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The lower levels of Michigan State's new Facility for Rare Isotope Beams reached substantial completion in March. In the foreground is the reinforced tunnel for the linear accelerator that will create rare atomic particles for scientists to study. IBEW electricians installed vertical stacks of 6-inch rigid conduit to carry power and signals to computer equipment on the ground level.

Nuclear Physics Gets a Boost from the IBEW

Scientists from across the globe may soon be uncovering the secrets of the universe, and they'll have hundreds of IBEW members to thank.

That's because IBEW electricians from at least seven local unions in Michigan and half a dozen signatory contractors have spent the last three years building the infrastructure for the world's most advanced rare isotope accelerator, a powerful scientific instrument designed to provide researchers with

BUILDING THE 'ATOM SMASHER'

access to short-lived atomic particles that are no longer found on earth.

Inside wiremen from Lansing, Mich., Local 665 and outside linemen from Grand Rapids, Mich., Local 876 played critical roles in preparing the 227,000-square-foot facility on Michigan State University's campus, which was handed over for installation of the scientific equipment more than two months early at the end of March.

"This was a complete custom job," said Local 665 member and general foreman for Superior Electric, Daren Bebee, who has been on the job at the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams since 2014. "A lot of what we did here had never been done before, or it

had been done so infrequently that I like to say we're now masters of a part of our trade that we'll probably never use again."

That's because the FRIB, a \$730 million partnership between Michigan State and the U.S. Department of Energy, really is one of a kind. When it's fully functional, expected in 2022, scientists will be able to direct a beam of atomic nuclei at half the speed of light onto a target, where the resulting impact will spawn the types of rare isotopes they hope to study. The resulting research could impact everything from medicine to the next generation of nuclear reactors and the safe disposal of nuclear waste.

To achieve those results, the FRIB needs power, and lots of it. At its peak, the facility will draw 25 megawatts of power, nearly one-third of the total power consumption of Michigan State's 1,000-acre campus. That's where the members of Local 876 came in. Getting that much power into one building required new

ISOTOPE ACCELERATOR *continued on page 2*

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Nuclear Physics Gets a Boost from the IBEW



Above: IBEW inside wiremen from Lansing, Mich., Local 665, among others, had to venture inside the not-yet-poured walls to install copper mesh that will protect sensitive computer equipment from electromagnetic interference generated by the linear accelerator. Right: Members of Local 665 pose under a maze of their conduit work. Lower right: Outside linemen from Grand Rapids, Mich., Local 876 had to build multiple new substations and switchyards near campus to supply the more than 25 megawatts of power the facility will eventually consume.

substations and switchyards and a massive underground effort to run cabling across campus.

Jeremy Dalstra, the general foreman for Kent Power's line-side operation, said his crew of 13 worked for more than three months installing a double circuit of 4-inch diameter 138 kilovolt underground cable from the new substations to the

FRIB. Local 876 member Chris Patterson, who served as general foreman for signatory contractor MJ Electric, said his crew worked 12-hour shifts nearly every day for two months installing the switchyard for the new substation. Members at High-decker Electric were responsible for much of the conduit work on campus.

"There's only one piece of equip-

ment in the whole country that's similar to what this one will be able to produce, so it's a big deal for Michigan State and a big deal for those of us who got to work on it. We're proud of what we did to get it the power it needs to run," Patterson said.

With the power routed to the building, it was up to IBEW members working for signatory contractors Shaw Electric, Superior Electric of Lansing and Summit Contractors, to prepare the building for its eventual power-hungry tenant.

"The grounding system alone on this building is an incredible piece of engineering," Bebee said. His crew buried 28 copper ground rods 40 feet deep around the perimeter of the site. They also installed copper mesh throughout the concrete structure of the accelerator tunnel to help contain electro-magnetic interference generated by the accelerator and its associated equipment. The concrete floor in the hot cell, a sealed room built to handle radioactive isotopes, is as much as 17 feet thick and the surrounding walls are up to 6 feet thick in the same area. They were filled with massive amounts of rebar, making the copper mesh installation a challenge.

Bebee's crew also installed more than 27,000 feet of 6-inch rigid conduit to carry power and signals from the accel-

Lansing, Mich., Local 665 member Aaron Nowland installs one of the many panels that will control the power-hungry equipment.



ator tunnel underground to the computer equipment above.

"Our crew has really felt like an integral part of this project from the very beginning. We've worked with scientists from all over the world, balancing what they need for their research with how we can make it happen and do it safely at the same time. To say we're invested in the FRIB's success is a real understatement," he said.

Speaking to the Michigan Building Trades magazine, Brad Bull, the FRIB's conventional facilities and infrastructure division director, said, "We're well ahead of schedule, and we couldn't be happier with the quality of workmanship we have seen. The workforce has been amazing."

At the project's peak, more than 350 tradesmen were on site, including over 100 electricians. That number has steadily decreased as the project has wrapped up.

"I just can't say enough about the incredible work done by our members here at Local 665 and down the road at Local 876," said Local 665 Business Manager Tom Eastwood. "It's always nice to have large-scale projects come along, but this one has been unique. It's put a lot of IBEW brothers and sisters to work, and it's got the potential to leave a lasting mark on science and on this country's technological future. We're proud they chose the IBEW to get it done right and ahead of schedule." ■

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 the latest news and stories about our members – and get the online version of the Electrical Worker: www.ibew.org

YouTube

IBEW members are updating St. Louis' iconic Gateway Arch and connecting it to the city with bike trails, parks and more. Watch it at bit.ly/IBEWGateway.

Vimeo

Baseball season is back and members of



Boston Local 103 are making sure Fenway Park's 500-plus lights are in working order. Watch it happen at bit.ly/IBEWfenway.

HourPower

The value of brotherhood was on display when Denver Local 68 wired the new training facility for Denver Local 111. IBEWHourPower.com.



ElectricTV

Powering America NECA-IBEW partnered with the New York City Housing Authority to update streetlights, paving the way for safer neighborhoods. ElectricTV.net.



'An Untiring Dedication to Our Common Cause' Secretary-Treasurer Chilia Retires

After nearly 50 years of service to the IBEW and the North American organized labor movement, International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore J. Chilia announced his retirement effective May 1.

"We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sam for everything he has done for the IBEW," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "He has shown an untiring dedication to our common cause and we are a stronger union because of it. He is not only my partner, but my friend as well."

"I have lived the American dream plus because I joined this union when I was 19 years old."

— Sam Chilia

The union's top financial officer, Brother Chilia took responsibility for the IBEW's many pensions, funds, and health care programs and guided them through the wreckage of the worst recession in nearly a century.

He leaves behind a growing union with a healthy general fund, National Electrical Benefit Fund pension funds that are the envy of the labor movement and a NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan that not only provides care for tens of thousands of people, it lures business owners to the IBEW's doorstep.

"Yesterday, I was talking to my wife Arlene and I said if the American dream is you work hard and get paid well for it; you have a pension and you raise your family in dignity so they do better than you did, then I lived the American dream plus," Chilia said. "And it is because I joined this union when I was 19 years old."

Stephenson appointed Fourth District International Vice President Kenneth W. Cooper to fill the rest of Chilia's term of office. Fourth District International Representative Brian G. Malloy will replace Cooper. The International Executive Council unanimously approved the appointments.

A Lifetime of Service

Chilia is a second generation IBEW member, but unlike most, he followed his mother, not his father. His mother, Judy Chilia, worked in a generator and alternator factory represented by Cleveland Local 1377. At age 96, she still collects a pension from funds her son oversees.

Sam joined the apprenticeship program of Cleveland Local 38 in 1967 and got his journeyman ticket in 1971.

"My father died in 1956. But I always felt the union was just as special to me as it was to the proudest fourth-generation journeyman because my mother worked all her life in a manufacturing plant under an IBEW contract," Chilia said.

"People worked hard for every dollar in those retirement accounts. You want the person looking out for that money to really know where it came from and what it means," Stephenson said. "Sam always did."

Chilia worked with the tools for more than 20 years before he went on staff at Local 38. He was elected president in 1989 and then business manager in 1997. In



International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill, International President Lonnie R. Stephenson with International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore Chilia, who is retiring after 50 years in the IBEW.

2001, he was elected to the International Executive Council for the Third IEC District at the 36th International Convention in San Francisco.

Then, 40 years after starting his apprenticeship, in 2007, Sam became the Fourth District international vice president.

In 2011, International President Emeritus Edwin J. Hill appointed him to finish the unexpired term of retiring International Secretary-Treasurer Lindell Lee. Later that year, at the Vancouver International Convention, Chilia was elected to his own full term by acclamation.

"Sam never spent much time blowing his own horn. He was always interested in getting things done, not getting credit," Hill said. "The proof of Sam's quality as a labor unionist, as a man and as a friend is there for everyone to see. In his reputation as a good worker, in his rise through the Brotherhood. He was quiet about it, but there is no trade union-

ist in North America who worked smarter or harder for working families than Sam."

In addition to the FMCP and the NEBF, Chilia managed the IBEW's general fund, the pension plans for IBEW officers and the one for office staff and others.

He was also responsible for the union's political operations. Under Chilia's leadership, the IBEW has stepped up grassroots organizing and member education.

"I'm fortunate to stand in the shoes of some of the giants in IBEW history: former International Secretary-Treasurers Lindell Lee, Jon Walters, Jerry O'Connor, Ed Hill, Jack Moore and so many other outstanding brothers, back to our first International Secretary, J.T. Kelly, who once mortgaged his furniture to keep this Brotherhood operating," Chilia said. "Every day, I have fresh appreciation for all they did to build and maintain a solid organization that has stood the test of time. All I can hope is that I played my part." ■

Two Strangers and a Life-Saving Act of Brotherhood

This is a story about two brothers. One, a single father from Delaware, spends his days lashed to a painful but life-saving dialysis machine, valuable time away from his three kids. The other, a first-year apprentice from Chicago, is ready to make an unthinkable sacrifice to put an end to that suffering.

Last August, we brought you the story of Dave Amalfitano, a journeyman wireman from Wilmington, Del., Local 313. He suffers from polycystic kidney disease, a genetic disorder that causes cysts to grow on the kidneys, inflating them to many times their normal size.

His diagnosis, which killed his father and afflicts his brother as well, requires a kidney transplant. There is no other medical solution. Without it, he'll be tied to a dialysis machine until he dies.

So Amalfitano reached out to everyone he knew. When that failed to turn up a match, last summer he asked his business manager, Doug Drummond, to put up an appeal for a kidney donor on the union hall's marquee. Local news coverage turned up dozens who were willing to undergo blood tests looking for a match, but none were successful.

When the Electrical Worker called, Amalfitano hoped to reach a wider audience, but the odds were still stacked against him — until Robert Vargas, a complete stranger, called.

"I put myself in his shoes," Vargas said after seeing the story on the back page of the union newspaper. "I don't know what my family would do without me, so I called Dave and told him, 'If I'm a match, you can have my kidney.'"

Vargas is a member of Chicago Local 9, a husband and a father to a 3-year old daughter, Mia. He chalks his chance encounter with Amalfitano's story to a higher power. "God wanted me to read that story," he said. "I don't read the paper very often. I was brought to that page."

After speaking to Amalfitano, he connected with a University of Maryland hospital caseworker and started a battery of tests, parting with almost 20 vials of blood to see if he and Amalfitano were compatible.

"The results came back and our blood was a perfect match," Vargas said. "I'd been telling people the entire time, if I pass, it's for a reason, and now I know that reason is to save Dave and to help him live a long, healthy life with his kids."

Now, Vargas just needs to complete a physical, which he'll do partially in Chicago and partially at the University of Maryland, and then doctors will schedule the surgery.

"Dave and I talk almost every day now," Vargas said. "We've become really close over the course of this, and I'm hopeful that the next steps happen quickly so we can get him back up and running."

The major obstacles now are financial. Vargas is the sole provider for his family, and could lose up to two months of work between doctor's appointments, the surgery and a four-to-six-week recovery.



Wilmington, Del., Local 313 member Dave Amalfitano, left, with his three kids, Anna, Matthew and Leo, hopes to be on the receiving end of a life-saving kidney transplant from Chicago Local 9 apprentice Rob Vargas, with wife, Gabriela, and daughter, Mia.

For Amalfitano, things have been hard since a medical complication forced him to quit working early last year. Despite an outpouring of generosity from members of Local 313 and the Wilmington community, he is in over his head financially. COBRA health insurance payments have been crippling, and the home he shares with daughter Anna, 15, and twin boys, Matthew and Leo, 12, has fallen into foreclosure.

"We'll be OK," Amalfitano says, "but

Rob can't make this enormous sacrifice of giving me a kidney unless we figure out a way to make up for the wages he'll lose so he can keep taking care of his family. If we can raise enough to help save my house at the same time, that would be amazing."

Vargas's wife, Gabriela, has set up a fundraising page for the two of them with the hopes of gathering enough to pay for both her family's associated expenses and to help Amalfitano get out from under the

foreclosure so he can have time to recover from the operation and return to work.

"So many people reached out wanting to help," Amalfitano said. "But their blood type was wrong, or they weren't a match. Rob is saving my life, but this is a way for other people who are touched by our story to help."

Sixth District International Vice President David Ruhmkorff said the sacrifice Brother Vargas is prepared to make is

in keeping with "the truest sense of brotherhood and solidarity."

"It's remarkable how the original article touched him, and it's amazing what he's stepping up to do," Ruhmkorff said. "We talk about being the union of hearts and minds, but Brother Vargas is showing us what the 'heart' part of that is really all about."

For Amalfitano, he can still hardly believe Vargas found him and that his long, painful journey with his disease may finally be reaching its end.

"Rob is my lifesaver," he said. "We both want this to work out so badly, and we're so close to making it a reality. Thanks to the IBEW, thanks to the brotherhood we share through our union, and most of all thanks to the gigantic heart of this young guy who's willing to go through hell for me — a guy I didn't even know until a few months ago — I can have a second chance."

"That's what it's all about," Vargas said. "I believe in second chances, and my brother Dave deserves his as much as any of us."

You can donate to help Dave and Rob at [GoFundMe.com/HelpRobSaveDave](https://www.gofundme.com/helprobsaveDave). ■

Boston IBEW Members Hailed for Helping to Save a Life

Three members of Boston Local 103 resuscitated a passenger on the platform of the city's subway system March 2.

The victim collapsed at the Government Center Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority station. But through a bit of luck and the skill of IBEW journeyman wiremen, he survived.

When he collapsed at nearly 11 a.m. in a post-rush hour lull, standing next to him was physician assistant Dolly Arjun, who began chest compressions immediately and began yelling for someone to call 911.

Boston Local 103 members Kevin O'Brien, Ed Reynolds and foreman Richard Ryan were installing new circuitry in the inspector's room when Ryan heard Arjun's cry.

Reynolds grabbed O'Brien and Reynolds and they all ran to help. Between them, they had more than 75 years of experience working construction and decades of first aid training.

"When we got there, she was already doing chest compressions. Without her, I don't think the guy stood a chance," Reynolds said. "But she was tiring and she was slowing down. So Kevin took over."

While O'Brien began pumping the blood the man's own heart could not — as he was trained, to the beat of 'Stayin' Alive' by the BeeGees — Reynolds made sure the victim's airway was clear and Ryan watched the victim's pulse.

"That guy is alive because of how we were trained," O'Brien told the CBS Boston local affiliate.

Within 10 minutes, MBTA supervisors arrived with an automatic defibrillator, a machine that delivers a series of electrical pulses designed to restart an arrested heart. The victim responded and was conscious when paramedics arrived on the scene.

"When Boston fire showed up, he started getting feisty, which was great," Reynolds said.

Working with electricity has always come with risks. Proper training and the availability of effective personal protective equipment make injuries much less common than in the past, but accidents happen, and accidents with high voltage can have catastrophic consequences.

"Everyone should get CPR training. You never know when you will use it, where you may use it — home or work — or on whom you will use it, a co-worker, a family member or the public," said IBEW Safety and Health Department Director Dave Mullen. "This



Boston Local 103 members Ed Reynolds, Kevin O'Brien and Richard Ryan (in vests) were honored by MBTA General Manager Brian Shortsleeve for their quick action that saved the life of a passenger.

shows the power of all types of training IBEW members receive and use."

The story was covered in the Boston Globe and made the local TV news at nearly every station.

On March 6, Ryan, O'Brien and Reynolds were congratulated by MBTA Chief Administrator Brian Shortsleeve and presented with a plaque. They were again honored for their actions March 17, this time by Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, who is, after all, their boss.

"Every construction worker has heard some version of this saying at the beginning of the day: Do your work. Do it right and come home safe," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "It counts for the customers we work for too. I can't put into words how proud we are of them." ■

The Trump Discount Returns

Another Contractor Stiffed by Trump

An IBEW signatory contractor filed suit against the Trump organization for skipping out on \$2 million of work done on the luxury Washington D.C. hotel in the Old Post Office Building.

Freestate Electric filed a mechanic's lien Dec. 27 and filed a complaint to enforce the lien Jan. 19 in D.C. Superior Court. Freestate alleges that it was not paid more than \$2 million for work their electricians performed at the landmark hotel conversion in Washington, D.C.

“This is not political. We did a good job, at an agreed upon price and we want to be paid for it.”

— Tim Miller, AES Electric

This brings to five the number of contractors who have sued for nonpayment at the Old Post Office project. In total, they are claiming nearly \$5 million in unpaid bills.

“We’ve only filed three [mechanics’ liens] in the past decade, so, this is not unusual for us,” said Tim Miller, executive vice president at Freestate’s parent company, AES Electric. “I want to make clear that this is not political. Whether it is Trump, or somebody you never heard of, we did a good job, at an agreed upon price and we want to be paid for it. We’d rather be talking about what an excellent job our employees did on a complex project than doing this.”

A reputation for underpaying, or not paying bills at all, has dogged the Trump Organization for decades. A USA Today investigation found more than 3,500 cases filed against Trump for nonpayment.

Jack O’Donnell, former president of the Plaza casino in Atlantic City, told the Wall Street Journal it was a common practice.

“Part of how he did business as a philosophy was to negotiate the best price he could. And then when it came time to pay the bills,” O’Donnell said, Trump would say, “I’m going to pay you but I’m going to pay you 75 percent of what we agreed to.”

It was known as the “Trump discount,” according to the Economist Magazine. (Trump’s history of paying — and not paying — unions was covered extensively in the August 2016 issue of the Electrical Worker.)

The hundreds of IBEW members who worked on the project, along with all of Freestate’s vendors have been paid, Miller said. Just not the company.

“We are, in effect, floating them a \$2 million interest-free loan,” Miller said.

The Trump organization posted a \$3 million bond to cover the liens and said, in effect, that this is normal.

“In developments of this scale and complexity the filing of nominal liens at the

conclusion of construction is not uncommon as part of the close-out process,” a Trump Organization spokesperson, who declined to be named, said in an emailed statement provided to Bloomberg BNA Jan. 5.

The Trump Organization won the right to redevelop the former federal office building with the landmark clock tower into the Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C. in 2014. Work on the luxury hotel took two years and cost upwards of \$200 million according to the Trump Organization. Rooms range from \$600 to \$25,000 a night.

Freestate’s base contract was for \$13 million, but the national historic landmark was likely to present unexpected challenges, Miller said, and change orders were always going to be part of the job. When the soft and grand opening dates were moved forward to meet the needs of the political campaign, the number and cost of the changes also went up. The job finished at \$17 million and Freestate is suing for the last \$2 million, \$1.6 million of which is change orders.

“In most hotel jobs, there are three, maybe four room configurations. On this job, there were 200 rooms and very few were typical. In addition, we couldn’t pene-



trate finishes because of the historic protections, so from a productivity point of view, it is a challenge,” Miller said. “But we are very proud of the work we did and we

won the accolades that justify that pride.”

General contractor Lend Lease nominated Freestate for a Washington Building Congress Craftsmanship award for the

NECA-signatory contractor Freestate Electric has sued the Trump Organization for nonpayment of \$2 million for work they did transforming the Old Post Office building into the Trump Hotel. Photo used under a Creative Commons license, courtesy Mike Peel

lighting they installed, an award they won. So, Miller said, there is no question about the quality of the work they did, just whether they should be paid for it.

In order to meet the deadlines for the Sept. 12 opening, Freestate says it had crews on site seven days per week, 12 to 14 hours per day for nearly 50 consecutive days. Without Freestate’s additional manpower, this “soft opening” date would not have been met. The official Oct. 26 grand opening was scheduled, according to the lawsuit, “to provide an opportunity for positive press coverage for Mr. Trump’s presidential campaign.”

Miller said he hopes the issue is resolved before it makes it to court.

“We wish this hadn’t happened, we wish it had been dealt with sooner and now we just want to get back to what we do best: delivering jobs on time, on budget and as agreed,” Miller said. ■

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

In Wisconsin, Bill to Limit PLAs is Another Shot at Labor

The Wisconsin GOP and Gov. Scott Walker have become the poster children in recent years when it comes to an anti-working family agenda. They’re about to strike again.

Walker is expected to sign a bill recently passed by the state Assembly and Senate that would prohibit local governments and municipalities from requiring contractors to use project labor agreements — which set wages and working conditions for workers before bidding on a contract.

Walker and his Republican allies, who control both the Assembly and Senate, eliminated collective bargaining rights for most state employees in 2011 and enacted a right-to-work law in 2015. The latest measure passed both the Assembly and Senate on a party-line vote.

“It’s anti-worker, anti-local government,” state Sen. Dave Hansen, D-Green Bay, told Wisconsin Public Radio. “This is nothing more than a thinly veiled attack on organized labor.”

Project labor agreements help ensure fair wages for workers and give local contractors and businesses a better chance to bid successfully on the work. They provide a higher-skilled workforce — including many IBEW members — along with predictable costs, ensuring projects are finished on time and on budget. They also help keep more of those tax dollars in their communities.

These projects employ IBEW members and are using project labor agreements:

- A \$92.5 million building project for schools in Superior, Wis., that includes a new elementary school.
- A new arena for the NBA’s Milwaukee Bucks.
- The renovation of Lambeau Field, legendary home of the NFL’s Green Bay Packers.
- Northwestern Mutual’s new office tower in Milwaukee

“When they are used, they are used effectively,” Milwaukee Local 494 Business Manager Dean Warsh said. “But this legislation is a way to go after unions, so they come after us.”

Without them, work often goes to cheaper contractors from outside the area. Wages fall and tax dollars leave the communities instead.

“It’s funny how Scott Walker and the Republicans at the statehouse say Wisconsin is open for business,” Warsh said. “I guess they mean to cut-rate contractors who will build our roads and bridges.”

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett wasn’t pleased when the Senate passed its version of the bill on Feb. 7.

“Hiring a well-trained, high-quality workforce is a priority for me,” Barrett told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. “Our building and construction trades are critical partners in Milwaukee’s renaissance, which is why I support their contributions. They visibly



Photo credit: Flickr/Creative Commons agreement by Michael Vadon.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has made it his life’s work to reduce the power of organized labor. Act 10, which he signed in 2011, eliminated collective bargaining for state employees, and now he’s coming after project labor agreements.

strengthen our economy.”

Warsh said Wisconsin labor officials are battling a sense of fatigue among union members and their allies. Conservative business interests and groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council — which writes model legislation for state legislatures across the country that limits labor’s influence and harms working families — have been so successful in the state under Walker that some union members are tired of fighting back.

But even in likely losing campaigns, resistance is essential, he said. Walker has hinted he will run for a third term as governor in 2018. Local 494 has emailed fliers to members with facts about project labor agreements and why they are important.

“We need to keep people focused and ready to move forward,” he said.

Dan Bukiewicz, president of the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council and a former Local 494 business representative, said the fact that officials use PLAs on some of the state’s highest-profile projects show their effectiveness.

“Local municipalities should be able to utilize them if they are appropriate for their needs and not have the state over-govern and take that option away,” said Bukiewicz, who recently was appointed mayor of Oak Creek, a Milwaukee suburb. “Local officials are better aware of the needs of their communities than state officials in Madison.” ■

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

‘We’re Not There Yet.’ IBEW Canada Commits to Gender Parity

It’s no secret that women make up a small portion of the electrical industry. IBEW Canada is taking steps to change that.

“We’ve come a long way, but we’re not there yet,” said First District Vice President William Daniels. “Women bring a lot to the workplace and the IBEW, and we owe them our full support. We all do better when women succeed.”

Achieving full gender equality can’t be done in a day, or by one person or industry. That’s the philosophy behind the Leadership Accord on Gender Diversity for the Electricity Industry, an initiative from Electricity Human Resources Canada, a nonprofit focused on human resources in the energy field.

The accord, which IBEW Canada signed onto as a founding partner, was announced on March 8, International Women’s Day.

“Diversity breeds innovation. Research has consistently shown that diverse teams are more creative and innovative, while better representing the customers they serve,” said Michelle Branigan, who heads the nonprofit, in a press release.

More than just signing on to a statement, organizations commit to making changes in their sector, including improving workplace policies and practices to ensure a gender-diverse workplace, including gender representation in work contracts and promoting more women to senior leadership.

The IBEW joins other stakeholders in their support, including Ontario Power Generation, Algonquin College and the Energy Council of Canada. IBEW representative Andrea McQuillan, then a business representative with Halifax, Nova Scotia, Local 1928, served on the steering committee that reviewed the language.

Noting the barriers working women still face, consciously or unconsciously, the accord states, “The signatories to this accord recognize and confirm united action to expand the breadth and depth of the skilled workforce; ensure that women are informed of the opportunities available in the sector; and, once in the sector, are fully supported and provided with equal opportunities to grow and develop to their full potential.”

Two women from Toronto Local 353 and two from Ottawa, Ontario, Local 586 shared their experiences in the building trades on the IBEW Canada website.

Karen Pullen, a business representative with Local 353, says society often discourages women and girls from entering the trades.

“It starts when we’re babies,” Pullen said. “People around us steer the girls towards the dollies and the boys towards

the trucks. Why not let everyone play with both if they want to?”

They also shared their thoughts on being members of the IBEW.

“When I joined the union and started working on big projects, I found that my brothers would step in to defend me if some other trades were giving me a hard time,” said Anne Schmitz, a member of Local 586, now retired. “It really is like joining a family.”

The women also offer advice for aspiring electricians. Pullen suggested taking math and science courses and doing home projects.

“You’ll find you’re able to keep a lot more money in your pocket, which is especially important if you’re a single mom,” she said. “It’s very empowering

when no one has to save you.”

Catherine Gorman, a member of Local 586, recommends taking the initiative to find a mentor.

“Walk into the IBEW union hall in your area and find a female mentor to help you get through the process. I try to be the mentor I wish I had when I was an apprentice,” she said. “That’s how I try and give back to the trade that has given me so much.”

Even with the obstacles, the women shared a passion for the work.

“I love seeing the lights come on once I’ve done my work,” Schmitz said. “It’s a good trade, and it’s good to know a trade. Our world is changing so fast, but so far, we still need electricians. It’s a good way to earn a living and keep a family going.” ■



IBEW Canada is one of several organizations that recently committed to a nationwide effort to bring more women into the electrical industry.

« On n’est pas encore rendu là. » La FIOE s’engage à assurer la parité entre les femmes et les hommes

Ce n’est pas un secret, les femmes occupent une petite partie dans l’industrie électrique. La FIOE Canada adopte des mesures pour remédier à cette situation.

« Nous avons fait beaucoup de progrès, mais on n’est pas encore rendu-là, » dit Bill Daniels le vice-président international au Premier District. « Les femmes apportent beaucoup sur les lieux de travail et la FIOE, et nous leur devons notre plein appui. Nous en tirons toujours mieux lorsque les femmes réussissent. »

Atteindre la pleine égalité des sexes ne peut pas être réalisé en une journée, ni seulement par une personne dans l’industrie. C’est la philosophie qui se trouve derrière l’Accord de leadership sur la diversité des genres dans l’industrie de l’électricité, une initiative prise par les Ressources Humaines, Industrie Électrique du Canada; une organisation à but non lucratif dont le mandat porte principalement sur les ressources humaines dans le domaine de l’énergie.

L’Accord signé par la FIOE Canada à titre de partenaire fondateur a été annoncé le 8 mars lors de la célébration de la Journée internationale des femmes.

« La diversité favorise l’innovation. Les recherches ont révélé systématiquement que les équipes diversifiées sont plus créatives et plus innovatrices, tout

en représentant mieux les clients qu’elles desservent, » dit Michelle Branigan P.D.G de l’organisation lors d’une conférence de presse.

Plus qu’une signature de déclaration, les organisations s’engagent à apporter des changements dans leur secteur, y compris l’amélioration des politiques et des pratiques au travail visant à garantir un milieu de travail diversifié entre les hommes et les femmes, ainsi que la représentation entre hommes et femmes dans les contrats de travail et d’encourager plus de femmes à occuper des postes de haute direction.

À travers l’appui, La FIOE se joint aux organisations fondatrices, dont l’Ontario Power Generation, le Collège Algonquin et le Conseil canadien de l’énergie. Andrea McQuillan qui représentait la FIOE, une ancienne assistante du gérant d’affaires de la section locale 1928 à Halifax en Nouvelle-Écosse, a siégé au comité de direction pour examiner les principes.

En prenant note des obstacles auxquels les femmes continuent de faire face, consciemment ou non, l’Accord stipule que « Les signataires de cet Accord reconnaissent et confirment qu’entreprendre une action concertée permet d’élargir et d’approfondir les compétences de la main-d’œuvre; garantis que les femmes sont informées des opportunités

offertes dans le secteur; et, une fois dans le secteur, elles seront entièrement encadrées et jouiront d’une même égalité des chances de croître et de développer pleinement leur potentiel. »

Deux femmes de la section locale 353 située à Toronto et deux autres de la section locale 586 située à Ottawa en Ontario ont partagé leurs expériences dans les métiers de la construction sur le site web de la FIOE Canada.

Karen Pullen, une représentante d’affaires de la section locale 353, dit que la société décourage les femmes et les jeunes femmes d’entrer dans les métiers spécialisés.

« Ça commence lorsqu’on est bébé, » dit Pullen. « Les gens autour de nous dirigent les jeunes filles vers les poupées et les garçons vers les camions. Pourquoi ne pas laisser tout le monde jouer avec les deux s’ils veulent? »

Elles ont également partagé leur avis qui explique leur appartenance à la FIOE.

« Lorsque j’ai joint les rangs du syndicat et j’ai commencé à travailler sur de grands projets, j’ai constaté que mes confrères intervenaient pour me défendre si certains autres métiers me compliquaient les choses, » dit Anne Schmitz, une membre de la section locale 586, maintenant retraitée. « C’est vraiment comme faire partie d’une famille. »

Les femmes offrent également des conseils aux futures électriciennes. Pullen conseille de suivre des cours de mathématique et de sciences ainsi que de monter des projets à la maison.

Vous allez vous rendre compte que vous allez être en mesure de garder plus d’argent dans vos poches, ce qui est particulièrement important si vous êtes une mère monoparentale, » dit-elle. « C’est très gratifiant de savoir que personne ne doit vous sauver. »

Catherine Gorman, une membre de la section locale 586 recommande de prendre l’initiative de trouver une mentore.

« Entrez dans un local syndical de votre région et trouvez une femme mentore pour vous aider à passer à travers le processus. J’essaie d’être la mentore que j’aurais aimé avoir lorsque j’étais une apprentie, » dit-elle. « C’est ma façon de redonner au métier qui m’a tellement donnée. »

Même avec les obstacles, les femmes partagent une passion pour le métier.

« J’aime voir les lumières allumer une fois mon travail terminé, » dit Schmitz. « C’est un bon métier, et c’est bon de connaître un métier. Notre monde évolue rapidement, et nous avons encore besoin d’électriciens. C’est une bonne façon de gagner sa vie et d’assurer le bien-être d’une famille. » ■

CIRCUITS

Kansas Members Help Vets, Change a Red State's Mind About Unions

Jeff Thomson appreciates the importance of skilled workers on projects that provide affordable housing for people in need. That's why he was thrilled when members of Hutchinson, Kan., Local 661 volunteered to help renovate a duplex that will be home to two military veterans and their families.

"Electricity for this house would have broken me," said Thomson, a project coordinator for Interfaith Housing Services in Hutchinson, a town of about 42,000 residents in south-central Kansas. "It would have put me at least \$10,000 over budget."

Thanks to the work of Local 661, that won't be the case.

"It made the difference in the house sitting there for another year and me trying to find money to pay for it instead of vets living in it in 2017," he added.

"We're brothers and sisters. We need to help each other out."

— Local 661 Business Manager
Nathan DeBerry

The duplex is expected to be occupied by this summer. Local 661 members have volunteered on community projects before, but this was the first time they had a chance to do so while using the skills they know best, Business Manager Nathan DeBerry said. That's actual electrical work.

"We make a pretty decent wage," DeBerry said. "We're brothers and sisters. We need to help each other out."

Added Local 661 president Gavin Taylor: "We had guys coming together for one cause, to help out the less fortunate."

The project has been big news in Hutchinson since last summer. A property owner of a nursery donated an old house he considered demolishing. Instead of tearing it down, he donated it to the non-profit and paid to have it moved.

DeBerry saw what was happening. He and other local officials envisioned it providing plenty of opportunities. The most important was helping families in need, but it also allowed journeymen and apprentices to work on home construction.

Local 661 has been frozen out of the residential market for years because its signatory contractors say there is little money to be made, DeBerry said. They are working for ways to make it more affordable and successfully bid on home construction jobs, he said. The project provided members a chance to hone those skills.

"I thought it was an opportunity to give our apprentices a chance they might not normally get and to make us more



Volunteers from Hutchinson, Kan., Local 661 take a break from wiring homes for veterans in need.

competitive and give back to our community at the same time," DeBerry said.

Local 661 had a personal connection, too. Brothers Josh and Daniel Mansur are members. Daniel and wife Liz are U.S. Army veterans who served several tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. Liz is the co-owner with Molly Mansur, Josh's wife, of L&M Electric, a Local 661 signatory contractor based in Hutchinson.

L&M supplied the license to allow about 20 Local 661 members volunteer on the project. The Mansur brothers also worked on the project themselves.

"Anything we can do to show people in the community what the IBEW actually means, we want to be there," Josh said. "We have families and we want to do what we can to help people."

And finally, the project tells people in an area long known as antiunion that IBEW brothers and sisters are determined to make their communities better, DeBerry said. Kansas became a right-to-work state in 1958 and the law is part of the state's constitution. DeBerry and Taylor said the antiunion sentiment is even more pronounced in smaller towns like Hutchinson, which is about 35 miles from Wichita.

"If we go to a larger job around here, we're usually the only union craft," Taylor said.

Republican Gov. Sam Brownback and the large GOP majorities in the Kansas Legislature have made it virtually impossible to enact any meaningful reform to aid working families in recent years.

"The public perception of unions in our jurisdiction is very poor," DeBerry said. "Most of it is very rural and our state bleeds red. We want to change the mindset of some people. We want to let them know all we're trying to do is help and give back to the community that gives us so much."

They've made a believer out of Thomson. He said Local 661's involvement from the outset and a grant from the Veterans Administration encouraged other groups to volunteer for the project.

"I'm sorry I didn't meet him sooner," he said. "He comes at everything with the right attitude and the vigor that it needs. He's been great to work with." ■

Boston Local Hosts Second Annual Girls in Trades Conference

Continuing a new tradition, Boston Local 103 hosted more than 350 girls from eastern Massachusetts area high schools on March 2 for a conference and career fair to encourage their interest in the skilled trades.

The conference was sponsored by Massachusetts Girls in Trades, an organization dedicated to establishing a pipeline for school-aged girls to enter the union skilled trades.

More than 3,000 young women in high schools across Massachusetts are enrolled in construction trades programs, said Maryanne Ham, administrator at Minuteman High and a founding board member of Girls in Trades.

Yet many seem to face barriers upon graduation. In 2015, tradeswomen account-

ed for just over 6 percent of apprentices in the Bay State, according to the Boston Globe. Nationally, it's less than 3 percent.

Some of these barriers include sexual harassment, gendered perceptions of women's capabilities and lack of mentors, according to a study by the National Women's Law Center. It found that women leave apprenticeships at higher rates than men, citing problems like hostile work environments and lack of child care. The study also stated that, while women have made great strides in other traditionally male-dominated fields like medicine and law, construction remains lopsided.

"A great place to start helping these women remove these barriers is within the union trades. There is a large membership with access to tradeswomen who can act as mentors," Ham said.

The number of female apprentices in Massachusetts has grown from 4.2 percent to almost 7 percent, said Liz Skid-

more, business representative and organizer for the New England Regional Council of Carpenters.

"We look forward to those women retiring in 30 years after a proud career of building Massachusetts with the protection of a full pension," Skidmore said.

Having more women in the trades can also help with the shortage of skilled construction workers. In addition to working with girls, the conference offered networking opportunities and a workshop for educators on apprenticeships and what teachers and counselors can do to encourage students to apply.

Additionally, said Ham, students at career and technical education schools have had opportunities to explore a variety of career pathways and find their passion early on.

"Our students have four years of trade experience and can do more in the field quicker than the average apprentice," Ham said. "I've wondered for years why the union construction trades have not expanded their outreach before and am grateful they are now. To me this seems like a win for all."

If the student feedback is any indication, these girls may indeed be the next generation of tradespeople.

"I'm not alone and many women are breaking gender roles," reported one student in an anonymous survey given at the end of the conference. Others said, "I learned that I have no limits in what I can do," and, "being nontraditional is different for everyone."

Many students also shared what they learned about unions, how they offer protection, benefits and apprenticeships — and that they can in fact join one.

A second conference was held on April 13 in western Massachusetts. Mark Kuenzel, training director for Springfield, Mass., Local 7 served on the steering committee and attended the Boston conference last year.

He said he frequently hears from female students planning to go to college and get a degree in electrical engineering. They say their parents want them to go,



Hundreds of high school-aged girls from the Boston area gathered at Boston Local 103's hall for the second year in a row to encourage young women to enter the trades.

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CIRCUITS

Continued from page 7

despite spending the last four years learning a trade that can get them into an apprenticeship — and a high-paying career without student loan debt.

“Not everyone is cut out for the trades, we all know that,” Kuenzel said. “But it’s a missed opportunity for a lot of girls.” ■

Career Growth Through Higher Education

If you’ve ever thought about furthering your education, IBEW partner Excelsior College may have the online program for you.

On April 11, the nonprofit, fully accredited institution held a virtual “Open Admit Day” for IBEW members looking to discuss their higher education options. But IBEW Workforce Partnership Ambassador Stephanie Cietek is still available to members who missed that event and would like more information. She can help answer questions about available degree programs and how to apply.

“We see a lot of our members take advantage of Excelsior’s programs,” said International Representative Anna Jerry, who serves the IBEW’s Utility Department. “Some people need degrees to make a move into management. Others just want to stay competitive in shifting job markets or to change careers altogether,” she said. “Higher education, particularly when it’s online and fits into a busy work schedule, can be a great back-up plan for a lot of people.”

Excelsior is unique in that it offers generous course credits for company-provided training programs and certifications, many of which are applicable to the institution’s degree programs. “It’s a nice benefit,” Jerry said. “You’ve already done the work, so it helps not to have to pay for it a second time.”

Excelsior offers degree programs in technology and engineering, business, nursing and more. A full listing can be found on www.excelsior.edu.

Those interested in more information should contact Cietek by email at scietek@excelsior.edu or by phone at (518) 608-8165. ■

Denver Local 111 Float Lights Up St. Patrick’s Day Parade

More than 1 million people came out for Denver’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade

March 11.

The parade featured classic sights that would have been at home in any of the previous 54 runnings of the parade, including beauty queens waving from convertibles, local high school marching bands playing John Philip Sousa waltzes and kilted pipers playing Danny Boy. This being Colorado, there were also horse riders wearing green cowboy hats.

This year, the members of the Denver Local 111 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus wanted to bring something different to the parade. A float, but not just any float, one that would share the message about the work its utility members do every day keeping the lights on.

And they wanted a perch to fling candy to the children in the crowd.

So, they built a miniature three-phase electrical grid, complete with three poles, a transformer and power lines.

At the top of the poles — wearing the appropriate protective gear — were men and women with hooks on their boots, smiling and waving to the crowds.

“It was EWMC’s idea, but our members jumped right on board as soon as we heard about it,” said Cory Williams, an apprentice gas fitter at Excel, member of Local 111 and the Eighth District representative on the Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers advisory committee.

More than 20 people showed up to build the float, including many of the nearly 20 members of Local 111’s RENEW/NextGen chapter.

The float made the local news and KYGO, a Denver country music station, called it the best float in the parade, Williams said.

In addition to the 10 five-gallon buckets of candy they gave out to the crowd, the dozens of IBEW members on the float and walking alongside it handed out hundreds of fliers explaining who the IBEW, the EWMC and RENEW/NextGen are.

“We wanted to get our name out to bring in new workers, but also to put a good light on what we do as linemen, groundmen and gas workers every day,” Williams said. “Everybody pays their bill without understanding how their lights stay on and their houses stay warm. We want to change that.”

There are currently five RENEW/NextGen chapters in the Eighth District, Williams said, with two more being formed now. He said he hopes the Eighth District will have at least 10. ■



Denver Local 111 members with the three-phase electrical grid for their float, complete with poles, transformer and power lines.

TRANSITIONS

APPOINTED

Kenneth W. Cooper



Fourth District Vice President Kenneth W. Cooper was appointed International Secretary-Treasurer, effective May 1, to fill the unexpired term

of office of Salvatore “Sam” Chilia.

“Kenny’s time as a vice president and business manager shows he’s a leader who gets things done and will be able to maintain the strong financial position that is so important to all our brothers and sisters,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said.

“I grew up a poor kid in Mansfield, Ohio. The IBEW gave me the skills and the opportunity to move into the middle class.”

— Secretary-Treasurer
Kenneth W. Cooper

For Cooper, it is another step in a career that began in 1986, when he was initiated into Mansfield, Ohio, Local 688. He completed his journeyman wireman apprenticeship in 1989.

“I grew up a poor kid in Mansfield, Ohio,” he said. “The IBEW gave me the skills and the opportunity to move into the middle class and I want to pass that along to other people. I said it to our staff in the district office many times, the most important thing we do is to organize, represent and help working families.”

Cooper is a first-generation IBEW member, but union ties run deep in his family. His father was a member of the United Auto Workers and his grandfather was in the United Steelworkers. He was active in the IBEW almost from the start, serving as steward, vice president, president, chairman of the pension and welfare fund, assistant business manager, and finally, Local 668 business manager for nine years.

As business manager, he helped increase man-hours for construction wiremen by 28 percent and received multiple awards for his role in organizing workers and negotiating fair contracts in his jurisdiction.

“Employees need to have dignity and respect in the workplace and I’m honored I was able to play a part in getting new union members better working conditions and increasing the standard of living for them and their families,” Cooper said.

He also was active in several civic and charitable organizations in Mansfield, a city of about 47,000 midway between Cleveland and Columbus. He volunteered or served on the boards for the local chapters of the AFL-CIO, Catholic Charities, American Red Cross and the United Way.

Cooper moved to Las Vegas in 2002 to be with his wife Gina and worked for

Las Vegas Local 396 as assistant business manager, where he was a leader in the organizing of five new bargaining units at Nevada Power Company, now known as NV Energy.

“The experience gained there provided a wealth of knowledge in regards to organizing in large, investor-owned utilities,” he said.

Cooper moved to the Fourth District office as an international representative in 2006. Then-International President Edwin D. Hill appointed him vice president five years later — replacing Chilia, who became secretary-treasurer. Cooper was elected later that year at the International Convention in Vancouver and re-elected at last year’s convention in St. Louis.

As vice president, Cooper instituted a 100-day program for new business managers. He and his staff would work with each of them to develop a series of goals to reach early in his or her tenure. Not only was it a good education for the business managers, it also improved communication and developed a sense of working together within the district, he said.

“It serves them well in meeting their goals and provides a good foundation for new leaders,” he said. “It all runs together.”

During his tenure, the IBEW organized nearly 1,500 workers at Asplundh, an international tree-trimming service, with many of them in the Fourth District. Workers voted for representation in 39 of the 42 elections at Asplundh sites across the Fourth District.

Cooper also oversaw the successful organization of 1,400 workers at Baltimore Gas and Electric last January.

“There are so many duties when you’re a vice president, but my No. 1 priority was organizing and that will continue to be my No. 1 priority,” he said. “I know our financial situation improves when we add members and continue to represent middle-class families.”

The IBEW officers, staff and members congratulate Brother Cooper on his new position and wish him much success in the months and years ahead. ■

APPOINTED

Frank J. Furco



Lisle, Ill., Local 701 Business Manager Frank Furco has been appointed by International President Lonnie R. Stephenson to serve on

the International Executive Council, representing the Fifth IEC District. The appointment, which was unanimously approved by the IEC, took effect on March 1.

Brother Furco, 58, was initiated into the IBEW in 1979, following in the footsteps of his father, who was a journeyman wireman at Local 701. His two younger brothers, Tim and Jim, are also members.

“It’s an enormous honor to be asked to fill this role on the IEC,” Furco said, “and I plan to do everything I can to be an

advocate for the members and locals in the states I represent. I want them to know their voices are being heard at the international level.”

Furco started out his career as an IBEW leader in an unlikely place — on the softball field. It was the late 1980s, and his leadership on the field got him noticed by then-business manager Stan Perry, who asked him to teach apprentice school. “I guess that went pretty well, because five years later, our next business manager, Art Ludwig, asked me to run for executive board,” Furco said.

Over the next 15 years, Furco would go on to serve as an organizer, business agent and assistant business manager, alongside roles on Local 701’s social club, PAC committee, health and pension trusts and more.

In May of 2010, he was appointed to replace outgoing business manager Kenneth Lambert. He served for just a month before facing his first election.

In his nearly seven years as business manager, Local 701 has flourished, renovating and expanding the local offices and hiring a full-time organizer with the sole responsibility of bringing in new members.

“I plan to do everything I can to be an advocate for the members and locals in the states I represent.”

— Frank J. Furco, IEC member

Despite being the smallest geographical IBEW local in Illinois thanks to its location in the union-dense suburbs of Chicago, Local 701’s 1,600 members put in over 2.3 million hours last year, and they’re looking to grow.

“Organizing is a big priority for us,” he said, “even though it’s a new idea for a lot of our members. We need to be ready to continue to grow with the industry.”

Furco’s current service includes three years on the Council on Industrial Relations and two terms as secretary-treasurer of the DuPage County Building and Construction Trades Council. He is also treasurer of the Chicago-area Construction Industry Service Corporation, a labor-management association.

“I’m just really excited to have the chance to work alongside International President Stephenson in this role on the IEC,” Furco said. “He’s not too far removed from working in the field, and he’s an approachable guy. I want to be the same kind of leader for the working men and women of the Fifth IEC District.”

The Fifth IEC District represents IBEW members in the states of Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The officers, staff and membership of the IBEW wish Brother Furco all the best in his new position. ■

APPOINTED

Brian Malloy



Fourth District International Representative Brian G. Malloy was appointed vice president for the Fourth District, effective May 1. Malloy replaces Kenneth W. Cooper, who was appointed international secretary-treasurer.

"I'm very humbled," Malloy said. "I appreciate the confidence that President Stephenson and Secretary-Treasurer Cooper have in me."

A native of Mount Savage, Maryland, Brother Malloy was initiated into Cumberland Local 307 in 1979. He served as Local 307's president and business manager prior to being appointed international representative for the Fourth District in 2001.

"I'm really proud of him," said daughter Breana Malloy, an attorney and international representative assigned to the Political and Legislative Department. "He can do anything he puts his mind to. I have no doubt in my mind that this will be great for the district as well as for him."

Malloy's commitment to Local 307, its members and their families, has been constant, said Business Manager Rodney Rice. From working with incoming officers to attending funerals and other events, he never lost touch with the local and its community.

"He was a tremendous help to me. We would talk every day when I first started," Rice said. "He's still very highly respected here."

Brother Malloy says he plans to continue the IBEW's No. 1 priority of organizing, and growing the Fourth District's membership.

"In everything I do, I plan to do my very best," he said. "At the end of the day, it's all about the membership."

"In everything I do, I plan to do my very best. At the end of the day, it's all about the membership."

— Brian Malloy

His daughter Breana witnessed that commitment to the rank and file firsthand, she said.

"That's his motto," she said. "Being an IBEW member has always been more than a job to my dad. It has been a commitment to his sisters and brothers."

Having worked under three vice presidents, Brother Malloy says he's had the benefit of seeing up close what the job entails. He's also observed different leadership styles, which helped refine his own.

"I like to listen a lot," he said. "I'm more of a listener than a talker."

Malloy also served as area vice president for the Maryland AFL-CIO and secretary-treasurer for the Western Maryland Building Trades during his time with Local 307.

"I've got all the confidence in the world that he'll do a great job," Rice said.

The Fourth District is comprised of Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. ■

RETIRED

James L. Hunter



Retired Utility Department Director James L. Hunter always knew he wanted to be an electrician, like his dad. Brother Hunter, a native of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, began working with his father at his small residential electrical contractor while he was a teenager. His father Glen went to work at Pepco; in 1973, Jim followed him.

Six years after he started work and joined the utility's independent union, the IBEW launched an organizing drive. Hunter, then a substation relay technician, jumped in. When it was successful, he became active in the newly chartered Washington D.C., Local 1900. He served as a steward, then chief steward, executive board member and on several negotiating committees.

But by the early '90s, Hunter said relations between the company and Local 1900's then leaders were breaking down. More than 1,200 grievances were in the arbitration process and nothing was getting resolved.

"When it became clear that the union was going to fight everything no matter the merits or the significance, the company just clicked off and said no to everything," Hunter said. "They thought they were fighting for the members, but when the grievance procedure collapses, it hurts members and you lose the company's respect."

He decided to run for business manager. In a four-way race against a nine-year incumbent, Hunter won on the first ballot. It took two years, but Hunter and his staff cleared up the backlog and rebuilt the grievance process, winning settlements for hundreds of members.

And then the job changed. In September 1996, Pepco announced plans to merge with the utility to its north, Baltimore Gas and Electric. The IBEW had just lost a nasty organizing campaign at BGE. The company had spent tens of millions of dollars fighting the campaign and the IBEW had filed dozens of unfair labor practices complaints in its wake. BGE CEO Christian Poindexter had said publicly that the newly merged utility would not be unionized.

After the regulatory bodies overseeing the merger agreed to it in principle, Hunter and Local 1900 filed suit to stop it, questioning the companies' rosy cost savings estimates and the similarity of the separate grids.

The suit did not prevent the merger, but it delayed it for so long that the companies abandoned the effort. The lawsuit was extensively covered in local and national

media and Hunter's story was told in the March 1998 issue of the IBEW Journal.

"After the merger failed, and let's be honest, we killed it, the company [Pepco] realized that we had power and they needed to work with us. So, when they came to us for help selling more power generation to the Public Service Commission — not stay neutral, but actively support the idea — what did we get? Guaranteed jobs, a three-year extension of our contract, guaranteed benefits," Hunter said. "Why? Because we were powerful and we had the relationships in place to take advantage of that power."

In 2002, then-President Edwin D. Hill named him as an international representative. Two years later, Hill made Hunter Utility Department director.

Hunter took his idea that a powerful union could find ways to work with regulated utilities for the benefit of both. His main tool was the Labor and Management Public Affairs Committee, a coalition between the IBEW and the investor-owned utilities represented by the

"I work for the members. That's it. It is without question one of the great parts of this job."

— Jim Hunter

Edison Electrical Institute.

LAMPAC, Hunter said, transformed the relationships the IBEW has with many utilities because it brings together the most senior people on both sides.

"We joined with EEI and built LAMPAC to highlight ways we can all do better when we all work together where we can. Once they see the value of a hard, but honest negotiation, they are less likely to see everything as a fight," Hunter said.

Looking back, Hunter says the best part of being a director was the simplicity of the job.

"I work for the members. That's it. It is without question one of the great parts of this job that every day I have one question: what can I do to help you?" Hunter said.

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

APPOINTED

Donald A. Colston



International Representative Donald Colston has been appointed director of the Utility Department, effective May 1. Brother Colston will replace James Hunter, who retired.

Colston joined Louisville, Ky., Local 2100 in 1980 when he took a job at Louisville Gas & Electric. Three years later he earned his journeyman lineman ticket and was named chief union steward for the electrical department.

"In the next 10 years, we have big challenges and even bigger opportunities in the Utility Department."

— Donald Colston

Colston was elected treasurer in 1989 and business manager in 1998. He was re-elected in 2001, but resigned when then Gov. Paul Patton appointed him his labor liaison and director of administrative services for the Department of Workers' Claims.

Government work was not for him, Colston said, and he left the job after a year and returned to Louisville Gas & Electric's grid as a troubleman.

Starting in 2002, Colston became Local 2100's political education director and began working with the Kentucky AFL-CIO's political department. From 2006 to 2009 he coordinated political education for state and local elections near Louisville. In 2010 he was the state AFL-CIO director and assisted the IBEW's state political coordinator, International Representative Don Vidourek.

In 2008, Colston was appointed by then-Gov. Steve Beshear to the Kentucky Workers Compensation Nominating Commission for Administrative Law Judges. In 2010, Beshear appointed him to the Labor and Management Board of Directors, a position he held until 2013.

Colston left the board, and Kentucky, after International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill appointed him to be an international representative in Washington D.C., as the Brotherhood's national political coordinator. He was later transferred to the Utility Department.

The IBEW officers, staff and membership wish Brother Colston much success in his new position. ■

RETIRED

Edward Collins Jr.



Second District International Representative Edward Collins Jr. retired Sept. 15, capping a 50-year career with the IBEW.

Brother Collins was initiated into Springfield, Mass., Local 455 in 1967. He moved up the ranks of his local, first as recording secretary in 1969, then as president in 1971 and business manager in 1973. Then-International President J.J. Barry appointed him international representative for the Second District in 1988.

"I can't imagine anything more rewarding to have had as a job than helping members achieve their goals," Collins said.

Collins' labor activism began when he suffered an injury on the job. While working as a fuel handler, his hand was crushed in a conveyor belt that was transporting coal at the West Springfield Gen-

erating Station, requiring surgery.

"I was a member of the union, but I didn't have any greater interest than any other rank-and-file member," Collins told Western Massachusetts Politics & Insight, a local political blog. "That got me active."

Collins, who also worked as a meter installer and tester, became a founding member of the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, an organization dedicated to workplace safety, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary.

He also served as secretary-treasurer of the New England Utility Council-IBEW, executive vice president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO and president of the Pioneer Valley Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

"I can't imagine anything more rewarding ... than helping members achieve their goals."

— Edward Collins, Jr.

A longtime political activist, he is a member of the Massachusetts Democratic Party executive committee and co-chair of the labor outreach committee.

"With politics and labor, it's hard to tell where one ends and the other begins. Everything that we achieve at the bargaining table can be wiped out with the stroke of a pen when the wrong people are elected," Collins said. "To my mind, you can't be a good trade unionist without also being involved in politics."

Collins was a delegate to four Democratic National Conventions, for then-presidential nominees Al Gore, John Kerry and Barack Obama, and most recently as a delegate for Bernie Sanders.

"Ed truly lived the life of a trade unionist," said Local 455 Business Manager Brian Kenney. "He was a great mentor."

Brother Collins served in the Navy from 1964-1969 and graduated from Springfield Technical Community College with an associate degree in 1978.

Collins says he is staying active in retirement, serving as vice chair of the board of trustees for the University of Massachusetts and on the board of the university's Building Authority. When not serving, he works on classic cars and enjoys sports car racing.

The IBEW members, staff and international officers wish Brother Collins and his wife, Paula, a long and happy retirement. ■

RETIRED

Ralph Merriweather



After 48 years in the IBEW, Seventh District International Representative Ralph Merriweather has retired, effective Jan. 1.

"Ralph is irreplaceable," said Direc-

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TRANSITIONS Continued from page 9

tor of Professional and Industrial Membership Development Carmella Thomas. “He can talk to anyone, and I mean anyone. His great gift is that he will find out what is most important to a person and talk with them so that people really hear him.”

Merriweather joined Austin, Texas, Local 520 in 1969 when he started working at Wide Lite’s outdoor lighting fixture factory. A year later, Merriweather joined the U.S. Navy, serving as a shipborne electrician until 1973 when he was honorably discharged. Merriweather returned to Wide Lite and rejoined the IBEW.

At the Local 520 annual picnic that year, then-Business Manager Max Ladush approached Merriweather and told him the federal government was putting pressure on him to get more minorities in the apprenticeship program. He asked Merriweather, who is African American, to join.

Merriweather said no.

“When you say you want me, it had better have nothing to do with color or government,” Merriweather said. “I think he was startled. He had never heard people come back to the business manager that way.”

It took three years. Ladush finally asked him directly and Merriweather went from a BA Member to an A member.

It was a principled boldness that Merriweather carried throughout his career.

“Ralph can talk to anyone and people really hear him.”

— Director of Professional and Industrial Membership Development Carmella Thomas

Brother Merriweather topped out in 1980 and after working for five years around the capital, he was hired by the city of Austin as an electrical inspector. In 1987 he was hired by Local 520 to be an assistant business manager and the local’s first organizer, a job he held for 12 years.

“I didn’t know anything about organizing but I knew everyone, union or nonunion, because I inspected every job,” he said.

In his first six years, the local’s 12-percent market share jumped to more than 70 percent.

“One of the biggest contracts I signed was on the back of a Whataburger bag,” Merriweather said. “We signed a real contract back at the hall the next day, but when he agreed, I wasn’t leaving there without a signature.”

Merriweather was appointed to and served on many boards and committees throughout his career including the City of Austin Electrical Board for nine years. Then-Gov. Dolph Briscoe appointed him to serve on the Rural Capital Private Industry Council. In 1997, Merriweather was commissioned by Gov. Ann Richards to serve on the newly formed Texas Workforce Commission as the labor representative.

He was also an officer of the Central Texas Labor Board, a director of the Rural Capital Area Private Industry Council, member of the Vocational Education

Board overseeing all apprenticeships in the state, on the Capital Area School-to-Work Program and Travis County Criminal Justice Planning Committee.

“Everywhere I heard they would be training trade people, I would call the governor and get on the board,” he said.

An early member of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, Merriweather was the Texas leader of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

In 1999, then International President J.J. Barry appointed him a Seventh District International representative as an organizer.

His proudest moment, he said, was the chartering of Weslaco, Texas, Local 1015 in 2002 with a jurisdiction covering the southeastern Texas-Mexico border from north of Laredo to the Gulf Coast.

Merriweather may be best known for his tattoos. For every 100 people he organized into Local 520, a lightning bolt was tattooed on his neck. He stopped at ten, five on either side.

“I was running out of room,” he said.

When Merriweather retired, the Seventh District staff and International Vice President Steven Speer all came out with lightning bolt temporary tattoos on their necks.

“I enjoyed my job because I did it my way,” Merriweather said. “When people started talking about doing something outside the box, I didn’t even know there was a box.”

The officers, staff and members wish Brother Merriweather a long, healthy and adventurous retirement. ■

RETIRED

Donald Woolridge



Sixth District International Representative Donald Woolridge has retired after 38 years of service to the IBEW, effective Oct. 11, 2016.

Brother Woolridge was born in Anna, Ill., and served as a paratrooper in the Army’s 187th Infantry 101st Airborne Division from 1972-75. He completed his apprenticeship to become a journeyman lineman and a member of West Frankfort, Ill., Local 702 in 1978.

Education was a priority throughout Woolridge’s career. He chaired several committees for American Line Builders Apprenticeship Training, a cooperative program administered by the IBEW and American Line Builders Chapter/NECA. It trains linemen in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

“To me, it’s the finest apprentice organization there is,” said Woolridge, who went through the ALBAT training himself as an apprentice. “I think it’s our job as journeyman linemen to teach these young men and women and pass our knowledge along to the next generation. I

take great pride in watching these apprentices grown and learn.”

Woolridge joined Local 702’s staff as a business representative in 1994 and was serving as assistant business manager in 2003 when then-International President Edwin D. Hill asked him to become a Sixth District international representative.

It wasn’t an easy decision, he said. Gary Roan, Local 702’s business manager at the time, was nearing retirement and Woolridge knew he had a good chance to replace him.

“It’s our job to pass our knowledge to the next generation.”

— Donald Woolridge

“In the end, it looked to me like a way that I could do what I was doing not just for my local, but for more locals and help more people,” he said. “Leaving my own local was tough because I felt like I was letting them down in a way. Everyone there had done so much for me. But they were great about it.”

The key to being a good international representative was always being honest with business managers and members, even if the news wasn’t necessarily good, Woolridge said.

“I was blessed to have the locals I did,” he said. “They all cooperated and I think I earned their respect. My job was to make their job easier and that’s what I tried to do.”

During his tenure, Woolridge worked under four different Sixth District vice presidents, including International President Lonnie R. Stephenson.

“Through all of it, we were both friends and co-workers,” he said. “When the transition was made to a new vice president, it wasn’t like we didn’t know the guy. The respect was there and we knew what was expected and what he wanted.”

Woolridge graduated from Antioch University with a bachelor’s degree in labor studies. He is a member of the American Legion and said he always appreciated the IBEW treating Veterans Day as a holiday. That allowed him to attend the annual parade in West Frankfort, he said.

“No matter what, I’ve got to be home for Veterans Day,” he said.

Woolridge has two children and three grandchildren. He and his wife Stacy plan to remain in West Frankfort, a town of about 8,000 people in southern Illinois near both the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Retirement will give them more time to work on the water garden at their home and participate in more pistol shooting competitions, a hobby for both, he said.

Woolridge also is an avid pool player. He said he is a 9-handicap on the American Poolplayers Association’s system, just one step short of its highest ranking, and he’s hoping to play in more tournaments throughout the Midwest.

The IBEW officers and staff thank Brother Woolridge for his service and wish him a long and happy retirement. ■

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in March 2017

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Athmer, T. J.	12/14/16	25	Muszynski, J.	1/20/17
1	Dewey, J. W.	12/11/16	25	Viera, R.	12/31/16
1	Hartman, T. H.	11/7/16	26	Davis, J. K.	2/14/17
1	McSalley, M. L.	9/26/16	26	Dow, L. M.	2/8/17
1	Messersmith, K.	12/24/16	26	Lloyd, C. A.	12/16/16
1	Siebel, P. C.	10/22/16	26	Maines, R. B.	10/19/16
1	Sinovich, J. N.	1/11/17	26	Smith, F. Y.	2/5/17
1	Umbach, K. D.	1/13/17	26	Smith, E. L.	1/13/17
1	Wilga, J. C.	9/18/16	34	Cowell, J. S.	2/12/17
2	Bockoff, L. L.	11/30/16	34	Winship, R. W.	2/19/17
3	Abramowitz, J.	1/26/17	35	Murtha, R. F.	9/8/15
3	Boudreaux, W. A.	2/14/17	38	Brendza, W. T.	1/23/17
3	Christmas, T. G.	12/31/16	38	Kitko, J. M.	2/1/17
3	Criscuolo, E. A.	1/11/17	38	Lobas, P.	11/16/16
3	Duffy, E. J.	1/22/17	38	Milota, R. A.	2/27/17
3	Forbes, C.	1/20/17	38	Yupa, R. J.	2/7/17
3	Freeman, H.	1/15/17	40	Chavez, R. R.	9/13/16
3	Gagliardi, V.	1/25/17	40	Setnicky, J. P.	2/12/17
3	Harap, E.	10/20/16	41	Brunner, P. J.	2/13/17
3	Joerchel, P. H.	1/31/17	41	Rice, P. W.	2/16/17
3	Knabel, J. R.	11/30/16	41	Rowell, A. P.	1/30/17
3	LeBlanc, W.	12/30/16	42	Pharmer, A. L.	12/2/16
3	Lo Bello, B.	1/23/17	42	Sharpe, C. D.	12/19/16
3	Matthews, C.	12/31/16	43	Luckhurst, J. W.	2/25/17
3	McMahon, G. A.	1/21/17	43	Parker, S.	12/28/16
3	Mills, D. E.	12/31/16	46	Ferris, E. M.	7/6/16
3	Padesky, S.	1/16/17	46	Klein, M. A.	12/25/16
3	Piselli, S. A.	12/15/16	46	Moore, K. R.	2/10/17
3	Polo, T.	1/24/17	46	Nieborgsky, H.	11/19/16
3	Raff, B.	2/8/17	46	Polich, G. B.	12/29/16
3	Ramirez, W.	8/18/14	48	Deal, J. D.	2/9/17
3	Romanoff, E.	10/24/16	48	Kraemer, C. C.	12/14/16
3	Rouse, R. J.	10/31/16	48	Kugler, J. J.	1/13/16
3	Schafer, G. F.	1/27/17	48	Landon, W. W.	12/17/16
3	Sims, A. J.	1/7/17	48	Phillips, G. B.	2/9/16
3	Trischetti, R.	1/26/17	48	Stuck, R. R.	11/17/16
3	Van Arsdale, A.	2/10/17	48	Yankee, R. E.	2/9/17
3	Wilbur, J. H.	12/19/16	53	Davis, M.	2/18/17
5	Allan, B. W.	1/29/17	57	Carrillo, R.	2/19/17
5	Manuppelli, R. N.	9/25/16	57	Windley, M. C.	1/9/17
5	Ream, P. R.	1/23/17	57	Woffley, P. R.	1/22/17
5	Wygonik, E. R.	12/15/16	58	Antlocer, S.	10/30/16
6	Findlay, R.	2/1/17	58	Arnold, R. J.	12/28/16
6	Poverello, D. P.	2/8/17	58	Farmer, W. H.	3/26/16
6	Shoemaker, W. E.	11/14/15	58	Hutchison, T.	1/30/17
6	Tobin, J. W.	12/20/16	58	Liogghio, H. B.	1/28/17
7	Davis, R. E.	1/16/17	58	Macko, J. J.	2/4/17
8	Fondessy, R.	2/14/17	58	Misiak, R. M.	12/27/16
9	Matthews, W. H.	2/21/17	58	Oberg, W. G.	1/14/17
11	Alspaugh, C. E.	12/3/16	58	Rivera, R.	2/4/17
11	Bald, J. B.	2/3/17	58	Rupersburg, A. H.	2/22/17
11	Cox, D. D.	1/4/17	58	Sabo, T. T.	1/27/17
11	Crain, W. L.	11/16/16	58	Shoemaker, H. E.	12/22/16
11	Garcia, F. P.	11/21/16	58	Wallen, D. J.	1/7/17
11	Kapulsky, M.	6/9/15	64	Oliver, D. M.	1/22/17
11	Pacheco, A. S.	12/26/16	64	Opria, G. T.	1/18/17
11	Pizzata, F.	1/7/17	66	Reed, G. A.	1/31/17
14	Allen, R. V.	12/14/16	68	Carrera, R. M.	1/27/17
16	Love, G. W.	1/23/17	68	Danner, V. H.	1/19/17
16	Sharber, R. B.	2/16/17	68	Diemert, M. E.	2/6/17
17	Fernandez, J. R.	11/17/16	68	Hewins, J.	12/18/16
17	Hagen, M. G.	2/3/17	68	Johnson, I. M.	1/12/17
17	Levesque, R.	12/10/16	68	Kelly, C. F.	12/27/16
17	Partrick, R. E.	9/17/15	68	Mays, M. E.	1/29/17
18	Munoz, F. M.	11/26/16	68	Patrick, J. J.	1/22/17
18	Wyndon, R. A.	10/30/16	70	Dawson, S. O.	12/3/16
20	Patrick, T. C.	10/8/15	70	Weade, M. E.	2/4/17
20	Wagnon, M. R.	1/13/17	71	Andrick, D. C.	12/14/16
22	Costello, B. F.	1/9/17	71	Bogle, A. C.	12/11/16
22	Jones, R. W.	12/6/16	71	Brown, H. J.	1/21/17
22	Stratman, J. E.	12/11/16	73	Best, T. G.	1/31/17
24	Bogardy, E. H.	2/7/17	73	Clark, J. L.	1/25/17
24	Gredlein, J. G.	1/15/17	76	Conser, N. L.	1/2/17
25	Corcoran, B. J.	1/14/17	77	Carlin, H. D.	8/12/16

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in March 2017 continued

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
77	Eyler, M. E.	12/26/16	134	DeMaine, J. L.	12/23/16	313	Smith, S. T.	11/11/16	477	Gill, J. E.	1/20/17	640	Sentivanac, J. J.	2/10/17	1289	Lorenzo, E.	12/21/16
77	Kotts, S. H.	12/21/16	134	Eckenstein, R. T.	12/26/16	332	Bulaich, B. B.	11/11/16	477	Watson, W. L.	2/2/17	640	Sullivan, L. D.	1/30/17	1340	Gray, M. T.	12/21/16
77	Rose, C. C.	2/26/17	134	Feinstein, J.	8/16/14	332	Chase, C. L.	1/21/17	479	Massey, E. C.	12/29/16	648	Miller, J.	1/21/17	1391	Spikes, D. E.	1/1/17
77	Silver, C. W.	1/27/17	134	Fisher, T. R.	1/13/17	332	Elkins, R. L.	2/5/17	479	Sifuentes, I. G.	12/3/16	650	Upshaw, J. W.	9/30/16	1393	Brown, L. G.	1/17/17
77	Slocum, R. A.	6/6/16	134	Foote, R. D.	12/4/16	332	Hodson, P.	8/1/16	480	Hilderbrand, V. R.	12/29/16	654	Metzger, J. R.	1/2/17	1393	Hart, C. R.	12/29/16
77	Smith, S. L.	7/1/16	134	Gagliano, J. A.	1/21/17	332	Nunes, L.	2/7/17	480	Ogletree, W. L.	1/10/17	659	Johnson, R. L.	12/6/16	1393	Lockhart, D. R.	12/28/16
80	Durham, J. W.	12/30/16	134	Gorsky, R. J.	1/18/17	342	Gilchrist, J. J.	11/2/16	480	Watts, E. L.	11/8/16	659	Weber, H. M.	12/1/13	1412	Elliott, A. W.	12/2/16
82	Lewis, G. R.	1/12/17	134	Grba, W.	1/20/17	343	Doheny, D. J.	6/22/16	481	Bates, J. R.	2/26/16	665	Bierwagen, J. G.	1/18/17	1503	Martin, J. C.	1/25/17
84	Jones, L. E.	12/17/16	134	Moser, J.	2/9/17	343	Waitikowich, P. T.	1/5/17	481	Seifert, J. C.	1/26/17	666	Grissom, J. J.	2/21/17	1547	Arbelovsky, F.	12/24/16
84	Payne, J. C.	12/16/16	134	O'Neil, G.	12/29/16	347	Riley, R. J.	2/11/17	481	Southern, W. L.	2/11/17	666	Jessee, J. D.	9/8/16	1547	Dean, K. M.	10/16/16
90	Lonardo, M. A.	1/31/17	134	Rodriguez, E. M.	10/5/16	347	Steck, M. L.	1/11/17	486	Chaput, L. A.	2/17/17	668	Arihood, F. N.	1/13/17	1547	Jordan, L. J.	1/27/17
90	Mele, J. D.	2/14/17	134	Sheehan, W. B.	12/20/16	349	Joseph, H. H.	2/23/17	488	McMellon, W.	11/24/16	683	Crabtree, B. R.	1/12/17	1547	McPherson, D. T.	10/4/16
90	Milles, P. G.	12/31/16	134	Spino, A. A.	12/19/16	349	Rodriguez, A.	10/31/16	488	Warman, R. D.	7/29/16	688	Brickley, F. W.	2/13/17	1547	Morrisseau, O. J.	7/31/11
90	Newman, R.	1/9/17	134	Sterk, J. H.	12/24/16	351	Murowany, A.	11/15/16	490	Renaud, D. P.	7/1/16	692	Sage, H.	1/30/17	1547	Wallace, J. C.	12/10/16
90	Rudolph, W. A.	1/19/16	134	Swanson, R.	1/31/17	353	Borland, J.	12/16/16	494	Corrao, R.	5/6/16	692	Young, R. T.	12/26/16	1553	Horton, C. S.	1/12/17
90	Sheehan, R. P.	12/30/16	141	Bartoszewicz, A. W.	1/21/17	353	Boyle, B. W.	1/26/17	494	Klosowski, G.	1/31/17	697	Harvey, R. A.	2/22/17	1555	Hodgson, C.	1/19/17
95	Coffey, D. K.	1/21/17	141	Schultz, T. G.	1/4/17	353	Bryans, W.	1/4/17	499	Luther, W. D.	11/29/16	697	Roach, R. A.	2/9/17	1579	Hankerson, V. T.	2/3/17
95	Murphy, H. L.	12/11/16	143	Wilson, L. E.	1/2/17	353	Culley, W. F.	2/3/17	499	Molitor, M. L.	1/29/17	697	Ziese, K. D.	2/8/17	1579	Lackey, C. R.	1/26/17
95	Williams, L. D.	1/4/17	145	Yeager, T. G.	2/16/17	353	Feige, E.	1/29/17	502	Powe, K. E.	11/20/16	701	Braley, L. E.	2/12/17	1687	Kelly, M. A.	1/15/17
96	Scrimgeour, D. L.	12/28/16	150	Earley, M. W.	12/17/16	353	Fifield, G.	12/23/16	505	Hulse, B. T.	11/16/16	701	Czyz, E. J.	1/3/17	1688	Ronfeldt, N. L.	12/13/16
98	Burns, R. J.	1/6/12	150	Repp, T. J.	2/8/17	353	Gryciuk, B.	2/5/17	505	Romano, J. R.	11/21/16	702	Young, J. S.	9/25/16	1701	Jones, G. L.	8/31/16
98	Frazier, G.	2/3/17	153	Duxbury, J. L.	3/4/17	353	Kitagawa, T.	2/19/17	508	Clark, W. G.	6/30/16	704	Custer, G. D.	2/4/17	1749	Johnson, D. V.	11/2/16
98	Mervine, W. S.	1/26/17	159	Wallace, D. A.	2/10/17	353	Leonczuk, M.	2/23/17	513	Inman, C. J.	1/7/17	712	Clarke, D. E.	1/24/17	1759	Gudahl, R. A.	8/19/16
98	Pfender, T. M.	1/19/17	160	Johnson, G. D.	12/15/16	353	Shields, D. J.	2/9/17	518	Lester, A. L.	12/15/16	712	Talbot, G. L.	1/12/17	1782	Jones, W. J.	2/16/17
98	Smith, R. F.	1/21/17	164	Brown, H. L.	8/31/15	353	Watson, G. W.	1/29/17	520	Chambers, H. A.	10/11/16	712	Vandergrift, G. C.	11/30/16	1925	Williams, O. E.	1/10/17
98	Volpe, T. F.	11/24/16	164	Degnan, J.	2/3/17	354	Brown, H. C.	1/17/17	520	Dungan, R. T.	1/26/17	716	Evans, J. R.	1/28/17	1937	Medlock, D. C.	2/15/17
99	Dowling, H. A.	11/17/16	164	Takacs, F. G.	2/4/17	354	Mazzola, R. R.	12/31/15	520	Eppes, A. L.	2/6/17	716	Fox, H. E.	1/31/17	2085	Bound, J.	1/31/17
100	Phillips, G. E.	11/29/16	175	Evans, D. M.	12/7/16	357	Avant, A. L.	1/10/17	520	Morales, J. A.	12/3/16	716	Powledge, J. R.	7/26/16	2150	Lutzw, G. D.	1/12/17
102	Bevan, T. J.	1/20/17	175	Knowles, R. M.	1/27/17	357	Davis, A. L.	1/18/17	527	McKinney, R. L.	12/4/16	721	Harris, L. L.	1/31/17	2330	Pevie, B.	10/21/16
102	Biddiscombe, D. W.	11/10/16	176	Mattson, D. A.	1/24/17	357	Dominguez, J. M.	2/18/17	530	Martin, T.	1/9/17	725	Myers, J. A.	1/18/17	I.O. (111)Chapman, M. L.	11/20/16	
102	Kupcho, J. R.	12/28/16	176	Rigoni, F.	2/2/17	357	Hinkell, J. P.	12/29/16	532	Banach, D. J.	1/22/17	728	Brown, C. G.	1/5/17	I.O. (134) Villarreal, A. J.	1/15/17	
102	Reynolds, J. R.	12/28/16	177	Cartwright, K. W.	10/9/16	357	Hlady, B.	1/21/17	532	Stewart, R. N.	1/10/17	728	Cooper, R. G.	11/22/16	I.O. (495) Aldridge, C. A.	1/17/17	
103	Curley, L. J.	12/6/16	177	Pringle, L. H.	12/14/16	357	Pitts, C. A.	1/3/17	545	Wallace, E. R.	12/21/16	728	Meyer, J. A.	9/30/16	I.O. (1464) Reed, J. H.	11/26/16	
103	Cypher, G. D.	1/7/17	194	Montgomery, L. E.	11/12/16	357	Williams, T. S.	1/21/17	551	Cleveland, S. D.	12/7/16	728	Powell, E. C.	10/19/16	Pens. (686) Moyer, W.	11/14/16	
103	Jones, J. L.	12/26/16	196	Hopperstad, E.	11/7/16	363	Lee, J. W.	3/26/16	551	Hoehn, R. L.	1/14/17	728	Scarcelli, S.	1/9/17	Pens. (1788) Lawson, H. C.	1/28/17	
103	O'Keefe, J. J.	1/5/17	212	Lowry, H. C.	1/29/17	363	Staples, A. P.	1/11/17	553	Barber, T. C.	1/19/17	728	Wilkerson, J. L.	1/20/17	Pens. (I.O.) Beaton, I.	1/26/17	
103	Sullivan, G. L.	2/10/17	212	Schulte, R. J.	11/20/16	364	Thornton, C. M.	11/10/16	557	Dupuis, P. D.	1/12/17	743	Connors, W. J.	1/27/17	Pens. (I.O.) Beech, G.	12/30/16	
103	Warchol, S.	1/14/17	212	Steinmetz, R.	2/17/17	364	Walker, D. P.	1/7/17	557	McMall, F. D.	11/27/16	760	Barr, J. A.	1/24/17	Pens. (I.O.) Brandenburgh, C. R.	12/23/16	
105	Eisan, W.	1/18/17	213	Dick, T. R.	9/10/16	369	Casebier, W. A.	1/23/17	558	Benefield, D. M.	12/27/16	760	Burgess, G. L.	2/1/17			
110	Benson, G. W.	1/3/17	213	Wolff, B. A.	12/13/16	369	Cebe, R. R.	2/5/17	558	Howell, W. L.	12/28/16	760	Grindstaff, D. L.	9/12/15	Pens. (I.O.) Brewer, H.	1/18/17	
110	Cartier, R. A.	1/19/17	226	Prather, J. L.	1/15/17	369	Hoover, B. E.	1/5/17	567	Michaud, R. J.	1/22/17	760	King, C. C.	11/28/16	Pens. (I.O.) Bridges, H. W.	1/2/17	
110	Steele, P. M.	12/4/16	226	Whitney, R. R.	12/21/16	369	Jent, D. G.	1/12/17	568	Leduc, C.	1/9/17	760	McFarland, T. E.	2/1/17	Pens. (I.O.) Candreva, M. P.	2/1/17	
110	Thiry, T. T.	1/15/17	229	Harper, W. E.	2/1/17	369	Roy, D. M.	1/30/17	568	Samson, C.	12/4/16	776	Pfau, J. M.	12/14/16	Pens. (I.O.) Carroll, J. B.	11/18/16	
110	Vossen, R. W.	1/25/17	233	Silver, J. J.	1/9/17	387	Carroll, D. C.	1/10/17	569	Krumwied, D. B.	12/19/16	776	Young, D.	12/1/16	Pens. (I.O.) Cobb, D. E.	1/17/17	
111	Gibson, R. S.	11/10/16	236	Cranker, J. K.	2/7/17	388	Weichelt, D.	12/21/16	569	Lynch, R. A.	1/15/17	804	De Sero, A. G.	11/26/16	Pens. (I.O.) Dennis, D.	1/24/17	
113	Pledger, N. N.	9/14/16	236	Hardies, J. D.	1/18/17	396	Barnson, A. R.	2/4/17	569	Paulsin, S. G.	1/18/17	816	Faughn, G. L.	2/12/17	Pens. (I.O.) Ditlefsen, W. W.	1/2/17	
113	Schneider, M. R.	1/15/17	236	Hunt, W. F.	5/21/16	396	Williams, K. E.	1/17/17	570	Coddens, T. A.	12/19/16	816	Franklin, J. R.	1/16/17	Pens. (I.O.) Flaten, I. P.	7/5/15	
115	Reid, R. G.	2/1/17	236	McTygue, M. E.	12/11/16	401	Grimm, M. V.	2/12/17	570	Taylor, R. L.	2/15/17	852	Schumpert, C. L.	12/3/16	Pens. (I.O.) Hammond, R. D.	1/10/17	
117	Schnulle, R. L.	1/28/17	238	Stevens, C. D.	1/5/17	402	Shaughnessy, C.	9/12/16	575	Cunningham, J. R.	4/24/15	873	Meyer, P. E.	12/22/16	Pens. (I.O.) Hoffman, H. E.	8/3/16	
124	Dunson, S. L.	1/4/17	242	Welsh, W. G.	1/5/17	405	Sayre, J. E.	1/29/17	576	Sanders, E. R.	1/13/17	876	Scherzer, D. C.	2/12/17	Pens. (I.O.) Jerling, A. J.	12/2/16	
124	Ethington, G. M.	12/19/16	245	Hernandez, Y. G.	10/21/16	424	Billard, D. J.	1/25/17	577	Boyd, L. E.	8/29/16	904	Adamson, L. H.	12/9/16	Pens. (I.O.) Lindstrom, G. A.	1/10/17	
124	Hays, J. A.	1/21/17	245	Keith, W. E.	2/16/17	424	Mastaler, K. B.	12/20/16	577	Reis, A. N.	1/26/17	906	Hogan, P. J.	1/20/17	Pens. (I.O.) Lisk, W. H.	1/26/17	
125	Kiggins, J. A.	1/12/17	246	Thoburn, W. R.	12/2/16	426	Henning, N. T.	1/3/17	584	Gass, B. E.	1/1/17	910	Fleming, T. C.	1/2/17	Pens. (I.O.) Minetor, W.	12/9/16	
125	McNutt, L. D.	12/24/16	252	Albertson, G. E.	12/20/16	428	Moren, D. E.	2/12/17	584	VanBeber, M. D.	10/24/16	910	Flemming, R. E.	1/14/17	Pens. (I.O.) Mortimore, W. R.	1/9/17	
125	Nielsen, G. J.	1/29/17	252	Nowak, J. E.	2/10/17	429	Akins, W. L.	1/15/17	595	Apple, P. H.	1/28/17	915	Bowman, J. R.	1/28/17	Pens. (I.O.) Neal, J. T.	11/9/16	
125	Quigley, W. H.	10/3/15	252	Weeks, J. L.	1/12/17	429	Davis, E. E.	1/17/17	595	Edwards, D. D.	1/30/17	915	Dyal, L. E.	10/2/16	Pens. (I.O.) Nelson, J. C.	2/15/17	
125	Schrock, D. M.	1/9/17	257	Crane, B. L.	1/26/17	429	Greene, M. A.	12/10/16	595	Friedrich, J. J.	11/24/16	915	Hobbs, F. M.	2/3/17	Pens. (I.O.) Nicholes, D. E.	12/8/16	
125	Wade, J. M.	12/29/16	266	Hubbell, A. A.	1/16/17	429	Lawhorn, R. L.	1/25/17	595	Pope, E. H.	10/2/16	915	Humphrey, P. E.	1/30/17	Pens. (I.O.) Ohlson, R. G.	12/27/16	
126	Carns, I. O.	1/28/17	271	Rishel, C. W.	1/15/17	430	Simonsen, J. R.	10/12/15	596	Wine, M. R.	2/1/17	915	McPheron, R. D.	1/5/17	Pens. (I.O.) Olson, E. W.	12/23/16	
126	Nixon, D. A.	1/2/17	278	Dominguez, A.	1/25/17	433	Elling, R. L.	12/13/16	602	Houser, J. T.	11/24/16	915	Williams, F. D.	1/7/17	Pens. (I.O.) Quick, J. D.	1/14/17	
126	Reczek, T. J.	9/13/16	278	Drummond, C. M.	2/8/17	441	Bell, R.	12/20/16	602	Moore, J. A.	10/30/15	934	Catron, F. M.	2/10/17	Pens. (I.O.) Rainey, A. E.	1/5/17	
126	Zimmerman, A. L.	1/4/17	280	Michelson, D. L.	1/1/17	444	Trussell, E. W.	12/10/16	606	Lewis, W. B.	2/12/17	934	Goins, J. E.	1/13/17	Pens. (I.O.) Rigby, L.	2/6/17	
129	Bickley, R. E.	10/1/16	292	Bennett, D. K.	2/1/17	446	Calloway, G.	1/21/17	606	Veitch, T. A.	2/11/17	934	Skaggs, J. P.	10/31/16	Pens. (I.O.) Ripperger, M. E.	1/7/17	
129	Mahlich, J. I.	1/9/17	292	Grewe, J. E.	1/27/17	446	Foster, D. E.	1/14/17	607	Tamburro, J. F.	12/30/16	948	Suski, M. R.	11/11/16	Pens. (I.O.) Scheafbauer, M. P.	12/28/16	
130	Bastiansen, G. D.	2/1/17	292	Lyons, D. L.	8/11/16	446	Gaston, P. C.	1/21/17	611	Chavez, R. B.	3/12/16	953	Cook, J. R.	1/27/17			
130	Dumas, E.																

LOCAL LINES

Educational Partnership Advances Career Opportunities

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO — On Tuesday, March 7, in keeping with over 70 years of producing more highly skilled and safe electricians and communications technicians than any other training program in Missouri, the IBEW/NECA Electrical Industry Training Center entered a partnership with St. Louis Community College for apprentices and journey workers to earn associate degrees from STLCC.

The college is offering the Associate of Applied Sciences (AAS) degree in Skilled Trades Industrial Occupations Technology Apprenticeship program, or Skilled Trades AAS program. This program is a joint effort to recognize apprenticeship training as post-secondary education to prepare the current and future workforce.

An associate degree will be awarded to a journey worker who successfully completes the approved U.S. Department of Labor apprentice program and 15 credit hours of general education courses at STLCC.

“Our educational partnership with St. Louis Community College will strengthen career paths for our apprentices and journey workers,” said IBEW Local 1 Bus. Mgr. Frank Jacobs. “While the training center produces highly technical skills for the electrical industry, many of our members have entrepreneurial skills that benefit the business community. Many have founded their own companies.”

For more info, please call the St. Louis Electrical Industry Training Center at 314-644-3587.

We mourn the passing of the following members: David Pelham, Frank Adams, John Gambaro, Henry Bargmann, John Sinovich, George Richardson, Wilbert Meyer, Charles Hooker, David Long and Arnold Herberts.

Jan Bresnan, P.S.



St. Louis Community College Chancellor Jeff Pittman (left), St. Louis Chapter NECA Pres. Doug Martin, and IBEW Local 1 Bus. Mgr. Frank Jacobs shake hands.



IBEW members worked the front lines to restore power after a catastrophic ice storm in New Brunswick, Canada.

IBEW Members Battle Record Breaking Ice Storm

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA — This past January, New Brunswick’s provincial power utility experienced the worst weather event in its history. A major ice storm, accompanied by extremely high winds, cut power to over half the citizens of New Brunswick with more than 200,000 total outages. The ice was so severe that it coated power lines, transformers and poles up to four times thicker than the Canadian Standards Association’s “worst case” scenario.

The massive restoration efforts required all hands on deck — and then some. Over 375 line crews from NB Power, neighbouring utilities, and contractors, many of which were IBEW members, worked the front lines. While busy rebuilding the system, they were supported by 234 military personnel, NB Emergency Measures, and hundreds of volunteers, many of whom were Local 37 members who normally work in other parts of NB Power. Those members provided significant help by delivering equipment and food, and performing other work to help our communities respond to the disaster.

These grueling efforts paid off after 14 days and nights of hard work when power was completely restored to all customers. In crisis, or calm, we’re always proud of our members with their unwavering commitment to excellence and demonstrating SPARQ in all that they do!

[Editor’s Note: SPARQ represents the core values of the IBEW Code of Excellence. The values are SPARQ: Safety, Professionalism, Accountability, Relationships, Quality.]

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

Service Awards Presented

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — IBEW Local 43 recently presented years-of-service pins to members employed with the Village of Frankfort Department of Public Works (DPW).

The damage was catastrophic with over 400 broken utility poles and thousands of ice-covered trees toppled onto power lines. A state of emergency was declared in the hardest hit communities, and the Canadian Armed Forces were called in for disaster assistance.



Village of Frankfort, NY, Mayor Richard Adams (left), IBEW Local 43 Pres. Pat Costello, and Local 43 members Mike Irons, Eric Conigliaro, Richard Paugh and Chris Evans.

Submitting Local Lines Articles

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via email (locallines@ibew.org) or U.S. Mail. We have a 200-word limit. We make every effort to assist local unions in publishing useful and relevant local union news; however, all final content decisions are based on the editor’s judgment. Our guidelines and deadlines are available at www.ibew.org/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines. Please email or call the Media Department at (202) 728-6291 with any questions.

Trade Classifications			
(as) Alarm & Signal	(et) Electronic Technicians	(mps) Motion Picture Studios	(rts) Radio-Television Service
(ars) Atomic Research Service	(fm) Fixture Manufacturing	(nst) Nuclear Service Technicians	(so) Service Occupations
(bo) Bridge Operators	(govt) Government	(o) Outside	(s) Shopmen
(cs) Cable Splicers	(i) Inside	(p) Powerhouse	(se) Sign Erector
(catv) Cable Television	(it) Instrument Technicians	(pet) Professional, Engineers & Technicians	(spa) Sound & Public Address
(c) Communications	(lctt) Line Clearance Tree Trimming	(ptc) Professional, Technical & Clerical	(st) Sound Technicians
(cr) Cranemen	(lpt) Lightning Protection Technicians	(rr) Railroad	(t) Telephone
(ees) Electrical Equipment Service	(mt) Maintenance	(rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting	(tm) Transportation Manufacturing
(ei) Electrical Inspection	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing	(u) Utility
(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	(ws) Warehouse and Supply	
(es) Electric Signs	(mar) Marine		

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

Members honored for their years of service were: Mike Irons — with 22 years of service, Marcus Perritano — 15 years, Richard Paugh — 11 years, Eric Conigliaro — 10 years and Chris Evans — five years.

Mayor Richard Adams and IBEW Local 43 Pres. Pat Costello attended the ceremony. Both Mayor Adams and Pres. Costello thanked the IBEW members for their dedicated service to the residents of Frankfort.

Gene Townsend, P.S.

Gift of Bicycles for Kids; RENEW Committee

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Bro. Mike Fair, journeyman lineman, purchased 59 bicycles last Christmas to give to less fortunate kids he meets throughout the year in his service area. When Mike empties his pockets at night, he puts all his spare change into a jar and with that he purchases bikes at the end of the year. This was the eighth year he delivered these wonderful gifts to children on Christmas Day for a collective total of 320 bikes.

The local is in the process of developing a RENEW Committee. The mission of the Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers (RENEW) initiative is to inspire the next generation of IBEW workers to become active in their local union by focusing on issues important to younger workers, providing education about the IBEW and the labor movement, and fostering relationships with members and local union leadership. RENEW is for members age 35 or younger and encourages them to develop the skills necessary to become active in the local union and play a role in shaping its future. The local does plan to send members to the September RENEW conference in Pittsburgh.

The local's annual scholarship golf outing will be held June 3 at Piper Glen Golf Course in Springfield. Work safe and support your union.

Karlene Knisley, B.R.



Local 51 member Mike Fair gifted bicycles to less fortunate children at holiday season.

Solidarity Ride in May; June Election of Officers

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI — The job outlook continues to improve, with many new projects breaking ground, and with the total number of man-hours worked this year being the highest in nearly a decade.

Our Third Annual Solidarity Ride will be May 21 this year, with registration for all riders at our union hall at 9 a.m., and a scheduled departure time of 11 a.m. All monies raised will benefit the Tomorrow Fund, a local charity that provides financial and emotional support to children with cancer, and their families. As in preceding years, a cookout will follow in the rear of the union hall.

Election of local union officers will take place on June 12 this year, at the Local 99 union hall. It would be a welcome sight to see some new faces getting involved on our boards and committees. The Executive Board is losing one member to retirement, and others have a record of longtime IBEW service. Younger members working in the field on new construction projects should seriously consider stepping up and pitching in. The future belongs to you, and you may as well begin to learn how the local, district, and International offices interact to further the goals of the IBEW and strengthen its future. New blood is needed, and member participation is welcome.

William Smith, P.S.

Community Service & Upcoming Events

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR — As indicated in other Local 125 communication, we are asking all members to review the IBEW Constitution and prepare to assist as we explore new organizing opportunities throughout 2017.

Thank you to everyone who attended Casino Night. In addition to raising \$2,755 for our Brotherhood Fund, we also obtained donations for the Sno-Cap Food Bank. Please check out the April issue of the Labor Press for pictures and sponsor recognition from this year's event.

Please attend your union meetings. If you cannot make the meeting, check out your business rep's staff report at www.ibew125.com. You must register for access to this information.

The local is redesigning its shop steward training, which will be offered this year. If you have specific issues that you would like addressed or suggestions on topics, contact Marcy Grail. Let your business representative know if you are interested in attending training.

We looking forward to seeing you at the following events:

- Pacific Northwest Lineman's Rodeo — July 22
- IBEW Local 125 Golf Tournament — July 28
- IBEW Local 125 Softball Tournament — July 29-30

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.

'Thank You to Members' — IBEW Community Service

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,se,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL — On Feb. 11, we held our annual blood drive and once again it was a big success! We thank our members and their families for participating in this important event that helps our entire community. We would also like to thank Jon Pohl for his hard work in coordinating our blood drive each year.

Thank you to all our members who volunteer their time and skills in the many community service projects throughout the year. One such example is the historic streetcar pavilion at Schuetzen Park in Davenport, Iowa. The pavilion was listed in 2011 as

one of the top 10 most endangered historic structures in Iowa. Now the pavilion is again adorned with the colored lights that replicate those once found on the structure that was built in 1911. The restoration project was approved by the Davenport Preservation Commission, and with the skills of the Local 145 volunteers it is slowly making a "full recovery."

Work has been very good in our area and the future looks to be very promising, too. We would like to thank all the traveling brothers and sisters for giving us a much-needed hand. In solidarity.

Dan Larson, P.S.



Local 145 volunteers installed colorful lights at historic streetcar pavilion. From left: Erik Hayek, Amanda Lee, Dylan Campbell, Jonathan Nelson, Dave Aguirre, Roger Daniel and Cory Bergfeld.

'Organizing Plan is Working'

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA — Our most recent data shows IBEW 191's organizing plan is working. Under Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joseph Lorenzo, market share and dollar volume is up. Special thanks go to Organizers Sean Osborne and Tim Kornelis, as well as Representative/Organizers Bob Gay and Chip Donaldson. Our plan uses a variety of methods, depending on the situation:

- Advertising to the community and to the unrepresented worker;
- Market Recovery focused on small and medium-size jobs with a requirement to call from the bench;
- Hosting Industry Nights/Job Fairs with our employers;
- Increased Community Service work;
- Mini blitzes by county using members who live in those counties;
- Associate Member Program to promote our training program to unrepresented workers;
- Attending city, county and school board meetings to testify on our issues;
- Member Volunteer Program to involve more members in our plan.

We are also planning for a busy summer of social events. Golf, picnics and ballgames are all planned. Check the website for dates and location.

Thank you again to our members and travellers for manning the work and providing a quality product to our customers.

Bill Mirand, P.S.

'A Great Time to Step Up'

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL — As we are getting through winter at this writing, we are seeing that projects in our area are starting to take shape. We are happy to report we have been filling a few referrals with members who have been travelling on the road for quite some time. The work situation is sputtering a little in our jurisdiction, which is better than it has been. The McLean County Jail expansion is currently out for bid, which should bring some of our brothers and sisters home in the coming months.

By the time this article makes it to print, we will

have elected local mayors and school boards. We have been working diligently to get labor-friendly candidates elected. We are proud of our Training Dir. Renee Riddle, who at this writing is running unopposed for the Tri-Valley School Board. We know with Renee's commitment to the community and organized labor, she will bring a strong voice for quality education along with protecting laws like prevailing wage on capital projects for our members. Also we are proud to report that our former business manager Lance Reece was elected in November to the Dewitt County Board. Lance is serving the residents of

the county well and he will always look out for the middle class. We are under attack at every level of government trying to take away our rights to belong to a union. If you are interested in running for an elected seat, now would be a great time to step up.

Remember to get involved in the local and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, Pres.

Future Opportunities; Organizing a Priority

L.U. 223 (em,govt&i), BROCKTON, MA — As 2017 moves forward we are anticipating another good year work-wise. As we go through the year we need to continue with our No. 1 objective, organizing. We need more contractors and members. We have had industry nights/job fairs and invited open-shop contractors to see our new training facility.

The outage at Pilgrim Station was just completed and Brayton Point Power Station is about to shut down for good. This gives us more reason to make sure we look toward renewable energy to keep our local moving forward. With solar being a top component, we also need to make sure our contractors are chasing the upcoming energy storage projects and offshore wind projects to offset the job losses of the closed power plants. We need to focus on the future opportunities and not dwell on past projects. The future is bright, but only if we embrace it.

David W. Fenton, B.M./F.S.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Notify us of an address change electronically

www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress

LOCAL LINES

IBEW/NECA Donation To Electrical Trades Program

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA — IBEW Local 229 and York Division NECA Chapter are proud to announce the donation of 25 brand new 2017 National Electrical Code books to the York County School of Technology's Electrical Occupations Program. The trades programs at York Tech are vital to the industry because they prepare young people to be great entry level employees. The partnership provides the industry with a steady flow of young people who are interested in the hard work and rewards that come from being employed in the union construction trades. Over 35 York Tech graduates are members of IBEW 229 and employed with NECA electrical contractors in the greater York area. We are proud to have so many graduates making a successful career at IBEW 229 and look forward to supporting the school and its students for years to come.

Timothy Griffin, Tr. Dir.



IBEW Local 229 Bus. Rep. and 2001 York Tech graduate Stephen Selby (left), Local 229 Bus. Mgr. Matthew Paules, York Tech instructor Travis Brown and York Electricians JATC Training Dir. Timothy Griffin.

Contracts Ratified; Mud Hen's Ball Game in July

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH — We have wrapped up negotiations and ratified new contracts with Hancock Wood and Bryan Municipal. The next contract scheduled for negotiations is WTVG-Channel 13.

On the outside, work is steady with no additional people being put on at this writing.

On the utility side, energy delivery pretty much remains the same while the generation side is in turmoil after First Energy's announcement that it wants out of the generation business and will either sell or close all its generating plants by mid-2018.

On the social side, we had a tremendous response to the annual Walleye Hockey game, which was held in March. With this outing behind us, Lisa

Tracy and Amanda Parker are already working on our next social event, which is the Mud Hen's baseball game scheduled for July 30.

Until next time, please work safe and enjoy the spring weather.

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.

'Solar Lighting the Way'

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — While the construction industry still struggles to gain sustained traction, one sector of the electrical field has been a mainstay for our local's members. That steady source of employment has been none other than solar energy.

Solar installations have been providing needed jobs for our brothers and sisters over the last decade, and the trend shows no immediate signs of reversing.

Solar projects are an excellent way for apprentices to "get their feet wet" while working on a relatively safe jobsite, and they offer full wages for the journeyman — along with an opportunity for getting some fresh air and sunshine thrown into the bargain.

One can only hope that solar energy can withstand an assault by the current U.S. presidential administration. The president has signaled his intention to gut the Clean Air and Water Act, thus paving the way for huge profits for his billionaire "constituents," clearly a huge step backward for this country.

Solar technology is evolving exponentially. Viable storage and release technologies are here. The future of energy is now, and solar is lighting the way.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.



Local 269 members install a 16.5 megawatt solar project at Fort Dix, NJ, reportedly the largest military solar energy installation on the East Coast.

Graduates & Pin Recipients; New Members Welcomed

L.U. 291 (c,i,mo,o,rtb&rts), BOISE, ID — Greetings from the Gem State! Summer is in full swing and we hope you are enjoying the season wherever you are.

In March, we celebrated our graduating apprentices and Years of Service Pin recipients during our Annual Banquet.

Congratulations to our newest journeymen: Caleb Burke, Jason Edwards, Trevor Grill, Marc Halverson, Tony Hansen, Troy Holliday, Russ Martin, Tyson McGann, Josh Nugent, Robert Patterson, Jason

Valdez and Paul Wheeler.

It was also an honor to recognize and congratulate all of our pin recipients including: 50-year member Kenneth Mahan; 55-year members Winston Cope and Jack Norton; 60-year members Marshall Kaldhusdal and Bobby Shafer; 65-year member Ralph Gibbons; and 70-year member William Lamm.

On the construction side, work has been very good in the Treasure Valley and continues to look good for the remainder of the year.

It is hard to believe but it has been almost one year that we have been representing our new units at the DirecTV Technician Garage and the DirecTV Call Center. The employees in these two units have been great to work with and are a welcome addition to our IBEW family. We look forward to a great, lasting relationship with these new members.

Nick Baumann, P.S.

Ameren Negotiations

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — Negotiations will have already started with Ameren by the time of this publication, as the contract expires at the end of June.

Bus. Mgr. Tim Evans will chair the negotiations for Utility System Council U-05. The System Council consists of Locals 51, 309, 649 and 702.

Work for the inside wiremen and outside linemen remains steady. Hopefully the work picture will remain good through the year.

The race for Illinois governor in 2018 is already starting to take shape as two Democratic candidates have already announced.

Nominations for local union officers will be held May 1 and the election will be June 5. All members are encouraged to vote in this important election. Absentee ballots are encouraged for utility and line construction members as this is always storm season.

Work safe and have a great summer.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

'Sunny' Work Picture Holds Steady for Summer

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Our work forecast continues to look pleasant for the summer. Larger projects are taking shape in both Mankato and Rochester. Smaller jobs and school work will round out the employment opportunities for our members and travelers.

The political climate may not be so tranquil. National "Right-To-Work" legislation is looming and we, as labor union activists, must be educated on

the facts to counter the storm of misinformation that is imminent. One source of pro-labor, pro-union

information is the "Label Letter," printed by the Union Label & Services Trade Dept., AFL-CIO. This bi-monthly newsletter, available in print or online, is free. Every electrician I know likes the word free. Subscribe online at www.unionlabel.org or come to a union meeting for a printed copy, free admission with a paid-up dues receipt.

[Editor's Note: To read more about a national right-to-work bill, see news article "Protect Your Paycheck: Fight Back Against National Right-to-Work," posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles.]

Keep Americans working, buy Made In USA.

Tom Small, P.S.

GOP Legislative Attacks Target Iowa Workers

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA — Iowa workers, and especially State of Iowa employees, have just been assaulted and dissed by the state Legislature and executive branch. The attack has been promoted and executed by the same forces that tore up State of Wisconsin workers' rights to bargain — the radical right wing of the Republican Party with corporate backing from the Koch brothers. The Iowa Legislature took a page from the Steve Bannon (Breitbart News) playbook, "go big go fast," and reversed Chapter 20 of the Iowa code that allowed for collective bargaining for State of Iowa workers. These worker-friendly laws were originally signed into effect more than 40 years ago, in 1974, by a revered Republican governor, Robert Ray.

The recent anti-worker legislation was introduced in the Legislature on Feb. 3 and allowed public input for two hours on Feb. 13 — the day of a massive labor rally in the rotunda of the State Capitol. The legislation passed into law Feb. 17, and the governor signed it on Feb. 20. This all transpired in three weeks. The current governor signed the new law into effect in a closed-door event with only the Koch brothers' lobbyist in attendance.

Approximately 184,000 State of Iowa employees are affected, including teachers, nurses, DOT workers, social workers, workers at three state universities, prison workers, court system workers, support staff at all state offices, and others. At this writing, the next target for this rogue Legislature is gutting workers' compensation laws.

The following quote has been attributed to a truly great Republican: "If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool." — Abraham Lincoln

[Editor's Note: See news article "Besieged by GOP Attacks, Iowa Workers Fight Back," posted on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles.]

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

Every Vote Matters — 'Thanks to All Volunteers'

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV — We want to thank all those who helped turn Nevada blue this last 2016 election cycle. Now we need to keep up the hard



Local 357 members enjoy St. Patrick's Day parade in Henderson, NV.

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work as we head into local and state election cycles. Everyone can help, whether by door-knocking, helping register voters or phone banking. Each vote matters!

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.

Revitalization Continues In Lehigh Valley, Pa., Region

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA — In the last few years the Lehigh Valley has experienced not only a revitalization in both Allentown and Bethlehem but also in the region as a whole. Thanks to efforts such as Allentown's Neighborhood Improvement Zone, we have seen an increase in the construction and transformation of downtown. Residential complexes with luxury amenities such as Strata 2 and Strata 3 are currently underway, with 67 and 71 units, respectively. Also in progress is Allentown's 12-story Tower 6, which is designed for businesses to be located in Pennsylvania's hottest professional region.

Other such targeted projects are located within Bethlehem's City Revitalization and Improvement Zone. The first of these being the construction of a three-building complex, Greenway Commons. A mix of retail and 110 residential units looks to bring young professionals to the hotbed activity on the East Coast.

Aiding in this ever-growing expansion in the Lehigh Valley have been Nestle, Fed Ex, and B Braun. Nestle Purina is currently in the midst of a major 53,000-square-foot addition to its production. Fed Ex has begun construction on its largest distribution hub in the United States, and B Braun continues to expand and grow its facilities. All of these projects have provided a positive impact to the region and to the members of Local 375 currently employed in their construction.

Christopher Kaufman, B.R.

Notable Projects Underway; Membership Activities

L.U. 441 (as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA — Work continues to pick up throughout Orange County as some of the larger projects are hitting their stride and others are getting started.

Some of the more notable projects are: Broadcom in south Orange County, which currently has over 150 IBEW members working on it; and the new Disneyland expansion for "Star Wars Land," which is underway with crew expectations to reach as high as 200 IBEW members at its peak.

We recently hosted "IBEW Night at the Monster Jam" at Angel Stadium. The local handed out 400 tickets to local members and their families to enjoy a night of camaraderie, family, and monster trucks. All tickets were free to those members who signed up. This was part of the continual effort by Bus. Mgr. Richard Samanigo and his staff to create opportunities for our brothers and sisters to come together and enjoy quality family time with the IBEW.

This past February saw the local's flag football team bring home another championship in the 5th Annual Southern California IBEW Super Bowl, held at Woodbridge High School in Irvine. This is the team's fourth title, with a gritty defensive performance and a high-flying offense in their five games on the day. Thank you to Locals 11, 47, 440, and 477 for bringing out some very tough competition, and we hope to see even more locals participate in next year's event.

Neal Lauzon, Pres./A.B.M.

Work Picture Steady

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID — Greetings, brothers and sisters. The work picture for both our inside and outside branches is better than it has been for quite some time. Calls were

steady through the winter and we are already getting into Books 2 and 3. The new Naval Reactors Facility project is set to kick off this spring as well as some other good-sized projects.

All the graduating apprentices have passed the state test on their first try again this year. We congratulate them and the instructors, who are doing a great job.

We are excited to be working with Oswego Creative this year as we strive to reach out to our communities to let people know what the IBEW is doing to build a strong, career-oriented workforce that gives back to our communities, and how we can provide opportunities to those who would like to join our ranks.

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of our Bro. Sam Knox, retired journeyman wireman.

Congratulations to Bro. Merle Thoele on his retirement.

Ned Jones, A.B.M.

RENEW Chapter Formed; 'Rebuilding Together' Project

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — In January, IBEW Local 481 held our first official RENEW meeting. There had been a lot of discussion from the younger members wanting to start our own chapter, and with the blessing of Bus. Mgr. Steve Menser, the committee was formed. At the first meeting, the members present elected their RENEW leadership, and they are as follows: Kendrick Carpenter — president; Sean Eagan — vice president; Antwaun Armstead — treasurer; and Bobby Tekulve — recording secretary. We are excited about the education and opportunities this will bring to the younger generation of our local union. Good luck to 481 RENEW and your committee!

In April, members of IBEW 481 once again donated their time, tools and talents to the community for Rebuilding Together. The members volunteered their weekend to help those in the community by making necessary home improvements ensuring the safety of the residents. Thank you to all those who volunteered — your commitment to IBEW Local 481 and our community is greatly appreciated. IBEW 481 is a great community partner and takes pride in the work we can do. A special thank-you goes to Jim Webb, who volunteers a lot of his own time in researching homes for the Rebuilding Together project.

Blake Andrews, R.S.

Local Welcomes New Employee

L.U. 553 (i,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC — IBEW Local 553 welcomes Tina O'Meara to our office in Durham, NC. She will begin working as our office administrator. We celebrate her joining our team and we have great confidence that she will be an asset to our membership. Welcome, Tina!

Work continues to pick up throughout our jurisdiction, with calls into Book 2 regularly. We anticipate more work ramping up as the year progresses.

Josh Nixon, P.S.

Powering Up the Green Economy

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

Our philosophy on climate action is that environmental and economic sustainability must go hand-in-hand. We support solutions to the climate crisis that address inequality and lift up working families, and IBEW 569 has long supported climate action and clean energy.

Our union hall and training center are solar-powered and we've recently partnered with a local utility to install additional electric vehicle charging stations.

Plus, we're advocating for policies that create more renewable energy and local jobs for our members. And, we're training our members on next-generation green technologies.

California's increasing reliance on solar energy means utilities need to find new ways to store excess power. That's why advanced battery storage facilities are so important to our energy future, and IBEW members are leading the way. Check out this IBEW video featuring a recent battery storage project that our members completed in Imperial Valley: www.bit.ly/BatteryStorage.

Let's continue addressing climate change in the immediate future by investing significantly in renewable energy and creating good local jobs. This is our vision and IBEW 569 is here fighting with you as a strong community partner.

Gretchen K. Newsom, P.S./Organizer



Local 569 proudly participated in 37th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in San Diego and supports civil and worker rights for all.

'Kudos to LIRR Workers'

Local 589 (rr), JAMAICA, NY — As spring approaches we wanted to take a moment and acknowledge our members for the work they do. As everyone knows the weather in the Northeast U.S. can be unforgiving with cold winds, snow, ice, freezing rain.

During storms and other state-of-emergency situations, our members put themselves and their families aside to weather the storm and keep the Long Island Rail Road infrastructure intact.

Yes, they do get paid for what they do and it is the job they have chosen, but to sacrifice time away, and sometimes the safety of their loved ones at home, to keep the nation's largest commuter railroad running isn't an easy task. Local 589 would like to recognize our members for their hard work and dedication. Please work safe, and have a good summer.

Augie Maccarone, R.S.

Award for Exemplary Service

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA — School is back in session for all Inside and Sound and Communications apprentices in our jurisdiction and with our completion ceremonies scheduled for early June, the spring session is full of excitement.

Bro. Carey Matsumura received the IBEW Local 595 Business Manager Award for his continued dedication and exemplary service to our local and the electrical industry. He is one of our ninth bracket apprentice instructors and a journeyman inside wireman. Carey committed an abundance of hours to ensure the Building Automation Lab would be available to our fall-session apprentices and for

all apprentices and journeymen in the future. Thank you, Bro. Carey.

Jason Gumataotao, B.R./Organizer

Facebook Data Center Project

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — In March the local started putting in calls for the much-anticipated Facebook Data Center construction project. As of March there were about 50 to 60 men on the project, and at this writing it was expected that starting in late March there would be daily calls through May until the project ramps up to about 450 workers.

In February, LeeAngelo Valencia, a Local 611 journeyman lineman, qualified to compete in the BMX World Championship, a cycling competition, which will be held in Rock Hill, SC, on July 23-30. LeeAngelo is a U.S. Marine veteran and has been racing since 1991. We wish him luck and success in the competition.

March 18, 2017, was the end of the legislative session for the state Legislature and, as usual, a so-called "right to work" bill was introduced. House Bill 432 fizzled on Feb. 25. According to the Albuquerque Journal, the House Labor and Economic Development Committee voted 6-5 along party lines to table the measure, with Democrats voting in favor of tabling the bill. It looks as if we won't have to worry about right-to-work for another year.

This is an election year for our local. In June we will be voting for all officers of the local. Don't forget to send in your ballots.

Local 611 extends condolences to the families and friends of recently deceased members: David A. O'Brien, Earl D. Eddy, John G. Moore and John E. Redvelski.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

Next Gen Committee Plans Upcoming Activities

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA — Two members completed their apprenticeship program and were granted their certificate of qualifications for Red Seal Construction Electrician. They are Ryan Parks and Steve Boye.

Recently retired members include the following brothers: Ron Bond, who retired in October; Larry Connolly and Fred Chisholm, in December; Sean O'Malley, Graham Atwell, Eric Kennedy and Bernie Forrestall, in January; Lee Conrad and Russell Boucher, in February; and Keith Horne and Harding MacPhee, in March. Mark your calendars for the Sept. 23, 2017, Retirees Reunion.

We sadly lost a couple of retired brothers in February: Reg Robicheau, who was 73, and Gordon



Local 625 members and spouses enjoy dancing at Christmas dinner/dance.

LOCAL LINES

MacKenzie, 72. Our sympathies to their families.

Our Next Gen Committee is organizing hockey games and tournaments, renting skyboxes at the Mooseheads hockey games, and planning various other events. Please support their efforts by attending. By all reports, the events are a lot of fun.

It is local union election time again. Mail-in ballots are due in before June 20, 2017. Remember to return your ballot right away. Thank you to all the members who are offering their service for various positions.

Tom Griffiths, A.B.M.

May 6 Annual Bike Run; Refueling Outage Completed

L.U. 627 (u), FORT PIERCE, FL — Hello, brothers and sisters. The refueling outage at the St. Lucie Power Plant is finally complete. There were no serious injuries during the numerous evolutions required to make this refueling occur. I want to thank all of you who worked on the project for watching out for the other guy. Please continue your diligence, while on the road during vacation, or in the back yard. Safety!

The Local 627 “adopt a street” crew, met the mayor of Port St. Lucie, Gregory J. Oravec, while picking up litter on Port St. Lucie Boulevard in February. Mayor Oravec thanked the IBEW volunteers for taking responsibility and initiative in respecting our city.

At this writing contract negotiations were scheduled to begin in April 2017 with Florida Power & Light. Be prepared for the worst, and hope for the best.

Bus. Mgr./Pres. Mark MacNichol asked me to remind everyone who reads this that the Local 627 Annual Bike Run is May 6.

Stay safe!

Ray Vos, P.S.

Activities & Events

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — Let us all thank and recognize all of our local brothers, sisters and family members who participated in our most recent spring activities: the Annual Spring Blood Drive, 3 on 3 Charity Basketball Tournament,



IBEW Local 743 fifth-year apprenticeship class poses with Steve Myers (front row, left), a representative from the U.S. Department of Labor office of apprenticeship, during Training Center Open House.

and March for Babies Walk. A wonderful evening of camaraderie was had at our Annual Meeting of the Local 697 Credit Union.

For the following upcoming events, check our website for specific dates: nominations for local union office, Local 697 election of officers, Union Night at the Gary Railcats Steelyard, IBEW Local 697 Picnic, American Heart Walk, and the Lowell Labor Day Parade. Mark your calendars for all these events. You don't want to miss out.

Ryan Reithel, B.M.

Training Center Open House

L.U. 743 (em&i), READING, PA — Greetings, brothers and sisters. On Nov. 16, 2016, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Reading Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center hosted an Open House event as part of the second annual National Apprenticeship Week. Local business leaders, government officials, contractors and members of the community were treated to tours of our training facility, which included presentations of our blended learning curriculum as well as many of our hands-on lab activities. The night was topped off with a rib-

bon-cutting ceremony where the trustees cut a symbolic copper conductor to rededicate our newly improved Training Center. A special thank-you goes out to the fifth-year apprentice class for their help in the event. The apprentices were on hand to answer questions and help give lab demonstrations.

In other event news, more than 170 members and their families had a good time for a great cause when they recently attended the Reading Royals (our local minor league hockey team) “Pink in the Rink” hockey game. The annual event helps raise money for the American Cancer Society and Breast Cancer Support Services of Berks County.

Mark Pinkasavage, P.S.

Welcome to Apprentices

L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA — Graduation season is near. Another class of apprentices with line and substation training will soon be joining us at Local 777. The “newbies” will be stepping into a two- to three-year apprenticeship in numerous shops throughout the Med-ED operating system.

The new apprentices come to us with an associate degree from Reading Area Community College and some hands-on training from company field instructors involved in the joint educational program. The students are looking forward to jumping in and getting their hands dirty, so to speak. They will be working with crew chiefs and journeymen with respect to their chosen field.

Local 777 congratulates the students on their community college graduation and welcomes these new men and women to their apprenticeship within our ranks.

Mark Power, P.S.

Organizing Victory

L.U. 827 (catv&t), EAST WINDSOR, NJ — Hard work paid off as the Local 827 organizing committee, headed by Bus. Agent Joe Lambert, landed a huge victory when the employees of Altice (formerly Cablevision) voted “Union Yes.”

Join us in welcoming the new IBEW brothers and sisters. We look forward to bringing the 100 Oakland, NJ, workers the fair contract they deserve. Other organizing efforts are continuing throughout the state.

Suzanne M. Wallin, R.S.

Kudos to Apprentice Graduates; RENEW Committee & Volunteers

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL — The 2016 graduating class had 30 apprentices top out to journeyman status. The graduates who had perfect attendance for all

five years were Mark Aguilar, Steven Cohen and Salvador Villarreal. The August 2016 graduating apprentice of the year was Salvador Villarreal.

Local 915 would like to recognize Dylan Chamberlain, who not only had perfect attendance all five years, but also was awarded as the April graduating apprentice of the year and received the Brad Felkner Award. The commitment to quality and professionalism shown by this brother represents the IBEW standard for excellence and dignity in our craft.

Congratulations to all the apprentice graduates. Local 915 wishes for you all a long and prosperous career.

Local 915's RENEW Committee and the volunteers who donate their time for activities and events representing their local union are doing amazing projects across Tampa Bay. This includes attending our annual work party, where we retrofitted our assembly hall lighting to LED lighting. Such projects are made possible by those who give back their time to their union and volunteer on their days off for the betterment of our industry. Many thanks to all, and keep up the good work.

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

Strong Work Picture; New Members Sworn In

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY — We are fortunate to be experiencing a very high level of employment. In our Utility Division both employers, National Grid and PSEG LI, have recently filled numerous job vacancies, with both internal postings and new hires.

Employment in our Outside Division has never been higher. At a recent general meeting, we swore in over 150 new members, many of whom work under our newly expanded Flagging Agreement. Our Outside Division members also have opportunities to work for some of our newly signed contractors. We welcome Ferreira Construction, Florence Construction, and Posillico Tree and Landscaping to name a few.

Bus. Mgr. Ron Bauer is presently in Local 1049 contract negotiations with Green Velvet Landscaping Inc. and MidSun, having reached tentative agreements with both contractors. As of this writing we are preparing to negotiate a new contract on behalf of our Gas Craft Division members. The current agreement expires June 1.

In his new role as business manager/financial secretary, Ron Bauer looks forward to continuing Local 1049's legacy of growth, prosperity and the enhancement of our members' lives.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

Summertime Family Events

L.U. 1141 (em,i,mow,rts&spa), OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — Hello, brothers and sisters. With summertime around the corner, we have several opportunities ahead for you and your loved ones to soak up the sun and enjoy time with your Local 1141 extended family.

On May 20, we will host our Family Day at Frontier City. Also, our annual summertime family picnic at the local union hall is only a couple months away. If you've never attended one of our picnics, why not make this one the first? We'll have delicious food, games for the kids, live music, and more. Please check www.ibew1141.org as these dates get closer for more details.

On another topic, if you or one of the brothers or sisters you work with are getting ready to retire, please check out or direct them to a new page on our website that includes information about how to plan for a successful retirement: www.bit.ly/1141retirement. From determining health care plans to applying for local, international and NEBF pensions, there's a lot of paperwork and a lot of questions you might have. Fortunately, we're here to make it as easy as

IBEW MERCHANDISE



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RENEW T-Shirt \$11.00

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possible. Get in touch with us, and we will take care of all the odds and ends to make sure your retirement plan is as strong as it can be.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming events and at our monthly local union meetings. Work safe, and have a great summer. In solidarity.

Dewayne Wilcox, B.M./F.S.

Storm Restoration Work; Organizing Steward Program

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA — IBEW Local 1245 members were hard at work during the particularly wet, windy and snowy winter, restoring power to hundreds of thousands of customers impacted by storms that walloped the Northwest. [Editor's Note: See news article "Record Snow Turns Out Calif. Lights; IBEW Turns Them Back On," on IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles.]

Local 1245 recently hosted a delegation of leaders from the utility union in El Salvador (STESEC). The five-person delegation spent a week visiting with Local 1245 leaders and members, touring training facilities and learning about the union. "One of the most important lessons of this exchange was when [Local 1245 Bus. Mgr.] Tom Dalzell reminded us the union is not a business — it is struggle and sacrifice," said Felipe Hernandez, a member of the STESEC delegation. Local 1245 looks forward to continuing to cultivate this sister relationship with STESEC.

Local 1245's cutting-edge Organizing Steward Program continues to grow and flourish. In January, 85 organizing stewards were sworn in, the largest class to date. "My experiences as an organizing steward have taught me the importance of solidarity, sacrifice and struggle in defending and building our labor movement," said Organizing Steward Samson Wilson, a lineman who works at NV Energy. "There is a strong sense of excitement in seeing how many new organizing stewards have joined us in this critical time."

Four members of Local 1245 travelled to New Hampshire in February to help defeat "right-to-work" legislation in that state. The energy and experience they brought was an integral part of the successful campaign. "We did it! We stopped right-to-work cold in its tracks of the New Hampshire snow," said Local 1245 Organizing Steward Steve Marcotte. "It was awesome!"

As a companion to the "Fist Full of Lightning" history book released last year, Local 1245 unveiled the first installment of a seven-part video series detailing the local's storied history. The next installment will be released soon. The videos can be viewed at www.ibew1245.com/historyvideos.

Rebecca Band, P.S.

2017 Summer Activities

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY — It was a long winter, as it always is, and it is nice to be finally heading into summer! New Yorkers must take advantage of the short summers, and no one knows that better than Local 1249.

We look forward to Local 1249's Annual Bobby Shutter Memorial Golf Tournament and the ARC Club Pork Barbeque on June 3. This year the Active Retirees Club (ARC) is changing things up with a barbeque instead of a pig roast. I am sure this will not be a disappointment for the members, and they will still leave happy with full bellies!

Local 1249's largest event, the Annual Clam-bake, is also this summer. It will take place on Aug. 5. The "bake" is always a great success with food and beverages flowing and lots of chances to win some great prizes. Hopefully we will be blessed with fantastic weather for all events! We can't wait for members from all around the state to get together and enjoy the outdoors.

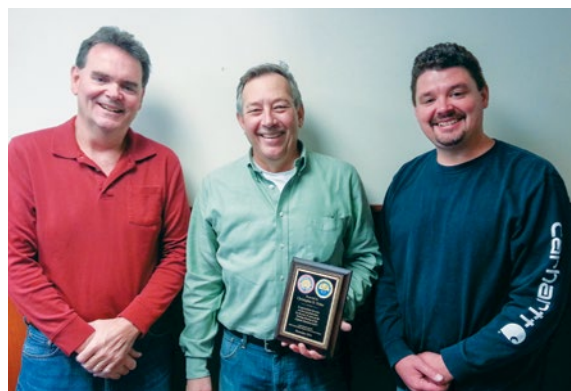
Jennifer Schneider, P.S.

Work Picture Gains

L.U. 1253 (i&mo), AUGUSTA, ME — After a few slow years, Local 1253's Book 1 should be clear when this article is published. With work at two Jackson Laboratory projects, the Colby College projects in Waterville, and the paper machine rebuild at Sappi Paper in Hinckley, work should be good for a while. Local 1253 looks forward to the organizing opportunities this will afford the local plus helping put Book 2 sisters and brothers to work.

Local 1253 wishes to thank the locals throughout the country that have employed our traveling sisters and brothers during our slow times.

Local 1253 then-Training Dir. Chris Trider retired Nov. 13, 2016. Chris was training director for 14 years



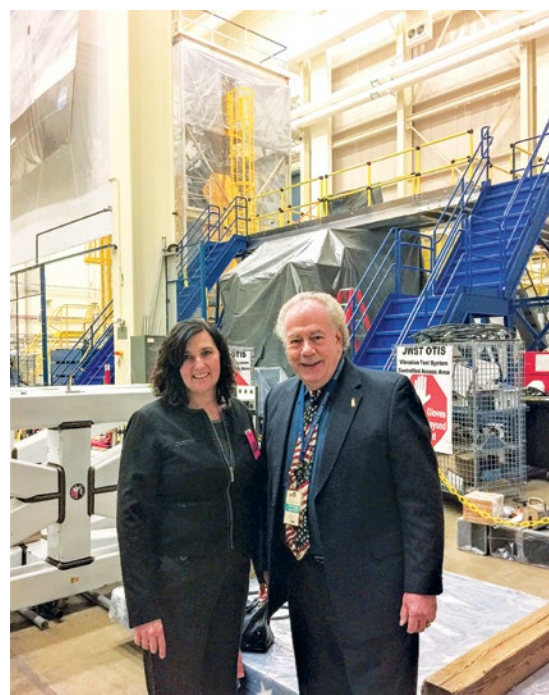
Local 1253 Bus. Mgr. Chuck Fraser (left) and Pres./Organizer Nick Paquet (right) present retiring Training Dir. Chris Trider (center) a plaque of appreciation.

and the local thanks him for all his efforts in bringing the JATC into the 21st century.

If you see the following brothers, give them a hearty congratulations for having received their IBEW pension benefit in 2016: Steve Cook, Ken Cowing, Pete Fish, Pat Guimond and former business manager Jeff Rose.

Local 1253 is saddened by the passing of the following brothers in 2016: Eddie Brissette, Dwight Wheeler, Bill Pooler, Ray Kenworthy, Carol Prosser and Fred Schuerman.

Scott Cuddy, P.S.



IBEW Int. Rep. Gina Cooper and Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion Guthrie tour the James Webb Space Telescope at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Tour of Space Telescope At NASA Flight Center

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD — Members of IBEW Local 1501 are working on the James Webb Space Telescope at the NASA facilities at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD.

Bro. Fred Richards, vice president of Local 1501, provided a tour of the new telescope to IBEW Int. Rep. Gina Cooper and Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion Guthrie during a recent visit to NASA.

Bro. Richards is working on the James Webb Space Telescope and

states that this "core area" is a critical juncture where all four elements — spacecraft, sunshield, telescope and instrument module — mechanically, electrically and thermally intersect. The "core area" includes hardware from each major observatory element; a duplicate flight-like thermal test article is assembled and tested in the Goddard Space Flight Center thermal vacuum chamber by members of Local 1501.

The new James Webb Space Telescope will replace the Hubble

Telescope and will travel millions of miles farther in space beyond Hubble.

James Boyd, F.S./P.S.

IBEW Members Help Defeat N.H. 'Right-to-Work' Bill

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, ME — Members from Local 1837, active and retired, helped defeat a New Hampshire "right-to-work" bill in the state House of Representatives. The bill was defeated by a vote of 200-177. With this success for workers, the Granite State's labor movement overcame tremendous odds in thwarting a top policy priority of new Republican Gov. Chris Sununu.

Even though Republicans control the House by a 226-173 margin, some of them are union members or supporters of collective bargaining rights who recognize the true purpose of these union-busting bills. In the end, 32 Republicans joined Democrats in the House and voted against "right-to-work."

Two IBEW Local 1837 members from Eversource testified in opposition to "right to work" before the House Labor Committee: Rebecca Johnson, a control room operator from Schiller Station, and Pat Moran, a troubleshooter from the Hooksett AWC.

"To work beside someone who is enjoying the benefits I am paying for is not right and you know it," Sister Johnson said, referring to "free riders" who are protected by the contract but choose to pay nothing in "right-to-work" states.

Bro. Moran echoed her sentiments, stating: "I don't understand why you would vote to effectively require union members like me who are more than willing to pay our dues, to subsidize representation and benefits for company employees who choose to pay nothing. It's just not fair."

Other IBEW Local 1837 members called, emailed or met personally with their state representatives to voice opposition to the union-busting bill. Those personal contacts were key to convincing undecided legislators to stand with workers and their unions by voting "no" on the deceptively-named "right to work" bill.

[Editor's Note: See news article "In Win for Working Families, New Hampshire Says 'No' to Right-to-Work," in April 2017 issue of *The Electrical Worker* and on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org/media-center/articles.]

Matthew Beck, Organizer/B.R.



IBEW Local 1837 members gathered before a legislative hearing to show their opposition to "right to work" legislation at the New Hampshire State House in Concord.



Visiting delegation of union leaders from El Salvador, flanked by Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell (front row, second from left), Pres. Art Freitas (front row, left), and organizing stewards. (Photo by John Storey.)



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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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

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FROM THE OFFICERS

The IBEW's Giving Spirit



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

I've been blessed to be the international president of this great union for almost two years now, and nearly every day I hear a story about all the good our sisters and brothers across the U.S. and Canada are doing in their communities.

In this issue, you've read some incredible stories about our members. Dave Amalfitano, a brother from Wilmington, Del., Local 313 needed a kidney, so he put out a call for help that was answered by a complete stranger, Brother Rob Vargas, a first-year apprentice at Local 9 in Chicago. It's an unbelievable act of compassion for a fellow member, and for me, the ultimate act of brotherhood.

At Local 716 in Houston, you read about Brother Tim Tsotsonis, who is back at work at 71 after taking a 22-year break to care for a son with cerebral palsy. Today, Tim rides his bike hundreds of miles to raise money for devastating illnesses like the one that affects his family.

And in these same pages, we told the story of volunteers from Hutchinson, Kan., Local 661, who put their electrical skills to use, helping to renovate the homes of veterans in need. Without their skills and their generosity, those houses might not have been completed.

But their stories, while they stand out, are just a small fraction of the good work the members of this union do every day. RENEW/NextGen chapters from one side of North America to the other are pitching in around their communities, raising money for cancer and packing school supplies for needy kids. Members of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus gather each year, and in smaller groups in between, to fan out across cities, doing whatever work is needed to bring opportunity to communities that need it most. And local unions are opening their doors, providing much-needed space and volunteers for charitable organizations that work on issues our members care about.

Programs we support, like the Union Sportsmen's Alliance's Work Boots on the Ground, are working to preserve North America's natural resources so generations to come can enjoy the same great outdoors that we're able to today. And when veterans return home from overseas, Helmets to Hardhats and efforts by individual IBEW locals help put them to work, giving our returning heroes access to lifelong careers, not just jobs.

These examples only scratch the surface of the good works IBEW brothers and sisters are doing in their hometowns, and I'm proud that giving back is a vital part of who we are as a union. These are the communities that put us to work, that lift us up when we need a hand, and the good-heartedness of our members doesn't go unrecognized.

We have a lot at the IBEW to hold our heads high about, but the generosity of our members is right up there at the top. I'm proud of the work you do, and I'm honored to be your brother. ■

See You on the Next Big One

I have lived the American dream and luck had nothing to do with it.

I joined a union in 1967 — a kid out of high school — and every opportunity I've had came from that.

The IBEW fought for my job. It fought for my training, my healthcare, my pension, and it protected my back.

And here's some good news: it does the same for you. If you are reading this, you are living the American dream too.

As you all know by now, after half a century in the IBEW, I'm leaving this job. But I'm not leaving the Brotherhood.

I want to say everything in this small space I have here. I want to thank all the officers, current and past, who built this institution and keep it thriving. I want to thank the members of the IBEW, starting with the men and women from my home at Cleveland Local 38, in the Fourth District and the entire membership in the U.S. and Canada for their continual support to help me do the jobs I was asked to do.

I also want to express my thanks to International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill for their dedication as leaders, but also, personally, for their friendship.

I also want to thank President Stephenson and the International Executive Council for appointing International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper. I know what it takes to bear responsibility for the economic health and future of the Brotherhood and the pension and the health care funds our members and retirees depend on. I am confident he has the skills to do this job well.

I'm moving on to the next part of life in the IBEW, but I am not leaving. I am going back home to Cleveland to do the most important thing any union member can do: I am going to show up at my local meetings, just like everyone should. I'll do my part in local and state politics, fighting for the little guy. Just like everyone should.

Back when work slowed down at home, I went out on the road like a lot of people did and do. There would be wiremen from all over the country sometimes and we'd make friendships that lasted on those not very long jobs. Because they always wound down and all of us travelers would eventually get ready to go home.

Instead of goodbye, we'd always say, "See you on the next big one." The job is finished, but the friendship goes on. That's how I feel now and that's how I'll leave it.

See you on the next big one. ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

“LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

‘One of the Boys’ Remembered

My wife, Sister Teri Nielson-MacDougall, passed on Feb. 28. Of everything Teri did in life, being a union electrician was her proudest accomplishment. She turned out in the early '70s and was the third woman in Los Angeles Local 11.

Teri knew that she had to prove herself and early on had passed on a soft job in organizing to be “one of the boys” working out of the hall. After her retirement when asked what she had done for a living, she always answered that she was a union electrician.

I don’t know what I’ll do without my “sparky girl.”

*William MacDougall, husband of Local 11 retiree Teri Nielson-MacDougall
Rogue River, Ore.*

Answering the Call

On March 8, we in western New York were slammed with some of most violent winds ever recorded here. As a result, many trees, power poles and electrical lines and equipment in a large area were severely damaged. The response by power crews from as far away as Quebec and Massachusetts was rapid and overwhelming. I observed the dedication, commitment and teamwork they displayed in our village, which was totally without power due to the loss of a main feeder line that came across a very difficult property to access. Gusty winds and low temperatures presented difficulties, but the crews continued to persevere in their attempts to restore power.

Within several days, they had power restored to most of the village. As temperatures dropped to the mid-20s, they went about restoring the rest of the power outages. We traveled 25 miles to Rochester two days later and observed a large contingent of Quebec Hydro crews who were in the process of helping to restore power to devastated areas there. We talked to a number of people who had been without power and they had high praise for these workers, who had traveled close to 700 miles and worked day and night turning the lights back on to homes and businesses.

I am a retired IUE electrician who comes from a family of several generations of electricians in our village. My paternal grandfather and his brother installed some of the original street lighting here in the early 1900s. I came to know many of the local power crews here before Niagara Mohawk became National Grid and proceeded to downsize crews in the name of profitability. Their attempts to gain profit have resulted in a lack of response time at critical moments.

But as for the workers, their professionalism, skill and dedication to their trade has not diminished. They answered the call and have truly substantiated the respect I and my family have for those hearty souls. Thanks to all who helped in a time of need. God bless the skill of these electrical professionals.

*David “Spike” Carmichael
LeRoy, N.Y.*

Extending our Reach

As a 35-plus year member of the IBEW, I am happy to see the work situation improve in locals that for years did not have enough work for their own members, let alone for traveling brothers and sisters. Organizing nonunion electricians is one means of solving the need for skilled workers. Another avenue that needs to be pushed is for the International to get back into the school systems and market the trade to high school students. Not every high school student is adapted for college, and yet the curriculum is geared toward testing for educational progress. Most high schools allow ‘Trade Days’ or other forms of on-campus visits to recruit or show students who could be steered into vocational fields, which are alternatives to college. Sending representatives from the locals to these high schools would garner interest in the trades and get these young people involved in a lifelong career that best suits them. The International needs to rebuild its numbers, and recruiting high school seniors to get started in their apprenticeships at an early age, and teach them the lifelong values of what unionism means.

The IBEW needs the influx of young talent, and I believe reaching out to the high schools is a good place to start.

*Robert L. Burke, Local 725 member
Terre Haute, Ind.*

I read President Stephenson’s April editorial on “Filling the Gap” with great interest. Although I do agree that organizing is an important function of the locals, I believe that one of the most important and immediate resolutions to worker shortages is through the local IBEW-NECA apprenticeship committees indenturing of new apprentices to fill the future and immediate needs of the industry. I have served on the local and national committees and have seen that organizing efforts take some time and are not always successful. Our apprenticeship is a sure path to success.

*David Lantz, Local 1547 retiree
Anchorage, Alaska*

WHO WE ARE

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

Houston Electrician Rides Bike to Honor Son, Help Others

It was 2009 and Tim Tsotsonis wanted to work as an electrician again after a nearly 22-year absence. He wanted to improve his health. He also wanted to help others as a way of saying thanks for the help his family received caring for son Alexander, who has cerebral palsy.

So, at the age of 63, the Houston Local 716 member returned to the job. He also took up bicycling and began entering long distance rides, including the BP MS 150, a two-day, 180-mile ride between Houston and Austin, Texas, in late April.

“The purpose of life is to live it to the fullest with no regrets,” Tsotsonis said. “We have one chance to live life on this planet. We have to live with dignity and purpose, to not be selfish and help others at the same time.”

When it comes to living life to the fullest, it’s hard to top Tsotsonis, even at the age of 71.

“I think he gets up and can’t wait to get to work,” said Local 716 Business Manager John Easton Jr., a member of the International Executive Council. “Just having that positive attitude and positive spirit has to be uplifting to people around you.”

Tsotsonis grew up in Corinth, Greece, about 50 miles west of Athens, and was fascinated by American culture. Some of his earliest memories are watching Westerns starring John Wayne. Later, he was enamored by movies set in Las Vegas starring Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra.

“I thought ‘My goodness, I need to go to America,’” he said.

He finished high school before a compulsory stint in the Greek army, where he serviced electrical generators. Following his discharge, Tsotsonis went to the American Embassy in Athens to ask about moving to the United States, but found he didn’t meet the standards to emigrate.

Instead, he took advantage of Canada’s more open immigration laws and moved to Montreal in 1970. He went through an IBEW apprenticeship program there and became a journeyman inside wireman. He met his wife Eva. He learned to speak both French and English.

But moving to the U.S. never left his mind. He and Eva went on a driving vacation around the U.S. in 1978. In Houston, he saw plenty of construction going on, so he approached a foreman on a jobsite asking how to find work.

That foreman put him in touch with Whitaker Electric, an IBEW signatory con-



Houston Local 616 journeyman wireman Tim Tsotsonis, pictured here during a six-day, 537-mile bike ride to benefit the American Red Cross, is still working and riding at the age of 71. Giving back to others is central to who he is.

tractor. Tsotsonis worked with company owner David Whitaker to gain permanent residency status and transferred his IBEW membership to Local 716 in 1980. He and Eva have lived in Houston ever since.

Angelina, the Tsotsonis’ daughter, was born in 1982. Tim continued to drive a prized Corvette he purchased in Montreal. His wife owned her own hair salon.

“I had everything I wanted,” he said.

That all changed in 1987, four months after Alexander was born in February, when he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. It’s caused by a brain injury or malformation and severely impacts an individual’s motor skills and ability to speak.

Alexander required constant care, so Tim stopped working as an electrician to stay home while Eva continued to manage the salon.

“My American dream collapsed,” he said. “It showed how life can change from second to second.”

Tim found a job as a shoe distributor, where he could work from home arranging overseas shipments to American stores.

Health insurance always was a concern, especially when companies could decline coverage because of a pre-existing condition, Tsotsonis said. He’s thankful for the help the family received along the way, especially from Shriners Hospital for Children.

“I never lost my dignity,” he said. “I never lost my hope, I never gave up and I never felt like a loser. I never complained that it was the fault of other people. I was facing the reality and trying to find solutions.”

Alexander had some health scares

along the way, but continued to improve and graduated from a public high school. The Tsotsonis family got some financial relief when he qualified for Medicaid in 2009, allowing it to hire a home health-care worker and ease some of the burden on Tim and his wife.

He never relinquished his Local 716 membership. After 22 years, Tim wanted to be an electrician again.

“When I got into the shoe business, I did it because I didn’t have any options in life,” Tsotsonis said. “Now, I can survive and work as an electrician. I have good health and I love the work.”

He works on high-rise buildings and enjoys mentoring younger electricians. He hopes he sets a good example

with his enthusiasm on the job

“I’m like an ambassador,” he said.

Easton said that enthusiasm is hard to miss.

“It’s been fascinating to be around him,” he said. “When you first look at him, you think this guy needs to retire and go enjoy himself. But he took so much time to care for his son, work is almost like a fun thing to do.”

Tsotsonis is especially thankful to Mid-West Electric, an IBEW signatory contractor, and owner Matthew Cappadonna, for giving him work on a variety of projects. He has become friends with Cappadonna, who contributes to his bicycling rides.

Those long rides have become common. Tsotsonis has taken part in a six-day, 537-mile trek between Houston and New Orleans that raises money for the American Red Cross. The ride from Houston to Austin benefits multiple sclerosis — which is like cerebral palsy, but doesn’t impact those suffering from it until they are adults.

“When you ride at 8 or 9 in the morning on a beautiful sunny day, you feel like you’re close to paradise,” he added. “You’re self-energized. You feel the value of being alive. You don’t feel your age. When I ride with young people, I compete with them.”

There is one person who is never out of his mind, no matter if he’s riding or working. That’s Alexander.

“He made me a better person,” Tsotsonis said. “He made me think about my values in life, about love and possibilities, about the power of affection and giving back. For me, he’s the treasure of my life and inspiration.” ■

BGE Workers Get Their Union Baltimore Local 410 Chartered



International President Lonnie R. Stephenson was joined on stage by members of the BGE volunteer organizing committee as he signed the charter of their new local.

The IBEW officially has a new local: Baltimore Local 410.

On March 29 at Baltimore Local 24's local hall, International President Lonnie R. Stephenson signed Local 410's charter, officially welcoming BGE's 1,418 gas and electric transmission-distribution workers into the Brotherhood.

It was another remarkable day in the decades-long effort to organize BGE. The winning election Jan. 12 followed four failed representation elections. The Electrical Worker had complete coverage of the victory in the March 2017 issue.

Local 410 also announced its temporary officers: Business Manager Eric Gomez, President Ben Ferstermann, Recording Secretary Jordan Roscoe and Treasurer Shane Mosca.

"I'm honored to accept our charter. It is amazing to see what was once a dream become a reality," Gomez said.

In some dark days for organized labor — Kentucky and Missouri passing right-to-work laws and Republicans in Washington rolling job and worker safety regulations back — the moment was a banner occasion for the IBEW, and the Brotherhood's international and Baltimore-based leadership came out in force.

Stephenson was joined by then-Fourth District International Vice President Kenneth W. Cooper, Assistant to the International President for Membership Development Ricky Oakland, Director of Professional and Industrial Membership Development Carmella Thomas and more than a half dozen international representatives who had been involved in the campaign, including Regional Organizing Coordinator Bert McDermitt.

Missing from the celebration was



Then-Fourth District International Vice President Kenneth W. Cooper, International President Lonnie R. Stephenson, Baltimore Local 410 Business Manager Eric Gomez and Vice President Ben Ferstermann with Local 410's new charter.

international representative and Lead Organizer Troy Johnson, who worked full time on the campaign for more than a year. "He didn't want to miss this but he hadn't had a vacation in so long I told him to go," Cooper said.

Also missing were the dozens of volunteer organizers who flew in from around the country, knocked on hundreds of doors, manned the phone banks every night and stood outside the gates of BGE service centers waving signs, handing out leaflets, answering questions and keeping up morale in December and January.

"During the campaign, I called them our crazies. They were the ones out there in the bitter cold, waving signs. I don't think you guys realize how much we appreciate it," Gomez said.

City Councilmember John T. Bullock, State Delegate Cory V. McCray, who is also a Local 24 membership development

representative, and U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes spoke at the ceremony as well.

More than 100 Local 24 apprentices in between classes at the Joint Apprenticeship Training Center joined the cheering when Stephenson, Cooper and Gomez were joined on stage by the volunteer organizing committee to witness the signing of the new charter.

"I've been in the IBEW for 41 years now and I have never been as honored as I just was to do that," Stephenson said. "I have not had the pleasure or opportunity to sign a charter for a new local union. So, this was a big event not only for you but for me."

After a handful of pictures were taken, the charter was left on the stage and the new members of Local 410, many still in their work uniforms, made their way up the stairs to take their own pictures while the ink was still wet. ■

THE IBEW'S 2017 PHOTO CONTEST

A lot goes into a good photo: light, contrast, composition. But more than that, it needs to tell a story. And who better to tell the stories of the IBEW than its membership?

For almost 20 years, members from all over the U.S. and Canada have submitted the pictures that tell those stories. In the space of a few pixels, these images show who we are, what we do, and how well we do it. Now it's your turn. What's your story?

ENTER TODAY!
DEADLINE: OCT. 31

1ST PLACE: \$200

2ND PLACE: \$150

3RD PLACE: \$100

HONORABLE
MENTION: \$50

Photo Contest Rules:

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

Contest Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

City and state _____

Zip code _____

Phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Local union number _____

IBEW card number _____

Photo description _____