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MAKING HISTORY

IBEW Builds First U.S. Offshore Wind Farm

The Block Island Wind Farm is now being built three miles off the island and 16 miles off the Rhode Island mainland. Photo provided by Deepwater Wind.

Three miles off the coast of Block Island — and 16 miles off the Rhode Island mainland — will stand the first offshore wind farm in U.S. waters, another sign that wind energy is making inroads in North America.

It has added significance for Providence, R.I., Local 99. The construction of the five-turbine farm is a chance to be a part of history and also put IBEW members in line for good-paying jobs now and in the future.

“We’re at the dawn of a new source of energy. Being on the ground of this initial project will hopefully give us a leg up on the next project,” Business Manager Michael Daley said.

Daley said about 50 wiremen from Local 99 are expected to work on the Block Island project, most of



them at the Port of Providence, where Local 99 members helped build a temporary construction facility last winter.

They have been replaced by crews assembling the five turbines and cables to support them. The turbines will be put on barges and transported to the Block Island site sometime this summer. Deepwater Wind, the windfarm owner, expects it to be generating power later this year.

It hasn’t been the easiest work. Heavy rains during the winter slowed construction of the temporary facility. So did the unexpected discovery of methane gas. Most of the parts were built overseas and French- and Spanish-speaking workers also are on the jobsite, leading to some communication difficulties.

“I’ve never been a part of anything else like it,” said Local 99 member Jack McGee, who interrupted his retirement to serve as construction manager at

the temporary facility for IBEW signatory contractor Aladdin Electric.

But it’s all been worth it.

“There’s going to be a lot of new construction because of this and we want to be part of it,” said Local 99 member Jeff Audet, co-owner of E.W. Audet & Sons, who heads a crew of IBEW workers assembling the turbines.

New Opportunities

There are thousands of windfarms off the coasts of Europe, China and Japan. But in the United States, most have been built on the open plains of the Midwest and West. States getting the largest percentage of their energy from wind are Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma and North Dakota, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

That availability of land has discouraged the building of offshore facilities. So have other factors. Some owners of oceanfront property have worked to squash them, including the highly-publicized Cape

OFFSHORE WIND FARM *continued on page 2*

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IBEW Builds First U.S. Offshore Wind Farm



Wind project proposed for Nantucket Sound off the coast of Massachusetts's Cape Cod.

But Rhode Island officials welcomed the Block Island project. They see it as a way to boost the state's economy and get a jump on an emerging, clean-energy technology ahead of other coastal states. They worked in concert with Providence-based Deepwater Wind to pick the site.

The IBEW was among several trade unions that lobbied Rhode Island officials to ensure it would be built and Deepwater Wind officials turned to them when construction began.

"They bring with them the unique skills and experience we need to complete this work and we're pleased that IBEW members are part of the world-class team we've assembled to build this project," Deepwater Chief Executive Officer Jeff Grybowski said.

Located in a spot with strong winds, the project is expected to significantly lower energy costs on the island, which isn't connected to the mainland grid and has to import one million gallons of diesel fuel every year.

Daley expects it to lead to bigger and better things for Local 99 members. They will have permanent positions at substations on the island and in Narragansett, R.I., he said. Deepwater Wind also has plans to build a 200-turbine farm in federal waters off the coasts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, with work starting sometime next year. Local 99's signatory contractors are expected to be involved in working on that, too.



The bottom section of platforms that will support windmills at Block Island Wind Farm at the Port of Providence. They will be moved to the permanent site this summer. Above is an artist's rendering of the wind farm when it is finished. Graphic provided by Deepwater Wind.

"We at Deepwater Wind felt it was important to start out small, with a demonstration-sized project like this one, and Rhode Island is the perfect place to launch this industry," Grybowski said. "We're confident that the Block Island Wind Farm is just the start of something bigger."

Site Challenges

For members like McGee and others at Aladdin Electric, the job is finished. He and his crew completed work on the temporary construction facility on Feb. 1.

Temperatures were mild by New England winter standards, but there was more rain than usual, he said. Workers preparing to pour the concrete base found methane just beneath the ground's surface. That delayed work for six weeks while a protective barrier was built.

"That created a time problem," McGee

said. "Then we had to monitor the methane and had to put in a control system."

The situation also forced crew members to deal with standing water. It couldn't seep into the ground during and after rainstorms and had to be removed manually.

"When we had an open pit, all the water would run into that opening," McGee said.

For others like Audet, the work is ongoing. But as he pointed out, IBEW members are used to taking on difficult jobs.

"Our guys know how to put things together," Audet said. "With the knowledge they've gained in the past on other construction sites, they can adapt and make it happen."

"Most of my guys have been with me for a long time, for more than 10 years. I have a lot of trust in them and they know what to do. If they don't, they know the right questions to ask."

Daley said he is hopeful some Local 99 members will be involved in construction at the on-water site near Block Island.

That remains uncertain. But no matter the future in wind energy in and around Rhode Island, he's confident Local 99 will have a place in it. Daley recently attended a conference in Boston for companies pursuing wind-energy projects. It convinced him more than ever of the importance of Local 99 getting involved.

Among the companies on hand was GE, which has installed more than 30,000 wind turbines on land, but is moving into the offshore market. GE's renewable energy division is installing electrical and mechanical components in the Block Island project's five turbines.

"We're trying to get out the message that green energy is good," Daley said. "There will always be fossil fuels. But the less reliant we can be on those, the better off we'll be. That's the message we're trying to promote." ■



Local 99 members Chris Seiber, Chris Wilson, Jonathan McKeen, Jon MacDonald and Matt Lattinville assemble before they enter a wind turbine tower to perform insulation work.

NJ Transit 'Win-Win-Win' Deal Averts Strike

Only hours before a strike that would have stranded tens of thousands of commuters, union workers and New Jersey Transit came to terms.

The deal was struck March 11, after NJ Transit added nearly \$50 million in wages and benefits to its previous offer, said IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohné.

The final terms of the agreement have not been released, but Bohné said the eight-and-a-half-year deal, with five years retroactive pay, came very close to the union position that had been endorsed by two presidential emergency boards over the last year. The major difference was that the pay increases were spread over a longer period.

"In the end we have a deal that is a win for the state, a win for the workers and a win for our customers," Bohné said.

If the negotiations had failed, the more than 300,000 people who use NJ Transit Railroad every day, more than 100,000 into Manhattan alone, would have been effectively stranded. NJ Transit announced plans to increase bus service, but only enough to carry 40,000 more riders. With the first NJ Transit strike in 20 years set for the night of Sunday March 13, many workers left work Friday night unsure of how they would get back.

"We got an agreement because there was a lot of political and public pressure on New Jersey Transit to keep the trains running," Bohné said. "I thought it was wonderful that the pressure was on."

The 4,200 union rail workers will receive wage increases of approximately 2.5 percent per year over the term of the agreement, with retroactive wage payments dating back to March 1, 2012, paid in two lump-sum increments. Certain changes were made to the health care plans and members will be paying more for their coverage, but the changes were in line with the recommendations of the two PEBs.

"What they first offered would not have covered the increase in health care costs that NJT was demanding," Bohné said. "All 11 unions were united. That wasn't good enough."

A week before the announcement, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie had characterized the union contract offer as "outrageous" and warned that an agreement on those terms would require an increase in ticket prices. After the deal was announced, however, Christie told a news conference that no fare increases were needed until June 2017 at the earliest.

"I think we came to a fair, reasonable accommodation to the interests of the union and the interests of the taxpayers of the state," Christie said. "People generally don't settle until they have to. We're about 30 hours or so from 'have to.' So we got it done."

When a strike was averted last year at the Long Island Railroad, union leaders and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the deal together. It is a sign of the strain between NJ Transit and labor that Christie and union leaders gave separate news conferences announcing the deal. In fact Christie had no involvement in the negotiations at all.

Labor coalition organizations have sent the contract out to the membership for ratification.

"What was accomplished here is a true testament to the solidarity of all 11 rail labor unions and their members," Bohné said, particularly New York Local 1573 General Chairman John MacDonald and President Kevin Kirsch and IBEW System Council No. 7 General Chairman Arthur Davidson, Assistant General Chairman Steve Corrado and their staff. "And thanks to International President Lonnie R. Stephenson for his support during this dispute." ■



More than 4,000 IBEW rail workers at New Jersey Transit agreed to a new contract, five years after the last one expired.

"We got an agreement because there was a lot of political and public pressure on New Jersey Transit."

— IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohné

All in a Day's Work: IBEW Members Rescue D.C. Region from Metro Nightmare

Washington, D.C.'s public transportation woes made international news on March 16 after the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority arrived at the unprecedented decision to shutter the region's underground Metro system for an entire day in the middle of a busy work week.

In a city where the term "gridlock" usually describes intransigent members of Congress battling political opponents, panic set in after the announcement that Metro's 700,000 daily commuters would be forced onto the capital's streets the next morning if they had any hope of making it to work.

But with safety concerns the overwhelming priority after an electrical fire the day before, WMATA turned to the best of the best, IBEW journeyman wiremen, to quickly and correctly get the nation's second-busiest subway system back up and running and serving the region's customers.

On any given night, 60 to 65 IBEW electricians report to work at Metro, employed by Maryland-based signatory contractor C3M Power Systems. Some are assigned to ongoing construction and rehabilitation projects, and others perform electrical maintenance and repair across the system as needed.

After the March 14 fire, the second incident in a little over a year, new WMATA General Manager Paul Wiedefeld determined that every inch of the system's 118 miles of track needed to be inspected to prevent a recurrence. That meant more than 600 of the jumper cables responsible for both fires needed to be checked and replaced if faulty, all in a little over 24 hours.

"We understand how important this system is to everyone in this region," said C3M foreman and IBEW wireman David Manfredi. "Getting these repairs done quickly was important, but getting them done right and getting them done safely were the main priorities."

Most nights, Manfredi leads a crew of nine or so IBEW electricians, but during the shutdown, he played the role of air-traffic controller and triage doctor, helping WMATA officials to prioritize electrical repairs and dispatching a team of 25 to 30 across the system.

Most of the inspection work was done by WMATA employees, but when problems were identified, and at least 27 "highest priority" issues were found according to Wiedefeld, the work of repairing the cables and electrical components called for expert IBEW wiremen.

"We have the best training out there," said Washington, D.C., Local 26 member and C3M foreman Tarrick Luck, who spent both nights of the shutdown walking tracks and repairing problem areas. "It's hard to imagine operating on a 750-volt third rail without it. It's a fast-paced, dangerous job, but we're prepared for it."

Luck and Manfredi's crews worked long hours, some pulling 12- and 14-hour

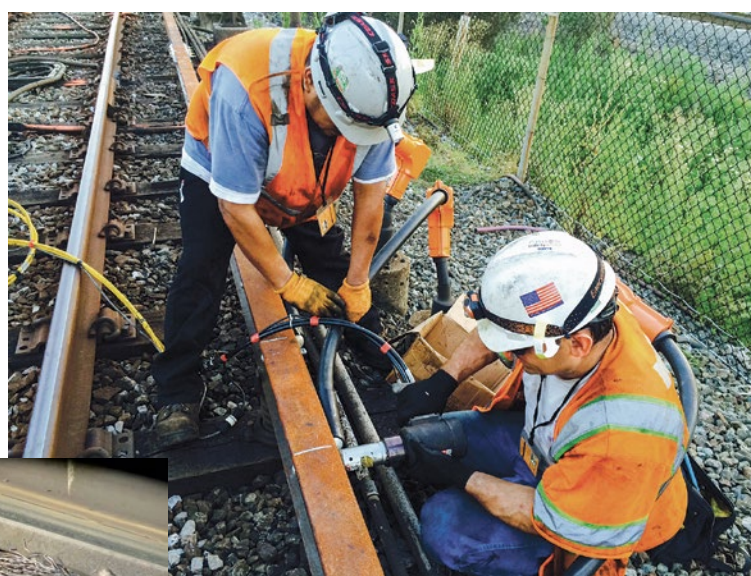
shifts during the closure, but it's all part of the job, Luck said. "We've got a responsibility to the people who rely on Metro in their daily lives. It's important that when these people travel, they have to get there and back safely."

And despite some recent public trouble that prompted WMATA to seek new leadership in Wiedefeld, both Manfredi and Luck insisted that the Metro system is in good hands.

"Metro is a fantastic system in comparison to a lot of others," said Manfredi, who is in his fifth year on the job. "They

IBEW electricians work on an outdoor section of Metro's 118-mile track system. Below, a close-up of damage to one the 600 jumper cables that required inspection in a 24-hour period.

(Photo courtesy WMATA)



really do have safety in mind, and it's getting better every day," he said, noting that outside contractors like C3M work with WMATA every day to keep the

system in operation.

Luck was impressed with how effective Metro leadership was during a difficult moment. "For things to have been as chaotic as they were with the last-minute

announcement, everything behind the scenes went incredibly smoothly. Everybody really came together and got it done in time to reopen Thursday morning, just like they promised," he said.

"We're IBEW, and that means we take pride in the work we do," Manfredi added. "We have families, and this union makes sure we can support them. But when you're working for a system like Metro, it means all the families who rely on it to get them safely from place to place can be confident that our work is done right."

Local 26 Business Manager Charles E. Graham Jr., who represents the vast majority of IBEW electricians working in the Metro system, said he couldn't be prouder of the hard work his members put in during the crisis. "Our members helped build the original system in the 1970s and they've been working on expanding and maintaining it ever since. A relationship doesn't last that long unless you consistently do quality work. We're proud to be a part of getting Washingtonians where they're going." ■

DirecTV Workers Gain a Voice with the IBEW

When AT&T closed a deal to buy DirecTV last July, employees of the satellite provider sat up and took notice.

While the satellite industry has long been resistant to union organizing, AT&T's relationship with the IBEW dates back more than 120 years to the birth of the union and to the advent of the telecommunications industry itself.

For the last 20 years, the two have mutually benefited from labor-friendly neutrality and card-check agreements that make it easier to form a union, an arrangement that was recently extended to cover DirecTV.

Now, the satellite giant's employees, who became eligible to start signing cards on March 1, are joining on with the IBEW all over the United States. In the first month, more than 2,100 people in 11 DirecTV units achieved majority support to join the IBEW in Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah and Washington.

Organizers hope they're just the start. Another dozen campaigns are well underway, supported by International and local organizers, with the potential for another 3,500 DirecTV employees who could soon enjoy the benefits of IBEW representation.

"We're so happy to welcome these 2,100 future members from DirecTV," said IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "Not only will they be some of the newest members of our great union, but they're leaders of a movement that we hope will bring thousands more of their colleagues from across the country along with them in the next few months."

The largest collection of organized working men and women so far — more than 650 — are employed at DirecTV's massive call center in Missoula, Montana. Employee organizers began the process of educating their co-workers about the union last December, but the effort really escalated in January.

"This group of leaders really stepped up and took ownership of the future of their workplace," said Bob Brock, the IBEW's regional organizing coordinator for the Western U.S. "From day one, they understood what IBEW Brotherhood could do for them, and they went after it with everything they had."



IBEW organizers erected an informational tent outside the Missoula, Montana, DirecTV call center.

Ben Dawson, one of the Missoula employees who originally reached out to IBEW organizers, credited the dozens of his colleagues who took on leadership roles, educated their co-workers and collected union cards.

From the first signed card on March 16, it took just six days to collect the 326 more required to certify the unit. "This was really a ground-up, grassroots education campaign," Dawson said. In February, the company announced major changes to shift-scheduling, including plans to eliminate part-time work and school scheduling, an important issue in the university town.

"I think people were worried about their jobs, about their ability to schedule child-care or doctor's appointments," Dawson said. "This became a movement about ordinary working people deserving stability and a voice in their workplace. People deserve to be able to see their families at night."

For installation technicians in Idaho, the issues were different, but the result was the same. DirecTV installers there chose to join the IBEW to gain consistency in decision-making, fair compensation and to have their opinions heard by management.

Earlier this year, DirecTV announced a plan to move the install techs from a piece-rate pay scale to an hourly one, which would effectively cut their annual pay in half in many cases. "Before, a manager could basically decide how much you were going to be able to make in any given month," said Jason Taylor, one of the Idaho technicians who led the unionization effort. "There was no real consistency in the leadership, and that's what really helped us convince our co-workers that we needed a union."

With their 120-member unit now recognized, Taylor is eager to join Boise, Idaho, Local 291 and to get started negotiating a first contract. "We're losing money every day," he said of the new hourly rate, "so the sooner we get this settled, the better."

Elsewhere, the IBEW is organizing DirecTV technicians and call center employees in dozens of locations across the country, and many are on the verge of achieving majority status. Members of the newly organized units are even reaching out to their colleagues in other states, providing assistance, advice and sometimes just reassurance that they're making the right decision. ■

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Trudeau Pledges Carbon Cuts, Urged to Keep Focus on Grid Stability

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau chose Washington, D.C., in March for his first official state visit since the Liberal Party's landslide October election, observers hoped it would mark the return of a friendlier, more cooperative relationship between the two neighboring nations.

For the last several years under former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government, numerous issues had created a somewhat strained, businesslike arrangement between the North American powers.

In Washington, Trudeau and President Barack Obama pledged to "play a leadership role internationally in the low-carbon global economy over the coming decades," setting specific goals for reducing methane emissions from oil and gas drilling by 2025 and agreeing to work together toward the long-term preservation of the Arctic. The two also vowed to move more quickly to implement standards agreed to at the United Nations Paris climate talks last year.

For IBEW members in both countries, however, talk of severely reducing carbon emissions presents an obstacle to grid stability and good-paying jobs. In Alberta, where about 60 percent of energy generation comes from coal, the Paris Climate Agreement goals would likely force the closure of six coal plants by 2030.

Calgary, Alberta, Local 254 represents about 350 members at several of those plants, but Business Manager John Briegel also recognizes the importance of climate change and the need to address it.

"Obviously, these issues are front and center right now," he said, "but we have to make sure that hard-working people in Canada aren't forgotten about while we try to reduce carbon emissions."

In Alberta, provincial government leaders have said they'll find a way to look after people and communities hurt by inevitable coal plant closures, but so far, they've only appointed a facilitator to protect the investments of the power companies. "We're hopeful that they'll do the same for the communities and the workforce," Briegel said. "It's naive to think we'll stop the government's course of action, but we can all work together to protect the working people who are going to be affected."

IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter, who attended the climate talks in Paris last year, met in February in Toronto with First District leaders and affected locals, who collectively represent more than 1,000 members who could be impacted by coal plant closures. The group discussed the implications of Trudeau's renewed push on carbon emis-

sions and strategized on how to best protect power grid reliability and IBEW members as specific changes are decided.

Coal plants, Hunter said, aren't an issue in every province, but they are critical to providing steady baseload power, particularly in Alberta and Saskatchewan. "It's easy for lawmakers to say, 'Let's close these polluting plants,'" he said, "but it's a lot harder question to figure out how we're going to replace the critical power they supply. We're committed to helping Canada figure out how to do it, same as we are in the U.S."

Just as important for First District Vice President Bill Daniels are the new jobs that will need to be created for IBEW members and communities where coal plants are slated to close.

Some of those new jobs will come from work on renewable sources of electricity like wind and solar, but those alone

aren't reliable enough to replace critical baseload power. For that, energy companies will need to rely on cleaner sources like natural gas, hydroelectric or zero-emissions nuclear.

"As Canada moves to greener sources of energy, it will give us a chance to showcase the talents and skills of IBEW electricians in those fields," said Daniels, pointing to recognized photovoltaic and electric vehicle infrastructure training programs developed by the National Electrical Trade Council, a joint union-contractor organization that creates and promotes new technology training for Canada's electrical industry.

"We're ready for the jobs of the future," Daniels said of the 70,000 IBEW members in Canada, "but we expect that both the federal and provincial governments will work with us as they move further along the path to cleaner energy sources." ■



The Genessee Power Station, 40 miles southwest of Edmonton, Alberta, is one of Canada's cleanest coal plants. Still, it is scheduled to be shuttered by 2030 to meet the province's new carbon rules.

Trudeau s'engage à couper dans les émissions de carbone, insiste à cibler les efforts sur la stabilité du réseau électrique

Lorsque le premier ministre Justin Trudeau a choisi Washington, D.C. en mars dernier dans le cadre de la première visite officielle d'État depuis la victoire éclatante du parti libéral des élections en octobre dernier, les observateurs espéraient voir le retour d'une relation plus conviviale et plus solidaire entre les deux nations voisines.

Avoir été sous le règne du premier ministre de Stephen Harper du parti conservateur au cours des dernières années, beaucoup d'objets ont rendu la liaison tendue et pragmatique entre les deux puissances nord-américaines.

À Washington, Trudeau et le président Barack Obama se sont engagés à « jouer le rôle de leadership sur la scène internationale au sujet de l'économie mondiale à faibles émissions de carbone pour les prochaines décennies, » établir des objectifs précis pour réduire les émissions de méthane que produit le forage de pétrole et de gaz d'ici 2025 et collaborer pour la conservation à long terme de l'Arctique. Les deux s'engagent également à agir plus rapidement pour mettre en œuvre les normes convenues lors des négociations à l'ONU sur le climat présenté à Paris l'an dernier.

Cependant, pour les membres de la FIOE dans les deux pays, parler de réduire fortement les émissions de carbone présente un obstacle à la stabilité du

réseau électrique et aux emplois bien rémunérés. En Alberta, où 60 pour cent de la production énergétique vient du charbon, l'accord à Paris sur les changements climatiques forcera probablement la fermeture de six centrales au charbon d'ici 2030.

La section locale 254 à Calgary en Alberta représente environ 350 membres à travers plusieurs de ces centrales et le gérant d'affaires John Briegel reconnaît l'importance du changement climatique et le besoin de répondre à ce problème.

« Il est clair que ces questions sont au centre en ce moment, mais nous devons veiller à ce que les travailleurs acharnés au Canada ne soient pas oubliés alors qu'on s'efforce de réduire les émissions de gaz, » dit-il.

En Alberta, les leaders du gouvernement provincial ont dit qu'ils vont trouver le moyen d'entraider les personnes et les communautés affectées par la fermeture de ces centrales, mais jusqu'à présent un facilitateur a été nommé pour protéger les investissements des compagnies d'électricité. « Nous avons espoir qu'ils feront de même pour les communautés et le marché du travail. Ce serait naïf de penser qu'on peut freiner l'ordre des choses du gouvernement, mais nous pouvons tous collaborer pour protéger ces travailleurs, » dit Briegel.

Le directeur Jim Hunter du service

public de la FIOE a participé à la négociation sur le climat tenu à Paris l'an dernier. Il a rencontré en février à Toronto les leaders du Premier District et les locaux affectés, qui collectivement représentent plus de 1000 membres pouvant être affectés par la fermeture des centrales au charbon.

Le groupe a discuté du nouvel effort que Trudeau a impliqué au sujet des émissions de carbone et ils ont élaboré des stratégies pour trouver la meilleure façon de protéger la fiabilité du réseau électrique et les membres de la FIOE alors que des modifications spécifiques sont décidées.

Les centrales au charbon, dit Hunter, ne sont pas un problème dans chaque province, mais elles sont essentielles pour fournir une source d'énergie de base constante, plus particulièrement en Alberta et en Saskatchewan. « C'est facile pour les législateurs de dire de 'fermer ces usines polluantes', mais c'est encore plus difficile de remplacer cette source d'énergie de base importante qu'ils fournissent. Nous sommes engagés à aider le Canada à trouver un moyen d'y arriver, la même chose aux États-Unis puisque nous y sommes, » dit-il.

C'est aussi important pour le Vice-président international Bills Daniels, car de nouveaux emplois doivent être créés pour les communautés et les membres de la FIOE où les centrales au char-

bon ont prévu de fermer.

Certains de ces nouveaux emplois seront créés pour travailler sur les sources d'énergie électrique renouvelable comme l'air et le solaire, mais on ne peut pas compter sur leur fiabilité pour remplacer une source d'énergie de base importante. Pour cela, les compagnies devront compter sur des énergies plus propres telles que le gaz naturel, l'hydroélectricité ou l'énergie nucléaire à zéro émission.

Alors que le Canada progresse vers des sources d'énergie plus écologiques, cela nous donne la chance de mettre en valeur les compétences des membres de la FIOE dans ces milieux, » dit Daniels, en pointant vers les programmes de formation renommés sur la photovoltaïque et l'infrastructure des véhicules électriques développés par le National Electrical Trade Council (NETCO), une organisation conjointe entre le syndicat et l'entrepreneur qui réalise et promeut des formations sur la nouvelle technologie pour l'industrie électrique au Canada.

« Nous sommes prêts pour les emplois de l'avenir, mais nous nous attendions à ce que le gouvernement fédéral et provincial collaborent avec nous alors qu'ils décident d'aller plus loin dans la voie des sources d'énergie plus écologiques, » dit Daniels à propos des 70 000 membres au Canada. ■

CIRCUITS

Ed Hill, 'Giant' of the Utility Industry, Honored

International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill was honored for a lifetime of service to the utility industry by the landmark labor-management organization he helped create.

Hill was presented the John D. Dingell Award at the annual meeting of the National Labor and Management Political Action Committee, along with Tom Kuhn, president of the Edison Electric Institute, a coalition of investor-owned utilities with nearly 220 million customers and 500,000 workers.

Hill and Kuhn co-founded LAMPAC in 2008 to advance the common goal of a healthy industry, reliable power and a well-trained workforce.

The award is named after the former Michigan representative, the longest serving member of Congress. Dingell sat on the Energy and Commerce Committee for nearly 60 years and was chair for more than 30. He built a reputation for finding ways that labor and management could collaborate for the common good.

His wife, Michigan Rep. Debbie Dingell, and New Jersey Rep. Donald Norcross, the only IBEW member in Congress, presented the awards to Hill and Kuhn.

Hill accepted his award on behalf of IBEW members. He thanked the room of business managers, international representatives, elected officials, and utility executives, and expressed a philosophical view of the award.

"Giving me an award for building relationships is like giving a little kid an award for eating ice cream," Hill said. "There will always be a certain adversarial nature to the relationship between labor and management, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't work to find common cause where we can."

Kuhn accepted his award with some kind words and thanks of his own.

"I don't deserve to be in the same category as Ed Hill. How he rose through the ranks to the highest office of the IBEW... his story is incredible," Kuhn said. "The Code of Excellence is imbedded in his heart, that we better serve our members when we serve our customers first."

The Dingell Award, an engraved table lamp mounted with an electricity meter, was presented by American Electric Power CEO Nicholas Akins and Utility Department Director Jim Hunter.

The ceremony came after a daylong conference focused on business and political challenges facing the utility industry.

Throughout the day, company and IBEW leaders spoke about how they were meeting each challenge together.

A particular bright spot was the focus of a panel featuring Florida Power & Light President and CEO Eric Silagy and Utility System Council 4 Business Manager Gary Aleknavich.

Before the Code of Excellence was signed between FPL and the 11 locals in System Council 4, Aleknavich said, contract negotiations dragged on for months and thousands of grievances were filed against the company.

"Our last contract negotiation took 34 days from start to finish and I am proud to say we have zero, not one grievance pending arbitration," Aleknavich said.

"Aligning our interests has made us better, stronger and safer," Silagy said. "We are really, really proud of how far we have come." ■



Tom Kuhn, president of the Edison Electric Institute, and International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill were honored at the National LAMPAC meeting.

Another Way This Tulsa Local is Helping First-Year Apprentices

While graduates of the IBEW apprenticeship programs are all but guaranteed a good-paying job, the first year can be tough in terms of up-front costs. With books, tools and other supplies, an apprentice in his first year can expect to pay between \$1,000 and \$1,200 out-of-pocket. So when Ted Jenkins, training director for the Tulsa, Okla., JATC, learned about a program through the Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that provides financial assistance, he applied.

"When you come in to the apprenticeship, you're at your lowest pay scale. A lot of times you're coming from starter jobs that don't pay well," said Jenkins, a Tulsa Local 584 member. "There's never really been any help for these apprentices, and it can be a struggle when you first come in."

More and more, people are touting the benefits of apprenticeships. You learn a marketable skill and get paid while



Tulsa, Okla., Local 584's apprenticeship program is taking advantage of a program that eases the barrier to entry for many.

doing so. Unlike a four-year college degree where graduates often emerge with thousands of dollars in debt and precarious job prospects, graduates of an apprenticeship have no such debt. And they will make an average of \$50,000 in their first year. Still, that first year can be difficult financially. Not everybody has \$1,000 to spend, even if it's for an investment in their future.

"It's been very helpful," Jenkins said. "We don't want these costs to be a barrier to entry."

Jenkins says the Tulsa apprenticeship program was the first in the state to apply. They had eight recipients the first year. This year they will have between 15 and 20.

"So far it's allowed me to save almost a grand," said Tyler Ford, a first-year apprentice. "It's paid for my books and my first year of tools, which I use every day on the job."

There is no cap on the number of apprentices who can receive funding. As long as apprentices apply to an accredited program and qualify for assistance, they will receive funding.

"My wife and I were kind of tight on money when it was time to pay for books, and it took that pressure off," said first-year apprentice Ross Peary.

Since the program is federal, any
CIRCUITS continued on page 6

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

Working Families Win in Bluegrass Special Election

Union members in Kentucky scored a big victory when Democrats won three of the four state House seats contested in a special election on March 8, thwarting an attempt by Republican Gov. Matt Bevin and others to push a right-to-work law through the state Legislature.

The results mean Democrats hold a 53-47 edge in the House, a chamber they have controlled since 1921. The House is the only thing keeping Kentucky from adopting a right-to-work law and doing away with prevailing wage legislation. Republicans dominate the Senate and Bevin, a tea party favorite elected in a surprise victory last November, has made it no secret that he wants a right-to-work law passed and prevailing wage abolished.

"Word is getting out on right-to-work," Louisville Local 369 Political Director Gene Holthouser said. "[Neighboring] Indiana has right-to-work and jobs are leaving the state. It's something that's caught the attention of our members."

Right-to-work laws allow workers to enjoy the benefits of a union-negotiated contract without having to pay union dues. Prevailing wage laws require contractors doing business with state and local governments to pay their workers at a pre-determined level.

The winning candidates were Jeffrey Taylor in the 8th House District, which is in southwestern Kentucky near Fort Campbell; Chuck Tackett in the 62nd District in central Kentucky; and Lew Nicholls in the 98th District in the state's northeast corner.

"I don't want to be humble on this one," said Bill Finn, president of the Kentucky State Building and Construction Trades Council and a former Local 369 business manager. "[Union members] did it. They made it happen and it was across the board."

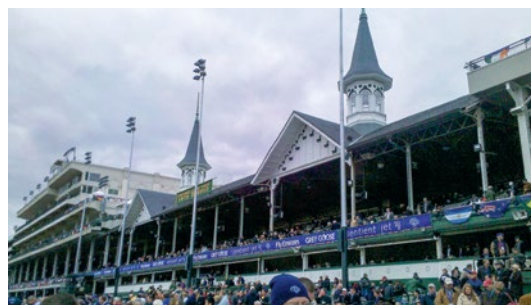
Labor's role in the election was noticed.

"Conventional wisdom is that much of the bite has been taken away from the state's labor unions as voters more and more cast ballots on social issues rather than their pocketbooks," a reporter for the Louisville Courier-Journal, the state's largest newspaper, wrote in an analysis of the results. "But with the GOP nearing a takeover of the House and promising so-called right-to-work legislation ... the unions were energized, especially in northeastern Kentucky, where voters witnessed what has gone on in West Virginia with the passage of such laws."

Holthouser and other IBEW leaders in Kentucky credited a strong ground game for the victories. IBEW members went door-to-door with other unions and leafletted throughout the four districts in play.

One business manager said working families are quickly tiring of Bevin, who hasn't tried to hide his disdain for unions.

"I know there are union members that voted for him for whatever reason," said Joe



The twin spires tower over Louisville's Churchill Downs, site of the Kentucky Derby. Democrats won three of the four races in a special election held to fill four open Kentucky House seats on March 8.

Photo used by Flickr/Creative Commons agreement with Greta Polites.

Dillow, president of Portsmouth, Ohio, Local 575, which has jurisdiction in District 98. "I think there's a lot of buyer's remorse and people already are tired of his arrogant approach toward labor in general. He's just belittling us."

Dillow and Holthouser said that voters in District 98 get most of their media coverage from West Virginia outlets. They were well aware that state had passed a right-to-work law last month. That wasn't terribly popular in a district that has about 6,600 union members and retirees.

Nicholls' Republican opponent sensed labor's importance and told voters he would vote against right-to-work and support prevailing wage, but Dillow said those words were hollow.

"He was kind of talking out of both sides of his mouth," he said.

Tackett got just over 51 percent of the vote in a district where a Republican previously held the seat.

In District 8, President Barack Obama recorded a robo-call in support of Taylor that voters heard around the district, which has one of the largest black populations in the state.

Taylor, who was the only African-American candidate in the four races, won with 59 percent of the vote. He retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority and is the current chairman of the Christian County Democratic Party. He also is the first African-American to represent the district.

Jimmy Evans, business manager for Paducah, Ky., Local 816, said the combination of Taylor's appeal and union members traveling in from around Kentucky to campaign for him led to an overwhelming victory.

"He got people to vote who normally don't vote," Evans added. "He convinced them that working people need the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives."

The battle with right-to-work supporters is far from over. All 100 House seats will be on the November ballot and the GOP will make another major push to gain control, relying heavily on funding from groups outside the state to do it. The Kentucky House is the only legislative body in the South controlled by Democrats.

But Holthouser, Dillow and Evans all say they are optimistic. Many union members are concerned by what they have seen in Indiana and West Virginia and are becoming more politically involved, Holthouser said.

Each winning campaign convinced voters they were voting in a statewide race because of its potential impact on working people, Holthouser said.

"I really believe that our folks are paying attention," he said. "I hate to say it, but I think there had been a lot of apathy. People thought issues were important, but there was an attitude of 'Let someone else do it' or 'We've got others to manage that.' ■

Continued from page 5

CIRCUITS

accredited apprenticeship in the country can apply. Funds are for first-year apprentices only. For further information, Jenkins says trainers can talk with their local workforce, or employment, office.

The Tulsa program has been so successful that Jenkins was asked to join the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development.

"It's important that we have a say in where the money goes, and to push for apprenticeships," Jenkins said. "By 2020, more jobs will require some sort of certification beyond a high school diploma, and apprenticeships like the IBEW's are an excellent opportunity for the right person."

Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. ■

Ohio RENEW Chapter Partners with Local Schools

Members of the Reach Out and Engage Next-Gen Electrical Workers chapter at Columbus, Ohio, Local 1466, wanted to be more visible in the areas they serve. Employees of American Electric Power and members of a utility local, they wanted to find a way to tell customers the IBEW is a major part of their lives.

"We just want to let people know we're out there and we're in the community and we care," said Jimi Jette, a Local 1466 member.

Local 1466's RENEW committee is partnering with Reynoldsburg City Schools for a backpack campaign before the next school year begins in August.

RENEW members will be raising money and donating items to fill backpacks for students in need before the coming school year. They also will donate items to teachers for use in the classroom. RENEW is an IBEW initiative that encourages younger members to become more active and focus on issues important to members of their local.

"They [Columbus area residents] don't know we're a union," Jette added.

Jette recently turned 36 and bylaws required him to give up his seat on the advisory committee. He's been succeeded by Derek Samuelson from Norfolk, Va., Local 80.

Samuelson, 30, is a journeyman inside wireman and has been a leader at an active RENEW chapter at his local. He and other members took part in a polar plunge last winter to benefit the Special Olympics and have helped build homes for Habitat for Humanity.

They volunteer to work on maintenance projects at the USS Wisconsin, a decommissioned battleship that functions as a museum at the National Maritime Center in Norfolk.

Samuelson said he worked on non-union construction jobs before going through the Local 80 apprenticeship.

"I try to tell people there's a lot more power in numbers," he said. "We're all in this together. When you're working non-union, you're on your own." ■

TRANSITIONS

DECEASED

Vincent O'Reilly



We are saddened to announce the death of Vincent A. O'Reilly, former senior executive assistant to the International President.

Brother

O'Reilly was born in 1928 in Evanston, Ill., and initiated into Northbrook Local 1530 — later amalgamated into Downers Grove Local 15 — in 1946. He served 31 years in the International Office, the final 20 as assistant to three International Presidents.

When he retired, International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill said, "You don't replace a Vince O'Reilly. You accept the fact he has certainly earned his retirement and then start to miss him... It is not possible to know how much good he has done for our members and other North American working people."

Almost immediately after joining the IBEW, O'Reilly was an activist. He joined the Local 1530 executive board in 1954, became financial secretary in 1956 and was elected business manager in 1958. He was appointed an international repre-

sentative in 1971 and assigned to the utility department at the International Office. Two years later, he was made the director of the department.

"If you had to use one word, he was a real gentleman in the old-fashioned sense," said C. James Spellane, former director of the IBEW Media Department. "He was calm, reserved, and respectful but he kept everyone pulling in the same direction."

Brother O'Reilly oversaw the utility department during deregulation, the most dramatic change to the industry since Thomas Edison created the first utility in the 19th century.

In Washington, Brother O'Reilly represented the IBEW on many national and international panels and committees including the Executive Advisory Committee of the Federal Power Commission and the 20th Century Fund Independent Task Force in U.S. Energy Policy.

Former International President Charles Pillard appointed O'Reilly as assistant to the president in 1982 and International then President J.J. Barry promoted him to senior executive assistant in 1987.

"Everyone has their role to play, and his was giving advice to the leader of the IBEW and helping the people who report to the president succeed," Spellane said. "We have had major figures at the top of the IBEW leading the way but what keeps it suc-

cessful is that there are incredibly talented, intelligent, and humble people who do their part. Vince did his extraordinarily well."

Brother O'Reilly is survived by his son, Rev. Kevin O'Reilly — a familiar face to many in the IBEW from his frequent delivery of invocations at union events — his daughter Kim, and three grandchildren.

To his family and friends, the IBEW extends sincere sympathy. ■

DECEASED

Edward E. Harvey



The Brotherhood is saddened to announce the death of retired International Representative Edward E. Harvey on March 13.

Brother Harvey was a 60-year member of Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 175, but his connection to the IBEW went back to his childhood.

During the Great Depression, Ed's father Emmett Harvey got a job working at a Chattanooga housing project. With that job came not only a paycheck and membership in the IBEW, but also a house.

"They were homeless. That job gave

Ed's family a place to live and that is why he loved the IBEW so much," said Local 175 Business Manager Gary Watkins.

Brother Harvey joined Local 175 in 1948 after a year in the Marine Corps. He was president of Local 175 from 1965 to 1974, when he was elected business manager. He was appointed by then-International President Charles H. Pillard to be an international representative in the former Twelfth District (now the Tenth District) in 1980. He retired in 1998.

As business manager, Edwards started the Southern Electrical Retirement and Benefit Funds. Today, the retirement fund has over \$1 billion in assets for 21,000 members and retirees. The benefits fund was so successful, it became the NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan, which now has more than 80,000 members.

One of the concrete ways he gave Local 175 members hope was during the planning of the new hall in the 1960s. Some members wanted a simple, inexpensive metal-shelled building. Brother Harvey passionately argued against it.

"We are not a big local, but Ed said we deserve better. We deserve a hall that welcomes people, that is solid and permanent. A home we can take pride in," Watkins said.

Brother Harvey won the day and Local 175 still occupies the now much expanded hall Harvey built.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Generosity Fuels Safety in Philadelphia

It was a simple set-up. Find a good "catch" that improves worker safety and everyone on your crew gets a \$25 gift card.

The program was launched by signatory contractor Matrix NAC in 2015 and every distribution maintenance and construction crew at Pennsylvania Power and Light was eligible.

"Our safety program wasn't working as well as it should have been. Not that we had lots of injuries, just too many," said Jim Collins, vice president at Matrix NAC, and a former lineman with Philadelphia Local 126.

Safety may be its own reward, but cash will still grab your attention.

It was right around Thanksgiving and Local 126 members Dave Grochowski, Kyle King, Bob Tranguch and foreman Dan Van Houdt were owed some gift cards. At their morning meeting to lay out the maintenance and construction work the linemen would be doing that day, they had an idea for a little friendly competition.

"Twenty-five dollars is a nice recognition for going above your job — even though it is for our own good — but we make a good living and we all agreed we could really brighten up someone's holiday if we gave them away," Van Houdt said. "We decided to get a little friendly competition going and see who could donate the most cards by Christmas."

A good catch is an accident that doesn't happen. A hazard or problem nipped before it blooms.

The example Collins used was a hammer someone put down on a raised platform. Some other guy comes along, doesn't see it, kicks the hammer and it drops three levels.

"Even if it doesn't hit anyone, that is an incident," Collins said. "The good catch is stopping everything before something happens."

The good catch program is designed to overcome an ugly reality of the construction business. Some companies will say safety is priority one, but workers get the message pretty quickly that is only true to a point.

"I read accident reports in this job and what I see is that is often a culture change that we need," said IBEW Director of Safety Dave Mullen. "Too many programs reward the wrong people. You want to build a successful safety culture? Acknowledge and reward people who do it right and do it right away."

The reality is, most safety programs are nearly the opposite. They punish people for pointing out safety problems, whether they are intended to be or not.

"I've worked in places where you feel almost scared about pointing out safety problems," said Van Houdt's supervisor, Kevin Fielder. "You don't want to look dumb or sound foolish or worse, you end up with the famous 'one man layoff.'"

A 'one-man layoff' is firing without a firing, Fielder said, where a company lays you



Philadelphia Local 126 members Dave Grochowski, Dan Van Houdt, Kyle King and Bob Tranguch turned signatory contractor MatrixNAC's safety rewards program into a fundraising competition for local charity, raising nearly \$2,600.

off for speaking up about safety.

"A good catch isn't about who is at fault, it's about getting everybody home safely," he said. "Our job is very unforgiving. You have an accident, it will have catastrophic consequences."

After Van Houdt told Fielder about the competition, Fielder sent an email to every crew at Matrix. More people got involved. The good catches started pouring in.

News spread through Matrix all the way up to Collins. A lineman by training, Collins now oversees Matrix's \$200 million electrical division. He is responsible for the jobs and safety of hundreds of IBEW members across the U.S.

Collins made an announcement: whatever his crews donated, he would double it.

In a single month, IBEW members at Matrix NAC raised nearly \$2,600. All of it was donated to a local food bank and children's charities near the Philadelphia hall.

"We had a program called the 'Near Miss' and it didn't work," Collins said. "Guys simply didn't want their name on a near miss caused by their crewmates. It felt punitive, there were no incentives, and in the end the response was low."

In August 2014, Collins and his staff — Chuck Carter from Philadelphia Local 98 and Ed Milukas from Local 126 — came up with the "good catch" language and began to reward entire crews. The change in culture was immediate. Crews began looking for not just safety problems where the workers were at fault, they began reporting infrastructure problems on the network before they became failures.

Collins began sending those reports to executives at PPL. He did the same for reports that came in from crews working distribution systems owned by Atlantic City Electric, PECO and Pepco.

"The utilities love to see that we have a group of IBEW members looking their system up and down every day, finding problems and getting home safe," Collins said.

"It gives the executives a little more insight into their systems than they had before," Collins said. "If there is an incident, or worse, they would always ask how [could] this happen? Now they know." ■

"It is what he hoped it would become," Watkins said.

Harvey is survived by Billie, his wife of 44 years, and five children, Jason, Dennis, Steve, Eddie and Sharee.

"He loved his family and he loved the IBEW," Watkins said. "Even as he was dying, he'd ask me 'How is my local? How is my business manager?' The IBEW was everything to him."

To his family and friends, the IBEW extends sincere sympathy. ■

RETIRED Robert Erickson



Second District International Representative Robert Erickson retired March 31, capping off a 45-year IBEW career in the telecommunications industry.

Initiated into Manchester, N.H., Local 2320 in early 1971, Erickson spent more than 30 years as an installation and maintenance technician, starting with New England Telephone in New Hampshire and enduring numerous ownership changes that ended with his retirement from Verizon in 2008.

From 2003 until his appointment as International Representative in 2007, Erickson served as his local's assistant business manager, the final year of which was spent working with the International Office in fighting the sale of Verizon's New England landline and Internet business to FairPoint Communications, then a small telecom outfit based in North Carolina.

"That sale was the start of some very tough years for us," Erickson said, "and we fought it with everything we had." After spending months lobbying regulators and elected officials and testifying in hearings about the dangers of the deal, its approval was a letdown.

Despite FairPoint's promises about efficiency and modernization, the company, which expanded five-fold with the Verizon acquisition, declared bankruptcy just 18 months later. "We'd predicted it would take two or three years," Erickson said. "We didn't know just how right we were."

The International Office took notice and invited Erickson to join the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Department in Washington in 2007.

Over six years in D.C., he spent much of his time lobbying Congress, attending hearings on Capitol Hill and at the Federal Communications Commission, and working on regulatory and legislative issues that affected members.

But it was after his 2014 return to the Second District and his home state of New Hampshire that Erickson would truly leave his mark.

"I left Washington in September, and FairPoint members at IBEW and the Communications Workers of America went on strike Oct. 17," Erickson said. Many of his former co-workers were the

ones walking picket lines and struggling to get by, and it weighed heavily on him.

"That strike was tough on everyone," he said. "The first three or four weeks were OK, but that was a cold winter, and the second and third months were especially hard."

"We only had about 10 people out of the 1,800 IBEW and CWA members cross our line," he said.

"Bob played a critical role in mediating that deal," said Broadcasting and Telecommunications Department Director Martha Pultar. "We ended up with a far better agreement than the one FairPoint was proposing, thanks in no small part to his work."

Entering retirement, Erickson plans to do some traveling with his wife, Anne, and to spend more time outdoors and with family near their Rochester, N.H., home.

The IBEW officers, staff and membership wish Brother Erickson a long, happy and healthy retirement. ■

RETIRED Richard "Rick" Gessler



After 44 years of service to his IBEW family, Sixth District International Representative Richard "Rick" Gessler retired effective October 2, 2015.

Born and raised in Illinois, Brother Gessler was initiated into Downers Grove, Ill., Local 336 as a telephone installer repairman with Illinois Bell. Local 336 later amalgamated with Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21, the local that would remain his home.

He served on the substance abuse and bargaining committees, as chief steward and as a business representative. He also served five years as assistant business manager and vice president.

"I thought I could help the membership," Gessler said of his decision to run for office. "I saw too many people being abused by management and they weren't speaking up."

Appointed international representative in 2005, Gessler served in that capacity for the next 10 years, servicing the railroad, telecommunications and broadcast branches.

"It was great to be able to help, especially the smaller locals," Gessler said. "Oftentimes they'd have someone who really wanted to do something but didn't have the resources. So I'd help wherever I could, with Department of Labor regulations or making sure they were following the [IBEW] constitution, things like that."

Brother Gessler says that he is most proud of "getting involved, period."

"Getting along with everyone and meeting the members, I do miss that," he said. "I've had a very fulfilling career. I wouldn't change it for the world."

He and his wife Mary moved to Florida upon retirement.

"I'm busier now than I ever would have believed, with all the activities and making new friends. We love Florida. And

we don't miss the snow," Gessler said. ■

RETIRED Larry McGlamary



International Representative for Membership Development Larry McGlamary ended a 41-year career with the IBEW when he retired on Oct. 2.

Brother McGlamary was initiated into Roanoke, Va., Local 637 in 1974. (Local 637 was later merged into Washington, D.C., Local 26.) He is a journeyman wireman and served as 637's recording secretary from 1988-90 and its financial secretary from 1990-98. But he was best known for his organizing skills, traveling throughout Virginia to spread the gospel about the benefits of union membership.

"I always liked going and talking to people and giving them the facts, letting them know how things really are," McGlamary said. "There's so many misconceptions. Corporations have always been diligent about being anti-union and giving misinformation."

He moved to the International Office in Washington in 1998 and was appointed international representative in 2005.

In 2003, he helped with a campaign to organize about 220 manufacturing workers at the Osram Sylvania gas plant in Versailles, Ky. McGlamary worked closely with now-retired International Representative David Appleman, a longtime friend, and won despite opposition from a union-busting law firm retained by the company.

In 2015, he assisted with a successful organizing effort at Asplundh Tree Experts locations in Virginia. It was McGlamary's final organizing campaign before retirement and was made sweeter by the fact all eight shops voted in favor of IBEW representation, he said.

"All [organizing efforts] were rewarding due to the fact we were able to educate workers about their workplace rights," he said.

McGlamary said the most difficult part of retirement was informing Carmella Thomas, director of professional and industrial organizing, of his decision.

"Watching him as an organizer taught me the most important rule of organizing: to listen and to not speak," Thomas said. "If you are not listening, you are not communicating. He organized to grow our Brotherhood. He organized to help those employees who were being treated unfairly."

McGlamary and wife Marilyn recently moved to Manchester, Pa., to be close to daughter Kari and their two grandchildren. Jaime, another daughter, lives in Charleston, W.Va. Son Drew is deceased. He and his wife plan to spend their winters in Florida.

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

Summary Annual Report for Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Pension Benefit Fund

This is a summary of the annual report for the INT'L BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS' PENSION BENEFIT FUND, (Employer Identification No. 53-0088380, Plan No. 001) for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust (benefits are provided in whole from trust funds). Plan expenses were \$155,429,365. These expenses included \$10,926,174 in administrative expenses and \$144,503,191 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 462,943 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits. The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$2,020,585,849 as of June 30, 2015 compared to \$2,042,525,952 as of July 1, 2014. During the plan year the plan experienced a decrease in its net assets of \$21,940,103. This decrease includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$133,489,262, including employee contributions of \$61,962,651, gains of \$110,281,916 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$-33,743,008 and other income of \$-5,012,297.

Your Rights To Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant's report;
2. Assets held for investment;
3. Transactions in excess of 5 percent of the plan assets; and
4. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Plan Administrator

SALVATORE J. CHILIA
International Secretary-Treasurer
900 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
45-3912185 (Employer Identification Number)
(202) 728-6200

The charge to cover copying costs will be \$13.50 for the full report, or \$0.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan:

International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers' Pension Benefit Fund
900 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210. ■

HAVE YOU MOVED?
Notify us of an address
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www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress

LOCAL LINES

'Lending a Helping Hand'

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO — Last December Mississippi River floodwaters nearly destroyed the facilities of a non-profit organization dedicated to serving disabled children, adults, veterans and at-risk youth.

IBEW Local 1 and the Electrical Connection helped restore Ride On St. Louis, located along the river in scenic Kimmswick, MO. ROSL's physical therapists and instructors utilize horse therapies to benefit program participants.

After a Local 1 member/ROSL volunteer informed our local of the flood damage, Local 1 Rep. Chuck DeMoulin, a Jefferson County Labor Club board member, visited ROSL to assess damages. Bro. DeMoulin contacted the Electrical Connection, a partnership of IBEW Local 1 and St. Louis Chapter of NECA. Subsequently, EC Pres. Jim Curran approved a grant providing donated materials and services to restore power up to code requirements.

Summit Electric owner Doug Heidland and Local 1 electricians made the repairs. Bro. DeMoulin also coordinated efforts of other labor unions within the Jefferson County Labor Club to help.

"Without the help of IBEW Local 1 and the Electrical Connection, I don't know if we would have been operational," said ROSL Dir. Marita Wassman. "The workers were so professional and made it easy to get the work done; they were all so nice." For more information visit www.rideonstl.org.

We mourn the death of several members: Herschel Dixon, John Cain, John Krummel, Fred Schrage,



View of December 2015 flood damage at Ride On St. Louis site in Kimmswick, MO. (Photo courtesy IBEW Local 1 and Ride On St. Louis.)

Frederick Bradley, John Davis, John Gamache, Kenneth Door, Graham Mackenzie, Odis Hearon, Benjamin Lee, Michael Bresnan, Robert Dooley, Fred Wesling, Clarence Hoguet Jr., Robert Mathews, Manuel Rivera, Carlos Roberts, Robert Manley, Albert Wilt, Robert Mueller, Jerry Hatridge and Clyde Ketcherside.

Jan Bresnan, P.S.



Local 9 Asst. Bus. Mgrs. Eric Bergdoll (left) and Kevin Schuster.

Staff Members Appointed

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL — We are pleased to welcome Eric Bergdoll and Kevin Schuster to our staff as assistant business managers.

Since becoming a member in 2000, Eric has graduated from ALBAT and worked for the past 12 years as an outside distribution and transmission lineman for the City of Naperville. Eric has served as a steward and as an instructor at our training facility. He will represent our members who do outside utility work as well as our line clearance tree trimmers.

Kevin comes to us from our outside construction jurisdiction with a background in street lighting, traffic signals and wireless work. As an assistant, he will represent our members performing this work. In addition, he will work as an organizer. Kevin was initiated into Local 9 in 1999 and has also served as a steward and as an instructor at our training facility.

In April, we held our 50th Annual Old Timers Dinner. The dinner is held each year to honor those members who retired in the previous year as well as all retired members of Local 9. As always, we had a great crowd. We celebrated the 2015 retirement of 40 of our hard working members. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the dinner, each attendee received a commemorative beer glass. Thanks to all who attended and helped celebrate with us.

Mary Beth Kaczmarek, P.S.

New Chicago Training Center For Linemen Opens

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — A new training center for linemen opened in Chicago on Feb. 19 this year. This new training facility at ComEd and the Rockford training center, which opened in 2013, are a result of the Electrical Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2011, enacted by the Illinois legislature with IBEW support. Local 15 Vice Pres. Terry McGoldrick spoke at the grand opening for the new center. Also in attendance were Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and ComEd Pres./CEO Anne Pramaggiore. As hundreds of guests toured the new facility, IBEW Local 15 members displayed their expertise on skilled tasks such as cable splicing, pole climbing and substation construction.

We finalized an agreement on Aerial work, clarifying job duties and manpower.

Our clerical representatives met with Exelon to discuss issues with Electronic Work Packages (EWP).

Joliet Generating Station's conversion from coal to gas is mostly complete. The resulting reduction in force and worker transfers should be done by July. More than 50 members volunteered for a severance package with up to a year's pay; almost 20 members were laid off; and 37 members are changing work locations.

Local 15 EWMC members attended the recent Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Conference in New York. Part of the conference is set aside for delegates to provide a "Day of Service," volunteering on community service projects at locations including churches and schools.

Doug Vedas, P.S.

'Welcome to the Neighborhood'

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — The well-publicized grand opening of Comcast's newest customer service center didn't bring the crowd the company expected. A "neighborhood watch group" made up of dozens of IBEW Local 21 members who showed up at the live radio broadcast informed the residents of Batavia that a new predator moved into their neighborhood. The group under our gigantic, inflatable rat's watchful eye passed out a community alert warning residents about Comcast's predatory employment practices. Every time the event went live on the radio, the chants of "no justice no peace" grew louder. It then went viral as our members began sharing our live IBEW Twenty-One Facebook posts.

Membership involvement was on the minds of our members who attended the Electrical Workers

Minority Conference (EWMC) in January. They had discussions with other IBEW members on ways to build solidarity. While in New York they helped prepare food for people who, because of illness, are unable to prepare meals for themselves. After members returned home they learned that the meals were also used to assist those who were affected by the East Coast blizzard. IBEW members are making a difference in the communities where they live and work.

Bob Przybylinski, R.S.



IBEW Local 21 steward Heather Hollaar "welcomes" Comcast to the neighborhood.

IBEW Members Volunteer — Generosity of Spirit, Service

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA — Local 37 is extremely proud of its members' generous spirit. Time and time again we see countless examples of members volunteering their valuable time and donating their hard earned money in support of so many inspiring organizations that are making a difference in the communities where we live and work.

A recent example of this generosity is the amazing success of this year's United Way campaign. The campaign was launched last fall by IBEW Local 37 and NB Power. Through payroll deductions, raffles and contests, IBEW members and management at NB Power made it a record year by raising over \$80,000 for the United Way in New Brunswick!

The funds raised are used locally to invest in over 30 agencies and more than 80 programs and initiatives that are "Moving People from Poverty to Possibility, Helping Kids Be All They Can Be, and Building Strong Communities."

A celebration was held at NB Power to recognize the awesome efforts of the campaign team, the crew of volunteers, and contributors to the campaign.

Last year, IBEW Local 37 won the United Way's Labour Award of Distinction for the Saint John region and has been nominated once again this year. We're also very proud of IBEW member Eve Savage, an NB Power

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/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines. 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	(rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting	(tm) Transportation Manufacturing
(ei) Electrical Inspection	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(u) Utility	(uow) Utility Office Workers
(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	(ws) Warehouse and Supply	
(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.



IBEW Local 37 and NB Power celebrate the success of United Way campaign.

employee, who has been nominated for the United Way's Rising Star Award for her campaign involvement.

Ross Galbraith, B.M./F.S.

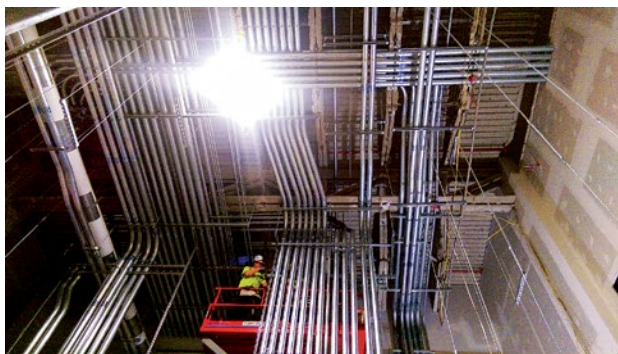
'Projects Full Steam Ahead' Summer Activities Planned

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY — We had a pretty mild winter by Buffalo standards, especially compared with the last couple of years. The mild winter allowed most of our projects to continue full steam ahead and steadily put members to work throughout the winter. Again, thank you to the traveling sisters and brothers who helped us get the work done on these projects.

We again have numerous member activities to participate in this summer. Please keep an eye out for Bus. Mgr. Michael Gaiser's mailing for all the details on these events. These occasions strengthen the bonds of our brotherhood through families getting to know each other, realizing we are all in this together.

This November we have another election to choose who our government representatives will be. Please understand that when our COPE committee selections are made to endorse candidates for public office, it is not taken lightly and we will always endorse candidates who have the IBEW's best interest in mind. I understand that on a personal level some members may not agree with a candidate we endorse, but when voting we ask you to consider who is best for the IBEW.

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.



IBEW Local 41 members Doug Herbst and Tim McNaughton (blocked from view behind conduit rack) work at a solar panel manufacturing facility in Buffalo, NY.

Organizing Victories

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Local 47 wishes all IBEW members a peaceful Memorial Day. It is an occasion to commemorate those who lost their lives protecting us and our freedom while serving in the armed forces. It's time for us to rededicate ourselves to the causes for which they died, as well as for job security and a decent standard of living for workers and their families!

We continue to have organizing victories due to our Construction Maintenance Labor Agreement with Southern California Edison. We spent the first days of

the New Year signing several line-clearance-tree-trimming companies and their employees into membership. Separate agreements for Birchfield Enterprises Inc., Synergy Tree Trimming Inc., and Mario Tree Service Inc. each include wage increases as well as family medical/dental and vacation.

We recently completed negotiations with two telecommunications service providers. The Rancho Cucamonga branch of Butler America signed the NECA Teledata Agreement; this is the first union contract for the company. Likewise, Norris Tower Inc., a highly specialized teledata component contractor out of Riverside, signed a collective bargaining agreement with Local 47.

We are sad to report the passing of Bro. Sylvester Castro and retired journeyman lineman Bro. Jeff Johnstone. May they rest in peace. Also, Local 47 wishes a speedy recovery to our Office Coordinator Nicky Berry.

Work and buy union!

Tracy Dougherty, P.S.

Status of Power Plants

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — On Feb. 25, Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. (MISO) informed Dynegy that it could not close the Wood River coal plant due to system reliability issues. MISO is continuing work on alternative options to remedy the reliability issues that prevent the plant from closing on June 1, 2016. Local 51 has 77 members employed at the plant; their future is uncertain as we wait for MISO to complete its work.

Our members at Exelon's Clinton Power Station are also working under a cloud of uncertainty regarding the future of the nuclear plant. Exelon has "implied" the plant could close as early as 2017 if results of the 2016 MISO capacity auction do not improve the plant's economic future, and/or if the state General Assembly does not pass legislation to assist Illinois nuclear plants that are economically challenged.

At unit meetings, we are collecting monetary donations to send to the Electrical Workers Historical Society for its project underway, in coordination with St. Louis Local 1, to restore the original meeting place where Henry Miller, J.T. Kelly and eight other delegates founded the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1891. Donations will help establish and maintain this museum. [For more information, see

news story "Preserving the Dream: IBEW Birthplace Surpasses \$1 Million Milestone," posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-articles.]

Congratulations to newly appointed Local 51 Bus. Mgr. Matt Moore, who previously served as assistant business manager. Bus. Mgr. Moore was appointed to fill the unexpired term of recently retired former business manager Jim Bates. Matt is a journeyman lineman and has worked as a business rep for 17 years. He has the experience needed to be a productive, efficient leader for our local.

Our work scene is picking up. We have 650+ travelers working in our jurisdiction. Be safe and attend your monthly unit meeting.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.

Four-Year Contract Ratified

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO — Bus. Rep. Eric Williams reported on a four-year agreement with Osage Valley Electric Cooperative ratified by the membership.

The contract features yearly wage increases as follows: first year - 5 percent increase; second year - 5 percent; third year - 3 percent; and fourth year - 2.5 percent. Current employees will stay on the old retirement plan, which is the NRECA 30/62 plan. New hires will be on the NRECA straight 62 plan, and will also be enrolled in a 401(k) plan with the co-op matching 1:1 up to 5 percent.

Bus. Rep. Brett Stone reported on the recent retirement of three Local 51 members who worked at water pollution control of Kansas City, KS. They are members Steve Roper (38 years of service), Carrie Milton (36 years), and Harold Hedgings (32 years). Congratulations, brothers!

Bus. Rep. Kyle Nuenschwander reported a very strong work outlook for 2016, and noted that the annual Local 53 crappie tournament will be Saturday, June 18, at Truman State Park in Warsaw, MO.

James Burks, V.P.

Local 81 Volunteer Service At 'Equines for Freedom'

L.U. 81 (i), SCRANTON, PA — Journeymen and apprentices of Local 81 have volunteered 400+ hours of their time and labor to a new nonprofit organization, Equines for Freedom, that provides innovative equine therapy to active and former military personnel who are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder. The program is partnered with Marley's Mission at Matt Burne Acres on Eckel Farms, located in Newton Ransom Township, PA. Some of the services provided by Local 81 included wiring a riding arena, installing and wiring a 400-amp service, as well as wiring a utility room, restroom, and office space.

In the past, Local 81 has also dedicated 2,000+ hours of time and labor to the cause of Marley's Mission. We thank all of our apprentices, journeymen,

instructors and officers for answering the call to support this mission.

Michael Brust, P.S.

FairPoint Reps Vote For IBEW Representation

L.U. 89 (catv,em,lctt,o&t), SEATTLE, WA — In the summer of 2015, the customer sales and service representatives who work at FairPoint Communications in Ellensburg, WA, came together to seek representation by IBEW Local 89. In an ever-changing telecom industry with a company whose future is seemingly unknown, the staff at the Ellensburg Call Center sought stability in their variable work environment. After a few months of research and discussion, combined with union education, they were successful in their vote for representation on the first round, voting 17-10 in favor of joining with the IBEW to create democracy and security in their workplace.

In the months since the representation election, the Local 89 negotiations committee, consisting of Local 89 staff along with Ellensburg Call Center representatives Heath Eklund and Michelle Schock, have collaborated amicably with FairPoint to negotiate a fair contract that benefits all parties, defining expectations from both sides of the table.

At the time of this writing, the team of customer service representatives at FairPoint and IBEW Local 89 look forward to a long and positive future together, starting with finalizing negotiations and securing their first contract in the near future.

Amanda McDougall, P.S.

'Kilowatt Chasers' Volunteer; Community Service Tradition

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY — Members of the Local 97 Kilowatt Chasers team from the Mohawk Valley recently volunteered their time to help a local Boy Scout troop from White Lake, NY. The troop needed to relocate their historic 1950s totem pole to a new location. The Kilowatt Chasers gathered equipment and erected the totem pole. We thank them for their continual community support.

Negotiations were completed and the security force at the Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant ratified a four-year agreement, effective through March 31, 2020. At press time, we were continuing to negotiate effects bargaining and retention of members at the plant. Entergy Nuclear announced that it would not be re-fueling the plant and that employees would be downsized in February 2017. Local 97 has taken much action to reach out to politicians and the general public to consider the consequences of closing the plant. As part of the Clean Energy Standard, the New York State Public Service Commission has been formulating a new energy credit that would, for the first time, place a monetary value on zero-emission power produced by the Fitzpatrick facility and other qualified plants. The employees and their communities,



IBEW Local 81 thanks members who volunteered their service at nonprofit Equines for Freedom and Marley's Mission.

LOCAL LINES

schools and businesses will feel the serious ramifications if Entergy does not consider any options and continues with the closing of the plant.

[Editor's Note: For more information, see article "Closing Down Climate Change Solutions: Nuclear Power Plants on the Chopping Block in New York," [on page 20] of this issue and posted at www.ibew.org/media-center.]

Jim Zabinski, V.P.



From left: Local 99 Bus. Mgr. Michael Daley; 60-year members William Lepore and David Kelman; and Pres. James Jackson.

2nd Annual Solidarity Ride — Motorcycle Run in May 2016

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI — Every December, Local 99's "regular" monthly union meeting turns "special," as current members and retirees are awarded service pins recognizing their years of IBEW membership.

Service pins are awarded in five-year intervals, the first pin being presented on the 20th anniversary of the year a member was sworn into the local union. The December meetings are always the most well attended of the year, as it is the holiday season, and attendees enjoy a magnificent buffet meal served following the meeting.

With the arrival of spring, we look forward to our annual picnic at Goddard Park, and also our second annual "Solidarity Ride" Motorcycle Run, a fundraiser that will benefit Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, a group that helps our veterans secure stable housing. At press time the date of the picnic was not yet set. The Motorcycle Run will be held May 15; please call Organizer Joe Walsh for details.

Lastly, Local 99 members may remember a March 2011 rally at Providence City Hall in support of fired unionized Providence public school teachers — a rally that many Local 99 members and other building trade members attended. Recently, the organization that represents these teachers needed some electrical work done in its offices as a result of a fire; it's sad to report that this organization hired a non-union electrical contractor to perform that work.

William Smith, P.S.

Florida Luncheon for Retirees

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA — For the last three years, the last Tuesday in February has been set



Boston Local 103 hosts February luncheon for retired members and their guests in Naples, FL.

aside not for snow shoveling or skiing, but for lunch with Local 103 retirees in sunny, warm Naples, Florida. This year would be no different.

On Feb. 23 this year, 250 Local 103 retirees and their guests were welcomed to south Florida by Miami Local 349 Bus. Mgr. William W. Riley, International Executive Council member, and treated to lunch, drinks, and catching up with old friends and new. Informative presentations about the state of our union were given by Local 103 Bus. Mgr. John Dumas and Second District Int. Vice Pres. Michael P. Monahan. Retired Int. Pres. Emeritus Edwin D. Hill was in attendance and spoke about Brotherhood Beyond Borders, his new global initiative to bring charitable awareness and good will to the less fortunate.

Local 103 retirees spent a career working in extremely harsh conditions. Now they spend time golfing, on the beach and riding Harleys. It speaks to the quality of life and benefits that Local 103 and the IBEW have provided during and after their careers.

A wise man once told me, "It's not how you start, it's how you finish!" That wise man was my father, and I'm convinced he was talking about retirement with an IBEW pension.

Lou Antonellis, Pres.



Apprentice Sworn In

Ken Lue, left, gas tech construction apprentice, is sworn in as a new member of Rock Island, IL, Local 109 by Vice Pres. Randy Tresnak.

2016 Election of Officers

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lct,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO — Nominations for Local 111 officers began in April

2016. The election of Local 111 officers, Executive Board members, delegates to the IBEW International Convention, and Unit 1 Examining Board members will occur this year.

The election process started at April unit meetings, where nominations were made. A mail ballot will be sent to all active members in good standing during the month of May, with ballots to be counted on June 3. Members will vote for candidates for the following offices: president and delegate to the International Convention; vice president; recording secretary; treasurer; and business manager/financial secretary and delegate to the International Convention. Also to be elected are: seven Executive Board members (with six elected at large, and one to be elected from Unit 1); eight delegates to the International Convention; and three Examining Board members (elected from Unit 1 journeyman linemen).

The official notice of the IBEW Local 111 nominations and election was mailed March 1, 2016.

Mike Kostelecky, P.S.



Local 125 Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri calls out prizes at Casino Night benefit.

Annual Casino Night Benefits Community Food Bank

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR — The local hosted its 14th Annual Casino Night in March and raised more than \$2,800 for the Brotherhood Fund along with 963 pounds of food for Snowcap Food Bank.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to all the generous sponsors.

"Our members' generosity and that of the sponsors allow us to host this terrific event," said Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri. "It's a great way to celebrate our brotherhood while providing valuable resources not only to our members but also the community."

Please check your voter registration and confirm that you are eligible to exercise your democratic rights. Vote for candidates who will respect your right to join a union and your right to collectively bargain your wages, hours, and working conditions. There are numerous candidates and special interest groups who want to destroy your way of life. Don't let it happen.

Stay current with your union's activities and issues by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram — @ibew125.

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.



Local 159 Referral Agent Jeff Crocker (center) spoke about his father's honor flight to Washington, D.C., as he and Bus. Mgr. Robert Doyle (left) presented \$5,000 donation to Badger Honor Flight Pres. Brian Ziegler. The donation was funded by proceeds from Holiday Fantasy in Lights display.

Giving Back to Community; School Outreach Program

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI — We are very fortunate to be able to give back to the community. One favorite cause is an organization, Badger Honor Flight, that sends veterans on one-day visits to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. (See photo above.) We also partner with a local nonprofit that provides housing for homeless vets. In February, our hardy Polar Plunge team raised more than \$2,400, enough to support four Special Olympics athletes for one year.

Continuing education classes are in full swing at the new Training Center. Our school outreach program is also underway, as we connect with students in grades 8-12, as well as teachers and counselors, to share information about our trade and pathways to the trades.

At press time, members were excited to attend the 2016 Women Build Nations, Sixth National Conference for Women in the Trades, scheduled for April 29 — May 1, in Chicago. This year marks the first time this event has taken place in the Midwest.

At this writing, we were gearing up for the April 2016 presidential primary, and a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court was also up for election on April 5. Deep pocketed right-wing groups have looked to buy yet another seat on the court. A hand-picked Scott Walker appointee was tapped for the seat last fall, when a long-time justice passed away. At press time, labor was supporting the challenger, Judge JoAnne Kloppenburg.

Lisa Goodman, B.A.

Scheduled Events — 'A Lot is Happening'

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA — Spring and summer bring many events for members and their families. Among scheduled events are the following:

- Retiree & Service Pin Banquets: Westside, on May 15; and Eastside, May 21.
- Local Picnics: Bellingham, June 5; and Eastside, July 16.
- Golf Outings: Westside, July 23; and Eastside, Aug. 13.

We welcome our new JATC Training Dir. Rob Bartel. Bro. Bartel previously served on the staff of IBEW Local 191 and chaired the Safety Committee. Welcome also to new staff member Chip Donaldson, who will cover Skagit County.

Best wishes to recently retired training director Randy Ambuehl. We thank him for his service.

[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.]

Congratulations to Bros. Chip Donaldson, Tim Kornelis and Gary Kemp, who graduated from the IBEW 191 Intern Training Program and are now on staff.

Special recognition goes to members who volunteered for the recent Habitat for Humanity lighting retrofit project: Dave Brune, Jeff Marshall, Dan Pinner, Sean McCormack, Ivan Tellez, Mike Potter, Matt Anderson, John Mitchell and Dave Williams. These members contributed over 164 hours to help our community!

Please take time to attend a meeting or event this summer. Your local needs and appreciates your input. Check our website at www.ibew191.com for details or call the office.

Bill Mirand, P.S.

2016 Contract Negotiations

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Local 193 will be very busy with contract negotiations this year. To be negotiated are agreements for Inside, Outside, Line Clearance and Telecommunications members, as well as agreements with City Water Light & Power, and St. John's Hospital.

Gov. Bruce Rauner finally signed legislation that makes it possible for the Illinois Lottery to resume payments to state lottery winners, following a lengthy and embarrassing delay! Lack of a state budget has ground funding for Illinois projects to a "train wrecking" stop. Let's all hope for an early spring and an Illinois budget without the governor's "right-to-work-for less" policy.

Organized labor will need every vote in November elections. Check that all eligible voters you know have their registration cards, and talk to everyone

about voting "pro-labor." As a famous Illinois politician said years ago, "If you don't vote, you don't count!"

Congratulations to all who received service pins at the Local 193 Christmas party last year. Members who earned 50-year pins in 2015 were: Charles DeCroix, Robert Hunt, Jack Mariage, Joseph Neece, Walter Smith and Walter Stanley. Receiving 55-year pins were: Gerald Campbell, John Hoellerich, Donald Stickel, Max Strasbaugh and Donald Thompson. Sixty-year pins went to Richard Canfield and Carl Hayes. Edwin Davison received his 65-year pin, and William Smith received a 70-year pin.

Our sympathies go out to the families and friends of recently deceased members Charles DeCroix and Donald Thompson.

Stay safe and stay focused! In solidarity.

Don Hudson, P.S.

Get Registered to Vote — 'Elections Have Consequences'

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL — As you all know, we are in an election year. At the time of this writing it is primary season. We have said it before and we will stress it again: get registered to vote and get educated on candidates who will support the interests of working families. If you are not registered, come to the hall and we can assist you with that. Talk to co-workers, family and friends about voting your paycheck. Our state is currently worse off than ever before and there is one reason — Gov. Bruce Rauner, with his anti-union stance. Elections

definitely do have consequences. We should have Local 197 brothers and sisters at work on a proposed \$54 million project at the Center for the Visual Arts on the campus of Illinois State University, but because of Rauner the project is on hold. He is affecting our paychecks and very negatively.

A Destihl Brewery expansion project and also a redevelopment project at the site of the old Kmart plaza are getting ready to start, and we look forward to that. We are encouraging the City Council of Bloomington to support the redevelopment of downtown Bloomington, which will bring much-needed jobs for our local. We also will be needing the membership to contact the City Council in support as well.

Remember to get involved with the local and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, Pres.

'Rewarding Work' — Community Service Award

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — Unlike a neatly wired panel or a particularly challenging pipe run, the administrative efforts of our elected local union officers at the hall are not always on display for the general membership and may not always be recognized.

However, these efforts were acknowledged in the form of an award presented to Local 269 by the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce. The Champions of Commerce Award was presented to Local 269 Bus. Mgr. Steve Aldrich for "outstanding community service" in Bucks County, PA. The award itself is in the form of a sculpted glass bowl and is a welcome addition to the local's trophy case.

Yet, more importantly, the award represents the tireless efforts of our officers, supported by our general membership, within our community to remain a relevant and integral part of doing business on a local level. For most of us in the field, the dirt under our fingernails and the little aches and pains are the evidence of a good day's work. For those who chose the pen in place of the pliers, awards like this are the palpable fruits of their labor.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

After "planting the seeds" of union benefits, we must promote growth of the new members. Lead by example, follow the contract, and support the union. Buying USA feels good.

Tom Small, P.S.

Annual Bowling Tournament

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV — As the weather warmed up members of Local 357 came out to knock over some pins at the fifth annual Bowling Brotherhood Tournament. Fun was had by all! All proceeds went to the Brotherhood Welfare fund. Thank you to all who participated!

We also want to thank the many members who came to the Benefit Fair and blood drive.

Election season is upon us, so please make sure your voter registration is current if you have recently moved. Or, if you need to register, come down to the union hall and we will make sure you get the forms you need.

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.



Local 193 congratulates service pin recipients. From left are: Pres. Mike Patsche II; 55-year pin recipients Donald Stickel, John Hoellerich, Max Strasbaugh and Gerald Campbell; and Bus. Mgr. Glenn Baugh.



Local 375 member Mike Kilpatrick, a military veteran, is honored as "Hometown Hero" at Lehigh Valley Phantoms ice hockey game.

Training is High Priority; 'Hometown Hero' Honored

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA — Our local union's NFPA 70E training program has been in high gear this year. While training our members continues to be the highest priority, we have expanded an overview version of the program, pertaining to National Fire Protection Association standards in the workplace, to our customer base. In February, we held two four-hour overview training sessions for invited customers. We felt it was important to educate our customer base on the training offered by the IBEW and the value we can offer on their construction projects. The events were well-attended and featured our apprenticeship teachers, as well as presentations by representatives of Westex and Salisbury companies.

Recently, Bro. Mike Kilpatrick, an active 15-year IBEW journeyman and a military veteran, was honored at the Lehigh Valley Phantoms ice hockey game as the "Hometown Hero." He was greeted with a standing ovation by approximately 8,500 in attendance. Retired Master Sgt. Mike Kilpatrick earned this award by his service in the 3rd Battalion 9th Marine Scout Sniper Platoon. His military service included the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, three tours of duty in Somalia, and the Iraqi Operations-Southern Watch. Mike served as a scout sniper and team leader for 10 years. His father Donald, who was a Marine helicopter pilot, was killed in Vietnam while serving in the 187th Attack Helicopter Company. Thank you, Mike, for your service — you certainly deserve this honor!

Dave Reichard, A.B.M.

IBEW MERCHANDISE



Jazz Moisture Management Polo Shirt \$26.00

100% polyester moisture management shirt with mesh pattern and roped collar. IBEW initials, fist and lightning bolts on left chest. Wicks moisture away from the body by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

AC Sensor \$13.00

Traces circuits and helps prevent electrical shock. Features sound and bright red glow to indicate voltage. - UL listed and tested safety.

Golf Tees \$1.50

2 3/4" black wooden golf tee with IBEW initials (25 tees per pack).

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

Building Membership

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Building membership doesn't focus solely on apprentice and journeyman numbers. For us to work, we need contractors. For contractors to succeed, they need us.

Jim Backus, Local 343 compliance officer, and Andy Kuisle, Local 343 membership and marketing rep, work together to promote the benefits of union membership to the non-represented electrical workers and shops within our jurisdiction. Bros. Backus and Kuisle have organized 14 journeyman wiremen, 19 apprentices, and shops in Austin and Pine Island. Additionally, at press time an organizing effort in Winona was underway. Bros. Backus and Kuisle have made more than 200 house calls to nonunion electricians. Those visits are typically not between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Organizing mostly happens in the evening, around the kitchen table of the prospective member with a spouse wondering about the family's future.

The future is unknown, but the Union Label & Service Trades Dept., AFL-CIO, states that one in eight U.S. working adults belongs to a labor union. Union membership varies by region. Approximately 24 percent of adults in the East live in a household where at least one person belongs to a union, compared with 23 percent in the Midwest, 18 percent in the West, and 6 percent in the South.

Notably, 66 percent of adults 18-34 years old approve of labor unions. Young Americans support us!

LOCAL LINES

2016 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 429 (em,i,lctt,o,ptc,rtb&u), NASHVILLE, TN — On Feb. 27 this year, the NEJATC topped out 15 new journeyman wiremen. The Nashville Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Center and Local 429 invite you to share in congratulating these fine brothers on their persistence and hard work to successfully complete their five-year apprenticeship.

The 2016 apprenticeship graduates are: Zachary Bailey, Dakota Bell, Jordan Bowen, Ian Brenner, John Dornan, Bradley Hurst, Jason Jones, Joseph Korth, Jon Plew, Trevor Puckett, James Ray, Jose Romero, Brent Schmidt, John Schmidt and Joseph Wright.

This graduating class had one of the highest grade-point averages ever. Apprentice of the Year honors went to John Schmidt, and the Leadership Award went to Jordan Bowen. We wish to recognize all of these brothers for their tireless commitment to our industry, and we wish them a very safe and profitable future in the IBEW.

[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.]

Local 429 had one of the best winters this past season, as far as work goes, in a long time. We even have had some calls going to traveling sisters and brothers. We thank them for helping man our work.

John Ledwell, B.M./F.S.

Irvine Ranch Water District Project Underway

L.U. 441 (as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA — Congratulations to our football team for bringing home the SoCal IBEW Super Bowl Championship in February, the third time in four years. Great job, brothers!

We recently had the opportunity to visit with and applaud the hard work of our members at the Irvine Ranch Water District, where they continue to do a great job on this important project. As of press time, Morrow Meadows is currently employing 25+ Local 441 members working on-site. A biosolids and energy recovery project that began in June 2013, this project will lower the surrounding communities' costs, and reduce the plant's carbon footprint and greenhouse gases. The plant serves approximately 330,000 residences and over 500,000 individuals daily. Set to be completed later this year, this project — with an outstanding crew led by general foreman Tom Beauchamp — will clock approximately 62,000 man-hours.

Continued work by the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building Trades and our business manager helped secure the sixth project labor agreement in



IBEW Local 441 members at the Irvine Ranch Water District project with Bus. Mgr. Richard Samaniego, Pres. Neal Lauzon and Bus. Agent Doug Mangione.

our jurisdiction in the past two years. This is almost unheard of in Orange County. (Prior to 2013, the area had seen only four PLAs in Local 441's history). As work in the area continues to grow, we have a healthy outlook for jobs and construction over the next three to five years. Star Wars Land at Disneyland, as well as Broadcom and the Anaheim Convention Center expansion will prove to be landmark jobs in the area.

Neal Lauzon, Pres.

2015 Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID — Congratulations to our local's class of 2015 apprenticeship graduates: Marlin Balls, Devin Rowe, Jeff Fried, Travis Paige, Jade Jackson, Matthew Wight, Zachary Whitehead, Travis Stoor, Tim Jones, Michael Arzola and Michael Strawn. Every one of these guys passed their state licensing test on the first attempt. I also want to thank our JATC director and instructors for their role in producing excellent results. The JATC is constantly adding more training labs for our apprentices and journeymen to utilize and sharpen their skills. Just recently, we added a large Low Voltage Lab and will be offering classes with continuing education credits recognized by the state.

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It looks as if we are in for several good years of work ahead of us. We most likely will be looking for our traveling brothers and sisters to come help man our work. We will also be working to gain new members through organizing efforts.

Local 449 thanks Bros. Phillip Wood and John Wanstrom, who recently retired, for being members of our local. We wish them happy new adventures in retirement. Congratulations, brothers.

Is with deepest regret that we report the passing of Bro. John Dunn.

Rodney James, B.M.

Apprenticeship Contest

L.U. 479 (i&u), BEAUMONT, TX — Local 479 each year sends the very best to compete in the Seventh District Apprenticeship Contest.

Between the years 2000-2015, Local 479 has returned from the contest, hosted by the IBEW and signatory contractors in the Seventh District, with a total of three first-place district wins overall.

Local 479 first-place winners have included the following: for the year 2000 - Casey Hart; for 2011 - Ryan Plessal; and for 2014 - Johnathon Miller. Local 479 honorable mentions have included: for 2012 - David Gray; for 2013 - Kory Gadis; and for 2015 - Johnathon Bolser.

From the local's point of view, the competing local union Apprentice of the Year is already a winner, even before the district contest, because of the hard

work it takes to be on top, locally. With that said, we congratulate Scottie Sterling, who is Local 479's 2016 Apprentice of the Year! Scottie is a great example of a young worker who demonstrates excellence in a great trade with superior benefits. In March, he competed at this year's Seventh District Apprenticeship Contest and represented our local well. We are proud of him.

[Editor's Note: To read more, see Oc. 16, 2014, news story "Yearly Contest Challenges Apprentices in Tasks, Theory," posted on IBEW website www.ibew.org/articles.]

Christopher Reeves, Mbr. Dev.

'Great Job, Graduates' — Union Sports Activities

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rtb,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Congratulations to IBEW Local 481's most recent apprenticeship graduating class, who topped out in December 2015 to become journeyman wiremen. Great job, graduates, on successfully completing your apprenticeship and best of luck as you start your new careers as IBEW journeymen. Remember to continue to be active and involved with the local union.

One way to stay involved is through our many sports activities. In February, the IBEW 481 Basketball League hosted the 6th Annual Cornhole Tournament, with all proceeds going to the IBEW 481 Help Fund. The Basketball League has raised a significant amount of money over the years for the Help Fund. These events are a great way to connect with one another and, at the same time, help out our fellow brothers and sisters. Thank you to all who participated.

In March, our local completed the latest installment of our 481 Forums. These meetings serve as a way to educate the membership on the current activities of the local as well as what the administration has planned for the future. A special thanks to Bus. Mgr. Steve Menser and staff on a job well done.

Blake Andrews, R.S.

A Strong Work Picture

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA — We continue to have a prosperous work picture. We have been putting our travelling brothers and sisters to work and greatly appreciate the help. We anticipate this trend to continue through the summer. Just one of our projects alone will peak at 100 electricians to complete by year's end.

So far this year, the local has put on a Stewards Training Class as well as a COMET Training session. Both of these classes are important to promote good unionism and working relations with each other and our contractors. Please get involved in some of these trainings offered by your local union; you'll be glad you did!

We are once again in a big presidential election year, with elections for public officials at the national, state and local levels as well. We will be very involved in helping to elect the candidates who stand with workers. Don't be mistaken, YOUR vote does and will count. If you have recently moved, please register to vote in your county. Or if you have never registered, please do. Check out our website www.ibewlocal551.org and

click on the cool "IBEW Votes" icon. You can register to vote and see our endorsed candidates!

We remove our hard hats for the passing of two members. Bro. Raymond Knapp, who was a 51-year IBEW member, passed away Dec. 1, 2015. Bro. Lewis Sievers, who was an 18 year member, passed away Dec. 14 last year.

Denise Soza, P.S./B.R.

New Union Hall & A New Training Director



Raleigh-Durham, NC, JATC Training Dir. Rebecca Axford. (See Editor's Note in article.)

IBEW since 1976. However, the building is outdated and space is maxed out for our members and for our office staff, especially with the amount of work we will have in our jurisdiction in coming months. We will be moving to a new location within the year.

New to the IBEW Local 553 office is our training director of the Raleigh-Durham JATC, Rebecca Axford. She replaces our former training director, John Martin, who now heads the JATC program of IBEW Local 60 in San Antonio, TX. Rebecca brings administrative and education experience to the table, and has taken our JATC in a new direction, with more future growth planned.

The JATC class of 2016 looks to be the largest class yet for the Raleigh-Durham JATC, and with the growth of our membership in the area, there likewise has been an expansion of the apprenticeship program. Thus, we are seeing greater opportunities for aspiring electricians throughout central and north-eastern North Carolina.

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Joshua Nixon, P.S.

'Future Looks Brighter' — Community Service Projects

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rtb&spa), SAGINAW, MI — With spring now upon us, our work outlook has started to pick up. Many of our summer jobs are starting to ramp up and

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putting members out to work. We had a tough winter this year but our future looks brighter.

We did do many great things this past winter and one of them was to start getting our younger members involved in our own RENEW — Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers — committee.

We also completed the Roberts Park Pavilion volunteer project, and it is a great addition to our community. With summer here, we hope to start many more volunteer projects to help make our community a better place.

“The union is not a fee-for-service organization, it is a family.” — Sue Carney, director of Human Relations, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO.

Howard Revard, P.S.



IBEW Local 595 contingent marches in Saint Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, CA.

Saint Patrick's Day Parade & IBEW Community Involvement

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA — Dublin (California not Ireland) is the home of Local 595, which received its charter in 1907. Not long after relocating our Oakland union hall 30 miles east to Dublin in 1996, we quickly became active in our new community, so it only seemed natural to participate in the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade.

Over the past decade Local 595 Rep. Greg Bonato and his wife, Kim, have coordinated our members, family, friends and pets, transforming them into “Irishmen” for the day. Thousands of spectators arrive at sunrise on the morning of the parade, lining Dublin Boulevard to get a front-row seat.

Walking with marching bands, youth clubs, and others, our members don their green Local 595 T-shirts, wear silly headgear and walk proudly behind the IBEW banner as they hand out IBEW “swag” — Frisbees, hats and beads — to the younger spectators. Community involvement might be one of the best organizing and recruiting tools around.

Bob Tieman, B.R.

Habitat for Humanity Project

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — Once a month, Local 601 retirees are treated to breakfast at a local restaurant. We recently changed restaurants to Perkins and enjoyed dining with 16 of our retired members along with spouses and widows of retirees. The retirees would like to thank the local for making this event possible, as it enables these friendships to continue.

Donny Deremiah was in charge of heading up the electrical work for yet another Habitat for Humanity house last year in Gifford, IL. We had a great turnout of both retired and active members to help with this house. Our local has been helping with Habitat projects since the early 1990s.

The work outlook for this summer is not looking too promising, as our state can't seem to come up with a budget, which has put several projects on hold. The next phase of the State Farm Center is ready to start and Carle Hospital has another project starting soon.

Please remember to get out and VOTE. This is an important year to make sure your voices are heard by voting at election time.

At the time of this writing, our local has 51 on Book 1, and 192 on Book 2. Nine apprentices are out of work as of press time.

Dan Hatter, P.S.



Recently retired Local 611 Bro. Richard Sandoval (left) receives “Recognition of Service” plaque presented by Pres. Ruben Romero.

Tribute to Service; Standing in Solidarity

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — In an unprecedented tribute, Pres. Ruben Romero turned over the gavel to then-Vice Pres. Richard Sandoval to run our union meeting in February for one last time. Richard, who recently retired, served as our president on and off since 1993, was an assistant business manager/organizer, Executive Board member, vice president, and a tireless volunteer throughout his 43-year IBEW career. Ruben felt it would be an honor to have Richard preside over a meeting one more time. Thank you, Richard, for all your hard work and dedication.

This year's 30-day New Mexico legislative session went well — but not without the hard work of Local 611 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Brian Condit and all the union members who showed up to take a stand against so-called “right-to-work” legislation. Working people helped derail some of the worst bills introduced during the legislative session.

SB 296, the so-called “right-to-work” bill, died in

committee. HB 200, the bill to repeal prevailing wage, known as the “Paycheck Reduction Act,” died in the Senate. HB 211 Employee Preemption Bill — known as the “Anti-Local Control Act,” making it illegal for New Mexico cities to set their own wage and labor rules — was stopped in the Senate.

Thanks again to all the members who rallied at “the Roundhouse” to make their voices heard when these anti-worker bills were being debated.

Local 611 extends condolences to the families of recently deceased members Donald A. Guarienti, Oscar W. “Bud” Hoselton and Thomas E. Martinez Sr.

Remember: union meetings are held the third Saturday of each month.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

Ironman Tournament in June; ‘Join the Fun & Festivities’

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL — The motorcycle run in February was a good success. Thank you to all the members who participated. Special thanks to Bros. Matt Jenkins, Rob Fennell and Dan Stocks for all the behind-the-scenes work to make this a successful event. I hope to see you all at next year's bike run.

The Ironman Tournament is June 11 this year. I encourage members at each shop, yard, substation and department represented by our local to participate in this event. If you can throw a dart, shoot a pool ball, or chase a golf ball, then you are all set to play. This tournament raises the majority of the money we use to support the local's events for children. If you are unable to attend, you can still help. Ask each member you work with to chip in a few dollars for the fundraiser, and your group name will be displayed on a sign. Please stop for a moment and think how important this event is, and what you can do to contribute.

Work safe, look out for your partner, and tell everyone about the upcoming Ironman Tournament.

Ray Vos, P.S.



Local 557 members working with Leddy Electric volunteered to help build the Roberts Park Pavilion in Saginaw, MI.

Powering Up the Green Economy

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA — IBEW Local 569 is continuing to power the green economy with robust projects and policy actions.

We are actively involved in the development of regulations to implement California SB 350. This landmark legislation will double energy efficiency in California buildings and increase our electricity generation from renewable sources to 50 percent by 2030.

We're also key coalition members in an effort to ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested in mass transit to build a vibrant, inclusive economy that lifts up families, creates healthier communities, and addresses climate change.

Additionally, over 300 IBEW 569 electricians and power professionals are building the new high-tech, energy efficient Kaiser Permanente San Diego Central Hospital. This project is seeking LEED Gold certification and incorporates the latest technologies and sustainable materials, including a solar array on its parking garage.

We're also pleased that a recent California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) decision will help make charging an electric car convenient and cheaper than gasoline, while ensuring that charging infrastructure is built and maintained safely with highly skilled union electricians.

Finally, we congratulate the graduates of our new Solar Start boot camp training program! All of them are now employed and working for our union contractors!

Gretchen Newsom, P.S.



IBEW 569 members are at work building the new high-tech, energy efficient Kaiser Permanente San Diego Central Hospital. Photo credit: Kristoffer Newsom, RoguePlanetArt.com.



Participating riders line up for Local 627 motorcycle run.

Service Award Recipients

L.U. 667 (u), PUEBLO, CO — IBEW Local 667 members recently recognized (see photo on pg. 14) with service awards include: retired former IBEW Safety Dept. Dir. Jim Ozzello — 65 years of service; retired journeyman lineman Delmar Roley — 65 years of service; Storekeeper Arthur Trujillo — 40 years; Eighth District Int. Vice Pres. Jerry Bellah — 25 years; Apprenticeship Committee member Manuel Castillo — 15 years; E-Board member Bill Stefanich Jr. — 30 years; Int. Rep. Guy P. Runco — 40 years; and Pres. Sheldon Reeves — 30 years. Bro. Stefanich was also recently recognized for his longtime (25+ years) service to the local in numerous capacities ranging from steward to president. We wish him well in his retirement.

Local 667 members enjoyed our annual bowling party to kick off the new year. Everyone had a great time and it was an opportunity for our members and families across different units to get to know one another. We look forward to next year's event being even better.

With all the retirements we've seen over the

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past year, we want to welcome all of our new members and invite them to get involved and to check out the Local 667 website at www.ibew667.org.

Richard Koetting, B.M./F.S.



Local 667 service awards presentation. From left: former I.O. safety director Jim Ozello, Delmar Roley, Arthur Trujillo, Int. Vice Pres. Jerry Bellah, Manuel Castillo, E-Board member Bill Stefanich Jr., Int. Rep. Rep. Guy P. Runco, Pres. Sheldon Reeves and Bus. Mgr. Richard Koetting.

Political Action is Key — ‘Your Vote & Your Livelihood’

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH — Recently, with another union friendly state, West Virginia, falling to so called “right-to-work” legislation, this is just another reminder of how your political involvement shapes your paycheck.

No matter if it’s voting for a senator, governor or mayor, all of these are vital to the labor movement and keeping brotherhood strong. As I have heard in past elections, “this is the most important election of our lives.” This could not be any truer than it is right now.

I ask you to let’s please put any personal agenda aside and vote for labor-friendly candidates. Please vote for friends of working people for the sake of our children’s future and the future of the United States, so that our country can remain the prosperous nation that we have known for years.

With political involvement from every IBEW member, along with our grassroots program set in place by the International, it has been shown that we can prevail. Brothers and sisters, I ask you all to stand united and keep our IBEW strong!

Dave Phillips, P.S.

2016 Election Year — ‘We Must Stand Together’

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH — With the close of winter and the arrival of spring, we look forward to new jobs getting underway and for work to pick up in the Columbus and surrounding area.

As work picks up it is easy to forget about the lean times, and in an election year it is especially important that we do not forget. We as union members must stand together and vote for those candidates who will protect union members’ rights and the ability of working people to make a living wage to support their families.

Congratulations to Bro. Joe Stahl for being awarded the 2015 BX Craftsmanship Award.

Anyone who went to Local 683’s union hall over the last 39 years probably met Doris Jones, who worked in our office. Once Doris met you, she always remembered your name. Sadly, Doris passed away in January at the age of 90. She will be missed by many.

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

Legislative Attacks on Labor

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — Here in Indiana, labor has been under siege by

big-money influences at the state Capitol. Because of publication deadlines, I cannot report here on the most recent legislative session — but attacks on labor, union and nonunion, have been many.

Unfortunately, we are not alone. State by state we

see cookie-cutter legislation that mirrors actions being taken across the nation. Does anyone really believe that dozens of legislators from different parts of the nation just happened to dream up exactly similar legislation?

While the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) — an ultra-right-wing policy organization that lobbies for anti-worker bills — has taken a more secretive approach, its core mission of supporting big

multinational corporations, opposing labor, shifting tax burdens from corporations to the citizens, and dismantling the EPA is still in full effect.

One only has to look to Flint, Michigan, to see how the philosophy of un-scrutinized privatization can negatively affect unsuspecting Americans.

Apparently some people are enjoying the circus atmosphere in the presidential race. We need public servants who will protect our way of life through action — not politicians who only speak to our emotions.

Dan Waldrop, B.M.

Training Center Renovation

L.U. 743 (em&i), READING, PA — Greetings, brothers and sisters. We have been busy with renovations to our training center and we are very proud of our newly upgraded hands-on lab rooms. One of the new labs is a totally renovated Motor Control Lab featuring new programmable controllers, variable frequency drives, and other solid state and magnetic control devices. We also have constructed a brand new Tele/Data lab, Fire Alarm lab, General Wiring lab and Conduit lab. Additional labs will be operational shortly to include a HVAC Controls lab and a Rigging and Hoisting lab. I want to give a special thank-you to retiree Bro. David Fix and Bro. David Paskowski for all their help with the renovations.

The work picture has been good and looks to remain that way for some time due largely to several large construction projects at several medical facilities in our area.

Finally, all had a good time for a great cause as over 150 members and their families attended the Reading Royals’ (our local minor league hockey team) “Pink in the Rink” hockey game. The event raised over \$14,000 for the American Cancer Society and Breast Cancer Support Services of Berks County.

Mark Pinkasavage, P.S.

IBEW Community Outreach

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL — We held our annual Local 915 work party in February and although the attendance was small, a tremendous amount of work was done. From changing out lighting fixtures at the hall to cleaning the grounds outside, there were enough tasks to keep everyone busy. Thanks to those who volunteered their time on a Saturday to come out and help. The spirit of brotherhood and, of course, the food were awesome.

Local 915 has partnered with the University of South Florida to promote the IBEW brand. Over 100 members and their families attended the Feb. 20 USF basketball game, where IBEW Local 915 was game sponsor. The game ball was presented to Local 915



Local 915 work party volunteers assemble at local union hall.

Bus. Mgr. Randall King and his assistants, and there was marquee signage to convey the message about the value of qualified, skilled tradesmen. This partnership is a way to build relationships in our community and helps send out the message that IBEW is the right choice for all of Tampa’s electrical needs.

In the upcoming election season, keep labor and the future of our trades foremost in mind as you make your decision at the ballot box. Please VOTE. Our trades and your jobs are dependent on electing friends of working people.

Theresa King, P.S.

‘Coming Back Strong’ — Strategic Organizing Success

L.U. 969 (i,o&u), GRAND JUNCTION, CO — Things looked bleak for our survival back in 2012. In 2016, with the membership’s grit, savvy decisions by the executive board and strong leadership of Bus. Mgr./ Fin. Sec. James Milligan, Local 979 is coming back stronger than ever!

A major part of our turnaround has been all-out organizing. A strategic organizing plan was implemented in 2015. With constant evaluations and tweaks, it has shown superb performance. Our contractors have accepted the construction electrician/construction wireman (CE/CW) program, and the Construction Wireman Education Program (CWEP) is proving beneficial. Membership Development Agent Jon Stevens and Business Development Agent Ron Hall shake the bushes night and day organizing new members and contractors, and tracking upcoming projects.

In other news, Local 969 hosted the quarterly Eighth District organizing meeting March 1-3 and held a job fair March 3. Line work has been steady throughout our jurisdiction and our utilities work picture has been stable. Local elections began with nominations in April, ballots were mailed in May, and elections are in June. We have been through a lot and the membership will not accept anything less than excellence throughout the local moving forward.

Work safe always. See you in St. Louis at the International Convention in September to celebrate our great union.

Mike Gardner, Pres.

‘Organizing Steward’ Program

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA — On March 1, Local 1245 welcomed 221 members from the City of Vallejo into our ranks, following the merger of former Local 2376 with Local 1245.

Local 1245’s innovative “Organizing Steward” program continues to grow. Seventy organizing stewards were sworn in earlier this year, and they have already hit the ground running. A team of organizing stewards recently returned from Indiana, where they helped Local 1424 conduct a membership drive to boost their numbers at the Faurecia manufacturing plant.

The local is doubling down in its efforts to keep the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant open. Diablo Canyon is the largest generator of clean, zero-emissions energy in the state of California, and Local 1245 represents 600 of the 1,500 workers employed at the plant. Last year, IBEW 1245 succeeded in fending off a legal effort seeking to close the plant, but the threats to Diablo Canyon’s continued operation have continued to mount, and IBEW Local 1245 remains steadfastly committed to do everything in its power to keep the plant up and running.

In Nevada, the local is prepared to combat a proposed ballot measure that would open the door to energy deregulation and job loss in Nevada. The measure seeks to amend the Nevada state constitution in order to allow energy consumers to procure energy from other sources besides IBEW-represented NV Energy.

In outside construction, the work outlook remains strong and steady.

Rebecca Band, P.S.

Major 2016 Utility Projects; Coal-Fired Plant Closures

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Changes to EPA rules have had an impact on our local with Duke Energy closing coal-fired power plants at Wabash River Station, which is also the site of the Wabash River Coal Gasification Repowering Project. This closure affects more than 50 Local 1393 members. The coal-fired Gallagher Station is also scheduled to close in 2022. Local 1393 has been working with Duke Energy to provide severance packages and a relocation agreement for the power plant employees to protect our membership. The 2016 election cycle will be very important, so please remember to vote for labor-friendly

politicians to protect our standard of living.

The outside construction branch looks good for 2016 with more projects planned than in 2015, which was a record year for job referrals. All of the big utilities in the state have major projects planned to update their aging infrastructure.

IBEW Local 1393 has had a very busy



A Local 969 Steward Training session on Feb. 11-12 was conducted by Int. Rep. Guy P. Runco. Back row, Steve Cejka (left), Linda Deavers, Bus. Mgr./ Fin. Sec. James Milligan, Agent Ron Hall, Agent Jon Stevens and Perry Rupp; front row, Clint Blaylock, Int. Rep. Guy Runco and Brett Crouse.

RENEW committee this year! RENEW — which stands for Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers — has been raising funds for the Richard M. Fairbanks Burn Center at Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis. Many communities throughout Indiana send their most severely burned patients to this facility because of its outstanding reputation and central geographic location. IBEW members have also been treated at the Fairbanks Burn Center. The fundraising efforts have included a motorcycle ride, held earlier this spring.

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

Political Challenges

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO — With the 2016 Missouri legislative session under way, Republican lawmakers have once again set their sights on the hard-working men and women of organized labor. A number of anti-labor bills, such as so called “right-to-work” and “paycheck protection” measures, are making their way through the Missouri House and Senate. At the time this article was written, a “paycheck protection” bill (more accurately known as “paycheck deception”) had passed in the Senate and was headed back to the House for further debate.

We encourage our members to stay engaged in local politics. Express your opposition to anti-worker laws with your state representatives. Stay informed by attending your union meetings and find opportunities to educate people you know regarding the benefits of being a union member.

Wet snow and high winds caused power outages in late February, and once again our members rose to the occasion and restored power to those affected by the storm. We thank our brothers and sisters in all job classifications who were a part of the restoration efforts.

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



Local 1523 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Duane Nordick (right) presents award to retired member Jerry Pennington.

65-Year Service Award

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS — Local 1523 would like to congratulate longtime member Jerry Pennington, retired line foreman/supervisor, on his 65 years as an IBEW member.

Bus. Mgr. Duane Nordick recently had the honor

of presenting Bro. Pennington with his 65-year service award.

Cassie Heading, P.S.

Organizing & Market Share

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — Currently at Local 1579, all of our members are working. Most are making an abundance of overtime and that trend should continue for the next few years.

Although we dominate the large projects, we are still lacking market share in the commercial world. These are the commercial jobs where we compete with the nonunion contractors, who usually pay their employees only about one-half the wages that our members earn.

What is a nonunion contractor? A contractor who has not yet been convinced that union is the way to go. How are we going to change nonunion contractors' minds? We can tell them all day long that we are the best, but until we prove it, they will never believe us. The only way to prove it is to take a few of the best members we have in the IBEW and let them work for that contractor for a week. I believe that the nonunion contractor would sign up on the spot.

I think we know that union members should be able to work circles around the nonunion employees. If we can't do that, then why should a nonunion contractor sign up?

This is something that we should all think about. Yes, we are fully employed right now. What about five years from now. Wouldn't it be nice to not only control the large projects but also the small ones as well?

Until next time, God bless.

Will Salters, B.M./F.S.

IBEW Volunteers Step Up — 'Kids for Christmas' Campaign

L.U. 2113 (it&mo) TULLAHOMA, TN — Our Kids for Christmas campaign just continues to grow year after year, with donations from our members and friends totaling over \$10,000 last year. We were able to sponsor 50 foster children for a shopping spree to purchase Christmas gifts for their family members last year. After our volunteers took the children shopping, participants returned to the union hall where the kids wrapped their gifts and were treated to pizza and refreshments. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all who helped make this effort a special blessing for these wonderful children.

Our work continues to hold pretty strong at present at the Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) at Arnold Air Force Base, even though the Air Force has once again split the contract among several contractors, each with a part of the contract. Testing continues to hold strong with hiring steady!

At our December 2015 meeting, numerous service pins were handed out. We are indebted to those who have gone before, ensuring our wages and benefits.

Until next time, remember to look for the union label and buy “Made in America”! God bless!

Bob Smith, P.S.



Local 2113 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Gerald Stone (standing at far right) congratulates service pin recipients at December 2015 meeting.

December International Executive Council Meeting

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

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8 a.m. by Chairman Pierson, on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015, in Washington, D.C. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Walter, Wagner, Lavin and Galbraith. The council began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Oath of Allegiance.

International President Stephenson

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson met with the members of the International Executive Council to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood.

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore (Sam) J. Chilia presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood — both in Canada and in the United States. Resolution of IEC regarding Funding of the Pension Plan for International Officers, Representatives and Assistants and the Pension Plan for Office Employees of the IBEW was discussed.

Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1, of the IBEW Constitution.

Financial Reports

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

Restated IBEW Relocation Policy

The International Executive Council discussed and approved the restated IBEW Relocation Policy, effective July 1, 2015.

Electrical Worker Historical Society Restoration Project

The International Executive Council discussed and approved to secure a line of credit for the restoration of the property known as the Henry Miller House by conference call on November 2, 2015.

Letter of Appeal to the International Convention

The International Executive Council read and discussed the appeal letter from Perry Speranza, Local Union 353, Card Number D-624320. Brother Speranza's appeal was referred to the International Convention.

Action Involving Members Receiving Pension Benefit Funds

The International Executive Council reviewed the file of retiree Larry P. Chapman Sr., Local Union 1393, Card Number D-320543. Following an investigation it was determined that Brother Chapman while receiving benefits from the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) returned to trade and made himself available for work. As a result, the IEC requires Brother Chapman contact his local union and tender dues payments for the time period he returned to trade and made himself available for work without additional PBF credits. Brother Chapman must reimburse the PBF payments received for that time period.

The International Executive Council reviewed the file of retiree Hubert Link, Local Union 529, Card Number D-604438. Following an investigation it was determined that Brother Link while receiving benefits from the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) returned to trade and made himself available for work. As a result, the IEC requires Brother Link contact his local union and tender dues payments for the time period he returned to trade and made himself available for work without

additional PBF credits. Brother Link must reimburse the PBF payments received for that time period. In the interim, Brother Link has satisfied reimbursement to the PBF, and will be returned to pension status.

The International Executive Council reviewed the file of retiree Robert Bentz, Local Union 98, Card Number D-741629. After review, it was determined that Brother Bentz was not in violation of Article XI, Section 6(d). Brother Bentz must repay pension monies he collected while working.

Letter from IBEW International Office Retiree

The International Executive Council read, discussed and filed the letter from retiree Shirley Webber regarding International Office employee pension.

Retirement of IEC Chairman and Swearing in of Newly Appointed IEC Chairman

Pursuant to the retirement of IEC Chairman Robert W. Pierson, President Stephenson on Nov. 10, 2015, appointed Christopher Erikson to fill the vacancy of IEC Chairman, and the IEC unanimously confirmed his appointment to be effective Jan. 1, 2016.

President Stephenson swore in newly appointed IEC Chairman Christopher Erikson.

The IEC thanked Chairman Pierson for his service to the IEC and the IBEW, presented him with a plaque and wished him well in retirement.

Article XX and XXI Cases

In 2015, the IBEW was involved in three Article XX disputes, and opposed efforts by three affiliates to register strategic campaigns under Article XXI Strategic Campaign Program.

IBEW Local Union 47 and Local Union 440 and the Southern California District Council of Laborers all have collective bargaining agreements with International Line Builders (ILB). The Laborers have filed an election petition for a unit defined as all laborers performing work for ILB under the Laborers' master multi-employer agreement; both Local Unions 47 and 440 have intervened in the election proceeding. The Laborers have filed Article XX charges against the IBEW. It is the position of the IBEW that ILB is engaged in construction, which is excluded from Article XX. In mediation, the IBEW agreed to settle the matter, with the Laborers amending its election petition to define its sought-after unit as explicitly excluding employees covered by any IBEW collective bargaining agreement, and Local Unions 47 and 440 withdrawing from the election proceedings.

United Steelworkers (USW) Local 8392 represents a unit of employees at Stearn Electric Association in Minnesota. The employees were disaffected by lack of support from the USW's national office and invited IBEW Local Union 160 representatives to a membership meeting where USW Local 8392 president presented IBEW Local Union 160 representatives with authorization cards signed by all 23 members of the bargaining unit and a letter stating that the USW was no longer interested in representing the unit. When IBEW Local Union 160 filed an election petition, the USW charged the IBEW with violating Article XX by interfering with its established collective bargaining relationship. Because Article XX rights are held by the national union and not the local union and the USW's intent to continue to represent these employees, the IBEW withdrew the election petition and settled the dispute.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and IBEW Local Union 292 rep-

DECEMBER IEC MINUTES continued on page 16

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

IBEW.org

Visit the IBEW website for more news — and to read the online version of the *Electrical Worker*! www.IBEW.org

YouTube

The Code of Excellence started in our construction branch with a simple message of professionalism. Now customized for the manufacturing branch, it has the same philosophy of coming to work, ready for work. Watch it here: bit.ly/IBEW_ManufacturingCode

Vimeo

You know about the significance of Fenway



Park, home of the Boston Red Sox. But these IBEW members get to see it from 130 feet in the air. Watch our video of Boston Local 103 members keeping the lights on at this historic park. bit.ly/IBEW_Fenway

HourPower

From tips to tools to feature stories, IBEW Hour Power is your news source for all things IBEW. In



our latest feature, we took to Pocatello, Idaho, to learn about the Portneuf Wellness Complex.

IBEWHourPower.com

ElectricTV

“Net zero” means that energy produced equals energy consumed. But what does “net zero plus” mean? See the Net Zero Plus Electrical Training Institute — ElectricTV.net.



Continued from page 15

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

resent separate units of employees at the University of Minnesota, both of which perform some limited energy electrical work. Local Union 292 also has agreements with a number of contractors that regularly perform limited energy work at the University. Local Union 292 believed that AFSCME energy techs were limited to installing and performing routine maintenance on telecommunications equipment. When the University moved the AFSCME techs into its construction department, it was known that they were performing low voltage construction work. Local Union 292 filed a grievance demanding the University stop assigning AFSCME work that falls within its jurisdictions, and AFSCME responded by filing charges under Article XX. At mediation the parties were unable to settle their difference, and have agreed to meet again.

The IBEW was involved in two disputes under the AFL-CIO Executive Council's "Dispute Resolution Procedure for Raids Involving Unions with Solidarity Clauses", which the AFL-CIO Executive Council adopted in February 2014. The IBEW and IAMAW both filed statements of interest at the Tesla "Gigafactory" in response to the United Auto Workers Strategic Campaign Request. The parties met and were unable to reach an agreement. The next step is a hearing before the Article XXI Oversight Committee.

The IBEW filed a statement of interest for the "Cannabis Workers Rising" nationwide campaign in response to the United Food and Commercial Workers Campaign Request. To date, the AFL-CIO has not scheduled a meeting with interested parties.

Retirement of International Officers

Robert P. Klein,
International Vice President,
Tenth District
Effective — November 1, 2015

Robert W. Pierson, Chairman,
International Executive Council
Effective — January 8, 2015

Retirement of International Representatives

James D. Denton,
International Representative,
Tenth District
Effective — October 1, 2015

Richard J. Gessler,
International Representative,
Sixth District
Effective — October 2, 2015

Debra L. Harget,
International Representative,
Education Department
Effective — October 5, 2015

Larry F. McGlamary,
International Representative,
Membership Development Department
Effective — October 2, 2015

Howard L. Ritchie,
Director,
Pension Department
Effective — November 1, 2015

Clayton W. White,
International Representative,
IBEW Seventh District
Effective — August 1, 2014

Retirement of International Office Employees

Ancelia Lee,
Supervisor,
Investments Department
Effective — September 21, 2015

Vested Pension

Christina Samson,
International Office, Vested
Effective — December 15, 2015

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015, at 4:48 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, Feb. 1, 2016, in Naples, Florida.

For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary
December 2015

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

February International Executive Council Meeting

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

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:00 a.m., by Chairman Erikson, on Monday, Feb. 1, in Naples, Florida. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Walter, Wagner, Lavin and Galbraith.

International President Stephenson

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson met with the members of the International Executive Council a number of times to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood.

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia

International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore (Sam) J. Chilia presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood — both in Canada and in the United States.

Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1, of the IBEW Constitution.

Financial Reports

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

Article XX and XXI Cases

In 2015, the IBEW was involved in three Article XX disputes, three disputes under the AFL-CIO Executive Council's "Dispute Resolution Procedure for Raids Involving Unions with Solidarity Charters", and no disputes under Article XXI. The cases remain the same as reported at the September 2015 IEC Meeting.

Action Involving Members

Receiving Pension Benefit Funds

Charges were brought against retiree Edward G. Budd, Local Union 498, Card Number D-396978 by Local Union 498 Business Manager David L. Fashbaugh. After reviewing the hearing transcripts and related documentation, the IEC determined that Brother Budd is guilty of violating Article XI, Section 6 of the IBEW Constitution. As a result, the IEC requires Brother Budd to contact his local union and tender dues payments for of the time period of January 2012 to present. In addition, Brother Budd must reimburse the PBF for pension benefits he received for the time period of January 2012 to July 2015.

Retiree William T. Herbster, Local Union 38, Card Number D-866798 was found guilty of violating Article XI, Section 6 of the IBEW Constitution. As a result, the IEC requires Brother Herbster to contact his local union and tender dues payments for of the time period of April 2012 to May 2015. In addition, Brother Herbster must reimburse the PBF for pension benefits he received for the time period of April 2012 to May 2015.

Extension of Relocation Policy

A motion was made, seconded and confirmed to extend the timeframe of the relocation policy for International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. The relocation policy has been extended until December 31, 2016.

Resolution Concerning Certain Investments Of The General Fund And The Pension Funds

On the recommendations of the independent investment consultant for the General Fund and the IBEW pension funds and in consultation with Investments Staff, the International Executive Council took action to approve the restructuring of certain investments with the aim of

optimizing the funds' respective investment portfolios.

Campaign Contribution Manager

A motion was made, seconded and confirmed by the IEC to retain Paul Greenberg as campaign contribution manager and commission International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore (Sam) J. Chilia to negotiate an agreement.

IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement Covering the 6-Month Period Ending December 31, 2015

Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets/Changes in Net Assets Covering the 6-Month Period Ending December 31, 2015

Reviewed and Filed

Retirement of International Representatives

Rui M. Carrinho, International Representative, Second District
Effective — January 1, 2016

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 11:30 a.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, May 23, 2016, in Washington, D.C.

For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary
February 2015

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



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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William W. Riley

Third District
Donald C. Siegel

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

Fifth District
Michael Walter

Fourth District
Kenneth Cooper

Editor
Lonnie R. Stephenson

Salvatore J. Chilia
International
Secretary-Treasurer

Sixth District
Chris J. Wagner

Fifth District
Joe S. Davis

Mark
Brueggjenhann

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First District
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Eleventh District
Curtis E. Henke

Sean Bartel

Colin Kelly

Colleen Crinion

Matt Spence

Michael Pointer

Rix Oakland

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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FROM THE OFFICERS

Strengthening Our Foundation



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

All workers.

Sometimes the efforts look huge, like our organizing campaign at Asplundh, which is bringing thousands of new people to the IBEW.

Sometimes the effort may look a bit humbler. In this issue of the *Electrical Worker* there is a story about the Tulsa, Okla., JATC seeking every opportunity to make the IBEW realistic for everyone. They applied for, and won, a federal grant to help first-year apprentices afford the hundreds of dollars of tools and books they need to earn their journeyman's ticket.

Over a lifetime, a union electrician will make tens of thousands of dollars more than nonunion workers. That kind of money changes not just a life but can create opportunity and security for multiple generations. What a tragedy it would be if the want of a few hundred dollars became a wall that stood in the way. For the apprentice who benefits, this is no small act.

Americans are hungry for opportunities that promise an honest wage for honest work.

So remember: in our grand mission to give everyone the opportunity for a decent wage, reliable insurance, and a dignified retirement, no opening is too small for our attention and every effort deserves our praise. ■

Moving Forward Together

A hallmark of the labor movement is the notion of solidarity. There is strength in numbers. At its best, it is a movement that fosters people coming together for the greater good. And we have a history of putting this into action. We did it when we marched with Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement and we do it in smaller ways when we donate to the United Way or volunteer our skills to build a home with Habitat for Humanity. When you believe we are stronger together, there is no shortage of ways to make that happen.

Our brother in Congress, Rep. Donald Norcross, a Democrat and member of Folsom, N.J., Local 351, reached across the aisle to work with Republican Rep. David McKinley to create a building trades caucus. Instead of falling prey to the seemingly endless partisan rancor that has infected our government at all levels, these two are coming together to educate their peers about the value of the trades. It's an excellent example of a better way forward.

The work we do every day is often dangerous and requires a commitment to safety and teamwork. There is no room on a worksite for undermining your co-worker or creating divisions. When our members who work on Washington, D.C.'s Metro transit system were called in for an emergency inspection and repair of an aging structure that supports hundreds of thousands of working men and women in the nation's capital, they showed up and performed like the experts they are. They came together and they got the job done. It's a lesson our politicians could stand to learn.

As the election rhetoric heats up to a near boiling point, we need to remember what we stand for, and it isn't getting ahead at the expense of others. It isn't exploiting those less fortunate for personal gain. It's about shared prosperity. It's about a fair day's pay and investing in people.

When we support our Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, our Women's Caucus and RENEW, we practice the solidarity that will fuel our work for future generations. To truly realize the dream of our founding fathers, to organize all working people in the electrical industry, we need to organize with our arms open. We need to respect our future brothers and sisters, all of them. We're going to have some big battles in the coming days and years, facing immense corporate greed. Our ability to fight back will depend on the power we build today.

The house of labor should be a beacon of hope and solidarity for anyone willing to work hard and contribute to the greater good. That's how we went from 10 men in a boardinghouse to more than 725,000 men and women today. And that is how we will continue to grow and prosper, by fostering our better angels and reminding our brothers and sisters everywhere that a house divided cannot stand, but a house united has unlimited capacity for greatness. ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer



“LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

Our Talented Membership

Who wrote the interview with Johnny Green (“New York Local 3 Member Writes a Hit for the Trans-Siberian Orchestra”) in the March 2016 back inside page? Please give credit where credit is due. It is a very interesting story telling of the courage of one of the many talented people belonging to the IBEW to follow their dream.

David Judovin, Local 164 member
Jersey City, N.J.

[Editor’s Note: We greatly appreciate when members take the time to let us know what they think of the stories in the *Electrical Worker* and on IBEW.org. The names of the writers, editors and producers in the Media Department are on the masthead each month, but every day, it is our privilege to put the focus where it belongs: on the men and women of the IBEW.]



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

A Florida Milestone

You never cease to amaze me, [Tampa, Fla., Local 915 recording secretary] Theresa King. Congratulations on being the first woman elected president of the Florida Building and Construction Trades Council. It’s not a surprise at all. Anything you have ever set your mind to, you have accomplished.

Michael Ray VanSickler
Frostproof, Fla.

College Will Help With Apprenticeship

Best wishes to Cary James [IBEW apprentice who recently spoke at the Center for American Progress] in her career as an electrician after graduating from Boston University. Her continuing education bodes well for her future in the IBEW. The knowledge she acquired in college will help her persevere as an electrician. Good study habits, time management and critical thinking are all transferable skills that will help throughout the apprenticeship program.

Joan Love, Local 134 member
Chicago

Right-to-Work Equals Surrender

When you support right-to-work legislation, you surrender your right to fair treatment by your employer — for you and your family. You might as well wave a white flag. Right-to-work may sound like some employment agency, but it’s merely a wage-theft scheme.

Chuck Myers, Local 46 retiree
Seattle

Kentucky Voters Fight Back

Regarding huge labor mobilization that resulted in Kentucky special election results that slowed efforts to pass a right-to-work law there: Keep up the good work. Sometimes, the grownups have to take over so the kids don’t burn down the house.

Maureen Ripple

Fixing the D.C. Metro System

Regarding IBEW members repairing the Washington Metro system: You want the job done right the first time? Hire professional people. Hire union, we train our people to be the best.

Oscar Friedt, Local 105 member
Hamilton, Ontario

Support for Amtrak

Regarding IBEW calls to fully fund Amtrak: I am an Amtrak employee. All we hear from management is that things are going down the drain. Please everyone, when you vote, think about keeping Amtrak alive — not just for me, but for so many union brothers and sisters across the country. The railroads are part of America’s history. Don’t let them go away.

Caleb Wilsford, Local 946 member
Los Angeles

WHO WE ARE

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

IBEW Lineman Back on the High Line after Amputation

Monroe, N.Y., Local 503 member Glenn Hampson knew what was wrong before he even hit the pavement.

Hampson was on his motorcycle, riding to a jobsite on Orange & Rockland Utility’s high-voltage transmission system just north of New York City. It was a warm August morning in 2012, but he was wearing his helmet, leather jacket, gloves and lineman’s boots.

As a parade of cars headed toward New York on this four-lane road near Goshen, Hampson was headed the other way.

Clear roads to work was one of the many, many things he loved about his job.

“I have the best job in the world,” Hampson said. “Not one job is better than mine.”

A car in a hurry, looking to merge into city-bound traffic from a parking lot on Hampson’s right, roared out into the road without a glance his way.

In between the anvil of his motorcycle’s engine and the hammer of the car’s bumper was Hampson’s shin. Bike and body went airborne.

“I never lost consciousness. I knew exactly what was wrong,” Hampson said. “I just hoped I wouldn’t land in oncoming traffic.”

He did.

He shattered the back of his helmet, and as he blacked out, he saw a car heading toward him slow, stop and then nothing but whiteness.

Everything in this story from here forward is good news. The worst was over. There were hard days for Hampson and his wife Anya. He would be in the hospital for more than two months and endure more than a year of physical therapy and multiple surgeries, but starting at this moment lying on the road was when things stopped going wrong.

He landed in front of a doctor.

“He was very comforting. He let me know help was on the way,” Hampson said.

Hampson has worked on Orange & Rockland’s extra high voltage team since 2000. They work on everything from 68-kilovolt transmission lines up to the 500 kv trunk lines that carry electricity from one side of the country to the other.

“Glenn is an incredible guy,” said Local 503 Business Manager Scott Jensen. “The day he woke up in the recovery room he was exercising, doing pull ups in bed, doing curls with a backpack filled with books. He was clear from the beginning that he would be back.”

Hampson left with no illusions: trying to keep the foot would be a sentimental waste of time. Likely pointless, guaranteed risky and painful.



Monroe, N.Y., Local 503 member Glenn Hampson lost his foot in a motorcycle accident but never lost his love of life as a lineman.

“I knew there was no way my leg would heal. I studied up on prosthetics and it was a no-brainer. The progress has been incredible,” Hampson said.

He Googled “extreme sport prosthetics” and began looking for the fake foot that would return him to his real life. His first step was nearly eliminating his use of painkillers.

“The guy in the room with me in the hospital was maxed out on painkillers and always asking for more. I knew the utility would never let me climb if I was on painkillers,” Hampson said.

By the time he left the hospital in February 2013, he was taking only Tylenol.

Hampson spent a winter in physical therapy, going crazy stuck in the house on crutches. But it was a huge improvement over the early days of PT back in the hospital where merely getting up after months in bed took hours. Each day was a mixture of working out, keeping positive, and stretching. Lots of stretching.

Hampson’s first prosthetic was simple and temporary. The first thing he did when he got the prosthetic home in March was try on the metal hooks that strap to a lineman’s boots.

“They felt OK. And there are poles all along my street and I started stepping up,” he said. “It felt fine, there was no pain. It wasn’t awkward. That is how it started for real. I knew it was possible, I can easily go back.”

When his sick leave had been used up, he went out on long-term medical leave, allowing him to continue receiving part of his salary. As 2013 came to a close, it was clear he was ready to get back to work.

“I am so thankful I had a union job when this happened,” he said. “If I hadn’t, I would have been [in a difficult position].”

In February 2014, Hampson went in to work for a function test from the com-

pany doctor. He was wearing a prosthetic built by a specialist in Florida who outfitted X-Games competitors, skiers, runners and cops. He had a climbing hook that worked with flat-bottomed boots, but anyone could wear the setup.

“He knew he could do it. He practiced on his own and aced that test,” Jensen said. “There was no issue. He was maybe better than before the accident, to be honest.”

Hampson has been back on the job for just over two years.

“After the accident, we never thought he would come back to the team, because of the rough terrain, let alone climb towers,” said Local 503 member and extra high voltage crew member Douglas Peifer. “Today, there are no special arrangements, he uses everything we use as if nothing was different. You watch him climb or move around, you would never know unless he rolled up his pants and showed you that prosthetic. It is incredible.”

“Glenn doesn’t hinder us, he is an asset. He isn’t limited by this at all,” Peifer said.

For Hampson, this is just his life, back again.

“At this point, I am back doing what I’m supposed to be doing,” he said. “Back to the high line, loving it every day.”

Glenn wanted to thank his brothers and sisters at Local 503 for the friendship and support and the local office staff who helped him wade through the disability system.

He especially wanted to thank his wife Anya.

“There are so many people who helped me but only one person went through it too,” he said.

Peifer’s video of Glenn Hampson doing a tower inspection is posted here. <http://bit.ly/GlennHampson> ■



The closing of the Fitzpatrick nuclear power plant in upstate New York would cause layoffs for Syracuse Local 97 and difficulties replacing the energy source. The Indian Point plant, pictured, is expected to remain open.

Image credit: Wikimedia Commons

Closing Down Climate Change Solutions:

Nuclear Power Plants on the Chopping Block in New York

More and more, nuclear energy is recognized as part of a clean power portfolio. Surprisingly, the country's third most populous state, New York, is diminishing its options.

Despite attempts by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to keep it open, energy company Entergy announced plans last November to close the James A. FitzPatrick nuclear power plant, near Syracuse. The facility employs more than 600 people, about 300 of whom are Syracuse, N.Y., Local 97 members, said Business Manager Ted Skerpon.

"They want to go carbon-free but they are taking out the plants that help the state do just that," said Skerpon, who also chairs the IBEW Utility Labor Council of New York. "We're trying to show the public and the politicians what is going on, what these plants really mean for New York."

At issue are three of the Empire State's four nuclear power plants. One is already slated to close, the R. E. Ginna plant. If FitzPatrick closes too, that will leave just one upstate, the Nine Mile Point station, on Lake Ontario's eastern shores.

Discussions about the fate of these plants come at the same time that states are scrambling to meet new clean energy standards mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA issued a rule in October that requires states to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from existing power plants. The final version of the rule, also known as the Clean Power Plan, would reduce national electricity sector emissions by an estimated 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. New York is required to reduce emissions by 20 percent.

The rule was challenged in court, including by the IBEW, and the Supreme Court issued a stay in February, barring the EPA from enforcing the requirements until a final decision is made.

The labor council, along with the northern New York building trades, recently commissioned a report to look at the impact of closing these plants, both economic and environmental.

Conducted by economic consulting firm The Brattle Group, the study analyzes

the likely impact of closing the FitzPatrick plant as well as the R.E. Ginna and Nine Mile Point nuclear generating stations. The Ginna and Nine Mile Point stations are owned by Exelon. Ginna is scheduled to close when a contract runs out in 2017, said RTO Insider.

FitzPatrick and Nine Mile are located right next to each other, about five miles apart. Ginna is approximately 65 miles to the east.

The Brattle report found that the three plants avoid almost 16 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually and account for 61 percent of carbon-free generation and 42 percent of carbon-free capacity in upstate New York.

Additionally, the plants combined represent over 3,300 megawatts of capacity and nearly 26 million megawatt hours of annual electricity generation. Absent this nuclear energy source, says the report, New York's economy will rely more heavily on existing natural gas-fired plants and the increased reliance on fossil fuel generation would result in higher electricity rates, as well as carbon emissions. The FitzPatrick plant alone generates 838 megawatts of nearly carbon-free electricity, enough to power more than 800,000 homes.

Nuclear plants also need far less maintenance than natural gas or coal plants, run more reliably than renewables and due to the steady power generating capacity of nuclear generation, smooth out voltage delivery across the grid.

The FitzPatrick, Ginna and Nine Mile Point plants also account for about 24,800 full-time jobs, direct and secondary, which contribute approximately \$3.16 billion to state gross domestic product, said the report. Their effect on the economy translates to about \$144 million in additional state tax revenues and \$576 million in federal tax revenues — well beyond any alternative electric supply that New York would use in the event of the plants closing.

FitzPatrick and Ginna are two of 11 plants that IBEW identified in 2013 as being at risk of closing, though not for safety or production reasons. A changing energy

market that drastically lowered the price of natural gas and the meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan in 2011 are working against the U.S. nuclear market.

As the need for electricity isn't likely to wane, whatever replaces these plants would have to be another type of baseload energy, like natural gas. Baseload energy is the minimum amount of electric power that is required over a given period at a constant rate. Wind and solar are not considered baseload since they do not have the same reliable output as nuclear or gas.

Nearby states or Canada could supply electricity to the state, but that would mean less energy independence. Off-shore wind has been proposed, but it is expensive to build and would encounter numerous societal and regulatory hurdles, Skerpon said.

The most likely scenario though, is that natural gas would be used to fill the energy void, said the report. And with this increased reliance on fossil fuels, New Yorkers would see higher electricity bills along with more carbon emissions.

Closing Down Upstate New York

While Entergy has said it will do all it can to offer alternate positions to its staff, Skerpon says layoffs are likely.

"Some employees may be able to relocate to another plant, but not all," said Skerpon. "It will be very difficult to stay in the area."

North of Syracuse, the part of upstate New York where these plants are located is rural. Despite proximity to a college town, there are few jobs to be had.

As FitzPatrick employee and Local 97 member Shawn Doyle told the New York Times, "Everybody that works here is making a good salary. There are no other jobs here. These are the best jobs."

When Entergy CEO Leo Denault met with FitzPatrick employees in December, Local 97 member Eric Wilczynski challenged him on his salary and benefits package.

"Prove to the families that our com-

pensation, pensions and futures are as secure as yours," Wilczynski said.

A Syracuse newspaper reported that Wilczynski, a chief mechanical maintenance technician who has worked at FitzPatrick for 25 years, said that Denault makes \$11.8 million a year and has a golden parachute. Many Local 97 members without the option of relocating to the only other Entergy-run plant in the state would lose their pensions as well as a steady paycheck.

(The other Entergy plant in New York, Indian Point Energy Center, is located downstate in Buchanan, about 50 miles north of New York City, and is not in danger of closing.)

Legislating a Rescue

Entergy claims it needs to close FitzPatrick because of decreasing revenues and a market design that doesn't compensate nuclear power for carbon-free emissions like it does other energy sources. For the latter, Skerpon and others are seeking a legislative fix to include nuclear plants as recipients of carbon credits along with renewables.

"We do provide a lot of incentives in solar right now and some in wind," said

state Senate Energy Committee Chairman Joseph Griffo, reported by WRVO, a public media outlet. "We are not doing that with nuclear and from my perspective, nuclear is a form of clean power because of the carbon footprint."

The state Senate recently included \$100 million in a budget proposal that would provide immediate support to FitzPatrick, reported Syracuse.com. Similar funding was not in the Assembly version.

Two bills were introduced in the state Assembly in January, one of which would provide a one-time \$60 million tax credit to FitzPatrick. The second bill would make nuclear plants eligible for zero-carbon emission payments, funded by utility ratepayers, and comparable to the renewable energy credits earned by wind and hydro-power facilities.

Skerpon says he is looking for assurance that once FitzPatrick is given the \$60 million and other credits, it would in fact remain open.

For his part, Cuomo said he will "pursue every legal and regulatory avenue in an attempt to stop Entergy's actions and its callous disregard for their skilled and loyal workforce," reported the New York Times.

At the governor's request, the New York Department of Public Service has proposed a plan to require all companies that sell electricity in the state to buy power from upstate nuclear plants — at potentially above-market rates — to help assure the units' continued operation, reported Platts, an energy publication. Entergy however, says it will not happen in time to save FitzPatrick.

New York's Public Service Commission offered Entergy financial assistance to tide the company over while the state works out an energy credit, reported WSYR, a local news station. But the company said it still has not changed its decision to close the plant.

Skerpon and others aren't backing down.

"Entergy says it's a done deal, but I'm not giving up yet," Skerpon said. "We'll keep plugging." ■

A New Day for Nuclear?

Elsewhere in the country, the Wisconsin Legislature voted to repeal the state's 33-year moratorium on nuclear plant construction. Gov. Scott Walker is expected to sign it into law, reported the Nuclear Energy Institute. Among the considerations was the EPA's requirement to reduce carbon emissions.

In California, a group of environmentalists and climate scientists are fighting to keep the Diablo Canyon plant from closing. It's the state's only nuclear plant and accounts for about one-tenth of the Golden State's electricity, serving more than 3 million homes and businesses, reported Mother Jones, a progressive publication.

Mother Jones also cited a recent analysis by the International Energy Agency that found that, in order for the world to meet the global warming limit established by the recent climate agreement in Paris, nuclear's share will need to grow from around 11 percent in 2013 to 16 percent by 2030.

Prominent climate scientists including former NASA scientist James Hansen have also called for "an enlarged focus on nuclear energy," reported the Scientific American, a national scientific publication.

"Nuclear, especially next-generation nuclear, has tremendous potential to be part of the solution to climate change," Hansen said. ■