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IBEW News



Stonewalling in N.Y.

Cable company won't bargain with striking workers **3**

Southside Traincars

Chinese manufacturer to produce cars in Chicago **4**

Texas Appeal

IBEW health plan an organizing bonanza **5**

Win-Win Contract

Raises, new members at AT&T **5**

From the Rooftops

Solar contractor touts IBEW partnership **20**

Starting Over

A renewed search for suitable donor **20**

In This Issue

North of 49° **6**

Circuits **7**

Transitions **8**

Politics & Jobs **9**

Local Lines **10**

Retirees **14**

In Memoriam **17**

Editorials **18**

Letters to the Editor **19**

Who We Are **19**



SAFETY UNDER ATTACK

In their first 100 days in power, the Trump administration and the Republican Congress have repealed and blocked worker safety regulations that were years, sometimes decades, in the making.

Through legislative action, executive orders and the use of the Congressional Review Act, the executive and legislative branches jointly and repeatedly shifted the cost and responsibility of keeping workers safe from corporations to workers and the public.

In total, IBEW Safety Department Director Dave Mullen said Republicans in Congress have targeted more than 225 rules and standards affecting U.S. workers.

But even more than specific regulations,



SMASHING WORKER PROTECTIONS

Republicans have the power to achieve a decades-old dream of dismantling the entire system of workplace and consumer protections built since the birth of the labor movement and cemented into place during the New Deal.

The 2016 Republican party platform called that system “the quiet tyranny of the ‘Nanny State.’”

The Occupational Safety and Health Act, requiring employers to protect their workers from preventable injury and death, is called “exploitation.” The regulations that bar bankers from ripping people off are “burdensome.” The Environmental Protection Act’s bans against dumping toxic chemicals into waterways are called “punishing.”

Now that they have all the levers of power in their control, Republicans are delivering on their plat-

form’s promise to “make regulations minimally intrusive” and “respectful toward the creation of new and small businesses.”

“They have been making regulation synonymous with burdens, with costs,” said Celine McNicholas, labor counsel for the Economic Policy Institute. “By only focusing on the cost to business of keeping workers safe, they ignore the cost to everyone else when workers get hurt.”

Getting rid of workplace protections doesn’t just shift the economic burden from companies to workers, it increases costs to everyone. The company saves money by not providing facemasks that filter out asbestos, but the cost of treating long term respiratory illness, premature death and disability vastly exceeds the savings to the company.

In fact, every regulation, by law, goes through a cost-benefit analysis conducted by the Office of Management and Budget. On average, McNicholas said, for every \$1 a regulation “costs,” it saves or returns \$7.

“Someone benefits from repealing or delaying rules,” McNicholas said. “We should always ask who it is? Is it workers?”

SAFETY REGULATIONS *continued on page 2*

SAFETY UNDER ATTACK

Continued from page 1

'Ludicrous. Meritless. Insane'

Mullen said he is most concerned, so far, about an executive order issued in January calling for executive agencies to get rid of two regulations whenever a new one is issued.

When he signed it, Trump said the U.S. can "cut regulations by 75 percent."

"It is ludicrous. Meritless. Insane," Mullen said. "It's like saying that asbestos causes cancer, but if you want to protect your workers from asbestos you have to get rid of seatbelts in their trucks and take away their fall protection."

McNicholas is also puzzled by the order.

"If you just wanted to make things randomly worse, it would look like this order," she said. "You would line up all the regulations and target the ones that cost the most to implement in the short term, ignore any information about the benefit they provide, and kill them."

Trump also went after specific standards.

In March, Trump ordered the Department of Labor to delay implementation of the silica dust standard.

Silica dust is a known carcinogen commonly found at any construction or mining site where concrete is sawn, ground, milled, or hammered. In other words, nearly all of them.

Attempts to reduce exposure to silica have been ongoing for decades, Mullen said, and OSHA has been in the process of issuing new regulations since at least Obama's first term. The final rule, which was set to go into effect in June, came after years of consultation with industry, labor and health experts.

Trump, however, delayed implementation for three months and reopened the rule for additional guidance.

The National Association of Home Builders lauded the order, saying it was "pleased."

"There is no reasonable justification for delaying this rule. It has been studied to death and that is what is at stake here: 600 lives, every year. From dust. Six hundred construction workers every year will leave behind husbands and wives and kids and communities that rely on them from completely preventable deaths. For what? To save a few hundred or few thousand bucks on gear," Mullen said. "It's

[baloney]. Complete [baloney.]"

In March, Trump also signed an order that requires the head of each federal agency to appoint a regulatory reform officer to identify existing regulations for replacement or repeal. No directives have been issued about how they would be selected or what qualifications they would need to have.

"Think about how complicated some of the safety issues are in the jobs our members do. Construction sites. Power plants. Shipyards. Old buildings, new buildings. Will this person, appointed by a president committed to gutting safety regulations, look out for us? Even if they wanted to keep workers safe, will they have the knowledge to do it?" Mullen said. "We have no reason to think they will. We just don't know."

In late April, Trump also launched another front on his battle against workplace and consumer protections when he chose Neomi Rao to run the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

A formerly low profile, technical office buried in the Office of Management and Budget, OIRA ensures regulations issued by executive agencies align with best practices and technical standards. They also issue the government's official assessment of how much a regulation will cost and what its benefits will be.

In the past, the cost-benefit analysis was a technical question, left to politically neutral civil servants who were experts in their field. But Rao is not a technical expert, she is a law professor and former clerk to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Rao has been a vocal opponent of the existing regulatory system, well outside the mainstream of legal opinion even in conservative circles, McNicholas said.

As the Washington Post reported, "In past administrations, the OIRA administrator has played the role of a check on ideology, but with Rao and many department chiefs all pushing for deregulation, OIRA's role as objective analyst could be compromised."

The Death Penalty for Safety Regulations: The Congressional Review Act

At a press conference in February, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said, "We're directly attacking the over-regulation issue, thanks to the Congressional



Construction is the most dangerous work environment in North America but it can be done safely when workers get the protection and training they need.

Review Act, and plan to take as many of these job-killing regulations off the books as possible."

The CRA is one of the most powerful, yet least well-known tools, at the government's disposal to attack worker protections. It gives Congress the authority to repeal any regulation issued in the last 90 "session" days of the previous administration. The process is rapid, cannot be filibustered, and if successful, it bars the executive branch from issuing a "substantially similar" regulation until a new law is passed expressly authorizing it.

Unlike an executive order, which can be easily reversed by the next president, regulations repealed under the CRA are gone until the opposition party takes back both the White House and Congress.

"It is the death penalty for regulations," Mullen said. "It is more than weakening a rule. It is more than repealing it. It's a black hole. They disappear and cannot reappear."

Congress can target rules passed by the Obama administration at least as far back as May 2016 and they had until mid-May to act.

Before Trump took office, the CRA had only been used once, to repeal ergonomic safety standards issued in the last months of President Bill Clinton's administration.

Since Trump took office, however, the CRA has been used successfully at least 13 times, at least four of which directly affect worker protections. The U.S. Senate is considering two more resolutions.

Of those regulations that have already been repealed under the CRA, McNicholas and Mullen identified many



that clearly leave IBEW members more vulnerable, on the job and after they retire.

First, Trump and the Republican Congress killed the Occupational Safety and Health record-keeping rule.

This rule required employers to keep records of on-the-job injuries for five years, replacing the previous six-month standard. The new rule improved the chances that Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspectors investigating incidents would find previous violations they may have missed as well as patterns of negligence.

By revoking the five-year standard, the Trump administration is imposing a kind of corporate memory loss, but only about workplace injuries. Companies are required by the IRS to keep tax records for at least three years, seven if they claim certain kinds of losses.

"There is no cost in keeping paperwork you already created. They don't have space on their computers for another document?" Mullen said.

The President also signed the CRA repeal of the Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces rule which prevented contractors that cheat their own workers or violated basic

safety standards from getting additional contracts with the federal government.

McNicholas said the repeal sets a new, lower standard, for federal contractors. Instead of rewarding companies that do right by their workers — or at the very least staying neutral — the federal government is now hamstringing the good guys.

"It says 'This is how we expect you to bid: low cost, low safety, low respect for workers,'" McNicholas said. "Severe injuries? No problem. Deaths? No problem. This is now the standard operating procedure. It's what makes you competitive for federal money."

Congressional Action: Highway to the 19th Century

Despite the delays, repeals and orders from the White House, the power to dramatically change workplaces for the worse lies down Pennsylvania Avenue with Congress.

Several bills are under consideration in the House of Representatives that all claim to update the entire regulatory



Since taking office, President Trump has issued dozens of executive orders, including some that delay or repeal worker safety protections.



Rules protecting workers from silica and beryllium have been delayed, and employers that violate the law have new protections under unified Republican rule.

system that has been built up over the last 100 years.

“Whenever members of Congress start talking about modernizing regulations I put my hand over my heart and check for my wallet,” Mullen said. “Based on what these bills actually do, modernizing looks an awful lot like making the future look like the past.”

One bill would require congressional approval of “major” regulations, giving regulated corporations even more opportunities to turn the regulatory process to their interest and not the public’s.

Another targets rules for repeal based purely on their cost of implementation, ignoring any benefit — no matter how large — the regulation provides.

Similar in mission, but possibly even larger in scope, is the Regulatory Accountability Act, which would fundamentally alter the way regulations are issued across the federal government. It would require agencies to put compliance cost considerations above any other, including size of return or public benefit, even saving lives. It would also require the agency to analyze “any substantial alternatives” submitted by “interested parties,” an invitation to paralyze the regulatory process if not hand it over completely to employers.

Each of these bills, McNicholas

said, give regulated entities, people or corporations, more opportunities to bend the law their way outside the public hearing process that unions and public interest advocates will be restricted to.

“Anyone without the money to hire lobbyists or who can’t match campaign donations, where do they turn?” McNicholas said.

Even with Republicans in control of Congress and the White House, it is impossible to know what, if anything, will pass. But, Mullen said, the lesson to all IBEW members is watch out for one another.

“For now, the reality is, safety has to be in each individual’s hands. It is not a cliché anymore: your first, second and third job is to get home safe and whole,” Mullen said.

Candidate Trump had a message that was more appealing to working-class voters, including many union members, than the traditional pro-corporate message of the Republican Party.

The evidence of the first few months shows that President Trump appears to be a more traditional Republican than he let on.

“Reading his campaign speeches is a reminder of how hollow the promises he made are,” McNicholas said. “It was all talk before. It is his actions we have to watch now.” ■



New York Local 3 members walk a picket line after about 1,800 members and employees of Charter/Spectrum went on strike against the company on March 28.

With Talks at a Standstill, New York Officials Step Up for Striking Charter Employees

New York Local 3 hasn’t been getting anywhere with Charter/Spectrum officials in its battle for a fair contract for striking workers.

That caught the attention of leaders of the city’s five boroughs, who have taken issue with the company’s refusal to negotiate even while it is bringing in millions in profits. Meanwhile, its CEO’s salary has quadrupled, making him the highest paid in America last year.

The nearly 1,800 Charter employees represented by Local 3 worked without a contract for nearly four years before going on strike March 28. In early April, New York City Public Advocate Letitia Adams wrote a letter to Charter CEO Tom Rutledge, saying the workers had “continued working in expectation that a contract would be negotiated by new management,” referring to Charter’s merger with longtime city cable provider Time Warner Cable in 2016.

The public advocate is the second-highest elected official in New York City. Adams’ letter was dated April 4 and co-signed by 33 members of the city council. Local 3 represents technicians, engineers and warehouse workers at Charter/Spectrum. Local 3 officials noted they have reached good-faith agreements with every single predecessor company since 1972.

“Just as these workers stayed on the job in good faith, we are calling on Charter to come to the table in good faith to resolve this dispute and do what is right for its employees and its customers,” Adams wrote.

No talks had been held by early May and none are scheduled, Local 3 business representative Derek Jordan said.

“They haven’t moved off their initial proposals and haven’t shown they’re going to,” Jordan said.

Charter officials have emphasized

they are offering workers a raise, but it won’t come close to offsetting proposed cuts in pensions, 401(k) plans, health benefits, paid holidays, accrued sick time and contributions to an educational trust fund that allowed employees and their spouses to attend college.

The company also would like to contract out some work done previously by Local 3 members. Charter has brought in replacement workers from around the country to fill in for the striking workers, which Local 3 believes is a violation of its franchise agreement with the city.

All that wasn’t lost on Adams.

“[Charter] is seeking to eliminate or diminish basic provisions of overtime, healthcare and retirement security,” she wrote. “Charter is not on the verge of bankruptcy or amidst any hardship that would justify such steep concessions of its working-class families. In fact, you have record profits.”

Support from public officials is always important, but even more so when a company refuses to negotiate, Jordan said. It lets customers know that what Local 3 is asking for is reasonable, he said.

Three legislators from Queens — one a city council member, the other two members of New York’s General Assembly — followed up with their own letter to Charter officials.

“We urge you to return to the bargaining table with a new approach, one that will lead to a speedy and fair resolution of the contract dispute,” they wrote. “You must protect the workers that make your company function and the New York consumers who rely on your service with as much fervor as you protect your bottom line.”

The company reported profits of \$189 million in the third quarter of 2016, nearly triple the amount it reported during the same period of the previous year.

Charter attributed that to closing on its purchase of Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks, which makes Charter the second-largest cable provider in the country after Comcast.

Rutledge took advantage of a big grant of stock options to boost his pay to \$98.5 million in 2016, the Wall Street Journal reported. His compensation had been \$16.4 million in 2015.

Yet, despite those profits, the company has been slow to answer consumer complaints. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman sued Charter earlier this year over allegations it failed to meet pledges to update internet speeds.

That’s part of another issue in the dispute. Technicians for the company are routinely sent to a customer’s home with company officials knowing the equipment won’t fix the problem and promised internet speeds are unobtainable, Jordan said.

Those workers are disciplined when a company representative makes a return trip to the home. Charter has resisted proposals to change the policy even while knowing it is unfair to workers, he said.

“They are punishing us for service failures, even if it has nothing to do with craftsmanship,” Local 3 member and Charter technician Dennis Burgess told the Stamford Advocate. “The new management doesn’t care about craftsmanship, the equipment or anything except making their numbers look good.”

When the New York State Public Service Commission approved Charter’s purchase of Time Warner in 2016, it anticipated “significant investments” that would likely lead to an expansion in the company’s New York workforce.

“Surely the PSC did not contemplate Charter engaging in negotiations that seek to undermine the financial livelihood of New Yorkers,” Adams wrote. ■

IBEW MERCHANDISE



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Black and tan golf bag with IBEW logo and initials. High quality and versatile bag manufactured by Belding specifically for the IBEW.



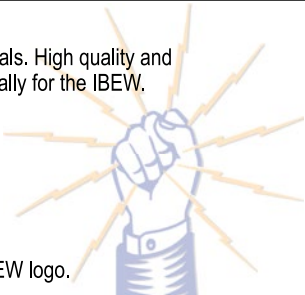
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Chicago Local 134 Business Manager Donald Finn, center left, holds an agreement with Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 77 Business Manager Rocco Terranova, right, that gives the unions jurisdiction at a new Chicago railcar facility.

IBEW Helps Railcar Construction Return to Chicago's South Side

Trains, trolleys and legendary sleeping cars rolled out of the Pullman Company's Chicago factory for a century until it was shuttered in 1981. Its demise signified the end of railcar production in the United States.

Now, with the IBEW and Chicago Local 134 leading the way, modern railcars will be built not far from the site of that old plant.

CRRC Sifang North America, a subsidiary of a China-based railcar manufacturer, formalized plans to build a \$100 million facility in the Hegewisch neighborhood during a ceremony on March 16. It will construct up to 846 of the new 7000 series railcars for the Chicago light-rail system.

Officials hope that will lead to work on railcars for other public-transportation projects across the country. CRRC Sifang is bidding to build new cars for California's BART, which services San Francisco and Oakland, and METRA, which services northeastern Illinois, and plans to build them at the Chicago facility.

About 110 of the plant's 170 full-time manufacturing employees in Chicago will be represented by the IBEW, Local 134 Business Manager Donald Finn said. Construction will provide work for possibly another 150 members.

"We have a project labor agreement on the whole facility," Finn said. "From the first shovel going in that ground, there won't be anyone but union people working there."

It's not only a boost for IBEW mem-

bers, but also for a struggling neighborhood.

"To bring back manufacturing jobs to the city of Chicago on the southeast side, where we lost the Pullman factory and lost our steelworkers, and ramp that up sends a great message across the country," he said. "We hear all the time that good-paying jobs are leaving America and we can't compete. Here's a Chinese company that's building a facility here because we can provide a qualified workforce."

New Cars, New Jobs

The project took root because of the need to update the aging railcar fleet for Chicago's rapid transit system, commonly known as the "L." Labor activists and other community leaders wanted to ensure the work to build them stayed in the community.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and city officials reached an agreement in 2014 with the Chicago Federation of Labor, Jobs to Move America and the Chicago Transit Authority to adopt a provision in the request for bids. It asked interested companies to provide the number and type of new jobs they planned to create along with workforce training programs if they landed the project.

It also was a major win for Jobs to Move America, a coalition of about 30 labor, spiritual, academic, civil rights and environmental groups, including the IBEW.

Founded in 2012, Jobs to Move

America works to ensure good-paying jobs on public transportation projects stay in the United States instead of going overseas. It has worked with the IBEW and other allies to secure jobs on projects in Los Angeles and Boston and is hoping to do so later this year in New York City.

But the agreement in Chicago is unique because CRRC Sifang has agreed to a landmark community benefits agreement, JMA deputy director Lindy Nguyen said. It will hire from the local community and invest in the development of a pre-apprenticeship and workforce training coalition. Sifang also has committed to hire military veterans, women, the formerly incarcerated and communities of color, she said.

"It's the first of its kind in the industry, where we have a deep commitment from the company to quality jobs and access to those jobs for community members," Nguyen said.

Nguyen noted the Department of Labor has awarded a \$4 million grant to the Calumet Manufacturing Initiative, most of which will develop training programs for the workforce. The Initiative includes the IBEW and other labor unions along with colleges, junior colleges and technical training programs in the area.

"In the United States, there aren't any real apprenticeship or training programs in this industry," she said. "We're building it from scratch."

Sifang was awarded the \$1.3 billion contract in March 2016. Harry Ohde, Local 134's assistant training director,



Sixth District Vice President David J. Ruhmkorff, right, and Finn greet Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth at a March 16 ceremony to kick off construction of the facility.

said the first group of 30 employees will be hired in mid-2018.

Many will be IBEW members and the rest will be represented by the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers. Those 30 workers will be trained at Sifang headquarters in China for two months. They will return to the U.S. and work with Sifang, the IBEW and others involved in the project to set up railcar training programs in Chicago. The plant is expected to be fully operational by 2020 and the first cars will roll off the factory floor soon after.

"They're going to be the trainers and foremen at that plant," Ohde said. "What they have to do is go over there and learn the whole process."

IBEW Training is Key

Both Ohde and Finn said good-paying manufacturing jobs now require technical training that's increasingly like apprenticeship programs in other IBEW sectors.

Finn said Sifang officials were particularly impressed when they looked at the IBEW's training programs.

"It's gratifying to work with an international company to bring jobs to the

United States," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "That's exciting because it fights back against the notion that manufacturing jobs should be fleeing the country."

"But in one way, it's no different than what we've been doing for the last 125 years. We're providing hard-working men and women with the skills and training they need to move into the middle class. That's the IBEW at its best and I'm so proud we've had a leading role in bringing this facility to Chicago."

Along with Emanuel, Illinois Sens. Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth attended the dedication ceremony. Finn and Sixth District Vice President David J. Ruhmkorff represented the IBEW.

Ohde said he's lived on the south side his entire life and witnessed the change in manufacturing trends. Too many have been troublesome and harmed working families.

This one will provide a needed boost. "I got goosebumps when I was there for the groundbreaking," Ohde said. "It's pretty emotional."

"It's a huge job for the IBEW, but just as important, it's great manufacturing jobs for this community," he added. "Instead of going overseas, they're coming here." ■

IBEW Health Plan Fuels Organizing Boom at Texas Utility

At its core, the IBEW/NECA Family Medical Care Plan has a pretty simple mission — to provide high-quality health insurance to IBEW members and their families at the best possible price.

But in Texas, leaders at Houston Local 66 have found the FMCP to be much more than that, namely as an extraordinarily effective organizing tool.

The plan, which was started in 2006 primarily for construction locals, has expanded over the last 10 years to cover members working in multiple branches, including utilities, telecommunications and manufacturing. Today, it has more than 95,000 participants at 165 local unions, and the larger it grows, the greater the cost savings it is able to achieve.

FMCP Executive Director Larry Bradley takes great pride in the fact that, because FMCP operates without the need for profits, advertising or extensive overhead, in every local the plan is being used, it has been able to provide equal or better insurance than what the company was providing for the same or better cost.

“That puts money back on the bargaining table for locals and employers to fight over,” he said, “and that’s a good thing. We’ve got seven Fortune 500 companies who are participating in this plan now, and they’re not doing it because they love the IBEW. They’re doing it because it makes financial sense.”

That financial sense is what prompted Local 66 Business Manager Greg Lucero and executives at CenterPoint Energy to adopt the FMCP for active employees during contract talks in 2013.

Making the switch saved the company almost \$5 million a year for what turned out to be a much better health plan for members, he said, and everyone on both sides of the negotiating table walked away happy.

The plan was working so well, in fact, that the company and Local 66 agreed a year later to bring CenterPoint’s future retirees into the FMCP as well as a full 100 percent subsidy.

Shortly after CenterPoint’s active employees joined the FMCP at the start of 2014, Lucero brought the plan into contract negotiations with the STP nuclear plant southwest of Houston. The company’s 375 IBEW employees and another 60 or so retirees would be covered by FMCP starting in May. Lucero said even with the free retiree health care, the move still saved the company \$250,000 annually.

But that wasn’t the only benefit.

In July, the plant’s reactor operators voted to join the union, enticed by the generous medical coverage the IBEW had been able to secure for its members.

By August, two more units — maintenance planners and chemistry department — had voted to join the union as well. In February 2015, STP’s metrology lab employees followed suit, and a little more than a year later, in May 2016, all four new units ratified their first contracts.



Members working at the STP nuclear plant in Palacios, Texas, joined the IBEW/NECA Family Medical Care Plan in 2014, and leaders at Local 66 have been using the plan’s popularity to organize new members ever since.

Last November, a fifth unit, the procedure writers, elected to join Local 66, adding another 13 members once they reach a first agreement, expected this summer. At least five other units at the nuclear plant have expressed interest in joining the IBEW.

In all, nearly 100 new members have joined the union, bringing almost 50 percent of the nuclear plant’s employees into bargaining units.

“There is no doubt that the coverage provided by the FMCP and the 100 percent retiree subsidy has been a huge influence on groups interested in joining the union,” said STP bargaining unit member and Local 66 Executive Board Chairman Mark Griffin. “The company’s initial proposal was to drop retiree health care altogether and say ‘Good luck finding your own health insurance,’ but we fought for them, and the FMCP was the tool that made the numbers work.”

Even in right-to-work Texas, the local has maintained union membership near 90 percent in represented units at the nuclear plant, indicative of the value these brothers and sisters place on their involvement with the IBEW.

Lucero has his eye on the future, hoping to replicate the results he’s seen at STP at other plants his local represents. At NRG Energy in Houston, 600 Local 66 members came on to the FMCP health

plan in January following contract negotiations. He’s hopeful that he’ll be able to work the FMCP into negotiations at Texas New Mexico Power as well, where workers voted to join the IBEW back in 2013.

“If I can get the Texas New Mexico folks on FMCP, I’m confident we’ll grow our membership numbers there too,” Lucero said. “There’s no doubt in my mind we’re organizing these units because of FMCP.”

Other utility locals have had success with the FMCP as well, including members at Detroit Local 17 working for the Thumb Electrical Cooperative.

“We look at FMCP every chance we have,” said Local 17 Business Manager Dean Bradley, who was able to secure solid annual raises four years in a row for members at Thumb thanks to FMCP savings. “Any business manager not looking into using the plan in negotiations is making a mistake.”

For more information, contact the FMCP at (301) 556-4300 or visit www.nebf.com/fmcp. ■

IBEW Finds Labor Peace, Jobs for New Members in AT&T Deal

Long-term harmony between labor and management is difficult to come by in the tumultuous telecommunications industry. IBEW System Council T-3 has found it with one of the nation’s leading companies.

It reached a tentative five-year agreement with AT&T on April 26 that provides workers with a 13.25 percent wage increase during the term of the deal and a \$1,000 signing bonus. Most of the 5,000 members covered by it are wireline employees based in Illinois and northwest Indiana, but it also covers some members in California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Wisconsin and New Jersey. Contract ratification votes are scheduled to be finished by the end of May.

AT&T also announced it will hire 1,000 workers for a new, Chicago-based call center. That was not part of the negotiated agreement, but the IBEW will represent those workers.

“We believe that this agreement is a testament to the strong relationship the IBEW has with AT&T and represents a fair and mutually beneficial agreement in a challenging and changing industry,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said.

Kevin Curran, an international representative in the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Department who helped negotiate the deal, said it addressed most of the concerns the IBEW had beforehand.

“In our industry, which is changing and customers have more and more mediums they can turn to, the five-year term is good job security for our members,” Curran said. “The other thing that stands out is the 1,000 jobs. It’s not part of the agreement, but the fact that we’re growing jobs instead of contracting them is really important.”

The deal also includes increased pension contributions from the company. AT&T will match employee contributions to its 401(k) plan at a higher level. The company also agreed to the IBEW’s request for a no-layoff pledge through March 2018.

Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21 Business Manager Paul Wright, chairman of System Council T-3, said the boost in matching contributions in the 401(k) will lead to an overall



The IBEW will represent 1,000 employees at a new call center AT&T plans to build in Chicago. Photo by Mike Mozart under a Flickr/Creative Commons agreement.

increase in pay for most workers covered by the agreement.

“The moratorium on the layoffs helps our members because our industry is changing so rapidly,” Wright said. “It’s basically a welcome pause from everything that is going on. It helps the general morale of all the employees and lets them get some stability in their lives.”

The agreement comes about nine months after the IBEW reached two agreements with AT&T covering employees for DirecTV, which AT&T purchased in August 2015. One covers 1,600 members in 14 states in AT&T’s field services group. The other is for 1,300 call-center employees in Missoula, Mont., and Boise, Idaho, which followed a successful organizing effort by the IBEW.

The most recent contract allows for a national transfer plan, which allows for members covered by all three of the IBEWs SCT-3/AT&T agreements to transfer to jobs within any of the agreements during surplus and non-surplus times.

Consumers’ ways of communicating and viewing content are changing quickly, making it difficult to reach long-term labor agreements, Curran said. But both sides negotiated fairly and reached a deal that works for both, he said. The previous four-year agreement expires June 24.

“This enhances our relationship with AT&T,” he said. ■

Local unions covered by the agreement are:

- Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21
- Detroit Local 58
- Chicago Local 134
- Milwaukee Local 494
- East Windsor, N.J., Local 827
- San Francisco Local 1269
- Boston Local 2222
- Springfield, Mass., Local 2324
- Worcester, Mass., Local 2325

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Prioritizing Safety in New Brunswick

When Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 Business Manager Ross Galbraith learned NB Power had won Canada's Best Health and Safety Culture award for 2016, he was happy for their achievement, but not especially surprised.

Over his career, Galbraith, who is also a member of the International Executive Council, has worked diligently with the Local 37 membership and leadership to make safety the local's top priority. That work has been reinforced by New Brunswick Power, the local utility that employs roughly 90 percent of Local 37's members.

"There are a lot of things that go into being a good union member and a good employee, but nothing is more important than working safely so you can come home to your family at the end of a long day," Galbraith said.

The award is the top prize in the Canada's Safest Employers competition. It's unique in that it's partly chosen based on results of employee surveys that measure how deeply the concepts of health and safety have permeated the culture of the workplace.

"For our members at NB Power to have earned this prize is recognition of the pride they take in their work and the commitment they have to their own safety and to the well-being of their union brothers and sisters," Galbraith said.

Duff Boyd, NB Power's director of health and safety, told Canadian Occupational Safety Magazine, "Of course job competence is important, but how you get the work done, for us, is far more important than how fast you get it done."

Company executives cited their partnership with the IBEW as a major factor in creating the safety culture that led to the award, principles outlined in a document called the NB Power/IBEW Shared Commitment to Safety.

The commitment, which codifies the employer-employee consensus on six key elements of the safety culture, grew out of a Canada-wide effort from utility locals to share information about workplace accidents and to strategize about how to prevent them altogether.

Local 37 President Steve Hayes, who co-chairs the meetings, said the idea came after an All-Canada Progress Meeting four years ago, when an accident was reported but no one asked about the details.

"A few of us thought we needed a place to just focus on safety — no contract talks, no politics, just safety," Hayes said. The group called itself CUSP, the Canada Utility Safety Program, and in June the group of 30-35 representatives from utility locals will hold its 10th meeting in Alberta.

"It's a place where utility locals can get ideas from one another and share information about what's working and what's not working."

The NB Power/IBEW Shared Com-

mitment to Safety, Hayes said, grew out of an idea that was shared at a CUSP meeting by representatives from Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 258, who had developed a similar document with BC Hydro a few years earlier.

"We liked the idea, and we took it to NB Power, and they liked it too," Hayes said, "and it's paid off in this award."

The document's six key points, which IBEW members and NB Power managers adhere to are:

- Follow the Rules
- Plan Safety into Our Work
- Say No to Unsafe Work
- Report So We Can All Get Better
- Be a Leader in Safety
- Have Courage (to speak up)

Having it in writing helps to ensure there's a full commitment from both sides, said Galbraith, who also undertook an effort last summer to do the same for the IBEW's Code of Excellence.

"We wanted to find out what excellence meant to our members," Galbraith said, "and we wanted to make sure that they were the ones leading the charge when it came to the Code of Excellence and how they could apply that to their jobs."

About 80 members participated in a series of focus groups about what the five elements of the Code meant to them. Those foundations — safety, professionalism, accountability, relationships and quality — are captured in the acronym SPARQ, which is part of a union-wide effort to make the ideas behind the Code more relevant to everyday workplace situations.

"We asked these groups, 'What makes you proud to be an IBEW member?' and they came up with the descriptors for each of the Code's five elements," Galbraith said. Those descriptors were printed on cards and posters, which were distributed to each of Local 37's more than



Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 Business Manager Ross Galbraith, left, and President Steve Hayes right, sign commitment to safety with NB Power CEO Gaëtan Thomas.

2,000 members.

The first bullet point for 'Safety,' states, "We make safety our No. 1 priority."

"This award for our members at NB

Power shows they're living up to that commitment," Galbraith said. "We're proud of that, and we're going to keep working to do even better." ■

On accorde la priorité à la sécurité au Nouveau-Brunswick

Au moment où le gérant d'affaires Ross Galbraith de la section locale 37 situé à Fredericton au Nouveau-Brunswick a appris que NB Power a remporté le prix pour la meilleure culture de la santé et de la sécurité au Canada en 2016 (Canada's Best Health and Safety award for 2016), il était heureux de leur réalisation, mais n'était pas spécifiquement étonné.

Au cours de sa carrière, Galbraith, également membre du comité exécutif international, a travaillé sans relâche avec les membres et les leaders de la section locale 37 pour faire de la sécurité une priorité absolue au sein du local. Ce travail a davantage été mis en évidence par le *New Brunswick Power*, le service public local qui embauche environ 90 pour cent des membres de la section locale 37.

« Il y a un bon nombre de critères qui entre en ligne de compte pour être un bon membre du syndicat et un bon employé, mais il n'y a rien de plus important que de travailler de façon sécuritaire et de rentrer à la maison pour voir votre famille après une longue journée de travail », dit Galbraith.

Le prix est unique, parce qu'il est en partie sélectionné basé sur les résultats des sondages auprès des employés qui mesurent la manière dont les concepts de santé et de sécurité ont profondément marqué la culture dans le milieu de travail.

« Pour nos membres chez NB Power qui ont remporté le prix, annonce une reconnaissance de fierté pour leur travail et l'en-

gagement qu'ils ont pour leur propre sécurité et pour le bien-être de leurs confrères et de leurs consœurs », dit Galbraith.

Le directeur de santé et sécurité Duff Boyd chez NB Power a dit en *Canadian Occupational Safety Magazine*, « bien sûr que la compétence professionnelle est importante, mais pour nous c'est la façon dont le travail a été exécuté qui est plus importante que la vitesse à laquelle le travail a été exécuté. »

Les dirigeants des entreprises mentionnent que leur collaboration avec la FIOE a été le facteur décisif pour mettre en place la culture axée sur la sécurité, ce qui a rendu possible de remporter le prix, on retrouve ces principes au sein du document *NB Power/IBEW shared Commitment to Safety*.

L'engagement qui est un consensus codifié entre l'employeur et l'employé basé sur les six éléments clés de la culture sur la sécurité, a été développé depuis un effort pancanadien des sections locales travaillant dans les services publics en vue de partager de l'information sur les accidents dans le milieu de travail et pour élaborer des stratégies dans le but de les éliminer totalement.

Le président Steve Hayes de la section locale 37 précise que l'idée est venue suite à la Conférence canadienne annuelle il y a quatre ans, lorsqu'un accident a été signalé, mais personne n'a demandé de détails.

« Quelques-uns d'entre nous jugeaient nécessaire de trouver un endroit pour mettre l'accent sur la sécurité, aucune conversation de contrats, ni

de politiques, simplement la sécurité, » dit Hayes. Le groupe s'est nommé *CUSP, the Canada Utility Safety Program*, (le programme de sécurité dans les services publics au Canada). En juin, le groupe de 30-35 représentants des sections locales travaillant dans le service public tiendra sa 10e réunion en Alberta.

« C'est un endroit où ces sections locales peuvent pincer des idées chez l'un et les autres et partager de l'information et pour découvrir ce qui fonctionne ou pas. »

Hayes mentionne que le *NB Power/IBEW Shared Commitment Safety* a été conçu depuis une idée qui a été partagée au cours d'une réunion CUSP avec des représentants de la section locale 258 de Vancouver en Colombie-Britannique, qui avait développé un document semblable avec *BC Hydro* quelques années plus tôt.

« Nous avons aimé l'idée, et nous l'avons proposé à NB Power et ils l'ont aimé aussi, » dit Hayes, « et cela a porté fruit en remportant le prix. »

Voici les six éléments clés du document auquel les membres de la FIOE et les dirigeants obéissent :

- Suivre les règles;
- Planifier la sécurité dans notre travail;
- Refuser un travail non sécuritaire;
- Signaler pour que nous puissions tous nous améliorer;
- Être un leader en matière de sécurité; et
- Avoir le courage (exprimez-vous)

De l'avoir par écrit aide à garantir un engagement total des deux côtés, dit Galbraith, qui a entrepris des efforts pour faire la même chose l'été dernier avec le

Code d'excellence de la FIOE.

« On souhaitait apprendre ce que l'excellence représentait pour nos membres, » dit Galbraith, « et nous voulions aussi nous assurer que c'est eux qui menaient la charge au moment où il était question du Code de l'excellence et de quelle façon pouvaient-ils l'appliquer dans leur travail. »

Environ 80 membres ont participé dans une série de groupes de discussion afin d'apprendre ce que le Code représentait pour ces derniers. En se référant sur ces bases; la sécurité, le professionnalisme, la responsabilité, les relations et la qualité, représentés sous l'acronyme *SPARQ* (représenté de même en anglais), font partie des efforts syndicaux déployés afin de rendre l'idée derrière le Code plus efficace dans les situations de travail de tous les jours.

« Nous avons demandé à ces groupes, "qu'est-ce qui vous rend fier d'être membre de la FIOE?" » dit Galbraith. « ils ont ainsi trouvé une description pour chacun des cinq éléments du Code. »

Ils ont été imprimés les descriptions sur des cartes et des affiches, ensuite distribués à l'ensemble des 2000 membres de la section locale 37.

Le premier point pour la « sécurité » indique : « Nous accordons une priorité absolue à la sécurité. »

« Ce prix pour nos membres chez NB Power prouve que nous sommes à la hauteur de cet engagement, » dit Galbraith. « Nous en sommes fiers, et nous allons continuer à travailler pour faire mieux. » ■

CIRCUITS

'They're the Experts': Iowa Generating Plant Members Recognized

Emery Generating Station in Clear Lake, Iowa, has been recognized as one of the best power plants in the nation and it's due in part to the work of its employees, many of whom are members of Cedar Rapids Local 204.

The Alliant Energy-owned plant earned a spot in a list of the top 20 combined cycle gas-fired power plants for heat rates, a measure of the plant's efficiency. The list is published annually in Power Engineering magazine.

"It's an amazing accomplishment," said Kathy Lubbert, Local 204 member and materials coordinator. "And it's because of the culture here."

"Everyone here is striving for the same thing."

— Mick Merrill, Local 204 steward

Local 204's 16 members work as control room operators, assistant operators, maintenance technicians, electricians, warehouse procurement materials coordinators and in instrument control. Emery operates two gas turbines and a steam turbine.

"Everyone here is striving for the same thing," said Local 204 steward Mick Merrill, a maintenance technician. "Every megawatt matters."

Lubbert and Merrill say there is a sense of ownership among the members, which contributes to the plant's efficiency. Decisions come from management, but everyone has a voice and is encouraged to offer input, they said.

"We don't look at it as 'us' and 'them;' it's 'we,'" said plant manager

Craig Crawford. "Everyone shares ideas — good or bad — and everyone gives and accepts feedback."

Safety at the plant is equally important; it's been 13 years without a loss time accident.

"To go as long as they have [without an accident] is quite an accomplishment," said Local 204 Business Manager David George. "They take pride in their work, and in doing it right the first time."

Each day begins with a sit-down meeting among employees. They talk about everything from complacency and fatigue to maintaining balance and traction, whatever is needed to complete their responsibilities. If rigging is needed, for example, they make sure the proper protective equipment is worn.

The same goes for contractors, who must watch a safety video before conducting any work on site.

"A lot of contractors have said they like coming back for that reason, for the safety record," Lubbert said.

Communication is paramount, and employees aren't afraid to tell someone when they're not doing their job safely enough, though always respectfully.

"We're a small group; we have to take care of each other," Merrill said.

Considering the danger inherent in the work — working with high-pressure steam at temperatures over 1,000 degrees and multi-ton turbines moving 4 million pounds of air an hour — it remains an impressive record.

"It's a blessing to have the relationship we do with Local 204," said Mike Rave-ra, operation manager. "We wouldn't have the success we do without it. They're the experts. I just try to stay out of the way."

The team at Emery includes: Dallas Lubbock, Abram Frein, Jeff Hawbaker, Ted Baker Jr., Todd Mathers, Steve King, Neal Shaikoski, Mike Heaford, Mike Borrelli, Mick Merrill, Mark Lowe, Kathy Lubbert, Jeff Calland, Hugh Hugi, Gary Johnson and Jim Smith. ■



Hamilton, Ontario, RENEW/NextGen members Sam Marcel, left, and Rich Dipietro, right, joined My Safe Work founder Rob Ellis to talk workplace safety at Cathedral High School in April. Marcel and Ellis are pictured wearing the organization's "Jersey of Courage," each one covered in the signatures of lawmakers, business leaders and front-line workers who have pledged to make Canada the world's safest place to work.

In Canadian Schools, Prioritizing On-the-Job Safety

In Canada, young workers are three times more likely to be injured or killed in a workplace accident than their more experienced counterparts. That's why an organization called My Safe Work goes into high schools to educate students on workplace safety — before they enter the job market.

In April, Hamilton, Ontario, Local 105 RENEW/NextGen members Rich Dipietro and Sam Marcel joined a team from My Safe Work at Cathedral High School to talk to students about their own experiences with safety on the job.

"We're lucky at the IBEW," said Marcel, 26, an inside wireman and journeyman welder. "Safety is part of our training from day one, but young people in non-union jobs or trades don't often get the same education."

My Safe Work founder Rob Ellis knows the consequences of improper training all too well. In 1999, his son, David, was killed at age 18 on his second day on the job at an industrial bakery. His compelling story is the starting point at the forums he and his organization hold, which reach more than 100,000 students each year across Canada.

Volunteers like Dipietro and Marcel, along with business leaders and other members of the local communities, called "safety champions" by program leaders, then participate in a question-and-answer session where they connect with students using examples from their own careers.

"The main session, and then a smaller setting afterwards in classrooms, was a great opportunity to talk to the kids about the IBEW and about how you shouldn't feel afraid to say 'no' if an employer asks you to put yourself in a risky situation," Marcel said. "University isn't the right choice for every kid, so I was glad we got to introduce them to the

trades and to a union where we prioritize safety," he said.

First District Strategic Coordinator Kate Walsh says she's been encouraging NextGen committees at locals across Canada to get involved with My Safe Work whenever the organization comes to schools in their communities. "These kids relate to people who are closer to their own age, so young IBEW members can have a real impact."

Walsh, who attended the Hamilton session with Dipietro and Marcel, said one young woman in the classroom session asked her, "What's a union?" a question she was pleased to answer. "If we can teach these young people that there are opportunities for great, lifelong careers while we talk to them about safety, that's an added benefit," Walsh said.

Toronto Local 636 Business Manager Barry Brown is thrilled to see more young IBEW members across Canada getting involved with My Safe Work. His local has been involved with the organization for years, participating when they can and donating the proceeds of an annual golf tournament to the group for at least five years.

"The late First District Vice President Phil Flemming introduced us to Rob Ellis and My Safe Work years ago," Brown said, "And it's a cause we're really committed to. I'm happy to see other locals, and especially young members, getting involved."

As for Marcel, he says he's looking forward to his next opportunity to be a "safety champion" with My Safe Work. "It was my first time participating in an event like that, and it's nice to think you're helping some young person learn to ask the questions that will keep them safe on their first job."

RENEW/NextGen committees interested in getting involved with My Safe Work can contact Kate Walsh at Kate_Walsh@IBEW.org. ■

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

Find breaking news and more stories about your brothers and sisters on the IBEW website — and get the online version of The Electrical Worker: www.IBEW.org.

YouTube

San Francisco Local 6 members are powering a project dubbed the Grand Central Station of the West. The Transbay Transit Center will bring together 11 different transit systems, serving 100,000 people a day. Watch it here: bit.ly/IBEWTransbay.

Vimeo

Renovating a historic theater and broadcasting a nightly show isn't easy. New York Local 1212 just makes it look easy. Watch them reinvent the Ed Sullivan Theater for "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert": bit.ly/IBEWLateShow.



HourPower

The Hour Power Award winners were honored at the 2017 Construction and Maintenance Conference. Find out who won instructor, journeyman and apprentice of the year at IBEWHourPower.com.



ElectricTV

The District Detroit is a 50-block investment in the Motor City's renaissance and the NECA/IBEW team is helping to power it. Watch how the Code of Excellence can be part of a city's revival at electrictv.net.



Members of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Local 204 discuss maintenance procedures and efficiency at the Emery Generating Station, including Todd Mathers, left, Mick Merrill, Jeff Wilkinson and Ted Baker Jr.

TRANSITIONS

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:

- 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.
- International Officers and staff are not eligible.
- 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."
- All submissions become the property of the IBEW Media Department.
- 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.
- 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.
- Photos previously published in IBEW publications or on the website are not eligible for submission.
- The preferred method of entry is through the Photo Contest application on the IBEW website at www.ibew.org.
- 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**.
- 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 _____

RETIRED

Dennis Phelps



After nearly 50 years with the IBEW, Government Employees Department Director Dennis Phelps retired May 1.

Brother Phelps was initiated into Washington, D.C., Local 26 as a residential apprentice in 1970. By 1978 he was working in the public sector, where he would spend the rest of his career. The inside wireman worked at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, then moved to the Government Printing Office, where he joined Washington, D.C., Local 121.

It only took about six months at the printing office before Phelps became chief shop steward, following in his family's labor activist footsteps. A great uncle organized alongside John L. Lewis, the famed labor leader and former president of the United Mine Workers of America.

"It kind of came down to me from there," he said. "I've been helping members ever since."

In 1990, he was elected president and business manager of Local 121, which represents members at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing as well as the printing office. The bureau is one of a handful of government employers that allow employees to bargain for wages, a status he had to constantly fight to retain, he said.

"If we couldn't negotiate, we would've been paid a lot less," Phelps said. "When I was there, we kept wages within \$1 of Local 26 rates, and with benefits. And back then, they were good benefits to have."

Brother Phelps was part of a 15-year battle over the right of bureau members to maintain that bargaining status. After 12 years in the courts and two years of negotiations, they got their first wage agreement in 1998.

Phelps stayed at the bureau until he was appointed international representative assigned to the Government Employees Department in 2007. In 2014, he was appointed director.

"I thought I could use my expertise with government laws to support more members than just those at my local," he said. "It's been very rewarding."

More than 70,000 IBEW members in the U.S. and Canada are government employees, working for federal agencies including the departments of Energy and Interior and on shipyards, navigational locks and dams and power generating plants.

Phelps says he'll miss the people he's worked with and the friends he's made across the country. If he had one wish for IBEW's government employees, he says it would be to remove the increasingly hostile threats they're under from political wrangling.

"I would protect them from politicians who don't see them for what they are," he said. "Devoted civil servants who go in and do their job and don't deserve to

be bad-mouthed. Let them be good civil servants and pay them fairly."

In addition to dealing with hiring freezes and government shutdowns, government employees often bear the brunt of political disputes. In January, House Republicans resurrected a rule from the 19th century that would allow Congress to target specific federal workers and programs, opening the gate for indignities like shrinking a person's salary to \$1 or eliminating an entire class of workers.

President Trump's budget proposal, if enacted, could cut almost 200,000 federal jobs.

A native of Charles County, Md., Phelps served for eight years on the county's Democratic Central Committee, including two as chair. He also served on the Maryland AFL-CIO executive committee as secretary-treasurer.

He has campaigned for several candidates, including the first congressional race for Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland in 1981. Hoyer is now the second-ranking member of the House Democratic leadership.

Phelps plans to spend more time with his family, including visiting his children and grandchildren who live in Connecticut and Washington. He also wants to work on his golf game, he said, and get out on his boat more.

The IBEW members, staff and international officers thank Brother Phelps for his many years of service and wish him a long and happy retirement. ■

RETIRED

William J. Pledger



Fifth District International Representative William "Joe" Pledger retired from the IBEW on April 1 after more than 46 years of service

to the Brotherhood.

In 1965, the second-generation member of Mobile, Ala., Local 345 followed his father and grandfather, three uncles and a host of other family members into a job at Alabama Power. But Pledger took a leave of absence soon after to pilot Sikorsky CH-3C rescue helicopters for the Air Force in Vietnam.

When he returned in 1970, Brother Pledger spent 15 years working his way up at the utility, starting as a helper, then an assistant plant control operator, and finally as a plant control operator on coal units at the James M. Barry steam plant just north of Mobile.

It was during that time that he first ran for local union office, elected treasurer of Local 345 on his first try in 1973. Three years later, he was appointed chairman of the executive board, and in 1983, Pledger was appointed president of the local. He also served as delegate to, and later chairman of, the U-19 System Council for Alabama Power and as chairman for Utility Coordinating Council 1 at the Southern Company.

In 1987, the International Office came

calling, and then-International President J.J. Barry appointed Brother Pledger as an international representative for the Fifth District. In his nearly 30 years on the job, Pledger serviced locals across the district in every classification except construction.

"I loved this job," he said. "I got so much satisfaction out of getting a great agreement that the membership supported, and I worked hard to forge good relationships not just with the locals, but with the companies as well. It was rare that we had to bring in mediators, and I'm proud of that."

In the right-to-work deep South, Pledger says those relationships were especially important. "I spent a lot of time meeting with executives at the companies employing our members, and I know that level of understanding and cooperation led to a lot of good contracts and to better outcomes in the employer-employee relations," he said. He cites union membership still in the high 90 percent range at Alabama Power as evidence that the membership understood the benefits that came with belonging to the IBEW.

But the job wasn't without its challenges. "When J.J. Barry hired me, he took me aside and said 'This is a seven day a week job, 24 hours a day,' and he wasn't kidding. So many times, we'd have a wobble at midnight on one thing or another, but even with that, it's really been fun. I've met a lot of great people and I'm taking so many friendships with me into retirement," Pledger said.

For a career in service to the labor movement, Pledger was awarded Alabama's Labor Person of the Year in 2013 and inducted into his home state's organized labor hall of fame.

In retirement, Pledger plans to travel with his wife, Judy. The two have a trip to Jerusalem planned for December. He's also an avid hunter and bass fisherman, and he's wasted no time getting reacquainted with those hobbies.

"So far, it's great," he said of his first weeks of retirement. "No assignments, no negotiations to show up for. I'm loving it. ... My 30 years in this job was one of the great honors of my life, and I'll miss it, the people most of all."

The officers, staff and entire membership of the IBEW wish Brother Pledger a long, healthy and active retirement. ■

RETIRED

Donald W. Vidourek



After 45 years of service to the IBEW, Fourth District International Representative Don Vidourek retired on April 1.

Brother Vidourek got his first taste of the electrical trades in 1969 working as a summer helper for his uncle, a member of Hamilton, Ohio, Local 648. After a short stint working at Southwestern Ohio Steel, Vidourek quit in 1970 when months of

hassling his uncle for an application paid off and he was accepted into Local 648's apprenticeship program.

Work was slow at first, but after a month at Armco Steel, he landed a job at Wente Construction, where he worked for the next 13 years.

In 1983, Vidourek was elected to his first union office, Local 648's examining board, where he served for three years before joining the executive board. In March 1988, then-business manager Doug Cloud hired Vidourek as the local's organizer, a job he held for seven months until Cloud, who was leaving to take a job as an international representative, asked him to take over as business manager.

"I never had any inclinations of ever being a business manager, much less an international representative," Vidourek said. "But Doug saw something in me, and he taught me well." Over the course of 14 years in that job, Vidourek said, he could always turn to Cloud for advice. "If I was in a bind, he was always my first call."

Vidourek also managed to find time to be involved with labor organizations both local and statewide during his time as business manager. He served as secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Conference of Electrical Workers, president of the Butler County and Ohio Building Trades and as a Democratic Party committeeman, among other things.

Running his small local, Vidourek learned that being a business manager is "one of the hardest jobs there is." He described the job, besides the usual referrals, negotiations, etc., as "part marriage counselor, part problem solver." Your goal, he said, "is to work hard to service your members, to make their lives easier, and if you do that, you're doing OK."

So when he got the call in 2002 offering him a job as an international representative, Vidourek said, "I took a similar approach." His work took him all over the state of Ohio and to inside and outside construction locals in West Virginia and Kentucky.

Things were especially hard during the economic downturn that started in 2008 and decimated the construction industry, but Vidourek credits the introduction of alternative classifications for helping the IBEW regain critical market share. "We had quite a few locals who organized a lot during that time, and they gained a lot of ground that's served us well as we've gotten back to a busy market."

In retirement, Vidourek plans to spend time golfing and fishing and spending more time with his wife, Cheryl, and their four grandsons.

"I was fortunate to work for three great bosses in the Fourth District: Paul Witte, Sam Chilia and Kenny Cooper," Vidourek said. "And I'll miss every one of the fantastic people I worked with. But it's nice to get up in the morning and not have places you need to go."

The members, officers and staff of the IBEW wish Brother Vidourek the very best in what we hope will be a long, happy and healthy retirement. ■

DECEASED

R.W. "Red" Purcell



The IBEW is saddened to report that R.W. "Red" Purcell, a retired international representative, died in his hometown of Greenville, Texas, on March 18. He was 99.

Brother Purcell had a long history with labor before joining the International staff in 1966. He was a member of the United Auto Workers, serving as president and financial secretary of a local union. He also worked for the Congress of Industrial Organizations from 1946-53, leaving two years prior to its merger with the American Federation of Labor.

Assigned to the Organizing Department in Washington, D.C., two of Purcell's most successful organizing drives came at a GTE Lenkurt plant in Albuquerque, N.M.; and at Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. Tate also worked on the GTE drive and said it took more than two years and

added more than 2,000 members to the IBEW in the early 1970s while also exposing deplorable conditions at the facility for workers, many of whom were Hispanic. "Once that man got his mind set on something, if he thought it was right, there was no stopping him," said Cynthia Phippings, Purcell's daughter. "He was very stubborn, very quick-witted and very smart. You might as well not argue with him because you weren't going to win."

Her father kept those strong opinions up until his death, she said. Purcell was an outspoken, loyal Democrat and union person in a conservative area of northeast Texas. "Everybody he met, any working person, he would ask if they had a chance to join a union," Phippings said. "If he heard of anyone not receiving fair treatment at work, his first statement was,

"You should always get together and see what you can do about forming a union." He believed in that with all his heart."

Purcell retired in 1982 and returned to his native Texas. He and his wife Gladys were married for 50 years until her death in 2015 and his health slowly deteriorated after that, his daughter said. He is survived by three children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was commonly called "Red" because of his red hair and freckles, Tate said.

Phippings said she talked to her father the night before he died and he was in good spirits.

"His mind was clear until the end," she said.

On behalf of the entire IBEW membership and staff, the officers extend our deepest condolences to Brother Purcell's family and friends. ■

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

Driving Down Wages in the Construction Industry

When the Davis-Bacon Act became law in 1931, there was a belief that government should use its buying power to enhance the welfare of working people. It was a way to ensure good wages served the local economy. That point of view is slowly losing sway as the race to the bottom continues in the construction industry.

Passed during the Great Depression, Davis-Bacon requires contractors working on federally funded projects of \$2,000 or more to pay their workers a local prevailing wage and benefits. The prevailing rates are determined by the Labor Department using wage surveys from across the country.

"If state officials want to hit construction workers in the pocketbook while folding to business interests, repealing prevailing wage laws is an effective way to do it."

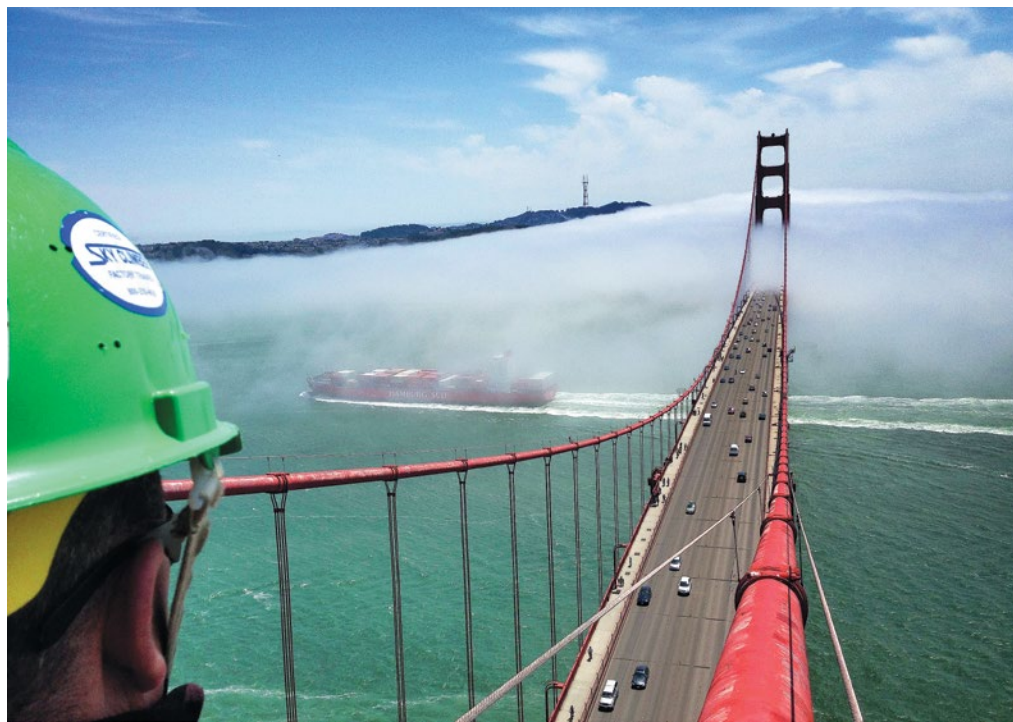
— EPI's Ross Eisenbrey and Teresa Kroeger

"These are the people who are building the infrastructure of this country," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "Paying them a living wage not only allows them to provide for their families, it assures that we have skilled professionals constructing our roads and bridges."

Construction workers make less today than they did almost 50 years ago, according to an article from the Economic Policy Institute posted in March. In 1970, average hourly earnings (adjusted for inflation) were \$26.17. In 1990, pay sank to \$23.91. By 2016, wages had only risen to \$25.97. Part of the reason, the article said, is because of assaults on the prevailing wage.

By ensuring a livable wage is paid, Davis-Bacon reduces reliance on public assistance, increases income tax contributions and promotes local hiring. It does not, according to academic research cited by EPI, significantly increase construction costs.

Despite these benefits, Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona introduced a bill to suspend prevailing wage require-



A law older than the Golden Gate Bridge, here with members of San Francisco Local 6, was designed to ensure construction workers earned a solid wage. Today it's under attack from anti-union forces.

ments for federal highway spending in January. If passed, it could put union contractors at a serious disadvantage from competing on potentially trillions of dollars of infrastructure projects under consideration in Washington.

On Jan. 30, Rep. Steve King of Iowa introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to fully repeal Davis-Bacon.

Some states have their own version of the prevailing wage, often known as "mini" or "little Davis-Bacon" laws. Like the federal version, they also address concerns about working conditions and displacement of the local workforce by itinerant workers and prevent a downward spiral of wages.

Mirroring federal-level attempts, 20 states have removed prevailing wage laws and several more have weakened them, said EPI. In those states, median construction wages are far lower — 21.9 percent — than states with prevailing wages.

In Wisconsin, Republican lawmakers are pushing for a full repeal of the state's prevailing wage law.

In Nevada however, a Democrat-led Assembly bill

was introduced to lower the threshold when prevailing wages must be paid, reversing a Republican-backed measure that increased it, reported the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Under the current Republican version, only projects of \$250,000 or more were subject to the mini Davis-Bacon law. If the Democrat version passes, the new amount would be \$100,000.

The EPI report notes that, for more than 40 years, big business interests and the Republican Party worked to drive down construction wages by attacking unions and advocating for right-to-work laws as well as the repeal of Davis-Bacon and project labor agreements.

"If state officials want to hit construction workers in the pocketbook, while folding to business interests, repealing prevailing wage laws is an effective way to do it," said article authors Ross Eisenbrey and Teresa Kroeger.

King also introduced a national right-to-work bill in February, which would make the union-busting legislation that has been spreading across the states the official law of the land. ■

LOCAL LINES

Referendum Petition; Active RENEW Committee

L.U. 2 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), ST. LOUIS, MO — IBEW Local 2, at the time of this writing, is working on the referendum petition to stop the so-called “right-to-work” law that is scheduled to take effect in Missouri on Aug. 28, 2017. We are working with the Missouri AFL-CIO on petition signature campaigns, including events at our training center in Saint Clair, MO. We will use stewards, social media and our website to communicate events throughout the process.

The local formed a RENEW Committee in February. The committee is meeting the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at our union hall in St. Louis. Some action items for the committee have included: gathering materials and signage to participate in career fairs, having poles and hardware donated to build an H structure at the local’s training center, and putting together a float for the Labor Day parade in St. Louis and Jefferson City in September.

IBEW Local 2 congratulates members who recently retired this year: Joseph Riefesel, with 22 years of IBEW service; Raymond Zelle, 50 years of service; Kenneth Staples, 31 years’ service; Kenneth Steinbeck, 44 years; Robert Radomske, 36 years; Jacob Weber, 28 years; Bill Lear, 39 years; Roy “Gene” Pippin, 33 years; and Brad Cameron, 37 years of service.

Greg Benton, A.B.M.

Strong Work Picture

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH — Hello, brothers and sisters. Local 8 is proud to be hosting the 73rd Annual IBEW Bowling Tournament. About 250 keggers will congregate in the Glass City on June 9-11. Toledo last hosted the tournament in 1956.

We would like to express our gratitude to former Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia, who recently retired, for all his years of service to the IBEW. All the best to you, Brother Chilia! Congratulations also to Int. Sec.-Treas. Kenneth W. Cooper on his recent appointment to fill Chilia’s unexpired term of office. We also congratulate newly appointed Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Brian G. Malloy.

Our work situation continues to flourish, with projects at Chrysler’s Toledo North Assembly Plant, GM Powertrain, and multiple hospital projects in our area. We thank all traveling sisters and brothers for assisting us, hopefully for a long while.

Attend your union meetings — remember, an empty seat cannot vote.

Mike Brubaker, P.S.

District Organizing Meeting

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO — Local 12 hosted the Eighth District Quarterly Organizing Meeting on Feb. 7-8 this year. We had 14 locals represented as well as nine various international representatives attending. A very healthy Member to Future Member campaign concluded the second day’s activities. On Feb. 9, a well-advertised Job Fair was very successfully orchestrated with over 100 applications taken that evening. Special thanks to the following for sticking around to help: Brian Bradley, Zack Esquibel, Jeremy Redman, Joe Maloney, Truett Thompson, Barry Tuttle, Guy Runco, Willie Kniffin and Les Thompson.

As we know, many seasoned journeymen will be retiring in the near future. The next generation needs to be training now. We are working with the area high schools to get the word out. We have 30 potential apprentices taking an aptitude test as of this writing. Luck is when preparedness meets opportunities. So, get ready — the time is now.

Susan Johnson, P.S.

Members Rally at State House

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — On Monday, March 7, wearing bright yellow hats, Local 24 ascended on the State House in Annapolis to let our legislators know that we are here and here to stay. We put them on notice that if they don’t support working families we will work to replace them with legislators who will. We would like to thank the 250+ members who attended the rally.

The Maryland Electrical Industries LMCC held its annual drug screening program on March 16-18. We tested 314 journeymen, apprentices, construction electricians and construction wiremen. To encourage member participation, we simultaneously held a tool and Red Wing boot sale. The cost of the tools and boots was subsidized by our Labor Management



IBEW Local 24 members rally at State House in Annapolis, MD.

Cooperation Committee fund. Third-year apprentice Bro. Markist Goode won the 55-inch flat screen TV. Carhartt work gear was also sold with a portion of the proceeds going to the Brotherhood group that helps members in need.

Live better — work union.

Gary R. Griffin, B.M.

Upcoming Events; 125th Anniversary Party

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — Local 26 is extremely proud to have an historic event occurring on Sept. 23, 2017! This is the date of our 125th Anniversary Party and the event will be held at MGM National Harbor. To purchase tickets or for more information and sponsorship opportunities, please view our website at www.ibewlocal26.org.

Please remember upcoming scheduled events: The Manassas, VA, picnic will be Saturday, June 24; and the Edgewater, MD, picnic will be Saturday, Aug. 26. Please update your calendars for these fun-filled events!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Electrical Workers Motorcycle Riding Club’s 6th Annual Poker Run for Special Love on May 6 and to all those participating in our Dollars Against Diabetes Golf Outing, scheduled for June 5.

Local 26 officers and agents attended the IBEW Construction Conference and the National Building Trades Conference in Washington, DC. At press time, they also were scheduled to attend the JATC apprenticeship graduation on June 3.

We mourn the following members, who passed away since our last article: Kevin A. Wheatley, Danny H. Blaylock, Frank Y. Smith, Kurt W. Fraser, Peter V. Parodi, James K. Davis, Charles S. Martin, Randy Chandler and John K. Jones.

Best wishes to recent retirees: Mervyn P. Burley Jr., James H. Deaner, Chris L. Fullerton, Michael B. Greene, Stephen D. Barkanic, Nathaniel B. Gollup,

Richard L. Labonte, Lawrence D. Scott, Herby T. Greene, Johnnie P. Blankenship, Gregory P. Ginyard, Clifford S. Hughes II and Shawn F. Stancovich.

George C. Hogan, B.M.

Regional Elections & Project Labor Agreements

L.U. 34 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL — Unfortunately, local and regional elections don’t draw the voter turnout of federal or state elections. These area elections greatly and directly impact the amount of work available to union tradespeople.

Recently, elections in the Local 34 area made it possible to secure more project labor agreements (PLAs) and implement responsible bidder language in our communities. It is easiest to witness the impact of both on the local labor market when the action is in our own backyard.

Area school districts, with cooperation from the West Central Illinois Building Trades Council, passed a sales tax increase providing revenue for building maintenance and construction. Passage has led to entire districts signing PLAs and utilizing responsible bidder language to complete the bidding process. This is beneficial to all entities. Local 34 will take all the school work we can secure, especially after Caterpillar announced it no longer intends to build a new world headquarters in Peoria. Caterpillar is moving executive positions to Chicago. That announcement has caused a slowdown in new construction.

Congratulations to members who recently won election or re-election to public office as follows: Jeff Jenkins — ward alderman, Chillicothe, IL; Andy O’Neil — Bartonville trustee; Grant Debord — Princeville School Board member. Thank you to all our members who hold elected public office.

Mark Burnap, P.S.

Projects Underway At Historic Site in Cleveland

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH — The old National City Bank of Cleveland, at the corner of Euclid Avenue and East Sixth St., is undergoing a transformation to become the anticipated Marble Room Steak and Raw Bar.

The site features solid marble staircases, chandeliers, rows of floor-to-ceiling pillars and a below-ground bank vault. Located inside the historic Garfield Building, it is a sprawling, high-ceilinged space that hovers around 10,000 square feet. Now in the hands of Frank and Malisse Sinito, who also own LockKeepers restaurant in Valley View, the historic lobby is undergoing a transformation into an upscale

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

Trade Classifications

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

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



Local 38 crew working for Gateway Electric on project at old National City Bank location in downtown Cleveland. From left: foreman Dan Prettyman, Tom DeSantis, shop steward Jarrod Amberik and Jason Gundlach.

dining destination. The historic Garfield Building also is the location of a 125-apartment renovation being constructed in the 13-story main building.

Remember to mark your calendars for the Local 38 Cedar Point Family Picnic, scheduled for Sunday, July 2. Tickets are available at the hall.

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

Big Projects Scheduled; Three New Organizers

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts,st&tm), PORTLAND, OR — We are happy to announce that Bus. Mgr. Gary Young has once again shown his commitment to the IBEW's goal of organizing "all workers in the entire electrical industry," by hiring three new organizers. They are: Christina Daniels, Randy Davis and Matt Smyth. Christina Daniels, journeyman wireman and past president of IBEW Local 970, has taken on our social media communications efforts. Randy Davis, journeyman wireman and former superstar salt, has taken on our salting program. Matt Smyth is a journeyman wireman and formerly served as a highly respected steward at the largest semiconductor project in our jurisdiction. All three started working at Local 48 in November of 2016 and have already shown their great work ethic and energy.

We have had regular unfilled calls since February and we expect to need 500 or more electrical workers for big jobs starting in our area soon. There will be opportunity for overtime and we welcome any help our travelling brothers and sisters can offer us in filling these calls. Check our website at www.ibew48.com for updated reciprocation and licensing information.

Our RENEW chapter and the Gus Miller Chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) continue to perform inspiring work in our communities and we are proud of their dedication.

Ray Lister, Lead Organizer

Annual Golf Event

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb,spa&t), DETROIT, MI — Each summer, over 100 golfers descend upon Glenhurst Golf Course — at 25345 W. 6 Mile Rd. in Redford, MI — to celebrate the life of the late Brother Gerry Gaudi, and the sport he loved. For nearly 20 years, this wonderful event has raised money for members who are unable to work because of catastrophic injuries.

This year, the event takes place on June 9, starting at 8 a.m. The Local 58 Benevolent Fund welcomes anyone who wishes to attend to do so. We are limited to 128 golfers, so please reserve your spot at the Local's Credit Union. There will be gift bags, raffles and cash prizes. For more information contact Paul Vanoss at (313) 354-5033 or Andy Dunbar at (586) 556-3007.

Andy E. Dunbar, Pres.

Anti-Worker Bill Defeated — Letter Writing Campaign

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

On March 8-9, Local 68 hosted letter writing campaigns against the "right to exploit workers" bill that went to a state House of Representatives committee on March 15.

Over the course of the two nights, we collected 233 letters to present to the House legislative committee. In addition to the letters asking for a NO vote on this bill, Local 68 members, along with other concerned locals and citizens groups, were present at the committee hearing to give testimony against this bill. Testifying on behalf of Local 68 were journeymen Ken Gavito and Adam Stewart, as well as two of our apprentices, Jason Brown and David Grosset. If you work with or see these brothers, be sure to thank them for their time and effort. The "right to exploit workers" bill was defeated in committee by a 6-3 vote. Thanks to all for your help in this effort.

Negotiations on a new Inside agreement continues, with nothing new to report as of this writing.

A "Better Know Your Legislature 201" training was presented at the union hall on Saturday, March 18, by Kjersten Forseth, Colorado AFL-CIO political and legislative director. Thirty people attended this very informative class.

Morgan Buchanan, Pres.



Union contractor Mirarchi Brothers Inc. and IBEW Local 70 linemen assist with storm restoration and more.

New Contractor

L.U. 70 (lctt&o), WASHINGTON, DC — Mirarchi Brothers Inc. is a new signatory contractor working on Pepco's distribution system. Founded in 2002, MBI started with one squirt bucket working out of a garage in 2002. The company has grown to become a very strong union contractor with an emphasis on safety.

With the help of the IBEW linemen from Local 70, it's looking like Mirarchi Brothers will be in our jurisdiction for a long time. They have helped with storm restoration, worked on danger poles or whatever Pepco needs. Mirarchi Brothers plans on growing

its presence in our area. We at Local 70 appreciate the level of workmanship and focus on safety that they bring to our utility companies.

We thank our members for their hard work and dedication to safety and workmanship that they bring to our contractors.

Jimmy Horton, B.R.

Work Picture Update; Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL — The work picture looks pretty good. We have a wind farm project, an outage at Clinton Power Station, with more capital projects there, and several other commercial and industrial projects underway in the area.

Fourteen inside apprentices and one telecom apprentice graduated in May: Jodie Botts, Zachary Buchanan, Nick Delahunty, Josh Flood, Darin Hill, Robert Jonquet, Christopher Leming, Dillon Lewis, Josh McLain, Tyler Pieszchalski, Kanen Reed, Brandon Reiningger, Tyler Smock, Kaleb Swarts and Gregory Pruemer (telecom). The graduates were honored and received their certificates at a May 20 graduation ceremony.

Members Jim Carroll and John Heise recently retired and received their IBEW pensions. Congratulations to these two for a lifetime of hard work, and good wishes to them for many relaxing years to come.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of two brothers in late March: Jonathan Thompson, who was 70, and David Ward, who was 51. Bro. Thompson was a 50-year IBEW member, and Bro. Ward was a 21-year member. Our heartfelt condolences go out to their families.

Steve Tilford, R.S.

Summer Activities

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — Summer is here and with its arrival all the attendant Local 150 activities. We will have our picnic on June 24. Our golf outing will be on Aug. 19. You can sign up at the Hall for the golf outing. The annual Jubilee Days Parade in Zion is on Labor Day in September and we are looking for a committee chairman.

We recently had attorney Louis Cairo speak at our April meeting. He had a lot of good information regarding workman's compensation and our rights. Specifically, he spoke of the Rule of Two, total temporary disability, and how many days we legally have to report an accident. It was very informative. Illinois has some of the best workman's compensation in the country and we definitely want to keep it that way. By no means is anyone going to get rich off of it, but we

don't want to lose what we have. That is why it is so important to keep a close eye on our state legislators and what they are doing (and not doing) in Springfield. Hold their feet to the fire. We elected them and we pay their salaries. They are there at our behest. Let's not have them ever forget that.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Busy Work Picture

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI — Our local has been very busy for the last few months in regard to work. We had 75 Local 158 members and travelling brothers and sisters working at Point Beach Nuclear Plant for the plant's scheduled spring outage. We had calls for manpower for projects at Lambeau Field, home field of the Green Bay Packers, as well as the Titledown District projects adjacent to Lambeau Field. We had calls for several hospital projects in our jurisdiction as well as calls for various jobs in the southern part of Local 158's jurisdiction. The contractors are busy, which is good for our members. The summer brings high hopes.

Local 158 celebrated its 98th anniversary at our annual banquet on April 8. Once again the event was well-attended and everyone had a good time. We awarded IBEW years-of-service pins and recognized our apprentices, retirees and officers.

We are preparing for and looking forward to our local's 100th Anniversary in 2019.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

Graduating Apprentices

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA — We recognize and congratulate all graduating apprentices.

With each graduating class from Local 234, our spirits are elevated knowing the graduates are prepared to meet ever-increasing industry challenges. Such challenges include the pressures of rapidly declining, outdated infrastructures requiring repair or replacement; and multiple social demands that the many newly developing electrical technologies be rapidly deployed. The best examples today are lighting controls, demand response, facility-based storage, micro grids, solar, and other green energy developments.

Our members recognize and honor the achievements of our newly minted colleagues, who devoted the past five years to fulfilling rigorous apprenticeship requirements, both on the job and in the classroom. Sacrifices were demanded and equally met. Soon we shall know the graduates not by their past performances but through their future efforts as they build a better world.



Local 234 Inside Graduating Class of 2017: Ryan Porter (left), Juan Palacios, Chris Olsen, Trudi Teller, Corey Cardenas-Perron, Gilbert Sanchez and Steve Rios.

LOCAL LINES

To the recent graduates — Chris Olsen, Corey Cardenas-Perron, Gilbert Sanchez, Juan Palacios, Ryan Porter, Steve Rios and Trudi Teller — we look forward to you leading our workforces to meet head-on the challenges of the 21st century. You are well-prepared and appreciate the need to prudently maintain that stock and trade of skills you have learned.

Everyone here at Local 234 — fellow members, family and friends — congratulates the graduates and salutes their achievements of today and into our future. Congratulations.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.



Local 254 member Jacqueline "Jacqui" Skelton receives Award of Excellence for her work at Calgary 9-1-1.

City of Calgary Award

L.U. 254 (ees,em,mo,o,rts&u), CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA — Congratulations to Sister Jacqueline Skelton, winner of the 2016 City of Calgary Public Safety Communications Board of Governors' Award honoring her work at Calgary 9-1-1 as an emergency communication officer and recognizing her dedication to public service.

After 20-plus years practicing mostly family law, Jacqui closed her law practice and emigrated from the U.K. to Canada in 2011.

In her six years at Calgary 9-1-1, Jacqui has made a strong impression on all who have had the pleasure to work with her. Not only does she demonstrate a high level of competence in her work, she is never shy to take it to the next level.

Jacqui is a Sentry Systems subject matter expert. Her dedication to making the transition to a new record management system and helping her teammates overcome challenges with Sentry is commendable. She also provides recommendations to the "super users," and communicates helpful information to her team.

Jacqui was invaluable during a night-long Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) outage last May. She quickly came up with great ideas to ensure levels of service were upheld. She then used lessons learned from that situation to support the leads during the Sentry outage in November.

Jacqui volunteers her time as a shop steward



At Local 280 organizing meeting in Redmond, OR.

and serves on the Employee Satisfaction Committee, the Critical Incident Stress Management Team and the Peer Support Team. She coordinates fundraising nights and food nights. Jacqui personifies The City of Calgary's 4 C's — character, competence, commitment and collaboration.

Jacqui, thank you for your efforts on behalf of Local 254 and congratulations on receiving this prestigious award.

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

Workshop on Organizing

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR — Earlier this year, with the help of labor educator Mark M. McDermott of Seattle, WA, IBEW Local 280 held an organizing meeting in central Oregon.

McDermott helped by officiating a S.W.O.T. session — focusing on "strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats" — to help with formulating a plan to organize work and members in central Oregon. After assessing and recognizing strengths and weakness as well as threats and opportunities, a plan began to be formulated. We also formed a voluntary organizing committee, which will meet once a month. We have a long fight ahead but feel this is a step toward increasing market share. [See photo at bottom, left.]

Work has slowed as of this writing, but it is expected to pick up by early summer.

Thanks to the IBEW brothers and sisters who traveled to help man our work this past year.

We have 17 new journeymen who recently graduated and passed the state journeyman exam. Congratulations to all!

Our state continues to see an increase in solar projects planned and starting. Local 280 is just starting a 65-megawatt solar field near Prineville, scheduled to be completed sometime in August. Let's hope for a continued good work picture in the coming years.

Drew Lindsey, B.M./F.S.

Big Projects Underway

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN — As the proud host city for Super Bowl 52, scheduled for February 2018, Minneapolis is busier than we have been in more than a decade.

The positive work picture is not only due to the big NFL game, as we also have many large projects including several solar jobs and substantial airport improvements.

With the extensive commercial and residential work, our members are keeping very busy. So much so that we are extending an invitation to members across the country to help us man our work. Local 292 will need additional wiremen this summer. There will also be a specific need for those from the following states that carry the Minnesota Class A electrical license or equivalent: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Eric Peterson, P.S.



IBEW Local 332 members and fellow mechanical crafts mobilize to ensure work for union craftsmen.

Mobilization & Solidarity To Hold Developers Accountable

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA — Through recent strengthening of the bonds between the mechanical crafts, Local 332 has seen phenomenal success in mobilizing and empowering members to take leadership roles in securing work for our unions.

At the MEPS Leadership Conference, over 150 members of four craft unions gathered to learn strategies and interact with elected officials of local municipal districts. The resulting "MEPS Army" will be a driving force in ensuring new development has every opportunity to be built by union craftsmen. (MEPS stands for Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Sprinkler Fitters.)

We would also like to congratulate the 88 Inside, 20 Sound & Communications, and 10 Residential apprentices who will receive their completion certificates this year. We also welcome the 46 Inside apprentices who have been indentured so far in 2017.

David Bini, Organizer

Making Great Strides — Organizing Success

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — In late March 2017, Bro. Chuck Cake visited the union hall to bring by some IBEW mementos he has collected during his 54 years as a Local 340 member, which included 24 years working in the business office — as a representative for five years, and as business manager for 18 years. We visited for quite a while and he was gracious enough to share some of his memories of the history of Local 340 with me. He also came to say goodbye, as he and his beautiful wife, Mary, are pulling up stakes in Sacramento and moving to Florida. Bro. Cake will be reachable on Facebook and via email and I am sure I will be talking to him again. I know you all join me in wishing him and Mary a long and beautiful retirement in sunny Florida.

Speaking of moving, Local 340 is most definitely moving in the right direction regarding getting the work and growing our membership! Our Organizing Department is stronger than ever, and it is exciting to

witness the results of their hard work. Being a former organizer myself, I have great respect and gratitude for the job they do every day for Local 340 members.

Rest in peace, Bros. Robert Irvine, George Waugh and Ray Toney.

Robert D. Ward, B.M.



Local 340 Bus. Mgr. Bob Ward (left) greets retired former business manager Chuck Cake.

St. Patrick's Day Parade; Apprentice of the Year

L.U. 400 (es,i&o), ASBURY PARK, NJ — The annual Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade took place on March 5, 2017. The Local 400 membership was led by Bro. Pete Sparandera's monster-sized truck as a great representation of the strength of our brotherhood. The membership displayed union pride as they gathered and walked along with other local trade unions in the parade.

The Apprentice of the Year Award went to Jared Fricke. Jared displayed the utmost dedication and had a grade average in the upper 90s for all five years of the apprenticeship. Local 400 is proud of his efforts and hopes to see many apprentices following his lead. Jared was also rewarded with a plaque and a \$100 check from the Retiree Committee for all his hard work throughout the apprenticeship.

Local 400 continues to be committed to the Code of Excellence. All apprentices and a great majority of our membership have been trained and certified. More classes are being planned and we hope to have the entire membership trained shortly.

Raven Morris, P.S.



Local 400 members participate in Belmar, NJ, St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Tribute to Labor Leader



The late Frank E. Cirillo, former Local 420 business manager.

L.U. 420 (u), WATERBURY, CT — April 2017 marked one year since Local 420 lost its beloved business manager and friend Frank E. Cirillo. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty delivered a tribute in Frank's honor on the floor of the Congress last year. Below is an edited

excerpt of Rep. Esty's tribute:

"Mr. Speaker, last weekend, the state of Connecticut and labor lost a true champion, and I lost a friend, with the unexpected passing of Francis E. Cirillo III. A lifetime Waterbury resident, Frank was 55.

"Frank proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Cold War. He was awarded the Naval Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, and National Defense Service Medal. After his military service, Frank returned home to Waterbury and began his civilian career at Connecticut Light & Power (now known as Eversource Utilities). Frank and his wife, Milena, raised a wonderful family, whom he was immensely proud of.

"After 20 years at Northeast Utilities, Frank became a full-time union official in 2004.

"He was widely admired for his strong advocacy for members of IBEW Local 420. Frank's outspokenness and passion served him well in his positions with the Connecticut AFL-CIO, the Western Connecticut Central Labor Council, the New England Utility Council, and Local 420's COPE fund drives.

"In 2013, he received the Paul A. Loughran Memorial Award for Outstanding Leadership. Frank was frequently recognized for his community service. He served as Waterbury's Good Jobs Liaison Commissioner, and was a member of the Waterbury Democratic Town Committee and Waterbury's American Italian Civic Club. He was honored in 2014 by the Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee.

"Frank will be sorely missed. His contributions to the city of Waterbury and the state of Connecticut will not be forgotten.

"And it simply will not be October without chilly Saturday morning door knocking with Frank. It's hard to imagine that Frank is not still with us — passionately advocating for working families, cracking jokes. I have no doubt that Frank is stirring things up in heaven, letting St. Peter know exactly what he thinks."

Joseph Malcarne, B.M./F.S.

Habitat for Humanity Project

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts,spa&t), MILWAUKEE, WI — At this writing, work continues to progress on the Plymouth Habitat for Humanity home that is being wired by the Plymouth High School Panther Construction team alongside members of IBEW Local 494. Thanks to all those participating on the project. Thanks also to retired Local 494 members Mike Gradinjan and Phil Kissinger for helping teach the trades.

Kurt Jante, B.R.

A Day of Remembrance; Work Picture Improves

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — April 28 was again a big day in Sarnia. Every year on this date we mark the International Day of Mourning,

to remember all workers who have lost their lives or suffered injury or disease due to workplace related hazards and incidents. Thank you to all those who joined us for this event.

With a small out-of-work list and our short-term work picture looking good, we have been fortunate and it seems that this will be a successful year.

We would like to thank Thunder Bay Local 402 for providing work opportunities for our members at a helpful time.

Local 530 is saddened to report the recent passing of Bros. Gary Clark and Don Hendra.

Al Byers, P.S.

Three-Year Contract Ratified

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL — Greetings, brothers and sisters. We celebrated our local's 8th Annual Picnic on May 6 this year at Spring Park in Tuscumbia, AL. Everyone enjoyed the cook-off competition of barbecue and ribs, bingo, music, and fellowship among members and their families. We are excited to see this event increase in size each year.

We are proud to announce that we have ratified a three-year agreement at the Sheffield Utilities Department. Annual wage increases were negotiated and ratified for Muscle Shoals Electric Board and Russellville Utilities.

We want to thank everyone for very successful spring outages at TVA Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Athens, AL, and Cache Valley at Nucor Steel in Decatur, AL. Our appreciation goes out to all those who helped make this possible.

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

University Medical Center Towers Project is Underway

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ — Sturgeon and Stark, signatory electrical contractors, are working on the Banner University Medical Center Towers project in Tucson, which seems to be going well. The building steel has topped out and the contractors are steadily manning up.

Sturgeon Electric has also picked up the Central Utility Plant project that will tie in with the new nine-story Banner Hospital.

Members, keep your eyes open for the upcoming events. Thank you to all who participated in the May 6 Golf Tournament.

At press time, Inside negotiations as well as negotiations with some of the units are scheduled.

We are also looking to put together a picnic committee for this year's picnic, which should be in the fall. Contact the hall to get involved. Thank you and be safe.

Scott W. Toot, Pres.



A view of conduit racks and runs installed by Local 570 members on fourth floor of Medical Center Towers project.



Training Dir. Ed Kikut addresses attendees at Local 654 Open House. (Photo by Bill Adams.)

Work Picture Strong

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL — In March of this year, Bro. Tom Allen retired after 41 years of exemplary service with the IBEW. Over the course of his career, Tom personified what we should all strive for as members of the IBEW. Tom always gave 110 percent on the job, was a leader, and mentored countless members of the local including myself. Bro. Allen has been an asset to Local 606 and we truly appreciate everything he has done for this local and the IBEW.

Work in our jurisdiction continues to be very good. Our signatory contractors continue to pick up work and the construction boom shows no signs of letting up. There are many opportunities for IBEW travelers with the calls going into Book 2 on a regular basis.

Fernando Rendon, P.S.



Local 606 Bro. Tom Allen receives his retirement plaque.

Open House a Success

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA — On March 16, IBEW Local 654 held an Open House for potential applicants and people interested in learning more about our apprenticeship training program. Bro. Ed Kikut, training director for the Chester JATC, addressed the 150-200 attendees and presented our program to them. [Photo at top, right.]

We have had several Open Houses in the past, and this year's presentation had the most participants by far. Attendees had a chance to tour our classrooms and meet our instructors as well as several of our committee members. We had a few vendors participating, including Greenlee and Klein Tools. There was a question-and-answer session that lasted well over an hour.

It was great to see the interest in our trade from the community. We look forward to continued success.

John Bondrowski, P.S.

Officer Transitions

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA — Recent events have required some changes in union officers. We thank everyone who has stepped up to new or additional responsibilities to serve the local.

Jason "J.D." Jenkins was appointed president of the local effective Dec. 9, 2016, to fill an unexpired term of office when our former president retired. Thomas Beach has stepped up to fill the vice president spot. Thomas Carnahan and Charles Skelly were appointed members of the Executive Board.

We also thank Bro. Walter Goree for agreeing to serve the labor side of the Apprenticeship Committee.

Best wishes to recent retirees: William A. Lentz, Marcus A. Zoliner, José M. Clavel, Barry W. Sarver, Patrick F. Woods, Michael D. Collier, B. Michael Freeman, James J. McDonald, Irvin "Rusty" Davis Jr., Mark A. Davis, Charles D. Loving, Kenneth W. Nash and Jerry R. Nuckols.

A big shout-out to all the IBEW locals working our members as travelers, particularly our neighboring Local 26!

Charles Skelly, P.S.

Apprenticeship Graduates; Welcome to New Members

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI — With great pride, we would like to announce our local's most recent apprenticeship graduating class. These world-class electricians are our future and we hope they stay involved in our local to be leaders in our industry. The recent apprenticeship graduates are: John Gehringer, Jim Mularz, Gus Voisine, Nate Richie, Jeff Fryzel and Sean Thorp. Congratulations, gentlemen! The future of the IBEW is bright.

We also wish to recognize our most recent new members, who look forward to improving their way of life and the lives of their families. They are: Sean Hei-

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LOCAL LINES



Local 692 congratulates recent apprenticeship graduates. From left, Training Dir. Steve Pahl; graduates Jon Gehringer, Jim Mularz, Gus Voisine, Nate Ritchie, Jeff Fryzel, Sean Thorp; and Bus. Mgr. Travis Brady.

lig, Justin Dole, Derek Lobdell, Michael Reder, Andrew Mowrey, Joshua Bromund, Darrin Materna, Steve Koenig, Austin Bond, Alek Poirier, Edward Faber, Kevin Mankowski, Mark Aymen, Ryan Ruhle, Dana Bock, Leonard Fischer, Wallace Luttermoser, Marty Martin, Adam Thompson, Layne Fournier, Jeffrey Powers, Lance Miracle, Robert Chritz, Mark Bartos, Brandon Kostus, Jeremy Escamilla, Kevin Knopp, Justin Sweeney, Christopher Moore, Tyson Valentine, Vincent Gray, Keagan Hover, Cody Cripps, Samuel Malone, Timothy Chartier, Jacob Backus and Aaron Guigar.

With summer upon us, be careful to prevent heat-related injuries like heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Know the symptoms to watch for to keep yourself and your co-workers safe. Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate! We must look out for ourselves with OSHA and other protections on Trump's chopping block. Be careful out there.

Mark Thompson, P.S.

Organizing Drive; Contract Negotiations

L.U. 702 (as,c,cav,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFURT, IL — On Feb. 14, Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart appointed Local 702 Pres. James "Jimmy" Sanchez as lead organizer for the Prairie State Generating Company. This will be Jimmy's one and only responsibility, to organize the employees of PSGC, as this is the only power plant in our jurisdiction that is not union-represented and is a prime target for growing the IBEW membership.

We are currently in negotiations with Ameren Illinois for all three Local 702 divisions.

Ground was broken for our new Outside Construction Lineman Training Facility, which will cover more than five acres and allow instructors to immediately take knowledge learned in the classroom into the field for hands-on application and training. We are excited about this project and have placed it in the capable hands of Bus. Rep. Scott Kerley.

Our Golf Outing will be Friday, June 16, at the West Frankfort Country Club, and all proceeds go to The Poshard Foundation. Additionally, at the Golf Outing, we will kick off our 6th Annual Solidarity Fund Drawing ticket sales (with all proceeds going to benefit members in need and promotion of the local).

Our referral books are as follows: Inside Construction - 119, Outside Construction - 35, and Line Clearance - 3.

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

Anticipating Summer 2017

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA — Nominations for local officers were held at the May meeting, and at this writing elections were scheduled to follow in June. I urge all members to attend monthly meetings as they are very important! Together, members discuss new ideas and relevant approaches thereby actively crafting Local 704's future.

Our local is in the second year of a three-year contract agreement. On June 1, we will add \$1.20 per hour on the check. With jobs that are started and those being bid, we hope to have a busy summer.

Local 704 members wish to extend condolences to the family of Bro. Glen Custer, who passed away recently at the age of 94. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Glen was initiated into the local in March of 1947. He had retired from Westphal Electric, where he had worked for 23 years. His son Dave Custer is also a Local 704 retired member.

Local 704 members who are filing their retirement papers this spring are Bros. Bob Schmidt, Mike Sisler and myself, Ron Heitzman. This is the goal we have all worked toward throughout our careers. Here's to a long, healthy and happy retirement!

Ron Heitzman, P.S.

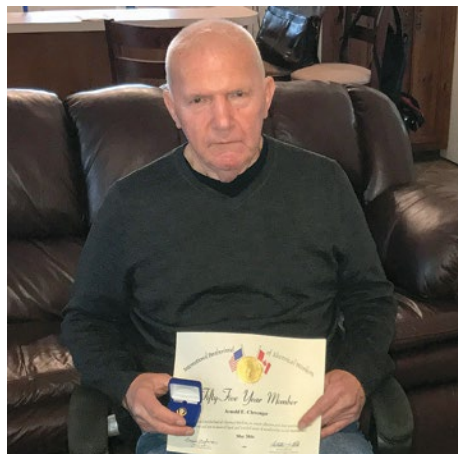
55-Year Service Award

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN — Local 760 congratulates retired member Arnold Clevenger on receiving his 55-year service award pin from the IBEW.

Bro. Clevenger started working for Dillard Smith Construction Co. in Knoxville, TN, in 1960 as a grunt fresh out of high school and was making one cool George Washington an hour. He received his journeyman lineman ticket in 1968 and was promoted to foreman in 1971. Bro. Clevenger concluded his career as regional manager for Dillard Smith in New Market, TN. Arnold is now kicked back and enjoying the golden years with his wife, Fay. They enjoy their time spending it with their two daughters and five grandchildren. Take it easy, Bro. Clevenger.

As Teddy Roosevelt said: "It is only through labor and painful effort by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things."

Jason Leary, A.B.M./Organizer



Local 760 retiree Arnold Clevenger receives IBEW 55-year service award.

RETIREES

Petition Campaign

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — Greetings to all. I hope everyone is enjoying the spring season.

The Republican-controlled Missouri Legislature in Jefferson City passed so-called "right-to-work" legislation, and the newly elected Republican governor signed the bill into law. Petitions will be circulating, for us to sign, to put a referendum on the 2018 ballot to rid Missouri of the anti-worker law. Please ensure that your families and friends are informed about the devastating effects "right to work" will have on all residents of Missouri. You must be a registered voter to sign the petition.

The next two Retirees Club meetings are scheduled for July 19 and Sept. 20 (the luncheon).

Pictured in the accompanying photo are two of my IBEW commemorative knives. One is from the convention that marked IBEW's 100th anniversary, and the other is my new IBEW 125th anniversary commemorative knife, which recently arrived in the mail. The older knife has seen some wear, especially on the blade.

Neal McCormack, P.S.



Local 1 Retirees Club member Neal McCormack's IBEW commemorative knives on display.

Spring Season Activities

RETIREES CUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — As of this writing, we're enjoying a much-anticipated spring season, as we welcome back our "snow birds." We continue our monthly meetings throughout the year, enjoying the camaraderie, guest speakers and activities! We were fortunate and honored to have Tom Gallagher as a recent speaker! Other speakers included a lawyer who discussed estate planning, and a travel agent.

Activities included a trip to the show "Those Fabulous 50s" and luncheon at the Royal Manor in Garfield. We also enjoyed our spring luncheon at Bellissimo Ristorante in Montvale, NJ. As always we're looking forward to our annual trip to the Educational Center in Cutchogue as well as our summer picnic. A fall bus trip to Boston, MA, is planned. We hope all new retirees in our area join our group for fun, good food, friends and camaraderie!

John Krison, P.S.



Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club Chmn. David Torres (left), Treas. Dick Mills (second from left), and Fin. Sec. and Drive Chmn. Dominic Malandro (right) present donation to Ken Fisher of Fisher House Foundation.

Presentation of Donation To Fisher House Foundation

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — Once again, officers of the Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club had the honor of meeting with Mr. Kenneth Fisher, CEO of the Fisher House Foundation, on March 7 this year, to present him with a check for \$10,000 as a contribution to the Fisher House Foundation.

This contribution marks a milestone in our association with Ken Fisher and the Fisher House Foundation, which helps military families by providing housing close to a loved one during hospitalization, and other programs.

We now have, over the past five years, contributed a total of \$50,000 to this worthy cause. We are able to raise this amount through our golf outing sponsors, our sister chapters from Brooklyn and Queens, our affiliation with the Bronx Shore Kiwanis, and mostly through donations from our membership, who, as we all know, are retired and living on fixed incomes. Without these partnerships, our goal could not have been attained.

Our fund chairman, Dominic Malandro, has worked tirelessly on keeping records and making sure



Local 3, Northern New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club attends "Those Fabulous 50s" show and luncheon.

our members and our golf outing sponsors are kept informed on the progress of our fund drive.

Dick Mills, Treas.

Officers Elected; Club is Vibrant & Active

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — It is my pleasure to report results of the Local 26 Retired Members Club election of officers. Officers were elected at our Feb. 11, 2017, meeting and will serve for the next three years.

Club officers are: Pres. Richard A. "Dick" Bissell, Vice Pres. Richard "Rick" Warner, Rec. Sec. Susan C. Flashman, Treas. James "Jim" Handley and Sgt.-at-Arms Robert "Snuffed" Holcomb. The additional members of the Executive Board are: James Antonivich, Henry Becker, Jerry Papa and Ronald "Ron" Stokes.

The club remains vibrant and in June will take yet another cruise to Europe! There is discussion of the 2018 cruise returning to Alaska — so, if you want to head in that direction, contact Vice Pres. Rick Warner. The calendar moves faster the older we get!

So far for 2017, we have 444 dues-paying members, and renewals are still coming in! Although we take a break from monthly meetings in June, July and August, we remain busy with our ever-growing medical equipment program. We also hope to paint our new sea container, which helps house some of our larger pieces of medical equipment. We were running out of storage space.

Susan Flashman, P.S.



Local 26 Retirees Club officers are sworn in.

'Come Join Us'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Happy spring, everyone! The Retirees Club had our first meeting of the year in March. It was a great time.

The Retirees Club would like to welcome recently retired Bro. John Lurate, who served our local as business representative/organizer for many years and retired April 1, 2017. John served as treasurer and as a trustee on the funds. John was always a very dedicated union member and leader as well as a top craftsman in the trade during his career, not to mention a great guy. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement, John!

With great sadness, we must report that our former president Frank Bramanti passed away in March. I knew Frank personally and he was a very dedicated union member. He served as president, vice president, and funds trustee for Local 35. Frank served many posts and was totally involved in all aspects of the industry. He also was a true friend and great union brother. I will miss his smiling face. Rest in peace, Frank. Our condolences go out to his family.

We hope to see some new faces at our monthly Retirees Club meetings, held the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings begin at noon, at the Elk's Club in Rocky Hill. Come join us for lunch and conversation.

Kenneth R. White, P.S.

Stand in Solidarity

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Brothers and sisters, it is time to unite. As I am sure you are aware, since the November 2016 elections, there has been an all-out attack on unions and working people in this country. With several states pushing so-called "right to work" legislation and repealing prevailing wage and workplace safety measures, the list goes on and on. As you know, the governor has signed a "right-to-work" bill in Missouri, and we are currently gathering petition signatures to put that on the ballot in 2018 and let the voters decide, not a bunch of politicians. Please make sure that you and your family sign the petition.

Local 53 former business manager Stephen White was recently appointed as an IBEW District Organizing Coordinator. The Local 53 Executive Board appointed Brett Stone as business manager, to fill White's unexpired term of office. We congratulate them both and we know they will do a great job in their new positions.

Mark your calendars and save the date. IBEW Local 53 will celebrate our 100th Anniversary on Nov. 4, 2017. More details will be shared as they become available.

With sadness, I must report that we have lost another retiree. Bro. Marion Davis passed away Feb. 18. Rest in peace, brother.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

Golf Tournament a Success

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — The Local 60 Retired Members Club will be on their summer break for the months of June, July and August.

Before the break, the club's annual golf tournament was held in April. With all the interest the golf tournament generated, it could only add

up to another huge success.

Club members thank all who played an important part in this year's golf tournament fundraiser. Many hours of planning and executing such a fundraiser is a task. The club is self-supporting and the money raised will be for the club's meals and activities.

The Retirees Club meets the second Thursday of each month at 12 noon, at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Bldg. at 3630 Belgium Lane. Some of you may wonder why we meet at that location. When the club had no place to hold its meetings, the Plumbers and Pipefitters invited us to use their building. We thank them for their kindness and respect.

The purpose of the Retirees Club is to continue the practice of brotherhood in retirement. A friend once told me: "Once an electrician, always an electrician." That is very true.

Circle Sept. 14 on your calendar — that is the date of our club's next meeting. Join us.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Great Turnout for Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA — 2017 commenced with our Euchre Club on Jan. 19 and our Bowling Club on Jan. 11.

There was a great turnout for our first meeting of the year on Jan. 18. Thanks to all who attended — it does make a difference!

On Jan. 25, a delectable breakfast was enjoyed by many at Michelangelo's, and our club returned on Feb. 12 for the annual Valentine's dance. On March 8, we revisited Michelangelo's for a lovely dinner that included perogies, cabbage rolls and sausages. On March 23, we enjoyed a lunch at the Mandarin Chinese Buffet Restaurant.

From April 4-7, 60 of our retirees checked into the Best Western Carin Croft hotel, Niagara Falls, for a relaxing break. Pleasant times were spent by the pool, visiting Niagara Casino, playing cards and enjoying an afternoon wine and cheese party.

On April 9, the Retirees Club returned to Michelangelo's for a breakfast to congratulate 50 brothers and sisters on their retirement! We wish them the very best and hope to see them at our events!

Remember our motto: Don't Wait — Participate! All of the above events were made possible by our hard-working local members and Executive Board. Our sincerest thanks to each one of them!

Eden McLean, P.S.



Local 105 Retirees Club Pres. Harry Allan (left) and Bus. Mgr. Lorne Newick at retirement breakfast.

Awards Presentation At Apprenticeship Graduation

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — I am so worried about what's going on in our government. I get so upset listening to Pres. Trump speak. At first I felt he deserved a chance to prove to be a good president, but after six months I feel the middle-class population is under attack. I think he is an embarrassment to our already great USA.

On a much happier note: Our Retirees Club donates funds for the top four awards of many awards given to the highest achieving Local 134 apprenticeship graduates. The top four awards include:

- An award for the highest achieving A-card (high voltage) graduate.
- An award for the highest achieving C-card (low voltage) graduate
- The Andrea Hall Award, which goes to the highest achieving female graduate. This award is in honor of Andrea Hall, a female high voltage foreman who was killed in a work-site-related accident.
- The Terry Allen Brotherhood Award, which is in honor of the late Terry Allen, former business manager.

Because of our donations for these awards, a



Local 134 highest achieving apprentice graduates assemble on stage. All 168 graduates were honored at the Apprenticeship Graduation Dinner.

table was reserved for our retirees at the Apprentice Graduation Dinner Dance, held in an elegant ballroom at the Donald E. Stevens Convention Center, in Rosemont, IL. The dinner was wonderful and the music was great — such a gala affair to honor the 168 recent apprenticeship graduates. Congratulations to all the new journeyman electricians in our great Local 134.

Wishing all members of our great IBEW a safe, wonderful and fun summer.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

Retiree Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 141, WHEELING, WV — The Local 141 Retirees 6th Annual Christmas Party was Dec. 3, 2016, at Wheeling Island Hotel-Casino and Racetrack. There were 101 in attendance. The retirees thank the officers and active members for their financial support for our dinner.

The retirees also meet for breakfast on the third Tuesday of every month, at 8:30 a.m., at Rigas' Restaurant in Bellaire, OH.

We would like to recognize retiree George E. Miller, who is celebrating his 71st year with Local 141. Initiated on April 19, 1946, George sets a Local 141 record for the most years of IBEW service. Currently, we have 121 retirees with a combined total service of 5,580 years.

Finally, we extend condolences to the families of the following retirees who passed away in 2016: Kenneth Castilow, Carson Cox, John Cunard, Lucanas Didion, Homer Hilty and Richard Mayeres. They will be remembered.

Joseph A. Donovan, P.S.

Speaking Up for Seniors

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 194, SHREVEPORT, LA — The Local 194 Retirees Club has initiated a letter-writing campaign on the issues that affect "gray hair" Americans. Our efforts are called "L4S," which stands for Louisiana for Seniors Saving Social Security.

At the January meeting Retirees Club Pres. John Tyler announced that all retired members are encouraged to participate in our effort to make known our positions to our elected U.S. senators and representatives. We respect our elected officials, but for too long (this scribe included), we have not voiced our opinions. We are the ones charged with letting our elected public officials know how we feel, not the other way around.

Although retiree membership is up, we don't have as much participation as we would wish.

Retirees Club meetings are held once a month, on the last Tuesday of the month. Members like me enjoy the great food brought by other members. It's better than a four-star restaurant. Our chefs have

RETIRES

really got “Southern cuisine” down to an art. We eat at noon and have a short meeting, and then go home and take a nap.

For more information please contact Local 194 at 318-688-0194. We’ll be glad to see you.

Herbert L. Prestidge, P.S.

‘Seize the Day’ — In Tribute & Remembrance

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH — May God’s loving kindness be upon the following recently departed brothers and their loved ones: Ralph Weckenbrock, who was a member of the IBEW for 64 years; Harvey Lowery, a member for 60 years; Robert Steinmetz - 60 years; Fred Holthaus - 52 years; Rodney Dennis - 41 years; Gary Gimmer Jr. - 24 years; and Paul Jesson - 23 years. Remember these brothers, as well as our sick members, and their loved ones in your prayers.

As I write these quarterly newsletters, my own mortality becomes apparent. I remember my friend Bro. Al “Fat Albert” Ihle, who passed away in 2015, telling me: “Bobby, I would tell my enemy this, so I sure will tell my friend — whatever you want to do, do it now while you are able because you don’t know what shape you or your wife will be in a year from now.”

Time takes its toll on us. Whatever is on your bucket list, don’t wait. The window of opportunity can shut quickly. To quote a phrase coined by ancient Roman poet Horace: “carpe diem” (seize the day).

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

‘Thanks to IBEW Volunteers’ Skills USA Competition

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — The Retirees Club had their luncheon/meeting at Westphalia, MO, on March 28.

Unfortunately, so-called “right-to-work” legislation was recently passed in Missouri. Although everyone worked very hard to defeat the legislation, the Republican-controlled state Legislature finally passed the bill, and the newly elected Republican governor signed it. We thank Don Cessna for his many informative articles in opposition to the bill. [Editor’s Note: As of press time, a campaign started by the state AFL-CIO was underway to get an initiative on the 2018 ballot that would essentially make “right-to-work” laws illegal in the state. The Missouri right-to-work law takes effect Aug. 28, but could be delayed if enough petition signatures are gathered for a public vote.]

We were saddened by the passing of member Carl Hoffman on March 14. He was 93. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

We thank the volunteers who helped again this year with the Skills USA Competition at Linn State Technical College on April 1. This makes the 13th or 14th year that our members have helped with this event.

As this went to press, Connie Hamacher was finalizing plans for a May 9 Retirees Club trip to St. Louis for a tour of the Henry Miller Museum (birthplace of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which later became the IBEW). Thanks to the generous support of Local 1, the brick boarding house where Henry Miller lived 125 years ago has been converted into a museum that celebrates the history of the IBEW.

Glad to have all our snow birds back home.

Delores Melloway, P.S.

Sarnia Happenings; Widely Accomplished Retiree



Local 530 retiree Herb Burdett is a Sarnia-Lambton Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — Many of our retirees have amazing backgrounds, outside of the workplace. One of our retirees, Herb Burdett, is one such person.

Herb was inducted into the Sarnia-Lambton Sports Hall of Fame in 2016. His record of accomplishments is so vast that I can only write about a few. He has been an amateur athlete for over 50 years.

He has competed in over 20 races, marathons and triathlons. He ran his first Boston Marathon in 1988. In 1990 he broke the three-hour barrier with a time of 2 hours and 57 minutes. In 1999 at age 62, he competed in the U.S.A. Ironman event in Lake Placid, NY, and finished fourth in his age group.

In 1972 Herb won first place in the Tae Kwan-Do Championship Tournament, as an orange-belt competitor, competing against the top black-belt competitors from Canada and the USA.

In 2010 Herb was invited to participate in a Dancing with the Stars fundraiser to benefit Sarnia’s Strangway Centre. He and his partner placed second.

He has spent an enormous amount of time volunteering, and sharing his knowledge with young people in sports.

Herb was inducted into IBEW Local 530 in 1977 and retired in 1999. He and his wife, Janet, have been married for 59 years. They have a daughter and a son. Their son and two grandsons are members of Local 530. Herb’s uncle Harry Field was a founding member of Local 530.

An amazing guy, wouldn’t you say?

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.



Local 595 retirees Bruce O’Sullivan, Jim Baker and Roger Bratset enjoy tour of Railroad Museum in Carson City, NV.

‘Greetings from California’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 595, DUBLIN, CA — Former Local 595 president Matt Maloon swore in our new Retirees Club officers recently. Congratulations to Jim Abreu as our new club president. Thank you, Jim, for stepping up to a job you’ve done before! Returning Sec. Nancy Taliaferro and Treas. Linda Bratset help steer the ship, and a few new Executive Board members, Ger-

hard Lacher, Jon Lockwood and Frank Mendez, fill out the remaining seats. Thanks to all for your service and dedication to keeping our club humming along.

We enjoyed several outings recently and more are planned. We had an awesome time on our annual snow train trip to Reno. The Sierra Nevada mountains were incredibly picturesque this trip. Side trips to Carson City and Virginia City were wonderful, as well as the Railroad Museum tour.

Bags are being packed for our next overnight trip to Yosemite and Chukchansi Gold Resort in June. Plans are being finalized for an 11-day cruise aboard the Royal Princess to view the fall colors from Quebec to New York City in October of 2018.

We look forward to our Benefits Fair, followed by summer activities including our annual barbeque and union picnic.

Our monthly themed lunches at the union hall in Dublin, on the second Friday of the month, are always special. We swap old stories and share great catered food. The ladies do a wonderful job decorating. All of that with complimentary beer, wine and coffee for ten bucks. The first month is on us, so if you’re recently retired, planning retirement or out of work, please give us a test drive.

Tom Mullarkey, P.S.

Annual Retiree Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The Annual Retiree Luncheon was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, in Mount Vernon at the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, with over 100 in attendance.

At the luncheon, club Pres. Gary King and Local 702 Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart addressed those present and thanked them for their participation in the club. Bus. Mgr. Hughart reflected upon some of the

struggles the local faced in the past, and commented that we all owed a huge debt of gratitude to those who came before us in paving the way for the conditions and pay our members currently enjoy.

The brick, along with the certificate, purchased by the local in honor of the Retirees Club for the Henry Miller Museum was on display. A trip to the Henry Miller Museum was planned for the second week in May, with bus transportation provided by the local.

Club Pres. King went over the business of the club, including the reading of deaths since the last meeting, and the treasurer’s report. Bus. Mgr. Hughart announced the door prizes winners and encouraged those present to take home

some of the leftover food. The luncheon gathering was a success and concluded at 2 p.m.

Mark Baker, P.S.

Chili Cook-off & Low Country Boil a Success

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — Happy spring! We have had good turnouts for our meetings this year. Our chili cook-off was a success with 11 competitors. It was a tough decision, but our judges did a great job. We congratulate the champions and thank our team of judges. Our low country boil as always was delicious and we are grateful to Greg Stone and those who are always there to help with making our meals so wonderful. Please keep up the great attendance; we love seeing everyone!

We are saddened to report that since our last article, several members have passed. We send our condolences to the family and friends of Bros. Joseph C. Stellitano, Joseph P. “Pete” Davies, Edward R. Egner Jr. and James H. Brown.

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

Diane Gibbs, P.S.



Local 756 Retirees Club Chili Cook-off champions, back row, Bonnie Pettingill and Doug Dill; and team of judges, front row, Candice Hampton, Wayne Reed, and Mery Hughes.

Activism & Solidarity

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 915, TAMPA, FL — It is with pleasure that I report on the active Retirees Club of Local 915, which consists of our retired members from both sides of Tampa Bay.

The retirees’ activism includes joining in fellowship monthly for lunch meetings. Retirees attend our annual work parties, and they participate in side projects as needed at our local union. The mentorship they provide to the newcomers, as well their attendance in force at our annual service pin presentations, serves as an example of a lifetime of brotherhood and solidarity. Local 915 is proud of each of our active retirees and invites others to ask them to share their wisdom of our trade.



Door prize winners at the 2017 IBEW Local 702 Retiree Luncheon: Delbert Wilkins (left), Logan Marlow, Carolyn Marlow, Don Wittenbrink, Don Mull and Martin Lee. Not pictured: Dennis Dehart.


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Currently there are two separate retirees lunch meetings that are held monthly.

The Tampa Bay Chapter retirees of Local 915 meet at noon on the first Monday in the assembly hall of Local 915. One brother brings the entrée and others supply the incidentals.

The St. Petersburg/Clearwater Chapter retirees of Local 915 meet at noon on the third Monday of each month at Perkins on Park Boulevard in Clearwater.

All traveling retirees are welcome to join and share in the brotherhood.

Theresa King, P.S.



Local 915 Tampa Bay Chapter retirees attend December 2016 meeting.

Annual Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA — We met at The Drusilla Seafood Restaurant on the first Monday in March for our annual luncheon. As usual the seafood was great and we had good attendance.

At our bimonthly meeting on the first Monday in April, we discussed and voted on having our luncheon with the wives on the first Monday in June. We hope to have everybody there by 11:30 a.m. so we can determine how much meat we will need. The meat will be furnished by the club, and each couple is to bring a



Local 995 Retirees Club members enjoy annual luncheon in March.

covered dish. I'm praying that all our club members and their wives can be there.

W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in April 2017

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Adams, F. H.	3/10/17	46	Kessler, C. E.	2/2/17	131	Mitchell, C. E.	2/6/17	340	Irvine, R. W.	2/23/17	538	Packard, M. A.	2/7/17	915	Patrick, W. G.	2/6/17
1	Pelham, D. G.	3/13/17	46	Lee, R. L.	2/20/17	134	Bakken, M. P.	7/15/16	343	Campion, D. L.	1/4/17	553	Horton, N. K.	2/25/17	915	Tucker, P. M.	3/1/17
3	Alves, N.	2/15/17	46	Moore, K. R.	2/10/17	134	Cohn, D. J.	3/1/17	343	Coy, J. E.	2/21/17	558	Newborn, A. C.	2/27/16	952	Shoemate, H. R.	3/1/17
3	Basti, D. M.	3/3/17	47	Gainor, D. C.	1/19/17	134	Colonna, W.	2/14/17	343	Hove, J. J.	12/14/16	558	Trousdale, L. W.	3/14/17	969	Marshall, F.	1/13/17
3	Borrero, P.	1/21/11	48	Blackwell, B. L.	6/30/16	134	Devlin, P. J.	2/13/17	343	Winkels, J. R.	3/10/17	567	Hooper, E. P.	2/16/17	1003	Brace, K. E.	1/21/17
3	Genowitz, J.	3/6/17	48	Enkelis, A.	3/3/17	134	Gilligan, J. J.	2/18/17	347	Dickerson, R. L.	2/20/17	568	Pauze, S. D.	2/19/17	1141	Doughty, J. R.	2/12/17
3	Kizale, S. J.	3/14/17	48	Jones, D. R.	2/3/17	134	Joseph, A. M.	2/10/17	349	Haas, H. J.	3/10/17	569	Hughes, E. C.	9/4/13	1186	Chang, S. Y.	2/1/17
3	Moizio, F.	12/11/16	48	Trapnell, L. R.	10/26/16	134	Key, L. E.	7/30/14	351	Parenti, J. G.	1/20/17	569	Paulsin, S. G.	1/18/17	1186	Honda, H. H.	12/29/16
3	Schwer, J. E.	2/24/17	51	Johnson, D. L.	2/19/17	134	Ledenbach, D. E.	2/5/17	353	Barfield, J.	3/7/17	569	Sawyer, K. L.	2/21/17	1211	Harrison, J. H.	9/13/16
3	Sciara, W.	2/7/17	57	Parker, G. A.	9/9/13	134	Mastrodomenico, P. V.	7/19/16	353	Bates, J. G.	1/31/16	569	Sickels, G. E.	5/22/16	1220	Dyk, M. H.	2/9/17
3	Sims, A. J.	1/7/17	58	Bartman, J. T.	2/21/17	134	Pellegrino, G.	2/22/17	353	Blackburn, E.	6/28/16	570	Rose, J. A.	2/1/17	1249	Watson, D. F.	2/5/17
3	Thompson, P.	1/28/17	58	Chartier, F. L.	2/9/17	134	Schofield, E. H.	11/5/16	353	Bloom, A.	11/8/16	583	Dean, J. D.	1/31/17	1340	Lewis, J. C.	1/4/17
3	Tinney, H. R.	11/18/16	58	Hetherington, W. M.	11/30/16	134	Szersba, K. H.	3/2/17	353	Jeffries, K. J.	2/25/17	595	DeBisschop, R.	2/11/17	1347	Conner, J. M.	12/12/16
3	Van Arsdale, A.	2/10/17	58	Jones, R. E.	2/22/17	134	Wagner, E. P.	2/7/17	353	Kitagawa, T.	2/19/17	596	Friend, C. M.	2/26/17	1426	Fjeld, D. R.	1/24/17
3	Weitman, P. B.	1/23/17	58	Keary, K. R.	3/12/17	134	Zoeller, R. J.	2/18/17	353	Marans, S.	1/25/17	602	Moore, J. A.	10/30/15	1426	Kahl, C.	2/7/17
3	Xepolitos, L.	1/9/17	58	Stone, E. F.	3/6/17	145	VanDerSnick, R. L.	2/17/17	353	Porter, F. B.	11/22/16	605	Allday, C. H.	1/31/17	1523	Knapp, N. O.	1/11/17
5	Craver, B. A.	1/9/17	60	Johns, R. G.	2/22/17	150	Galvani, T. J.	10/19/15	353	Richmond, L.	2/9/16	618	McRae, T. J.	2/1/17	1547	Malm, D. R.	3/13/17
5	Haag, M. F.	2/20/17	66	Hays, R. W.	2/5/17	163	Forster, E. A.	11/29/16	354	Slay, T. C.	12/29/16	625	Molony, M. F.	1/18/17	1579	McStay, J. J.	2/4/17
5	Maginn, S. P.	9/5/16	66	Mayad, J.	5/20/16	164	Debenedetto, F. D.	1/27/17	357	Hinkell, J. P.	12/29/16	639	Mase, J. D.	1/7/17	1701	Carrico, R. P.	2/5/17
5	Stewart, C. M.	3/6/17	68	Cito, R. J.	2/11/17	164	Franks, R. N.	2/10/17	363	Stipak, R. J.	2/28/17	648	Sullivan, W. M.	2/5/17	1701	Elder, R. E.	3/6/17
6	Archibeque, B. J.	11/19/16	68	Hammack, C. L.	2/5/17	164	Reinhardt, R. T.	3/2/17	364	Murphy, R. T.	2/8/17	654	Ganster, E. A.	2/11/17	1925	Watts, W. M.	12/27/16
6	Toland, M. W.	3/13/16	68	Harris, O. E.	2/12/17	175	Burgess, A. B.	1/27/17	369	Teague, G. W.	2/11/17	659	Conner, C. E.	1/31/17	1959	Hanson, H.	1/22/17
8	Dykes, T. E.	1/16/17	68	Hewins, J.	12/18/16	175	Dantzer, A. J.	3/16/17	369	Van Irvin, D. J.	1/23/17	659	Weber, H. M.	12/1/13	2038	Booth, B. O.	9/18/16
8	Wuthrich, P. O.	2/11/17	68	McDonnell, R. K.	2/19/17	175	Turner, R. H.	2/24/17	369	Williams, C.	6/14/07	661	Gee, W. L.	1/9/17	2113	Nelms, M. D.	10/16/16
11	Aldrich, R. A.	11/11/16	68	Sterkel, W.	3/3/17	176	Coppens, C. J.	12/29/16	388	Biedermann, J. W.	1/15/17	665	Sawyer, D. B.	6/27/16	2286	Fondon, J. W.	2/26/17
11	Chisolm, S. M.	2/9/17	70	Walker, D. L.	1/21/17	176	Lakotich, S. R.	12/11/16	401	Emanuel, L. K.	2/26/17	666	Goodridge, T. S.	2/23/17	2286	Frazier, S. E.	3/6/17
11	Choquette, C.	12/21/16	73	Hinkle, H. E.	11/29/13	194	Boyd, M. E.	3/6/17	401	Masterson, J. J.	1/7/17	673	Steffancin, G. M.	2/28/17	I.O. (11)	MacDougall, T. C.	2/28/17
11	Edwards, D. R.	2/12/17	77	Carlin, H. D.	8/12/16	197	Messer, D. H.	2/13/17	424	Clarkson, R. J.	5/9/16	681	Parker, D. R.	2/8/17	I.O. (134)	Canner, J. A.	2/4/17
11	Goyne, T. D.	3/6/17	77	Eyler, M. E.	12/26/16	212	Brown, H. E.	1/2/17	424	Clemmensen, L. W.	2/5/17	683	Shroyer, A. A.	2/23/17	I.O. (134)	Colella, L.	2/15/17
11	Lind, A. G.	1/15/17	77	Nelson, S. V.	1/15/17	212	Dennis, R. W.	2/17/17	424	Marchischuk, W. S.	1/11/17	692	Ballor, R. L.	12/12/16	I.O. (134)	Thinger, C. F.	3/11/17
11	McCullum, C. E.	2/28/17	77	Sampson, R.	2/5/17	226	King, M. L.	2/12/17	424	Miller, D. J.	1/29/17	692	Sage, H.	1/30/17	I.O. (756)	Roberts, E. J.	2/18/17
11	Sisson, R.	2/14/17	77	Slocum, R. A.	6/6/16	226	Kopp, R. D.	2/10/17	424	Nelson, M. J.	1/17/17	697	Brzozkiewicz, L. A.	3/21/17	Pens. (637)	Gray, D. W.	2/19/17
16	Morris, T. E.	3/1/17	80	Thomas, G. A.	1/21/17	231	Bauer, J. M.	11/19/16	424	Potluk, O. S.	2/21/17	697	Sweney, C. W.	3/1/17	Pens. (1788)	Harness, G. S.	12/20/16
17	Jeffers, K. D.	1/31/17	82	Fink, W.	2/25/17	233	Bestwina, F. E.	2/1/17	424	Shahi, H. S.	1/31/17	701	Bruns, V. H.	3/9/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Allen, H. C.	2/23/17
17	Levesque, R.	12/10/16	84	Alford, A. B.	2/3/17	233	Jurcich, J. J.	10/28/16	424	Wardrope, D. G.	2/5/17	702	King, D. R.	3/1/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Carney, T.	2/22/17
17	Watt, D. F.	2/27/17	84	Crawford, B. T.	3/2/17	233	Morris, F. W.	1/8/17	428	Peede, W. H.	2/25/17	712	Schmidley, P. W.	3/18/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Carroll, R. E.	12/27/16
20	Grimes, L. D.	2/26/17	84	Tidwell, S. W.	2/9/17	242	Bergquist, F. G.	1/26/17	429	Richardson, I. D.	3/5/17	714	Wherley, D. D.	3/4/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Czaszewicz, R. F.	2/26/17
20	Scott, J. E.	2/22/17	90	Ferraro, T.	11/21/16	252	Foor, H. R.	2/18/17	441	Bell, R.	12/20/16	716	Lynch, R. T.	2/15/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Davis, W.	2/7/17
20	Trostle, B. N.	3/2/17	98	Burns, R. E.	1/6/12	258	Gallagher, C. A.	2/4/17	441	Miller, L. K.	2/24/17	716	Mecche, K. W.	2/15/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Gibson, P. J.	3/7/17
22	Ainslie, K. J.	2/16/17	98	Eichenberger, W. C.	2/23/17	270	McKinney, M. D.	2/7/17	444	Goulden, R. K.	2/22/17	716	Smith, B. L.	3/12/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Gizdich, J. M.	1/26/17
22	Seastedt, D. E.	2/23/17	99	Mangano, R. A.	2/6/17	271	Stevenson, W. A.	1/16/17	456	Rankin, R. K.	2/16/17	728	Angeletti, A.	3/2/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Gordon, G. J.	2/13/17
22	Stephens, J. D.	1/22/17	102	Matthies, P. H.	11/2/16	271	Will, E. L.	2/22/17	474	Gavrock, F. G.	1/19/17	728	Cantor, P. H.	1/24/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Grant, A.	1/9/17
24	Barr, K. M.	2/22/17	105	Brown, T. M.	2/16/17	280	Stoffel, M. J.	2/20/17	477	Smith, J. A.	3/2/17	743	Lahouchuc, C.	3/8/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Hall, H. J.	2/12/17
24	May, M. B.	2/21/17	105	Cammisoli, F. N.	3/17/17	291	Smith, B. D.	2/20/17	481	Sample, S. M.	2/4/17	756	Davies, J. P.	2/26/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Jones, D. W.	1/13/17
24	Mazurkiewicz, F. W.	2/19/17	110	Tschida, T. F.	11/17/16	292	Kunz, R. W.	2/23/17	490	Barrett, M.	11/30/16	756	Egner, E. R.	3/7/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Lonnmann, H. W.	1/2/17
24	Milbourne, L. J.	2/20/17	124	Ashurst, W. W.	2/7/17	292	Peterson, L. A.	2/23/17	494	Draves, R. L.	9/29/15	760	Moser, M. L.	1/1/17	Pens. (I.O.)	McMannis, W. H.	1/3/17
25	Hoyer, D. L.	2/10/17	124	Stewart, D. L.	2/20/17	292	Tyson, E. W.	2/21/17	494	Fahey, D. T.	2/16/17	760	Webb, J. E.	2/20/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Peterson, L. J.	3/6/17
26	Fraser, K. W.	2/4/17	125	Fandrey, C. E.	3/10/17	295	McCuin, J. D.	2/6/17	494	Gnacinski, D. M.	2/20/17	768	Butts, R. R.	2/15/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Roider, E. T.	1/4/17
26	Jones, J. K.	2/25/17	125	Livengood, L. L.	3/7/17	301	Minnich, J. G.	1/23/17	495	Nestleroad, J. K.	3/4/17	776	Outlaw, G. M.	1/20/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Schwartz, W. C.	5/30/16
26	Tretick, T. N.	2/13/17	125	Madison, S.	2/22/17	302	Cheshier, M. A.	2/12/17	495	Wagner, A. D.	12/25/16	804	Campagnolo, D.	1/23/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Seeger, N. A.	3/15/17
34	Titus, J. E.	2/4/17	125	Royal, W. W.	2/20/17	309	Evans, M. E.	3/19/17	502	Dryden, R. S.	2/19/17	804	Will, O.	1/8/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Shutt, R. L.	1/27/17
42	Sharpe, C. D.	12/19/16	126	Roten, R. L.	2/23/17	309	Hettenhausen, D. A.	10/12/16	505	Romano, J. R.	11/21/16	816	McIntosh, R. L.	2/13/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Sorg, H. J.	3/1/17
43	Chamberlin, J. H.	11/26/16	130	Baiamonte, A. J.	2/10/17	313	Paolino, D. J.	3/9/17	508	Barker, T. C.	12/17/16	817	Barr, W. S.	12/28/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Staley, R. P.	1/28/17
43	Hanks, R. M.	9/23/16	130	Bascle, D. L.	2/24/17	317	Meadows, J. W.	2/25/17	518	Marcanti, M. J.	3/11/17	824	Shulver, J.	2/23/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Thompson, D. H.	2/3/17
44	Haefer, D. M.	2/19/17	130	Cioti, G. E.	1/24/17	322	Schaff, H. E.	12/21/16	520	Hopkins, F.	1/21/17	861	Thomas, S. R.	2/20/17	Pens. (I.O.)	Webster, C. M.	2/16/17
46	Hunsaker, S. D.	1/28/17	130	Freeman, L. H.	2/9/17	339	Jetten, B. M.	2/15/17	538	Baumgart, P. R.	1/17/17	903	Smith, E. D.	6/16/15			



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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A Better Way to Work

**Lonnie R. Stephenson**
International President

A union's job is to look out for its members. Sometimes — especially in the early days of organized labor — that meant speaking uncomfortable truths to employers. Sometimes it requires more than words. It can take actions all the way up to a strike to make sure those words are respected.

But while it might happen, conflict is never this union's goal.

Employers and union workers can look out for their own best interests and, at the same time, look out for one another. The position of the IBEW is that the best long-term strategy for companies and unions is partnership built on common interests.

This is how it should work. And it isn't a dream.

For hundreds of thousands of our members, this is their reality. We have many hundreds of partnerships with employers in all of our branches. Some examples are highlighted in this issue.

A solar contractor in Massachusetts that went from an open shop to an IBEW signatory has watched its profits grow, customer satisfaction improve and market share with it.

AT&T and the IBEW signed a nationwide five-year contract that positions the company to succeed in a rapidly changing and highly competitive industry while giving workers the pay and security they need to help.

There are many, many more examples. A Chinese company partnered with the IBEW to bring railcar manufacturing back to Chicago for the first time in decades. And the IBEW/NECA Family Medical Care Plan is bringing better and less expensive health insurance to companies in Texas and around the U.S.

In December, a bipartisan coalition, including the IBEW and Exelon, successfully lobbied for a law that saves Illinois' two nuclear power plants, and creates hundreds of new jobs. The close relationship we've built with Exelon was crucial to the success of that bill.

None of this is new of course. It has been the heart of the Code of Excellence program we founded nearly a decade ago. We say our members are the best trained, most productive in the world and we prove it every day. Employers should want to work with us.

I am proud when I see an employer lauding the benefits of signing up with the IBEW, but I'm not surprised. Union means many things: brotherhood, security and pride as well as professionalism, quality workmanship, training, and — for companies wise enough to reach for it — partnership. ■

My Commitment to You

The greatest honor of my life has been to serve the members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. From my days as a wireman back in Mansfield, Ohio, to serving as Fourth District vice president, I have made the mission of this union my calling. And I have devoted everything I have to making it a better place and to helping it grow and build power.

That is why I am truly humbled to take on the new challenge of serving as your International secretary-treasurer.

Brother Sam Chilia leaves behind a legacy of success and commitment that is hard to match. The tools he has passed on to me have helped the IBEW meet the pressing challenges of our time — from economic recession and a hostile legislative landscape for organized labor to spiking health care costs and the across-the-board squeeze felt by all retirement funds — and emerge from them stronger than before.

Thanks to his efforts, our benefit funds are healthy and growing and serve as a model for the entire labor movement.

I am committed to continuing that legacy.

Over the years I've seen how the IBEW can change the lives of working families for the better. Every new contractor or member I have helped sign up over the years re-emphasizes to me just how important the work we do is.

One of the things I have learned is that being a leader of this union means being part of something much bigger than any of us as individuals.

Because of this union, more than 700,000 workers across the United States and Canada have a voice in their workplace, the right to safety on the job and decent wages and benefits. Most of all, they enjoy the respect and dignity that comes with carrying an IBEW card.

We in the IBEW play such an important role in the lives of our two great nations. A stronger IBEW means a growing middle class and a stronger democracy.

I look forward to serving you in the years to come as we work to ensure a healthy future for all electrical workers. ■

**Kenneth W. Cooper**
International Secretary-Treasurer**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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

Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Skills and Professionalism

As a newer member to the labor union I see how this organization matters. By going through an apprenticeship and becoming a journeyman I now have proof of my trade skills. The union has brought a level of professionalism that allows us to bargain for better wages and benefits. We need to show and explain this to young individuals who will be entering the workforce. We need to show how an apprenticeship is as good as other types of secondary education options.

Ron McGill, Local 953 member
Eau Claire, Wis.



John Weber, right, presents Ron McGill his Xcel Energy hydro maintenance technician journeyman certificate.

Nuclear Energy: Safe, Effective, Modern

In your April Letters to the Editor section, a brother brought up issues ("How 'Clean' is Nuclear?") concerning nuclear power plants. We Burnsville, Minn., Local 949, members at Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant would like to respectfully present another side.

Brother Cicerale said, "Many union brothers and sisters have worked at nuclear plants and know it's all timed how long anyone can even work around one." It is true that there are locations in a nuclear plant which are off limits or have stay-time limitations, however, the same holds true for other types of power plants. Generating power for our electrical grid requires dangerous levels of energy in certain parts of generating stations, even in a solar or wind turbine plant. We assure you that our plant radiation protection specialists and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are vigilant and effective in keeping workers' radiation exposure levels below the conservative legal limits.

"Solar and wind products don't leave behind waste that can't be recycled or contained." France has recycled its nuclear fuel for years, and the U.S. has the capability to do so as well, and ought to. As far as containing the waste, nuclear plants do an admirable job; it is legally required. Just because radiation is detectable by sensitive instruments does not indicate harmful levels. That banana somebody ate today has tiny levels of radioactive potassium which we can detect, yet we still eat them.

"You can't swim in the waters anywhere near a nuclear plant." This is not true. We fish and swim in the Mississippi near our nuclear plant, with no worries.

"But why do we hang on to these old technology jobs?" The nuclear power industry has a promising future, with next-generation plants under development that are simpler and safer. Instead of waste, the spent fuel at our nuclear plants could be a tremendous asset which can meet our electrical needs for generations, and reduce the dangerous longevity of the spent fuel to less than 200 years. These "old technology" jobs are our hope for the future of clean, constant, baseload energy.

"To ignore the harm that nuclear plants cause will more than likely leave us without drinking water and food." The fear of the unknown is a powerful force. But we can speak to the remarkable safety record our 99 operating U.S. nuclear plants have achieved.

Bill Gehn, Robert Gassis, and the members of Local 949, Unit 73
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Welch, Minn.



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

IBEW Goes Nuclear

About the story, "Nuclear Physics Gets a Boost from the IBEW," [in the May Electrical Worker and posted at ibew.org], America works best when you say union yes! It proves that IBEW electricians are the best trained and most productive in the world. We are so proud of our sisters and brothers who worked on this project.

Hale Landes, Local 134 member
Naperville, Ill.

WHO WE ARE

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

From 'Broken' to Independent and Honored

Five years ago, Charleston, W.Va., Local 466 member Tara Turley was, in her own words, broken. Laid off. Limited skills. A single mom.

"I was left with nothing," Turley said about being laid off from her telemarketing management job after 13 years at the only company she had ever worked for. "When I was let go, I felt something I never had before: helpless. I was a failure."

March 13, Turley was something else: Union member. Fifth-year inside wireman apprentice on her way to holding a journeyman ticket no one could ever take away that would mean a lifetime of work on her terms. She was also a college graduate and, on that day, the American Council on Education's 2016 student of the year, speaking from the podium to more than 350 people about the journey in between.

"Today I am not only mended, but humbled and honored to accept this award," Turley said. (Watch Turley's speech at bit.ly/taraturleyACE)

ACE runs a program that helps people get college credit for on-the-job training, including in the military and apprenticeships. The student of the year award is given to an individual who has benefited from the use of ACE credits who "demonstrates outstanding achievements in their community or workplace while successfully balancing demands such as family, career and education."

"Today I am not only mended, but humbled and honored to accept this award."

Mary Beth Larkin has been involved with the committee that chooses the winner of the award for years, and every year she reads through each of the 50 to 60 applications for the \$1,000 scholarship. This year was different.

"This is the first time it was unanimous," Larkin said. "For her persistence in what she is doing, the difficulty she was in and her determination to get out from under it. There is love of her work, love of learning and there is just an obvious devotion to her community that came through. She was everyone's No. 1."

Turley went to work as a telemarketer right out of high school and never looked back. She rose through the ranks, first to trainer, then sales consultant, then management. Then, suddenly, she was redundant. Eight months after her promotion, the company was sold, and she was



Tara Turley, right, receives her plaque from ACE Board Chair Judy C. Miner, chancellor of Foothill-De Anza Community College District. Photo Credit Tim Trumble for ACE

shown the door.

"I had nothing to fall back on. I started there at 18. I thought I had a career already. I thought I would retire there," she said.

Instead she had two girls to take care of and no way to do it.

"I was looking at maybe getting work at McDonalds," she said. "Maybe."

But Turley's father had opened a small electrical contracting shop and Turley asked him if she could learn how to do that.

"I have always been hands-on, doing projects around the house since I was a girl," she said. "And I love hard work."

Turley went to a local vocational school, took a 44-week electrical technology course and started working with her father, seven days a week. In June 2013, after a year working with her father, she applied for the inside apprenticeship and was accepted. Her father, she says, shuttered the shop as soon as she entered.

"He didn't want to be doing it anymore, but he took work just to keep me working," she said.

Using the ACE program, after two years, Turley had enough credits to get her halfway to the associate in applied science degree from BridgeValley Community and Technical College she earned in 2016.

To win the student of the year award, it is not enough that someone simply use ACE credits and do well in school, though. Winners are selected for how they use the skills and education they are earning in service to their community.

Turley got her chance in June 2016, when historic flooding shattered parts of West Virginia, especially the small town of

Clendenin. Hundreds of homes were washed away, 26 people died and power was out for tens of thousands.

Turley and her brothers and sisters from Local 466 returned to Clendenin for weeks, rebuilding houses and reconnecting lives.

"It was awful there. Our local went in with material to help these people start over," she said. Turley says she was "only" there for two weeks and wanted it said that other members of Local 466 were there for much longer.

"There were people there for weeks and weeks," she said. "Their dedication to workmanship and commitment to community are unmatched, and I feel so grateful to be part of such a wonderful organization."

Turley's application required a recommendation, and hers came from Tom Samples, director of the West Virginia Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee.

"She's a single mom with two kids, plus a college student, plus working on construction sites and, somehow, she also found a way to keep top grades and perfect attendance with both her employer and the apprenticeship," Samples said. "She is the best of what this Brotherhood can be and she deserves every good thing that she receives. She has worked for all of it."

From the podium, Turley thanked her parents, ACE and then she thanked the IBEW.

"The IBEW has armed me with invaluable skills and knowledge that have allowed me to not only attain a degree, but also give back in ways I never thought I could," she said. ■



IBEW members working for Beaumont Solar built the 1.3 megawatt rooftop solar system on the union Joseph Abboud suit factory in New Bedford, Mass.

Possibly the IBEW's Happiest Contractor Shines in Mass.

'However you measure it — callbacks, meeting schedules or customer satisfaction — the feedback is phenomenal.'

Hiring the best trained, most productive electricians in the business — IBEW members — leads to successful contractors and happy customers.

We've been saying it for years. Phil Cavallo, president and CEO of Beaumont Solar in New Bedford, Mass., is saying it now too. Maybe, even louder.

A decade ago, Cavallo bought a nearly century-old sign company. His timing was not great, as the economy was heading into recession. The meat and potatoes of the sign business are new businesses opening. Old Dunkin' Donuts and banks that are already there don't need new signs very often. Businesses that are losing customers don't demand new billboards.

"Nothing was opening and no one needed signs. I started asking what can we do with the equipment we own and skills we already have," said Cavallo, a serial entrepreneur who is also a trained electrical engineer. "We mount signs on rooftops, put up freestanding billboards and run power to them. We can do solar."

Cavallo grew that sign company's solar shop into one of New England's largest. In 2016, the Boston Business Journal identified it as the 10th largest clean energy company in the state. It was the only solar developer to make the list.

But a year ago, he had hit a wall. If he wanted to grow, and he does, badly, he needed a change.

The open shop model may have gotten him thereabouts, but it was holding him back.

In May 2016 he signed up with

Brockton, Mass., Local 223 and hasn't looked back.

"I made a bet that we could get more done with fewer heads and fewer headaches," Cavallo said. "Through the different halls, we can staff and manage installations totaling 20 megawatts every quarter instead of two or three. We are scalable, and we weren't before."

And Beaumont didn't just sign up quietly. Cavallo trumpeted his relationship with the IBEW, sending out a press release and putting the relationship in his advertising, his pitches to customers.

By signing with the IBEW, he wrote, Beaumont Solar could now "provide guaranteed construction and workmanship with predictable costs... there is never any question about accountability. With this partnership, it enables Beaumont to be productive and scalable on each and every project."

Reading through the release the first time, Local 223 Business Manager David Fenton said he wasn't exactly surprised. It was just that, seeing it all on paper, with a contractor's name at the top, trumpeting the good news that they were no longer an open shop for all to see and hear?

"Just because it's true doesn't mean people always say it," he said. "So, surprised? No. People have been saying bad things about unions for so long it just gives you a smile a mile wide when people get it and then just say what is so."

And then, it worked. Cavallo gave the nonunion electricians in the shop the chance to sign up with the IBEW. Some did. Some didn't.

Then he put out the word, work

rolled in and so did the plaudits.

"We knew what we were doing as an open shop, but the quality of the work that is being done by our company has reached a new level in the last nine months. I am delighted with the work," he said. "However you measure it — callbacks, meeting schedules or customer satisfaction — the feedback is phenomenal."

They've even brought in new customers eager to hire a union shop. The Joseph Abboud suit factory in New Bedford is not only the largest tailored clothing shop in the U.S., its 800 employees are all members of UNITE HERE. When the company wanted to install solar panels on the south-facing, saw-toothed roof of its 1909 factory, it only had to look up the street to find Beaumont.

"They were so happy that a union contractor could do the work," Fenton said. "A union solar contractor from New Bedford did the solar roof on a union textile factory in New Bedford. That's perfect."

The solar business is booming for Local 223. Beaumont may be one of the most enthusiastic solar contractors using members from the Brockton hall, but it isn't alone, or even the biggest. Beaumont has more than 45 members working long term. Mass. Electric Construction has 50 members now and will nearly double its demand this year, Fenton said. Fishbach Electric has 35 and Aldon Electric is running between 25 and 30 members.

"Half of our total man-hours in 2016 were in solar projects," he said. "Cavallo wants to be the biggest solar contractor in the Northeast. We told him what we tell all our contractors: 'Go on. We'll go with you all the way.'"

For Fenton, Beaumont's high-profile embrace is more than just a top-down organizing win. It's a message to open shop contractors.

"Southeastern Massachusetts is watching this," Fenton said. "If a solar contractor can make money with us, so can they." ■

Organ Donor Rejected, a Brother's Search Starts Anew



Chicago Local 9 apprentice Rob Vargas, left, with Wilmington, Del., Local 313 member Dave Amalfitano, center. An unforeseen medical condition will prevent Rob's life-saving donation. Amalfitano, here with his three kids, now starts his search from scratch.

In last month's Electrical Worker, we shared the news of Wilmington, Del., Local 313 wireman Dave Amalfitano, who found a kidney donor in Chicago Local 9 apprentice Rob Vargas after the 28-year-old read an Electrical Worker story last August.

On April 19, the two IBEW brothers, who'd been talking nearly every day for months, finally met for the first time in Baltimore. The emotional meeting came as Vargas and his family flew in to complete the final medical evaluations before the hospital scheduled Amalfitano's life-saving surgery.

Unfortunately, during a preliminary scan, doctors found an anomaly in Vargas' kidneys that prevented him from making the donation.

"It's heartbreaking," said Amalfitano, 47, who needs a transplant to treat his life-threatening polycystic kidney disease. "We'd all gotten our hopes up that this was the end of a very long journey with this disease, and for it to be ripped away like this has been really tough to wrap my head around."

Amalfitano's three kids, Anna, 15, and twin boys Matthew and Leo, 13, were excited for their dad, who has had many ups and downs during his two-year pursuit of a suitable donor.

"Now I'll go back on the list," said Amalfitano, referring to the national kidney donor list, which has more than 90,000 people on it; and where some recipients wait as many as 10 years for a transplant. Each year, nearly 5,000 patients die waiting for a matching donor.

"Rob was ready to make a huge sacrifice to help buy me more time with my kids and to get me off this dialysis machine and back to work," Amalfitano said. "Even now that we've gotten this news, he's still my brother, and I'm so grateful to him."

Vargas, too, was devastated by the news that he wouldn't be able to fulfill his promise to his new friend. It wasn't until he arrived in Baltimore that he learned his kidneys never fully separated in the womb, leaving him a single horseshoe-shaped kidney that poses no health risks, but can't be split for donation. Roughly one in 600 individuals born in America have the condition.

"I couldn't believe it," he said. "I was so ready to do this for Dave, to help him have a better life with his kids, and this is just such a letdown."

Local 313 plans to put the sign back up on their hall's roadside marquee in Wilmington, which drew local media attention last summer, but Amalfitano knows the odds are stacked against finding a perfect match.

"I had dozens and dozens of people go through the tests, and none were a match except Rob," he said. "So now we start again."

Anyone with the blood types O+ or O- who would like to see if they might be a match can call Amalfitano at (302) 757-3238 to be connected with his donation coordinator at the University of Maryland. Those who would like to help but don't match Amalfitano's blood type can donate to help him overcome deep financial hurdles at www.gofundme.com/2cepedw.

"It took a lot of people for me to find Rob, and it will take a lot more people to find another match," Amalfitano said. "But I'm not giving up. I can't." ■

"It's heartbreaking ... But I'm not giving up. I can't."

—Dave Amalfitano