

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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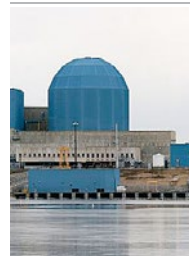
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SOUTHERN ORGANIZING STRATEGIES

"There's no shame in getting beat, only in quitting. And we



Faces from the successful organizing drive at the Memphis, Tenn., Electrolux organizing campaign fill out a quote from its lead organizer, Carl McPeak.

IBEW Organizes Memphis, Tenn., Manufacturing Plant

The IBEW welcomed hundreds of members into the Brotherhood Sept. 27 when the workers at Electrolux's Memphis, Tenn., plant voted by more than 2 to 1 to form a union.

More than 90 percent of the 700-member bargaining unit voted in the election and more than 70 percent of them voted to join Memphis Local 474. The victory came 16 months after the first organizing campaign fell 59 votes short.



It took two votes and more than two years of organizing by dozens of Electrolux workers, IBEW organizers from across the country and union activists from Sweden to ensure victory.

"This is the most important manufacturing victory in a southern, right-to-work state in my memory," said Director of Professional and Industrial Organizing Carmella Thomas.

Factories have been moving south from union-strong industrial cities for decades and have proven very difficult to organize. Even when the companies haven't actively opposed organizing, like Volkswa-

gen's plant in Chattanooga two years ago, political pressure and unfamiliarity with unions has made victories rare.

The southwest Memphis plant makes high-end commercial and residential stoves and ranges that cost from \$2,000 to upwards of \$10,000. It was one of the highest profile economic development projects in the city when it opened two years ago. The company received state and local subsidies worth nearly \$180 million to build the factory, according to an investigation by Memphis' newspaper, the Commercial Appeal.

But soon after the facility opened in 2014, there were problems, said Stanley Reese, the head of the volunteer organizing committee. Many people applied for jobs and started taking courses specifically for jobs at Electrolux after they were promised

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IBEW Organizes Memphis, Tenn., Manufacturing Plant

starting salaries of at least \$15 an hour. But when they started work, they made closer to \$12, sometimes only \$11 an hour.

Supervisors told workers to come in before their shifts were scheduled to start and punch in at the normal time, Reese said. People who missed work because their children were sick were written up even if they had a doctor's note. New hires, promotions and job transfers were distributed by favoritism, not the quality of work or seniority. Unscheduled overtime was compulsory and often assigned with less than 12 hours' notice, leaving parents scrambling for childcare.

"One lady was told to be in by 6 a.m. the next morning and her child's daycare didn't even open until 6," Reese said.

Reese, who had worked at Chrysler's Memphis plant until it closed in 2010, started talking to his co-workers about how different things were when he had been represented by the United Auto Workers.

Eventually they asked him when he was going to stop talking about it and do something.



"It was heartening for them to see so many people who believed in the value of the IBEW. I think [the Electrolux workers] could see how important they were to us."

— Paul Shaffer, Local 474 Business Manager

The factory is divided into three departments. Higher skill workers in the press department made more money than the workers in the materials and assembly departments. Electrolux managers told workers in the press department that they would lose money if the other departments got raises.

Management also situated contract workers, almost all Latino immigrants who spoke English poorly or not at all, between the mostly African-American full-time Electrolux employees, Reese said. Not only did the Spanish speakers have a language barrier that made organizing more challenging, they were literally placed as barriers, preventing the English speakers from talking with one another at work.

The final blow may have been when the Electrolux managers found out the date of the vote. A few days before the ballot, the company hired more than a hundred of the contract workers, presumably to throw the result, Thomas said.

All of that happened despite a global neutrality agreement that Electrolux had signed with their home union, IF Metall, in Sweden.

The organizing drive lost by 59 votes. "They promised to raise wages and end the favoritism. 'Give us a year,' they said 'and if we don't get it done, have another vote,'" Reese said. "And when we lost the vote, they didn't do a thing."

The Rematch

"There is no shame in being beat, only in quitting. And we never quit," said Carl McPeak, the lead organizer for the IBEW on the campaign. "From the minute after the vote was lost we were looking at the game tapes to see what we could do better."



The Memphis workers voted 2 to 1 in favor of organizing the high-end range and stove factory.

One of the big changes they made was expanding the organizing committee. Two workers from the press department — Renita Leath and Jocko Williams — joined Reese, Victor Jones, Larry Chatman and Tina Mull in materials and LaRoderick Wilson and Marquita Martin on the assembly line.

The employee organizers inside the plant were joined by IBEW organizers from California, Kansas City and Houston. Thousands of pamphlets were handed out during shift changes. They ran a targeted social media campaign to educate workers about the benefits of uniting together. Dozens of educational meetings were held at a nearby church and, in the weeks leading up to the vote, organizers made more than 400 house calls.

The biggest challenge this time was making sure everyone understood what a union was, Reese said. Many people thought because Tennessee was a right-to-work state that unions were illegal.

"I told them all right-to-work meant is that we are a union-by-choice state," McPeak said.

Reese said he started making and wearing T-shirts that read "Albert Einstein Supported Unions" and "Unions Built the Middle Class."

"I had people ask me what unions were. They had no idea. One guy asked me what the middle class was. And I told them all to Google it or ask their grandparents what a union was," Reese said. "Don't take my word for it. Look for yourself and you will see what unions have done."

In some campaigns, having organizers who are not locals has been counterproductive, but Local 474 Business Manager Paul Shaffer said, in this case, it was a help.

"It showed the true commitment of

the entire Brotherhood. I think it was heartening for them to see so many people who believed in the value of the IBEW. I think they could see they were important to us," Shaffer said. "It might not have been the difference, but it made a difference that they got a sense of how large a group of people was behind them."

Jeanette DelaGarza, an organizer with Kansas City, Mo., Local 53 and a native Spanish speaker, was brought in to focus on the Latino contract workers in the factory who were not eligible to vote — as long as the company kept them as contract workers.

But as the organizers had learned from the first vote when more than 100 were brought on full-time just before the election, the Latino workers had to be part of the organizing strategy.

"We wanted to make sure that if any of them were made permanent before the vote that they would vote yes," DelaGarza said.

Her job was made easier by what Electrolux had done after the previous election. The 120 contract workers who were brought on as 'permanent' workers just before for the vote were all fired two weeks later, DelaGarza said.

In this mostly Latino community, her biggest challenge was also a lack of knowledge of what unions were.

"There are unions in Mexico, but they are for teachers and lawyers and the higher-ups, so when I talked about unions I mostly got blank stares," she said. "I was surprised at how few knew about us."

Doing house calls was also hard. Nearly all of the addresses for the contract workers were fake.

All organizers faced strong headwinds. The temporary agencies held closed door meetings, she was told. Managers told the workers they would be fired if they voted yes or helped pass out literature, actions in direct violation of labor laws.

"They were told they had no rights here," DelaGarza said.

One volunteer organizer, a legal immigrant from El Salvador, was fired for

not showing up to work, even though she had evidence that she spoke to her supervisor about her absence, she said. But the worker would not pursue an unlawful labor practice charge because the NLRB office in Memphis is in the same building as the Memphis Immigration Court.

"The fear is real, and we need to be real about it when we are organizing in this community," DelaGarza said.

The contract workers were not the only targets of management disinformation and unfair labor practices. A maintenance worker was fired for a safety violation that McPeak said was standard practice. Reese's brother was fired.

And stories would drift back to Reese. "People would come up to me and say 'I heard the union is paying you \$40,000 to run this campaign.' Or the company would show them fake tax documents that the IBEW was broke and needed our \$100 a week dues to stay open," Reese said. "If I heard it, imagine how far that must've spread before it came to my ears."

The IBEW filed multiple unfair labor practice claims against Electrolux, and the company was penalized multiple times for violating labor laws in both campaigns, Thomas said.

The unfair labor practice convictions got the attention of IF Metall, the union that represents Electrolux workers in Sweden, Thomas said. The leadership of IF Metall demanded the company honor the global neutrality agreement it had signed with the union and cease interfering with the organizing drive. The leadership also recorded a video supporting the organizing drive that was distributed by the IBEW before the vote.

"The video from our brothers and sisters in Sweden supported our message that the world is watching this and the world is supporting you," Shaffer said.

The Vote

To prevent the company from conducting another mass-hiring right before the election, organizers kept the election date a secret until the last minute, Thomas said. But in the days leading up to the vote, enthusiasm was clear.

"We were holding signs outside the hourly workers' parking lot and nearly every car was honking and giving us the thumbs up," DelaGarza said. "And we recognized that a lot of the people giving us the thumbs down were managers going out the workers' exit."

The next step, Shaffer said, is first contract negotiations early next year, making sure the nearly 500 contract workers at the factory organize and spreading the word that unions are rising in the South.

"It is awe inspiring," Thomas said. "This is a win for our new brothers and sisters, it is a win for working families in the South and it is a model of how the labor movement can confront globalized companies with a global labor movement." ■



Stanley Reese, head of the Electrolux workers volunteer organizing committee, wearing one of his many hand-made shirts and handing out fliers in front of the Memphis factory.

The First Campaign

Reese approached the IBEW on the recommendation of a union organizer who was a customer at his second job, a liquor store.

"She said we should come to the IBEW because we make electrical components. So I called," Reese said. He never got the woman's name.

There is a playbook companies follow to fight off a union drive. A company holds closed door meetings where unions are bad-mouthed. In-house organizers get increased scrutiny, leading to suspensions and even firings. Companies lie about the financial state of the union and radically overstate the size of future dues.

In that first election, Electrolux followed the playbook and more.

NORTH OF 49°

NextGen Young Workers Conference Inspires, Educates

With a focus on membership engagement, safety and history, IBEW's next generation of sisters and brothers gathered for a weekend of motivation and networking at the NextGen conference, held in Toronto Oct. 28-30.

"The strength of our union comes from each and every one of our members being engaged and active," said First District Vice President Bill Daniels, who attended. "I encourage you, over the next couple of days, to speak with your fellow members, ask questions of the guest speakers and workshop facilitators and take what you learn back to your local union."

The theme was "Power up Your Membership," and 70 delegates representing 13 locals from across Canada heard from labor leaders, safety advocates and each other about how to engage their peers and continue the legacy of the Brotherhood.

Jim Belanger, a journeyman electrician and member of Toronto Local 353 and co-chair of his NextGen committee, said, "It can be hard to get a lot of young people to sit still and pay attention, but they made it work."

NextGen is the First District's initiative to engage young workers to get involved with their local unions. Along with its counterpart in the U.S., it comprises the RENEW/NextGen initiative.

The conference included workshops on organizing, IBEW history and structure and getting involved at the local level. There was also a workshop on how to build a NextGen committee, which Belanger and Ali Rossiter, program coordinator with Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37, attended.

"We have a NextGen Committee, but it's been relatively inactive for a couple of years," Rossiter said. "I think it just needs the right person or group of people to get it in motion and get our NextGen-ers involved. And now we have a toolkit to make that happen."

As with a lot of conferences, much of the learning and engagement came from meeting other members.

"It's good to mingle with others," Belanger said. "You can sit around and talk shop, get to know each other and hear what other committees have done that's been successful."

"There's a ton of people out there supporting this initiative across North America and it's great to hear from them," Rossiter said. "This isn't just a Local 37 thing, but something much bigger."

The keynote was a highlight. Spencer Beach, a third-generation floor technician and safety advocate, spoke on the

topic of safety. While at work in April 2003, he suffered third- and fourth-degree burns over 90 percent of his body as a result of a flash fire.

"It really opened my eyes to how easy it is to be safe, but also how easy it can be to be careless about safety," Rossiter said. "Especially at home. As a new homeowner that really landed with me."

Kate Walsh, strategic coordinator for the First District, said, "It was a cool way to end the conference considering that this is the 125th anniversary of the IBEW and that it began because of poor safety conditions. It was incredibly powerful." ■



Toronto Local 353 member Aaron Zboch Alves, left, and Ottawa, Ontario, Local 586 member Sam Lapierre share their experiences at the 39th International Convention with fellow NextGen members.

AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

La conférence des jeunes travailleurs NextGen cherche à inspirer et à enseigner

Dans le cadre du renforcement de l'engagement, de la sécurité et de l'histoire des membres, la nouvelle génération des confrères et des consœurs de la FIOE se sont réunis pour un weekend de motivation et de la mise en réseau à la Conférence NextGen, tenue à Toronto du 28 au 30 octobre.

« La force de notre syndicat repose sur chacun et chacune de nos membres qui restent engagés et actifs », dit Bill Daniels le vice-président du premier district, qui y a assisté. « Au cours des prochains jours, je vous encourage à parler avec vos membres de poser des questions aux conférenciers et aux animateurs d'atelier et de transmettre tout ce que vous avez appris à votre section locale ».

Le thème était *Power Up Your Membership*, et 70 délégués représentant 13 sections locales à travers le Canada ont entendu parler des dirigeants syndicaux, des défenseurs de la sécurité et d'autres au sujet de leurs pairs et de quelle façon ils peuvent poursuivre l'héritage de la Fraternité.

Jim Belanger, un compagnon électricien et membre de la section locale 353 de Toronto et qui assure la coprésidence de son comité NextGen, dit « il peut être difficile d'obtenir un grand nombre de jeunes à rester assis et à écouter, mais ils sont parvenus à le faire ».

NextGen est l'initiative du premier district pour engager les jeunes travailleurs à s'impliquer au sein de leur section locale. Avec son homologue américain, cela comprend l'initiative RENEW/NextGen.

La conférence comprenait des ateliers sur l'organisation, l'histoire et la structure de la FIOE et la participation au niveau local. Il y avait également des ateliers sur des moyens de créer un comité NextGen auxquels Belanger et Ali Rossiter le coordinateur du programme de la section locale 37 à Fredericton au Nouveau-Brunswick ont assisté.

« Nous avons un comité NextGen, mais c'était relativement peu actif depuis quelques années », dit Rossiter. « Je crois qu'il faut juste la bonne personne ou un groupe de personnes pour lancer le processus et d'encourager nos membres du comité à y participer. Et maintenant nous avons des outils nécessaires pour y arriver ».

Tout comme nos nombreuses conférences, une grande partie de l'apprentissage et de l'engagement proviennent en rencontrant d'autres membres.

« C'est une bonne chose de se mêler aux autres », dit Belanger. « Tu peux t'asseoir et discuter de *shop*, apprendre à se connaître et à écouter les autres comités sur ce qui a mené à leur succès ».

« Il y a beaucoup de gens qui appuient cette initiative à travers l'Amérique du

Nord et c'est merveilleux de les entendre », dit Rossiter. « Ce n'est pas seulement l'affaire de la section locale 37, mais c'est quelque chose de plus grand ».

Le discours a été le fait saillant. Spencer Beach, un homme de maintenance de troisième génération et un défenseur de la sécurité, a parlé sur le thème. Tout en travaillant en avril 2003, il a été victime d'un feu à inflammation instantanée et s'est retrouvé brûlé au troisième et au quatrième degré à plus de 90 pour cent de son corps.

« Il est le meilleur conférencier rémunéré que j'ai entendu dans ma vie, et j'en ai entendu des bons », dit Belanger. « Personne n'était sur leur téléphone, personne ne s'est levé, rien de cela ».

« Cela m'a vraiment ouvert les yeux sur la façon dont on peut procéder facilement en toute sécurité tout en étant facilement imprudent face à la sécurité », dit Rossiter. « Surtout à la maison, en tant que nouveau propriétaire, cela m'a précisément marquée ».

« C'était une façon unique de terminer la conférence, étant donné que c'était le 125e anniversaire de la FIOE et que tout cela a commencé à cause des mauvaises conditions de sécurité », dit Kate Walsh la coordonnatrice stratégique pour le premier district. « C'était extrêmement incroyable, on aurait pu entendre une mouche voler dans la salle ». ■

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

Visit the IBEW website for great news and stories on our members — including the online version of the Electrical Worker! www.IBEW.org

YouTube

Sometimes you don't know how big your Brotherhood is, until it really counts. Watch the story of the Whitehead family fighting cancer — and winning. bit.ly/IBEWcancerMiracle

Vimeo

When The Ed Sullivan Theater was renovated



for Stephen Colbert to take over "The Late Show," New York Local 1212 was there to make it happen. And for every show since.

bit.ly/IBEWLateShow

HourPower

Check out the IBEW Hour Power Job Tips channel for new tools to



make your life easier on the job site. Visit IBEWHourPower.com — and submit a job tip of your own!

ElectricTV

Electric TV travels North America telling the stories of your IBEW brothers and sisters and the projects they work on. Have a story of your own to share? Visit ElectricTV.net



CIRCUITS

Fact Check: Busting an Old IBEW Pension Myth

Pension and Reciprocity Department Director Bruce Burton heard of a misleading rumor making the rounds this summer that brought back memories. But this time he was in a position to do something about it.

The tall tale dealt with the return IBEW members receive on their pension

contributions, with a member of one local union spreading the claim that the average IBEW retiree received only 18 monthly benefit checks before dying.

"I'd been hearing people say stuff like this since I was an apprentice electrician in Detroit back in the '80s," said Burton, whose department is responsible for the Pension Benefit Fund, more popularly known as the International Office pension. "It was clearly ridiculous. Everyone

knows IBEW retirees are living long lives, including my own father."

Burton's dad, 89, has been retired from Detroit Local 58 for more than 24 years. "He's in excellent health, still mows his own lawn, and has been happily collecting IBEW pension checks for two and a half decades," Burton said. "It's anecdotal, of course, but I thought we should take a look and see if we could determine the real number anyway."

So Burton reached out to actuaries at the National Electrical Benefit Fund, a supplementary pension for 'A' members run jointly by the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association, reasoning that they would have the most accurate data for IBEW retirees.

"It turns out we were right," Burton said. "Not only was 18 a completely made-up number, it was so far from the truth that we thought it was only right that we share the data with all of our members."

In reality, the average life expectancy for NEBF participants — and likely for IBEW members in general — is 82.3 years.

Since roughly 53 percent of IBEW members choose early retirement at 62, that means the average retiree receives benefits for more than 20 years before passing away.

"That's 244 pension checks on average, not 18," Burton said. "It's disappointing to see that this kind of rumor still

has legs after all these years, but I hope we can put it to rest once and for all. The truth is, an IBEW pension is still one of the best investments a person can make in their retirement security, and it's good to see the numbers to back it up."

The PBF, which Burton runs, is the modern version of the original death benefit that Henry Miller and the IBEW's founders established in 1891. In 2015, it made pension payments of more than \$127 million and paid \$18.6 million in death benefits.

The NEBF, which managed more than \$12.6 billion in pension funds at the close of 2015, remains one of the healthiest defined benefit pensions in the labor community, investing in a diverse portfolio that includes real-estate projects that put active IBEW members to work all over America.

"We're proud of the systems this union has set up to take care of our brothers and sisters in retirement," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "Making sure our members are able to retire with dignity and security is one of the most important jobs we have, and the PBF and the NEBF are key parts of that." ■

Vermont Member Wins 'Rising Star' Award

Montpelier, Vt., Local 300 member Danielle Bombardier has a new title to add to her growing collection: outstanding young leader.

On Sept. 26, Bombardier was named one of Vermont Business Magazine's "Rising Stars," an annual award given to 40 people under the age of 40 for their contributions to the Green Mountain State's community and economy, says the website. And she is the first person from her local to receive the honor.

"I was definitely surprised," Bombardier said. "I feel like a regular worker, not like someone who should win an award."

Tim LaBombard, Local 300 membership development director and the one who nominated her, would argue otherwise.

A former two-time volunteer with AmeriCorps, a national service program, Bombardier has cooked food for the Ron-

ald McDonald House, participated in trash pick-up for Green Up Day and volunteers with Vermont Works for Women, an organization dedicated to promoting women and girls professionally. She also participates with other Local 300 members in an annual dragon boat race for breast cancer survivors.

Now a second-year instructor, Bombardier was named the 2016 apprentice of the year. And she was running the solar division at her job with Sherwin Electric as an apprentice — something that does not usually happen, LaBombard said.

"She deserves it," LaBombard said. "Danielle's very bright and she's always working to promote the local."

An inside wireman with a bachelor's degree in molecular genetics, Bombardier also serves as her unit's recording secretary and sits on the wellness committee.

The 40 winners were chosen from 140 entries by a panel of judges. This year's class comes from areas including academia, finance, construction and entrepreneurship.

Bombardier says she's happy for the recognition, and not just for herself.

"This is good for the union and I want the union to succeed," she said. "It shows our community involvement — and that there's a place for women in the trades."

"Women are a demographic that we need to focus on," LaBombard said. "Hopefully this award will show more women and girls that there are great opportunities for them in places they may not have thought of before." ■

Annual RENEW Event Honors the Fallen

Young members at Omaha, Neb., Local 22 saw an opportunity to help grieving families last summer and seized on it, starting an annual tradition they hope will continue to help others in their region.

In 2015, leaders of the RENEW/Next-Gen chapter at Local 22 approached Business Manager Barry Mayfield after the sudden death of David Perez, a beloved member of the local's leadership who suf-



International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore "Sam" Chilia gives a presentation on the health of the Pension Benefit Fund during the IBEW's 39th International Convention in September. The PBF, he reported, is in much improved health today than it was following the Great Recession of 2008.

2015 Summary Annual Report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan, #52-6132372, for the year ended December 31, 2015. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were \$214,744,387. These expenses included \$14,109,060 in administrative expenses and \$200,635,327 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 102,771 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$5,865,958,906 as of December 31, 2015, compared to \$5,545,077,680 as of January 1, 2015. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$320,881,226. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during

the year. The plan had total income of \$535,625,613, including employer contributions of \$466,871,443, gains of \$4,732,791 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$63,102,096, and other income of \$919,283.

Minimum Funding Standards

Enough money was contributed to the plan to keep it funded in accordance with the minimum funding standards of ERISA.

Your Rights to Additional Information

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

- an accountant's report;
- financial information and information on payments to service providers;
- assets held for investment;
- transactions in excess of 5 percent of plan assets; and
- information regarding any common or collective trusts, pooled separate accounts,
- master trusts, or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Trustees of the National Electrical Annuity Plan, who are the plan administrators, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500,

Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, (301) 556-4300. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$15.25 for the full annual report, or \$.25 per page for any part thereof.

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

You also have the legally-protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210. ■

Lonnie R. Stephenson
NEAP Trustee

Salvatore J. Chilia
NEAP Trustee

John M. Grau
NEAP Trustee

Dennis F. Quebe
NEAP Trustee



Montpelier, Vt., Local 300 member Danielle Bombardier was recognized by Vermont Business Magazine for her contributions to the state's economy and community.

TRANSITIONS

ferred a fatal heart attack.

"When David died, it hit us all really hard," said fourth-year apprentice Adam Oleson. "He was the first journeyman I worked with and our local's sergeant-at-arms, so we pushed to do something to honor him and help out his family."

That effort became Local 22's Fallen Brothers Benefit, an annual gathering with food, games and silent and live auctions — all geared toward helping the families of active members who passed away the previous year.

Wes Lucas, a fourth-year apprentice, said the event gives members an opportunity to get together, but also to remember. "It's a really great time, but knowing that it's going to make a difference in the lives of those families is what it's all about."

The 2015 event raised more than \$14,000, which was split evenly after expenses among the families of the active members who died.

"It meant so much to those people," said Mayfield, who noted that many of the families never knew what the IBEW was all about. "These were our brothers and sisters, and I'm proud of all of our young members for taking the time to do this for their families."

In July, the core group of 10 young members who run the RENEW chapter put on the second annual Fallen Brothers Benefit, and it was just as successful as the first.

"We were able to get donations from some of our vendors and contractors," Oleson said, and Local 464 of the Steamfitters and Plumbers donated the use of a massive grill on a trailer for the event. Oleson cooked hamburgers, hot dogs and pulled pork, and hundreds of members turned out.

The group also raffled off a new smoker and a family getaway to a nearby waterpark, helping to raise roughly \$1,500 to \$2,000 per family.

"For us to be able to do this for the families of the brothers we lost is our way of letting them know their loved ones will be remembered," Oleson said. "I hope it means a lot to them. We're a strong brotherhood, and they've got people who care about them here."

Lucas and the rest of the team hope to eventually expand the benefit so that funds are available in the immediate aftermath of an active member's death rather than having to wait until the annual fundraiser. "It's something we'd like to do in the future," he said. "We're really just getting started." ■

DECEASED

Ora "Rex" Dutton



The IBEW is saddened to announce the death of former Seventh District International Representative Ora "Rex" Dutton on Aug. 27.

He was 93.

Born in 1922 in Bentley, Kan., Dutton enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942 and served three years aboard the mine sweeper U.S.S. Pursuit in the South Pacific. He was awarded six service ribbons and eight battle stars.

After the war, Dutton was initiated into Wichita, Kan., Local 271 in 1945. He was elected vice president in 1953, then to the executive board in 1955 and was brought on staff in 1959 as assistant business manager.

Dutton joined the Seventh District as assistant to then-International Vice President Ray Duke. When Duke retired in 1981, his replacement — International Vice President Orville Tate — kept Dutton on.

"Rex really took care of the business of the district and he was extremely good at it, because he really liked it," Tate said. "But his expertise and his love was the apprenticeship."

Tate remembers Dutton as a meticulous man who was respected by contractors as well as his brothers and sisters. One of Dutton's most important jobs, Tate

said, was resolving conflicts that arose on joint apprenticeship boards.

"Contractors always want 500 apprentices so labor costs would be low and locals always wanted just one to keep the journeymen working," Tate said. "Rex would step in and with a NECA representative they would try to mediate. He was very good at settling those."

When Brother Dutton retired in 1986, he moved back to Wichita from the district offices in Arlington, Texas. After his wife of more than 70 years, Winifred "Winnie" E. Dutton, died in 2011, he moved to Missouri to be closer to his son, Robert.

On behalf of the entire Brotherhood, we extend our condolences to his family. ■

DECEASED

Dan C. Bowers



The IBEW regrets to report the death of former Ninth District International Representative Dan C. Bowers, who died in Santa Maria, Calif.,

on Sept. 23 at the age of 83.

Brother Bowers concluded his 43-year IBEW career in 2003 when he retired from the Ninth District, having served as an international representative for 17 years.

Born in 1932, Bowers grew up in Santa Maria, 120 miles northwest of Los

Angeles, where he graduated from high school in 1951. After serving in the U.S. Navy in Korea, Brother Bowers worked briefly in the oil fields before entering the IBEW apprenticeship program in 1959. The next year, he was initiated into Santa Barbara Local 413, spending the next 18 years working as a journeyman wireman, during which time he served six years on the local's executive board.

In 1978, Brother Bowers was elected business manager, a job he would hold until his appointment to the Ninth District office in 1986.

International Representative David Tilmont, who took over Bowers's responsibilities upon Bowers retirement, said he will remember him for his depth of knowledge, which he wielded with a lighthearted touch.

"Danny was a kick," Tilmont said. "He was always full of jokes, and he kept things light and loose. But he was such a resource for the rest of us. He knew the legal and historical reasons for every word of contract language, and he was always willing to share what he knew."

In his spare time, Brother Bowers was an avid pilot, golfer, youth football coach and a proud member of the Orcutt, Calif., Jaycees and Elks Lodge.

Bowers is survived by six children, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Lela in 1973 and in 1992 by his wife Carol, whose four children join the family in grief.

The officers, staff and membership of the IBEW extend their deepest condolences to Brother Bowers's family and friends. ■



Members of Omaha, Neb., Local 22's RENEW/NextGen chapter raised more than \$12,000 for the families of deceased IBEW brothers and sisters.

IBEW MERCHANDISE



Blue Crewneck Sweatshirt \$19.00
50% cotton / 50% polyester crew neck sweatshirt with IBEW silk-screened in white on left chest.



RENEW Pin \$2.00
Lapel pin with RENEW logo and military grade clutch.



39th Convention Jacket - Women's \$50.00
Gray jacket featuring an outer shell made of 92% polyester / 8% spandex. Inner liner made of 100% polyester fleece. Zippered pocket on right chest and IBEW convention logo embroidered on left chest.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

Notice to Participants in the National Electrical Annuity Plan Explanation of Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit

If you are married and die before retirement, NEAP will provide your spouse with a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your spouse will receive this benefit if: (1) you have satisfied the minimum eligibility requirement of 160 hours of service; (2) you have a balance in your Individual Account; (3) you die prior to receiving a pension benefit; (4) you are married; and (5) you have not previously declined the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit.

If you are entitled to a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, NEAP will purchase an annuity contract from an insurance company for your spouse. The annuity contract will pay your surviving spouse a monthly benefit for life. Monthly payments will start within a reasonable period of time after your death. The amount of the monthly benefit depends upon (1) the amount in your Individual Account; (2) your spouse's age (and, therefore, his/her life expectancy and prospective benefit payment period); and (3) the insurance company's price for annuity contracts.

Elections/Consents

If you are under age 35, your spouse will automatically receive the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit upon your death (unless your spouse selects a lump sum payment instead of the annuity). You may not decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit unless you have permanently stopped working in Covered Employment.

However, beginning the year you reach age 35 and at any time thereafter, you may decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your spouse must consent in writing and the consent must be witnessed by a representative of NEAP or by a notary public. Consent given by a spouse is not effective as to a subsequent spouse.

You may revoke your election to decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time. You may again decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time by executing the appropriate form and obtaining your spouse's consent. Your spouse may also revoke his/her consent at any time. Contact the Plan Administrator's Office for the appropriate forms.

Lump Sum

If you decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, your Individual Account balance will be paid to your designated surviving beneficiary in a lump sum. If your designated surviving beneficiary is not your spouse, your spouse must also consent to that as well, in order for it to be valid. If you have not designated a beneficiary (or your designated beneficiary is not living at the time of your death), the balance will be paid to the following persons, if living, in the following order of priority: (1) your spouse, (2) your children, (3) your parents, or (4) your estate. The total amount of money received as a lump sum may ultimately be different (either greater or lesser) than the total amount of money your spouse would have received under the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. This is because the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit is an annuity and depends on the time value of money and how long your spouse lives. Additional information is available from the Plan Administrator's Office. ■

LOCAL LINES

Career of IBEW Service

L.U. 2 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), ST. LOUIS, MO — IBEW Local 2 congratulates former Bus. Mgr. David Desmond on his recent retirement, effective Oct. 1, 2016. Although he initially planned to retire earlier in the year, he was persuaded to stay on until after the IBEW 39th International Convention. "I'm so thankful I stayed for the convention," Desmond said. "It was a lot of fun and a great convention."

Bro. Desmond became a member of the IBEW in September 1976. He became a journeyman lineman in December 1981. He first went into the office in June 1996 and won election as recording secretary in June 1999. He was elected as business manager in 2005.

One of Bro. Desmond's most notable accomplishments while serving as business manager was overseeing the project for a training center. He helped to acquire property in Saint Clair, MO, for the local union. This 54-acre tract was used to build a training center that was completed in August 2010.

Desmond said, "Being in the IBEW is one of the best things that ever happened. It has been a pleasure to serve with everyone!"

Greg Benton, A.B.M.



Then-Local 2 Bus. Mgr. David Desmond, at Henry Miller Museum grand opening, stands beside plaque for the founding fathers statue donation from Local 2.

125th Anniversary Celebrated

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH — Hello, brothers and sisters. Local 8, one of the original 10 chartered locals in the IBEW, has just celebrated its 125th anniversary. What a great honor it is to be forever enshrined at the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis,



Local 8 apprenticeship graduating class of 2016.

with a ceremonial lineman's pole standing with the patriarch of the IBEW. This year's dinner dance was replaced this fall with a grander celebration to honor our great milestone, and those who got us here.

Congratulations go out to the 2016 graduates of the Toledo Electrical JATC. This year's class consisted of 25 inside wiremen. Patricio Covarrubias Jr. was named Outstanding Apprentice, and Apprentice of the Year honors went to Troy Swanson. Great job, guys, and continue the success.

[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.]

Bus. Mgr. Roy B. Grosswiler, the officers and staff of Local 8 wish the IBEW sisters and brothers everywhere a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year!

Mike Brubaker, P.S.

2016 Women's Conference

L.U. 10 (u), JOHNSON CITY, NY — Bus. Agent Shell Jackson attended the 2016 IBEW Women's Conference in Phoenix, AZ, for Local 10 in June and brought back to the local a report of the conference.

Guest speakers at the Women's Conference included IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson and IBEW Int. Sec-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia. They spoke about building unions, attending union meetings and workshops throughout the year to strengthen solidarity, and volunteering in the community.

Conference workshops were informative and included topics such as: Leadership Through Effective Communication & Conflict Mediation; Solidarity in Unions; Recognizing Harassment & Remedies in the Workplace; Understanding & Defeating Racism; and Effective Activism.

Don Tuttle, P.S.

Work Picture Steady

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO — This past summer was a hot one for Local 12, with many days reaching over 100 degrees in Pueblo. Local contractors have had fairly steady work, and inside contract negotiations are completed. Unfortunately, some large solar projects in the area went nonunion. We had some out-of-state contractors doing a wind turbine project in our jurisdiction who hired on a few Local 12 journeyman wiremen. The signatory line contractors have projects going in our jurisdiction as well. The Black Hills Generating Station added another unit and the project manned up to almost 30 inside wiremen; that project was winding down as of press time.

Our retirees have a monthly lunch gathering at a local restaurant that brings a dozen or more brothers and their companions together for lots of storytelling and laughter. These are the same ones who always RSVP for the picnics, banquets, etc. I want to thank all of our retirees for their continued participation in our local's events. It wouldn't be the same without you!

Susan J. Johnson, P.S.

The Labor Day Association's 130th celebration featured four days of good food, numerous family activities (including free carnival rides), and a large parade. This year's guest of honor was Indiana's Democratic candidate for governor, John Gregg. Congratulations to Miss Taylor Kiesel, daughter of IBEW member Ed Kiesel, on being elected the 2016 Labor Day Association Queen. Thanks to all who made this event possible for the working people of the tri-state area.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

U.S. Rep. Cummings Speaks At Union Membership Meeting

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — On Friday, July 15, the JATC held apprenticeship graduation ceremonies for this year's graduating class of 46 new journeymen. Bus. Mgr. Gary Griffin reminded the new journeymen that this is their local union and they need to stay involved to make it stronger, not only for their future, but also for those who will follow.



Local 24 Bus. Mgr. Gary Griffin (right) presents COPE check to U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings.

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.

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

The local held its 17th Annual Family Picnic at Conrad Ruth's Villa on Aug. 14. Over 1,200 members, retirees and their families were in attendance throughout the day. Although it was hot, the food was delicious, the beverages were cold and the comradery was strong.

U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D), from Maryland's 7th Congressional District, was a guest speaker at Local 24's general membership meeting in August. Rep. Cummings spoke about the importance of the 2016 general election, among other topics of importance.

Gary R. Griffin, B.M.

Scholarship Award Winners; Officers Elected

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — Local 26 election results were announced at the July general membership meeting. Bro. George C. Hogan was elected business manager, and Bro. Thomas C. Myers was elected president. Congratulations!

I hope you've made plans to attend one of our Christmas party/meetings to enjoy some brotherhood and holiday cheer. The D.C. area event is Dec. 2; Front Royal, Dec. 9; and, Roanoke, Dec. 10.

Congratulations to this year's Local 26 scholarship award winners: Brian Lilley, Darian Hileman, Alexis Couper and Alyssa Goodwin. Brian is the son of Bro. Ralph Lilley and will attend Clemson University. Darian, daughter of Bro. Joel Hileman, is a student at Stevenson University in Baltimore. Alexis, daughter of Bro. Bruce Couper, is studying at James Madison University. Alyssa, daughter of Bro. Ronnie King, is a student at Virginia Tech University.

We mourn the recent passing of: Bros. David G. Mehrtens, Thomas C. Payne, Lance T. Karavangelos, James E. Bennett Jr., Charles L. Abell, David L. Rogers, Jessie Mechiel, Keith P. Williams Sr., Joel L. Huggill, Kenneth A. Robinson, Joseph F. Bohon Jr., and William D. Gilmartin.

Best wishes to recent retirees: Vardell Artis, Jesse Copeland, Rodney Crawford, Ernst Jeanphilippe, Herbert Lee, Russell Stortzum, Michael Trent, Freddie Wood, John Caruso, James Curtis, Charles Knaack, Milton Snyder, Earl Turner Jr., John White, John Shabe, Ramiro Ramos, Arthur Hines, Philip Ventola, Edward Ruprecht, Timothy Emmell, Gary Roche, Lewis Yates Jr., James Mitchell, Steve Lassiter, Frank Smith, Narvell Robison, William Robrecht, David White, David Markell, Daryl Sutton and Michael Wade.

George C. Hogan, B.M.

Big Projects Ramping Up; 2016 Construction Success

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH — Thanks to everyone who has been showing up for all of the RJ Martin Electric picket lines at various jobsites. The picketing will continue wherever RJ Martin is hired so that we can continue to expose the company for what it is and what it has done, including overbilling the Cleveland Schools for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

This was a pretty good year for man-hours in Local 38, especially with all the work hours we got because the 2016 Republican National Conventional was held here in Cleveland. Because of the national attention received and Cleveland's success in meeting the infrastructure and logistical requirements of hosting such a large event, many more conventions have planned to come here soon. All the new hotels that IBEW members helped build allow for bigger conventions to be held here.

There are still plans for more hotels and we



Local 38 members Walt Lewis (left), Johnnie Bush, Marty Wasco, Mark Webb, Robert Bell and Al Walker man a picket line in Beachwood, Ohio.

hope to see those projects get started soon. Currently our biggest job — the Ed-Med Building, a partnership between the Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University — is a massive project and will begin to ramp up soon. This project will produce hundreds of thousands of man-hours for us and is not due to be completed until spring of 2019.

The Local 38 family Christmas party will be Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Masonic Hall. Doors open at 1 p.m. More details are available on the Local 38 website at www.ibew38.org. Happy holidays to everyone.

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



IBEW Local 40 Executive Board member and EWMCC delegate Juan Rodriguez at ballpark for Dodgers Night event.

Solidarity & Strength

L.U. 40 (em,i&mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA — In 2016 Local 40 held its first Los Angeles Dodgers Night event. It was a great night at the ballpark for members.

2016 also marks the first time IBEW Local 40 and other craft unions (Teamsters, Laborers, Plasters and Plumbers) have hosted a Car Show & Picnic together. This event helped promote voter registration, Helmets to Hardhats, and IBEW RENEW programs as well as NECA LMCC solidarity. It is events like these that strengthen the bonds between the IBEW and the basic crafts while creating the opportunity for our members and families to join together and enjoy one another's company. This brings us all closer together as a union, and in turn helps strengthen our local for future generations to come.

We can all make a difference by the little steps we take in order to implement positive change. Find ways to build up your union and your working conditions. Help your brothers and sisters in leading by example. We all need to show others that our union represents professionalism. We can demonstrate that IBEW members are the most highly trained and educated workers, and that we provide the highest quality of work, by our actions on the job every day. We are stronger together because we stand together.

Marc Flynn, B.M./F.S.

Organizing Success — Positive Growth

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts,st&tm), PORTLAND, OR — Our local is experiencing positive growth and success.

Following the direction of our International leadership, Local 48 has long cultivated a culture inclusive of organizing. That organizing mentality has led to the continued growth of our membership. It permeates throughout our entire membership and has resulted in a positive experience for our new members and new signatory shops. Because of the continued growth and organizing efforts, the Local 48 hall is taking steps, as of this writing, to hire two new organizers.

The local posted these new organizing positions on its website, which resulted in an excellent pool of candidates for additional screening. Lead Organizer Tim Foster told us, "We are looking for candidates with excellent character, knowledge of our industry, a commitment to professionalism, a commitment to our team, and a tolerant temperament to successfully deal with the unique challenges of this job."

Screening has commenced as of this writing and will include work site "ride-a-longs," interviews with the current organizing team, and interviews with Bus. Mgr. Gary Young. Bus. Mgr. Young wants to thank the entire Local 48 membership for maintaining our organizing culture. "We all share in this success, and we are all a part of the reason Local 48 is experiencing this growth and opportunity," Young said.

These really are good labor growing pains!

Bob Blair, P.S.

Newly Remodeled Building

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb,spa&t), DETROIT, MI — After months of construction and the office staff working out of construction site trailers, we are pleased to announce the opening of our newly remodeled office building.

The renovation included a state-of-the-art geothermal HVAC system, 600 solar panels and upgraded LED lighting throughout the entire building. The goal of the remodel is to become Zero Net Energy

efficient. We will now showcase our facility to business leaders of the community as the way of the future, and encourage them to consider the same, as they build and remodel spaces in Detroit. Thanks to all for your patience during this remodel.

The RENEW Committee was challenged by the late Brother Brad Ballard before his passing to build a float for our Annual Labor Day Parade. The RENEW committee accomplished the task very nicely with a float dedicated to "Our Fallen Brothers and Sisters." Thanks to all who helped make our Labor Day event a huge success.

The Benevolent Fund held a fundraising motorcycle Poker Run in September ending with a great party at the Labor Temple in Port Huron. The Benevolent Fund Party on Super Bowl Sunday will be another great time and fundraiser. Tickets are available from any committee member or at the hall. Please join us for a good time.

We sent 12 delegates and 10 alternates to St. Louis for the IBEW International Convention. Our delegation represented us well, and it was a great time to network with other IBEW members and officers.

The work picture remains good, with construction ongoing throughout the jurisdiction. Work safe on the job.

James E. DeLuca, B.R.

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 68 (j), DENVER, CO — Greetings, brothers and sisters. On June 4, Local 68 held its election of officers and also elected delegates to the IBEW 39th International Convention.

Newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Jim Mantele, Pres. Morgan J. Buchanan, Vice Pres. Ben McNew, Treas. John Wolf, Rec. Sec. Kyle Weber; Executive Board members Ben Cobos, Casey Curtin, Robert Delgado, Greg Milligan, Tony Pastore, Deb Tikka, Dave Trujillo; and Examining Board member Ron Trace. Delegates voted to the convention were: Jim Mantele, Ed Ayala, Morgan J. Buchanan, Dan Cathey, Ben McNew, Jeremy Ross and Deb Tikka. Congratulations to all newly elected officers.

For Local 68's annual picnic on Aug. 20, we were blessed with great weather and brotherhood. Attendance was near 700 this year, including more than 200 children. Everyone seemed to have a grand time. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with everything from set-up to clean-up. Without the volunteers, the picnic would not be as enjoyable and successful as it is. Thank you!

DJEATC and Local 68 held a turnout dinner on Sept. 9 for the graduating apprenticeship class of 2016. We welcome 31 new journeyman wiremen and one VDV journeyman to the ranks. Congratulations, graduates!

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased brothers: James G. Ferraro, David S. Erickson, Robert W. Chavez, Edwin D. Fisher, Emerald Nelson, Daniel J. Cram and Dale L. Stollard.

Morgan J. Buchanan, Pres.



Local 68 congratulates the class of 2016 apprenticeship graduates.

LOCAL LINES



IBEW Local 70 members work with union contractor NG Gilbert on Potomac Edison power company site.

Quality Work & Opportunity

L.U. 70 (lctt&o), WASHINGTON, DC — N.G. Gilbert, a signatory union contractor new to our area, is working in Frederick, MD, for the Potomac Edison power company doing maintenance and system upgrades for the electric power utility.

N.G. Gilbert is the first union contractor on the Potomac Edison system in over 25 years. With the help of IBEW Local 70 linemen and apprentices, we believe N.G. Gilbert will be there for many years to come. Local 70 would like to thank Potomac Edison power company for the opportunity to prove that union labor is the best in the country. We also thank the members of Local 70 for working safely and doing an outstanding job for both the power company and our new contractor.

And to all of our Local 70 members, we thank you for all your hard work and commitment to help ensure the continued success of our contractors. With IBEW members' commitment to safety and quality work, we have continued to get the work in our area and keep our members working, as well as bring on many new members that we can train to do the work in the union way. Thank you very much to all!

Jimmy Horton, B.R./P.S.

Local Raises 30K for Hospital

L.U. 102 (em,govt,i,mt,o&ws), PATERSON, NJ — July 23 saw temperatures rise into the high 90s but that didn't keep our brothers and sisters away from our biggest fund-raising event of the year. Our 3rd Annual Bike Rally & Cruise was a huge success as once again we raised over \$30,000 for charity. This year's recipient was Children's Specialized Hospital. Past recipients include Goryeb Children's Hospital and The Seeing Eye.

Fred Sisco and Nick DelleCava donated their time performing live music while the bikes and classic cars

began arriving that morning. The ride started at Local 102 as area police personnel escorted the group on an uninterrupted ride through some of the most scenic parts of New Jersey. A barbecue, ice cream and a D.J. were set up and ready for the returning riders as the ride concluded back at our union hall in Parsippany.

We thank all of our brothers and sisters who volunteered that day. A special thank-you goes out to our sponsors and the police department. Without these groups our ride would not be the success that it is. Local 102 is proud to continue an IBEW tradition of giving back to the communities we serve. Great job, brothers and sisters!

Bernie Corrigan, Pres.



Local 102 members exchange greetings before July fund-raising ride.

Red Cross Blood Drive

L.U. 110 (em,i,rts,spa&u), ST. PAUL, MN — The brothers and sisters of Local 110 had their third Red Cross Blood Drive of 2016 on Sept. 28. We were very pleased with the drive, and the willingness of the donors to share this lifesaving gift. Our members' efforts are greatly appreciated and will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives. With the 54 units we collected, we could touch 162 lives. A special thanks to all our donors and our three helpers.

Jon "Jack" Buchal, Asst. P.S.

Volunteers Mobilized

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL — At this writing, prior to the November 2016 election, our members were out in force to turn out the vote.

Local 134 mobilized hundreds of volunteers going door to door to well over 1,000 households, phone banking, registering voters, promoting early voting and sending blast emails with the goal of supporting and getting out the vote for labor-friendly candidates at the local, state and national level.

In other news, we had a good presence at the 39th IBEW International Convention in St. Louis. The

accompanying photo (below) shows our contingent at the Eternal Flame at the Henry Miller Museum newly opened in St. Louis. Also, retired member, Vietnam veteran and Hines VA Hospital volunteer Pat Stack spearheaded a coalition of various veteran groups and organizations in purchasing aquariums for the hospice section at the hospital.

We have finalized the sale of our "home" for the last 62 years. Due to all the new construction occurring in the neighborhood and the lack of parking for our membership, it was time for a move. Our new union hall will be at 2722 S. Martin Luther King Drive. The building needs upgrades and will be ready for us by autumn of next year.

On behalf of the entire Local 134 membership, Bus. Mgr. Don Finn extends his best holiday wishes to everyone in the IBEW.

Frank Cunningham, R.S.



Local 134 delegation and guests stand beside Eternal Flame at Henry Miller museum.

Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — The following are the 2016 graduates of our apprenticeship program. Inside journeyman wiremen: Tom Doe, Kevin Donais, Todd Ellis, Brandon Fernandez, Grant Gates, Christopher Gonzales, Richard Stanley and Jason Wood.

The Robert C. Hansen Award (highest GPA for the 2015-2016 school year) was awarded to Jason Wood and he received his tuition costs for the past school year back. The Outstanding Apprentice Award (highest overall GPA for all five years) was also awarded to Jason Wood and he received an IBEW watch, a Klein tool bag with a full set of tools, an Ideal tool bag and full set of tools, and a Milwaukee cordless drill set.

Second highest GPA went to Kevin Donais. Third highest GPA went to Chris Gonzales. All graduates received a nylon Klein carrying shoulder bag from Klein Tools.

There was no perfect attendance award given this time. We wish all these young men a long and profitable career in the IBEW. Best wishes to all!

This past year we lost the following retired members: Jack Benson, Forrest Rose, Paul Hertel, Raoul Geary Sr., Dennis Lackey, Ed Elfering, Joe Steber, Bill Roy Sr., and Eddie Ellis. Thanks to them and Godspeed.

Don't just take; GIVE to your local union. In solidarity.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

'Exciting Year of Progress'

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ — Local 164 had a productive year filled with progress and some exciting events.

In June, our local held its election of officers for the upcoming term. Congratulations to the officers elected and to all those who stepped up to run.

Also, in May, our president, Tom Sullivan, was honored to receive the 2016 Labor Leader of the Year

Award presented by the United Labor Agency. Tom received this great honor in recognition for all his hard work in advancing the cause of union labor. Congratulations, Tom, and thank you.

As we near the end of the year, Bus. Mgr. Dan Gumble, Pres. Tom Sullivan, the officers and staff of Local 164 would like to thank our members for all their hard work throughout this year and to wish you and your families a merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a safe, healthful and prosperous new year.

We anticipate and look forward to the continuing rebound of our work picture, continuing our progress, and another exciting year in 2017.

Warren Becker, V.P.

Career of IBEW Service

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL — Hello, brothers and sisters. The work picture in Local 222 has been a little north of steady; we have our local members working and quite a few travelers as well. By the time this makes print it will be December and we may have a few more travelers down here getting out of the snow.

As I write this, Local 222's delegates have just returned from the IBEW 39th International Convention. At the convention, our then-business manager, Mike Bell, had the privilege of chairing the IBEW Fifth District caucus and nominating longtime friend and Fourth District International Executive Council member William W. "Bill" Riley.

The other big news for October was that after 42 years in the IBEW and 27 years as Local 222's business manager, James M. "Mike" Bell has retired, effective Oct. 1, 2016. IBEW Local 222 was chartered in November of 1989 and since that time has been under the leadership of Mike Bell. With that leadership we have grown tremendously and our future looks bright. We all wish Mike a happy and well-deserved retirement.



Local 222 recently retired business manager Mike Bell.

William "Bill" Hitt, B.M.



Local 226 retired members Donald L. Mathe (left) and Gerald E. Robinson (right) receive their 65-year service pins. Not pictured: 65-year pin recipient Lynn E. Carlin.

65-Year Service Awards

L.U. 226 (em,i,rtb,rts&spa), TOPEKA, KS — Local 226 awarded IBEW years-of-service pins at the 2016 dinner dance in April. Congratulations to all of the award recipients.

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The membership would like to send a special thank-you to three retirees recognized for their 65 years of service: Bros. Donald L. Mathe, Gerald E. Robinson and Lynn E. Carlin.

Robert Bausch, Mbr. Dev.

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA — Our local is proud to report that at our July 13 general membership meeting, our newly elected officers were sworn in to office by our former business manager, James “Ray” Nichols.

Congratulations to our Local 234 officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Andy Hartmann, Pres. Dennis “Mike” Ihnot, Vice Pres. Al Randall, Rec. Sec. Stephen Slovacek, Treas. Nick Prelgovisk; and Executive Board members Andy Gattis, Rick Keaton, Stefan Marceron and Gale Michalek.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.



Local 234 officers, from left, front row, Mike Ihnot, Nick Prelgovisk, Al Randall; back row (partially obscured), Gale Michalek, Andy Gattis, Rick Keaton and Stefan Marceron. Not pictured: Andy Hartmann and Stephen Slovacek.

Election of Officers; Class of 2016 & RENEW

L.U. 246 (ees,i,rts&spa), STEUBENVILLE, OH — We would like to announce the class of 2016 apprenticeship graduates, our newest journeymen: Kevan Brown, Brian Dobbs, Drew Ferguson, Jordon Jones, Cody Lucarelli, Clayton McDaniel, Shane Parker, Brandon Scott, William Smith, Brandon Sowers, Richard Stanley, Tyler Tenley and Duren Thornton. Congratulations, gentlemen!

It’s up to you guys to uphold the traditions of Local 246 and teach apprentices the trade and the brotherhood of this great local.

We also wish to announce our newly elected officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Kyle Brown, Pres. Frank Redmond, Vice Pres. Ryan Omaitis, Treas. Robert Biacco, Rec. Sec. Eric Nutter; Executive Board members John Clouston, John Fenske, David Pietro, Greg Serefini, James Truax; and Examining Board members Sam Bailey and Brian Zorne. Elected alternate to IBEW Convention: Frank Redmond.



IBEW Local 254 electricians gather in preparation for Calgary Stampede 2016.

Congratulations to the all of the officers, both new and re-elected, sworn in at the July union meeting. We thank the outgoing officers, who served our local with pride. Also, thanks to all of the members who put their name on the ballot, and those who voted.

Our local RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) group has been busy volunteering for various local nonprofit groups. Last year we raised over \$5,000 for the local Urban Mission with a charity car show. Our most recent effort was to assist a local church/community center changing over to LED lighting. Great job, RENEW!

Eric Nutter, R.S.

Calgary Stampede 2016

L.U. 254 (ees,em,mo,o,rts&u), CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA — You may not know where Calgary is geographically, but anyone hearing the name associates the city with the Calgary Stampede. The annual 10-day festival takes place every July.

On June 20, 2013, southern Alberta suffered one of the worst natural disasters in Canadian history, wreaking havoc in Calgary’s downtown core and leaving much of Stampede Park under water. That year with less than two weeks before Stampede 101, the highly skilled IBEW electricians employed by the Stampede Board, proud members of Local 254, rose to the challenge that the “Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth” would go on “hell or high water.” They truly define the IBEW Code of Excellence. The accompanying picture (at bottom, left) portrays a much more relaxed and stress-free group of Local 254 electricians assembled for Stampede 2016.

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

Officers Elected; 2016 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 266 (u), PHOENIX, AZ — Congratulations to our apprenticeship graduates of 2016. [Photo at top, right.] The graduates include: 10 linemen, five electricians, two cable splicers, two construction & maintenance men, one metal fabricator, and five relay technicians.

We also congratulate our newly elected officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Jerry Long, Pres. Tom Olivas, Vice Pres. Tom Clifford, Treas. Carmela Lamadore, Rec. Sec. Katrina Trevillyan; and Executive Board members Tony Bane, Byron Begay, Greg Bronson, Randall Carroll, Josef Fencel, Ray Powell and Anastacia Williams.

At Coronado Generating Station elected were: Chmn. Robert Wood, Vice Chmn. Steve Vital, and Unit Recorder Chris York.

At Navajo Generating Station elected were: Chmn. Andrew Beatty, Vice Chm. Harold Brockie, and Unit Recorder Darlene Dodson.

We also congratulate and welcome newly appointed Asst. Bus. Mgrs. Chris Miller and Chris Galloway.

We are excited for all of our newly elected officers, and we are confident they will do a great job and make our local stronger!

Jerry Long, B.M.



Local 266 congratulates class of 2016 apprenticeship graduates.

Officer Transitions & 2016 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 270 (i&o), OAK RIDGE, TN — Congratulations to our 2016 apprenticeship graduates! [Photo at bottom, right.] Their five years of hard work has paid off!

The recent graduates are: Scott Bolden, Brandon Cardwell, Elijah Cook, Jordan Hamby, Calaeb Headrick, Andrew Howard, Nicholas Morton, Curtis Norman, Michael Peterson (outstanding apprentice of the year), Chris Raby, Michael Taylor and Kevin Webster.

IBEW 270 has lots of changes to report. Bro. Ray Day, who served as Local 270 business manager since 1998, retired on July 1 this year. We wish him and his wife, Linda, a well-deserved, long and happy retirement. We thank Bro. Day for his hard work and dedication in building for the future of our great Brotherhood.

Bro. Don Russell, former president, was appointed as Local 270’s new business manager. Bro. Robert Williams, former vice-president, was appointed as local union president; and Bro. Rex Ruppe was appointed as our new vice-president.

The Oak Ridge training alliance now has a new training director in place, Bro. Daniel Smith. We have great faith that Training Dir. Smith will keep us on track to upholding our high standards of graduating top-notch wiremen and continued training for our journeyman wiremen.

Local 270 is excited about our future with these new officers in place and work slowly appearing on the horizon. We send our best thoughts throughout the Brotherhood.

Regina Guy, P.S.



Local 292 JATC Student Council, from left: fourth-year apprentice Cody Harland, council vice president; fifth-year apprentice Amanda Olson, council president; first-year apprentice Ryan Dehmer, sergeant-at-arms; third-year apprentice Harrison Cotton, secretary; and second-year apprentice Alex Donabauer, historian/treasurer.



At Local 270 apprenticeship graduation. Standing: graduates Elijah Cook (left), Scott Bolden, Curtis Norman, Calaeb Headrick, Michael Peterson, Andrew Howard, Brandon Cardwell, Chris Raby, Jordan Hamby, Kevin Webster, Nicholas Morton. Not pictured: graduate Michael Taylor. Seated: Training Dir. Daniel Smith (left) and Training Dir. Emeritus A.J. Pearson.

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son, to include prizes for competitions in electrical completion games.

A suggestion box has been installed at the school's front desk and can be used by students, staff and journeymen alike for suggestions and ideas that can improve our school and program.

Our future is in good hands with leaders like this taking the initiative and stepping up to keep our Brotherhood strong as ever.

Eric Peterson, B.R.

Community Volunteers

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT — Congratulations and thanks to Local 300 members who volunteer their time to make meals for families at the Ronald McDonald House in Burlington, VT. Families who have relatives in nearby hospitals can stay at the R.M. House when traveling is a hardship on the family. Local 300 continues to seek venues for community and member involvement.

Negotiations with Asplundh Tree continue to progress at the time of this writing, and we anxiously wait for the signing of the first agreement. Keep the faith and keep your chin up.

Anyone ever wonder why we in the IBEW continue to call ourselves the “power professionals”? With the significant emphasis on organizing labor groups from all walks of life, wouldn't it be appropriate to broaden how non-IBEW, or non-organized groups perceive who we are, what we are, and the impact we have on both members and non-members? We represent more than just the electrical industry. Local unions are rethinking what they do, how they do it and most important — why. Non-organized workers want a voice, and we (IBEW) are that voice. Organizing outreach is a continual journey.

Local 300 wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season. See you in the new year 2017. Cheers!

Jeffrey C. Wimette, B.M./F.S.



IBEW Local 300 members volunteer at R.M. House in support of out-of-town families who have a relative hospitalized in the area.

Tour of National Park Site — ‘Rosie the Riveter’ Honoree

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA — On Sept. 8, Local 302's Retires Club visited the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, CA.

Retirees Club Vice Pres. Steve Roberti (retired Central Labor Council Secretary and council liaison to U.S. Dept. of Labor, Region IX) called upon a friend and former colleague, docent Deanne Amaden (retired regional director of public affairs, Dept. of Labor, San Francisco, CA) to lead the Visitor Center tour.

Evelyn McClelland, age 91, who had worked at the shipyard as a young woman, was honored on the

day of the tour. Evelyn is the widow of Dick McClelland, the mother of Don McClelland and the grandmother of Mark Gaede, all from Local 302. Deanne Amaden presented Evelyn with a special surprise — a replica “Rosie the Riveter” pin that workers used to “brass in.”

Evelyn welded at Kaiser Shipyard #2, assigned to the Liberty ships' double bottoms. Being small in stature, she crawled through with her line, hood and rods to the mastheads, often performing welding work while hanging upside down. “All in all, it was quite an experience,” Evelyn said.

A “tip of the hard hat” to all who served. Rosie the Riveter Trust Exec. Dir. Marsha Mather-Thrift also met with Evelyn and the Local 302 Retirees Club tour, which included three former Local 302 business managers: Mike Yarbrough, Herschel Barton and John Hunter, also a retired Ninth District rep. For more information about the Rosie the Riveter Trust and national park, visit website www.RosietheRiveter.org.

Tom Hansen, B.M.



Local 302 retirees toured Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. At far left is special honoree Evelyn McClelland.

39th International Convention

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — This is my first article since being elected to office in June. The last six months I have been getting a crash course in “Business Manager 101” and enjoying the heck out of it. I have learned so much in such a short period of time; the members have welcomed me with open arms and that, along with the help I receive from my phenomenal staff and our I.O. representatives, is keeping me very enthused for the future of Local 340.

In September I attended the IBEW 39th International Convention along with Local 340's president and delegates. A huge amount of business was taken care of at this event, and it confirmed for me the fact that the IBEW is highly efficient with respect to the laws and resolutions governing all IBEW offices. At the convention, the Law Committee and the Resolutions Committee present laws and resolutions for consideration, and delegates take action to pass, or not pass, the measures.

Thanks to IBEW Local 1 in St. Louis for sponsor-



At IBEW 39th International Convention, from left: Local 340 RENEW member Zackery Collins, Pres. Mark Steelman, delegate Matt Meredith, Bus. Mgr. Bob Ward, and delegates Tim Wyatt, Sean McDermott and Ray Hughes.



Local 400 members helped load military vehicles with donations contributed.

ing, from what I experienced, one of the finest conventions in IBEW history (and it was full of IBEW History).

Rest in peace, Bros. Donald Cunningham, Walter Duerling, Richard Evans, James Farrell, Wayne Gerrard, August Goehring, Daryl Hughart and Igor Kurmayev.

Bob Ward, B.M.

Military Appreciation Night

L.U. 400 (es,i&o), ASBURY PARK, NJ — The annual Lakewood BlueClaws' military appreciation night took place on June 16. The BlueClaws are a minor league baseball team based in Lakewood Township, NJ. The Local 400 Military Committee accepted donations from the membership leading up to the event, and at the gates to the baseball field before the game began. The membership gathered to greet attendees and help load military vehicles with all donations. We thank our many members who were there to show our support for the military in this great event. [Photo at top, right.]

The Local 400 annual picnic was held Aug. 6. Families and friends gathered and the brotherhood of the local showed strong. The Wellness Committee had a scavenger hunt for prizes and the day was filled with great activities and food for all.

We look forward to seeing our members and families at our breakfast with Santa and the holiday meeting in December. Bus. Mgr. Guy Peterson would like to thank the entire membership for its hard work in 2016. Have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Raven Morris, P.S.

NW Redwater Refinery Project; Aftermath of May 2016 Wildfire

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA — In August, Local 424 members elected John White as our new business manager, Paul Cherry as president, Wade Ashton as treasurer, James Hawreliak as recording secretary, Liam McEvoy as Unit 1 chairman, Mike Kennedy as Unit 2 chairman, Stephen Blum as Unit 3 chairman, and Jim Round as Unit 4 chairman.

As Canada's economy faces the lowest oil prices in years, it is good to know that IBEW Local 424 members can find employment at the North West Redwater refinery. Situated northeast of Edmonton, the North West Redwater Sturgeon Refinery project is the first new refinery to be built in Alberta in 30 years. The ultra-low-sulfur diesel producing refinery will process western Canadian heavy oil into diesel. It presently employs around 2,000 of our members, with a projected completion date of September 2017. The refinery has the potential for 10 years of employment once the provincial government approves the second and third phases for construction.

Local 424 members continue to be affected by the major wildfire of May 2016.

On May 1, a wildfire began southwest of Fort McMurray, Alberta, home to 90,000 residents. The fire swept through the community destroying approximately 2,400 homes. During the evacuation, more than 400 members and their families had to rapidly leave the city, some with little more than the clothes on their back. Most were evacuated to Edmonton and other areas for the next five weeks as firefighters fought the wildfire, remembered as “The Beast.”

Members were allowed to begin returning to their homes during June. More than 20 members lost their homes, and many others' homes had extensive damage. Many had to take up temporary residence elsewhere, while waiting for insurance claims to be settled for rebuilding.

Local 424 thanks everyone who made donations to the Red Cross to help those affected by the disaster.

Rebuilding will be a long process, but the city and our members remain optimistic that they will get back to their normal lives once again.

Scott Crichton, P.S.

‘True Brotherhood’ — Assistance for Families

L.U. 446 (i), MONROE, LA — IBEW Local 446 would like to give honorable mention to a very special and outstanding member. Julian “Ronnie” Fontana of Monroe, LA, has gone above and beyond in demonstrating what the real meaning and purpose of a brotherhood is!

This year he coordinated and funded two raffle drawings, for rifles both times, to help and aid the mem-

bers' families in their time of need. In excess of \$6,000 total raised could be possible by the time the year ends!

Bro. Fontana retired in December of 2015, after 42 years of service with the IBEW. He enjoys his days being retired. If he isn't spending time with his wife, then you may find him on his Harley ... or even at the Local 446 hall sharing some of his great stories about his time in the field. Thank you, Bro. Fontana, from all of us, for all that you do!

Ken Green, B.M./F.S.



Local 446 retired member Julian "Ronnie" Fontana.

IBEW Volunteers Step Up In Wake of June 2016 Flood

L.U. 466 (em,es,i&rts), CHARLESTON, WV — Once more the hills of West Virginia weep for the loss of 23 souls in the flood of June 2016. We have several members who lost everything. Special thanks go out to all those wonderful people who have helped/volunteered in this time of need. We thank our contractors and members volunteering their time and material. If you wish to volunteer in any manner on the flood cleanup effort, please contact Local 466.

Congratulations to our newly elected Local 466 officers. There was only one member nominated to each office, so the officers were elected by acclamation. A historical moment for Local 466.

Congratulations to our Local 466 officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joe Samples, Pres. Terry Turley, Treas. Michael Anderson, Rec. Sec. Chris Samples; and Executive Board members John Epperly, Dustin Vaughan, Gabe Dery, George Ross Jr. and Donald Carrico.

Please make an effort to attend union meetings to support solidarity and brotherhood. A reminder that the Retiree Luncheon is held the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. The Retiree Breakfast is the third Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at Suzi's Restaurant in south Charleston.

Larry Fogarty, P.S.

IBEW Members' Donation For Milwaukee County K-9 Unit

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rt,spa&t), MILWAUKEE, WI — IBEW Local 494 held an event for the membership earlier this year at which attendees included visitors from the Milwaukee County, House of Corrections, K-9 Units.

The law enforcement officers demonstrated how the highly trained canines they are partnered with them help them perform their daily duties. This was a big hit for all members and their families.

After talking with one of the officers about their special K-9 dogs, we learned that one of the youngest dogs, Huck, was in need of a protective vest.

At our general membership meeting, a motion was made to purchase this much-needed piece of equipment for the K-9 Unit; the motion was overwhelmingly approved.

Again, Local 494 has stepped up to help our community be a safer place to live and work. Thank

you, members of IBEW Local 494, for all you do for your neighbors.

Kurt Jante, B.R.



K-9 Unit dog wears protective vest purchased by Local 494 membership.

Championship Trophy

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — On April 22-23, Local 530 competed in the annual OPC hockey tournament held this year in Ann Arbor, MI. Once again our team brought home the championship trophy. Thank you very much to Ann Arbor for hosting this event and showing all participating locals a great time.

Again this year, Mother's Day weekend saw Local 530 members busy selling carnations to raise money for multiple sclerosis research. Bro. Darren Vail organized the event again this year and a total of \$2,281 was raised. Thanks to all members who helped out.

On June 10, Local 530 held its election of officers. Over 83 percent of members came to cast their ballots. Congratulations to elected officers and thank you to all who participated.

Local 530 is saddened by the recent passing of Bros. Adam Dolmage, Bob Smith and Jake DeJong.

Al Byers, P.S.

'Brotherhood & Community'

L.U. 540 (i), CANTON, OH — Greetings, brothers and sisters. It has been a busy year in Canton. As work ramps up on various projects, we still find the time to find brotherhood with each other and in the community.

On June 11, Bros. Corey Colaner, Hunter Williams, Heath Williams and Matt Wetter took home first place in our annual golf outing. And on Sept. 17, we had our second annual Scotch Doubles Bowling Tournament.

During the summer, we were well-represented in the grand parade for the Canton NFL Hall of Fame inductions, the Alliance Carnation Parade, and the Louisville Constitution Parade. The official IBEW Local 540 float was designed and built by Local 540 members, spearheaded by Bro. Greg Surbey. Our local's float won grand prize at the Canton NFL Hall of Fame parade, grand marshal at the Alliance Carnation Parade, and second place at the Louisville Constitution Parade.

Congratulations go to all the recently elected



Local 558 apprenticeship wireman graduates of 2016.

Local 540 officers, both those who were re-elected and those elected to a first term. The local union election of officers took place in June 2016.

We were saddened by the passing of several retired members during the first three quarters of 2016: Bros. Carl Knop Jr., Harold Masters, Harold Fockler and Charles Chapman. Our deepest sympathies go out to their families.

Daniel McMahan, P.S.



IBEW Local 540's prize-winning float was a highlight at three summer 2016 community parades.

Graduating Class of 2016

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL — On May 19, we held our Annual Apprenticeship Banquet recognizing the class of 2016. We are proud of the graduates' accomplishments and dedication, and look forward to their part in shaping our future. This class had 25 wiremen and two linemen. The Apprentice of the Year for the wiremen was Bro. Jesse Shedd, and for the linemen, Bro. Jared Behel.

Local 558 was fortunate to participate in the Shoals Central Labor Council's annual Labor Day events again this year. This is reportedly the nation's longest running Labor Day event, having taken place

for 94 years. Our local union won first place in the float division and was the top contributor for this event.

We were excited to participate in and be a sponsor for the Union Sportmen's Alliance second annual Alabama State Conservation Dinner on Sept. 29 in Trussville, AL.

Thank you to all who participated and represented Local 558 at the dinner.

We celebrated our 7th Annual Local 558 Picnic

on Oct. 1 at Spring Park in Tusculumbia. All enjoyed delicious BBQ and ribs, prizes, music and comradery among brothers, sisters, friends and families. Cook-off winners: 1st place ribs — Fluffy Crosswhite; 2nd place ribs — Toby Hargett, 1st place BBQ — Fluffy Crosswhite, 2nd place BBQ — Toby Hargett, and Overall Winner — Fluffy Crosswhite.

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

'Welcome & Congratulations'

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ — Local 570 would like to welcome the new first-year apprenticeship class (photo, below) and congratulate newly elected Local 570 officers.

Newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Chuck Grube, Pres. Scott Toot, Vice Pres. Jose Sierra, Treas. Clinton Ponder-Gilby, Rec. Sec. Alan Brizee; Executive Board members Chris Brevick, Jimmy Ciardulli, Mike Pugh, Jim Redzinak, Pete Richey; and Examining Board members Ted Bolding, Clayton Fitzgerald, Jeff Graves, Patrick McKnight and Chris Salazar.

Thank you to all the members who helped this



Local 570 first-year apprenticeship class, joined by other members, assembles for group photo at swearing in of the apprentices.

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year at the Labor Day event. Big congratulations to the members for bringing home the Union Olympics Trophy again this year.

Local 570 is preparing for upcoming work by offering: steward training, new officer training, NFPA 70E, OSHA 10, MSHA, First Aid/CPR training and more.

Scott W. Toot, Pres.



IBEW 60-Year Service Award

Chillicothe, Ohio, Local 578 retired Bro. Harry Matheny (left) receives his IBEW 60-year service pin presented by Bus. Mgr. Clint Stollar.

Solidarity & Brotherhood

L.U. 602 (i,o&u), AMARILLO, TX — Local 602 is rebuilding and growing. Our main focus in recent years has been to strengthen and rebuild the passion and the spirit of brotherhood within our union, holding our heads high as union members.

We are returning to and building on what makes us strong, representing our members to the best of our ability, organizing, strengthening solidarity, and increasing awareness that the union has its members' backs and that an active membership is vital.

We are working with our NECA counterparts to put our members to work and keep them there. We are finding and cultivating Site Specific Agreements to put our CE/CWs to work.

We regularly visit with our apprentice classes to build enthusiasm among younger members for union brotherhood. We write quarterly newsletters, and we learn from and work with our IBEW international representatives. We realize the only way to build a union is to be diligent each and every day, to be proactive not reactive, to take the bull by the horns mentality.

Our staff, our stewards and our members work to build lines of communication to keep the membership informed of daily events in all our bargaining units. We all know that any local is only as strong as its members and its leadership's ability to lead through example. The goal is build every day!

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



Then-Local 606 business manager Bob Carr at satellite office grand opening.

'Carrying On a Legacy'

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL — It is with heartfelt sadness that we report the death of Bro. Robert "Bob" Carr. Bob was a 38-year member and, until recently, our business manager.

Bob was first elected business manager in 2010 during the Great Recession. Our work picture was bleak, there were over 100 members on Book 1, and our general fund was losing money monthly. Bob faced these challenges with the same positive determination he showed throughout his career as a journeyman wireman, general foreman, and project manager. When he took office, he made some tough decisions that were necessary to put our members back to work and regain market share we had lost to the nonunion sector. By the end of his first term, Local 606 had full employment, and our general fund was healthy and solvent. Subsequently, Bob suffered some medical issues and stepped down at the end of his second term. By that time the local was achieving unprecedented success in securing work, our general fund had doubled, and organizing was at an all-time high.

Bro. Carr died suddenly on Sept. 22 while attending the IBEW 39th International Convention in St. Louis. He was doing what he loved best, representing Local 606 and advancing the purposes of the IBEW.

We are so proud that Bob got to oversee the grand opening of the new satellite office on the eastern edge of the jurisdiction. This is an area where we previously had almost no work, but under Bob's leadership our members had worked over 250,000 man-hours in the past three years, with that many more hours projected over the next three years.

At this writing, a Blitz/Industry Night is taking place, and I can think of no better way to honor Bob than to carry on his legacy by organizing new members into the IBEW.

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

Lighting for Historic Cabin

L.U. 648 (em,i,spa&u), HAMILTON, OH — Local 648 members took time out of their busy days to install landscape lighting around Hamilton's most historic cabin, located in Monument Park along the Great Miami River. The two-story house, described as Hamilton's oldest known structure and a link to its pioneer roots, features two large chimneys, a stone foundation, log walls chinked with cement and a gabled roof. Axe marks are still visible on the wood from when the cabin was hewn.

Local 648 volunteers did all the outside landscape lighting at the cabin, and also provided concealed electric on the inside, hanging fixtures that resemble frontier-era lanterns.

Editor's Note: To read more about the renovated historic cabin, which was unveiled to the public in May 2016, see Journal-News article online at: www.journal-news.com/news/news/local/renovated-historic-cabin-will-be-unveiled-saturday/nrWMz

Kudos to all our IBEW members who volunteered for the community service project.

Matthew Von Stein, Pres./Mbr. Dev.



IBEW members who assisted with Local 648 lighting project at historic cabin included: journeyman wireman Marc Arminioi (left), retiree Dick Von Stein, Int. Rep. Donald Vidourek, journeyman wireman Bobby Angst and Pres./Organizer Matt Von Stein.

Officers of Local 692

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI — We would like to thank the following outgoing officers for their service to our local: former president Paul Protasiewicz, vice president Rich Rytlewski, business manager Jack Tobias; former Examining Board members Dave Fales, Paul Peil and Derek Simms; and former Executive Board members Brendon Baranek, Brian Brissette, Craig McDonell, Pat Nitschky and Tim Rupp.

We wish to congratulate the incoming officers for the term for 2016–2019. The new officers are: Bus. Mgr. Travis Brady, Pres. Pat Nitschky, Vice Pres. Craig McDonell; Examining Board members Todd Aultman, Travis Aultman, Dave Doran, Jamie Jarrard,

Art Vosine; and Executive Board members Chris Burgett, Brain Klele, Derek Simms, Mike Faunce, Nick Tobolski and Al Vogel.

We are sad to report the passing of three retired members: Bro. Patrick A. Kerr, Bro. Doyce E. Moe and Bro. Albert J. Stender. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2017!

Tammy Gottleber, P.S.

Solidarity Drawing a Success

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORD, IL — Our 5th Solidarity Drawing was a huge success as we gave away \$45,000 while netting almost \$55,000 for members in need and promotion of the local. Winners were: Brent Sizemore (\$25,000); Dr. Rick Blaich (\$10,000); Kyle Rogers (\$5,000); and Charles Folden, David Pierce, Dwain Vaupel, John Winters and Robin Holloway (\$1,000 each).

The local's softball team won the Upper Division of the 45th Annual IBEW Midwest Softball Tournament in Cleveland, OH, and also captured their first Illinois ASA State Tournament, Men's Class "D" SP title. For the fourth year in a row, Local 702 won the Union vs. Union Tug of War event at the annual Southeast Missouri (SEMO) Labor Picnic.

We are proud of member Jared Kelley, journeyman line-man, for being one of 12 volunteers from Missouri and Oklahoma who spent two weeks in August hooking up electricity to homes for the first time in Bolivia.

Member Bobby Dicken from Poplar Bluff, MO, did an outstanding job at the opening of the IBEW 39th International Convention in St. Louis, MO, with his musical performance of the "Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America."

As of this writing, our referral books are as follows: Inside Construction – 95, Outside Construction – 11, and Line Clearance – 4.

Mark Baker, B.R./P.S.

Apprentice Graduates; Tribute to Lives of Service

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA — On June 28, Local 704 honored the 2016 fifth-year apprenticeship graduates at a dinner and presentation. The new apprenticeship graduates are: Bros. Matt Lynch, Matt Steffen, Alex Willenbring, Brian Pregler and Kyle Blaser. Along with other Local 704 journeymen, I would like to congratulate them on completion of the apprenticeship program. Their dedication and professional commitment to this educational process will lead them to a rewarding career in the electrical industry.

Local 704 extends our condolences to the family and friends of two of our long-term members who recently passed away. Bro. Keith Lewin passed away on July 28, 2016. Bro. Lewin was initiated into Local 704 on Oct. 1, 1968, and was a loyal member for nearly 48 years.

Bro. Louis "Bill" McGovern passed away on Sept. 23, 2016. Bro. McGovern was a World War II U.S. Navy veteran. He was initiated into the IBEW on Aug. 1, 1949. Bill was a very loyal Local 704 member for 67 years. I personally had the privilege of working



Local 602 members attend Sept. 14 union meeting in Amarillo, TX.



Local 704 Apprenticeship Training Dir. Owen Leeser (left) congratulates new apprenticeship graduates Matt Lynch, Matt Steffen, Alex Willenbring, Brian Pregler and Kyle Blaser.

with both of these gentlemen. It was an honor to work with them and learn from them.

At the time of this October writing, we are entering the fall season with a steady work outlook.

Ron Heitzman, P.S.



At the Local 760 Membership Appreciation Day picnic.

Membership Appreciation Day

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN — Local 760 held its second annual Membership Appreciation Day in August at the IBEW training center. Bus. Mgr. Tim Tate and Pres. Lonnie Hundley wish to thank the picnic committee and all the members for contributing their time and effort to make this event the huge success that it was. The burgers and hot dogs were grilled, the kids enjoyed the dunking booth and the bounce houses, and there were plenty of giveaways at the festival.

A special thank-you goes out to office manager Janice Davis as we wish her a happy retirement. Thank you, Janice, for over 40 years of loyal service to the IBEW and Local 760. You will be missed, Janice, but you will always be part of the brotherhood.

Always remember: "It is only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things." — Theodore Roosevelt.

Jason Leary, Organizer

2016 Annual Picnic

L.U. 968 (catv,i,mt,o,rts,spa&t), PARKERSBURG, WV — IBEW Local 968 held its annual picnic Sept. 10 at the Shriners. Boy Scout Troup 129 and their leader Allen Lloyd, a Local 968 member, and wife Denise did an excellent job with the kids games. Members were entertained by the Sour Mash String Band. Winners of the Corn Hole Tournament were members Mark Holbert and Tim Richards. Special thank-you to Bros. Steve Wigal, Keith Lehew and Clayton "Tater" Griffin for bringing out their cars.

Shown in the group picture (at right) are Local 968 retired members in attendance at the 2016 pic-

nic. They included: front row, kneeling, Butch Wittman, Keith Lehew, Bob Patton, Jack Blue; middle row, Gerald Holbert, Bob Lockhart, Ted Weaver, Max Rebholz, Clerven Parsons, Bob Parker, Bill Smith; and back row, John Ash, "Tater" Griffin, Jess Blair, Greg Parsons and John Sarver.

At the picnic, Bob Patton received his 55-year service award, and John Sarver received his 50-year service award.

With regret we report the passing of retirees Ed Crooks, Don Coutu, Carless Phillips and John Trimble. Bro. Dave Dotson also passed away after a brief illness. Our brothers

will be remembered. We extend our condolences to their families.

Lynford C. Lovell, B.M.

Annual Scholarship Award

L.U. 1066 (u), DAYTONA BEACH, FL — Members of Local 1066 would like to congratulate Sadie Tolbert, daughter of Bro. Randy Tolbert, on winning the annual Local 1066 scholarship award this year. The award was started in 2008, and each year the children or grandchildren of Local 1066 active and retired members are eligible to compete for the award.

We also wish to congratulate and honor members Kirk Martin and Keith Davis for their service to the IBEW throughout their careers. These gentlemen

have decided to retire, and they will be missed. We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Mario Menir, B.M./Pres.



Local 1066 scholarship award recipient Sadie Tolbert with her father, Randy Tolbert, a longtime IBEW member.

Transitions & Organizing

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ — We have had some leadership changes at the local level. First, we want to say goodbye to J.D. Perez. J.D. was the local's unit chairman for Trico Electric Co-Op and he has moved on to new adventures. We all wish him the very best. Replacing J.D. is Chris Neely, who will no doubt continue to represent the TRICO membership as well as J.D. did. Sarita Morales was selected to fill the position of business representative, replacing Danell Carter. Sharon Williams was chosen to fill Danell's administration seat on the Executive Board.

Organizing is our key focus this year, and we encourage all of our members to talk to their co-workers about joining the IBEW. If you are interested in helping on the Volunteer Organizing Committee, please contact Sarita at the union hall.

Remember, regular unit meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. We invite the members from Trico and Asplundh to join us! Springerville's meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

We wish all of our members and their families a

happy holiday and a safe and prosperous new year.

Sharon Williams, P.S.

Annual Fall Gathering

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH — Local 1466 would like to thank all of our members and families who attended our Annual Fall Gathering on Saturday, Sept. 24. This event seems to grow in both popularity and attendance each year, and 2016 was no exception! All who attended seemed to enjoy both the festivities and getting to kick back and relax outside of work. We would also like to recognize Executive Board Chmn. Jason Wright and the E-Board members for planning, setting up, and making sure the event went off without a hitch. Our Fall Gathering would not be the success that it has been the last few years without their hard work.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you to everyone for helping to make 2016 a good year!

Jimi Jette, P.S.



Some of the Local 2034 members who assisted with a successful rescue at Grand Rapids Bridge: from left, fire fighters Calvin Pelly, Wayne Decosse, Doug Stockham (fire chief), Andrew Halliday and Roland Mousseau (captain).

IBEW Members Provide ERC Assistance to Save a Life

L.U. 2034 (o&u), WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA — On Aug. 24, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) called the IBEW Local 2034 staff working at the Grand Rapids Generating Station in northern Manitoba requesting help with an attempted suicide on the Grand Rapids Bridge. The station's Emergency Response Crew (ERC) was quick to respond.

When the ERC crew arrived, a distraught young lady had climbed out onto a pillar of the bridge over the Saskatchewan River. While the RCMP and a local community doctor spoke to the girl, the ERC crew immediately placed a boat in the water and provided traffic control on the bridge. A utility line crew was passing by and even offered their bucket truck for assistance, and the truck was immediately set up on the bridge in the event the girl wanted to be rescued.

After a long period of time, the girl agreed to be rescued. Before she could change her mind, Andrew Halliday, an IBEW 2034 NextGen committee member, was quickly lowered by the bucket truck to rescue the girl. Bro. Halliday put a harness on her and both of them were winched to safety. All but one of the Grand Rapids ERC crew are members of IBEW Local 2034.

This incident was very well-organized and turned out well in the end. Over 250 IBEW Local 2034 members volunteer on ERC crews, and in many communities these members may be the only trained fire and paramedical presence.

The IBEW Local 2034 membership wish to thank the following for helping their community in a time of need: Andrew Halliday, Chris Davidson, Tim Arthurson, Fred Senkow, Ben Ballantyne, Calvin Pelly, Roland Mousseau, Wayne Decosse, Shawn Will, Dan Nabess and Doug Stockham, fire chief.

Mike Velie, B.M.



Local 968 retirees gather for a group photo at 2016 annual picnic.

RETIREES

Active & Engaged Retirees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER — The Nassau Chapter Local 3 Retirees Annual Picnic, held at the magnificent Brady Park, was a great success. Mother Nature blessed us with a perfect day. Activities began with a bocce ball tournament, followed by bean bag and horseshoe tournaments. Activities concluded with water balloon and egg-toss games. A bountiful catered gourmet barbecue meal was served all day.

The Nassau Chapter is an active and energetic club. Under the leadership of Chmn. Ed Weiss, officers and board of directors, this chapter is always on the move.

Some of the activities this year were: a Saint Patrick's Day luncheon; a Broadway show, "On Your Feet"; a Niagara Falls trip; a June luncheon; and a fishing trip.

A stay at The Long Island Education Center included an informative session about symptoms and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, presented by Erica Vines, and a seminar on healthy eating, presented by Judy Blades.

The annual picnic was in August, and a trip to Sunny Hill resort was in September. Still more events scheduled at the time of this writing were: a Billy Joel Concert, a Thanksgiving luncheon and the annual Christmas party.

The best way to stay healthy in retirement is to stay active. The Nassau Chapter Local 3 Retirees, through participation in club activities, will stay active and healthy for a long time.

John Milligan, P.S.

'Welcome to New Members'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — At this writing, we're enjoying a beautiful fall season in the New York/New Jersey area! Members enjoyed our fall luncheon at Bellissimo's Ristorante. We enjoyed the delicious meal and the great camaraderie along with the meeting led by Chmn. John McCormick.

Recent chapter activities included our summer barbecue, and many of us also enjoyed a performance of "Saturday Night Fever" and a luncheon at the Westchester Broadway Theater.

Our week at the Long Island Educational Center in Cutchogue, NY, was well-attended. We enjoyed a gorgeous September week there! The educational sessions were informative and greatly appreciated! On Tuesday of that week we were fortunate to attend a delicious dinner at the center catered by one of our members and a Wednesday evening pot-luck dinner, provided by members!

We are happy to welcome several new members.



Local 3, Northern New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club members at Long Island Education Center in Cutchogue, NY.



At the Local 3, Nassau Chapter, Retirees Club's 2016 annual picnic.

At this writing plans were underway for a holiday luncheon meeting. Our activities committee is busy formulating plans for 2017! Happy holidays to all!

John Krison, P.S.

2016 Activities & Events

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER — At our June meeting, we had our Annual Retirees Club Luncheon. At the June meeting, we discussed planned activities for 2016, including: our stay at the Long Island Education & Cultural Center, our bus trip to New York City, our summer barbecue in September, and our Annual Holiday Party in December. Chmn. Jack Foley wished everyone a safe and happy summer.

In July, we went to the Long Island Educational & Cultural Center, where we were greeted by Tom Gallagher, Local 3 pension director. We attended informative lectures on topics including how to stay healthy and Alzheimer's disease. On Tuesday evening we had our BBQ, which was a big success due to all those who volunteered to work in the kitchen, tend the barbecue, serve and clean up.

Our September BBQ was enjoyed by all. There were games, contests, plenty of food and lots of friends. At our September meeting, we made plans for our Annual Food Drive and Toys for Tots Drive for our November and December 2016 meetings. Our membership always shows strong support for both of those successful drives.

At press time, final plans are set for our Annual Holiday Party on Dec. 7, 2016, as well as our trip to New York City on Dec. 12, 2016. These events only happen when people devote their time and effort to make them possible.

Wishing all a happy holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Harvey Goldman, P.S.



Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club members and spouses at Long Island Education Center. (Photo by Bill Brkich.)

Long Island Education Center

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — This past summer, our chapter was again privileged to spend four relaxing days, from Aug. 1-4, at the Long Island Educational Center, as guests of the Joint Industry Board and Local 3. The LIEC, a state-of-the-art facility, has been made available to Local 3 members, through the efforts and forethought of our leadership.

Members and their spouses attended a seminar on healthy living, and one on enjoying healthy meals, integrated with managing health issues. The topics discussed and the moderators were excellent. Stephanie Saladino and her staff, as always, were very accommodating and gracious toward our members.

The highlight of the trip was our Tuesday barbecue, planned and carried out by our members.

Our spare time was spent dining out, visiting the many local wineries, and enjoying the sights and ambiance of Long Island's North Fork. With the exception of one rainy morning, the weather was absolutely beautiful.

We all look forward to next year's visit.

Dick Mills, Treas.

Retirees Honored at Ceremony

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — The membership of the Retirees Club has increased significantly. We had a great time over the summer at our monthly luncheons.

We also had a great number of retirees attend the Annual Clambake held in August. It was wonderful to see so many members and retirees having a great time and sharing memories.

IBEW Local 35 held its Retirees Recognition Ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 15. Congratulations to our newly retired members who attended: John Baracchi Jr., John Blessis, Tina Bray, Christopher Chesanek and Jean deSmet. They were recognized for their years of service and awarded jackets and watches. Congratulations also to those newly retired members who were unable to attend: Michael Belanger, A. Peter



Local 35 Bus. Mgr. Bruce Silva (far left) and Pres. William Moriarty (far right) with honored retirees Jean deSmet, Christopher Chesanek, Tina Bray, John Blessis and John Baracchi Jr.



HAVE YOU MOVED?
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www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress

Bray, Moses Calderon, Bryon Gondek, Michael Grills, Frederick O'Neil, Walter Pizanowski, Abraham Saez, Robert Schmidt, John Simeone and Gary Trojanowski. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement!

Thanks to Int. Vice Pres. Michael P. Monahan, retired Int. Rep. Richard Panagrossi, and retired business manager Kenneth Leech for their participation. We appreciate all the work that Bus. Mgr. Bruce Silva and office manager Vicki Dougherty did in preparation for the dinner.

Kenneth R. White, P.S.

Retirees Meeting/Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — The Retirees Meeting/Luncheon held Oct. 11 was called to order by Pres. Bob Stuart. Attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Secretary Duane Pearce and the blessing offered by Jeanie Adkins, wife of Bro. Dave Adkins. A catered luncheon was served. A huge thank-you to Bus. Mgr. Steve White and the members of Local 53 for sponsoring the lunch. Thank you to Lisa Garcia, executive assistant, for all her work setting up the luncheon and arranging for the caterer. The food was excellent and enjoyed by all!

A moment of silence was observed for departed Bros. John Lapour and Junior Smith. We also stood for a moment of silence for the late Nancy Duvall, wife of Bro. Jerry Duvall, former president and longtime member of Local 53. May the departed rest in peace.

Service pins were awarded to those who were present at the meeting. We also held a raffle and awarded gift cards donated by Local 53.

There was a discussion about the November 2016 elections and Bro. Stuart encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

In closing, Pres. Stuart thanked everyone for attending and wished all happy holidays. The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m. Our next meeting will be in the spring and a notice will be sent out.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

Wounded Warriors Project

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — Back from summer break, at the September meeting, 35 members shared a delicious barbecue lunch and enjoyed catching up.

It wasn't until the October meeting that the real business started. An agenda for the club was planned out for the remainder of the year. Plans included a traditional Thanksgiving meal at the November 2016 meeting. For the 2016 Christmas project, a Wounded Warriors project won the vote. Personal items for donation to the Wounded Warriors project were collected during a two-month period, and after the December meeting will be delivered to Fort Sam Houston WW headquarters.

At the meeting, the club's funding was next on the list. The club will continue with the annual golf tournament fundraiser to be held in April or May of 2017.

The club is for all retired members of Local 60. The purpose of this club shall be to carry out the spirit of the Brotherhood. Meetings are held at the Plumbers & Pipefitters training building, 3630 Belgium Lane, at 12 noon, on the second Thursday of each month, except during a summer break in June, July and August. Please join in!

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Annual Retirement Dinner

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 90, NEW HAVEN, CT — On Thursday, Sept. 29, Local 90's annual retirement dinner was held at the WoodWinds in Branford, CT, to

honor the most recent group of Local 90 retirees.

The following gentlemen were honored: Stephen Baribeault, Thomas Bontempo, Anthony Chialastri, James Ealahan, Thomas Fenton, Michael Kelly Sr., James Malone, Jerome Medura, Richard Miller, Paul Radowiecki, Thomas White and Stephen Woytowich Jr. Congratulations to all, and we invite you to join our Retirees Club.

Our club will hold its annual holiday luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016, at Fantasia in North Haven, CT. This function is always a great time with good food and friends.

We wish all IBEW members and their families, a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy and safe new year.

Richard Launder, P.S.

New Members Welcomed

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 113, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — There is a "fall chill" in the air as of this writing, with more golden aspen leaves carpeting the ground than are still on the trees.

At our October luncheon we were pleased to welcome several new members. The executive board will be sending reminder cards announcing our monthly meetings for the next several months. A special thank-you to Local 113 for their assistance to make this possible! If you know someone who hasn't been attending, please invite them! It's a great time to renew old acquaintances and catch up with friends.

Our special speaker from AARP's fraud division made an informative presentation concerning investment and sweepstakes fraud, identity theft, and IRS imposters who often target the elderly. AARP Foundation Elder Watch can be reached in Colorado at 800-222-444 for help or additional information.

A very merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all!

Our condolences go out to the families of the following retirees lost in the past 12 months: Betty Charles, Linda Turner, Katheryn Veres, Scott Henderson, Maurice Loehner, Tim Hale, Kenneth Diller, Nathan Clasby, Thomas Ridenour, Fred Mauch, Jim Polders, Ray Sears and Norman Pledge.

Bill Campbell, P.S.



Colorado Springs, CO, Local 113 Retirees Club members enjoyed a colorful fall season this year.

Season's Greetings

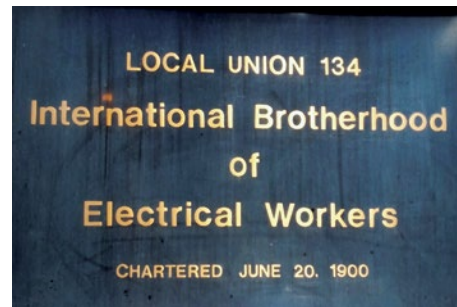
RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Season's greetings to all, as the holidays approach and winter arrives. Some of us will have sunshine, some will have rain, and some can expect lots of snow. This is one of the things that makes the USA so great. We can travel a little and be in another climate right here in our own country. And our local unions bring all of us together as one great IBEW.

The new year ahead will also bring changes, including a new U.S. president, and for us here in Chicago, a new home soon for Local 134. At this writing,

all are working hard to transform the building that formerly housed Drake Elementary School into the new home for our Local 134 union hall. I myself have some difficulty walking away from our old building at 600 W. Washington Blvd., given all the fond memories it holds. There is a plaque on the wall outside the front doors that reads "Chartered June 20, 1900," and this is a reminder that so many electricians have passed through these doors in the past 117 years and helped make our local strong and the IBEW a great union. So much history to remember ... and now it's time to make good changes and new history.

Retirees Club members look forward to our December holiday party. We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season, and a very happy new year.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.



Plaque on wall outside old Local 134 union hall shows history of the building in downtown Chicago.

'Best Wishes for New Year'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OHIO — God help us! The most bizarre election ever is over. It's hard to believe that "we the people" tolerate all that we have witnessed during the campaign season and the process of choosing the leader of the free world.

May God grant peace and comfort to the families of the following recently departed Local 212 brothers: Cleve Cornelison, Harry Schoettelcotte, Ed Ochs Sr., Hugh Campbell, Gerald Wirtz, Riodan Weakley, Kevin Fraysure, Victor Day and Raymond Schrand Sr.

Club members now number 130 "sparkies." We meet on the first Wednesday of every month including the July picnic and the December Christmas party. It's always great to get together with old and new friends. Welcome to new members: Mike Kiefer, Fred Hornhorst, Gary Thomas, and Elmer Begley.

The memorial wall is well on the way in honoring departed members from 1901 to the present. Today's members benefit from the vision, sacrifices and struggles of these past members. As you scan these names, your mind will be fondly jogged back into past memories of knowing these people.

Wishing all IBEW members a happy holiday season and a safe, healthy new year.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

2016 Events & Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — We enjoyed a luncheon/meeting on Oct. 25 at Claysville. We always look forward to our luncheon at this restaurant since it is owned by an IBEW Local 257 member and his wife. We thank them for having us.

September and October were busy months with

the Labor Day parade and a trip to the Lake of the Ozarks for a show.

At this writing, another show was planned at the Lake of the Ozarks during the Christmas season. Our Christmas luncheon is Dec. 13 at the Labor Temple, Local 257. We thank Local 257 and the membership for hosting it. It is most appreciated.

On a sad note, one of our members, Ralph "J.R." Taggart, passed away on Sept. 19. Our condolences go out to his wife, Barbara, and family. J.R. was a member of Local 257 for 64 years.

Also, we thank everyone who helped out with our Retirees Club this past year. It was a great year.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Will see you in 2017!

Delores Melloway, P.S.

A Successful 2016

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA — 2016 has been a challenging and successful year for our Retirees Club. At least 27 events, including 12 monthly luncheon meetings, were offered for club members. We dealt with some severe weather, and some have experienced illness. We have managed to make it one of our club's most successful years, thanks to the officers, retirees and executive members, who made sure that everything was organized and completed.

2017 will bring new challenges and opportunities. In the year ahead the Retirees Club will hold its election of officers and executive. Good luck to all seeking office and thank you to all who participate.

Approximately 650 IBEW retired members from our local and neighboring IBEW locals were expected, as of this writing, to be among those attending Local 353's 31st Christmas Dinner/Dance on Nov. 27. Attendees include retired members from five Ontario locals: Local 105 (Hamilton); Local 120 (London); Local 303 (St. Catharines); Local 804 (Kitchener); and Local 353. Such a strong spirit of brotherhood is just one of the reasons that the IBEW continues to thrive.

Local 353 and its Retirees Club continue to support community events and charities including: The Kidney Walk, clothes drive events, local food banks, Raise the Flag, community hospitals, Hammerheads and Helmets to Hardhats.

Thanks to our working members for their support. Continue to raise the bar.

Our Retirees Club wishes the entire Brotherhood a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

Robert Rynyk, P.S.

'Full Slate of Activities'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 424, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA — This past summer featured a full slate of social activities for our members. The fun began on July 8 when the Unit 2 Retirees and wives did a superb job with the Members Pancake Breakfast & Lunch, held in conjunction with the beginning of the famous 10-day Calgary Stampede and Exhibition.

Next was the July 9 Family Picnic in Edmonton. This event is the brainchild of Tina Stevenson, who has been the impetus behind it ever since its inception nine years ago. Along with husband Scott, she did another excellent job with the logistics of keeping several hundred kids and parents entertained with numerous activities, along with BBQ fare and other treats. It's been said before but bears repeating ... along with the Kids Christmas Parties, the picnic is an affirmation of family values. Thank you to Tina and Scott!

For the July 22 opening of Edmonton's 10-day Exhibition & Chuck Wagon Races, the Unit 1 Retirees (and some wives) held a successful Annual Members Pancake Breakfast & Lunch, an event started 29 years ago by then-retired business manager Bob Lamont. The fun finished off Aug. 5 at "The Ranch" in

RETIRES

Edmonton and Aug. 26 at the "Silverwing" in Calgary with Members Golf Tournaments followed by steak BBQs. A salute and a thank-you goes to the many volunteers who made all the events a success.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

Sarnia Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — On Sept. 7, the Local 530 Retirees Club held their Annual Golf Tournament. Herb Burdett and Bob Friedrich once again organized a successful and fun-filled day for all. We had 29 golfers on the greens, and 37 retirees along with spouses and guests sat down to enjoy a wonderful chicken and ribs dinner. The winning team with the lowest score this year was: Pat LaPore, Dave Schieman and Tom Schleihauf. Congratulations to all three golfers.

The IBEW Local 530 Annual Dinner Dance Banquet held Nov. 18 this year was a very special occasion for us as we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Local 530. Several members of our Retirees Club received IBEW service pins at the banquet. Sarnia comedian John Wing provided entertainment and it was a night for all to remember.

On Thursday, Dec. 8, directly after our monthly meeting, we will hold our own Retirees Christmas Dinner at the Best Western Hotel. Janet Burdett and Marion Lawton are once again organizing this event and they do a great job. Everyone looks forward to attending.

We send our condolences to Kent Wilcox and his family on the loss of his wife, Alleen.

We feel fortunate to belong to the great family of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.



Local 530 Retirees 2016 Golf Tournament participants: Bob Friedrich, Pat LaPore, Dave Schieman, Tom Schleihauf and Herb Burdett.

Luncheon & Service Pin Awards

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 570, TUCSON, AZ — After the Local 570 Retirees Club's return from summer break, the local provided a catered lunch for the club's first meeting of the season.

At the luncheon, Bus. Mgr. Chuck Grube presented IBEW service pins representing more than 500 years of service to eligible retirees in attendance.

Receiving 50-year pins were Claude Kupchanko and Ivan Preston; 55-year pins – Joe Hernandez, Robert Lopez and Richard Roussard; 60-year pins – Edward Pepper and Charles Reed; and 65-year pins – Richard Piker and Allen Waller.

There was a good turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Scott W. Toot, P.S.

2016 Activities & Events

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 595, DUBLIN, CA — At this writing, we were just weeks away from electing a new president to lead this great nation, along with many other public officials who set policies that affect working people.

We hope our votes help elect leaders who will



Local 595 Retirees Club Treas. Linda Bratset, trip leader, and husband Roger visit Skagway, Alaska, during a stop on the club's 2016 cruise.

protect the rights of working people. We demand that elected officials understand that good paying jobs with health care and pensions are the reward for an honest day's work.

Our Retired Members Club enjoyed a great year of monthly themed lunches, numerous day trips, a four-day train trip to Reno and an awesome 10-day cruise to Alaska. We also shared great times at our Benefits Fair, the annual Oakland A's baseball game, our summer barbeque, and a terrific union picnic.

At press time, still to come were our holiday luncheon, where we give away many raffle prizes; Old Timers' Night; and Santa at the union hall to greet our grandkids. We are blessed as a local to have so many great events and opportunities to get together. Let's keep it up!

At this writing, the election of club officers was scheduled for our November 2016 meeting; results were not yet available at press time. Thank you to everyone who steps up to lead. Pres. Walt Corvello has done an incredible job. Thank you, Walt! Treas. Linda Bratset does most everything for the club and we appreciate it! We also thank our awesome secretary, Nancy Taliaferro, for all she does!

We encourage new retirees to become active in our club. Jump on board and give us a test drive. Have a great new year!

Tom Mullarkey, P.S.

Service Awards Presented

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM — At the regular union meeting on Aug. 20, seven retirees along with four working members received service pins, representing a total of 500 years of electrical experience.

Ralph Cochrane and Albert Pohl received 60-year pins; John Givens received his 55-year pin; Mike Morris, Al Trujillo, Ralph Molina and Gilbert Lucero received 50-year pins; Robert Lucero received his 40-year pin; and three other working members received their 35-, 30- and 20-year pins.

Notably, both Gilbert Lucero and his son Robert Lucero received their pins that day; and pin-recipient Ralph Cochrane was joined by his son Rhett Cochrane for the special occasion.

The annual Labor Day picnic was a success, with about 1,500 people attending. Music was provided by a Machinists local with volunteers from several locals. Several Local 611 members attended as well as a few of us retirees. All enjoyed the food, music and camaraderie. Santos Griego, Central Labor Council president and Local 611 dispatcher, tended the hamburger grill and noted that 800 hamburgers were served.

Our condolences to the families of several retirees who passed away: Floyd Werner, Rudolfo Domin-

quez, Jose A. Jacquez, Jose B. Valasquez, Thomas Peace, Chris L. Gonzales and Dennis L. Simmons.

Remember to attend your union meetings on the third Saturday of every month. Retirees are always welcomed for their attendance and input.

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year!

Tracy Hall, Pres.

Labor Booth at State Fair

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The Retirees Club met on Aug. 4 at Golden Corral in Carbondale, IL. Pres. Gary King called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. A motion was made and passed to skip the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. The financial report was read and approved.

Deaths were read for the months of July and August, followed by a moment of silence.

Under Old Business: License plate covers for retired Local 702 members are still available for \$1 each.

Under New Business: Bus. Rep. Tate Wright asked for help to staff the labor booth at the DuQuoin State Fair. Bros. Errol Mandrell, Logan Marlow, Mike Dailey, Steve Dailey, Dave Cosimi, Roger Stillely, Bob Caby, Bruce Dallas and Bob Pritchett all volunteered to help, which was appreciated!

Everyone was encouraged to attend the Labor Day picnic on Sept. 5, as well as the parade on Aug. 26 to kick off the state fair.

In the drawing, Dave Cosimi won \$31 in the 50/50; Ann Taylor won a dress polo shirt; and Roger Stillely, Logan Marlow and Joan Smith all won a pocket knife.

The deposit for the club was announced, then the meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Mark Baker, P.S.



Local 611 retiree Gilbert Lucero (left) and his son Robert Lucero receive their IBEW service pins.



Local 1245 retirees Jim Lapin (left), Ron Borst, Chip Chadwick and Frank Isterice prepared electric fans to be donated

Service Pins Awarded

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — Our September began with service pins being awarded. We congratulate and thank everyone who attended the awards presentation, as well as those who were not able to be there, for their dedication to the Brotherhood! Members present at the meeting to receive their pins were: Rex L. Rawlins (60-year member), Gary D. Dill (50-year member), and Steven E. Gibbs (45-year member).

We wish everyone a happy, healthy holiday season and look forward to a wonderful 2017. We hope to see all of you at our upcoming meetings.

Sadly, since our last article, we have had several members pass. We send our condolences to the family and friends of departed Bros. James M. Sullivan, Carl M. Hicks, Rodney H. Connell, Henry H. Garis and Steve B. Sullens.

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

Diane Gibbs, P.S.



Local 756 Retirees Club former president James Warren (center) receives his 60-year service pin presented by Retirees Club Vice Pres. Joseph Gardner (left) and Treas. Dow Graham.

Community Service Project

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1245, VACAVILLE, CA — Over the summer, IBEW Local 1245 retiree Ron Borst challenged members of the Local 1245 Reno/Sparks Retirees Club to collect as many electric fans as they could in order to donate them to low-income seniors in the area. "Temperatures in the Reno/Sparks area can exceed 100 degrees, and many seniors cannot afford to pay for air conditioning," said Borst. The club succeeded in collecting a total of 45 fans from retirees. Each fan was adorned with an IBEW Local 1245 sticker before being given away to needy local seniors.

Rebecca Band, P.S.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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FROM THE OFFICERS

An America That Works for Everyone



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

Last month, Donald Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States. It wasn't the outcome I had hoped for, but I offer my congratulations to the president-elect. I also offer my congratulations to Hillary Clinton on her hard-fought campaign.

This was a long, and at times, divisive campaign, but as brothers and sisters in the IBEW, there remains much more that unites us than divides us.

If we learned anything from this election it is that Americans are increasingly anxious about declining economic opportunity and stagnant wages and are alienated from a political system that seems rigged to the benefit of the top 1 percent.

Insofar as President-elect Trump is serious about addressing those issues and developing policy that would put working people first, I am more than willing to work with him to accomplish those goals.

On issues like trade, infrastructure, jobs and outsourcing, there exists potential common ground between a Trump administration and the IBEW.

But let me be clear. Building an economy that works for everybody and restoring that shared prosperity that made the American dream possible for millions of working families requires a sharp break with trickle-down economics that has done nothing but drive income inequality, reward corporate greed, cut retirement and health security and attack the basic right of workers to come together and collectively bargain.

It also means rejecting divisive policies and rhetoric that seek to divide working people against each other. More than ever, we need solidarity, not division, in America.

Restoring the middle class means raising wages, protecting and expanding benefits that secure our families' health and future, and making sure every American who wants to, can join a union in their workplace.

The IBEW has seen many administrations come and go in our 125-year history. But our interests remain today the same as they always have been, the well-being of you, our brothers and sisters in this movement.

We'll continue to fight to make sure you have good-paying jobs, quality health care and the promise of a secure retirement. You can bet on that.

As Hillary Clinton said in her concession speech: "Our democracy demands our participation, not just every four years, but all the time." So let's get to work together to build the kind of America that works for all of us. ■

Our Future is Still in Our Hands

There are still a lot of questions about Trump's agenda and nobody knows exactly what the next four years will mean for organized labor. It will likely be hard.

But regardless of how strong the headwinds are from Washington, our future is still in our hands. Looking to someone else to ensure the IBEW's success has never been our way.

We don't wait for someone to save us. We organize and build our own future.

For now, let us celebrate — and learn — from the victory at the Memphis, Tenn., Electrolux plant. It is a model for how we can build a strong future no matter who sits in the Oval Office.

Lesson 1: Don't Give Up, Smarten Up Our organizing campaign — which won by more than 2 to 1 — came just over a year after a disappointing lost election riddled with unfair labor practices. We did an immediate postmortem and before the momentum died we got right back to work.

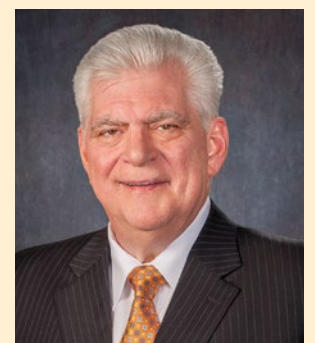
Lesson 2: We Organize Anywhere This victory came in the heart of the right-to-work South, in the same state where the United Auto Workers lost a major election at Volkswagen. When we get our message out, nowhere is off limits.

Lesson 3: Organizing is Personal Organizers made more than 400 home visits during the campaign, and members of the volunteer organizing committee were vocal and visible advocates for the IBEW. It made a difference for the Electrolux workers to see organizers from across the country and from their own community. More importantly, through social media, every IBEW member can now connect to organizing drives or reach out to nonunion members in their own bargaining unit.

So speak up. Any member of the IBEW is doing something every nonunion worker isn't: working under a collective bargaining agreement. It is up to all of us to speak up and speak out about the benefits we get by coming together in a union.

This is a victory every member of the IBEW can be proud of, most importantly the 700 new members who will be joining us.

More than just pride, it should fill every member with some optimism. No matter what happens, the power of working families to make their lives better is now, as it always has been, in our own hands. ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer



HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

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

Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

Targeting Working Families

I will never understand how our rank-and-file brothers and sisters can vote against their best interests. Republicans have never helped unions in my lifetime. The right-to-work is the right to work for less.

This idea was put into place by corporations and the wealthy to break unions.

*Timothy Ahearn, Local 58 member
Detroit*

Pension a Pillar of the IBEW

Regarding the article "Busting an Old IBEW Pension Myth" about the number of pension checks typically received by retirees and posted on ibew.org, I'm only five years into my retirement, but so very glad to be an IBEW member. The pension makes our lives and our union great. Thank you.

*Brad Purfeerst, Local 46 retiree
Seattle*

I just started drawing my IBEW pension. My dad drew one for more than an 18 years. The PBF, NEAP and NEBF are all excellent plans. Thank God for the IBEW.

*Don Woolridge, Local 702 retiree
West Frankfort, Ill.*

This is a must read, to secure your future. Only you can do it.

*Ronney Lee Meadows, Local 11 retiree
Los Angeles*

Unions have been and will always be the backbone of America. Any corporations that resist organizing aren't worth working for, no matter what they pay you.

*Gerry Beagan, American Postal Workers Union retiree
Warwick, R.I.*

Nuclear Still is Key Alternative Energy

Regarding the article "The Uncertain Fate of Illinois' Most Reliable Energy Source" posted at ibew.org, decommissioned nuclear plants account for the largest loss of green energy leaving the grid. There's not enough real estate to compensate for it with solar.

*Mike Bennett, Local 490 member
Dover, New Hampshire*

The Win in Tennessee

Congratulations to workers at the Electrolux plant in Memphis, Tenn., on voting for IBEW representation. The only way to fight big money is with solidarity. No matter what people think of unions, they remain the best thing on this planet.

*Richard Smith, Local 124 retiree
Kansas City, Mo.*

Welcome brothers and sisters. Together, we win.

*Paul VanOss, Local 58 member
Detroit*

Congrats! This proud 50-plus year IBEW member says, "Why beg when you can organize?"

*James W. Kilburn, Local 124 retiree
Kansas City, Mo.*

Wisconsin Local Opens its Own Museum

I read the story about Milwaukee Local 494 celebrating its 110-year anniversary with the opening of its museum. Don't ever forget your past. It will serve all who follow us and understand the effort made to get where we are today.

*Robert Carman
Sayville, N.Y.*

WHO WE ARE

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

Volunteer Work Earns California Lineman National Honor

Jeff Gomes routinely watched his father help others while accepting nothing in return. One memory in particular convinced him he wanted to be just like dad.

"I watched him get up in the morning and go over and help an elderly lady and cut her wood for the fireplace," said Gomes, now a lineman for PG&E and a member of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245. "She didn't have a lot of money and he just helped her out tremendously. It was rewarding to go along and split the wood and stack it for her."

Frank Gomes, his father, remembers that story well. The woman was 92 years old and had no one else to turn to, he said.

That spirit of helping others rubbed off on Jeff and led to him receiving one of the nation's most prestigious honors for volunteers. He is a recipient of the 2016 Jefferson Award, named after Thomas Jefferson and awarded to people whose volunteer work makes a lasting impact on their communities.

The awards were founded in 1972 and now are administered by the Jefferson Awards Foundation and its board of directors. The foundation honors several hundred community volunteers from across the country each year.

Gomes has served as a volunteer firefighter in Orland, Calif., a city of nearly 7,000 residents about 100 miles north of Sacramento, for the last 26 years, including five as chief.

It's made for a lot of long nights and early mornings and more than 15,000 hours of volunteering. Gomes insists he's not much different than others living in small towns across the United States.

"A lot of communities can't afford to pay for staff and services, so people step up and serve," said Gomes, who oversaw a staff of 40-50 people during his time as chief. "Everyone has jobs, but they still get up at 2 a.m. to respond to calls. It's just a way of life."

"I've always enjoyed helping people and not expecting things in return," he said.

Gomes grew up on a 20-acre ranch near Orland, where hard work was a given. Much of his day was spent taking care of cows. He and his three siblings were rewarded for pulling weeds with a trip to the town swimming pool.

"My dad instilled great moral character in me with his work ethic and his demeanor," Gomes said. "He was an all-around great person and still is."

Frank, now 74, has worked most of his life as a truck driver. He retired once, and found it tedious, so he returned to work.

The elder Gomes learned responsi-



Jeff Gomes, a wireman and member of Vacaville, Calif. Local 1245, is a recipient of the Jefferson Award, which honors volunteerism in America.

bility early. As a teenager, his 27-year-old sister died of cancer, leaving behind four children. The father was out of the picture, so Frank helped his parents raise them.

He was determined to make sure his own children learned the value of helping others. But with Jeff, it didn't take much effort.

"He was always a loving kid and loved helping people, just like I did," Frank said. "I helped elderly people all the time and didn't expect nothing for it. I tell kids all the time, 'If you do something for someone, don't expect something in return.'"

Jeff spent seven years as a meter reader for PG&E before beginning his apprenticeship in 1999. He finished it two years later and has worked throughout northern California ever since.

"Once I got in as a groundman and started learning the trade, I had a great foreman who taught me a lot," he said. "He was very patient. He taught me about being conscientious and safe. I enjoyed it."

"It's a great career. I enjoy being outdoors when they turn people's lights back on or something has been repaired. It's nice to see the reaction."

Throughout his career, he's served on the Orland Fire Department, including as chief from 2007-08 and 2011-15. It came without pay, but it felt like a second job. Gomes said he could not have done it without the help of his wife Becky and his three children — Shayne, 26, Sarah, 22, and Natalie, 19.

"Thankfully, I have a very supportive wife and kids," he said. "They were great. They had to deal with a lot of work after

hours. When I was chief, I had to do the administrative duties and the training and the day-to-day operations. My pager was always going off in the middle of the night and I tried to make as many calls as I could."

Local 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell said Gomes sets a terrific example for his Local 1245 brothers and sisters both on the jobsite and in his hometown.

"Doing excellent work on the job and playing an active role in the community is what we encourage from all our of nearly 20,000 members," Dalzell said. "Jeff is the epitome of that. He does a dangerous job incredibly well and still finds time to serve others. I can't tell you how proud we are of him. What a tremendous honor."

Gomes also is a recipient of the Mielke Award, which PG&E awards to employees who exemplify the best in community service. Company officials also nominated him for the Jefferson Award.

The honor earned Gomes his first-ever trip to the East Coast last summer, where he did some sightseeing in and around Washington, D.C., and visited with Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif., whose congressional district includes Orland.

He also got to mingle with other Jefferson Award winners. It proved to be a rewarding experience.

"I was never one that needed recognition for what I do and I would do it again in the future if I had to," Gomes said. "But it was really intriguing and interesting to listen to all the different stories from every part of the country from people doing great things that I think makes our country what it is today. I can assure you volunteerism is alive and well." ■

How the Code of Excellence Increased Membership — and Profit Margins

Marketing tool benefits members in two states

It's not every day that two locals from two different states help secure a new business contract for their employers — and one that leads to increased membership — but that's what happened for Chelsea, Mass., Local 1499 and Milwaukee, Wis., Local 2150. And it's in part because of the Code of Excellence.

"Never. That's how often this happens," said Local 2150 Business Representative Mike Bruening.

"It's precedent setting," said Second District International Representative John Horak, who was business manager for Local 1499 during the talks.

The conversation started about a year ago, just two years after Local 1499 members ratified their first contract with Rea Magnet Wire Co. Chief Steward Doug Ammann saw that Rea used to supply wire to SPX-Waukesha in Wisconsin, a transformer plant. Ammann, who is regularly involved with orders, asked Horak, who then reached out to someone he knew there: Bruening. They both serve on the Code of Excellence product identification committee.

Bruening said that if Rea was a Code of Excellence certified plant, it would make securing a new deal easier. The Code was rolled out at SPX around 2011 to great reception from both members and management. Since implementation, SPX decided to invest more than \$70 million at the Waukesha plant and bring on more employees, increasing membership from fewer than 300 to about 430, Bruening said.

"Management really likes the Code and it was definitely a factor in the expansion," said Bruening. "I figured if Rea was Code-certified, I could use it as a selling point and assure them they'd get a quality product."

"It's the mark of quality," Horak said. "There's an assurance that you're getting something you can rely on. It's good branding."

The success of the Code had also allowed Bruening to establish a solid relationship with members of the management team, he said, which made pitching Rea as a new supplier possible.

"With the Code, it's more of a partnership with management," Bruening said. "It's a better relationship."

SPX management agreed to start ordering small amounts of the wire, to test the quality. The high-voltage substation transformer plant, one of the largest in North America, had been purchasing wire from South Korea and it was causing problems, which was costing the company money. Employees were having issues with coils and insulation, and portions not being wrapped correctly, Bruening said.

"There are times when faulty wiring costs us \$10,000, if not more," Bruening said. "Good quality wire conduc-

tors are critical."

SPX soon found that the wire from Rea was the quality product it was looking for. With Rea wire, failures went down and productivity went up, Bruening said.

"It's the premium of the premium," he said. "Our guys said it's the best they've ever worked with."

And Bruening says they loved hearing that it was built by fellow IBEW members.

"When we told them at a meeting that it was coming from a sister IBEW shop, they all smiled," Bruening said.

The relationship didn't just give Rea a new customer, or SPX a better quality product. Once SPX started increasing its orders, Rea had to upgrade some of its equipment, nearly \$5 million worth. And they did so at the plant in Guilford, Conn., where Local 1499 members work, and



Milwaukee, Wis., Local 2150 members, pictured, work on transformers at the SPX plant in Waukesha. Thanks in part to the Code of Excellence, they are now working with high-quality wire made by fellow IBEW members from Chelsea, Mass., Local 1499.

decided to close down a nonunion plant in Arkansas, Horak said.

The general manager also reached out to Horak about going into negotiations a year early to secure a contract for four additional years. Rea would be increasing output by 30 percent and hiring more employees, Horak said.

"This doesn't happen every day," Horak said. "For 1499, it was a win when we implemented the Code, but getting the

extra business and members, that makes it even better."

Local 1499 has increased its membership at Rea by 50 percent since hiring began, Horak said, and the plant is still hiring.

Horak and Bruening also said the Code is an excellent internal organizing tool.

"It brings everyone together," Bruening said. "And we're seeing positive

results with management."

"We're helping these businesses succeed beyond what they expected, and it's great to be a part of that," Horak said. "That's something we can all take pride in." ■



The Uncertain Fate of Illinois' Most Reliable Energy Source

Illinois relies on nuclear energy more than any other source. And it's about to lose two of its plants.

Eleven nuclear reactors provide almost half the state's electricity and 90 percent of its carbon-free energy. These plants provide a constant source of energy, even on the hottest and coldest of days, employ thousands of employees on a \$40 million payroll and pay almost \$300 million in taxes, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute. Due to \$800 million in losses over the past seven years, Exelon Corp. has announced plans to close two.

"Nuclear power is so vital," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson at a forum discussing nuclear energy in the state. "We can't as a nation keep our energy grid secure and online while reducing our carbon footprint without nuclear."

The forum at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on Oct. 18 was designed to focus public and legislative attention on the impact of the closings. Stephenson was joined by other speakers from labor, federal and state government, academia and industry groups.

The Clinton Power Station is scheduled to close June 1, 2017, with the Quad Cities Generating Station following a year later. Springfield, Ill., Local 51 represents employees at Clinton; and Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15 represents those at Quad Cities.

Two state Senate bills have been introduced to keep the plants operating. One would provide clean air credits to nuclear plants, recognizing their clean energy contributions and making them more competitive in the energy market, said Local 51 Assistant Business Manager John Johnson.

The other bill addresses the regulatory process and how prices are determined. The current system puts nuclear plants in a deregulated market like the one in Illinois at a disadvantage, said Johnson, who has been lobbying the Senate and Assembly on the issues, along with members from Local 15 and the Illinois AFL-CIO.

If the legislation doesn't pass by the session's end, the window for saving the plants closes, and nearly 300 members of Local 51 would likely lose their jobs, Johnson said.

In Rock Island County, home to the Quad Cities, Exelon is the single largest taxpayer,



Illinois, the birthplace of nuclear energy, is about to lose two of its plants, the Clinton Power Station, pictured, and the Quad Cities Generating Station.

said U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, whose district encompasses the area.

"We need nuclear," Bustos said, noting that New York recently faced a similar situation and reached a legislative solution, something she is advocating in Illinois.

About 350 members of Local 15 would be affected if the Quad Cities plant closes, not to mention the thousands of workers who are employed during shutdowns and refueling, said Local 15 Assistant

Business Manager Bill Phillips. Phillips attended the forum with Business Manager Dean Apple.

"There was a lot of support in the room for what nuclear offers," he said, noting the number of legislators present. "I'm optimistic about the legislation. I think we can get it to the floor for a vote."

As a zero carbon-emitting energy source, nuclear is seen as a crucial component to an energy mix that meets the Clean Power Plan standards, an EPA rule that requires states to reduce power plant emissions by 32 percent by 2030.

"Sustaining the current fleet of nuclear power plants and building new nuclear capacity can play an important role in meeting this goal [the CPP] and is also critical if the U.S. is to maintain its global leadership as the world looks to nuclear power to meet its clean energy needs," said John Kotek, acting secretary for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy.

Kotek noted that the plants would close at the same time the CPP would go into effect. The Department of Energy has been studying the economic challenges facing the nation's nuclear plants and is looking into solutions to properly value them, he said.

Operating at 96 percent capacity for the last 10 years — above the industry average — this baseload energy source provides reliable electricity that also helps offset price volatility, an NEI report found.

"Illinois is the birthplace of nuclear power," said Jim Stubbins, head of the Department of Nuclear, Plasma and Radiological Engineering. "The state has been an international leader in the development and uses of nuclear energy. We should value and preserve them [nuclear plants] all for their major current and long-term contributions." ■