

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

CONSTRUCTION • UTILITIES • TELECOMMUNICATIONS • MANUFACTURING • GOVERNMENT • BROADCASTING • RAILROAD

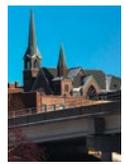
Printed in the USA

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 10 | No. 7 | July 2016

IBEW News

Who's Behind that Union-Busting Message?
You should know **3**



Lighting the Landscape
IBEW assists Iowa project **3**

In Ind., a New Manufacturing Meme
Plant expansion, new members **4**

Utility Consolidation Sweeps Mid-Atlantic
Exelon swallows Pepco **4**

In Tenn., New Residential Construction
Project fueled by pension funds **20**

Outside Linemen in Short Supply?
New tool to recruit, ease shortages **20**

In This Issue

North of 49° **5**

Politics & Jobs **6**

Circuits **8**

Local Lines **10**

Editorials **18**

Letters to the Editor **19**

Who We Are **19**



SIMULATING REALITY

Apprentice Training Moves into Virtual Realm

Washington, D.C., Local 26 Training Director Rhett Roe, left, prepares for an interview with cameraman Brian Averill. The interview is part of an episode of 'Innovations' that will highlight the Electrical Training Alliance's cutting-edge training methods.

It was a cold, rainy May morning outside the Washington, D.C., Local 26 training center in Lanham, Maryland. But inside, Romuel Buenio put on a pair of goggles and was transported to a jobsite littered with hazards, problems and potentially deadly electrical issues.

The first-year apprentice never left the classroom. But with cameras from the television show "Innovations" on hand, he and others saw where electrical training continues to head. With the help of a virtual reality headset called Oculus Rift, Buenio felt like he was standing on an overhang without a railing while being asked to diagnose a variety of problems at the jobsite.



"Oh man, it felt like I was there," he said. "It's very realistic. It actually put me in the room."

Buenio and other apprentices likely will be using Oculus Rift and other similar programs during the next year on a regular basis. So will wiremen going through advanced training.

"It's all about putting someone in the environment," said Mike deSimon, president of Mosaic Learning, which is the technology delivery provider for the Electrical Training Alliance and developed the electrical training content used in Oculus Rift. "Before, we were able to show you videos. But when you stand there and you have that experience, the back of your mind and your subconscious say, 'I was there' and 'I remember it.'"

"Innovations" informs viewers about recent

breakthroughs in science, health, business and industry, making the simulator on display that morning a perfect subject. The show is hosted by veteran actor Ed Begley Jr.

The episode on the advanced training methods used by the Alliance, an educational partnership between the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association for more than 70 years, will be shown sometime between July and September on the Discovery Channel. The air date will be posted on ibew.org when it is announced.

The electrical training used in Oculus Rift probably will be available in training centers in 2017.

"We just kind of hoped in the past that with PowerPoint slides and some other things, students would pick up the standard stuff," deSimon said. "Now, we're pulling them by the collar into the environment and telling them to look at this and engage with us."

"When they do, they say, 'Wow. It's cool, it's neat,' and they retain it. I can say 'Look at the filter, and in between us comes a 3-D model of a filter.'"

The Alliance and IBEW training centers have been implementing virtual reality training for much of this

"INNOVATIONS" continued on page 2

SIMULATING REALITY

Apprentice Training Moves into Virtual Realm

Continued from page 1



Apprentices practice in preparation for a motor control test at the Washington, D.C., Local 26 training center.

decade, but technology continues to rapidly improve. Programs expected to be used by apprentices in the upcoming year are so advanced they bear little resemblance to what was being used even a few years ago.

Mosaic Learning is working with the Alliance to ensure apprentices have a more realistic view of what they will encounter in the field, Alliance Executive Director Todd Stafford said. "Innovations" will highlight that and demonstrate how IBEW training methods remain the best in the electrical business.

"What we are building will remain at the forefront of the building trades," Stafford said. "No one has what our industry has today and we will keep it that way."

Palmer Hickman, the Alliance's director of code and safety curriculum and training, said the simulators' roles in training will increase.

"Liability is a concern," said Hickman, an inside wireman and member of Philadelphia Local 98. "We really have to

recreate the workplace experience so they can practice what they are expected to do and become more productive when they hit the jobsite."

That isn't the only reason to develop the technology. Would-be apprentices growing up in the digital era expect it, Hickman said. Making it available now and continuing to improve it should attract better-quality applicants at a time the industry needs them. The first wave of baby boom retirements is well underway and many areas are reporting shortages of wiremen.

Hickman noted it's a little different than when he was going through his apprenticeship in late 1970s. Back then, black-and-white film was among the most technologically advanced part of training. Things have come a long way.

"We're just scratching the surface on what we're going to see next," Hickman said.

"It's a virtual environment that allows the student to practice what they learn in a safe environment. They can see the effects of electrical hazards without actually being exposed to them."

Hickman, Stafford and Local 26 Training Director Rhett Roe all were interviewed for the show. Stafford said he views "Innovations" as another tool to spread the word on the value of apprenticeship, especially when there is a high demand for qualified applicants.

Apprentices graduate with little or no debt, unlike many college students. Stafford noted that the IBEW and NECA contractors are expected to spend about \$180 million on apprenticeship education this year. Not many people realize it also can be a



Averill shoots video of pre-apprentice Maurena Nureni in a Local 26 training classroom.

steppingstone to college, he said.

"People don't know that they have the ability to take an apprenticeship course, to earn while they learn and graduate with it," he said. "A lot of times, they can get an associate degree. The pathway to being an electrician is a great pathway. But those that want to move along to college have the opportunity to move forward from here."

Stafford knows from experience. He's a member of Baton Rouge, La., Local 995, where he completed his apprenticeship before earning an electrical engineering degree from Louisiana State University.

"Our primary recruiting in the IBEW and NECA is still by word of mouth," Stafford said. "You know someone in the industry and we send them over to the training center and send them through the application process."

"That's good in the sense that people who come to us understand who we are for

the most part. But at the same time, we're not reaching one-hundredth of the population. Let's present ourselves to everybody."

Local 26's training center has been recognized on a big stage before. President Obama visited it in 2010 and Labor Secretary Thomas Perez visited last year.

"Innovations" gave it another chance to show off to people not familiar with it, Roe said. Like Stafford, he hopes it highlights the quality of education the apprentices receive, especially to viewers around the nation's capital.

"A lot of people don't know what we do," he said. "Unions are often misrepresented. This is another eye-opening experience to another set of people that probably don't realize what we're all about. It's very, very rewarding to see."

The episode also will report on the Alliance's modern curriculum, in which apprentices learn both via the internet and with the traditional classroom instructor.

"Blended learning bridges the gap between learning in the classroom and really what the student has come to expect today and what they're used to," Hickman said. "We give them a virtual type environment with game type activity."

The simulators expected to be featured on "Innovations" also will be helpful to experienced electrical workers, Hickman said. They can study a replica of a jobsite before visiting it. That should make them more efficient once they arrive and also lead to safer working conditions.

"It's a great way to deliver information," he said.

Getting a chance to experience the simulator left Buenio wanting to do it again.

"I could look around and see what was around me," he said. "I wanted to touch something."

"Innovations" is an independently produced show that also airs on Fox Business and RFD-TV in addition to Discovery. ■



Local 26 apprentice Romuel Buenio used goggles to simulate working on a jobsite filled with safety issues.

Behind the Curtain

This New Rule Shines a Light on Employer Union-Busting Activity

When an employee decides whether to vote for union representation, a lot of things can factor in, not least among them information from their employer. What employees may not know though, is how much of that information comes from an outside consultant — or how much those consultants were paid. But thanks to a new rule from the Department of Labor, that information will now be available.

On March 23, the Labor Department issued a new rule that puts employers on par with unions. It requires reporting on employer-consultant or “persuader agreements,” a new interpretation that includes indirect as well as direct activity. Before, companies were only required to report on things like consultants meeting with employees, where the consultants had direct contact with the potential union members. Now, they will have to report activity that previously occurred behind the scenes, like talking points, scripts and letters drafted for management to be used on employees.

“Workers should know who is behind an anti-union message. It’s a matter of basic fairness,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. “As in all elections, more information means better decisions.”

The rule is a reinterpretation of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act, a law that requires labor organizations, consultants and employers to file reports and disclose expenditures on labor-management activities. The previous interpretation created a loophole that allowed employers to report only direct activity.

Anywhere from 71 to 87 percent of employers hire consultants to manage their union-busting campaigns, says the Labor Department, despite very few reports coming in. In some cases, the consultants may even direct managers to say things that don’t actually match their personal views.

“Workers should know who is behind an anti-union message. It’s a matter of basic fairness.”

— U.S. Secretary of Labor
Thomas E. Perez

Those opposed to the rule say it violates confidentiality between attorneys and clients. But the Labor Department says that it only requires disclosure of the client’s identity, the fee arrangement and the scope of the agreement, and only in cases where the consultant provides services other than legal. And employers do not have to report when a consultant is only giving advice.

On April 27, the House held a hearing at which a member of IBEW’s general counsel, Jonathan D. Newman, was the only pro-labor person to speak on the panel. In his statement, Newman quotes a union buster as saying that he has never

in his life filed with the Department of Labor and that few union busters do.

“Labor consultants do not merely give advice, but instead craft the game plan and call the plays for anti-union election campaigns,” Newman said.

Additionally, Newman elucidated the difference between the transparency the rule will provide and the continued protection of attorney-client privilege.

“Critics of the rule who claim that it will force employers to report virtually all contact with advisors on union-related issues, or who assert that the rule will deter small businesses from seeking help to navigate labor laws, must not have read the rule,” Newman said.

Newman also pointed out the current discrepancy between the reporting required of unions and companies.

“Labor organizations already have broad transparency obligations under the LMRDA and report much more than that which is required of employers and consultants under the rule,” he said.

On May 18, a committee in the House of Representatives voted 21-10 in a party-line vote to approve Republican legislation that would block the persuader rule, reported The Hill, a publication that focuses on Capitol Hill. From there, the bill goes to the full House for consideration. Even if the legislation passes in the House and the Senate, it would likely be vetoed by President Obama.

“The rule levels the playing field for organizers and management and ensures that working men and women are making truly informed choices, which is exactly as it should be,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. ■

In Iowa, IBEW Helps Light Churches, Steeples



Burlington, Iowa’s historic skyline will shine a little brighter thanks to IBEW wiremen. Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user Ilya Katsnelson.

Crossing the Great River Bridge from Illinois into southeast Iowa is spectacular in the daylight hours — the bridge’s soaring tower and suspension cables dominate the sky while the Mississippi River sparkles nearly a half mile wide below. Reach the midpoint of the bridge on U.S. Highway 34, and the steeples of Burlington’s churches, high on a bluff overlooking the river, welcome you into Iowa. Cross at night, though, and it’s a sea of black.

That’s the visual longtime resident Gretchen Miller and a group of civic-minded locals hope to change starting in August, when their six-year effort finally bears fruit, throwing the switch and bathing more than a half dozen of the city’s most prominent church towers in light.

The work of installing the \$300,000 high-tech LED lights is being performed by members of Burlington Local 13 and signatory contractor Dave Bessine Electric, who Miller’s Downtown Lighting Committee and lighting supplier Energyefficient hired earlier this year.

“We’re so excited to be a part of this project,” said Bessine, who hoped to have each of his 10 Local 13 wiremen devote time to the effort before its completion. “It’s going to be great — just beautiful, and a real point of pride for the people of Burlington.”

For Miller, who first dreamed of illuminating all of Burlington’s churches in 2010, the journey to getting wires pulled and lights on poles has been long, but rewarding. The idea first came up years ago when a generous memorial was left at St. John’s Church downtown in honor of a former parishioner.

“They used it to light the building,” she said, “and it really inspired me to do something and work to get the rest of them done.”

The new lights have been meticulously laid out to highlight the unique architecture of downtown Burlington, and Miller and the rest of her committee hope it will be a fitting tribute to the 180-year-old town’s history as one of the first settlements in Iowa.

By late May, Bessine and his crew had finished the unglamorous but critically important work of trenching for wires and pouring concrete bases for light poles. In June, they expected to be setting poles, some as tall as 45 feet, mounting brackets and installing the state-of-the-art lighting that will be controlled through radio-transponders installed in each fixture.

Local 13 wireman Kevin Klein, a five-year member who topped out earlier this year, is ready for the next step. “It’s really going to spruce these buildings up,” he said, noting how the plan calls for the lights to accent the peaks and valleys of the church roofs, crosses and other architectural details. “These LED lights will last for 15 or 20 years in most cases, so once they’re up, the maintenance is really minimal.”

Miller hopes the work will be completed in time for a city-wide celebration in August, but for now, she’s just grateful for the generous support of Burlington’s citizens, charitable foundations and businesses. “We’ve raised nearly \$300,000 to cover the installation and ongoing maintenance of these lights,” she said, “and I think that number will continue to go up once people see the effect they have on this town.”

The next project, she hopes, will be the relighting of the Great River Bridge itself, which has been neglected in recent years. “Burlington is the gateway into southeast Iowa,” she said, “and we want our landmarks to be showcased the best way they can.”

“We’re just proud to be a part of this,” said Local 13 Business Manager John Weyer. “Most of our work is behind the scenes in industrial settings, so to have this big public project and to be able to give back to this community is a great way to promote the work of the IBEW.” ■



IBEW MERCHANDISE

www.ibewmerchandise.com

Moisture Management T-Shirt \$12.75

100% polyester, black moisture management t-shirt with IBEW initials. Wicks moisture away from the body by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

IBEW Wallet \$10.00

Slim Black leather wallet with magnetic money clip. Features embossed IBEW logo on front and strong magnet action to hold bills.

Ladies Moisture Management Polo Shirt \$23.00

100% polyester, grey moisture management polo shirt with IBEW initials, fist and lightning bolts. Wicks moisture away from the body by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

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

A Bright Future for Manufacturing Workers in Indiana

It's a familiar story across America, especially in the Midwest: a factory closes; announces it's moving operations to Mexico or overseas. Public officials lament the loss of jobs, families suffer — you know the miserable, all-too-common rest.

The opposite, happier tale is one we don't hear quite so often, but that's just what's happening in and around Columbus, Indiana, 40 miles south of Indianapolis.

There, Faurecia, a massive French automotive parts manufacturer recently expanded its U.S. operations, spending more than \$70 million to lease and equip a new 400,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility that will create hundreds of jobs in the community over the next several months as it ramps up production.

In an even rarer twist, Faurecia and its local management have embraced and partnered with the IBEW deep inside the right-to-work state, where public officials often seem to love nothing more than boasting about low union density.

"Faurecia is a real success story," said Sixth District International Representative Jeff Carter. "The relationship wasn't always so easy, but we've had a lot of cooperation in recent years, and it's a welcome change, especially with the new plant and the growth this company is experiencing."

Just seven miles up the road, Columbus-based Local 1424 already represents another 870 Faurecia employees at its Gladstone plant, where line-workers spend their shifts making light consumer and commercial catalytic converters, the exhaust components that help reduce toxic emissions from nearly every vehicle on the road.

A year ago, the single-employer local counted just 356 of those 870 as members. Because of Indiana's right-to-work law, passed in 2012, Local 1424 bargained for everyone, but more than half chose not to pay dues or partake of the IBEW's many other benefits of membership.

"That had to change," said Business Manager Jerry Wagner. "We needed to do something to convince these folks that they were better off joining the union and being part of what we're trying to do here."

Help came from far and wide, and organizers, led by Sixth District Regional Organizing Coordinator Lynn Arwood, drew up a plan to make the pitch for IBEW membership.

"What we realized pretty early on was that a lot of these people simply hadn't been asked to join the union," Arwood said. "So when they were, a lot of them were excited to be a part of the IBEW." The sale was a relatively easy one, with most employees uncertain about their place at the new plant and concerned about what would happen at the existing one. "They wanted a voice in their company, and they recognized that there was strength in numbers," Arwood said.

In the end, more than 50 organizers braved the frigid February temperatures to knock on 600 doors over the course of several days. The blitz resulted in more than 90 new members. "And we're still not finished following up," said 1424's president, George "Frankie" Ledbetter,

who works at the Gladstone plant.

With membership now topping 50 percent at Gladstone, and management at the new plant embracing the IBEW as a full partner, Ledbetter sees a bright future for Local 1424 and for Faurecia's growing workforce. "Before things improved," he said, "people felt uneasy going to human resources for anything. But now, things are really positive, and it feels great to be working together with management."

The new approach to working with the union is slowly but surely working its way into the relationship at Gladstone too, evidenced by the company's recent request to fly the IBEW flag alongside the company's own at both facilities. "I've never had a company ask to do that," Carter said.

In the coming weeks, managers at the new Faurecia plant will also welcome Sixth District Vice President David J. Ruhmkorff to the facility for a tour and grand opening.

"It really does feel like a new day,"



The new Faurecia Walesboro plant will make commercial catalytic converters and employ hundreds of IBEW members when it ramps up to full production later this year.

said Carter, who recently helped wrap up contract negotiations for the new facility and is preparing to start talks over a new contract at Gladstone early next year.

"I've been in manufacturing for my entire career," he said. "It's been heart-wrenching over the years to see

these people you've worked with lose their jobs at plants all over the Midwest. For this relationship with Faurecia to be heading in the opposite, more positive direction is such a rewarding thing to be a part of."

Ruhmkorff echoed those sentiments, and looked toward a hopeful

future. "These hard working men and women deserve to be treated with respect," he said, "and all of these signs pointing to even better things to come at Faurecia — well, we hope this can be a model for employers who choose to keep good jobs in the U.S." ■

'Cautious Optimism' on Pepco-Exelon Merger

When Washington, D.C., regulators approved the \$7 billion merger between Pepco Holdings and Exelon, they laid in place the final step to create the largest publicly held utility in the country.

"Exelon is a big player in the utility industry and it just got bigger," said Utility Director Jim Hunter. "As for what that means for our members, or for the industry, it's little more than prognostication right now."

The merger, finalized in late March, affects multiple IBEW locals and approximately 2,500 members along the Atlantic coast. IBEW also has about 7,500 members under Exelon contracts.

Exelon, based in Chicago, owns Commonwealth Edison, Baltimore Gas & Electric and Pennsylvania's PECO. It also owns Constellation Energy and the largest number of nuclear reactors in the country.

Pepco Holdings, based in Washington, owns utilities in the mid-Atlantic region, from New Jersey to Virginia including Pepco, Atlantic City Electric and Delmarva Power. Combined, Exelon will now power the homes of approximately 10 million customers.

Additionally, the new owners come with deep pockets and investments in grid modernization.

"An advantage of Exelon buying Pepco Holdings is that Pepco needs a tremendous amount of infrastructure investment," Hunter said. "That means jobs for us and a better grid for customers. And a larger company like Exelon has better access to capital to make it happen."

Pepco is Washington, D.C., Local 1900's largest employer and the contract for its 1,000-plus members was part of the negotiation to win its support, said Business Manager James A. Griffin.

Local 1900, along with Atlantic City, N.J., Local 210, Wilmington, Del., Local 1238 and Salisbury, Md., Local 1307, secured three-year extensions on their contracts and raises of 2.5 percent even if the merger didn't go through. If the merger proved successful, members would receive a 3 percent raise. The final deal also included the promise to hire new employees — and the new hires must be external, assuring new members.

Getting raises regardless of the merger's success was crucial considering how unlikely the deal's passage seemed at times. The District of Columbia Public Service Commission, the last regulator to approve the deal, twice rejected it. And it took nearly two years to complete, an unprecedented amount of time, said Utility Dive, an industry publication.

Among the issues was what D.C.'s commission chairperson called a "conflict of interest" between a District law and Exelon's business model. The law stipulates that the city's utility can be a transmission and distribution company only. Exelon has both



The Pepco-Exelon merger created one of the largest publicly held companies in the U.S. and affects thousands of IBEW members.

distribution and generation, where its nuclear reactors reside along with hydro, natural gas, oil and renewables.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser expressed concerns about possible price increases for District residents and others worried about a large company, and one located outside the region, taking over.

"Talk to me in 90 days," said Local 1238 Business Manager Stephen Newberry, whose members work for Delmarva Power as well as Pepco Holdings. Delmarva is a subsidiary of Pepco.

Newberry said this is his third merger. He's heard a lot of pitches but he's cautiously optimistic, a sentiment echoed by other business managers.

"We hope that the deep pockets of a large company like Exelon will keep us in work and allow us to better serve the public," said Local 1307 Business Manager Vaughn B. Horner Jr., whose members

work for Delmarva Power. "Of course, that remains to be seen."

"I'm a realist," said Local 210 Business Manager Charles Hill Jr., whose members work for Atlantic City Electric Company. He has also seen a few mergers in his day. "If this didn't go through, it would have been someone else."

Indeed, the repercussions of deregulation continue to play out alongside other changes in the market like cheaper natural gas. Exelon is now the largest utility, but it's not alone in terms of overall size and scope. There are Duke and NRG Energy, Southern Company and others.

"The problem with consolidation is we are moving farther and farther away from local control," Hunter said. "Every time there is another merger or acquisition, you move control farther and farther away."

Exelon has been described as having a culture of "command and control," with policies for everything. Such a culture could provide more consistency for subsidiaries and locals.

"They are more detail oriented and that may actually help make the business run better," Horner said. "Many policies are of the regional variety since they are in so many other states. It's actually helpful to some extent to have the policies in writing. That makes it less likely that each local area decides what the policy is."

Whether Exelon's policy-driven model will provide uniformity or take away a local perspective is up for debate. And it may come down to something more personal.

"Relationships vary company to company," Hunter said. "The success often depends on who's in charge."

Still, they can count on one thing.

"We have our contract, so we have security for the next three years," Hill said. ■

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

IBEW Steps Up to Help Members Affected by Historic Alberta Wildfire

The raging wildfires that tore through northeastern Alberta recently caused the largest fire-related evacuation in the province's history. Some 80,000 people were forced to flee the town of Fort McMurray, including members of Edmonton Local 424. And IBEW members from across Canada and the United States have stepped up to help.

"There is no doubt that our brothers and sisters in Alberta will be impacted by this event for quite some time," IBEW First District Vice President William Daniels said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with our members, their families, Albertans and all Canadians affected by these devastating fires."

IBEW Canada has set up a donation page, bit.ly/IBEWCanadaRedCross, in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross. All donations will be matched by both the federal and provincial governments, meaning that for every dollar donated, a total of three dollars will be raised.

Approximately 94,000 people have been displaced from Fort McMurray and the surrounding area.

The fire, known as "the beast," even scorched its way across the border into Saskatchewan, reported the CBC.

The fire has seared through almost 2,000 square miles and destroyed some 2,400 structures. Fortunately, about 85 percent of the city remains intact. Local 424 is working to locate members and assess their needs, said Assistant Business Manager Ken MacKenzie.

"We want to take care of our brothers and sisters," MacKenzie said. "We're going to be there for them for the coming months and however long it takes."

Local 424 also allocated \$500,000 to assist affected members, said Business Manager Kevin Levy.

At the All Canada progress meeting in May, International President Stephenson pledged \$10,000 from the IBEW Unity Fund and a raffle raised \$2,800, Levy said.

Fort McMurray is located near Alberta's oil sands, the third largest oil reserve in the world. Efforts have been made to get the camps running again, but are dependent on favorable fire conditions. Portions of the area, which were largely unaffected originally, had reopened to allow some employees back. But by mid-May, changing fire conditions caused a second evacuation of about 8,000 people, reported the CBC. About 450 members live and work in Fort McMurray, said MacKenzie.

About half of Fort McMurray's evacuees were relocated to Edmonton, approximately 270 miles south.

"It's amazing what they've been able



"There is no doubt that our brothers and sisters in Alberta will be impacted by this event for quite some time."

— IBEW First District Vice President William Daniels

to do," International Representative Larry Schell said of Edmonton's quick response and ability to set up shelter and provisions.

Many residents of Alberta, including IBEW members, have stepped in to help,

eager to lend a hand in rebuilding and whatever else needs to be done.

"You see it everywhere," MacKenzie said. "If you go in to any shop or business in Alberta, they're taking up a collection and

asking people to volunteer and donate."

"Locals from all across Canada have called to help," Levy said. "The IBEW is really stepping up and reaching out, which allows us to focus on

our members."

A statement from Vice President Daniels, which includes a link to the donation page, can be found on the IBEW Canada website at ibewcanada.ca. ■

La FIOE vient en aide aux membres affectés par l'incendie historique de l'Alberta

Les incendies de forêt qui ont récemment ravagé le nord-est de l'Alberta ont entraîné la plus importante évacuation liée aux incendies dans l'histoire de la province. Quelque 80 000 personnes ont été obligées de fuir la ville de Fort McMurray, incluant les membres de la section locale 424 de la FIOE; et les membres à travers le Canada et les États-Unis se sont présentés pour venir en aide.

« Nul doute que nos confrères et nos consœurs seront touchés par cet événement pendant un certain temps », dit le vice-président William Daniels du Premier District de la FIOE. « Nos pensées et nos prières sont avec nos membres, leurs familles, les Albertains et tous les Canadiens touchés par les effets dévastateurs des incendies de forêt. »

Une page web a été mise en place par la FIOE Canada en partenariat avec la Croix-Rouge canadienne pour permettre de verser des dons. Le gouvernement fédéral et provincial versera une somme égale à tous les dons versés, autrement

dit; pour chaque dollar versé, un total de trois dollars sera amassé.

Plus de 94 000 personnes ont été déplacées de Fort McMurray et de la région. L'incendie, mieux connu sous le nom de « la bête » a même brûlé son chemin à travers la frontière de la Saskatchewan, indique CBC.

L'incendie a brûlé presque 2000 milles carrés et a détruit quelque 2400 structures. Heureusement qu'environ 85 pour cent de la ville est demeurée intacte. La section locale 424 travaille pour repérer les membres et évaluer leurs besoins, dit l'assistant gérant-d'affaires Ken MacKenzie.

« Nous voulons prendre soin de nos confrères et de nos consœurs », dit MacKenzie. « Nous allons être là pour eux pour les mois à venir et aussi longtemps que cela prendra. »

La section locale 424 a ainsi alloué 500 000 \$ pour venir en aide aux membres affectés, dit le gérant-d'affaires Kevin Levy.

À la conférence canadienne annuelle en mai dernier, le Président International Stephenson a promis de verser

10 000 \$ depuis le *IBEW Unity Fund* et une tombola a soulevé 2800 \$, dit Levy.

Fort McMurray est situé près des sables bitumineux en Alberta, la troisième plus grande réserve de pétrole au monde. Des efforts ont été déployés pour remettre en état les lieux de campements, mais cela va dépendre sur des conditions plus favorables en matière d'incendie. Une partie de la région, qui à l'origine a été en grande partie non affectée, a rouvert afin de permettre à certains employés d'y retourner. Vers la mi-mai, l'évolution des conditions d'incendie a provoqué une deuxième évacuation de près de 8000 personnes, déclare CBC. Environ 450 membres demeurent et travaillent à Fort McMurray, dit MacKenzie.

Environ la moitié des personnes évacuées ont été déménagées en Edmonton, environ 270 milles au sud.

« C'est incroyable ce qu'ils ont pu faire », c'est ce que le représentant international Larry Shell a dit au sujet de la réponse rapide d'Edmonton et de la capacité de mettre en place des abris et

des dispositions.

Plusieurs résidents de l'Alberta, incluant les membres de la FIOE, se sont présentés pour venir en aide, prêt à donner un sérieux coup de main, de rebâtir et de faire tout le nécessaire pour remédier à la situation.

« Vous le voyez partout », dit MacKenzie. « Si vous allez à n'importe quel magasin ou entreprise en Alberta, ils mettent en place une collecte et demandent aux gens de se porter bénévole et de verser des dons. »

"Les sections locales à travers le Canada ont toutes appelé pour venir en aide," dit Levy. "La FIOE prend vraiment les devants et tend la main, c'est de cette manière que nous allons pouvoir nous concentrer sur l'intérêt de nos membres."

Une déclaration de la part du Vice-président Daniels, qui comprend un lien vers la page pour verser des dons, se trouve sur le site web de la FIOE Canada : www.ibewcanada.ca dans le cadre de l'article : *IBEW Stands Strong with Fort McMurray: IVP Daniels*. ■

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

A Win for Working Families: Paycheck Deception Law Goes Down in Missouri

When the votes were tallied, the IBEW and other advocates for working families in Missouri beat back an attempt to pass a paycheck deception law.

The Missouri Senate voted 22-10 in favor of the legislation early on the morning of May 13, but that was one vote short of the two-thirds majority needed to override Gov. Jay Nixon's veto. The House voted a week earlier to override the veto.

"It was a difficult session. Thank God it's over with," said Missouri State Electrical Workers Conference President Michael Datillo. "That was a big win for labor."

Known as paycheck protection laws by supporters, the Missouri legislation would have required public sector employees who are members of unions to state in writing each year they wanted union dues taken out of their paychecks. The push is part of a coordinated attack by moneyed interests effectively using politicians to advance their anti-labor agenda, said state Political Coordinator Rudy Chavez, who is Kansas City Local 124 president.

Opponents argued that membership in public sector unions in Missouri is already voluntary. The move was just another attack on organized labor and an attempt to drive down wages, they said.

The deciding vote was cast by Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal from University City, a St. Louis suburb. Chappelle-Nadal was the lone Democratic senator to vote in favor of the legislation earlier in the session. She was the last senator to cast her vote, setting up a tense situation on the Senate floor. Her no vote came just after midnight, the Kansas City Star reported.

Republicans have held overwhelming majorities in the Missouri Legislature in recent years, enough to override many vetoes by Nixon, a Democrat who has been in office since 2009.

But enough GOP legislators have crossed over to beat back some anti-worker legislation. That was the case again with the paycheck deception legislation. Republican senators Ryan Silvey from Kansas City and Gary Romine from Farmington voted no, as did Bill Kidd, a Republican House member from Blue Springs in suburban Kansas City, who has consistently supported working families.

Chavez described the language in the legislation as sloppy and open to a legal challenge if it had passed.

"There were some constitutional holes in it and we were going to court," he said. "That was going to be our next play. But lawyers charge by the hour."

Observers feared adoption would have emboldened conservative forces next year to try to pass a similar law for private sector workers.

The Missouri General Assembly passed a right-to-work law in 2015, but Nixon vetoed it and the House failed to override it. There also has been legislation filed in the past to weaken prevailing wage laws. Right-to-work

proponents, backed by far-right groups, continue to push for a right-to-work law in the state.

"It's difficult when you are outnumbered," said Datillo, who is also St. Louis 1455 business manager, adding there are 65 Republicans running for seats in the state Legislature that are uncontested. "Those are 65 seats that Republicans are going to hold because we can't get Democrats to run."

The American Legislative Exchange Council, known as ALEC and comprised of

conservative politicians and business representatives who write model laws for right-wing legislators around the country, also has been active in pushing anti-labor legislation in Missouri.

Chavez said the Joplin-based Humphreys family, which owns a building products manufacturer, have, through a non-profit organization, spent \$2 million recently to run television and radio ads with instructions to union members on how to decertify their union.

The battles against working people in Missouri likely won't end anytime soon. Both the state House and Senate are expected to remain overwhelmingly Republican following the November elections and state law prohibits Nixon from running for a third term. Attorney General Chris Koster is considered the prohibitive favorite among four Democratic candidates and has supported pro-working family policies in the past. Missouri's gubernatorial primary is Aug. 2. ■

IBEW, Other Unions Mount Right-to-Work Challenge in W.Va.

Six IBEW locals with jurisdiction in West Virginia will be among the plaintiffs in a suit challenging the constitutionality of the right-to-work law passed by the state's Republican-controlled General Assembly earlier this year over Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's veto.

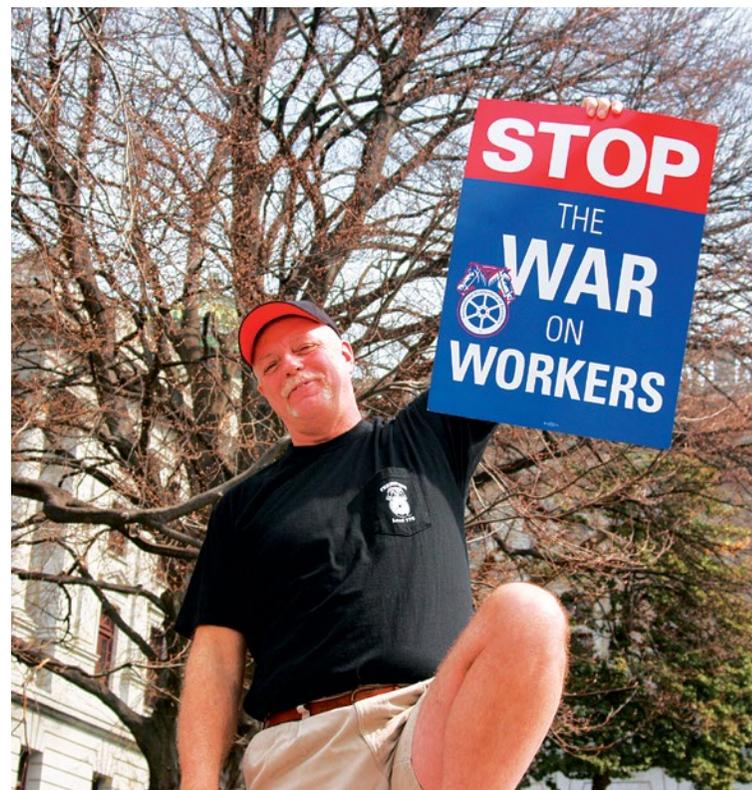
The state AFL-CIO informed West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey of the intent to sue in a letter dated May 5. Such a letter is required by West Virginia law 30 days prior to a suit being filed against the state.

The locals planning to file suit are Wheeling Local 141, Huntington Local 317, Charleston Local 466, Clarksburg Local 596 and Parkersburg Local 968. Cumberland, Md., Local 307, which has jurisdiction in parts of West Virginia, also will be a plaintiff. Other parties filing the advance notice are the West Virginia State Building & Construction Trades Council; United Mine Workers of America; and Teamsters Local 175 in Charleston.

"They fast tracked this and drafted a real shoddy bill," said Dave Efaw, a former Charleston Local 466 business manager who is now secretary/treasurer of the state's building trades. "That's why we're finding mistakes."

Right-to-work laws allow employees to opt out of paying membership dues, even when they receive the benefits of a union contract, and prohibit companies from encouraging them to join a union. They have been enacted in 26 states and harm working families by driving down wages and often lead to unsafe working conditions.

Republicans control both the West Virginia House and Senate for the first time since 1930 and made passing a right-to-work law their top priority during this year's legislative session. The opening day usually is reserved for ceremony and



A protestor during a successful pushback against a proposed right-to-work law in Pennsylvania in 2011.

Photo provided under a Creative Commons agreement by Rick Smith.

the governor's state of the state address. But this year, Republicans used it to introduce Senate Bill 1, the right-to-work law. Senate President Bill Cole, the Republican nominee for governor, was a co-sponsor.

Opening day was Jan. 13. The legislature overrode Tomblin's veto on Feb. 12. Only a simple majority was required to do so.

"They were determined not to work on anything until that was done," Charleston Local 466 Business Manager Joe Samples said. "They also made sure it only went through one committee. That was really unusual. It usually goes through two or three committees."

The suit is expected to challenge the law primarily on two grounds. The first is that forcing unions to represent employees who refuse to pay union dues is an illegal taking of property under state law. A circuit court judge in Wisconsin found that state's right-to-work law unconstitutional in April on the grounds that forcing unions to provide representation to members who don't pay dues was an unlawful seizure of property. The state's attorney general has filed an appeal.

"When someone decides they're not going to pay their union dues, that means someone else is paying that person's share," Samples said. "The way we interpret the [state] constitution is that's taking away property and giving it to someone else."

The plaintiffs also are expected to argue the law only applies to collective bargaining involving public employee unions, pointing to a portion that defines the state as "any officer, board, branch, commission, department, division, bureau, committee, agency, authority or other instrumentality of the state of West Virginia" and not citing any private

employer definitions.

"We feel like they exempted construction from this so-called workplace freedom bill and didn't realize that," Efaw said.

Plans for the lawsuit spurred an editorial from the Charleston Gazette-Mail, the state capital city's newspaper, with the headline "Legislative Incompetence?"

"So far, Republicans who control the legislature have shown an inability to govern because they can't raise enough revenue to keep the state government solvent," read part of the editorial. "It will be ironic if another botch mars their foremost accomplishment."

Samples and Efaw both noted the West Virginia right-to-work law is almost identical to right-to-work laws passed in recent years in both Indiana and Wisconsin. That's a sign it was largely written by interests from outside the state, particularly the arch-conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, they said. ALEC is comprised of conservative politicians and business representatives who write model laws for right-wing legislators around the country.

The West Virginia suit will be filed in Kanawha County Circuit Court. Samples said he's optimistic about its success at that level, but expects it to eventually be heard by the West Virginia Supreme Court. The state held its first-ever non-partisan Supreme Court election in May, but a candidate aided by \$3 million donated from conservative groups mostly from outside the state won the one available seat.

The West Virginia Legislature also repealed the state prevailing wage laws during this year's session. Prevailing wage laws require contractors doing business with governmental bodies to pay their workers at pre-determined levels. ■



Missouri State Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal at the end of the state legislative session.

Photo provided under a Creative Commons agreement by Missouri Lawyers Media.

"There are probably 90 members of the GOP [in the state Legislature] who are voting the will of their big money donors over their constituents," Chavez said. "Polling shows that right-to-work and paycheck deception are not pressing interests to most people."

Police and first-responder workers who are union members were exempt from the proposed law, which likely would have spurred a court challenge. Republican sponsors admitted that provision was put in the bill to secure more legislative support.

Government's Own TPP Report: Meager Growth and Bigger Trade Deficit

The non-partisan U.S. International Trade Commission issued a report predicting the Trans-Pacific Partnership would lead to barely noticeable gains in the U.S. economy.

In a report issued May 17, the ITC forecasts real gross domestic product — the value of the entire output of the U.S. economy — would be only 0.15 percent larger than without TPP and employment would be a negligible 0.07 percent higher.

The ITC also predicted that the energy and manufacturing sectors, which employ more than 300,000 IBEW members, will be \$11 billion smaller if the TPP passes.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a “free” trade deal negotiated among the U.S. and Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. It would lower barriers to trade, and would weaken labor, environmental and free speech protections.

To become law, the treaty needs majority approval in both houses of Congress and passage has been a White House priority for the final year of Obama's presidency. The treaty has been opposed by organized labor, environmentalists and many members of the president's own party.

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said the ITC report confirms the IBEW's long held position that TPP is a bad deal and a distraction.

“The worst part is we know how to improve the situation of working families: rebuild our infrastructure,” Stephenson said. “And you don't have to take my word for it. The neoliberal economists at the International Monetary Fund have been pushing free trade agreements for decades and even they said 1 percent of GDP invested in infrastructure leads to 4 percent growth within four years. Compare that to less than 1 percent gain over 20 years.”

The highest-ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Sander Levin of Michigan, said the ITC report “confirms my position that I cannot support TPP as negotiated.”

In a statement released by his office, Levin criticized the model used by the ITC, saying it was “based on an optimistic assumption that our trading partners will open their markets to our exports, rather than simply replacing their existing tariff barriers with new non-tariff barriers, even though we have repeatedly seen that happen in the past.”

Before NAFTA became law in 1994, the ITC predicted there would be “minor negative impact” on U.S. auto production, no change in auto production employment, and no “appreciable” decline in employment in the electronics production sector.

Rep. Louise Slaughter of New York said the trade report is “just the latest in [the ITC's] long line of rose-colored forecasts on the economic impact of free trade agreements.”



The ITC assumed that everyone who loses their job could instantly find another one at the same salary because of “increased efficiencies” due to free trade. The ITC model also assumed that higher worker productivity will translate to an equal increase in wages, despite decades of evidence to the contrary. The ITC model also assumes only positive effects from the food and worker safety rules, consumer protections and banking regulations that will be stripped away under the deal.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Commerce, however, “welcomed” the ITC report. In a statement from Myron Brilliant, U.S. Chamber executive vice president, wrote the report “provides substantive support for the Chamber's view that the TPP is in our national economic interest.”

Despite the support of some in the business community, TPP has been criticized by presidential candidates. The Wall Street Journal reported recently that Congress is unlikely to consider the deal before the November election.

“Experience teaches us to expect magical claims from the people selling us free trade deals,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “They are using just as much smoke and just as many mirrors, but the trick is failing, and we're not fooled.” ■

U.S. Korea Trade Data Fuels TPP Opposition

The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement has hurt American workers, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership will almost certainly do the same.

That was the message from members of Congress who came together on May 5 to highlight four years of data on the Korea deal released by the U.S. Census Bureau. It showed, among other things, that the U.S. trade deficit with South Korea (Asia's fourth-largest economy) has more than doubled thanks to surging imports and a reduction in American goods crossing the Pacific. By the government's own metric, that imbalance has cost U.S. workers more than 100,000 jobs.

“We were told the Korea trade deal was going to be different,” said Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) of President Barack

Obama's last free trade effort. “But those promises never became reality, and this data shows it.”

“The Korea deal is the trade template for the TPP,” said Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), warning that the consequences of passing TPP couldn't be clearer. “Cities have been devastated by these trade agreements,” she said.

The new numbers come at the worst possible time for free-traders in the Obama administration who have been fighting a flood of anti-trade rhetoric from the campaign trail as they've tried to sell Congress on the merits of the TPP.

Notably, Congress doesn't seem to be buying it. Even Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, one of the TPP's most vocal backers, has admitted that the outlook is “bleak” for the agreement even seeing a vote this year.

“The biggest problem right now is the political environment to pass a trade bill is worse than any time I've been in the Sen-

ate,” he said in an online interview with the rural policy site Agri-Pulse. “We're right in the middle of this presidential election year, [and] the candidates are all against what the president has negotiated.”

The TPP is a broad-based trade and investment agreement between the United States, Canada, Japan and nine other Pacific Rim countries. Like most trade deals, it aims to reduce tariffs on imports and exports and promises reforms in labor laws, environmental standards, human rights and intellectual property protection. But critics, including the IBEW, have long argued that it doesn't go far enough to protect U.S. jobs.

Even now, those opponents aren't willing to bet that the hostile political climate will slow down White House efforts to push it through Congress, perhaps in an anticipated so-called “lame duck” session after November's election.

“When they were selling the Korea trade agreement, [the administration]

promised jobs, they promised exports and they promised enforcement,” DeLauro said. “And with TPP, they're offering the same set of false promises.”

“Voters,” she said, “are concerned about stagnant wages, unemployment, currency manipulation and loss of manufacturing jobs. ... The president must not try to sneak this agreement through in a lame duck session.”

“The trade issue is vital in states like Ohio,” said Rep. Marcy Kaptur, who represents the rust-belt state's 9th district, stretching from Toledo to Cleveland. “The TPP fight is affecting the U.S. Senate race there, and it's taken too long for the executive branch to catch up to the voters on this. It's come at the cost of too many people's livelihoods and too many jobs.”

The new data on the Korean deal puts to rest, once and for all, President Obama's arguments that the North American Free Trade Agreement and others like it are a relic of past administrations. Despite promises that Korea and now TPP are new-era trade deals with worker protections and beefed-up enforcement, the census figures tell a wildly different tale.

“We've said all along that any new trade agreements need to be significantly different from ones that have cost American workers more than a million jobs over the last couple of decades,” said IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. “This Korea data just proves that ‘new-era’ trade deals are the same as the old ones. TPP is a bad deal for working people and American jobs, and we're grateful to the members of Congress who are out there with us fighting to make sure it's never enacted.” ■



The Port of Busan in South Korea is the world's fifth-busiest thanks to record exports resulting from the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. The Trans-Pacific Partnership threatens to do even more damage to middle class jobs in America.

Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user amanderson.

CIRCUITS

IBEW Sisters Attend U.N. Women's Global Leadership Program

Talking about women's issues from a global perspective is a tall, sprawling order. To do it in a meaningful way isn't easy. But for the IBEW sisters who attended the Women's Global Leadership Program in March, they left inspired and enlightened.

Each year, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, a global policy-making body focused on gender equality, holds meetings to address a range of issues. This year, the focus was on economic empowerment and the AFL-CIO convened a four-day conference in New York to coincide with the U.N. meetings. Fifty people were accepted. Five were from the IBEW.

"It was a great opportunity to meet women from all over the world who are working on labor issues," said Sheryllyn Wright, executive assistant to International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "There is a lot that we can learn from each other."

The agenda included workshops and panels on the global economy and organizing, and meetings of the U.N. Commission.

"It opened my eyes to the global picture," said Erin Sullivan, a steward with New York Local 3 and chairwoman of the Third District's Women's Committee. She also wrote about the program for her local.

Attendees learned about the global supply chain and how actions in the U.S. impact working people across oceans.

"Everything has a price. Walmart says 'save more, live better.' Well, we pay less but it's on the backs of others," Sullivan said. "Somebody is getting exploited in the supply chain."

"Women workers across borders share common struggles and it is critical that we band together to push for a fair and inclusive economy," said AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, who spoke at the conference. Shuler is also a member of Portland, Ore., Local 125.

A new AFL-CIO report, "Transforming Women's Work: Policies for an Inclusive Economic Agenda," explores the link

between growing income inequality and declining unionization and notes that the benefits of membership are often greater for women. For instance, in Canada, trade union women earn close to CA\$7 more than their nonunion counterparts.

It also noted how fields that are over-represented by women are "feminized," and is isn't until these jobs are "defeminized" with more men that wages go up. Relatedly, women are underrepresented in the industrial sector which tends to pay higher wages.

"As a union electrician with a good salary and benefits, I didn't realize how undervalued women's work is," said International Representative Rachel Bryan.

"Prior to this conference, I had not visualized the impact of the global economy on women," said Florida Building and Construction Trades President Theresa King. "Other than general knowledge from my trades training, I really only knew about my own country's economics." King is also a member of Tampa, Fla., Local 915.

The attendees also discussed IBEW's role in promoting women in the trades.

"We have to take out the 'she' and 'he' and replace it with 'we.' Women's issues are everyone's issues," Sullivan said.

"Men and women need to band together and fight back against stereotypes about what constitutes men's and women's work," Shuler said.

"It's going to take brothers advocating for sisters," Bryan said.

"The IBEW has moved beyond a lot of other trades in recognizing that women bring a lot to the advancement of our industry," King said. "I am a proud IBEW construction electrician and would not have been able to excel as far as I have without the support and encouragement from my brothers and sisters." ■

Young Worker Safety Motivates NextGen in Canada

Since 2013, NextGen members of Toronto, Ontario, Local 636 have volunteered at high schools as part of the My Safe Work program, which advises workers and



Young members from IBEW locals in Canada at the recent NextGen conference.

management throughout Canada on ways to improve workplace safety while also increasing productivity.

"Safety is a primary mission of the IBEW," said Kate Walsh, strategic coordinator of the NextGen initiative, Canada's program for young IBEW members. "Young workers are disproportionately more likely to get hurt on the job than older workers. They don't know the questions to ask and sometimes don't realize they have the right to say no to unsafe work."



Walsh said the outreach isn't necessarily for recruitment, although it can happen. Instead, it reminds young workers of their rights and responsibilities on the job and aligns with NextGen's mission of community service, she said.

NextGen members heard from a teenage girl who was asked to make cash deposits of \$1,000 in the early-morning hours after the restaurant she worked in had closed for the evening. She was concerned about her safety.

NextGen workers reminded her she had the right to ask for an adult to accompany her and worked with her to ensure that would happen.

"After going to those presentations and helping those kids, you feel a real power to help," Walsh said. "Anytime we can make that connection, it's a huge opportunity for our NextGen folks."

NextGen is the First District and Canadian version of RENEW, the IBEW's initiative in the United States to mobilize members 35 years and younger and provide leadership training.

NextGen held its annual caucus at the All Canada Progress Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in May, and safety was a theme. Among the presenters was Safe

Workers of Tomorrow, a Winnipeg-based advocacy group that also educates young workers about workplace safety. ■

In Chicago, A Commitment to Diversity

The city of Chicago is taking steps to diversify the ranks of the building trades and Chicago Local 134 has joined the fold. Through an effort with Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Building Trades, Dunbar High School will be home to a comprehensive, citywide construction trades program.

"A job in the trades is a good job and we want everyone to have that opportunity," said Local 134 Business Manager Donald B. Finn. "Our doors are open to everybody."



Chicago Local 134 Business Manager Don Finn, left, with a student at a new construction trades program.

The program is expected to begin in the 2016-2017 school year and will serve up to 120 students. Students in their junior and senior years will learn skills in fields including general construction; carpentry; heating, ventilating, and air conditioning; welding; and electricity. Upon graduation, students will be well placed to enter a pre-apprenticeship program as well as post-secondary education or a

certification program.

While open to all city residents, preference will be given to applicants from the surrounding area. The Dunbar campus is located in the predominantly African-American Bronzeville neighborhood, with a student body that is 97 percent black, says the Chicago Sun Times.

The construction trades program is part of a larger effort by the city to offer more opportunities to underserved communities, many of which have issues with violence and unemployment, the local ABC station reported.

"The biggest piece of confronting violence is providing people opportunity and hope and having the trades in the schools will allow you to do that," Emanuel said at a press conference announcing the program.

Dunbar currently offers career and technical training and used to offer construction trades classes during World War II, reported the Chicago Sun-Times.

Local 134 participates in a similar program with Simeon High School, also located in Chicago, and has a member on the teaching staff. Finn says that someone from the local will likely teach at Dunbar as well. Additionally, the local's new union hall will be across the street.

"That was just a happy coincidence," Finn said of the hall's location.

Finn also noted the aging of the construction workforce and the need to train the next generation.

"We're doing everything we can to get the younger generation involved," Finn said. "Programs like this give everyone a shot. It's beneficial all around." ■



IBEW sisters attended the AFL-CIO's Women's Global Leadership Program, including International Representative Rachel Bryan, left; Theresa King, president of the Florida Building and Construction Trades; Sheryllyn Wright, executive assistant to the International President; Cindy O'Meara, president of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Local 1362; and Erin Sullivan, New York Local 3 steward.

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in May 2016

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Carrier, H. A.	4/14/16	24	Brown, R. G.	4/21/16	112	Olsen, J.	2/15/16	302	Fearn, A. R.	12/31/15	531	Matuszak, C. S.	5/5/16	948	Burkley, M. R.	4/12/16
1	Dooley, R. L.	1/24/16	24	Maddox, W. L.	11/17/15	112	Soden, F. E.	4/14/16	302	McLellan, J. F.	3/31/16	540	Knop, C.	3/27/16	949	Dockter, W. J.	11/22/15
1	Eichholz, J. W.	3/22/16	24	Malinoski, W.	3/20/16	113	Diller, K. E.	3/26/16	304	Faulhaber, W.	4/16/16	551	Gothard, D. H.	3/9/16	972	Marks, D.	11/4/14
1	Huber, J. J.	3/27/16	25	Kronimus, W.	4/19/16	113	Loehner, M. C.	3/6/16	304	Rhodes, L. R.	3/10/16	551	Harmon, O. O.	3/10/16	972	McFee, L. D.	4/8/16
1	Hulett, W. E.	4/6/16	25	Mays, J. T.	3/10/16	115	McArthur, G.	2/17/16	305	Broderick, J. D.	4/18/16	557	Elbers, J. F.	3/30/16	1003	Hunter, G.	3/2/16
1	Krout, M. C.	3/5/16	25	Prince, C.	3/22/16	115	Waterbury, C. D.	5/5/16	306	Wands, T. D.	2/17/16	558	Smith, W. G.	4/11/16	1116	Weeks, R. L.	1/28/16
1	Walsh, E. E.	3/1/16	25	Ruocco, P. A.	4/1/16	124	Blankenbiller, L. P.	4/17/16	313	Cooper, J. H.	12/10/15	558	Woodis, R. E.	3/10/16	1212	Torchia, C. V.	3/29/16
2	Schumer, J. M.	2/12/16	25	Turner, J. E.	3/17/16	124	Ducoulombier, E. A.	2/29/16	313	Steppi, J. A.	3/18/16	568	Lupien, A.	7/13/12	1220	Murphy, J.	11/25/15
3	Ambrose, R. G.	3/23/16	26	Pritchett, G. P.	5/10/15	126	Rodger, T. L.	4/20/16	317	Copley, W. A.	3/22/16	569	Gilmore, W. D.	3/30/16	1220	Scott, L. D.	4/17/16
3	Apice, P. M.	4/27/16	26	Waterhouse, F. J.	4/26/16	130	Carver, H. J.	4/2/16	317	Kinney, R. E.	2/29/16	569	Hood, E. J.	3/31/16	1249	Hamilton, W. D.	3/15/16
3	Bechtold, W. J.	2/16/16	26	Williams, J. M.	4/7/16	130	Hymel, D. S.	4/14/16	322	Waldron, J. A.	3/1/16	570	Olsson, R. A.	4/2/16	1249	Williams, S. E.	2/1/15
3	Booth, K. C.	4/17/16	29	Crawford, A. L.	4/11/16	130	Loner, A. G.	1/31/16	326	Cicero, J. C.	3/21/16	575	Detty, C. L.	4/1/16	1253	Pooler, W. D.	1/30/16
3	Bresin, J.	4/23/16	34	Edwards, T. W.	4/6/16	130	Olsen, C. J.	12/20/15	332	Utman, J. E.	2/14/16	586	Barkley, L. H.	12/10/15	1316	Jones, C. L.	3/1/16
3	Castonguay, J. E.	4/15/16	35	Kinghorn, R. A.	4/16/16	131	Hammill, N. J.	3/27/16	332	Vance, C. D.	3/24/16	586	Gunville, R.	3/7/16	1377	Tyler, R. F.	3/9/16
3	Chisolm, J. N.	4/5/16	38	Paules, R. R.	3/10/16	131	Wells, W. A.	2/11/16	332	Wheeler, M. U.	1/15/16	601	Fuoss, G. L.	4/8/16	1393	Moody, P.	12/10/10
3	DeAveiro, T. J.	4/19/16	40	Reynolds, N. R.	1/20/16	134	Bahde, B. W.	3/17/16	342	Soyars, J. W.	4/10/16	606	Ricket, M. D.	3/19/16	1393	Webster, M. S.	4/23/16
3	Derby, D. A.	4/9/16	41	Duda, J. E.	4/7/16	134	Buechele, C. R.	2/26/16	343	Doherty, D. M.	3/3/16	611	Martinez, T. E.	2/11/16	1426	Krogen, C. W.	4/24/16
3	Ehrenreich, H.	1/20/16	41	Ehlers, M. L.	4/8/16	134	Drummond, H.	4/2/16	349	Bell, V. C.	3/2/16	613	Bowman, H. C.	3/21/16	1516	Williams, D. E.	11/13/15
3	Gatzonis, H. M.	4/9/16	41	Reed, P. N.	5/1/16	134	Dulkowski, D. R.	4/8/16	349	Rosenson, N. O.	4/16/16	613	Braun, B. L.	5/1/16	1547	Harrison, L. D.	4/6/16
3	Gobo, J.	4/7/16	43	Dumas, D. E.	3/23/16	134	Haley, J. P.	4/20/16	351	Athill, K.	2/18/15	617	Booker, L. D.	2/28/16	1565	Favel, C.	2/21/16
3	Hamilton, S.	3/18/16	43	Hibbard, C. W.	4/11/16	134	Hengels, R. W.	4/26/16	351	McGraw, D. F.	2/29/16	617	Calestini, B.	11/20/15	1585	Kralj, P.	3/10/16
3	Hammesfahr, R. B.	4/16/16	46	Reynolds, M. W.	3/19/16	134	Hill, J. G.	3/20/16	353	Hill, I. R.	7/6/15	617	Phillips, M. A.	12/4/15	1687	Dubytz, D.	2/8/16
3	Kaim, B. A.	4/26/16	46	Wolcott, R. J.	4/16/16	134	Ignatz, J. F.	4/8/16	353	Kaknics, L.	4/10/16	639	Rodkey, J. W.	4/19/16	1687	Holunga, N.	2/25/16
3	Karpe, S. M.	4/23/16	48	Adams, R. P.	3/11/16	134	Katsulis, J. T.	3/19/16	353	Nadeau, R. N.	11/20/15	640	Dunbar, H. H.	3/18/16	1701	Demarest, P. W.	2/17/16
3	La Giglia, T. S.	4/3/16	48	Buskuhl, P. E.	2/18/16	134	Kratzer, H. A.	2/24/16	353	Ricca, G. P.	4/5/16	640	McCahon, J. G.	1/25/16	1925	Vinson, J. H.	12/24/15
3	Lalloo, M. J.	3/3/16	48	Dunagan, D. L.	2/20/16	134	Mattison, D. R.	4/20/16	353	White, R. W.	4/21/16	640	Paul, E.	3/18/16	2038	Shearer, L. M.	3/16/16
3	LaSala, J. C.	3/9/16	48	Fletcher, E. J.	4/6/16	134	Neil, C. H.	2/11/16	354	Draney, C. L.	4/17/16	647	Christen, H. G.	3/30/16	2150	Goertz, M. E.	3/26/16
3	Marchisotto, J. A.	3/28/16	51	Colby, R. D.	4/15/16	134	O'Connell, P. J.	4/8/16	354	McDonald, R. L.	3/25/16	648	Pribble, J. W.	3/8/16	2270	Garten, E. H.	4/4/16
3	McByrne, J. J.	3/11/16	53	Bahr, F.	3/22/16	134	Schmidt, K. J.	4/22/16	357	Altman, H. J.	3/11/16	654	Bach, W. J.	4/5/16	I.O. (17)	Jordan, J. P.	4/22/16
3	McNamara, M.	3/5/16	56	Harvey, P. T.	3/29/16	134	Smyth, M. J.	3/26/16	357	Borer, T. W.	3/16/16	659	Echer, D. E.	2/25/16	I.O. (29)	Covington, R. W.	2/16/16
3	Miller, L.	4/12/16	56	Manson, G. L.	4/20/16	134	Wiersig, R. H.	11/4/15	357	Harting, M. L.	4/18/16	659	Foster, J. O.	4/1/16	I.O. (134)	Miller, E. M.	11/11/14
3	Pansini, S. A.	3/14/16	57	Allred, R. E.	2/17/16	136	Bryant, H. L.	2/13/16	363	Belasco, D. M.	2/20/16	659	Hickman, W. C.	4/10/16	I.O. (134)	Schoener, F. J.	3/28/16
3	Pennolino, D.	4/3/16	57	Bailey, R. E.	3/20/16	136	Mathews, S.	3/27/16	363	Ecroyd, W. H.	12/25/15	659	Holcomb, W. J.	3/10/16	I.O. (325)	Brown, D. R.	4/7/16
3	Provenza, P.	4/29/16	57	Erickson, W. G.	3/29/16	136	Roberson, B. D.	3/18/16	363	Mariani, A.	2/27/16	659	Johnson, J. R.	3/1/16	I.O. (595)	Calli, L. J.	3/22/16
3	Rubow, E. A.	3/20/16	57	Hicks, J. E.	3/19/16	141	Cunard, J. W.	4/9/16	369	Aubrey, R. V.	3/23/16	659	Manning, C. E.	2/29/16	Pens. (2)	Price, W. H.	3/25/16
3	Spero, A. R.	4/8/16	57	Laursen, T. F.	2/3/16	145	Sade, H. D.	2/26/16	369	McClellan, J. C.	1/25/16	659	Whiting, I. R.	6/30/15	Pens. (88)	Lewis, J. H.	4/2/16
3	Veith, W. K.	3/29/16	57	Mugleston, R. K.	4/11/16	145	Tracey, J. R.	3/24/16	369	Steele, L. C.	9/16/15	673	Ondo, G. W.	3/7/16	Pens. (494)	Rynders, L.	3/1/16
5	Borsato, J. P.	4/26/16	58	Bennett, J. L.	3/27/16	153	Siupinski, P.	1/24/15	375	Yost, R. F.	4/1/16	681	Stephens, B. A.	3/21/16	Pens. (637)	Meadows, G. J.	4/28/16
5	Clark, W. F.	2/24/16	58	Danckaert, R. A.	4/16/16	153	Zwierzynski, T. C.	3/31/16	386	Bagwell, W. C.	3/28/16	683	Conrad, J. L.	4/4/16	Pens. (948)	Williston, C. O.	4/22/16
6	Farnam, L. R.	1/12/16	58	Gwarda, R. J.	4/25/16	158	Sanders, H. F.	3/27/16	387	Bailey, H. L.	3/13/16	683	Lavelly, D. G.	4/23/16	Pens. (1788)	Voisin, J. J.	4/22/16
6	Mairs, D. L.	4/7/16	58	Huck, G. H.	3/4/16	159	Brickner, R. W.	3/1/16	387	Leon, P.	2/12/16	683	Pennybacker, J. J.	2/15/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Blair, W. C.	1/23/16
6	McGuirk, A. C.	2/22/16	58	Jaskolski, J. A.	2/28/16	159	Dushkek, D. E.	2/11/16	388	Seebecker, J. D.	4/1/16	683	Riley, S. W.	4/8/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Bhunk, W. L.	3/5/16
6	Potter, K. W.	4/10/16	58	Pelletier, A. W.	4/4/16	159	Smith, G. J.	12/28/15	401	Phillips, D. J.	12/8/15	683	Schaefer, J. M.	3/10/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Brackman, M. R.	4/6/16
6	Webber, S. A.	9/12/15	58	Singer, A. F.	1/13/16	163	Bianconi, R. L.	4/15/16	405	Dreismeier, R. J.	3/24/16	683	Stires, A. H.	4/13/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Braun, R. K.	4/13/16
7	Bailey, A.	3/4/16	58	Staggs, C. L.	4/7/16	163	Kotsur, J.	10/9/15	412	Pearman, D. L.	12/10/15	684	Fisher, G. H.	2/21/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Christy, R. J.	2/16/16
7	Monteiro, A. D.	3/26/16	66	Knudsen, O. C.	2/7/16	164	Cormier, Y.	6/26/15	413	Yeary, W. A.	4/12/16	697	Butler, P. B.	4/13/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Comer, J. L.	8/12/15
8	Howard, B. D.	10/8/15	68	Kinney, W. E.	3/15/16	164	Koeller, F. J.	3/29/16	420	Cifirillo, F. E.	4/16/16	697	Kurowsky, J.	4/17/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Dean, R. K.	2/13/16
8	Roderick, W. A.	1/25/16	68	Michael, C. D.	3/23/16	164	Zimmerman, R. R.	4/3/16	424	Heffernan, A. D.	3/16/15	697	Myer, R. R.	4/29/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Delaney, R. I.	4/7/13
8	Young, G. R.	4/25/16	68	Thomas, T. B.	3/22/16	175	Hays, S. D.	3/24/16	424	Plamondon, D. A.	4/9/16	702	Marlow, D. L.	2/27/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Ferrell, R. F.	4/7/16
8	Zuchowski, R. J.	4/2/16	68	Yannacito, A. J.	3/5/16	175	Stevenson, J. F.	4/8/16	424	Youngblood, G. R.	4/21/16	712	Hojdila, M. E.	3/12/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Forrest, R. J.	3/26/16
10	Patella, C.	4/13/16	70	Wilburn, T. W.	2/8/16	176	Cutter, E. L.	3/22/16	428	Harness, W. L.	3/23/16	716	Bates, J. M.	4/15/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Furge, J. C.	3/25/16
11	Carlson, D. O.	3/4/16	71	Napier, Q.	2/29/16	177	Dunn, F.	1/30/16	428	Lyons, W. R.	4/9/16	716	Cobb, J. D.	2/26/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Gillespie, H. L.	2/15/16
11	Chappell, J. J.	2/12/16	72	Reedy, T. C.	3/19/16	180	Call, W. H.	12/18/15	429	Sharp, R. C.	4/26/16	716	Kimbrough, J. L.	3/6/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Hammett, T. B.	1/13/16
11	Curry, J. C.	4/14/16	76	Simons, L. A.	4/20/16	193	Peterson, M. J.	3/25/16	436	Daniels, B. T.	4/24/16	716	Parker, C. A.	3/27/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Hiester, R. F.	1/25/16
11	Denny, C. C.	2/14/16	76	Tovrea, D.	4/20/16	194	Hutson, R. H.	2/11/16	440	Carmody, W. M.	2/18/15	716	Richey, M. C.	11/23/15	Pens. (I.O.)	Holland, A.	4/15/16
11	Hayes, V. R.	2/23/16	77	Swenson, H. V.	3/14/16	211	Spencer, C. W.	10/4/15	441	Johnson, J. G.	1/2/16	721	Sullins, D. N.	3/10/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Hunter, W. E.	5/10/15
11	Moore, R. J.	2/29/16	90	Mirto, A. V.	1/2/16	212	Smith, G.	4/16/16	441	Piper, B. C.	3/25/16	725	Wilkinson, T. R.	3/18/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Hyatt, W. L.	3/12/16
11	Muras, G. E.	3/12/16	96	Belliveau, G. P.	2/2/16	213	Halverson, E. A.	2/22/16	446	Demers, H. J.	4/18/16	728	Ochsner, R. T.	4/22/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Johnson, W. A.	10/13/14
11	Romero, W. J.	3/6/16	97	Kilmartin, R. F.	3/23/16	213	Munro, V. A.	1/31/16	453	Crowder, M. L.	3/12/16	756	Buchanan, W. E.	3/31/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Jones, C. A.	2/17/16
11	St John, J. W.	2/10/16	98	Katzer, V.	6/1/15	222	Ames, R. I.	4/4/16	453	Foley, G. A.	3/22/16	759	Shaw, H. L.	3/16/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Jones, R. E.	1/9/16
11	Williams, B.	3/19/16	99	Sauvageau, D. G.	4/15/16	230	Monti, G.	3/17/16	457	Swanson, J. B.	4/17/16	760	Adkins, F. E.	4/7/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Lacy, F.	2/1/16
15	O'Reilly, V. A.	3/23/16	99	Seabury, C. A.	4/6/16	234	Nicholas, R. L.	4/5/16	459	Peters, W. M.	4/27/16	760	Denton, D. S.	4/3/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Lamotte, A. A.	12/11/15
15	Pischke, J. E.	1/18/16	100	Nesper, J. H.	11/10/15	238	Henson, L. E.	3/11/16	474	Jones, T. R.	11/4/15	760	Lowe, V. O.	4/11/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Leitelt, R. J.	3/4/16
16	Silva Peck, S. R.	4/8/16	102	Nigro, J. C.	3/30/16	238	Robertson, J. W.	3/20/16	474	Muellermeister, D. J.	2/6/16	760	Shields, J. S.	2/20/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Liddell, F.	4/15/16
18	Lavars, G. M.	3/8/16	102	Sands, J. C.	3/27/16	258	Fox, R. G.	11/11/1									

LOCAL LINES

IBEW Community Outreach — ‘Rebuilding Together’ Day

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO — IBEW Local 1, NECA and the Electrical Connection joined forces with Rebuilding Together — St. Louis on Saturday, April 30, for Rebuilding Day.

Rebuilding Together depends on Local 1, other building trades and volunteers to improve the homes of U.S. veterans and disabled, elderly and low-income homeowners unable to afford much-needed upgrades and repairs.

“The goal is rebuilding homes, restoring hope,” said Rebuilding Together board member Dave Moeller, Graybar national marketing manager.

IBEW Local 1 Bus. Mgr. Frank Jacobs told the 175 members who donated their time and skills: “I’m extremely impressed with our great turnout — a phenomenal turnout.”

St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger commended participants. “Today you have a lot to be proud of,” he said. “You are making a huge difference. I came out today to recognize the hard work you are doing on behalf of our citizens.”

Local 1 Bus. Rep. and Rebuilding Together board member Dave Roth said, “Our members get satisfaction from providing the workmanship that helps beneficiaries have a safer, more comfortable and secure home.” He added: “It’s all because of the education and training members receive through Local 1. Giving back to the community — that’s what Local 1 is all about.”

We mourn the recent death of several members: Harry Donnegan Jr., Floyd Perkins, Henry Velasco, Eugene Walsh, Glenn Kage, Melvin Krout, Michael Wade, Donald Lenau, Jarrod Zakibe, Gloria Lathon, John Rothwell, James Eichholz, Clayton Rohn, Robert Christman, Ronald Hiemann, Robert Meinberg, Willey Hulett, John Martin, Wilbert Witthaus, Howard Garth, John Huber Jr., Harry Carryer, Melvyn Hunt and Robert Delaney.

Jan Bresnan, P.S.



Local 1 Bus. Mgr. Frank Jacobs (left), St. Louis County Exec. Steve Stenger and Rebuilding Together board member Dave Moeller listen as Local 1 Bus. Rep. Dave Roth discusses Rebuilding Day.



At groundbreaking for IBEW Local 9 University Park Training Center expansion are: Gary Misicka (left), Mike Knutson, Joe Notaro, Art Burke, John Burkard, John Dowling, Bill Niesman, Dennis Carduff, Scott Becker, Becky Thames-Simmons, Bill Darnstadt, Kevin Schuster and Shawn Burke.

Training Center Expansion

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL — Recognizing the vital role education plays in our industry, IBEW Local 9, in conjunction with the Middle States Electrical Contractors Association of Chicago, is pleased to announce a major expansion at our University Park training facility. Included in the expansion will be a roadway with four traffic corners and a control building to be utilized by our traffic and street lighting apprenticeship program as well as our advanced traffic programs. An additional building with 22,885 square feet of state-of-the-art classroom space will also be added for use by our apprenticeship and continuing education programs.

Bus. Mgr. Bill Niesman stated, “This is a great example of what can be accomplished when labor and management work together toward a common goal. With a new state-of-the-art training facility, we will be able to provide the safest and most efficient product on the street. This will make our contractors more competitive and our members more employable. I am truly proud of the relationship we have with our contractor association and all of the hard work and effort put forth by all to bring this vision to fruition.”

Groundbreaking took place on May 19, 2016, with an anticipated completion date of December 2016.

Mark your calendars for the 11th Annual Local 9 Golf Outing on Aug. 13 this year, and our annual Family Picnic on Saturday, Sept. 10. These are two great, fun-filled events that you will not want to miss. Enjoy a safe and fun summer.

Mary Beth Kaczmarek, P.S.

Public Safety Awards — City of Chicago 911 Center

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — During National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, celebrated in April, our members working for the City of Chicago received numerous awards for their extraordinary public service.

Over 40 of our members received awards, and we welcomed 26 new members who graduated as police communication operators.

At the awards ceremony, astonishing stories were told about the service provided by our amazing members who work at the City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC). There were stories about how they have saved the lives of children and citizens in crisis situations and helped the police take criminals off the streets.

In one instance a woman from Utah was connected to the Chicago 911 Center because her daughter and a friend had traveled to Chicago to visit a man they met online. While in a hotel room with two men, the girls became fearful of calling for help, so the daughter texted her mom. The mother only had the name of the hotel. She gave the information to the Chicago police operator, who used her personal cell phone to find the girls’ location. The police were dispatched. Other operators joined in to help on the call until police arrived and took the two men into custody. This was just one

instance of the thousands of calls IBEW members take where their skills keep the public safe and in many cases save the lives of those in harm’s way.

We thank all of our members who have chosen careers of public service, where they make a difference in the lives of the people they serve.

Bob Przybylinski, R.S.

New Hockey Team

L.U. 25 (c,catv,es,i&rts), LONG ISLAND, NY — Local 25 formed a new hockey team this winter with Bro. Joe Morici as captain. Fifteen other brothers from A construction, CE/CW and Telecom came together to form one team. Bro. Morici went to the membership for a little help to buy jerseys and a team was born. [See photo, top pg. 11.]

In our first season, playing mostly in the middle of the night, we had a record of 7-5, making it to the playoffs and advancing to the final championship game. We came up a little short, losing on a late goal, 4-3. All in all, it was a successful and fun season.

Local 25 and Local 3 had our first annual Brotherhood hockey game in Long Beach, NY. It was a fun and spirited battle ending up with Local 3 winning by 7-4. The game was a success and all had a great time. We want to thank the Local 3 Hockey team and we look forward to next year.

Tom Lawless, E-Board/P.S.

‘Welcome to Ali Rossiter’



Local 37 Training Trust Fund Coordinator Ali Rossiter.

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA — We’d like to extend a warm welcome to Ali Rossiter, who joined the Local 37 team full time in April 2016 as our Training Trust Fund coordinator. Ali worked two years in the education field after completing her Bachelor of Education degree with a focus in Adult Development and Counseling



Congratulations go out to all Local 21 graduates and award winners working at the City of Chicago 911 OEMC Center.

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

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



Local 25's new hockey team.

at the University of New Brunswick Fredericton. She graduated from the program in 2014.

She isn't a stranger to Local 37 — during her studies, Ali worked three summers as an administrative assistant with the local union. She is committed to providing our members with great workshops, experiences and soft skills they can take to their workplace or personal life and start applying. Ali is not only responsible for organizing workshops but also for planning our spring conferences, looking after the tuition reimbursement program and planning initiatives related to the Training Trust Fund program.

Ali is actively involved in her community by mentoring at the University of New Brunswick's Student Accessibility Centre, facilitating programs at the John Howard Society Fredericton, and captaining an ultimate Frisbee team. Ali is a great addition to our office and she has the qualifications that will build our Training Trust Fund program.

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

Heart Walk Volunteers; Motor Control Cabinet Winners

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — In March, Local 43 members participated in "America's Greatest Heart/Run Walk" in Utica and the American Heart Walk in Syracuse. Combined, 40 members and family gave up a Saturday to raise \$10,715 for the American Heart Association. This was an increase from last year thanks to the hard work of those participating.

From the Central New York JATC: Congratulations to our third-year Motor Control Cabinet winners. These apprentices were challenged for 13-15 weeks on intense, hands-on labs including electric motors, motor controls, programmable logic controllers (PLCs), and variable frequency drives (VFDs). Joseph Spost, Jeremy Deter, Joseph Michalski, Alicia Snow, Mark Hoffman and Brian Boudreau were each awarded a brand new Fluke 323 True RMS Clamp Meter based on overall craftsmanship and functionality of their cabinets. Great job!

[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.]

Gene Townsend, P.S.

Stewards/Safety Conference; Tribute to a Fallen Brother

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Local 47 wishes all IBEW members a happy Independence Day!

Our annual Stewards & Safety Conference was attended by over 350 stewards, union safety representatives, staff, and officers. Life Saving Awards were presented to Asst. Bus. Mgr. Colin Lavin, Examining Board member Casey Lavin, Executive Board member Terrance Bynum, and Heather L. McKinney, niece of Bus. Rep. Mike McKinney.

The Local 47-sponsored Long Beach Blackhawks won the 2015-'16 Westminster Rookie League Hockey Championship on April 16. This season was dedicated to fallen Bro. Jacob Moon, who worked as a "troubleman." The Long Beach Blackhawks finished their championship season with a record of 13 wins, three losses, and one tie. Not too bad for a team full of rookies!

After a brief retirement from Southern California Edison, former Local 47 Pres. Ron Delgado joined the staff as the newest business representative.

We are sad to report the passing of Bro. Dwayne Ryssman and former member William "Bill" Livingston. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of our brothers.

Local 47 wishes a full and speedy recovery to Bros. John Andersen, Stan Duke, Eddie Ramirez and Jeffery Smith.

Work safe and buy union!

Tracy Dougherty, P.S.



Young Aiedan Moon, son of fallen Local 47 Bro. Jacob Moon, fittingly carries championship cup after hockey game.

Update on Utility Plants; Annual Fish Fry in August

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Dynegy has announced that it will close the Wood River coal plant on July 1, 2016, as well as "moth ball" Baldwin Units 1 and 3. This will affect approximately 200 of our members.

At this writing, the local is meeting with Illinois legislators in hopes of also keeping Clinton Power Station open. As of press time, Exelon has announced that without certain legislation, it would start decommissioning the nuclear plant on June 1, 2017. Exelon employs 275 Local 51 members at the station.

Our annual fish fry will be held at the local union on Saturday, Aug. 20, at noon. This is always a good time and we hope to see you there!

Karlene Knisley, B.R.

Annual Golf Tournament

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT — The Local 57 Golf Tournament is scheduled for Aug. 12, 2016, at South Mountain Golf Club. Proceeds benefit the University of Utah Burn Center. Mark the date and plan to attend this great event. Good times will be had by all and the proceeds go to a great organization.

The Local 57 Lineman's Rodeo was held June 11. Teams from the various utilities in the area were invited to participate, along with teams from the contractors. This is another great event that promotes brotherhood among the members as well as the invitees.

The work outlook for the remainder of the year remains steady. At this time all 2015 contracts have been negotiated and ratified.

As we move through the summer months, be safe at work and at play.

Scott Long, A.B.M.

DirecTV Technicians Welcomed

L.U. 89 (catv,em,lctt,o&t), SEATTLE, WA — The IBEW is pleased to welcome 324 AT&T/DirecTV technicians to our Local 89 family, following their successful card check organizing drive that wrapped up on April 15, 2016. The group of DirecTV technicians, under the new umbrella of AT&T, turned in 50+ percent of the signed cards required to certify the unit. This achievement would not have been possible without the dedicated assistance of IBEW Locals 48, 73, 77, 280, 483 and 659. Local 89 extends its deepest gratitude to our brothers and sisters from these neighboring locals, in addition to the International Office, which aided efforts by sending organizers to assist in the process.

[Editor's Note: For more information see news story "DirecTV Workers Gain a Voice with the IBEW," published in the May 2016 issue of *The Electrical Worker* and posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/articles.]

The IBEW looks forward to a long and beneficial relationship with these skilled technicians, beginning with negotiating a first contract.

Amanda McDougall, P.S.

RENEW Charter Membership; The IGNITE Team Founded

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY — Local 97 members of the IBEW Third District Youth Caucus celebrated their RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) charter membership in March. Bus. Mgr. Ted Skerpon presented the group with the official charter certificate and requested them to form a youth network within Local 97. Today we are proud to announce the newly founded Local 97 IGNITE. Their mission is to engage and educate the young members

of Local 97 in an effort to strengthen our local and its ties to our members, retirees and communities. The IGNITE team would like to welcome all young members of Local 97 to participate with them in building a strong future for the IBEW. Members may contact their respective union office for more information.

At this writing we are negotiating our first contract with Brookfield Power for the Bear Swamp employees. As of press time, significant progress has been made on many issues as we continue to deliberate wages and benefits for that group.

Jim Zabinski, V.P.



Local 97 RENEW charter members: seated, Amanda Kelly (left) and Kayla Warner; standing, Joshua Barnes, Matt Weeg and Brenden Lyons.

Annual Blood Drive & Wellness Event a Success

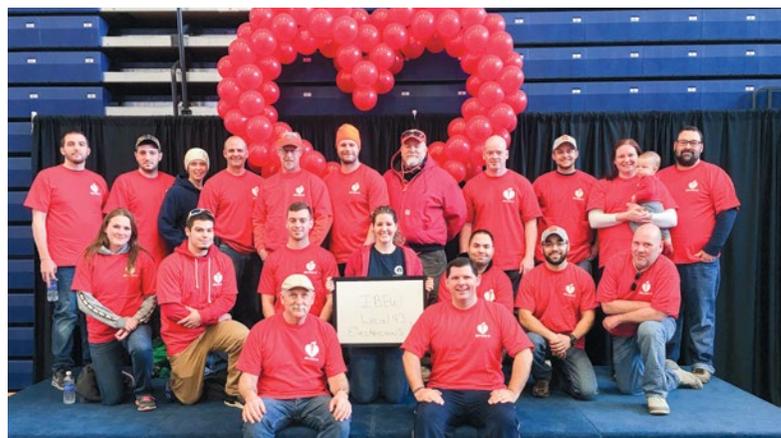
L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA — IBEW Local 103 members stepped up to help the American Red Cross at the union's 5th Annual Blood Drive & Wellness Event on April 12 in Dorchester. That day, over 250 members donated blood, ensuring the blood supply is available to those in need. One pint can save three lives.

Sponsored by the Trust Fund Office, the blood drive also included a health and wellness component. Over a dozen health-care professionals were on hand to check blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass index, hearing and eyesight. They helped members quit smoking and set diet and exercise goals, and also provided local resources available to address health needs.

The Blood Drive & Wellness Event is the Trust Fund's largest sponsored endeavor. Giving members access to resources to pursue a healthy lifestyle is an investment in the union's future. It helps reduce health-care costs, on-the-job accidents and missed days at work, which subsequently boosts fund contributions. More importantly, quality of life improves when living a healthy lifestyle.

Thank you again to all the members who came out in support for the event.

Kevin C. Molineaux, P.S.



Local 43 Bus. Mgr. Donald Morgan (front row, left) and Membership Development Coordinator Alan Marzullo (front row, right) with Local 43 contingent of 2016 Syracuse Heart Walk volunteers.

Go Green

Get your **ELECTRICAL WORKER** delivered each month *via email*.

It's convenient & helps cut down on paper waste. Go to www.ibew.org/gogreen and sign up today!

Scan with a QR reader

LOCAL LINES



Local 109 Pres. Devin Dykes (left); newly retired members Randy Price, Frank Buchman and Mike Banks; and Bus. Mgr. Gary Greubel.

Recent Retirees Honored

L.U. 109 (u), ROCK ISLAND, IL — Local 109 recognized and celebrated the longtime service of three members who recently retired. These three newly retired members have a combined total of more than 100 years of IBEW service.

Congratulations on their retirement to these three Local 109 linemen: Mike Banks, 45 years of IBEW service; Frank Buchman, 24 years of service; and Randy Price, former lineman/electric trainer with 37 years of service.

Retirement watches, pins and certificates were presented by Local 109 Bus. Mgr. Gary Greubel and Pres. Devin Dykes.

Denise Newberry, R.S.

300 Colorado DirecTV Workers Win IBEW Representation

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO — This spring brought new opportunities to the local. Over 300 Colorado DirecTV technicians and installers voted for certification for union representation with the IBEW. A majority of cards for Colorado were certified by the American Arbitration Association, and AT&T is recognizing the majority. That means at this point, the warehouse personnel, installers and technicians in Colorado are represented by the IBEW, joining DirecTV technicians in 11 other states who have also turned in a majority for IBEW, with more states getting close.

Now that the representation is official, the next phase will be gathering priorities for negotiations. Local 111 will have these Colorado DirecTV represented employees alongside our business agents and System Council representatives negotiate a legally binding contract agreement. With the merger of AT&T and DirecTV, which was a tumultuous time for this group and their families, it took a lot for them to put their faith in their co-workers and in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

[Editor's Note: For more information see news story "DirecTV Workers Gain a Voice with the IBEW," published in the May 2016 issue of The Electrical Worker and posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/articles.]

We sincerely welcome these new members. You can rest assured, brothers and sisters, that you are joining with thousands of other working men and women in Colorado who have a voice in their future and a seat at the table.

Mike Kostecky, P.S.

New Licensing Legislation

L.U. 113 (catv,ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — Gov. John Hickenlooper recently signed HB 1073, which changes the way we will be renewing our state electrical licenses. No longer will you be required to take the competency exam. Instead you will have to complete eight hours of continuing education a year, which brings us in line with many states already doing

this. Keep an eye on the Local 113 website, www.ibew113.com, for future dates of classes to be offered. CPR, First Aid, and OSHA 30 are some of the classes already offered to keep your certifications current.

Local 113 is implementing an easier way for members to pay dues. Hopefully by the time of this writing, you will be able to access the local's

website and make your payment by credit card. This will be helpful for our members, especially ones on the road. We will also be implementing other features to make it more convenient for the members through a downloadable app for smartphones.

The Local 113 annual summer picnic was held in June at the Wonderland Ranch. Fun was had by all in attendance!

Remember that it is an important election coming up this fall. So if you have not registered to vote, please do so.

Brian Putnam, P.S.



Local 125 Bus. Rep. Tim Titus (left), Lonnie Marcum, Darin Welter and Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri.

IBEW Lifesaving Award

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR — During the December 2015 storms that brought extreme flooding and snow to the Pacific Northwest, IBEW members were working tirelessly to restore service throughout the region. On Dec. 9, 2015, Clatskanie PUD journeyman linemen Lonnie Marcum and Darin Welter demonstrated absolute heroism in their rescue efforts to save a PUD customer who was clinging to a tree in raging flooding water.

On April 21, 2016, Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri presented Welter and Marcum with the IBEW Lifesaving Award. "These two men set aside their own self-interest and well-being to save a stranger." Eri acknowledged the deep roots that IBEW members have in their local communities. "Their actions will help shape perception that others may have about union members. That customer, and ultimately, their community, has been blessed by their lifesaving efforts."

As their former business representative, Eri knows they are amazing men who are exceptional IBEW members. "We are lucky to have them as Local 125 members," Eri concluded.

(Note: When Eri was in town to present the award, Marcum and Welter were able to meet the man whose life they saved when he showed up to pay his electric bill.)

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.

Successful Blood Drive; 'Welcome to New Members'

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,se,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL — Local 145 had another successful blood drive again this year! A big thank-you to our blood drive coordina-

tor Jon Pohl plus all the members, retirees and their families who donated. Thanks to your participation we surpassed our blood drive goal! The annual blood drive is an excellent way to serve our entire community and benefits so many people.

Pack The Hall Night was held in March. Congratulations to the 42 new members sworn into membership that evening! The show of support by the local members and retirees was clearly evident by the large turnout to celebrate and welcome the new brothers and sisters!

"Labor Night at the Rink" was another successful community event held in March. This event supports the local hockey league and showcases the many labor unions in the area. IBEW Local 145 had over 650 members, retirees and their families attend that evening and we were recognized for our support to the community throughout the year.

The mild Midwest winter season kept the members working and projects moving ahead. We anticipate another good year of construction within our local.

Dan Larson, P.S.

Contract Negotiations; Career Fairs & School Visits

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI — It has been a busy spring with two contracts to negotiate, a steady schedule of continuing education classes, job and career fairs, and school visits. At schools, we consistently find that students are largely unaware of the trades. We will continue spreading the word about the great opportunities available.

Eight Local 159 members attended the 2016 Women Build Nations - 6th National Conference for Women in the Trades, held in Chicago. Attendance exceeded expectations, with 1,500 tradeswomen and allies filling an enormous ballroom. Thank you to Carolyn Williams, director of the IBEW Civic & Community Engagement Dept., and Sherilyn Wright, executive assistant to the International President, for their hard work planning the event and helping to make it a great success.

Wisconsin saw its largest spring election turnout in 40-plus years, as Bernie Sanders and Ted Cruz took the state in their respective primary elections. In spite of grassroots efforts to educate voters about the new voter ID law, many were put off by the new rules, or for various reasons were unable to obtain an acceptable form of ID. Many believe the voter ID law tipped the scales in favor of the conservative state Supreme Court candidate.

We are excited to launch our new website, www.ibew159.org and invite visitors to like us on www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal159.

Robert Doyle, B.M./F.S.

'Elections Do Matter'

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

Elections do matter! Trump? HRC? Cruz? Bernie? You at Local 193 know what to do. In the Land of Lincoln, Gov. Bruce Rauner continues to ignore the state's budget. Gov. Rauner "GOPlunges" the state into an unprecedented disaster! Consequences are to be dealt with.

The work picture remains slow in Local 193. A long, hot summer is on the horizon.

We all have a role in helping our apprentices train to be skilled IBEW Local 193 members. Our highly skilled journeymen do make a big difference in the on-the-job training and skills of our trainees. Brotherhood is not ever taken lightly at Local 193. Training has always been a team effort.

All members are asked to check with the training director for information about ongoing classes and certifications to further their skills.

We must look forward to the major league baseball season: the St. Louis Cardinals, the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago White Sox will be paid attention to this season. Onto the MLB playoffs!

Have a safe & happy summer. Best of luck finding 40 hours.

We extend condolences to the families of members who recently passed away: Michael S. Blasko Jr., Matthew J. Peterson and Robert E. Ruggles.

Don Hudson, P.S.

Workers Memorial Day; Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL — It is that time of year when our apprenticeship classes are winding down. Over the past couple of years, due to our work situation being light at best, we haven't taken in a large number of apprentices. We are proud of our three graduates of 2016. Congratulations to Sean Tibbs, Justin Powell and Jay Hinrichsen for topping out. We look forward to their having many productive years in the IBEW and leading the way for others who will follow in their footsteps.

Our apprenticeship program recently hosted a construction career day for area schools to promote careers in the building trades. Thanks to Training Dir. Renee Riddle for organizing the event, and thanks to volunteers Terri Spencer, Brian Stufflebeam and James Towle, who did a great job representing the IBEW.

Recently, our members joined in a Workers Memorial Day sunrise ceremony at the McLean County Law & Justice Center. We thank all of our members who participated. It is important to remember and honor those we have lost on the job. Please keep the families and friends of our late Bros. John Moss and Paul Collins in your hearts.

This summer, please plan on attending the Local 197 Golf Outing at Fairlakes Golf Course in Secor, IL, on July 30. Call the hall to sign up and check the website www.ibew197.org for more information.

Remember to get involved in the local and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, Pres.



Three Local 197 apprentice graduates are congratulated. Standing: Local 197 Pres. Mike Raikes (left); instructor Jake Knobloch; graduate Sean Tibbs; instructor Les Parker; Training Dir. Renee Riddle; Seth Zeller and Jeremy Wilcox of NECA; graduate Jay Hinrichsen; and seated, graduate Justin Powell.

Volunteers Aid Community — Smoke Detectors Installed

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA — On April 23 this year, IBEW Local 229 members provided a potentially life-saving service to people in our community. In conjunction with the York City Fire Department, we provided 300 free smoke detectors to a community that recently suffered a fatal house fire.

Thirty Local 229 members went door to door installing the smoke detectors while local firefighters educated residents on fire safety. Most houses did not have enough detectors and many houses had no working smoke detectors at all. This was a great opportunity to help save lives in our community while letting residents know that the IBEW cares. Thank you to all of our members who helped out!

Timothy Griffin, P.S.



Local 229 members Jessica Head, Nick Blakney and Nate Smeltzer, along with a York City, PA, firefighter, go door-to-door to install home smoke detectors.

'Great Work Outlook' — Market Recovery Advances

L.U. 305 (i&spa), FORT WAYNE, IN — Local 305 has a great work outlook, thanks to several new industrial projects, a large addition at General Motors, and our new market recovery program advancing our workload in the commercial sector. We are once again working on restaurants, storefronts, schools and office buildings, and are being competitive at a new level.

Darrell W. Sade, B.M./F.S.



At March union meeting, Local 305 recent retirees received an IBEW watch and a thank-you for longtime, dedicated service. From left: Clayton Didion, Darrell Heyerly, John Fosnaugh, Daniel Escobedo, Kim Flig and Michael Geary.

Habitat for Humanity Project

L.U. 307 (ees,es,i,o&u), CUMBERLAND, MD — Local 307 thanks the members who helped work on the Habitat for Humanity house in Cumberland, MD. The house was a "blitz build" and each phase had a small window of time to complete that portion of the house.

Our members were commended by the builder

on their efficiency and quality craftsmanship during the electrical phase of the project. Special thanks go to S&S Electric for providing the tools that were required for this project.

Dan Tedrick, Organizer

'Let Freedom Ring'

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Happy Independence Day! We celebrate and remember when an assembly of rebels declared, "That these united colonies are free and independent states; that they are absolved of all allegiance to the British Crown ..." and "the tyranny over these states." Eleven years later, in 1787, an assembly of "We the people" wrote the U.S. Constitution to fulfill the promise of the Declaration of Independence.

In July of 1892, a union facing major obstacles — which included laws that were unfriendly to labor and working people, changes in technology that "de-skilled" their trade, and a shrinking market share — made concessions on wages and production levels to save the union. The company responded by locking out the workers, building a 10-foot-tall fence around the plant, and refusing to recognize or negotiate with the union. This late 19th century scene played out between the Iron Workers and Carnegie Steel.

Today's unions confront these same challenges 125 years later. Maintaining the rights of the working class requires membership involvement at all levels.

Congratulations to all recently elected Local 343 officers, both new and returning, including Executive Board and Examining Board members. The union is only as strong as the spirit of brotherhood that supports it.

Tom Small, P.S.

Community Service Award; July 16 Annual Golf Outing

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA — Local 347's Annual Golf Outing is slated for July 16 at Terrace Hills Golf Course east of Altoona. So clean those cleats and polish those clubs. Shotgun start at 8 a.m.

The Make-a-Wish Foundation presented officers of Local 347 and Bro. Joe Rivas with an award recognizing the contributions of the local union brothers and sisters in presenting Jolly Holiday Lights. The local continues to support this worthwhile cause of providing a wish for terminally ill children in Iowa. This annual project continues to evolve, and the location is to change this year to the Adventureland Campground.

The Des Moines Electrical Apprenticeship will start offering journeyman wireman classes this summer. Plan ahead — there will be a limited schedule and there may be limited offerings this fall.

Have a great and safe Independence Day weekend.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

2016 Apprentice Graduates; Benefit Fair a Success

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV — A big shout-out to everyone who helped make this year's Benefit Fair our best one yet!

Remember, with the hot summer upon us, stay hydrated out there.

Congratulations to our class of 2016 apprenticeship graduates! The recent graduates are: installer/techs — Gabriel A. Billie, Jonathan L. Cane, José Garcia-Gallardo, Ramiro A. Leon, Joseph M. Oliver,



Local 357 congratulates the class of 2016 apprenticeship graduates.

Lamar J. Pollard, Thomas D. Rhoda, Andrew Schneider, James Stephens II, Shon L. Tauai, Jorge J. Thornton, Jahmar E. Webb; and journeyman wiremen — Curtis M. Bowen, Emmanuel Hitchens, Kearont L. James, Lucas C. Metcalf, Demyrion A. Owens, Jeffrey R. Pearce, Dennis W. Platt and Jacob E. Valdez.

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.

35-Year Service Awards; RENEW & Voter Registration

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA — At the general membership meeting on Feb. 3, the following members received a 35-year watch honoring their dedication and service to our local: Bruce Hankins, Billy McFarlane, Carlton Weisbach, Vincent Collis, David Fedak, Ernest Hahn, Terry Hartman, Brad Markley, Dan Nolf, William Graham, Matthew Greb, John Hoffman, Terry Kolowitz, Russell Kramer, Kenneth MacNeal, Francis McCullion, David Orsulak and Kirk Timmins. Thank you to all for your longtime service and for all you have done for IBEW Local 375.

Local 375 members are participating in the Third District Youth Caucus (3DYC) RENEW chapter voter registration challenge. Led by team captain Dave Leblanc, the Local 375 committee has reached one goal in registering 100 percent of our current apprentices. Their next goal is to register all journeymen. [See March 3 news story "Third District RENEW Sets Sights on November Elections," posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/articles.]

Just as a reminder, the annual clambake will be Sept. 24 this year, from 12 noon to 8 p.m. at the American Club of Coplay, 300 Cherry St., Coplay, PA. It is always a fun day with lots to eat and drink, so stop by

the hall to pick up your tickets.

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

Strong Work Outlook

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o, rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID — Greetings, brothers and sisters. The work outlook in our jurisdiction looks good. Our contractors have picked up a lot of work. It looks as though we will have a good summer and fall.

The newest fifth-year apprentices are following in the footsteps of their predecessors. So far five of them have passed the state journeyman test on the first try. Way to go! This proves that our training curriculum and methods are the best out there. Congratulations to their teacher. He's doing a great job!

The local's JATC recently completed its new low-voltage labs and had an open house to showcase them. Three industry-related classes have already been approved by the state. This is a great addition for training our members in the ever-expanding electrical field.

[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.]

With deepest regrets, Local 449 announces the passing of retired Bros. Edward Shoemaker and Stephen Drayton. We send our deepest condolences to their families. These brothers will be missed, but not forgotten.

Congratulations to John Wanstrom, Phillip Wood, Kelly Norman, Allan Allred and Mike Henrie on their retirement. Local 449 thanks you for your service.

We wish all our brothers and sisters a safe and prosperous summer.

Chris Lochridge, Pres.



Kentucky Local's New Mascot 'Shocky'

Louisville, KY, Local 369 members with the local's new mascot Shocky, installed outside the union hall.

LOCAL LINES

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 455 (em&u), SPRINGFIELD, MA — Local 455 recently organized 14 transmission and distribution test technicians employed by Eversource/Western Mass Electric and successfully negotiated their first contract, which included long-overdue wage adjustments. A special thanks to Local 455 Pres. Tom Albano, and the negotiating team of Steve Secondo, Mike Scufari and Dan Ryan, for a job well done. We welcome our new members to the IBEW!

Brian E. Kenney, B.M./F.S.

St. Patrick's Day Parade — IBEW Wins for 'Best Float'

L.U. 457 (u), MERIDEN, CT — Our local has participated in the Hartford, CT, St. Patrick's Day parade for the past several years. This year we won best float.

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make it happen. It was a fun day for the families involved, and there was great support from the crowd for our union effort.

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



At St. Patrick's Day parade in Hartford, CT, IBEW Local 457 won for best float.

RENEW Charter; Solidarity & Brotherhood

L.U. 479 (i&u), BEAUMONT, TX — Local 479 has received our charter for the RENEW (Reach Out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) program. Our group of young IBEW men and women are starting to get involved. This program gives promise to energize more of the younger members of our local union. They are the future of our industry. They are our future. Take time to let them know they are appreciated for stepping up. Support them in their journey as they become more active in the local. Engaging them for the right reasons will make our movement and our union stronger.

As we celebrate Independence Day on the Fourth of July, I would like to share a little history. Men with vision met and created a new nation, the United States of America. Five men, ages 30 to 70, drafted the Declaration of Independence. We should learn from them. Common cause, strong beliefs and a better way of life are but a few of the reasons we should be relentless in our pursuit of a stronger union. We cannot let what we have gained slip away. There are those who are trying hard. Do not let them; fight the good fight and God bless America.

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



IBEW Local 481 volunteer contingent gathers to assist with Rebuilding Together project in Indianapolis.

IBEW Members Volunteer — 'Rebuilding Together' Project

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — In April, many IBEW Local 481 volunteers once again donated their time, talents and tools to assist with a Rebuilding Together project. Volunteers gathered early on a Saturday morning and were given their assignments to fix or repair various electrical hazards in homes around the city. Whether it was changing out

ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), changing lights, or adding circuits, the members spent the day doing whatever was necessary to help these home owners. As in the past, this is a great way for us members to give back to the city and represent what brotherhood is all about.

A very special thank you to both retiree Jim Webb and Bus. Agent Kevin Marshall for all the hard work they put into organizing the event and making sure the volunteers had what they needed to get

the job done. Many thanks to all the members who donated to the cause. Keep up the good work in giving back to the community.

Blake A. Andrews, R.S.

'A Courageous Rescue' — IBEW Linemen Commended

L.U. 483 (catv,lctt,o&u), TACOMA, WA — I would like to thank IBEW Local 483 journeyman linemen Robert Bennett and Bruce Ellis for the courageous rescue they performed last March within our community.

Tragically, a SUV plowed into a nonunion communications bucket truck and pushed the truck 20



Local 483 journeyman lineman Robert Bennett stands inside bucket utilized for rescue mission. The Tacoma Fire Department retrieved the injured contractor from Bro. Bennett's bucket after the rescue.

feet in a Tacoma alley, killing all three individuals inside the SUV. There was a fourth individual who was working in an elevated position in the bucket truck at the time of the collision.

Our Local 483 members Robert Bennett and Bruce Ellis were called to the scene to rescue the individual from the bucket truck while it was raised several feet in the air. Our brothers' precise ability to perform this type of rescue demonstrates the high level of training and skill that an IBEW union worker brings to not only their trade, but also their community. Hats off to Bro. Bennett and Bro. Ellis. IBEW Local 483 is so proud of them!

The Tacoma News Tribune published an article and video about the rescue. To read more, visit www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article68035672.html.

Alice Phillips, B.M./F.S.

Resort Hotel/Convention Center Construction Project Underway

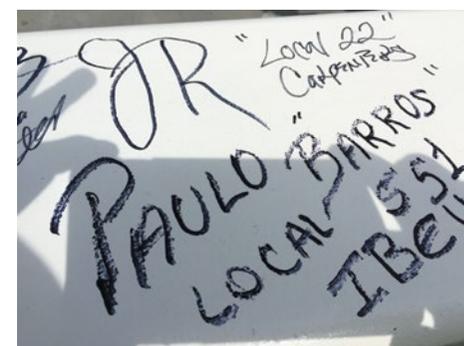
L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA — Soon we will have a union-built and union-staffed hotel resort and convention center five minutes away from our union hall! We celebrated the topping off ceremony for the project in April. The last construction beam — weighing 3,500 pounds and signed by all the workers — was set in place, marking the project half way through to completion. Thanks again to the IBEW travelers coming in signing the books and helping Local 551

with our work picture.

We will have a full summer here with work, elections, and a new graduating class of inside wiremen. If you can squeeze some time in, we have plenty of volunteer opportunities to keep members active. To list just a few ... we have the Building Trades booth at the Sonoma County Fair, and we invite members to help build homes for Habitat for Humanity. We also invite members to help labor-friendly candidates get elected by phone banking, precinct walking or delivering signs. Everyone has a talent or passion — bring it to the union hall and get involved!

Stay cool, and keep Local 551 strong and proud. Work safe out there, brothers and sisters!

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



View of construction beam signed by IBEW Local 551 members and other trade unionists working at resort hotel/convention center jobsite.

2016 Work Outlook Positive — 'Challenges & Opportunities'

L.U. 553 (i,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC — The North Carolina state Legislature has recently hit the brakes on a lot of funding for solar projects in North Carolina. The solar tax credit has expired, and this move has reduced future work here. Our signatory contractors still have solar projects slated for this year, but not in the quantity that they anticipated. Nonetheless, we are optimistic about the work outlook in our jurisdiction for the remainder of 2016.

For the first time in recent history, we have an outside apprentice, working under the Southeastern




ENTER TO WIN!



TROPHY WHITETAIL HUNT IN FAMED BUFFALO COUNTY WITH PAT & NICOLE!

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance and **Squincher Hydration** have teamed up to send one lucky AFL-CIO union member on an all-expense paid muzzleloader hunt in famed Buffalo County, Wisconsin - **the #1 county in the world for Pope & Young record whitetails** - for trophy whitetail with outdoor celebrity couple Pat and Nicole Reeve of Driven TV.

GRAND PRIZE PACKAGE

- Roundtrip airfare
- Onsite lodging and meals at Bluff Country Outfitters lodge
- Ground transportation
- 5-day guided hunt
- License and tags
- Thompson Center rifle
- Carhartt hunting gear



A \$5,000 VALUE! ★ ENTER TODAY AT:
WWW.UNIONSPOUTSMEN.ORG/SQUINCHERHUNT

Deadline: August 5, 2016. Promotion available to AFL-CIO union members.



IBEW Local 557 members and family walk in Walleye Festival parade in Freeland, MI.

Line Constructors Apprenticeship Training (SELCAT) program. Several outside electrical contractors have notified us of new work in the eastern part of our jurisdiction — work that includes transmission lines, power lines, and wind farms. We are excited about the new challenges and opportunities this affords our local.

We are still in negotiations for moving our union hall to a new location, so we will stay at our current hall until late this year or early next year before we make the big transition. Major changes are in store for the road ahead in our local, and we welcome them.

Josh Nixon, P.S.

Freeland Walleye Festival & IBEW Community Outreach

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI — Our work outlook has significantly increased in recent months. We have started many of our summer jobs, which have put many members back to work.

Our RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) committee recently participated in their first event.

The Freeland Walleye Festival is a big event in our area that brings many people to this small town to celebrate the opening of the Walleye fish season. During the weekend festival a parade is held, and IBEW Local 557 members participated and walked in the parade. [See photo at top, left.] It was a great time, with many members and their families walking through the crowds of people and engaging the public.

This event shed a very positive light on the good that our union does for the community. It showed that our members are not only electricians, but also area citizens who want to help better our community. This truly generates a positive energy for our local union and community. We encourage everyone to reach out and help make every community stronger by getting involved in your local activities.

Howard Revard, P.S.

Building Better Communities

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA — In late April, nearly 100 IBEW Local 569 electricians and power professionals donated 500+ hours toward

Rebuilding Together San Diego (RTSD), a nonprofit that coordinates renovations of low-income homes.

IBEW 569 helped eight families upgrade their homes and strengthen their communities. We are very grateful for the outpouring of support from our members and the contributions of materials and resources from our signatory contractors. Our union members replaced faulty electrical systems for wounded veterans, disabled seniors, and families in need with special-needs children.

We are also pleased to report that the San Diego Chargers are seeking to build a new stadium with our skilled local workforce and we'll be partnering with the football team in the months to come to take an initiative to the voters. "When all is said and done, this facility will be a point of pride for all San Diegans, knowing it was our highly skilled men and women who built it and that it provides community benefits for all of us," said Tom Lemmon, business manager of the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council.

Finally, we hope to see everyone at our 2nd Annual IBEW Padres Day at Petco Park on Saturday, Aug. 6. Check out our online calendar for more details at www.ibew569.org.

Gretchen K. Newsom, P.S.

Annual Safety Fair; Project Labor Agreements

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA — Local 595 is currently working on project labor agreement (PLA) negotiations with the Alameda County Building Trades Council and the Fremont Unified School District along with the San Joaquin/Calaveras County Building Trades Council and the City of Stockton. Thanks to Bus. Reps. Greg Bonato and Sam Kharufeh for leading the charge and to all of our union sisters and brothers who came to committee meetings to advocate for good jobs for the citizens of Fremont and Stockton.

Our annual Safety Fair was Saturday, May 14. There were safety training classes for attendees, along with industry partners providing the latest innovations in the electrical industry.

Thank you to IBEW Int. Rep. Tracy Prezeau for coming out to teach the Steward Training class for our 10th bracket apprentices and our seasoned journeymen.

Jason Gumataotao, P.S.

Teamwork & Brotherhood; Softball Tourney in August

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — Our local recently had its annual steak stag event and it was well-attended. It was great to see all of the retired and active members who came out to enjoy a great meal and brotherhood. We thank Bob Withers, once again, for heading up the steak stag, and we thank all the apprentices and other members for their part in making it a success.

Local 601 has several projects going on this year, including those at the Natural History Building, the State Farm Center, and Everett Lab along with a few small projects in the northern area. The work outlook for this summer looks to be slow due to the lack of a state budget. We have several large projects on hold because of the lack of funding throughout the state.

This year our local will hold its 40th IBEW Local 601 Softball Tournament on Aug. 13-14. Mark your calendars.

We have a very important election coming up this year and everyone needs to get out and vote. Please encourage all your friends and family to vote and let their voices be heard.

Dan Hatter, P.S.

NECA to pick up more market share in our jurisdiction. Approximately 20 people attended and refreshments were served.

Local 611 extends condolences to the family and friends of recently deceased Bros. Robert B. Chavez, Joseph L. Erb, Felix C. Marquez and Nevin P. Scott. They will be missed.

Remember, this is an election year, so get out and vote.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



IBEW Local 617 welcomes Bros. Anthony Hillerby (left), Robert Bartoli, Hector Cortez, Josuel Cortez and Vincent Schendel.

Organizing Campaign

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA — A recent Local 617 organizing campaign saw mixed results.

A majority of electricians working for a San Mateo County nonunion contractor decided they wanted to improve their workplace and secure a better future for their families.

They contacted Local 617 Organizer Jillian Elliot and a campaign began. Unfortunately, when the employer discovered the activity, he refused to partner with the IBEW and took a very anti-union stance, immediately launching a traditional union-busting campaign.

Under a National Labor Relations Board ruling adopted in 2014, union elections can now

occur much more swiftly, making it harder for employers to carry out lengthy anti-union campaigns, but that didn't stop this employer. Tactics such as dividing the workforce, lies about the union, threats of job loss, and other intimidation proved successful in convincing the majority of workers to vote no. In the end a small group of workers stuck together and pressed on leaving their nonunion contractor. They are now enrolled in the San Mateo JATC and we are proud to welcome them into our IBEW family.

[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.]

Dan Pasini, Pres.



Local 601 apprentices help make Annual Steak Stag event a great success.

IBEW-NECA Class: Increasing Market Share

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — This year's participants in the Apprentice of The Year contest were: Tomás Trujillo III, Andrew Moore, Josh Tillinghast, Michael Sadler, Michael Martinez, Travis Battin, Christopher Blackmore, Laura McCormick, Loren Morrison, Raymond Martinez, Jonathan Shestak and Thomas Mouton. Jonathan Shestak was this year's winner and competed for regionals in Tucson, AZ.

In April we had an IBEW-NECA partnering class, conducted by IBEW Int. Rep. Gary Buresh and NECA Regional Mgr. J.T. Osborn. The class was held at our union hall, and it was about how we can partner with



Local 611 members attend IBEW-NECA class.



IBEW Local 569 members help build better communities. (Photo by Kristoffer Newsom, RoguePlanetArt.com.)

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

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

YouTube

Members at Lansing, Mich., Local 352 helped pioneer a faster method for replacing lead pipes, and they're using their expertise to speed up recovery from the lead crisis in nearby Flint. See how they're giving back here: Bit.ly/LansingLead

Vimeo

Thousands of IBEW Canada members are hard at work on North America's largest hydroelectric project on the Churchill River in Newfoundland and Labrador. Check out the progress on Vimeo: Bit.ly/LowerChurchill



HourPower

Congratulations to this year's IBEW Hour Power Awards winners: Journeyman Mentor of the Year, Detroit Local 17's Winston Likert, Instructor of the Year Mike Iacobellis from Norfolk, Va., Local 80, and Apprentice of the Year, Ann Arbor, Mich., Local 252's Harry Hutchison. IBEWHourPower.com



ElectricTV

Electric TV traveled to Virginia to share the story of the NECA/IBEW team partnering with Helmets to Hardhats and the Wounded Warrior Project to help retrofit the home of an injured veteran. Visit ElectricTV.net!



LOCAL LINES

Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA — The work picture is still bleak in Nova Scotia. Half of the local is out of work and one-quarter are without unemployment benefits as of May 1. Most of those haven't worked in 10-11 months. As of press time, there is still no great amount of work coming in 2016.

On the brighter side, we wish to congratulate the members who recently completed their apprenticeship: Brothers Cory Preeper, Ryan Gilby, Craig MacDonald, Daniel Picard, Troy Davis, Josh Major, Trevor Slaunwhite, Michael Luu, Niall Morgan and Sister Eve McDonald.

Some of the members who retired in 2015 were not previously listed due to space limitations, so I will catch up on retirees. 2015 retirees included: Brothers Tom MacPherson, David Simpkin, Bill Delorey, Bruce Frizzell, Richard Murray, Andrew Harvey, Roger Knoc-ton, Charles Beaver, Robert "Cam" Arnott, Everett Turner, Robert Theriault, Walter Barr, Neil Chisholm, Ron Johnson, Joe Ryan, Doug Brewster and Murray Purcell. Congratulations to all the retirees. Hope to see you all together again at the Retirees Dinner and Dance on Sept. 30.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

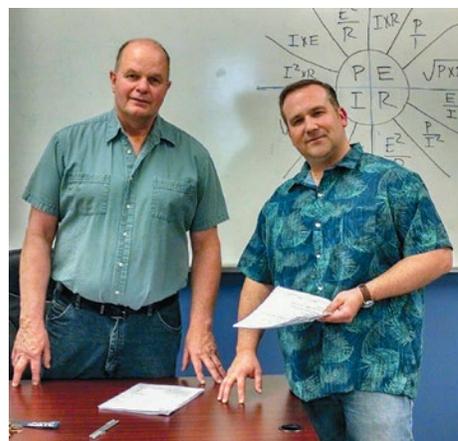
'Members Practice Safety'

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL — Greetings, brothers and sisters. The Local 627 picnic was a success, and the "Ironman" is in storage until next year. We have to focus our efforts now on our next "annual event," hurricane season. This is the time of year when we direct our efforts to ensuring the safety of the ones we love most.

Our members practice safety day in and day out, on and off the job. Now is the time to prepare the family and home for the storm we hope never gets here. Take a few moments to gather the family and discuss all the safety aspects of the needed equipment on hand. Know where it is, inspect it for durability, and replace what is necessary.

Make sure you bring a union brother or sister to the monthly union meetings ... more voices, heard as one.

Ray Vos, P.S.



Local 673 recently retired training director Rich Goodmanson (left) and new Training Dir. Eric Kubish.

IBEW Career of Service

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH — Congratulations to our recently retired training director Rich Goodmanson on his longtime career of IBEW service. Rich became a member of the local in 1978 and graduated from the JATC apprenticeship program in 1982. He enjoyed a long career working for A.J. Goulder Electric and will be missed as a spoke in that wheel. Rich served as a committee member of the JATC from 1987-1997. He became JATC training director in 1997. Rich has helped shape our apprentices into the future of our local, and without his leadership

our program would not be what it is today. He will be missed and his contributions will have a lasting impact. I know that I am not the only one who feels that they are a better person for having known Rich. Good luck and best wishes, Rich, for many safe, happy and healthy years of retirement.

[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.]

Welcome to our new Training Dir. Eric Kubish. He started as a residential trainee in 1993 and completed the inside apprenticeship program in 2002. Eric has served on the apprenticeship committee, has been an apprenticeship teacher, and has taught many journeyman upgrade training classes. I have known Eric for many years and I know that he will be a great asset to continue producing the industry's top-of-the-line electricians. Good luck, Eric, and thanks for stepping up for the betterment of our local!

Dave Phillips, P.S.

Work Outlook Promising

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH — Our work outlook here in central Ohio is very promising. Several small and larger jobs have already started, and more are expected as summer progresses. The Parks Edge Condo project and the Franklin County Veterans Memorial project have already started. Honda's new state-of-the-art vehicle paint line project will start soon.

Local 683 is excited about our purchase of a newer, more cost-efficient modern building. Our new location is next door to our JATC and is in a good, up-and-coming area. Our new building will need some renovations to fit our needs, and that work should start very soon.

[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.]

At this writing, scheduled Local 683 summer events for this year included our Annual Chuck Bland Fish Fry in June, and our Union Sportsmen's Alliance walleye fishing trip to Lake Erie.

Everyone please have a safe and fun summer.

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

Charity Basketball Tournament

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — Our 2nd Annual 3 on 3 Charity Basketball Tournament was held April 23 and was hosted by the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) chapter along with journeyman Kim Soto and friends. A great deal of sportsmanship and camaraderie was displayed. Congratulations to the father-and-sons team of Tom, Mark and Tony Patrick, who prevailed in the championship round. Thank you to all who participated.

Also, a shout-out to the many participants at the March for Babies event held May 15 in Highland.



Local 697 Charity Basketball Tournament, hosted by the EWMC Chapter, was a great success.

Upcoming events include the Lowell Labor Day parade in September, and our Local 697 picnic scheduled for Sept. 10. Also in September will be the Rebuilding Together events in Hobart, Lake Station, and the South Lake County Chapter.

We are coming down to the homestretch for the upcoming general elections. Here in Indiana, we must focus our efforts on supporting those who support and understand working families and not let ourselves be "smoke-screened" into voting against our best interest.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Dan Waldrop, B.M.

'Growing From Within' — Transmission Work Advances

L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA — Transmission work in Local 777 territory is booming. As all of us know, there is a push to improve the electrical infrastructure across the nation. The availability of governmental subsidies is promoting changes to our EHV (extra high voltage) department and advancements to our little piece of the nation's electrical grid.

First Energy has committed to build a new facility in Reading, PA, housing only the transmission crews, and to purchase new trucks and equipment to enable our members to perform bigger and more involved jobs than they have done in the past. Our local is presently negotiating the expansion of the EHV department. Jointly we are looking at establishing an apprenticeship training program, salary levels, staffing levels, and journeyman duties and qualifications. With the anticipation of a successful agreement in mind, there are jobs being designed that will give us work well into the future.

Mark Power, P.S.

Tribute for Longtime Service

L.U. 889 (rr), LOS ANGELES, CA — Local 889 wishes to congratulate Bro. Pat Utter, who recently retired following a longtime career of dedicated IBEW service.

Following his military service with the U.S. Navy, Bro. Utter began his IBEW career working with the railroad. After four years of apprenticeship, he worked as an electrical technician and was an instructor.

During his 44 years of IBEW service, Bro. Utter served our local in many capacities. He was a Local 889 recording secretary, financial secretary, and Executive Board member before he retired.

As a Local 889 member, Bro. Utter worked with two railroad companies. He started work with Southern Pacific and retired from Union Pacific Railroad.

On the occasion of his retirement, the local presented Bro. Utter with a locomotive plaque/retirement award.

We wish Bro. Pat Utter the best in his retirement and thank him for his distinguished service to our local.

Martin Saldana, P.S.



Local 915 Pres. Michael Weeks (left), 60-year member Howard Ritchie, Brother of The Year awardee Ron Greenough, 60-year members Wilmer Saffold and Armand Chaves, and Bus. Mgr. Randall King.

Service Pin & Awards Cookout

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL — Local 915 once again provided an atmosphere of brotherhood and great food at our annual Service Pin & Brother of The Year Awards presentation/cookout in April. Special thanks to those who volunteered their time helping to bring the new apprentices and seasoned brothers together for this annual event.

Former business manager Gary Hill, who passed away April 4 this year, would have received his 50-year service pin on this night. Instead, Bus. Mgr. Randall King took the posthumous award to Bro. Hill's daughter at his funeral.

Three members in attendance received 60-year service pins: Bros. Armand Chaves, Howard Ritchie and Wilmer Saffold. A 55-year pin was presented to Bro. Alton Banks. Presented 45-year pins were: Bros. Robert Bass, Russell Dehmel, William Dever, Harold Kronz and Greg LaBuda. Forty-year pins went to Bros. David Quinn, James Lyle and Richard Smith. Congratulations to these brothers and all service award recipients.

Pres. Michael Weeks swore in 20 new members.

The Brother of The Year Award recipient has served on the negotiating committee several times and fulfilled his duties as an elected vice president. He comes to the work parties, participates with the local Central Labor Council, and is always there for the local when he is asked to help. Local 915 proudly announces Bro. Ron Greenough as the 2016 Brother of The Year.

Theresa King, R.S./P.S.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY — Our thoughts and prayers remain with Bro. Jose Luna. Bro. Luna was preparing a 13-kilovolt switchgear, for painting, when he came in contact with a live bushing. Bro. Luna sustained third-degree burns over 50 percent of his body. As of this writing, Bro. Luna is still in the burn unit in serious condition. He faces a long, difficult recovery. This accident reminds us all to keep safety in the forefront as we perform our jobs. On behalf of Bus. Mgr. Daley, I wish to thank all of those who have donated monies to help Bro. Luna and his family in their time of need.

In April we concluded negotiations for our members who work under the NECA contract. This four-year package includes 13 percent general wage increases over the life of the contract. Also there will be employer-funded increases in the annuity, medi-

cal and vacation funds.

We are pleased to say that we are at full employment in all of our Outside Divisions. As a matter of fact, in our Electric Division we are currently employing 150 travelers.

In our Utility Division we are currently preparing for negotiations on behalf of our members who work under the PSEG Long Island contract.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

Nevada Energy Contract; Work Outlook Strong

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA — Local 1245 members at Nevada Energy overwhelmingly ratified a new contract, which extends the current collective bargaining agreement through 2022, and includes annual wage increases and essentially no takeaways. "These results prove that our sustained effort to change the relationship between Berkshire-Hathaway and the IBEW has paid off," noted IBEW Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell.

AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Elizabeth Shuler visited Local 1245 in late April, where she spoke with the local's organizing stewards and the Advisory Council. "Tom Dalzell's bold vision sets the standard for the labor movement across the country," Shuler said, acknowledging the business manager's skilled leadership. "He embodies solidarity, creativity and innovation."

Local 1245 has launched an aggressive campaign to keep the Diablo Canyon Power Plant open. The plant is one of the biggest economic drivers in San Luis Obispo County, plays a vital role in California's clean energy future, and has a proven track record as a safe and reliable source of clean, greenhouse-gas-free power. But a number of state and federal agencies, as well as a handful of committed opponents, are trying to shut down the plant. Local 1245 succeeded in fending off a legal effort seeking to close the plant last year, but the threats to Diablo Canyon's continued operation have continued to mount. More information can be found at www.KeepDiabloCanyonOpen.com.

In Outside Construction, the work outlook remains strong and steady, and is expected to remain so through 2016. In addition to the work that has been contracted out through the utilities, several additional projects — including large solar projects, Caltrain electrification, high-speed rail, and a new trailer park modification pilot project — should provide good jobs for Local 1245 members for years to come.

Rebecca Band, P.S.

Community Activities

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY — Now that the weather is nicer, Local 1249's RENEW group is taking the opportunity to plan some outdoor activities throughout the communities. In March, they helped the village of Homer Little League clean up their ballfields to get ready for the season. The group was lucky to get a decent spring day, and just missed the rain that came that afternoon! They hope to get invited back next year, and make it a yearly activity.

In June, Local 1249 took part in a basketball tournament that benefits the Salvation Army — the 7th Annual Turn-Around Jumpers 3-on-3 Tournament. This was Local 1249's first year participating, and our members were excited to help make it a great success for a worthy cause.

Local 1249 also participated in the 7th Annual New York Shoot for the Cure event held in June, to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Both of those two June fundraisers are large events that attract many businesses and residents, and Local 1249 is excited to be a part of these community activities. Both events are for great causes, and having our members be able to get involved is a bonus.

Jennifer Schneider, P.S.

New Members & Contractors; Active RENEW Committee

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — It's been a busy three years for IBEW Local 1393! We've negotiated over 27 contracts, taken over 30 cases to arbitration, launched new organizing drives, increased our membership, and we've added over 20 new contractors.

We've done a lot to enhance the service to our membership in a multitude of ways. For starters, we started a new method of communication with a brand new website, at www.ibewlocal1393.com, and a very healthy social media presence. In the last two years alone, we've gained over 800 likes on our Facebook page. An email and text blast system was implemented to send instant updates to the membership. Our contract negotiations and explanation meetings have included the use of multimedia presentations and on-site office support. We're now able to work completely remotely and do anything we could do at the union hall, such as document production, accessing our files via the server.

The RENEW committee has been very active since its beginning within the last three years in promoting unionism and benefiting the community, including a fundraiser to assist families of patients at the Richard M. Fairbanks Burn Center at Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis.

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

Four-Year Amtote Contract

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD — Local 1501 recently completed negotiations with Amtote International for our members who work at the racetracks throughout the United States, manufacturing, maintaining and servicing the totalisator equipment and also at the off-track parlors throughout the

U.S. Local 1501 had a plan and stuck to it. In the end we ended with a four-year agreement with a 4 percent wage increase the first year and 3 percent wage each year after that. Holiday pay was increased. Travel pay was increased. Although we were not able to stop increases in the health care, we were able to defer it until the start of next year and stretch it out over the following three years. There are still concerns on the topic of who will be operating a track if certain "handles" are not met, but we will keep a close eye on that.

Thanks to the negotiating committee: James Boyd — mid-Atlantic region; Jeff Dunn — Northern region; Greg Nelson — Southern; Jaime Sarmento — Western; and Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Dion F. Guthrie.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.

New Apprentices Welcomed

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK — Twelve area high school seniors were inducted into various trade apprenticeship programs at a recent signing ceremony held at the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Administration Building.

Kornfeind Training Center Coordinator Wendell Whistler was on hand to welcome four of those individuals into the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training Trust (AJEATT) apprenticeship program. Local 1547 congratulates the newly inducted apprentices: Brandon Stevens-Rustad, Andrew Hammett, Phelan Green and Daniil Zagorodnyy.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.



Kornfeind Training Center Coordinator Wendell Whistler (standing) welcomes new Local 1547 AJEATT apprentices Brandon Stevens-Rustad (left), Andrew Hammett, Phelan Green and Daniil Zagorodnyy.

Union Hall Renovations

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — Local 1579 is getting a facelift on the outside and a remodel on the inside that will bring the building up to the 21st century. The parking lot will also be redesigned with up-to-code parking and landscaping that will include new grass, shrubs and trees.

The building will also have additional technology that will include an all new larger conference room with charging stations and flat screens throughout the facility and video screens for the auditorium and the classrooms, which will enhance training opportunities for the members.

Our work situation is still good. The Vogtle Project will continue to hire and should add at least 100 by the end of the year bringing the total workforce for electricians over 400.

Work in the rest of the jurisdiction looks good also. We are slowly adding manpower at Fort Gordon, with current manpower numbers higher than they have been in decades.

A big thank-you to all the traveling brothers and sisters who have helped man our work. Their help is greatly appreciated.

Until next time, God bless.

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



Local 1245 members and supporters rallied at the state Capitol on April 4, 2016.



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 OFFICERSFourth District
William W. RileyThird District
Donald C. Siegel**THE ELECTRICAL WORKER****Lonnie R. Stephenson**
International PresidentFifth District
Michael WalterFourth District
Kenneth CooperEditor
Lonnie R. Stephenson**Salvatore J. Chilia**
International
Secretary-TreasurerSixth District
Chris J. WagnerFifth District
Joe S. Davis**Mark Brueggjenhann****INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**Seventh District
Patrick LavinSixth District
David J. Ruhmkorff**Malinda Brent****Carol Fisher****Alex Hogan****Curtis D. Bateman****John Sellman****Erin Sutherland****Asifa Haniff****Ben Temchine****Sean Bartel****Colin Kelly****Colleen Crinion****Matt Spence****Michael Pointer****Rix Oakland**

Chairman

Christopher Erikson**INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**Eighth District
Jerry Bellah

First District

Joseph P. Calabro

Ninth District

John J. O'Rourke

Second District

Myles J. Calvey

First District

William F. Daniels

Tenth District

Brent E. Hall

Third District

James Burgham

Second District

Michael P. Monahan

Eleventh District

Curtis E. Henke**FROM THE OFFICERS**

Lessons from Another Verizon Strike

**Lonnie R. Stephenson**
International President

I want to congratulate every IBEW brother and sister at Verizon who stayed strong during the six-week strike.

This was a hard fight.

There were those who questioned the heart and commitment of the 10,000 IBEW and members and 30,000 CWA members on the picket lines. There is a terrible uncertainty that comes when you walk off a job and don't know if you will come back. It takes genuine and rare courage to stand tall for what you believe when the paychecks stop but the bills keep coming.

Any doubters got their answer. The clear lesson, brothers and sisters, is that courage in the workplace is not just something that happened in the past. It takes the same spine to do it today as it did back then.

Make no mistake: our members were not just on strike to defend their own jobs, or even to make sure that their jobs would be around for the next generation of union members. They walked that picket to raise the standards for all working people, to show, again, that companies can be profitable and pay a decent wage. Companies can be successful and provide good benefits and a dignified retirement.

I am incredibly proud of every one of our members.

What we ended up with is a mutually beneficial contract with raises, more than a thousand new hires and sustained benefits for retirees.

I am grateful to Secretary of Labor Tom Perez and Allison Beck from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Their involvement in the negotiations proved, once again, that conversation is better than conflict.

It is my belief that not only is it possible for companies to see their workers as valuable assets, but that this, and only this, is the foundation for long-term success.

This contract could mark the beginning of something new with the executives at Verizon, a relationship built on mutual respect for the benefit of all.

I have no doubt that our members will go back to work and prove once again their true value to the owners and customers of Verizon. The pride they showed in themselves while on strike will serve them, and Verizon, well now that they are returning to work.

It is as true now as it has ever been that we are one another's best and only allies on the job, and when we stand together, everyone wins. We are the only chance we've got. ■

Your Most Important Decision

This November, I want every brother and sister to keep these numbers in mind.

5 to 4. No, it's not a baseball score. It is how the Supreme Court has voted in numerous decisions over the years that have hurt our nation and the middle class.

5 to 4 is how the Supreme Court voted back in 2000 to give away the election to the man I believe was the worst president in modern times: George W. Bush.

5 to 4 is how the Supreme Court voted in the Citizens United case to let billionaires spend unlimited amounts of anonymous cash to buy our elections.

And if it wasn't for the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia, 5 to 4 is likely how the Supreme Court was going to vote in the Friedrichs v. CTA case, a decision that would have gutted public-employees unions across the country by making the entire public sector right-to-work.

President Obama's nomination of federal judge Merrick Garland is being blocked by Senate Republicans who have vowed to prevent a vote on a new judge until a new president is sworn in.

And with the likelihood that Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Anthony Kennedy will retire sometime during the next four years, the next president will likely have upwards of three vacancies to fill.

That means the next president will likely decide how the Supreme Court will rule on key decisions affecting you, your job and your union for decades to come.

The question is this: Will we have justices who believe in the right to collectively bargain, to earn a living wage and keep big money out of politics?

The answer lies with the American people.

The presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump released a list of a dozen possible candidates in May. Nearly every one of his picks are members of the ultra-conservative Federalist society, a legal group that supports right-to-work, and abolishing prevailing wage and minimum wage protections. They are people like Wisconsin Judge Diane Sykes, a close ally of Gov. Scott Walker.

Trump claims to be independent, but when it comes to one of the most important decisions he would make as president, he falls in line with Mitch McConnell, Paul Ryan and the National Right-to-Work Foundation.

Whatever your opinion of the eventual Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, it is a safe bet that she would not appoint a justice committed to tearing up every victory won by working people in the 20th century.

It is up to every IBEW member to study the issues and choose wisely on Nov. 8. Your union and your job are riding on it. ■

**Salvatore J. Chilia**
International Secretary-Treasurer**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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

Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

©2016 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The Electrical Worker (print)

ISSN 2332-113X

The Electrical Worker (online)

ISSN 2332-1148

All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. on Union-made paper.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

The Electrical Worker will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

Paid advertising is not accepted.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756.

Canada Post: Return undeliverables to P.O. Box 2601, 6915 Dixie Rd, Mississauga, ON L4T 0A9.



“LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

Solidarity is our Strength

A big thanks to Brother Sam Chilia for his editorial in the May edition of the Electrical Worker, (“Moving Forward Together” about solidarity and our commitment to teamwork, safety and respect for one another). When workplace discord occurs, I will reiterate your message. There is no room on a worksite for undermining your co-worker or creating divisions. I look forward every month to reading both yours and Lonnie’s messages. We are in good hands moving forward in the future with leaders like yourselves.

*Dan Klassen, Local 258 member
Vancouver, British Columbia*



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

Celebrating the Verizon Strike’s End

One of the best moments in my life was being sworn in to the Brotherhood. My local’s fight to increase the quality of life for the community that I live in is real, and is a high spot in an otherwise economic uninspiring area. We fight for workers’ rights, in a Republican-dominated, right-to-be-a-wage-slave state. We stand in solidarity with the CWA, and IBEW brothers, in their fight against Verizon!

*Local 2113 Business Manager Gerald Stone
Tullahoma, Tenn.*

Thank you all for putting your life on hold for a better contract! Waiting to see how retirees are affected, but thank you for helping to keep my earned benefits!!!

*Local 2327 retiree Carla Bryson
Augusta, Maine*

This is great news, I hope the tentative deal is fair to the striking workers. I feel they have made plenty of concessions in the past and deserve the best offer possible. We all need to stand up against corporate greed and the outsourcing of jobs, as well as having good health care and wages.

*Local 1820 Chris Millas member
Neptune, N.J.*

Kudos to an IBEW Organizer

Way to go Sixth District Regional Organizing Coordinator Lynn Arwood for your role in helping increase the IBEW membership numbers at the Faurecia plant in Columbus, Indiana. I have seen how hard you work. Great job.

*Donna Comp-Penwarden
Rochelle, Ill.*

Keep Fighting Right-to-Work

Right-to-work helps corporations while hurting American workers. We can thank unions for the safe working conditions and fair wages we enjoy today. Right-to-work is a huge step in taking that away. You may not like paying union dues, but the benefits far outweigh the costs.

*Roger Reckart, Local 820 member
North Point, Fla.*

Every time one of these so-called right-to-work initiatives passes, another chunk of the middle class disappears. Wages stagnate and folks drop down a level. It only helps executives because they can keep raising their ridiculous salaries. This is what is destroying the middle class. Why people vote against their best interests continues to amaze me.

*Sheila Taylor
Naples, Fla.*

WHO WE ARE

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

IBEW Law Student Makes the Case for Labor Law Reform

The laws governing workers’ rights will celebrate their 70th anniversary next year. If was up to Washington, D.C., Local 26 member Kevin Burton, the birthday would also be a wake.

Burton — the assistant director of the Local 26 Joint Apprenticeship Training Center — is a 2013 recipient of an IBEW Founders’ Scholarship and is in her final year at George Washington Law School.

She wrote an article featured in the winter 2015 issue of the prestigious Employee Relations Law Journal entitled “The Perfect Storm for Labor Reform.” It is a nearly 30-page case for dramatically rewriting U.S. labor laws. They were originally written to empower workers but now, Burton writes, they do precisely the opposite.

(Unfortunately reading the article requires a \$649 annual subscription, but a copy was provided to the Electrical Worker.)

“This journal is not associated with my law school and is primarily for practitioners, so it is very rare for a student to get an article published,” Burton said.

It is even rarer that the lead article be an author’s first to be published. High profile law reviews can burnish the reputation of the student-author as well as change opinion throughout the legal profession.

Burton said her goal was to write an article that union activists could read and gain a full understanding of the laws that govern organized labor while also proposing changes to those laws that would strengthen the hand of field organizers.

“I started with a brief introduction that would get the first-time organizer prepared to do their job,” Burton said. “What they do is profoundly important, and they have so little legal support, I wanted to help.”

The legal framework for the American workplace rests on two laws: the National Labor Relations Act of 1939 and the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947. The NLRA was decidedly pro-organizing. Taft-Hartley, although it included some sections that unions wanted — allowing the creation of the multi-employer pensions and health plans operated by the IBEW, for example — on the whole, it was anti-worker. Taft-Hartley, for one thing, allowed states to pass right-to-work legislation.

Nearly all laws, judicial decisions and regulations that govern the American workplace are built upon these two laws, Burton writes, and that framework is so broken it is “incapable of rectifying common issues arising in today’s labor disputes.”

For example, disputes arising because of the millions of undocumented workers in U.S. workplaces are profoundly important to millions of U.S. workers, working and unemployed. But



Washington, D.C. Local 26 member and third-year law student Kevin Burton

the National Labor Relations Board, the enforcement body for the NLRA, is forbidden by the courts from getting involved in “immigration” issues. Not allowing the NLRB to address issues around undocumented workers basically encourages employers to cheat, Burton wrote.

“Undocumented workers for most people is a jobs issue, a collective bargaining issue and an organizing issue, but the law says it is about immigration only,” Burton said. “If we don’t talk about immigration now, we will wish we did in 20 years.”

Whether we like it or not, until undocumented workers can get legal protections and join unions, especially construction unions, Burton said working people will continue to fall behind. But the status of undocumented workers is just one of the common workplace issues that labor laws do not address and cannot resolve, she wrote.

The NLRB cannot intervene where companies misuse H1-B visas, a program designed to let companies bring in highly skilled immigrant workers when qualified workers cannot be found in the U.S. The reality is that employers frequently use the H1-B program to replace existing workers. They are just more expensive. In some cases, those workers have been required to train their replacements or get no severance pay.

Instead of being punished, Burton writes, “employers are incentivized to hire undocumented workers as there is minimal threat of recourse while millions of young Americans remain unemployed.”

Like most failures, the collapse of workplace protections in the U.S. has many fathers, but at its heart, Burton

writes, the problem with the NLRA is that its purpose — to make it easier for workers to organize — has been watered down by decades of legislative and judicial attacks. Opponents have somehow successfully argued that working people have too much power over multibillion dollar, transnational corporations.

“Well into the 21st century, courts have continued to deliver rulings that frustrate and negate Congress’s intent to encourage collective bargaining,” she writes.

So although the NLRB was created to “make real and concrete the protections of the right to self-organize for the good of the public and to eliminate any obstacles to the free flow of interstate commerce by promoting collective bargaining,” it does anything but.

Burton closes her paper with a blueprint for righting the ship.

She begins by examining several of the many unsuccessful reform attempts since the 1960s. Each failed when confronted with a Republican Party uniformly against pro-worker legislation and a Democratic party that could not maintain discipline.

“The appropriate time to align the NLRA with today’s temporary and transitional workforce is long overdue,” Burton wrote. “Several attempts have been made throughout the decades, but they all failed to deliver in one critical area: Democratic Party unity.”

For example, the Workplace Fairness Act of 1993 — which would have made it illegal to permanently replace striking workers — failed when six Democratic senators (11 percent of the caucus) voted with Republicans against passage. The 1965 attempt to repeal Taft-Hartley only won 67 percent of Senate Democrats.

Burton proposes a draft law that she believes would ensure Democratic unity and might even peel off a few Republicans if a Democrat is elected president next fall.

Burton’s model bill would restore the NLRB’s power to encourage collective bargaining and minimum funding levels for the NLRB, allow punitive damage penalties for companies that hire undocumented workers, require that 75 percent of a company’s domestic employees must be American citizens and make it the law of the land that every job have some kind of retirement plan benefit, even if it is as simple as an unmatched 401(k).

“Amending the NLRA will create jobs for those who are eligible to work in the United States,” Burton concludes. “Without change, the Act will continue in some respects to act contrary to its purposes.” ■

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

Dollars Doing Double Duty in Tennessee

On a hillside overlooking the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, IBEW electricians are hard at work. But in the region dominated by large-scale industrial and utility work for the Tennessee Valley Authority, this time they're building something a little different.

The project, called Knox Ridge, is an 84-unit student housing complex being built to serve some of the university's 30,000 young people, and for most of the roughly two dozen members of Knoxville Local 760 working there, it's the first Romex (non-metallic) wiring job they've done.

"Knox Ridge is the first full-fledged residential wiring job that I can remember us doing in 25 years," said Local 760 Assistant Business Manager J.R. Cummings. "When the contractor put out the call for journeyman wiremen to come and do Romex, people were shocked. Nobody around the hall had ever seen a project like this come along."

The story of how Knox Ridge ended up using Local 760 electricians, however, is a success story that's been repeated over and over in east Tennessee, according to International Representative David Hoque.

"Like a handful of other projects in this region, we were able to use investments through one of the local pension funds to put our people to work," Hoque said. The Southern Electrical Retirement Fund, based in nearby Chattanooga, like nearly every pension fund, devotes a portion of its investments to real estate.

"The beauty of investing in these kinds of projects," Hoque said, "is that we're able to create jobs for our members while the pension fund is making the sort of solid property investments it would be making anyway."

In the case of Knox Ridge, a relatively small \$4.9 million investment is projected to result in more than 21,000 man-hours of work Local 760 would have otherwise not gotten. That adds up to nearly half a million dollars in projected wages for IBEW members before the expected investment returns are even factored in.

"That kind of dual benefit is a no-brainer," Hoque said. "We're adding work for our active members and using our pension assets to build value for current and future retirees."

Helping the Southern Electrical Retirement Fund make these decisions is a former IBEW apprentice turned investment advisor, Michael Stratos. Stratos, who manages labor-related investments for Electrical Capital Advisors, LLC, is the son of a Washington, D.C., Local 26 journeyman who says his own apprenticeship got him through college.

"The niche we saw, particularly in the South," Stratos said, "was helping grow the market share in areas where it needed a boost. Using pension money to invest in projects like these leads directly to work for IBEW members, but it also educates general contractors and developers about the quality and craftsmanship that comes along with highly trained union labor."



IBEW apprentices Scott Bolden and Daniel Fortin, above, prepare meter stacks for installation at the Knox Ridge apartment complex. Knoxville Local 760 journeyman Jerry Medley, right, pulls wires inside one of the complex's 84 units.

For Brian Garrett, the project manager for Knox Ridge general contractor Value Added Concepts, working with the IBEW has been eye-opening. "This is the first time we've used a union contractor," he said, "and they've done a wonderful job. This whole project has been a really positive experience for everyone so far, and we're staying ahead of the

game and on track to deliver by August."

Leading the charge from the IBEW side is Rob Draper, a journeyman wireman serving as the project foreman for signatory contractor Canterbury Electric. Before coming to Knox Ridge, Draper topped out working with Canterbury on a downtown

Knoxville apartment complex called Marble Alley Lofts.

Like Knox Ridge, Marble Alley was a SERF investment that resulted in another half million dollars in IBEW wages and benefits. But as a downtown development, it used more familiar metal-clad wiring. "That project was great preparation for this one," Draper said. "But this entire thing has been a learning experience. It wasn't a huge leap given our training, but it's been rewarding to be working



in a market we haven't been in before and learning new skills on the job."

Jerry Hembree, a seven-year member of Local 760, felt the same about his three months and counting at Knox Ridge. "We

know the general contractor wasn't really excited about using union electricians on this job," he said. "But we hope we've changed his mind. Whatever their general expectations were of us before we got here, I can guarantee we've impressed them. The feedback has all been incredibly positive."

Local 760 Business Manager Tim Tate is thrilled by the recent SERF investments that have put his members to work. "It's an exciting time for our local," he said. "These investments have opened up new markets to us and our usual work is picking up too. We've got contractors bidding two or three more residential jobs as we speak, and the local developers are taking notice of the great work we're doing."

As evidence of the growth, the local's new training center just started a second apprenticeship class for the first time ever, with many of the spots filled by construction wireman/construction electrician classifications who have been critical to making the residential bids competitive.

"Knox Ridge and Marble Alley were just the beginning," said Hoque, who works in Business Development. "This kind of partnership, whether it's here in the South or anywhere else we have members out of work, is a great way to expose developers and general contractors to the quality of our work and the value that highly trained IBEW electricians provide." ■

Construction Linemen: Clearing a Path to Membership

The hard parts of organizing new members should all happen before they walk through the doors of the local hall. Once a nonunion worker makes up his or her mind to sign up, ideally the hard part should be over.

This should be especially true when the demand for skilled workers outstrips supply, as it does with outside linemen. But until recently, nonunion linemen eager for a new life in the IBEW sometimes found less than a full welcome.

At Topeka, Kan., Local 304, for example, the walk-ins were given a separate designation, put on a separate book and had to wait for up to a year for a determination if they would be journeymen or not.

"We called them white tickets and they would only work if a contractor was open to it," said Local 304 Assistant Business Manager Mark McCubbin. "After a year, if they were worthy, we'd welcome them on board. That turned a lot of qualified people off and the ones that needed training didn't get it immediately."

Local 304 was not unique, so last November, Local 304 joined the other Seventh District outside locals to hash out an easier way to organize nonunion linemen and get them a journeyman ticket if they had earned it or training for those who needed it, said International Representative Larry Chamberlain. The tool they used was already waiting for them: the construction lineman classification.

With demand for linemen at an historic high, and potentially billions of dollars in transmission work expected over the next 20 years, the IBEW has made organizing the outside business one of its highest priorities. The construction lineman classification was created by the IBEW and NECA in 2013 to streamline the organizing process.

Since November, Local 304 has been using a standard evaluation process for all newly organized linemen and targeted modules from the apprenticeship program covering the skills they need — but may not have learned — to be productive and safe.

"We would have a lot of guys coming in thinking they were linemen but there are often gaps in their training," said Seventh District International Vice President Steven Speer. "The only place we had for them was apprenticeship. Now we can do better, and I expect we will see an improvement in organizing."

The construction lineman classification is designed to be temporary.

"People don't hang out as a construction lineman. We want everyone to be a journeyman," McCubbin said. "Now when we strip someone, or they come walking through

our door, we have a way to get the good ones working and the raw ones trained."

In the six months since the Seventh District meeting, six nonunion linemen have come in with the CL designation. Four have qualified for their journey license, one left the program for personal reasons, and the last is completing training.

The construction lineman classification is approved by the International in every district. The Seventh District has gone the farthest to make it available but Tenth District International Vice President Brent Hall has made a priority to bring it there. Hall said he believes a meeting scheduled for early June between Tenth District locals and NECA will bring construction linemen there.

"We are working with our contractors to find a way to get it done, and I think we will," Hall said. "It has taken awhile to catch on, but I think people are warming to it. And for good reason. This is the future."

Hall was a lineman and crew leader for nearly two decades before he was elected president of Memphis, Tenn., Local 1288. Hall said part of the reason for creating the classification is that nonunion linemen usually lack the variety of experience an IBEW lineman has but they do take the same pride in their work.

"They may have only been trained on one part of the job: transmission, or underground, or never worked hot [with distribution wires still carrying electricity] but they are still linemen," Hall said. "This is a tough job and a tight community. If a person is out there every day, doing the work, we want to make sure we respect that when they come into our hall."

Hall expects that once the construction lineman classification is in place, organizing will tick up dramatically.

"It is very common for linemen to come over as a crew, and nonunion contractors strip crews from each other all the time. The construction lineman just lets the union contractors get in on the business," Hall said. "When our contractors get this tool in their hands though, I don't think they can be stopped."

That will mean more work for existing members and transformed lives for the newly organized ones.

"If all he has done is distribution work and a big transmission job drops, he won't be able to move to do that work," Hall said. "If you have a full skill set, you'll be safer, but you won't have to rely on one contractor, doing one job for the rest of your life. You will control your own fate." ■