities & Apprentice Graduation

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT—Local 42 held its Annual Dinner Dance & Apprentice Graduation on Saturday, April 25, at the Marriott Hartford Downtown. We congratulate the Local 42 members who graduated to become journeyman linemen: Kevin Panilaitis, Mitchell Gardner, Douglas Truken, Kyle Bryson, Chad Stoddard, Leon Finke, Jason Lockton, Wesley Vancour, Sean Coty, Ryan Koenig, Stephen Supina, Skyley Ryng, Anthony Kumiega, Micah Shea, Brandon Caron, Jason Joseph, Nicholas Delisle, Brent Von Edwins, Brandon Ames, Kevin Hartnett and Jeffrey Marschat.

On Saturday, May 2, Local 42 held a Trap Shoot at the Fin Fur & Feather Club in Chaplin, CT. It was a great success. In the photo below Dana Foster and Marco Gagliardi are attired for what is called the Hat Round at the Trap shoot. Dana is shown sporting a coyote hat and Marco is wearing a jester hat.

The local's 11th Annual Bike Run was June 6. All proceeds from that event go to the Bridgeport Burn Center.

On June 27 we held our Dinner Cruise. On July 11 we had our Chartered Fishing Trip, and July 25 was our Annual "BA" Picnic at Lake Compounce.

Coming up Aug. 29 is the Annual "A" Picnic, at High Meadow Resort in North Granby, CT. Great summer fun for Local 42 members.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.



At Local 42 Trap Shoot, Marco Gagliardi (left) and Dana Foster join the Hat Round event.

2015 Wayne Morse Award—'Unions, Integrity & Passion'

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts,st&tm), PORTLAND, OR—*"To whomever much is given, of him will much be required; and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked."*

Bro. Joe Esmonde—who serves as Local 48's political director, lobbyist and representative to various organizations—credits his Jesuit education with helping him take the above-quoted biblical Scripture to heart. He also serves as the local's representative to the Portland Business Alliance, Drive Oregon (a nonprofit trade association that advances the electric vehicle industry), and the Energy Trust of Oregon.

Congratulations to Bro. Esmonde on receiving the 2015 Wayne Morse Award for Integrity & Passion presented by the Democratic Party of Oregon. The award's namesake, Wayne Morse, was a four-term U.S. senator from Oregon respected for his belief in "principles over politics."

"Joe not only works as the lobbyist for Local 48, he also advocates for the building trades and all working people," Local 48 Bus. Mgr. Gary Young said.

I asked Joe what he is most proud of in his service to Local 48. He replied: "the fact that Local 48 has the respect and admiration of Oregon's labor, business and political community." Wow—unions, integrity and passion? IBEW brothers and sisters know that is business as usual!

Bob Blair, P.S.



Local 58 Bus. Mgr. Michael Richard (left), Retiree Association Treas. Ray Owen and Pres. Andy E. Dunbar.

Member Awarded 70-Year Pin

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb,spa&t), DETROIT, MI—Local 58 retired Bro. Ray Owen was born Dec 1, 1921, in Paris, IL, moving to Detroit in early 1922. There he grew up, attending Cass Technical High School. Following in his father's footsteps, he joined IBEW Local 58 in 1940. Ray joined the U.S. Navy in August 1942. After training as a naval aviator, he entered World War II as a fighter pilot assigned to the carrier USS Wasp in the Pacific theater. He saw action in the Philippines, Formosa, Okinawa, the China Sea, Iwo Jima and Tokyo.

After his final flight off the USS Wasp in April 1945, Ltd. j.g. Ray Owen returned to Detroit and wed Isabel Mahoney. Together they raised their three children while he continued working as an active Local 58 member. Over the years he has held the offices of Local 58 vice president and Executive Board member. For the past 24 years, he has served as treasurer for the Local 58 Retirees Club.

Bro. Owen recently received his IBEW 70-year service pin as a valued member of Local 58 and the Brotherhood.

Note: Thank you to Mary Streeter, daughter of Bro. Ray Owen, for providing information for this article.

Andy Dunbar, Pres.

Workers Memorial Day

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—Greetings, brothers and sisters.

On April 28, Local 68 proudly hosted an OSHA Workers Memorial Day event here at the hall. We had close to 100 brothers and sisters from area trade locals and OSHA staff here to remember our fallen construction brothers and sisters.

On May 2, I attended a round-table meeting with Denver Mayor Michael Hancock to find common ground in building the relationship between city government and organized labor from this area.

On May 28, we were honored to hold a barbecue for our Retirees Club and to award our 50+ year service pins. Service awards presented ranged from 50-year pins up to 70-year pins. In total, more than 475 years of IBEW service were recognized. Eighty retired members and their spouses attended the event and enjoyed themselves.

Our work picture has slowed down a little, but we are still hitting Book II on a weekly basis.

As you go through your daily routines, remember our fallen brother and sisters. Work safe out there and always take care of your fellow co-workers.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased members: Joseph H. Krantz, Tommy D. Thompson, Bobby L. Burger, Orville K. Roe II, Leah I. Bledsoe, Maynard Adams, Richard T. McAnally, Daniel A. Getz, Gary D. Rich, Joseph A. McNamara, Charles R. Terry, Jimmie D. Tre-goning and Joseph M. Ferrari.

Jack Cox, Pres.

ALBAT Area Coordinator

L.U. 70 (lctt&o), WASHINGTON, DC—Mica Penvose, a longtime Local 70 member, is a new area coordinator for ALBAT (American Line Builders Apprenticeship Training). ALBAT is a cooperative effort of the American Line Builders Chapter NECA and the IBEW Fourth and Sixth Districts.

Mica is a great union brother who has volunteered his time to help out our union hall. He attends all our union meetings and

previously taught our Saturday school. He has spent his free time getting certified in many aspects of safety so he can teach and certify our apprentices and local brothers. Thank you, Mica, for all your hard work and loyalty. ALBAT has added a great member to its staff and we wish Mica the best.



IBEW Local 70 member Mica Penvose, ALBAT area coordinator.

Local 70's annual local union picnic was a great success again this year. Thank you to all our union members and their families for coming out to enjoy the event. The picnic is always a good time for our members and their families to get together with their union brothers and sisters.

We mourn the recent passing of Bros. Tommy Douglas and Bruce Harrell. They will be greatly missed.

Jimmy Horton, B.R.

Young Workers Celebrate 2nd Annual Food Drive Success

L.U. 94 (lctt,nst&u), CRANBURY, NJ—In April, the IBEW Local 94 youth committee NxtUp94 donated over \$6,000 of food, collected from the membership, to Rise Community Services food pantry. The food pantry is located next door to Local 94 headquarters in Hightstown, NJ. This was the second annual food drive run by NxtUp94.

Mayor Larry Quattrone expressed his gratitude to Local 94 and NxtUp94. "We are happy to have them as active members in our community, and we greatly appreciate all their efforts to support the less fortunate," Quattrone said.

Rise Exec. Dir. Leslie Koppel, township council vice president, said, "Giving at a local level is the most important component to building strong communities."

IBEW MERCHANDISE



Black and Silver Logo Patch \$2.00

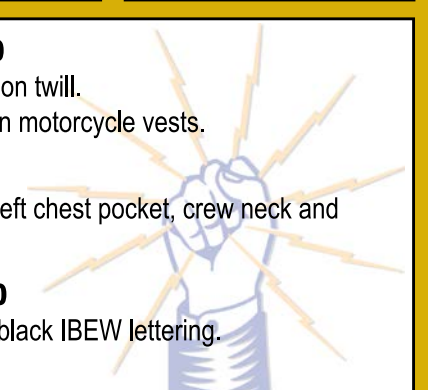
3" Embroidered IBEW cloth patch - 100% nylon twill. Black and silver logo. Designed to be used on motorcycle vests.

Ash T-Shirt \$8.50

100% cotton - heavy weight ash t-shirt with left chest pocket, crew neck and IBEW initials.

IBEW Motorcycle Tag Frame \$6.00

Chrome motorcycle license plate frame with black IBEW lettering. Fits most standard tag sizes.



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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

LOCAL LINES

This donation is just one of the many successes organized by NxtUp94. Local 94 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Buddy Thoman noted: "In just two years of the committee's existence, NxtUp94 has participated in and organized community, social and political activities that support and further the goals of the local union and the labor movement."

"I commend my fellow IBEW brothers from Local 94 for putting together this much-needed food drive," said New Jersey State Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, who is president of IBEW Local 269. "It's a great way to help our community and get our young members involved."

Frank Brennan, P.S.

2015 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rts&st), FRESNO, CA—Congratulations to Local 100's recent apprenticeship graduates. The new IBEW journeyman wiremen are: Kevin Andrade, Keith Chastain, Ben Fierro, Johnny Garcia, Tim Garcia, Rick Merlo, Jorge Quinto, Matt Sullivan, Jack Tapp and Beau Wright. The Sound & Communications graduate is Lawrence Armijo.

Fifth-year-class competition winner is Tim Garcia, winning a prize of a four-piece, 18-volt tool kit and a \$100 gift certificate. Tim will represent Local 100 at the western states competition in San Leandro, CA.

Local 100's new three-year NECA contract is effective 2015-2018. The contract includes a wage increase of \$4.90 per hour, over three years. On June 1, 2015, \$0.40 goes to H&W; on Sept. 1, 2015, \$0.50 goes to wages; on March 1, 2016, \$1 to wages; on Sept. 1, 2016, \$0.75 to wages; on March 1, 2017, \$0.75 to wages; on Sept. 1, 2017, \$0.75 to wages; and on March 1, 2017, \$0.75 goes to wages. With a JATC increase to \$1 per hour, stewards identified by the hall will receive 115 percent of the JW scale. The NECA agreement also includes 19 more items of changes.

Work remains good in our jurisdiction. Thank you to the brothers and sisters from other locals who help Local 100 man our work!

Attend your general union meetings, at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

Think safety always.

Michael A. Caglia, P.S.



Local 100 congratulates the 2015 fifth-year apprenticeship graduating class.

Members Win Election to Public Office in New Jersey

L.U. 102 (em,govt,i,mt,o&ws), PATERSON, NJ—All of us at Local 102 wish Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin T. Hill a happy and healthy retirement and thank him for his years of dedication to the IBEW. We also welcome our new Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson and look forward to working with him.

On a much more local note, we congratulate two of our members on their recent election victories. Our Vice Pres. Matt Oswald, a proud member of Local 102 since 1990, won the June 2 primary for town council in his hometown of Riverdale. No one from the opposing party registered for the November election. Bro. Wil-



IBEW Local 110 members at an Egan Co. jobsite show their solidarity by wearing red shirts.

liam O'Connor was also victorious in his Dover, NJ, election for town alderman.

Labor has always been well-represented on the political front in New Jersey. We're happy to see Bros. Matt Oswald and William O'Connor on that list of IBEW elected public officials. Congratulations, Matt and Bill!

Bernard T. Corrigan, Pres.

Three-Year Contract Ratified

L.U. 110 (em,i,rts,spa&u), ST. PAUL, MN—Our membership recently overwhelmingly ratified our new three-year contract. The agreement includes wage increases of \$2 in the first year of the contract, \$1.90 the second year and \$1.85 the third year. By far the biggest language change is that we now have as mandatory two paid breaks plus an unpaid lunch break. The solidarity among our members to ensure a strong contract was amazing to say the least. It was great to see all of our red shirts on jobsites as a show of solidarity. [Photo, above.]

Our refineries continue to be our largest jobs. Both have special requirements including NFPA 70E, TWIC, OSHA 10 and more. Please call the referral office to see what requirements are needed before taking a call.

We are having our Young Union Member annual outing in August. This is a great way for our apprentices to build solidarity outside of work. The number of apprentices attending our Local 110 monthly meeting is a good sign that they are the future of our local, and we need them to continue to be involved in the union and the labor movement.

Brian Winkelaar, B.R.

Work Outlook Positive

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL—A special thank-you goes to Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill for his longtime commitment to and distinguished leadership of the IBEW. We wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

Congratulations and best wishes to new IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson, as he prepares to lead us into the future. Int. Pres. Stephenson is from Illinois and previously served as Sixth District international vice president.

We know the IBEW will do everything it can to report on and help stop Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's anti-labor agenda of establishing so-called "right-to-work" zones throughout the state. [Editor's Note: For more information on this topic, see the article "Rebuking Ill. Gov., Pro-Worker Lawmakers Go on Right To-Work Offensive," in the July issue of The Electrical Worker, pg. 9.]

We are optimistic about our work outlook and we hope that by the time this article is read the work picture will be strong. At this writing we were looking forward to the Local 134 Family Picnic on June 27, expected to be a great success. The local plans to make the picnic an annual event.

In other news, Bus. Mgr. Don Finn and Treas. John Dalton attended the American Legion Electric Post 769 Annual Memorial Day ceremony. Don addressed those gathered, and the Leathernecks Motorcycle Club acted as the honor guard.

With great sadness we report the sudden passing on May 11 of Bus. Rep. Tom Naumann, and also the passing of administrative assistant Joanne Weber in April after a long illness. They will both be dearly missed.

Frank Cunningham, R.S.

Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—Local 146 congratulates our Midstate Electrical Training Center class of 2015 apprenticeship graduates.

The recent apprentice graduates are: Cole Garrriott, David Clauss, Josh Retzer, Markus Gillespie, Robert Roberts, Seth Richardson, Andrew Karr and Drew Higgason. Bro. Andrew Karr received the Academic Achievement Award.

We commend these brothers on their accomplishments and wish them all the best in their IBEW careers ahead.

Rich Underwood, R.S.



Local 146 congratulates graduates. Front row: graduates Markus Gillespie (left), Robert Roberts, Seth Richardson, Andrew Karr and Drew Higgason. Back row: Josh Sapp (JATC, IBEW); Derek Bartlett (JATC, NECA); graduates Cole Garrriott, David Clauss and Josh Retzer; Local 146 Bus. Mgr. Shad Etchason; and METC Training Dir. Jason Drake. [Editor's Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See "NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance," The Electrical Worker (Sept. 2014), and at www.ibew.org.]

Golf Outing Scheduled

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—Greetings, brothers and sisters! Summer is in full swing and I hope you all are enjoying it and being safe. The annual picnic was held and enjoyed by all who attended.

The Local 150 Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 22. It will be at Fox Lake Country Club. Registration will be from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. The cost is \$55 per golfer. The cost increases to \$60 per golfer after Aug. 7. You can sign up at the Union Hall.

There are update classes scheduled for fall and winter of 2015. Some of the courses available will be: Code Changes, Advanced Conduit Fabrication, OSHA 10, OSHA 30, NFPA 70E, Code Calculations, CPR with AED/First Aid, Electrical License Exam Prep, Building Automation/Temp Control, PLCs, Foremanship/Intro to Estimating, and the IMSA Work Zone Safety Prep Class. Many of these classes are required for employment in various areas of our industry. Take the time to check out the classes and sign up for a few.

We have been enjoying a slight uptick in our work scene. Let's hope it continues for a while. See you at the meeting.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

National Rebuilding Day

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—On April 25, Local 164 participated once again in Rebuilding Together's "National Rebuilding Day." Rebuilding Together is a national organization whose mission is to assist low-income homeowners in maintaining their homes, helping to keep them safe, warm and independent. We have been working with Rebuilding Together since 1991 and thanks to our members we were able to support the local chapters in all three counties in our territory again this year.

As always, our members gave generously of their time and provided much-needed quality electrical work to homeowners who could not afford to do it for themselves.

Bro. Manny Espinoza coordinated the Jersey City Chapter, Bro. Bill Watts and Sister Elaine Lampe coordinated Essex County, and I coordinated Bergen County. Thank you so much to all. We also owe a great deal of gratitude to the brothers and sisters who served as house captains and led each individual project with skill and professionalism. They did a fantastic job.

Thank you to all the members who came out and worked hard on Rebuilding Day as well as in the days before and after to complete the projects. It simply couldn't be done without them.

Warren Becker, V.P.



Local 236 Tri-City JATC class of 2015. [See Editor's Note in article.]

Apprentice Graduation & Tribute to Longtime Service

L.U. 236 (catv,ees,govt,i,mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY—On May 30, a graduation ceremony was held to honor the Tri-City JATC's class of 2015. Thirty-eight young apprentice graduates were honored as they became the newest journeyman wiremen of IBEW Local 236. We wish the class of 2015 the best of luck and hope they enjoy a long and prosperous IBEW career.

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

We also say goodbye to one of our longtime journeyman wiremen. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Maurice "Skip" Goyette, a 47-year member, has decided to retire. His longtime service, wisdom and knowledge will be missed. In 1968 Skip was initiated into the IBEW as a member of then-Local 166. He completed his apprenticeship and worked as a journeyman wireman until he was hired as an assistant business manager in 1980. Local 166 amalgamated into Local 236 in 1999.

During his IBEW career, Skip served in many capacities, including as a member of the Executive Board, JATC Committee and Negotiating Committee. He was also a fund trustee, unit representative and vice president of Local 236. I am certain that I speak for many, including the shop stewards who worked side-by-side with Skip during negotiations, in saying that he will be greatly missed. We all wish him the best in retirement.

Michael Torres, P.S.

100th Anniversary Picnic

L.U. 294 (ees,em,i,rts,spa&u), HIBBING, MN—Local 294 invites all current members and their immediate families to our 100th Anniversary Picnic.

This is a family-friendly event to be held from Aug. 14-16 this year at the Mesaba Co-op Park, 3828 Mesaba Park, Hibbing, MN. Located at the Intersection of Highway 37 and County Road 5 North, the park is right behind the Thirsty Moose Bar. RV and tent camping is available on-site.

There will be games and events for the kids as well as great food grilled on our local union-made cooker, entertainment and a ceremony for the adults.

Please come and join the fun. For more information, please call the Local 294 union hall at 218-263-6895.

Daniel Arvola, P.S.

'Busy Filling Job Calls'— Welcoming New Members

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONPELIER, VT—I'm writing this on a beautiful, sunny June day with temperatures in the high 60s and no humidity. A perfect day to be on a solar installation crew in the state of Vermont! We've been pleasantly busy filling calls for contractors visiting our jurisdiction, and also forwarding wage rates to future visiting contractors. These are very welcomed guests and we sincerely hope at least some find a second home in IBEW Local 300!

We've been consistently swearing in new members every month at our unit meetings, and membership involvement also seems to be increasing. I see many young, hopeful new faces and some faces I've not seen in a while—all are equally appreciated.

A great deal of work is being forecast for our jurisdiction in the near and not-so-near future. All we have to do is have our signatory contractors bid and successfully win the work. We are doing everything possible to be ahead of the projects, to ensure that our contractors are aware of the projects, and to supply quality electricians to the successful bidders.

Thank you to all members and signatory contractors making the effort to reach our shared goal of regaining control of our market.

Tim LaBombard, Mbr. Dev.



Several Local 300 members and family attend a wellness event in April.

'Get Off The Couch & Vote!'

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA—Too quickly, we cheer the "victory train" when we win an election or blame an ignorant and uninformed electorate when we lose, all without thinking about why.

Our recent defeat in the state Senate special election demands reflection.

The primary election pitted a "labor" Democrat against a so-called "corporate" Democrat. I hear stories about huge sums of money and where that money came from. But, to me, the real story is about who voted.

The good news is that IBEW 302 had the highest voter percentage among the building trades. The bad news is that it was only 20.1 percent!

That's right. Barely one in five IBEW Local 302 members who could vote in this election—an election that was described as do-or-die for labor—voted.

So, when the future of labor is on the line and an important election for our union and our industry is right in front of us, four out of five of our brothers and sisters stay on the couch.

We say "politics are important." We proudly display our political acumen on the job and in the union hall. It seems to me that we should work on some more fundamental skills—we need to learn how to vote!

Bob Lilley, A.B.M.

2015 Graduation Banquet

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—On Friday, June 5, a banquet/awards ceremony was held to honor our 2015 apprentice graduates.

Residential graduates are: William Sizemore, Adam Stull and Benjamin Todd.

Commercial graduates are: Tyler Cammel, Justin Douglas, Andrew Drope, Paul Ehmer, Joshua Eva, Michael Foss, Michael Gaskill, Robert Gombeda, Michael Gordon, Nate Helms, Sebrina Jansen, Ryan Kercenneck, Brian Lundgren, Colby MacDowell, Tyler Mallory, Matthew Mansfield, Roger Mosley, Leif Olson, Joe Piacella, Nicholas Shemuga, Victor Shreve and Michael Walinski.

Recognized for perfect attendance were: graduates Cammel, Douglas, Drope, Ehmer, Eva, Foss, Gaskill, Gombeda, Gordon, Helms, Jansen, Lundgren, MacDowell, Mallory and Mansfield.

Achieving highest grade point average were: commercial graduate Michael Foss, with a 96.2 percent average; and residential graduate William Sizemore, with 93.3 percent.

Congratulations to all our graduates on successfully completing their apprenticeship.

With great sadness Local 306 reports the recent loss of retired Bro. Vern Saylor. Vern was a great union member—involved, selfless and always striving to make a difference. Over the years Vern served the local in many capacities. He was a chairman of the Executive Board, a convention delegate, an apprenticeship board member, a mentor to many apprentices and journeymen, and much more.

Even after Vern retired, he always participated—marching in the Labor Day parade, walking the picket line, or manning the phones to rally our members. Vern, you will be sorely missed but not forgotten.

Thomas Wright, P.S.



Local 306 member Vern Saylor mans the phone banks.

Summer Work Picture Strong

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—The word veteran is defined as: "a person who has had long service or experience in a particular occupation or field."

Local 340 recently erected a permanent, beautiful new American flag in our parking lot. (Our thanks to Bro. Frank Albert and his young son Hunter, who devoted a weekend to working on this project.) This new flag honors all veterans, both members who have served in the U.S. military fighting for our freedom and members who have served the local for many years protecting and fighting for our rights. Thank you to all IBEW veterans for the sacrifices they have made for our country and for our trade.

This has been a good summer for Local 340 members. Work has picked up and any Local 340 member wanting to work is working. Thanks to all of the traveling members who have signed on to our books and gone to work in our jurisdiction. Their help in manning these jobs is greatly appreciated.

Local 340's referral policy changed as of July 1, 2015. This new referral policy implementing the "strike system" is posted on the local's website at www.ibewlocal340.org.

Rest in peace to Bros. Richard Brown, Leroy Flint, Waldo "Wallie" Gayton and Michael Masters. They will be missed.

Tom Okumura, B.M.

Community Services School

L.U. 352 (u), LANSING, MI—In May, Local 352 members travelled to the Michigan AFL-CIO Community Services School in Black Lake, MI. Sitting alongside members of the UAW, CWA, IAM and others, we learned how to assist union members during strikes, layoffs and retirement by linking them with agencies to get services they may need. Facilitators encouraged us to take tools back to share in our workplace and our communities to improve the lives of everyone.

We talked about turning perceptions of unions back into something positive. All locals give to charities and perform work in our communities, but it doesn't get the media coverage it should. We learned about the history of the labor movement and were reminded of the importance of preserving unions. We

LOCAL LINES

held our breath as the controversial TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership) trade deal proposal was negotiated, hoping not to be forced to compete with laborers in other countries making \$0.12 an hour. This hammered in our need to be politically vigilant and how important it is to find ways to help organize people globally.

We are honored and humbled to have been a part of this training. We were given priceless tools to help elevate our locals and our communities.

Maggie Rich, V.P.

'Big Changes Announced'

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts,spa&t), MILWAUKEE, WI—Good things happen in threes.

First, Local 494 congratulates new IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson on his appointment as successor to Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill. As former Sixth District international vice president, Bro. Stephenson has shown his support for many of the progressive ideas that Local 494 has implemented in past years and has attended our career fairs and some of our membership meetings.

Second, former Local 494 business manager John Bzdawka recently was appointed international representative for the IBEW Sixth District. His stewardship of the local revitalized the membership and created a role model for other locals to follow. His guidance will be greatly missed, but we know that Local 494 will always be close to his heart and his support will continue.

Third, and last but not least, the Local 449 Executive Board appointed Bro. Dean Warsh as local union business manager to fill the unexpired term. Bus. Mgr. Warsh previously served the local as business representative and worked closely with Bro. Bzdawka to help advance Local 494. The transition will progress smoothly with Dean as business manager.

We wish all three the best in their future endeavors. Local 494 offers them our full support.

Kurt Jante, B.R.



Sixth District Int. Rep. John Bzdawka (left) and Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson attended 2015 Local 494 Career Fair.

Festive Barbecue Celebration For Apprentices in Training

L.U. 520 (i&spa), AUSTIN, TX—Good times, unity and great food were abundant at the end-of-school-year barbecue for the Austin Electrical JATC apprentices and staff.

This gathering was a well-deserved celebration of all the hard work and dedication that our brothers and sisters put forth in successfully completing another year in their apprenticeships. If looking forward to a summer break and enjoying delicious food did not put a smile on attendees' faces, the presentation of special awards and prizes did. The apprentice with the highest grade-point average was presented with a drill. Twenty-three apprentices with perfect attendance received tape measures. Apprentices with highest GPAs in each respective class year also received gift cards.



At the end-of-school-year barbecue for Local 520 apprentices.

The room had a cheerful vibe as brothers and sisters enjoyed beef brisket, sausage, beans and potato salad together in festivity. It was an impressive sight to see all the Austin Electrical JATC apprentices and staff gathered in one very full room to close out one successful school year and look forward to the next. Gatherings like this, which allow everyone to celebrate our collective triumphs, are a meaningful way to grow our brotherhood and sisterhood.

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

Thank you to Bro. Kasey Lansangan, a second-year apprentice and RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) Committee member, for providing information for this article.

Lane Price, Pres./P.S.

Volunteer Activities

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Once again Mother's Day weekend last spring saw Local 530 members hit the streets to sell carnations to benefit multiple sclerosis research. This year we raised \$4,089. A big thank-you goes out to all the volunteers, especially Bro. Darren Vail for organizing this annual event.

May 14 saw Sarnia's annual Big Bike for Heart & Stroke event. Bros. Jake Thingstad and Rickey Gorton organized our team and a total of \$3,000 was raised. A big thanks goes out to all who participated.

Local 530 thanks Locals 993 (Kamloops), 424 (Edmonton) and 1687 (Sudbury) for continuing to employ our members. At the same time we'd like to thank our closer sister locals for supplying manpower in our time of need.

Local 530 is saddened by the recent passing of Bro. Hank Visser. He will be remembered.

Al Byers, P.S.

Annual Spring Picnic

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—Greetings, brothers and sisters.



Attendees enjoy Local 558 Annual Spring Picnic.

Our 6th Annual Spring Picnic on May 16 at Spring Park in Tusculumbia was enjoyed by all. We had plenty of good food from our second annual spring picnic cook-off. The cook-off featured two categories—ribs and barbeque.

Nine teams entered the cook-off this year. Winners were as follows: for first-place barbeque – Grant "Flash" Gordon; second-place barbeque – Billy Wix; first-place ribs – Toby Hargett; second-place ribs – Grant "Flash" Gordon; first-place overall – Grant "Flash" Gordon; and second-place overall – Toby Hargett.

Congratulations to all who participated in the cook-off. We extend our appreciation to everyone who helped make the picnic a success. This annual tradition, which we hope will continue for many years, would not be possible without the support of our membership.

Tony Quillen, Pres./A.B.M.



Enjoying a shrimping trip are Local 606 fourth-year apprentices Byron Murphy (left), Pablo Tufino and Anthony Copeland, with 21-year member Don Nelson (at stern).

Work Picture/Organizing Boom

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Over the past year, there has been a construction boom in our jurisdiction, and our NECA signatories have secured much of that work.

We have picked up several large projects in Orlando and in the surrounding areas. Ermco Electric has started the "Avatar" expansion at Disney's Animal Kingdom. This project will increase the size of the theme park to include a major ride,

shops and restaurants.

At Orlando International Airport, a major expansion is planned, and Cleveland Electric has secured the new people-mover tram that will connect the new terminal with the existing airport.

Miller Electric completed work on two 200,000-square-foot research and administrative buildings for Northrop Grumman and the contractor anticipates that it will be awarded more work with NG.

All this new construction has given Local 606 an incredible opportunity to go on a major organizing drive. As of this writing we are planning a massive blitz of the central Florida area culminating in an Industry Night where we will be organizing significant numbers of new members. With the help of State Organizing Coordinator Jonathon Dehmel, Local 606 Pres. Clay McNeely and his RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) committee, we predict that this organizing drive will be a huge success.

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of several Local 606 members: Tom Bowers, Spence Sullivan and retiree Walter Heminway. These brothers will be sorely missed.

Fernando Rendon, R.S./P.S.

Special Election & History; Workplace Tragedy

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—We congratulate Bus. Mgr. Paul Mullen for winning endorsement as a special election candidate for District 161 of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The special runoff election will take place Aug. 4, to fill the seat left open following former state Rep. Joe Hackett's resignation. Bus. Mgr. Mullen also serves as president of the Delaware County AFL-CIO.

This is a very significant election for Local 654. When Bro. Mullen wins the special election, it will be for the highest public office that one of our local members has ever held. Our membership will be out in force to help Bro. Mullen win election and make history.

While there are many great things taking place in our local, we regret to announce a tragic death on the largest job in our territory. An inspector was struck and killed by a large section of pylon that was cut and fell in the opposite direction as intended. This was a huge wake-up call and adversely affected many of our members who were nearby when the accident occurred. This tragedy could have been easily prevented. Never get complacent with your work area. Always be mindful of what is going on around you and communicate with the other trades. Jeffrey Shannon was 49 years old and is survived by his wife and two sons. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family at this difficult time.

James Thompson Jr., P.S.

IBEW Craftsmanship & Service

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—Our work picture was great this spring, with everyone working and travelers helping out. Now that we are entering the summer season, things have slowed a bit as some projects wind up. IBEW craftsmanship continues to shine through, even though so many of these projects are fast tracked with very demanding timelines.

Many thanks to Local 666 members who serve our membership and the local union as job stewards. Their job is often difficult, but the work they do makes our local stronger.

Our recent Rebuilding Together effort was a suc-

cess, as it has been in years past. We had members volunteering for community service every weekend in April, putting their skills to use for a good cause. Thanks to everyone who helped out!

Congratulations and best wishes to our newest retirees: Ashley Seay, John Shimchick, Roland "Butch" Vest and Phillip Bullock.

Charles Skelly, P.S.

Industry Night a Success

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—"Business" as the saying goes, "is good!" Between the Quinto solar project now in full swing and a couple of key industrial jobs, which have taken off lately, our Book 1 is fairly empty. Yet another large solar project is coming around the corner. Our future work projections look positive. Our thanks to the many traveling brothers and sisters who have come from all across the country to help us man these projects!

Our recent effort to reach out to area nonunion electricians at our Industry Night event was very successful. Between door-to-door contact, a radio blitz and numerous fliers sent out, we had more than 50 individuals come in and talk with our local contractors and union leaders. A few attendees were key personnel at non-union shops, which is creating a ripple effect because they are coming into membership with the local.

Special thanks to Int. Rep. Victor Uno, Int. Rep./ District Organizing Coordinator Greg Boyd, State Organizing Coordinator Hank Lewis, local contractors and members—who all showed up for Industry Night to aid in our effort to provide information and speak with our nonunion counterparts. A lot of nonunion rhetoric and beliefs got dispelled that night. Again, thank you to everyone.

Local 684 eagerly anticipates its return to the Ninth District Softball Tournament in August, being held at San Diego Local 569. Though underdogs to our brothers to the west and south, watch out, brothers ... we're coming!

Dave Jones, P.S.

Labor Picnic in August; Annual Solidarity Drawing

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t&u), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—On June 12, members overwhelmingly re-elected current Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart to a second consecutive full term in leading the local.

We are holding our annual Solidarity Drawing once again. Prizes are \$25,000, \$10,000, \$5,000, and five \$1,000 prizes. The drawing will be on Labor Day in September at the DuQuoin Fair Labor Pavilion.

At the City of Fairfield, we won a major arbitration rejecting the employer's unilateral changes to

the health insurance plan that were harmful to our members. We are in contract negotiations with Dynegy and Alcoa, and we have a new agreement for the clerical group at Ozark Border Electric Cooperative that includes a defined benefit pension plan.

We invite all members to attend the Southeast Missouri (SEMO) Labor Picnic in Cape Girardeau on Sunday, Aug. 30, where the local will defend and go for a "three-peat" in the Union vs. Union Tug of War event.

Our Outside Construction and Line Clearance work is steady and looks promising. As of this writing, our referral books are as follows: Inside Construction – 72, Outside Construction – 9, Line Clearance – 2.

For tickets for the Solidarity Drawing or additional information, please contact the union hall at 618-932-2102 or visit our website at www.ibewlocal702.org.

Mark Baker, B.R.

Giving Back to Community

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA—Giving back to the community you live in via volunteer efforts is vital. Volunteering time as an electrician for worthy causes demonstrates our commitment to the health and well-being of the community we call home. The construction season is in full swing, yet several of our members took time out of their lives to participate in preparing a home to be designated as Mary's Inn Maternity Home. Mary's Inn is a maternity home dedicated to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of single, pregnant mothers and their developing babies. It is a safe haven where they can stay while learning the skills they need to make a better life for themselves and their babies. Special thanks to the volunteers: Bros. Mike Sisler, Charlie Sisler, Matt Droessler, Alex Willenbring, Shane Hargrafen, Miles Wille, Ron Heitzman, Don Rausch and Dave Bushman.

As of June 1, our work situation has improved. Work continues on the Intermodal Parking Ramp, Finley Hospital expansion, and projects at John Deere Dubuque Works and the Dubuque Millwork District.

Thank you to all local and traveling brothers who have manned the dormitory remodel project at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for Nichol's Electric.

Ron Heitzman, P.S.

90th Anniversary & Solidarity

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—On May 4, IBEW Local 760 brothers and sisters celebrated our local's 90 year anniversary.

Many generations have endured in Tennessee under so-called "right-to-work" laws. Men and women have joined Local 760 to work together for a better quality of life. Over the years, state and federal legislation has stripped worker rights and benefits, and the struggle goes on today.

The IBEW and Local 760 stand for the highest



Attendees gather to celebrate the 90th anniversary of IBEW Local 760.

safety and training standards and encourage members to demonstrate a quality work ethic and maintain excellent job skills.

The new IBEW training center, which opened in 2013 in Knoxville, helps members gain a better standard of living, achieve their personal goals and learn a hands-on trade. Booker T. Washington once said: "The world cares little about what a man knows; it cares more about what a man is able to do."

Local 760 remembers the past and looks forward to the future. Local 760 goals are to: continually build a strong membership where brothers and sisters look out for one another, stand up for better wages and benefits, and elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship.

Local 760 has stood tall for 90 years and will continue to stand strong with fellow members in the years ahead. Local 760 will meet every challenge and leave no members behind ... because solidarity is our greatest strength.

Jason Leary, Organizer

New Journeyman Wiremen

L.U. 1316 (i&o), MACON, GA—On May 19, Local 1316 welcomed seven new journeyman wiremen into the fold. This year's apprenticeship graduates are: Matt Holcomb, Chris Truman, Thomas Yearly, Chris Gasset, Jeff Kuhn, James Thompson and Jack Bergman. Bro. Bergman also received the Morgan Bowen Award for Outstanding Performance.

This class weathered the tough times of a recession and remained steadfast. We are very proud of these men and wish them the best of luck in their careers.

Harry Murray, Mbr. Dev.

2015 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 1516 (em,i&o), JONESBORO, AR—Congratulations to the 2015 apprenticeship graduating class at IBEW Local 1516.

The recent graduates are: Jeremy Williams, Brad Bolar, Kevin Thomas, Christian Latanich, Tyler Woods, Jamie Westmoreland and Price Johnson.

We commend these brothers on their hard work and successful completion of the apprenticeship program. We wish them all the best in their IBEW careers.

Shawn Phares, B.M.

MATC Academic Excellence Award

L.U. 2150 (em,govt,lctt,o&u), MILWAUKEE, WI—IBEW Local 2150 member Dave Peschman received the Milwaukee Area Technical College apprenticeship program's Academic Excellence Award.

Dave, an Oak Creek Power Plant electrician, began his career with We Energies in fleet services as a fleet technician at the North Service Center. In 2011, he accepted the position of power generation plant

electrician and entered the Industrial Electrician Apprenticeship program.

Dave completed his apprenticeship with a perfect 4.0 grade point average and received the Academic Excellence Award on April 30 this year. He has been a model apprentice throughout and has already gained the respect of plant operations and maintenance as a trusted electrician.

Prior to selection of awards recipients, MATC administration and faculty review the academic records of all the apprentices who complete the program within the year. This year there are over 100 graduate apprentices. One of many programs offered at MATC, the Industrial Electrician Apprenticeship program has a notably rigorous curriculum.

Congratulations, Dave!

Nancy Wagner, P.S.

Running For a Cause

L.U. 2324 (t), SPRINGFIELD, MA—IBEW Local 2324 member Tammy Munn was confronted with a frightening medical diagnosis in October 2013. She had been suffering from headaches for a month when doctors discovered a meningioma brain tumor detected by a CAT scan. Tammy had surgery in December 2013 to remove the tumor.

This life-changing experience made Tammy want to look forward to every moment and make the best of every day of her life. She took up running for the first time to challenge herself. She was so inspired, she decided to run her first 5-kilometer race in May 2015.

Tammy signed up for the Moving Toward a Cure 5K sponsored by the Brain Tumor Alliance. She went to Boston for the race and was surrounded by fellow survivors. She found it rewarding to be around people who also had experienced what she went through. Tammy raised over \$400 for the cause. Tammy recently went for her yearly MRI and is happy to announce she is tumor free!

Christine Casino, P.S.



Local 2324 member Tammy Munn in Boston for Moving Toward a Cure 5K run.



Local 702 congratulates 2015 graduating class of new journeyman wiremen. Front row, Adam Kelley (left), Logan Hall, Ryan Vaupel, Tyler Skorch; middle row, Jonathan Martin, Ronald Fairchild, Amber Sims, John Collins, Bradford Turner; back row, Jeffery Neuman. Not pictured: Kenneth Williams.



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

On Energy, the Supreme Court Gets it Right



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

The U.S. Supreme Court sounded a victory for our nation's energy future on June 29 by striking down a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule that would have closed more coal-fired power plants, threatening the electrical grid and forcing thousands more middle-class workers out onto the street.

The case looked at the EPA's proposed regulation of mercury emissions under the Clean Air Act. In a 5-4 decision, the court said that the agency failed to properly game out the implementation of the rule. The EPA was looking to get a little more than \$5 million in health care cost savings—but it would have cost \$9 billion a year to get it, since about 150 plants would have to install costly scrubbers and invest in the operations and maintenance of prohibitively expensive new equipment. (See related story on page 5.)

That's like going to withdraw \$20 at an ATM, only to find that your bank is going to charge you thousands for the transaction. It defies logic, and the court realized that.

When the EPA issued the rule in 2011, it targeted about 600 plants employing tens of thousands of workers. Since then, about 75 percent of those plants have been shuttered. The remaining 25 percent were granted a year-long reprieve in 2014 because they are so critical to power flow on the grid, especially during peak usage periods in the summer and during unpredictable and dangerous winter storms like last year's polar vortex.

The court's decision means that these plants will have at least another year of life in them. That's huge—especially considering the aging workforce at these facilities. An extra year of work gives a little security to baby boomers who are saving and investing for their golden years.

Obviously, we all want clean water and a healthy environment. But the EPA is trying to determine our energy policy with blinders on. And they don't have the track record we do.

We warned the agency in 2011 that shutting down a slew of coal plants would starve the grid of 69,000 megawatts of power. Had it happened, cities would certainly have endured blackouts during extreme weather emergencies. At the time, the EPA balked at our figures. Now, they admit the truth. We were right.

Fortunately, when the IBEW talks, the White House and Congress listen. This is vital since the Obama administration's other big push, the so-called Clean Power Plan, is being worked out. Like the mercury rule, the plan could send energy prices skyrocketing while idling thousands of workers and costing states billions to implement. IBEW leaders have been working with officials on the details of the deal, and standing up for both the industry and our members at the negotiating table.

While well-intentioned, the EPA doesn't employ people who are experts in energy—we do. So the IBEW will continue our efforts with lawmakers, ensuring that America's energy needs are met while continuing to provide good wages and benefits for the professionals who keep the lights on.

That's plain old common sense. And that's the right path for our 21st century energy future. ■

Health Care Challenges

Late last June, the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a provision of the Affordable Care Act that provides federal subsidies to working Americans unable to afford comprehensive insurance on their own. This was no minor deal.

If the court had struck down the subsidies, it would have put more than 6 million Americans' health coverage at risk, while making the rest of the ACA unworkable.

The Supreme Court made it clear: Obamacare is here to stay.

I applaud the Court's decision. Comprehensive and universal health care for all has been one of the labor movement's major policy goals since our beginnings. More than 14 million Americans have health care thanks to the ACA.

While still far from the universal coverage enjoyed by our Canadian neighbors, it's a big first step. It's why we supported Obamacare and will continue to do so.

However there are still fixes to be made—and the so-called Cadillac tax is one of the biggest.

It's a levy on what the government considers high-cost plans. In other words, plans that provide comprehensive and decent coverage. The kind of plans many of our members enjoy.

And with the tax kicking into effect in 2018, it's already creating headaches at the bargaining table.

Some companies are exaggerating its effects just to erode our hard-won benefits and dump additional health costs on to us. But it's true this tax is an unwanted drag on employers and employees that did the right thing by providing comprehensive health benefits.

We will continue to work on Capitol Hill for a legislative fix to the problem. But at the same time, many locals have found that switching to the IBEW/NECA Family Medical Plan has been a powerful tool to reduce health care costs and win better contracts.

The plan calculates costs differently than most plans, so it avoids the Cadillac tax, while providing the same or better comprehensive medical benefits we expect as IBEW members.

So I encourage all business managers to consider it a key part of their bargaining tool kit.

Since our founding the IBEW has been committed to providing quality health coverage for not only our own members—but for all working people. We will continue to do so—at the bargaining table and in the halls of Congress. ■



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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recognizing Public Service

It was nice to see recognition of IBEW members serving in public office in the June 2015 edition of The Electrical Worker. I am a member of Local 357 in Las Vegas, Nev. I have served as assistant business manager and organizer in my local as well as PAC chairman and Unit 1 chair. I have served as a Las Vegas City councilman for the past 10 years and am currently mayor pro tem for the City of Las Vegas. I am grateful that the IBEW is recognizing our members who serve in public office as I feel it is extremely important for our members to be active in the community in whatever role and capacity they can serve. I believe we lead by example.

Great job, Electrical Worker!

Steven Ross, Local 357 member
Las Vegas

I have been a member of New York Local 3 since 1980. I am also an elected official in Plainsboro, N.J. I am a member of the township committee and the end of my current term, I will have served 19 years. I have won six consecutive elections. I also serve as liaison to planning and zoning. I also sit on the planning board.

Edmund Yates, Local 3 member
New York

Right or Wrong?



Let's keep our publication 100-percent professional please.

The picture of the journeyman wireman on page 15 of May 2015 issue needs help in the safety equipment area.

This isn't the "Saturday Night Live" TV show. Hard hats are not to be worn like that! We're not perfect but miles ahead of the competition. So let's act like it.

James Rothenberger, Local 143 retiree
Harrisburg, Pa.

[Editor's Note: IBEW Safety Director Dave Mullen says although it appears the member in the photo has his hard

hat backwards, depending on the helmet design and company rules, it may still be a safe, effective way to wear it if the internal undercarriage is properly positioned.]

Women on the Front Lines

I've been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1049 for 26½ years. Being one of few women who does a "man's job," I feel proud I survived these years and earned the respect of my co-workers.

As the only woman of color in my field and a single mother of four, it bothers me that women are afraid to apply, considering the benefits. Are there any programs to inspire women to try new avenues of work?

Viola Youngblood, Local 1049 member
Long Island, New York

[Editor's note: We asked Civic and Community Engagement Department Director Carolyn Williams, who told us about a few tradeswomen organizations and pre-apprenticeship groups across the country that focus on women's access to non-traditional occupations. While most of the pre-apprenticeship programs work with the building trades unions, their main goal is to assist women in entering high-paying, non-traditional occupations with good benefits such as those mentioned by Viola, Williams said. Non-Traditional Employment for Women, most commonly referred to as NEW, is an organization in New York that has been quite successful in this arena.]



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

Best of luck, President Stephenson

Congratulations Lonnie! Little did I know when I first met you some 25+ years ago that I was in the presence of our future international president. Very proud of you and that your roots come from our home local, brother. Do good.

Steve Williams, Local 145 member
Rock Island, Ill.

WHO WE ARE

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to media@ibew.org.

IBEW Shows the World the New World Trade Center



New York Local 1212 members stand in the One World Observatory after the broadcast of CBS This Morning. The audio includes crew Dave Morris, left, Tom Jiminez, Joe Marcus, Art Starr, Bill Naeder and Mike Mullen.

It takes a certain sort of courage to return to a site of trauma. The attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, are etched onto the nation's memory, but for those who lost someone that day, the pain can be even more acute. So on May 18, when members of New York Local 1212 stepped into One World Trade Center, their four lost brothers who were working on 9/11 were with them.

It was the first time that anyone from New York's broadcast local participated in a live broadcast in the new Trade Center since 9/11. The crew was there to help coordinate an exclusive broadcast of "CBS This Morning" from the 102nd floor, in the newly opened One World Observatory, a public space offering a breathtaking view of lower Manhattan, for the first time since the towers fell.

"It was a great privilege to be involved in a broadcast from there," said Local 1212 member Art Starr, a member of the audio crew. "Knowing that some of our brothers had been there ... it meant something special to me."

One World Trade Center, one of several buildings constructed on the site of the Twin Towers, officially opened in November after eight years of construction. CBS This Morning was invited to be the first live show to film in the building, and was able to introduce the One World Observatory, which opened its doors to the public on May 29, to its audience.

The crew had to arrive two days in advance of the broadcast to set up a remote control room, studio and transmission facility, temporary structures that would coordinate the video and audio components to and from the CBS Broadcast Center in nearby Hell's Kitchen, the show's home. Fiber cables had to be laid to enable these com-



Crew members broadcast from the World Trade Center last spring for the first time since 9/11.

munications, including seven lines for cameras and two for teleprompters and the return feeds that allow the anchors to interview people in different locations.

Even the staff of the observatory gained new perspective from the broadcast. In at 5 a.m. to prepare for the 7 a.m. broadcast, the observatory staff was mesmerized by the view. "We all watched the sun rise over the city," Starr said. "It was beautiful."

This new public space features several exhibits, including Voices, an exhibit on the men and women who helped build One World Trade Center, and City Pulse, an installation that uses high-definition monitors and gesture-recognition technology to allow visitors to explore New York and its neighborhoods in depth. There is also a restaurant and a gift shop, and the elevators show a presentation on the construction of the New York skyline. The biggest draw, however, is the giant windows on the 101st floor that offer a 360-degree of the city, itself the greatest testament of the

resilience of New Yorkers and their determination to overcome adversity.

Local 1212 boasts 1,800 members working in radio and television broadcasting, coordinating audio and visuals for New York networks, including WCBS, WNET and HBO. The four members who were on transmitter duty, monitoring television broadcasts, in the Twin Towers on 9/11 were Gerard "Rod" Coppola (WNET), Stephen Jacobson (WPIX), Robert Pattinson (CBS), and Isaias Rivera (CBS).

For more information about the IBEW and One World Trade Center, see the article "In Lower Manhattan, A Tower Rises on Holy Ground" from the May issue of "The Electrical Worker." For information about visiting the One World Observatory, please visit <https://oneworldobservatory.com/>. To view the broadcast, visit <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/15/05/20/cbs-this-morning-one-world-trade-center/>.



COMPLAINTS

10,379
customer problems
NOT resolved
within 24 hours

FairPoint's Hard Bargaining Yields Customer Complaints

Service problems shot up dramatically during last winter's strike, when the company brought in a less-trained workforce to temporarily replace skilled employees on the picket lines. Here are statistics for the same time period over the last four years, showing the number of customer problems not resolved within 24 hours.

Source: Maine Public Utilities Commission

As FairPoint Seeks Layoffs, a 'Total Disregard' for Skilled Workforce

Nearly 2,000 FairPoint workers throughout New England went on strike for five months last October after the company sought millions in concessions, canceled health benefits for strikers, slashed pensions and sought to out-source jobs to low-paid contractors.

But now, after growing community support for the workers and a final round of productive negotiations, they returned to the job just in time for the May announcement that the company is laying off 260 workers across 17 states.

IBEW workers are represented by Manchester, N.H., Local 2320; Montpelier, Vt., Local 2326; and Augusta, Maine, Local 2327. FairPoint also employs members of the Communications Workers of America Local 1400 in New Hampshire. These employees will bear the brunt of the cuts, as the company plans to slash 219 positions in northern New England.

'We firmly believe this [layoff] is unnecessary and will further erode the already compromised quality of service for our customers.'

— FairPoint negotiating committee

Union members picketed at the company headquarters in Portland, Maine, on June 18, sending the message that such drastic cuts will continue the company's slide toward less-reliable customer service for residents of the region.

Local 2327 Business Manager Peter McLaughlin said that the layoffs were unnecessary given the large amount of work needed to sustain the company's infrastructure.

"There is absolutely no shortage of work out there," McLaughlin said. "Right now, the company is forcing hundreds of

workers to work overtime and many are on permanent standby at locations where the company is planning to cut positions. It defies common sense."

McLaughlin said that FairPoint has failed to meet service quality benchmarks for years, and that cutting its skilled workforce by more than 10 percent will only make matters worse.

IBEW and CWA leaders met with FairPoint management in June to discuss ways to hold the company to its collective bargaining agreement during the transition.

"We firmly believe this [layoff] is unnecessary and will further erode the already compromised quality of service for our customers," the union leaders said in a joint statement. "The company clearly cannot provide adequate service at the current staffing levels. As we all know, the company has been mismanaged from the moment FairPoint took over the business in 2008. Their allegiance is to the Wall Street hedge fund owners whose only priorities are higher share prices and a profitable sale of the northern New England business. Our priority has always been to fight for good jobs and quality service in our region, and that struggle continues."

Worker advocates say that the decision to lay off so many workers is less about increasing productivity and more about improving the company's financial picture in advance of a possible sale. FairPoint's CEO Paul Sunu has said he'd be open to a potential deal.

"Understanding the reality of a consolidating industry with intense competition ... we must consider mergers and acquisitions as either a seller or a buyer as part of our overall strategy," Sunu said, as reported by the Bangor Daily News in June.

"It's a shame that this company is sacrificing hundreds of good, local jobs and our customers' trust in order to ensure the Wall Street hedge fund owners make a huge profit in a sale," said Don Tremontozzi, president of

CWA Local 1400. "What kind of telecommunications infrastructure will northern New Englanders be left with in the wake of FairPoint's slash and burn strategy?"

FairPoint's reputation took a hit during last winter's strike, when customer complaints spiked while time lagged for service repairs, according to figures from the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

For the months of October, November and December—while union members manned the picket lines—nearly 10,400 residents experienced outages lasting longer than 24 hours. That number eclipses the 8,000 similar problems reported for the same periods in 2011, 2012 and 2013 combined.

FairPoint also received 12,161 customer complaints during the last three months of 2014. That's a 29 percent increase from the previous three-year average. Last November—the first full month of the strike—saw a record 5,417 complaints, the highest in four years.

Area newspapers and blogs documented many customers' frustrations.

"I needed phone service for medical reasons," said Sheryl Hallahan, of Barrington, N.H., who went without service between Jan. 8-27. "When I tried to get reconnected, I was told that didn't matter. And when I talked to a manager, they wouldn't give me their name, and I didn't get a credit for lack of service," she told www.fosters.com.

At the time, the company told the public that its contingency workforce—which included lower-paid and lesser-skilled non-union workers—was sufficient.

"The FairPoint network performed exceptionally during the work stoppage and our well-trained and qualified contract workforce provided superb support of that network," spokeswoman Angelynn Amores Beaudry told the Portland Press Herald in a written statement following the strike.

IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson praised the workforce for standing up for good New England jobs.

"These men and women helped bring the company out of bankruptcy, and they provide vital services in areas where many residents have no other options," Stephenson said. "Sadly, thousands of New Englanders can expect more of the same problems that they experienced last winter if FairPoint keeps cutting an already short-staffed workforce. We know the company cares about its hedge fund owners—it's questionable whether or not FairPoint cares about its customers."

Read more from the unions' negotiating team at www.fairnessatfairpoint.com. ■

