

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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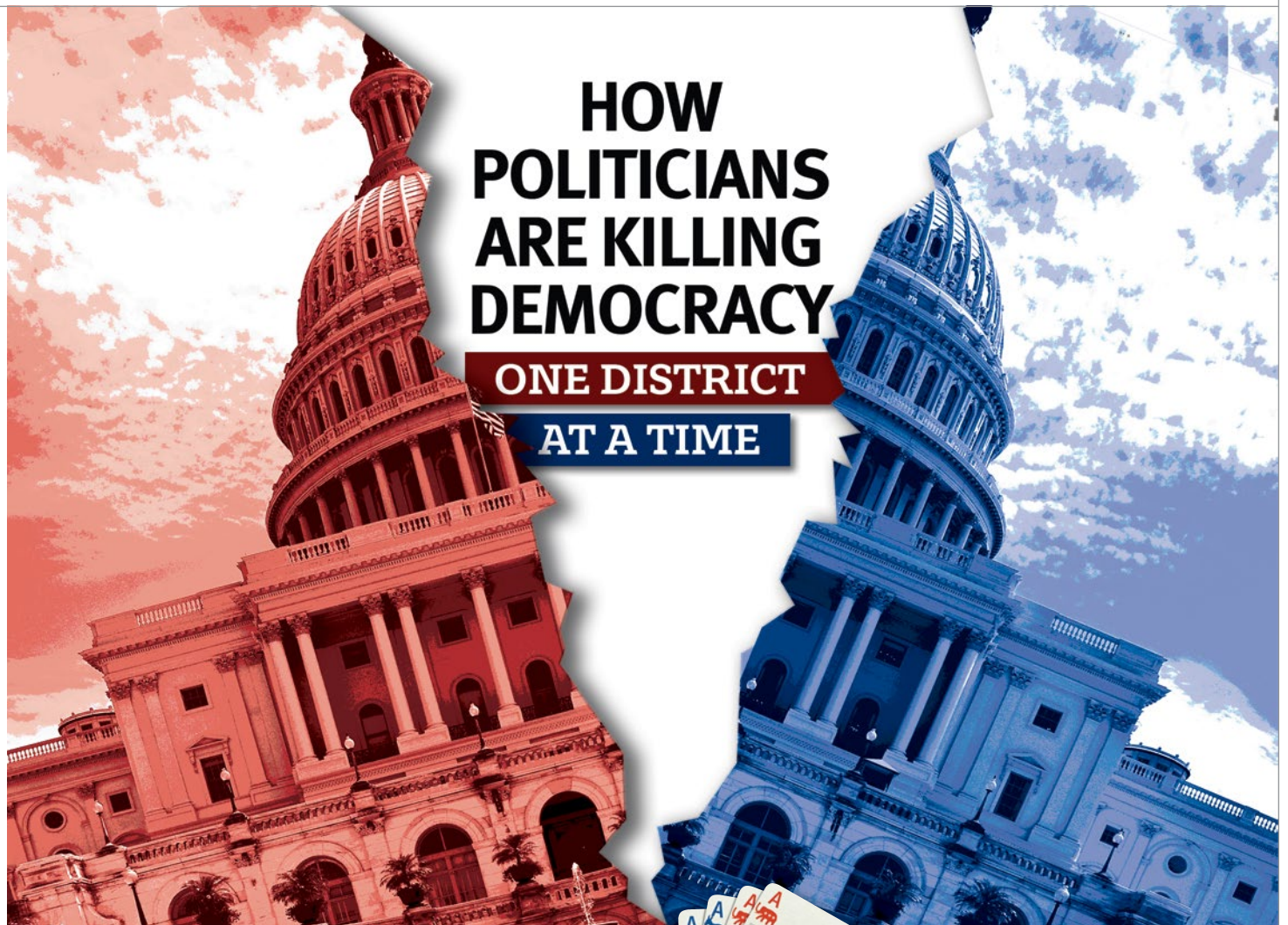
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THE IBEW's  
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CONTEST**

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## HOW POLITICIANS ARE KILLING DEMOCRACY ONE DISTRICT AT A TIME



**T**he next two national elections could decide the future of organized labor in America.

Months after the 2020 election, the results of the national census will be released and across the country electoral maps will be redrawn: after the voters pick their representatives, the representatives will pick their voters.

Eight years ago, the last time districts were set, President Barack Obama was at the peak of his unpopularity. Much of the country was still locked in a deep recession, the bank bailout fresh in voters' minds. Republicans rode a wave of Tea Party anger to victory at a nearly unprecedented level. Democrats lost about a thousand state legislative seats in red and blue states.

## STACKING THE DECK

In 21 states, Republicans won trifectas — control of both houses of the state Legislature and the Governor's mansion — more than twice what they had before the election. Democrats lost similar advantages in five states, dropping them from 16 to 11.

The timing for Democrats could not have been worse. In 2011, the census results were released, and those new Republican majorities took those lopsided results and redrew the maps to make them nearly permanent — a process called gerrymandering.

Republicans cracked Democratic strongholds into tiny slivers and spread them across multiple Republican districts. In other parts of their states, they packed Democratic voters as tight as a New York subway car.

"The implications of what happened were enormous," said Mark Gersh, former president of the

National Committee for an Effective Congress and a redistricting expert who has been drawing maps for Democrats for more than three decades. "The gerrymandering is so intense, so outrageous, that even when Democrats win the majority of votes — as we did in 2016 — we don't come close to winning a majority in the House or the Senate and we are completely shut out of power in more than half the states."

Democrats did the same thing in the few states where they remained completely in charge, including, notoriously, Maryland, where Democrats left a sole Republican congressional seat and tiled the state with tortured and twisting districts.

The parties took aim at one another, but it was working families who were caught in the crossfire, particularly union members.

Without ever running on it, in many states with proud union histories and broad support including Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Missouri, Republican legislatures passed right-to-work laws.

KILLING DEMOCRACY continued on page 4



## FROM THE OFFICERS

# Remembering Dr. King's Labor Legacy



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

Last month, I had the privilege to be in Memphis, Tenn., to mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Outside of the labor movement, many people forget why Dr. King was there in the first place: to support striking sanitation workers who were fed up with meager pay, unsafe working conditions and sick and tired of being treated like animals by the city.

You see, Dr. King was a great leader for racial equality, but he understood that civil rights were intertwined with workers' rights. He knew that racial justice and economic fairness went hand-in-hand.

And he saw the labor movement as a critical tool in helping to achieve both.

"The labor movement," he once wrote, "was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress." He'd seen labor's success in standing up to all-powerful corporations, using collective power to achieve the seemingly impossible. And he envisioned the same collective action lifting people of color out of despair and into hope.

Fifty years later, his lessons are backed up by the facts.

While we still have a ways to go to achieve true equality, within the labor movement, unions help to erase much of the racial and gender pay gaps you see in other workplaces. Union membership boosts the wages of black workers by nearly 17 percent and increases their chances of having health insurance and retirement plans by even more. Unions also cut the pay gap between men and women by more than 70 percent.

Those are numbers to be proud of.

I'm also proud that right there in Memphis, we're proving that organizing in the South isn't some forgotten relic of the past.

Last year, more than 700 new IBEW brothers and sisters joined our ranks at the Electrolux plant in Memphis, just a few miles from where the striking sanitation workers made their stand 50 years ago. It was a huge victory for those folks who risked a lot to stand up for themselves and for one another.

I think Dr. King would be proud of that legacy. He'd have been proud that the labor movement — which wasn't always the most inclusive bunch — is doing its part to help erase the economic barriers that are still far too prevalent in the U.S., organizing people of every race and gender into its ranks, providing them with the tools for a better life and more dignity at work.

This isn't to say we don't have a lot of work left to do. But the more we organize, the more we extend the opportunities we've been so fortunate to have through this Brotherhood to everyone in search of a voice at work, the better, more equitable society we'll help to create.

That's the mission of the IBEW, and it's one I'm honored to lead. ■

## A Rigged System

Back when I was a business manager, I put a lot of time into thinking about how negotiations were set up. Where was the meeting held? Did we get the easy issues out of the way before moving to the sticking points? If there was an arbitrator, did we have a say in picking them? How many people would each side have in the room?

These aren't minor details, especially when the stakes are high. Because if only one side sets the rules of the negotiation, the other sides have lost before the first meeting.

That's what went through my head as I read this month's cover story about how elected officials across the U.S. are rigging the rules of elections to benefit themselves and not the voters they're supposed to represent. Working people have been hammered because the rules weren't written for us. That has to change.

Over the years, no matter how right organized labor has been about economic, social and industrial policy, the political process has been tilted against working people and we have paid a significant price.

It is a devastating thing to realize, but there is no other conclusion we can draw: the democracy we have right now is not the one we inherited from our parents and grandparents.

When politicians choose their voters instead of the other way around — as they do in most states — there is something at stake greater than which party is putting it over on the other. There is more at stake than our trade, our paychecks and even our safety on the job.

I'm talking about our freedom, our ability to have a say in the country we live in. The system, as it exists today, cuts us out of the conversation. Politicians who set themselves up in non-competitive districts don't have to listen to anyone whose opinion might be different from their own. And that's bad for every citizen, not just union members.

The part that pains me the most is that we have no one to blame but ourselves. In too many places, we failed to show up and make our voices heard, so now our voices are harder to hear.

This November, there can be no excuses. We know what is at stake. Read through that article again if you aren't 100 percent clear, and then every one of us needs to get to the polls and elect only candidates who commit to fair redistricting reform that puts power back where it belongs — with the people. ■



**Kenneth W. Cooper**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thank a Union Vet

Thanks to all our veterans, and a special thanks to all our union vets.

I was too young to go to Korea, too old for Vietnam, but over my years with the IBEW, I worked alongside a lot of veterans, and they gave so much to their country and to this union.

A young person can go far with the IBEW. I'm proof of that. I was lucky enough to serve as a foreman and then general foreman for a lot of my career, but I always tried to give back. I spent 20 years on the apprenticeship committee, 10 years on the executive board, five years as treasurer and another six as recording secretary.

I was proud to receive my 65-year pin this year. The IBEW has been good to me.

*Lonnie Kreger, Local 460 retiree (amalgamated into Amarillo Local 602)  
Midland, Texas*

**We Want to Hear From You:** Send your letters to [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org) or Letters to the Editor, The Electrical Worker, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.



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

### Wise Up in Kentucky

[Responding to 'In Kentucky, IBEW Members Thwart Attack on State's Unemployment Benefits,' page 8 of this issue]:

When Republicans took control of the state's government, right-to-work was implemented, prevailing wage repealed, and then they tried to gut unemployment benefits. What will it take for union members to stop voting those in who continue to destroy the working class? Maybe when everything is gone they may be able to put two and two together!

*Karen Reichert, Local 129 member  
Lorain, Ohio*

### Books in Boston

[Responding to April's 'Who We Are: Boston Local Delivers Books, Smiles to Aspiring Electricians']:

I'm a 1972 graduate of the Lynn Vocational Tech electrical program and a 1976 graduate of Local 103's apprenticeship. I retired from Local 332, and I'm a 3rd generation member. IBEW Local 103 is helping keep America strong. Keep it up.

*Robert Seaberg, Local 332 retiree  
San Jose, Calif.*

### Unions Give Back

Thank you IBEW for helping this animal rescue [see: 'Indiana RENEW Members Help Local Animal Rescue' from April's Electrical Worker]. My husband is a retired member of Local 22 in Omaha, Neb., and we are proud of the volunteer work of all the union trades. He did volunteer work in Omaha for Creighton University and the Ronald McDonald House. You don't see nonunion workers getting together and doing volunteer work like our union members do. You all are the best!

*Cheri Pilant, Local 22 spouse  
Omaha, Neb.*

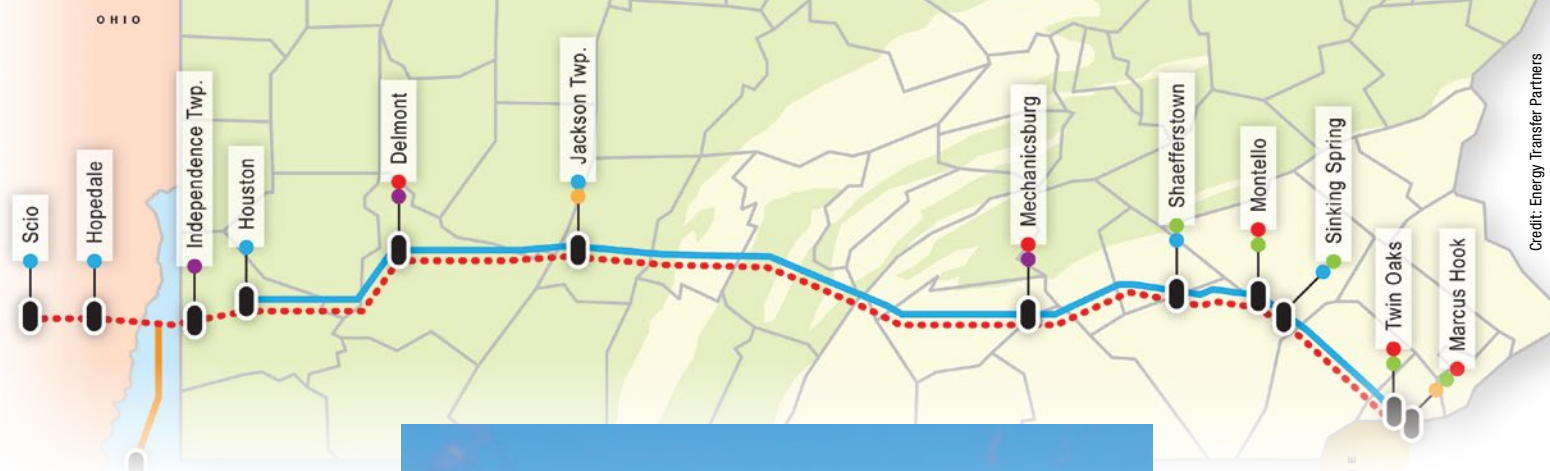
### Gratitude from Puerto Rico

Thank you for bringing light to our home after 6 months without it after Hurricane Maria. My Sector Bachiche León in Caguas, Puerto Rico has light thanks to the good people of the IBEW. May God bless you and your family members. We will never forget them.

*Olinda León  
Caguas, Puerto Rico*



# Job-Rich Pennsylvania Pipeline Moves Closer to Completion



A massive pipeline project spanning the southern half of Pennsylvania has helped bring steady jobs for hundreds of IBEW members across the state, but after four long years, the first phase is finally nearing completion with the second close behind.

“Having highly trained electricians such as ours working on this major, complex infrastructure project is the best way to ensure a quality outcome and a safely built project,” said International President Lonnie Stephenson. “As this pipeline project wraps up, we’re proud to have been a part of making it a reality.”

The Sunoco Logistics Mariner East 2 project consists of two 350-mile long pipelines designed to move natural gas liquids — such as ethane, propane, and butane — drawn from the Marcellus and Utica oil shale fields of Ohio. It transports them across West Virginia’s northern panhandle and 17 southern Pennsylvania counties to the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex on the Delaware River in suburban Philadelphia.

The oil shale was formed over millions of years, starting as deposits of silt and organic debris at the bottoms of pre-historic lakes and other large bodies of water. Over time, heat and pressure transformed the deposits into oil shale in a process similar to how crude oil is formed.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the Marcellus Shale contains about 3.4 billion barrels of recoverable natural gas liquids; the Utica Shale, 208 million barrels. (There are 42 gallons in one barrel.)

IBEW’s relationship with the Mariner East 2 project began about four years ago. The international union’s Business Development Department offered Energy Transfer Partners — the owners of Sunoco Logistics — to go before Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection, as well as local governments along the pipeline’s proposed route and the public at large, to explain how using a safe, highly trained workforce would result in a safe, quality project and have a positive economic impact thanks to the local jobs it would create.

“We committed to Energy Transfer Partners to use our trained workers to help deliver their project on-time,” said Ed Hill Jr., Third District International representative for business development,



IBEW members have helped convert the Marcus Hook industrial complex from an oil refinery to a processing facility for natural gas liquids.

Credit: Creative Commons/Flickr agreement user c\_conn

“to advocate for the project, and to assist them in sourcing qualified contractors to bid the project’s electrical portions in exchange for the work.

“Backed by our 350,000 construction members and our more than 14,000 electrical construction partners,” Hill said, “our goal was to make sure that Energy Transfer Partners understood the value that union electricians bring to construction projects.”

The union also offered to meet with Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection to help secure contractors who typically bid on the types of electrical work required and to help generate broad support for the estimated \$2.5 billion project.

“My involvement was mainly going to public meetings and DEP meetings,” said Reading, Pa., Local 743 Business Manager Ryan Helms. “Myself and other building trades and IBEW members went to speak on behalf of the project.”

“We attended a lot of the hearings,” said Harrisburg, Pa., Local 143 Business Manager Robert Bair. “We spoke about the amount of jobs this type of project could bring to Pennsylvania.”

The new pipes are designed to supplement and mostly parallel the 80-year-old Mariner East 1 pipeline, a former gasoline conduit that has been reconfigured to carry natural gas liquids.

A Sunoco-funded report by Philadelphia’s Econsult Solutions said that the Mariner East 2 project has supported close to 10,000 construction jobs across several trades, and it has helped to establish more than 500 permanent jobs.

“We’ve been able to build kind of a bridge, where labor and business are

working together on another level instead of just us as labor working with just our contractors that we commonly work with,” Helms said. “We wanted to step outside of the normal boundaries, and now we are working with the end-user — the customer — to help them bring a project in.”

A dispute in January between the DEP and Sunoco regarding permit violations put the project on hold for a month, but the company still estimates that the first Mariner East 2 pipeline will be in service by July, the second one by next April.

“Energy development in Pennsylvania gives us an economic advantage over other regions,” Chester, Pa., Local 654 Business Manager Paul Mullen said. “And when trades do the work, that’s good news for our workers and great news for our communities, because having skilled tradesmen on the job enhances safety and efficiency in building and maintenance.”

“Pennsylvania has a unique opportunity, with multiple proposed pipeline projects, to bring huge economic benefits to the region,” said Bair. “At the same time, we’re ensuring direct access to our homegrown energy resources.”

Natural gas liquids can be turned into plastics, burned for heating and cooking, or blended with other petroleum products to become vehicle fuel. Energy Transfer Partners said that most of the pipeline-transported material processed at the Marcus Hook refinery gets loaded on ships bound for manufacturing facilities in Europe.

A former oil refinery, Marcus Hook has in recent years become a source of work — and of pride — for IBEW members.

The 1902-built facility once produced fuel for aircraft flown by the United

▲ When complete, the Mariner East 2 pipeline will span 350 miles, from eastern Ohio to the Marcus Hook facility in suburban Philadelphia.

States during World War II. Through the second half of the 20th century, it served as a major gasoline producer, eventually becoming an exclusive petroleum products provider for NASCAR.

With crude oil prices still soaring in 2011, as the U.S. economy struggled to recover following the Great Recession, Sunoco was forced to close Marcus Hook and lay off hundreds of workers. A year later, though, with interest in shale field drilling taking off, Energy Transfer Partners reopened the refinery, eventually hiring more than 5,000 workers to repurpose the industrial complex as a site for the eventual distribution, warehousing, and processing of billions of gallons of natural gas liquids.

Mullen estimates that the Marcus Hook project, which lies within Local 654’s jurisdiction, has generated hundreds of electrician jobs for his local alone, as well as providing a much-needed economic boost for the entire area.

“It’s been a godsend,” Mullen told West Chester, Pa.’s, Daily Local News. “Everybody’s working and earning a good living. This is the best thing we’ve had around here for the last 27 years.”

The range of electrical work has included pre-outage tasks such as preparing and terminating cables plus installing and grounding cables and other equipment. Other work has included metering and upgrading Marcus Hook to take advantage of a more modern distributed control system.

“At the peak of this job, there were probably 750 electricians down here, total,” said Local 654 President William Adams. “We had manpower come from surrounding locals, and we probably had at least 350 members from our own local, too.”

Energy Transfer Partners says that the Mariner East and Marcus Hook projects generate more than \$100 million a year for Pennsylvania’s economy.

“When trades like IBEW do the work, that’s good news for our members and great news for our communities,” Mullen said, “because having skilled tradesmen on the job enhances safety and efficiency in building and maintenance.” ■

## 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

Get all the news for and about IBEW members, including the online version of the Electrical Worker, at [IBEW.org](http://IBEW.org).

### YouTube

Dozens of IBEW members elected to public office want you to join them. Thinking about running? Your union brothers and sisters have your back, from the U.S. Congress to your local school board. See more at [youtube.com/TheElectricalWorker](http://youtube.com/TheElectricalWorker).

### Vimeo

It’s Spring, and that means baseball is back. Check out the work IBEW members do every day keeping the lights on at one of baseball’s greatest cathedrals — Boston’s Fenway Park. [Vimeo.com/IBEW](http://Vimeo.com/IBEW).



### HourPower

The National Training Institute’s new learning management system is allowing outside instructors to reach students in new and exciting ways. Watch now on [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com).



### ElectricTV

Big projects represent only a small portion of the work NECA and the IBEW do. See how the Parkersburg, W. Va., Powering America team is using small projects to stimulate the area’s economic recovery. [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net).





# HOW POLITICIANS ARE KILLING DEMOCRACY

## ONE DISTRICT AT A TIME

▶ **Continued from page 1**

Prevailing wage laws no longer exist in 21 states.

Worker safety rules were rolled back right along with corporate taxes. Unemployment insurance became harder to get in many states and worth less if you did.

“What is at stake? Everything that matters to our members. Organized labor can’t survive another 10 years like the last 10,” said Political Director Austin Keyser. “These next two elections — 2018 and 2020 — could well be the most important elections of our lives.”

### Politicians Choosing Their Voters

The U.S. Constitution is clear: every member of the House has to represent a district with roughly the same number of people. That number comes from the once-a-decade census.

But the constitution does not say how those districts should be drawn beyond its requirements for nearly identical populations. In most states, legislatures draw congressional and state legislative boundaries and governors have to sign off on them.

That is what makes the 2018 and 2020 elections special. Those elections determine who will draw those maps.

“It’s not just the foxes guarding the henhouse, it is foxes designing every hen house,” Keyser said.

Politicians have always drawn maps that favor their party. Gerrymandering — the term for tortured districts with boundaries that defy all sense but partisan advantage — was named after Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry in 1812 while the U.S. was fighting off a British invasion.

But like so much else, computers have taken an age-old illness and turned it into a society-wide plague.

The major difference is high-resolution mapping software that uses highly precise voting and demographic information. With these tools politicians can craft districts that nearly guarantee the opposing party will waste thousands of votes

either on a losing candidate or padding out a landslide win.

“I’ve been drawing maps for 30 or 40 years, but back then we did it with a calculator and paper maps. Whenever a politician wanted a change made to the new boundaries of his district — and I can’t tell you how many times they complained about certain parts of the map — you can imagine what that took,” Gersh said. “Now we can change it and show them an alternative in 5 minutes.”

All you need to win an election is 50 percent plus one vote; every vote beyond that would be better used in another district winning another race. It’s just as wasted as a vote for the losing candidate.

“That is what gerrymandering has always been: how do you make your supporters’ votes matter and how do you make your opponents’ voters worthless,” Keyser said. “They are stealing our democracy and writing rules for a game we can’t win.”

### A Case Study of Wasted Votes

The gerrymander of congressional districts often draws the most attention.

In 2012, Democratic candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives received 1.17 million more votes than Republicans, but the GOP ended up with a 57 percent majority in the House.

But it’s at the state level that the most damage is being done to working families’ interests.

In Indiana in 2016, for example, 88 percent of Democratic votes for state Senate either went to a losing candidate or padded an already substantial win.

In just one case — Senate District 33 — 42,544 voters chose the Democratic candidate; 5,170 went for the Independent. Since the Democrat only needed 23,858 votes to win (50 percent plus one vote), the additional 18,686 voters had no impact on the outcome. They were, in effect, wasted votes that could have gone to help Democrats in nearby districts.

In district after district, Democrats were either hopelessly outnumbered or

wildly overrepresented, so although they won 38 percent of the total vote, Republicans won 76 percent of the state Senate seats.

There was a similar story in Indiana’s lower house. Democrats won 39 percent of the votes but only 30 of 100 seats. Nearly 76 percent of Democratic state house votes were wasted, according to the formula.

In total, nearly 300,000 of the 340,000 votes — nearly 9 in 10 — cast for Democratic state Senate candidates either went to a losing candidate or padded out an already insurmountable lead.

And Indiana was far from alone.

- In Wisconsin, Republican state assembly candidates won less than half the vote in 2012 but won two-thirds of the seats. In 2014, even though the vote was still effectively tied, they extended their lead to 64 of 90 seats.
- Obama won Ohio in 2012 but there are three times as many elected Republicans in the state Legislature as Democrats.
- Democrats swept the statewide offices in Virginia, including both U.S. Senators and the governorship, but Republicans won a supermajority in the state House of Delegates.
- In Michigan, 54 percent of voters chose a Democrat for the statehouse in 2012, but the Republicans won 8 more seats. In the next election, 2014, Republicans again lost the total statewide vote but won more seats. They won 27 state seats; the Democrats won only 11.

“It is a perversion of democracy,” Gersh said. “I helped draw the Maryland map. Our thinking was ‘we are not going to disarm if you don’t,’ but it doesn’t work that way. If the public doesn’t have a chance to speak at the ballot box, how are we different from the kind of election where full ballot boxes are found floating in the ocean?”

### Making Life Harder, Less Safe & More Expensive

These unrepresentative majorities didn’t just redraw maps to hold power, they used that power to implement policies that systematically ate away at the wealth, safety and security of working families.

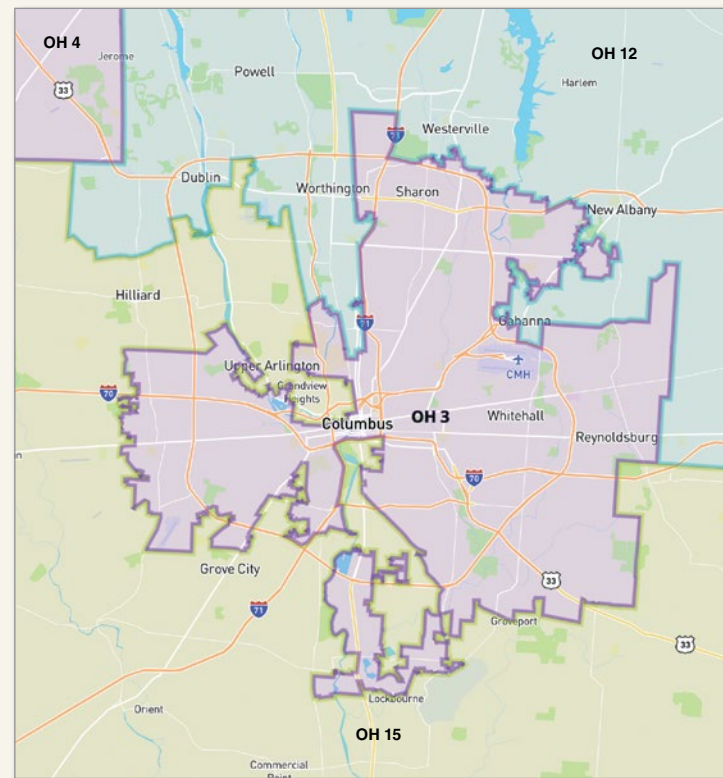
“In state after state we saw the same thing: attacks on unions, unleashing corporate dark money and voter suppression,” Keyser said. “It was like three prongs on a pitchfork aimed at killing democracy.”

Governors in Michigan, Wisconsin and Indiana signed right-to-work laws.

Wisconsin went even further, effectively killing public unions in the state.

Indiana not only went right-to-work, Republicans killed the state’s prevailing wage law and ended project labor agreements for state projects.

“They even introduced a bill to name electricians as seasonal workers, making us unable to collect unemployment insurance,” said Sixth District International Vice President David Ruhmkorff who was the business manager of Indianapolis Local



Politicians have two tools to pick their own voters: packing (concentrating the opposition party’s voters in districts they will win by huge majorities) and cracking (dividing up the remaining voters into districts that they can never hope to win). It is easiest to see in blue cities in red states.

481. “And I want to be clear: I don’t think the state changed politically. I think the opposite is true. I think people are becoming more thoughtful and progressive.”

It is, he said, the maps that would make you think otherwise.

“It was a small win in 2010. We had a small number of very tight races and I could name a handful of districts where the Democrat lost by a hundred or so votes and we had more than that in union members who stayed home,” Ruhmkorff said. “By just a few seats, they got control and they kept growing that control by redrawing the maps. If you draw districts that sneak up and curl around and snake all over, anything is possible.”

It wasn’t just anti-worker policies either. Since Ohio redistricted after 2010, 42 percent of all state legislative races have had only a single candidate. The conservative Legislature rejected expanding Medicare, passed tax cuts that disproportionately benefited the wealthy and passed a law that prevented localities from raising their minimum wage, even though 83 percent of Ohioans supported raising the minimum wage.

Ruhmkorff is hopeful that Democrats will take back at least one branch of state government to have a say in redrawing the maps, but he is not calling for the Democrats to follow the Republican playbook.

“I could draw a map that would hammer Republicans as hard as they hammered us, but I don’t see how that helps a single one of our members,” he said. “The only protection I have as a citizen and a

union member is the power of my voice and the strength of our democracy.”

Keyser agreed.

“The Republicans tend to be the worst offenders, but this is bipartisan corruption. Democrats who win by 90 percent don’t listen to unions either,” he said. “We don’t want one party or another in total control. We want every politician to be worried about their jobs. Then, and only then, do they find time to hear working families out.”

The solution, he said, is taking redistricting out of the hands of the politicians entirely.

There are two ways that could happen.

### Supreme Court Steps In

The Supreme Court has never thrown out a map for being too partisan. That may be about to change.

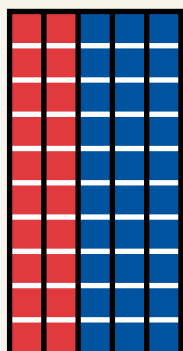
First, in March the U.S. Supreme Court heard two cases, one from Maryland and one from Wisconsin, challenging gerrymandered maps. The Supreme Court has heard cases about maps before, but the only time it has thrown out maps wholesale is when they discriminate against black and Hispanic voters or when districts have disparate numbers of voters.

More than a decade ago, in a losing case challenging politically skewed boundaries, Justice Anthony Kennedy signaled that there might be a way for the court to step in. In every election, only 50

### 3 Scenarios: How to Rig an Election

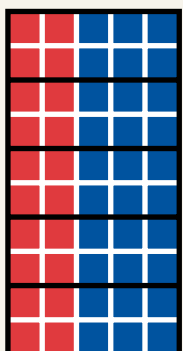
20 Red Votes 30 Blue Votes 5 Districts

1. Perfect representation



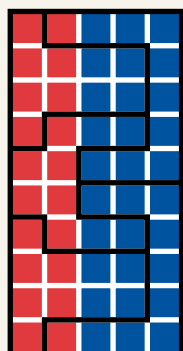
BLUE - 3  
RED - 2

2. Blue Wave



BLUE - 5  
RED - 0

3. Unfair Representation



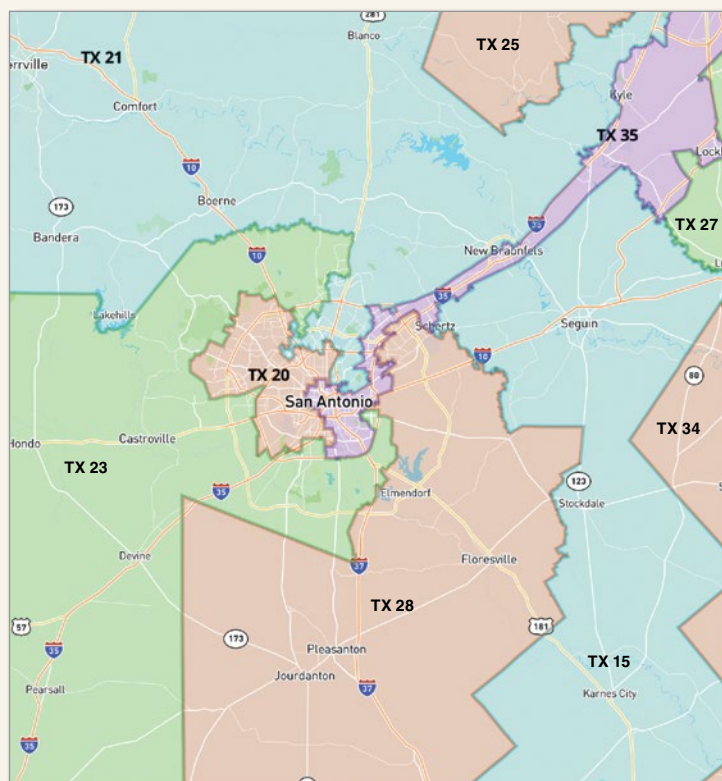
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RED - 3



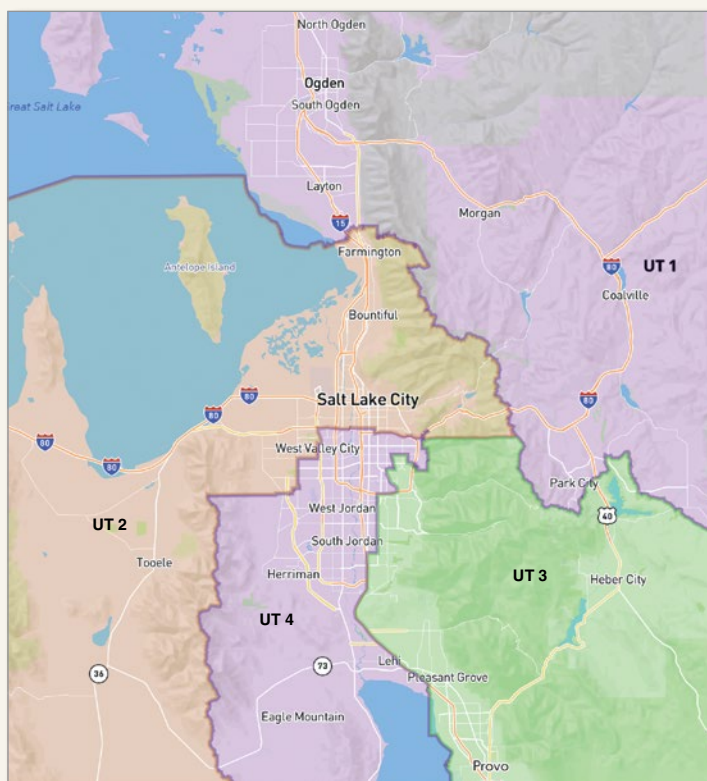


## Packing and Cracking

### The Tools for Designing Districts Voters Can't Win



In Columbus, Ohio's 3rd District (left), the Democrat won nearly 200,000 votes; the Republican just over 91,000. The rest of the area's Democrats are split into three districts. In Texas (above), Republican lawmakers joined a part of San Antonio up US-35 to Austin (too far away to see) and split the rest four ways.



Utah Republicans didn't even bother to pack. Democratic Congressional candidates won 32 percent of the statewide vote but not a single seat. How? All four Utah congressional districts include a sliver of Salt Lake City, dooming the state's Democrats to permanent minority status.

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percent plus one vote determines the outcome. Elections would always result in some votes wasted. How imperfect can an election be before it is, in effect, rigged? Kennedy asked for a test, an objective way for the courts to weigh the finger on the scale and, importantly, a guide that would let states know if their maps would survive a lawsuit.

In the Wisconsin case, and in an earlier, successful challenge in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court of that state's gerrymander, experts proposed a new way: the efficiency gap — a measure of the extent to which gerrymandering disadvantages one party over another.

The political science professors, and the lawyers in the Wisconsin and Pennsylvania cases, argued that an efficiency gap greater than 7 percent should be the equivalent, they said, of a gerrymander that is on its face unconstitutional.

That is what basically happened in Pennsylvania. The state Supreme Court threw out the radical 2011 map drawn by state Republicans, and when the state could not come up with a legal new map, the court imposed its own.

"Drawing a fair map isn't hard," Gersh said. "Any mathematician with a map can do it. And that is what the court did."

The result is a map where Pennsylvania Democrats are likely to win at least 5 more seats in the fall.

"Make no mistake though: this map isn't gerrymandered to punish the Republicans. Democrats will win because the people vote for them," Keyser said. "The

court delivered everything we want: fair districts. Because when organized labor plays in a game that isn't rigged, we win."

But the Pennsylvania decision only matters there. The U.S. Supreme Court could rule on the two cases before it as early as this June.

If the justices decide that the efficiency gap is the tool they asked for, and accept even 10 percent efficiency gaps as illegal, the electoral maps in at least 12 states would be unconstitutional.

But Gersh says this is a long shot.

Election 2018 is underway, and during March pleadings in the Maryland case, the justices seemed to signal a desire to avoid disrupting the election at this late stage.

"I expect them to either not rule or to postpone implementing their decision until after 2018," Gersh said.

However, if they throw out con-

gressional and state electoral maps, and that is a very big if, the results would be transformational.

### Saving Democracy, the Old-Fashioned Way

The second, more likely, way it will change, Gersh said, is winning statewide offices back from Republicans.

"We need to win states and make fair districting the law permanently," he said. "All we have ever needed is a fair playing field to succeed. We don't want the Democrats to cheat their way to unfair advantages and perpetuate the see-saw. We want a democracy that works for everyone."

Democrats are facing an historically unpopular president and a Congress that has thrown millions of people off health insurance, slashed worker protections

and debt-funded a trillion-dollar tax break for the very richest Americans.

Thirty-seven states have gubernatorial elections in 2018, and whoever wins will likely still be in office when the census results are released in 2021 and maps are redrawn.

Republican governors hold office in at least 10 states that are toss-ups or majority Democrat, including Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico and Vermont.

"The maps are so rigged in many states that taking back one or both state legislative houses is unlikely in 2018. The chances are only slightly better in 2020. A presidential election far enough off in the future it is difficult to predict," Gersh said. "But taking back at least these governorships is possible and necessary."

The next most important office to

focus on for organized labor, Keyser said, is judges, especially state Supreme Courts in places where they are elected offices.

"That made all the difference in Pennsylvania. We got a fair hearing because there were good justices on the bench when we got there. That took work, and I am enormously proud of the work the IBEW did at the International and local levels."

### The Cost of Staying Home

It seemed like a relatively small change at the time, said International Representative and former Detroit Local 58 Business Manager Michael Richard. The new Republican majority was closing down all the unemployment offices in the Michigan and moving everything online.

Then they announced they were cracking down on "fraud," and all hell broke loose.

"They required everyone who got unemployment checks to register with the state talent pool and apply for openings. But people in our business who get their jobs through their union hall were exempt from that requirement."

But the people who created the system left that out of the algorithm that hunted for fraud.

If the computer determined you were fraudulently collecting unemployment, it not only stopped checks, it withdrew the money it determined you had incorrectly received.

Nearly a dozen of his members watched their bank accounts drained in the depth of the recession.

"We fought it of course, but it took forever. In the meantime, marriages ended. People lost their homes. It was devastating for them, it was devastating for me to watch this happen," Richard said.

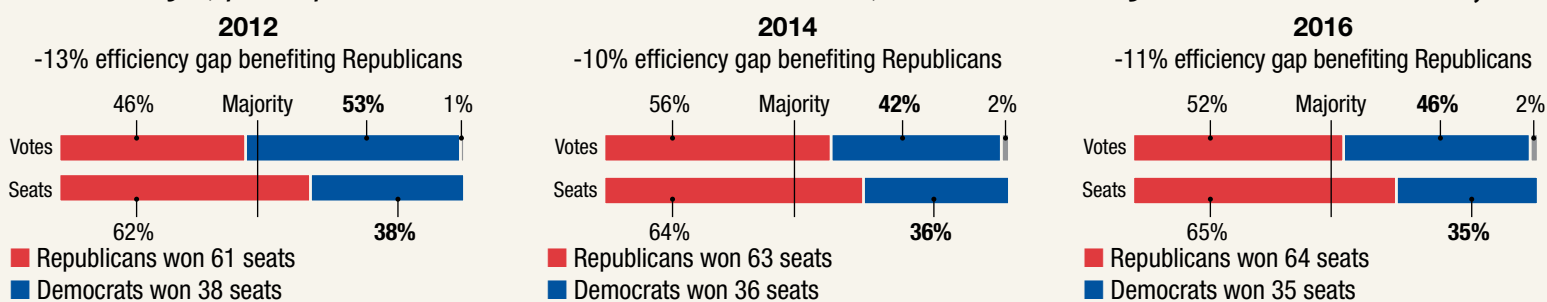
What made it worse, Richard said, was that he knew of several Democratic state legislators who lost because enough union members to make the difference stayed home.

"We could have won those elections. We could have stopped those maps being redrawn. We could have saved these brothers and sisters from losing their homes, from divorce, from being called a crook," he said.

"But we didn't. We stayed home and invited them to do it to us. That's the worst part. We could have stopped them if we had voted." ■

### Case Study: Wisconsin State House

Democrats won 52%, 41% and 42% of the total state house vote in the last three elections, but never won more than 38% of the seats and lost seats every time.





# Pennsylvania Labor Ally Rides Union Wave to Congress

**W**ith enough hard work, nothing is impossible in politics.

Pittsburgh-area union members proved it in March with an improbable special-election victory in a deep-red congressional district, a race that took on national significance with its implications for November's midterms.

IBEW and other union members in Pennsylvania's conservative 18th District forcefully campaigned for Conor Lamb, giving the pro-union Democrat a narrow March 13 win in a House district that Donald Trump carried by 20 points in 2016.

"Side by side with us at each step of the way were the men and women in organized labor," Lamb said in his victory speech. "Organized labor built Western Pennsylvania.... Tonight, they have reasserted their right to have a major part in our future."

Two days before being sworn into Congress in April, Lamb reaffirmed his commitment to workers in a speech to the IBEW's Political-Legislative Affairs Conference. He decried assaults on Social Security and Medicare, calling them "sacred promises" that he would fight to keep. He called prevailing wage laws a "core value" and said any infrastructure bill "must preserve Davis-Bacon, period."

"Labor must fully regain its place in our democracy," Lamb said. "Working people must again be able to organize, to bargain collectively and have their voice heard at every level of government."

Pittsburgh-area Locals 5, 29, 126, 1024 and 1919 helped turn out voters and inspire members to take part in phone banks, labor walks and rallies for Lamb.

While candidates routinely court labor, Lamb's embrace of unions and concern for workers felt genuine, said Kris Anderson, the IBEW's political coordinator in Pennsylvania.

"I was so excited to hear him profess his gratitude toward labor in his speech," Anderson said. "A lot of times we get left at the altar when it comes to the thank-yous."

Local 29 Business Manager Kenn Bradley also was pleased. "It's very important for him not to forget labor," he said. "We were a big reason why he got voted in, and now we have to hold his feet to the fire and make sure he follows through on his promises, which I think he will. I believe he's a man of his word."

The 18th District seat opened up with the resignation of Republican Tim Murphy last fall. Lamb's opponent was Rick Saccone, a brazenly anti-union state representative who sold himself to voters as "Trump before Trump."

Union members were drawn to Lamb's blend of social conservatism with a fierce defense of workers' rights. Mine Workers President Cecil Roberts summed it up colorfully at a get-out-the-vote rally.

"Let me try to explain what kind of folks we are and what kind of Democrat Conor is," Roberts said. "He's a God-fearing,

union-supporting, gun-owning, job-protecting, pension-defending, Social Security-believing, health care-greeting and sending-drug-dealers-to-jail Democrat!"

In other words, Lamb was uniquely suited for his working-class district, experts said.

"This is just the start of it — if we can keep our members energized and if we put more labor candidates on the ballot," said Hank Boldyzar, an elected commissioner in nearby Rostraver Township and business agent for Local 126, which has about 200 members in the Pittsburgh area.

Active in his county's labor council, Boldyzar persuaded the organization to host a meet-and-greet for Lamb that drew about 150 union members and other voters in a region many candidates largely ignore.

"I think he talked to everybody in the room that night," he said. "I had lots of people come up and say they were undecided until they met him."

The morning after the election, Lamb described on MSNBC how he built trust with voters.

"No offense to all my friends who



*Conor Lamb speaks about workers' rights at a labor rally in Pittsburgh days before winning a U.S. House seat in a deep-red congressional district.*

make their living on TV — campaigning in real life in small rooms, door-to-door, person-to-person, it works and I learned a lot doing it, and I think that helped out the campaign an awful lot," he said. "And I would advise anybody, no matter where

they are, to do that."

Boldyzar also approached the campaign one voter at a time. Often recognized as a township commissioner, he sported pins for Lamb wherever he went and was ready for naysayers.

"I tell people that the first thing you got to do is vote for your paycheck and you lobby your hobby," he said. "If you don't do that, you're hurting yourself."

He had many conversations like the one with a man who criticized Lamb based on unfounded claims in a campaign ad. Boldyzar told him about Saccone's unwavering anti-worker voting record in the statehouse.

"I said, 'You're going to go by a commercial you saw on TV and not do any research?' He said, 'Hank, you're kind of right.' I said, 'I'm exactly right.'"

Boldyzar hopes Democrats have learned that rejecting pro-union candidates in the past was a mistake.

"A lot of good labor candidates got passed over," he said. "We just showed you what can happen when labor gets up and gets going." ■

## House Education Committee Members Learn Value of Union Apprenticeships

**M**embers of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce toured a D.C.-area IBEW training facility in March, where they received an education of their own about the value of electrical apprenticeships.

"Private, union-operated training centers like this one provide the high-quality training that IBEW apprentices need," said Washington, D.C., Local 26 Business Manager George Hogan, who was hosted the delegation. "The training is paid for through our collective-bargaining agreements, so there is no cost to participants — or to governments."

Committee Chairperson Virginia Foxx of North Carolina led the bipartisan House delegation's tour of Local 26's Joint Apprentice Training Committee center in Lanham, Md., joined by Republican Reps. Drew Ferguson of Georgia, Brett Guthrie of Kentucky and Lloyd Smucker of Pennsylvania. Ranking Member Bobby Scott of Virginia and Democrats, Rep. Marcia Fudge of Ohio and Del. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan of the Northern Mariana Islands accompanied the IBEW's own Rep. Donald Norcross, a member of Folsom, N.J., Local 351.

The state-of-the-art, 31,000-square-foot Electrical Training Alliance facility is one of three operated by Local 26, a 9,000-member local with jurisdiction in the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland and Virginia.

"Apprenticeships last between three and five years and combine about 800 hours of classroom training with about 8,000 hours of on-the-job experience," Local 26 Training Director Chris Cash told the members of Congress. "Graduates usually become journeyman wiremen or journeyman linemen and make more than their friends with associate degrees, on average."

Notably, Hogan said, apprentices get paid while they learn, gain access to full



*Washington, D.C., Local 26 Training Director Chris Cash explains to the congressional delegation some of the benefits of a union-operated electrical worker training center.*

health benefits, and accrue money toward a defined-benefit pension.

And because the training is completely covered by the partnership between IBEW and its signatory employers in NECA, Hogan added that apprentices don't enter the workforce saddled with thousands of dollars of college debt.

The congressional delegation got a firsthand look at some of the facility's classrooms, equipped to train the local's more than 1,000 apprentices in areas such as wiring, electronics, fire alarms, motor controls, welding and pipe-bending.

Asked about the program's graduation rate, Cash told the representatives that about 60 percent of apprentices successfully complete it. This is comparable with the most recent graduation rates for full-time undergraduate students who began seeking a bachelor's degree at a 4-year college.

A 2017 study by Public Sector Consultants found that in Michigan from 2000 to 2014, graduation rates for apprenticeships tended to be higher than those for community colleges. Apprentices earned about \$22 an hour after completing union training programs, versus \$15 an hour for those in nonunion programs. Hogan said Local 26 graduates make about \$45 per hour, plus benefits.

Norcross, the only active IBEW member in Congress, has represented the Garden State's 1st Congressional District since 2014. He was the first to co-sponsor an IBEW-backed bill calling for the use of educational savings plans to pay for apprenticeship training materials such as tools and books.

These tax-exempt plans, known as 529s, typically are offered by states to help families put aside money for college. The 529 Opening Paths to Invest in Our Nation's Students Act (OPTIONS) Act has 63 co-sponsors from both parties. ■



# NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

## Revised TPP Still Fails Canadian Workers

**T**he Trans-Pacific Partnership had to be renegotiated after the United States pulled out of the controversial trade agreement in January 2017. Yet, even under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's pro-labour government, the proposed deal remains a concern for Canada's skilled construction workers.

Newly renamed, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership was agreed to earlier this year, but it relies too heavily on foreign workers and a system that has hurt working families in the past, First District International Representative Matt Wayland said.

"Bottom line, this is work that is going to be done in Canada and Canadian workers are going to be overlooked," Wayland said. "The jobs, skills and training that people bring to the table doesn't do any good if a company is bringing in foreign workers and Canadian workers are home collecting unemployment insurance."

Representatives from Canada and 10 other Pacific nations signed the new agreement in March.

The IBEW and other trade unions will fight ratification unless the use of foreign workers is addressed, Wayland said.

They have a much better relationship with Trudeau's Liberal government than the Conservatives that preceded it, who negotiated the first version of the TPP. Still, that has not yet led to an agreement that puts Canadian workers first.

"I'm hoping that we'll get regulations here in Canada that will address our concerns," he said. "But that has not happened yet."

A report submitted to Parliament, officials from Canada's Building Trades Unions — which includes the IBEW — notes they support the use of foreign workers on a limited basis and a "strong, diverse, non-discriminatory skilled migration program," but view the CPTPP's provisions for entry as overly permissive and leading to unsafe working conditions due to language barriers.

Other concerns include international workers' understanding of current building and electrical codes and the training they have received, which often isn't the same quality of the apprenticeship programs Canadian skilled trades workers have gone through. The provisions regarding foreign workers are included in Chapter 12 of the new agreement.

"There is nothing progressive about the CPTPP and the labour mobility provisions in Chapter 12," First District International Vice President William Daniels said. "The IBEW has expressed our concerns about this trade agreement with the Liberal Government since it was elected in 2015. Needless to say, I'm disappointed that there were no changes made in the text of Chapter 12."

The number of foreign workers admitted annually under the federal government's International Mobility Program

increased from 40,000 in 1995 to 250,000 in 2015, according to the Building Trades report. That is about the same time the North American Free Trade Agreement — another contentious accord — has been in effect. Foreign workers must have "specified knowledge" of a skill, but the federal government allows companies to determine what that specified knowledge is.

"There is literally zero oversight," Wayland said. "The extent of it is someone from the government calling a company and asking, 'Do your workers meet the requirements?' They answer yes and that's the end of it."

The proposed criteria for admitting foreign workers under the new agreement is even more lax, the report said. It would drive down wages for all workers and take jobs away from Canadians able to staff them, including in the electrical industry.

There are loopholes that even corporations not headquartered in one of the



A skilled trades worker in western Canada.

11 participating countries could take advantage of. The report notes that a company like the ACS Group, a worldwide construction group based in Spain —

which is not part of the CPTPP — has a subsidiary based in Mexico, which is a party to the agreement.

Because of that, the company could

secure work in Canada and import a largely Philippine-based work force it sends all over the world, with little attempt made to ensure it meets the standards of skilled Canadian construction workers.

Daniels urges IBEW members to contact their representatives in the House of Commons and ask them to vote against ratification until language is inserted that better protects the country's working families and ensures work is done safely and at a high level of skill.

"We've heard some talk about meeting our concerns, or leaving enforcement to the provinces, but right now, nothing is in writing," Wayland said. "If they don't put those things in writing, a future government could remove it. When it's in the agreement, it becomes permanent."

Other signatories to the CPTPP besides Canada and Mexico are Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. ■

## La version révisée du PTP déçoit encore les travailleurs canadiens

**L'**accord du partenariat transpacifique devait être renégocié lorsque les États-Unis se sont désengagés de l'accord de libre-échange controversé en janvier 2017. Même sous le règne du gouvernement pro syndicat du premier ministre Justin Trudeau, l'accord proposé demeure une préoccupation pour les travailleurs spécialisés des métiers de la construction au Canada.

Nouvellement désigné le Partenariat transpacifique global et progressiste pour le partenariat transpacifique, comme convenu plus tôt cette année, cela s'appuie trop fortement sur les travailleurs étrangers ainsi qu'un système qui a nui aux familles canadiennes dans le passé, mentionne le représentant international Matt Wayland du Premier District.

«Essentiellement, c'est un travail qui va être accompli au Canada et les travailleurs canadiens vont être négligés,» explique Wayland. «Les emplois, les compétences et les formations que les gens apportent à la table ne serviront à rien si une entreprise fait venir des travailleurs étrangers et les travailleurs canadiens restent à la maison à recevoir l'assurance-chômage.»

Les représentants du Canada et 10 autres nations du Pacifique ont signé le nouvel accord en mars.

Le ministre du Commerce international François-Philippe Champagne a cessé de demander pour avoir un délai spécifique, mais il semblerait que les auteurs de la proposition veulent que cela soit ratifié à la fin de 2019.

La FIOE ainsi que d'autres organisa-

tions syndicales lutteront contre ces propositions à moins qu'ils abordent l'emploi des mains-d'œuvre étrangères, informe Wayland.

Ils ont une meilleure relation avec le gouvernement libéral de Justin Trudeau que l'ancien gouvernement conservateur. Mais encore, cela n'a pas encore mené à une entente qui donne priorité aux travailleurs canadiens.

«J'espère avoir des réglementations ici au Canada qui va donner suite à nos préoccupations,» dit-il. «Mais ce n'est pas encore arrivé.»

Dans un rapport déposé au Parlement, les représentants officiels des syndicats des métiers de la construction au Canada — qui inclut la FIOE — mentionne encourager l'utilisation des travailleurs étrangers sur une base limitée ainsi «qu'un programme solide de migration des travailleurs qualifiés, diversifié et non discriminatoire,», mais estime que les dispositions du PTPGP en matière d'entrée au pays sont trop permissives ce qui entraîne des conditions de travail non sécuritaire à cause de la barrière linguistique.

D'autres préoccupations comprennent la connaissance des travailleurs internationaux quant aux codes des bâtiments et de l'électricité ainsi que la formation reçue, plus souvent elle n'est pas la même qualité que les programmes d'apprentissage réussis par les travailleurs de métiers qualifiés au Canada. Les dispositions au sujet des travailleurs étrangers sont incluses dans le chapitre 12 du nouvel accord.

«Il n'y a rien de progressiste à propos du PTPGP et les dispositions sur la mobilité des travailleurs dans le chapitre 12,» spécifie le vice-président international William Daniels. «La FIOE a fait part de ses inquiétudes concernant cet accord commercial avec le gouvernement libéral depuis son élection en 2015. Il va sans dire que je suis déçu qu'il n'y a eu aucun changement apporté dans le chapitre 12 du texte.»

Le nombre de travailleurs étrangers admis annuellement sous le programme de mobilité internationale du gouvernement fédéral a augmenté de 40 000 en 1995 à 250 000 en 2015, selon un rapport des métiers de la construction. C'est au même moment de l'entrée en vigueur de l'Accord de libre-échange nord-américain, un autre accord controversé. Les travailleurs étrangers doivent posséder «une connaissance précise» d'une compétence, mais le gouvernement fédéral permet aux entreprises de déterminer cette connaissance précise.

«Il y a littéralement un manque de surveillance,» ajoute Wayland. «Quelqu'un du gouvernement téléphone une compagnie et demande : "est-ce que vos travailleurs répondent aux exigences?" Ils répondent oui et ce sera la fin de l'histoire.»

Les critères proposés pour admettre des travailleurs étrangers sont encore plus laxistes, indique le rapport. Cela pourra réduire les salaires pour tous les travailleurs et volera du travail aux Canadiens qui sont en mesure de les embaucher, y compris dans l'industrie électrique.

Il y a des lacunes que même les entreprises qui ne siègent pas dans l'un

des 11 pays participants pourraient en tirer profit. Le rapport indique qu'une compagnie telle que le groupe ACS, une compagnie dans le domaine de la construction connue mondialement implantée en Espagne, ne faisant pas partie du PTPGP peut en tirer profit à cause qu'elle a une filiale basée au Mexique faisant partie de l'accord.

De ce fait, l'entreprise peut garantir du travail au Canada et peut importer une main-d'œuvre établie en grande partie aux Philippines qu'elle envoie partout au monde, sans tenter de garantir sa conformité aux normes des travailleurs spécialisés des métiers de la construction au Canada.

Daniels recommande que les membres de la FIOE communiquent directement avec leurs représentants siégeant à la Chambre des communes et demander de voter contre la ratification jusqu'à ce que le texte soit inséré pour assurer la protection des familles ouvrières du pays et de garantir que le travail est accompli de manière sécuritaire et à un très haut niveau de compétence.

«Nous avons entendu parler qu'ils veulent répondre à nos préoccupations, ou de laisser aux provinces le soin de décider, mais pour le moment, il n'y a rien d'écrit,» dit-il. «Si ces choses ne sont pas exprimées par écrit, le prochain gouvernement peut les retirer. Lorsque c'est écrit dans une entente, cela devient permanent.»

D'autres pays qui ont signé l'accord du PTPGP mis à part du Canada et du Mexique sont : l'Australie, le Brunei, le Chili, le Japon, la Malaisie, la Nouvelle-Zélande, le Pérou, le Singapour et le Vietnam. ■



# THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

## In Kentucky, IBEW Members Thwart Attack on State's Unemployment Benefits

IBEW members in Kentucky joined with labor allies to stop and attempt to roll back critical unemployment benefits. The attack on working families would have had far-reaching consequences for members of the IBEW's construction branch, in particular.

In 2016, Republicans took complete control of Kentucky state government for the first time in nearly a century, and right-to-work and a repeal of prevailing wage sailed through the one-party state government. But this time IBEW members and their allies sent a message.

"Enough is enough," they said, fighting back against a bill that would have drastically cut unemployment benefits in the state. A watered-down version passed without the cap some GOP legislators sought.

"We flooded them with phone calls," said former Louisville Local 369 Business Manager Bill Finn, who now serves as director of the Kentucky State Building and Construction Trades Council. "It impacted a lot of unions, but I think it impacted ours the most."

The original legislation called for length of payments to be determined by the state's unemployment rate, which would have cut payouts from 26 to 16 weeks. It also would have capped the maximum weekly benefit at current levels unless all seven states bordering Kentucky raised theirs.

The GOP majority passed a right-to-work law last year in one of its first orders of business under Gov. Matt Bevin. It wasn't a surprise. The Republicans have a

63-37 advantage in the House and a 27-11 edge in the Senate.

But the proposal to cut unemployment benefits raised concern even among some GOP legislators. Kentucky's economy has improved, but it still has some of the poorest counties in the nation, where unemployment sometimes reaches 12 percent.

"I think kicking a worker while he's unemployed got to the conscience of some of these legislators like right-to-work really didn't last year," Finn said.

"It would have killed us," Local 369 Business Manager Charlie Essex said. "My biggest concern was guys leaving the construction industry for maintenance gigs because of the stability of the work. In construction, even in good times, there's going to be days where there isn't any work. If we lose those members, all the training they've had goes with it."

The average weekly benefit paid to unemployed Kentucky workers last year was about \$330, with a maximum of \$448. Opponents noted the proposed change basically amounted to a lifetime cap.

"In effect, you're freezing the rate," Finn said. "You probably wouldn't see an increase in our lifetime. The other seven states are competing to see who can go the lowest."

Even in victory, it wasn't all happy news. Bevin signed a law that revises the worker's compensation laws, placing a 15-year cap on payments from the date of the injury, even if someone suffered a permanent disability from an on-the-job accident. Workers will have to re-apply for benefits after those 15 years are up.

"This is about greed," said Rep. Al Gentry, a Louisville Democrat who lost his arm in an accident years ago. Gentry said he has arthritis in his remaining arm because of increased use and will need medical care for the rest of his life.



*Skilled construction work sometimes dries up even in good economic times. That's why the IBEW and its allies fought an attempt to cut Kentucky's unemployment benefits.*

Employers pay into workers' compensation funds in every state. They not only provide a sense of security for their employees, but provide a buffer against lawsuits. Workers are barred from suing their employer or coworkers for negligence once they accept it.

IBEW members in nearly every branch work in dangerous conditions, making the thought of being less able to rely on worker's compensation disturbing, Essex and others said. The increased costs also could trickle down to local unions and their signatory contractors.

"It will put a strain on our benefits. We would have to help [injured workers] out, too. I can't see letting someone get hurt at work and then let them run out of benefits," he said.

"The Democrats had control of the House for 100 years, and we had that wall that protected workers and their rights," said Portsmouth, Ohio, Local 575 President Joe Dillow, who lives in Kentucky. "It seems like now that the majority is gone, the other

side is trying to get everything back from the last century in a year or two." ■

## Big Banks Fueled the Great Recession. GOP Lawmakers Want to Set Them Free to Do It Again

Republican lawmakers are pursuing major changes to the banking regulations that helped steer the nation out of the Great Recession.

In March, the U.S. Senate passed a major rollback of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reforms enacted in 2010, consumer protections that were intended to rebuild the economy and to put in place common-sense measures that would prevent another economic collapse like the one that started in 2008 and cost American workers nearly 10 million jobs.

But conservatives in the U.S. House argue the Senate bill didn't go far enough

to unleash the freewheeling, risky banking practices responsible for the downturn.

"Whether or not this particular bill survives, Republicans will keep trying to destroy the laws that revived the economy and brought back our jobs," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "We all remember how bad it got after 2008. The recession was devastating for this Brotherhood and for our families, our friends, our communities. We can't let that happen again."

As passed by the Senate, the bill exempts two-thirds of the country's 38 largest financial institutions from Dodd-Frank rules that brought more transparency and less risk to banking.

The law helped stabilize the economy, spurring sustained economic growth that created 17 million American jobs between 2010 and 2017 and has safeguarded consumers against predatory lenders and other banking abuses.

While the national jobless rate peaked at 10 percent before Dodd-Frank, unemployment among IBEW inside wiremen hit 26 percent when the construction business bottomed out. That rate steadily dropped after the bill passed and construction today is at or near full employment in much of the country.

Fighting against weaker rules, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein criticized supporters for forgetting "not only the lessons from 10 years ago, but also the devastating consequences for American families. In California, more than 2 million people were unemployed, 3.5 million mortgages were at risk and nearly 200,000 people filed for bankruptcy. We simply can't return to that time."

That's the risk Congress is taking, a high-ranking bank regulator warned lawmakers. "Memories are short and with an improving economy, these laws and regulations — which early in the recovery are

## August International Executive Council Meeting

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

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m., by Chairman Erikson, on Wednesday, August 30, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Furco, Lavin, and Galbraith. Sixth District IEC John Easton Jr. was excused, as he was assisting his local union and community in Houston, Texas, following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

### International President Stephenson

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

### International Secretary-Treasurer Cooper

International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood both in Canada and in the United States.

### Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined and approved

in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1, of the IBEW Constitution.

### Financial Reports

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

### Action of the International Executive Council Regarding the Thirtieth International Convention

The International Executive Council regularly moved, seconded, and carried a motion to move the dates of the Thirtieth International Convention to August 30, 2021, through September 3, 2021, and hold the convention in Chicago, Illinois.

### Resolution of The International Executive Council Concerning Certain General Fund and Pension Fund Investments

The International Executive Council regularly moved, seconded, and carried a resolution reaffirming the action taken in February 2016 regarding the proposed restructuring of the IBEW Funds' hedge fund of funds from commin-

gled investment vehicles to separate accounts.

### Resolution Revising the Administrative Procedures for the Benefit Application Process and Payment of Benefits by Electronic Funds Transfer for The IBEW Pension Benefit Fund

The International Executive Council regularly moved, seconded, and carried a resolution revising the administrative procedure for the benefit application process and payment of benefits by electronic funds transfer for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund.

### Appeals Filed with the International Executive Council

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 611 member James G. Jaramillo, and it is the decision of the IEC to approve his appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 111 member Kevin L. Martin. It is the decision of the IEC to deny his appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 292 member Joseph F. Wheaton. It is the decision of the IEC to deny his appeal.

### Article XX and XXI Cases

During the third quarter of 2017, the IBEW was involved in one Article XX dispute.

### IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet ending June 30, 2017

Reviewed and Filed

### IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Balance Sheet ending June 30, 2017

Reviewed and Filed

### Retirement of International Representatives

John F. Bourne, International Representative, Business Development Department Effective — September 1, 2017

Guy P. Runco, International Representative, Eighth District Effective — October 1, 2017

James F. Lynch, International Representative, Eleventh District Effective — August 1, 2017

### Retirement of International Office Employees

William E. Beers, Web Developer, Information Development Department Effective — October 2, 2017

Gerzan Delgado, Operating Engineer, Engineering Department Effective — August 28, 2017

Cynthia Scott, Secretary, Tenth District Office Effective — June 23, 2017

### For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary August 2017

*The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult [www.IBEW.org](http://www.IBEW.org), clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "Who We Are" page. ■*



viewed as essential — are eventually recast as burdensome constraints that need to be eased or ended,” said Thomas Hoenig, outgoing chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

As Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown put it, “Whose side are we on? Megabank lobbyists, or American taxpayers and homeowners and students and workers?”

GOP backers claim the bill will revive community banks and credit unions.

Republicans are trying to conjure images of a small town Main Street bank with tellers who know customers by name and a bank president who sponsors the Little League team.

“Those are the banks that supporters of deregulation want you to think are helped by this bill, but it’s not really true,” wrote Nick Jacobs of Better Markets, a public-interest group focused on a financial system that is both safe and strong. “The biggest beneficiaries are 26 of the largest banks in the country. They are bailout recipients. They are recidivist law-



*Wall Street could be unleashed to go back to the risky dealing that brought on the 2008 Great Recession.*

breakers. And they are foreign-owned banks. They are not community banks.”

Contrary to deregulation talking points, small lenders were shutting their doors long before Dodd-Frank was law. A study by the Center for American Progress found that the decline began in the 1980s

for reasons that include economies of scale and new technology.

In remarks before the Senate vote, Brown recalled the audacious comment in March 2017 by James Ballentine, chief lobbyist for the American Bankers Association.

“I don’t want a seat at the table. I want the table,” Ballentine told a conference of bankers.

“Piece by piece, Wall Street has gone to the agencies, gone to the courts, and gone to Congress to dismantle the protections we put in place,” Brown said. “The drumbeat is constant. They always want a new exemption, or a new, weaker standard, or a new tax break. And they are about to get it.”

*International President Lonnie R. Stephenson urges IBEW members to call their senators and representatives at (202) 224-3121, the U.S. Capitol, or contact their home offices to demand they put working families ahead of big banks’ special interests. ■*

## ORGANIZING WIRE

### Young Workers and the Future of the Labor Movement

With the U.S. Supreme Court expected to issue a major anti-union decision later this year, and the National Labor Relations Board rolling back worker protections left and right, the future might seem bleak for unions. But there’s reason for hope.

An analysis from the Economic Policy Institute found that the total number of union members increased last year by 262,000 — and three-fourths of those gains were among people aged 34 and under.

The analysis, based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, also reports that historically, younger workers have been less likely than their older cohorts to be union members. That may be changing.

A Pew Research Center survey found that young people are far more likely than older adults to view unions in a positive light. Three-quarters of those ages 18 to 29 say they have a favorable opinion of labor unions. By contrast, only about half of those 50 and older share such a positive opinion.

“They get it,” said Jennifer Gray, Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 assistant business manager and 9th District advisory committee member for Reach Out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers. “We’re turning a corner in young worker participation. They know they need to step up.”

RENEW is the IBEW’s initiative to encourage young workers to get involved with their local unions. With its counterpart in Canada, the RENEW/NextGen initiative claims thousands of young members among its ranks.

Alton Wilkerson, a foreman inside wireman and vice president of Los Angeles Local 11’s Electrical Workers Minority Caucus chapter, says he’s seeing a similar increase in young worker engagement. Wilkerson says the EWMC has a nationwide program to get people involved with the midterm elections and push voter turnout.

“We saw what happened with the 2016 elections and the anti-union policies that followed,” Wilkerson said. “We don’t want to let that happen in 2018.”

Considering the employment landscape young workers have found themselves in, it’s not surprising that they would be looking to join together and fight for higher wages, benefits and job security. According to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, the 2001 and 2008 recessions did the most harm to younger workers, and unemployment in a person’s formative years can leave “scarring effects” that may throw off their entire career trajectories.



*Members of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245’s Electrical Workers Minority Caucus volunteer at a local food bank.*

“I purchased a home at 23 because I was IBEW,” Gray said. “Young people see the connection between union membership and living the American dream.”

Wilkerson says the EWMC is also promoting apprenticeships as an alternative to college and the potential for debt.

“There’s nothing wrong with going to college. A lot of our members go to college,” Wilkerson said. “But instead of graduating with thousands of dollars of debt and getting a minimum wage job, you can learn a trade and make a good wage from the start.”

Gray says Local 1245 is training more than a hundred organizing stewards, many of whom will focus on the elections and other political activity, like pushing back on the Supreme Court case, Janus v. AFSCME. Janus challenges the right of public sector unions to collect “fair share” fees from nonmembers for the basic costs of bargaining and contract enforcement, services and protections that benefit both members and nonmembers equally.

Gray recently held an organizing meeting with a group of city workers on the issue and said about 60 percent of the attendees were younger members.

“It was awesome,” Gray said. “They’re being proactive, which is what we trained them for. They’re the organizing leads for Janus.”

Gray says they’re asking members to sign voluntary authorization cards, pledging to stay in the union as a show of solidarity. That kind of commitment could be just what the labor movement needs.

“The IBEW’s been here for over 100 years,” Wilkerson said. “We need dedicated young people to make sure we’ll be here for the next 100.” ■



## THE IBEW’s 2018 PHOTO CONTEST

**Enter Today!**  
Deadline: Oct. 1

1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$200

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$150

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$100

Honorable  
Mention: \$50

For two decades, IBEW members across the U.S. and Canada have been sending us the images that tell the stories of who we are and the work we do. We’ve been proud to share those pictures with you, and this year we’re celebrating a milestone — the IBEW’s 20th Annual Photo Contest.

A few of the rules have changed, but your task is the same: Show us what it means to be a member of the greatest union in the world, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

### Photo Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter up to five photos each.
2. International officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Photos can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, measuring 1,200 by 1,800 pixels at minimum, in color or black and white. Larger files of at least 2,200 pixels are encouraged.
4. All submissions become property of the IBEW Media Department.
5. Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or featuring subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g., a safety committee, a linemen’s rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
7. Photos previously published in IBEW publications or on the website are not eligible for submission.
8. **Starting this year, entries MUST be submitted electronically** via the Photo Contest link on [IBEW.org](http://IBEW.org). Please contact the Media Department at [media@IBEW.org](mailto:media@IBEW.org) or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.
9. Up to 15 finalists will be selected and posted on [IBEW.org](http://IBEW.org) for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in a future issue of the Electrical Worker.



# CIRCUITS

## Pushing Infrastructure on Capitol Hill, IBEW's Ross Urges Action

Construction and Maintenance Department Director Jim Ross testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy Feb. 27 about how the federal government can improve the state of the nation's energy infrastructure.

Ross and representatives of local government, industry, labor, higher education and the environmental movement were asked about what the federal government should do to help modernize energy infrastructure and improve workforce training and development in the energy sector.

"Our nation's energy infrastructure — the traditional baseload power plants, wind-mills, solar panels, hydroelectric dams, pipelines, power lines, fossil fuel production facilities, and import/export terminals — make up the backbone of our economy," said committee chairman, Oregon Republican Rep. Greg Walden. "While there are many difficult details to work out, I believe there is support for a broad infrastructure bill."

Ross said the need to upgrade the nation's infrastructure was getting its rightful attention these days. He noted, however, that the recent conversation has left out the fact that the United States has not made meaningful upgrades to its energy infrastructure since the 1970s.

Ross testified that private investors have approximately \$140 billion in transmission system overhauls and development of new clean lines awaiting permit approvals.

"Our current electric distribution system is outdated and inefficient, and the permitting and approval process for large-scale transmission projects is more than burdensome: it's an outright barrier to construction," he said.

Ross was joined at the witness table by a number of leaders from the energy sector and environmental organizations.

There was wide agreement among the witnesses that the current system is holding the nation back, and some broad agreement on what to do.

Beyond the universal plea to accelerate the approval process by reducing the number of agencies involved and a more aggressive coordination and planning role by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the hearing broadly focused on two topics.

First, since the majority of electrical infrastructure is privately owned and built, the witnesses offered several ways the federal government could encourage investors to build more and larger projects. Suggestions included allowing the

use of tax-exempt bonds to fund private projects and federal incentives to build extra capacity into transmission projects to meet future demand.

Ross was invited to speak about the second issue: developing the skilled workforce that will build the projects.

Ross told the committee members the IBEW is ready to provide the next generation of construction linemen, but the uncertainty caused by approval delays makes that job harder.



*Construction and Maintenance Department Director Jim Ross was invited by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy to testify about the state of the electrical infrastructure workforce. Sitting behind Ross is IBEW Political Director Austin Keyser and International Representative Breanna Malloy.*

"It takes three years to train a journeyman lineman to perform transmission line construction and maintenance, and we anticipate the need for approximately 50,000 new linemen over the next 10 years," he said. "While projects are held up, we are losing valuable training time."

Political Director Austin Keyser said he was heartened the Republican-majority committee invited the IBEW to speak and was pleased with Ross's reception.

"We received a great deal of the committee's attention and that isn't always good, but this time it was," he said. "We were asked important questions and I think that they — on both sides of the aisle — heard how important our members will be in this monumental task."

Keyser hopes that the Republican-led committee won't be wedded to the presi-

dent's flawed proposal and will look closely at the \$1 trillion proposal introduced earlier this year by Democrats.

"It has been 10 years since we last talked as a nation about investing in infrastructure," he said. "What we saw today was that Congress is hearing the message: the need is great, and the hour is late. Now, we work to get the right policies into law." ■

## Local 15's Apple Honored for Teamwork on Jobs, Clean Energy

An award honoring a successful labor-management effort to save jobs and fight for a clean energy future in Illinois was presented in March to Dean Apple, business manager at Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15, and to Exelon CEO Chris Crane.

The John D. Dingell Award is presented annually to leaders "who exemplify and promote labor-management cooperation." It is given by the National Labor Management Public Affairs Committee, created 10 years ago by the IBEW and the Edison Electric Institute.

Working together, the IBEW and EEI's Commonwealth Edison persuaded the Illinois Legislature to pass the Future Energy Jobs Act in December 2016. The law expands energy efficiency and low-income programs, protects 4,200 jobs, provides job training and keeps Illinois' nuclear facilities open, preserving 1.2 billion in economic activity.

Apple said he and Exelon "worked both sides of the aisle, a real collaborative effort" to get the bill passed. "It was a long process, but, in the end, it was about saving those nuclear plants and the good-paying jobs for our members."

One of the sites the bill saved was the Quad Cities Nuclear Plant, where Apple was a business representative from 1995 to 2007. "I know a lot of those members well," he said, "so this whole effort was very personal."

Apple said he's always had a respectful relationship with Exelon. "I try to listen, and I hope they try to do the

same for me," he said. "It was nice to be working toward the same goal. We were able to get it done at the last minute before the legislative session ended."

Their achievement embodies National LAMPAC's goals of cooperation and partnership among energy company executives and IBEW leaders to address U.S. energy challenges and achieve the common goals of a well-managed, efficient business with a safe and highly skilled workforce.

"What Dean and Chris accomplished

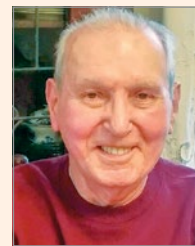
is exactly what LAMPAC strives for — an outcome that is good for our members, good for the industry and good for the communities we serve," International President Lonnie Stephenson said.

U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan presented the award, named for her husband, to Apple and Crane at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. John Dingell retired from Congress in 2015 after 60 years of service, including 30 years as chair or ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. ■

# TRANSITIONS

## DECEASED

### Dennis M. Johanyak



It is with regret that we announce the death of retired Fourth District International Representative Dennis M. Johanyak on March 11, his 82nd birthday.

A native of the Akron, Ohio, suburb of Barberton, Johanyak proudly served for three years in the U.S. Marine Corps following his graduation from Kenmore High School.

In 1959, Johanyak went to work for Novatny Electric as an apprentice electrician. The following year, he was initiated into the IBEW as a member of Akron Local 306, later serving on its executive board from 1967 to 1968.

"He was a firm believer in the idea that a hard day's work deserved a fair and living wage," said Johanyak's son, Mark, the oldest of four children and himself a 30-plus-year inside wireman member of Local 306. "The members admired him for his leadership and integrity."

Johanyak became Local 306's business manager/financial secretary in 1969 and held that position as a fighter for workers' rights until his appointment by then-International President Charles Pillard in 1984 to serve the Fourth District as an international representative.

"Dennis was my international rep when I was a young business manager back in Local 688 in Mansfield, Ohio," said International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper. "He helped guide me and shape me into the labor leader I am today."

"He treated everyone the same — with respect," his son said. "Whenever he wrote a note to someone, he always made sure to also tell them they were doing a good job."

In Akron, Johanyak served on the local's negotiating, labor-management, steward training and building committees. At one time, he served as the secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Conference of the IBEW.

Johanyak's lifelong commitment to the broader labor movement extended well beyond his direct involvement with IBEW, marked by terms as vice president of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council, president of the Tri-County Building Trades Council, and as an executive board member for the Akron Central Labor Council.

He furthered his education by taking classes at University of Akron and completing labor-focused courses sponsored by Ohio State University. He also was active on several local government and community committees, such as an advisory committee to Rep. John Seiberling, and he was a member of the American Legion and Loyal Order of Moose.

Johanyak was a member of the Council on Industrial Relations from 1982 to 1984, and he also served on several of the international union's convention committees.

"He was the one who gave me direction in life," Mark Johanyak said. "He believed that you should always do your best, and that family comes first."

"He had a way about him," his son recalled. "He had a great sense of humor — and he loved golf." After his 1999 retirement, Johanyak remained an avid golfer. He also enjoyed woodworking, hiking and spending time with his grandchildren, in addition to taking scenic drives when possible and spending winters in Gulf Shores, Ala.

"Dad live his life humbly," Mark said, "despite the great man he was."

Johanyak was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Jayne, in 2014. Besides Mark, he is survived by another son, Shawn, also a longtime inside wireman member of Local 306; a daughter, Denise, who is married to Local 306 Membership Development Representative Thom Wright; and another daughter, Susan. Following a private family service, he was buried at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

"He was kind, strong and always fair," Cooper said, "but most of all, a great brother and friend."

The IBEW officers, staff and membership extend deepest sympathies to Brother Johanyak's family and friends. ■



*Left to right: Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper, Exelon CEO Chris Crane, Local 15's Dean Apple and EEI's Tom Khun.*



# LOCAL LINES

## Membership Growth

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — Local 17's membership has increased more than 25 percent over the last six years. We now stand at 3,300 members, up from 2,600 in 2012. We currently have north of 1,000 tree trimmers on the property and are looking for more. Fellow IBEW locals, if you are looking for a place to send your trimmers until a fair contract is ratified, contact Adam Kimbler at 313-790-1868 for details on how we can help you get that done.

Work is plentiful at Local 17. Most agreements are working six 10-hour days. We expect this condition to continue for the foreseeable future.

The Michigan state Republican legislators are working hard to repeal the prevailing wage law. We have about 200 members performing work under this law who would no doubt lose a substantial part of their wage and benefit package if those anti-worker legislators are successful.

Please continue to support your union stewards; they are an extension of this office and are fully supported by this local's leadership. Brothers and sisters, please continue to work safe; understand that gloves and sleeves in the primary must be worn — no exceptions.

We look forward to seeing you at the union hall. Come to a meeting and enjoy the brotherhood as you haven't seen it before!

Dean Bradley, B.M./F.S.

## A Successful Rate Case Equals More Jobs

L.U. 19 (u), AURORA, IL — On Jan. 31, 2018, the Illinois Commerce Commission approved a Nicor Gas request to increase rates effective Feb. 8, 2018, for natural gas delivery. With the success of this rate case and approval for the Investing in Illinois project, we have been able to create numerous positions for operation mechanics, distribution technicians, operators, system operators and clerical workers — which in turn has created plenty of promotional opportunities for our existing members.

Remember to stay active and involved, and attend your monthly meetings! Visit us on Facebook at IBEW L.U. 19. In solidarity.

Natalia Guzman, Exec. Board

## Volunteers Assist With Soldiers' Journey Home

L.U. 21 (catv,em,govt,mt,ptc&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Since May, Local 21 members have been helping soldiers come home. We've partnered with A Soldier's Journey Home. Every year that organization chooses

one deserving disabled veteran, and volunteers build a mortgage-free home for that special veteran.

Last May, the first home we helped build was in Spring Grove, IL, for U.S. Army SPC Tony Chobanov, who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Tony has traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. His road to recovery has been difficult. He is now home.

In February, our local's volunteers decided to help bring another soldier home. However, it required our members to leave their homes and take vacation to head to New Braunfels, Texas. There they built a house for Marine Sgt. Eric Morante. He became a disabled veteran after a suicide bomber drove a truck with 3,000 pounds of explosives beneath the bridge he was guarding. Eric lost his right leg above the knee and shattered his wrist. He, too, is now home.

The amazing thing about these projects is that the houses are built in about 10 days. We thank our Bro. Jim Locke, Unit 3 Executive Board member and an Army veteran, for introducing us to A Soldier's Journey Home and for all his hard work coordinating these volunteer activities. He and fellow Local 21 members are making a difference in the communities where we live and work.

Bob Przybylinski, R.S.



Bus. Mgr./Pres. Paul Wright (third from right) and Local 21 volunteers with Marine Sgt. Eric Morante (holding sweat shirt), making his journey home in Texas.

## Shop Steward Training

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA — Local 37 is very fortunate to have an abundance of members always willing and able to help one another — many of them serving as shop stewards. Recently a new group of stewards attended Shop Steward Training in Fredericton presented by Jim Watson, an IBEW international representative from the Education Department, and Brian Matheson, an international representative supporting the Maritime provinces.

During the two-day training session, Jim and Brian shared experiences and information relevant to serving as an IBEW shop steward by facilitating great discus-



At a Shop Steward Training session, Local 37 Bus. Mgr. Ross Galbraith (standing) discusses collective bargaining agreements.

sions, leading exercises centered around helping members in the workplace, and talking about ways to support and work with the business manager and Local 37 staff. The course also provided an opportunity for Local 37 Bus. Mgr. Ross Galbraith to cover important background on Local 37, including our history, structure, policies and bylaws, and collective agreements.

All of our shop stewards are incredibly genuine and generous with their willingness to help others and strengthen our union. They are truly "front line" representatives of Local 37 and serve as a vital link between the members, the union, and management. Thank you to all for your hard work and dedication!

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

## Construction Season; Spring & Summer Events

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY — Spring has sprung! We welcome the warmer weather in our area especially after the snowy winter. Spring usually means the beginning of the construction season for us and this year appears no different. Unfortunately, we will not have the large projects we have become accustomed to the last couple of years, but we do expect to have full employment.

This time of year is also the start of our events calendar. We already held our children's Easter Egg Hunt. On June 2, we

have our annual Buffalo Bison's Star Wars game. June 22 brings the Miss Buffalo boat cruise on Lake Erie. Aug. 5 will be our Fantasy Island picnic, and Aug. 18 our annual members picnic. Other events are to be scheduled, so please keep an eye out for a mailing from Bus. Mgr. Michael Gaiser containing information detailing all these events and others.

Please make time from your busy summer schedule to attend one or more of these events.

We are looking for members to play for our softball team. We play against other union trades, so come out and earn bragging rights on the job or come to meet new sisters and brothers. I have played with members that I have never worked with and it has created friendships that will last a life time. Please contact me if you are interested in playing for the team.

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.

## IBEW Lifesaving Awards

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — IBEW Local 47 Bus. Mgr. and IEC member Patrick Lavin along with IBEW Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. John J. O'Rourke presented the IBEW Lifesaving Award to five members — journeyman linemen Mike Hesselton, Justin Burton, Collyn Berling and Jake Codemo, and field service representative Michael Robertson — for the action they took during the deadly shooting in Las Vegas on Oct. 1, 2017.

We continue to bargain for the new engineering group at Anaheim and for Southern California Pony mail drivers.

Local 47 attended a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) complaint hearing for the tribal officials refusing to bargain union security during negotiations.

Regarding Irvine Ranch Water District, we have sent a demand to bargain and are putting proposals together.



At Lifesaving Awards presentation: IBEW Local 47 Bus. Mgr. and IEC member Patrick A. Lavin (far right), Int. Vice Pres. John J. O'Rourke (far left) and Int. Rep. Charles Randall (back row, left) with award recipients Mike Hesselton, Justin Burton, Collyn Berling and Michael Robertson and their families. Not pictured: award recipient Jake Codemo.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines). Please email or call the Media Department at (202) 728-6291 with any questions.

## Trade Classifications

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

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



## LOCAL LINES

Upcoming Local 47 events include: a Steward & Safety Conference on June 6, and the Local 47 Picnic on Aug. 11.

We are sad to report the death of: Local 47 Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Hank Colt, Justin Kropp (who was a Local 266 member working as a traveler at Local 47), Joseph Ramirez, Jim Higgenbotham, Mario Arteaga, Dave Furry, Yvette Ibarra, Phil Davenport and Vince Leger. Local 47 extends condolences and prayers to their loved ones.

Live free and safe — work and buy union.

*Mitch Smith, P.S.*

## Members Active & Involved

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — At the time of this writing, work was slow for our construction members; hopefully it will have picked up in March or April. At press time, we had approximately 16 construction linemen and 24 Ameren linemen working in the Caribbean islands to repair hurricane damage. Some of our construction apprentices have been working out-of-jurisdiction to get distribution time. We thank Locals 71, 245 and 1393 for putting them to work. Line clearance tree trimming is at full employment.

Members of the local staff, as well as many members employed by Dynegy, have been actively participating in ongoing hearings and workshops regarding legislation and rulemaking that could potentially have a positive impact for the membership. The main issue is a proposed change to emission standards, which will reduce emissions while also giving Dynegy more flexibility to manage its fleet. This issue is currently being heard by the Illinois Pollution Control Board. There are also several pieces of legislation as well as Illinois Commerce Commission workshops that look to address resource adequacy and potential fixes to the flawed capacity auction process in MISO zone 4. The local appreciates the membership's willingness to testify to the potential effects regarding any actions taken or not taken in these proceedings.

With early voting in Illinois, we encourage all IBEW members to vote for labor-friendly candidates! If you are not yet registered to vote, contact the local for help. Be safe, give eight hours work for eight hours pay, and attend your unit meetings.

*Karlene Knisley, B.R.*

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Crappie Tourney

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rt&u), KANSAS CITY, MO — I'm happy to report that outside construction work has been steady. We have a one-year contract on our Tree Trimming Agreement. All of our tree trimmers are working at this writing.

The local will celebrate our 30th Annual Crappie Tournament June 9. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Local 53 congratulates Dexter Drerup for his 16 years as a business representative and 35 years as a Local 53 member. We wish him well in his retirement. Every year the IBEW Local 53 riding group spon-



*Local 53 members, from left: Tim Anderson, Mike Hackett, Bruce VanCompernelle, Nick Simmons and Jacob Kurtz.*

sors a member over the holidays. For the 2017 holiday season, they chose Bro. Mike Hackett. Bro. Hackett had an off-the-job accident and was very appreciative of their support.

*Brett A. Stone, B.M./F.S.*

## Tribute to a Brother

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH — On April 28, Worker's Memorial Day, we remembered one of our own members who we lost last year, journeyman lineman Jesse Davis. Jesse Davis was a hard-working lineman, brother and friend who passed away in October as a result of an electrical contact. Jesse was also a veteran who served several tours of duty in the Middle East. As we take time and reflect on the past year, please keep Bro. Davis and other fallen brothers and sisters in your thoughts and prayers.

Our Outside Construction Unit ratified a three-year agreement, with gains in wages and benefits. The current work picture is steady and the outlook for the future looks good.

Stay safe and always remember to look out for each other.

*Scott A. Long, P.S.*



*Memorial in tribute to the life of late Local 57 member Jesse Davis.*

## 'Still Climbing' — Membership Growing

L.U. 71 (lctt,o&rtb), COLUMBUS, OHIO — As we look back over 2017 and into 2018, it becomes clear that we have so much to be thankful for. Local 71 sends a big thank-you to all its members for their determined efforts in manning the abundance of work we have been blessed with. It is because of our members' commitment that we are "still climbing" in membership. Local 71 started 2017 off with 1,884 members — and, to date, we now have over 2,200 members! So again, we thank everyone for their dedication and may we all continue to be blessed in the year ahead.

Local 71 thanks Dave Sugerik for his hard work and dedication to the union for over 46 years of service. For the last 10 years, Dave has been on staff as the lead organizer and as an Executive Board member. At the time of this writing, Dave was planning to retire in April 2018. We wish him the very best in retirement.

The local officers and staff would like to thank Bus. Mgr. Bry-



*At Local 71's December 2017 union meeting, more than 170 members were in attendance.*

an Stage for his commitment in moving this local forward in a positive direction into 2018.

*Todd Kessler, V.P./A.B.M.*

## Safety Summits a Success; Anti-Worker Bill Defeated

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA — As we look forward to the months ahead in 2018, we reflect back on 2017, which was a busy year.

We started the year 2017 with proposed "right-to-work" legislation in Washington state. Several of our members, along with more than 2,000 members from numerous other labor unions, traveled to the state Capitol to oppose the RTW legislation. We were ultimately successful in fighting off the anti-worker bill here in Washington state.

We also held our 11th Annual Customer Service Summit in 2017. It has been a valuable asset for our membership in that segment of the electrical utility industry.

IBEW Locals 77, 125, 659, and the Northwest Line Chapter of NECA partnered last year to host two Safety Summits for top-level management. Employers from large and small utilities and contractors from the Pacific Northwest participated. The summit is intended to promote a stronger labor and management partnership and a commitment to safety; another summit is planned for 2018.

Our regional Central Labor Council picnics were well-attended in north Idaho as well as in central and western Washington.

*Rick Luiten, P.S.*



*Local 77 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mike Brown (left) and 60-year member Ray Kincheloe at the North Idaho Central Labor Council picnic.*

## Solidarity & Participation

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY — Our local union's strength relies on all of us seeing and treating each other not as mere co-workers, but as united in one union against the many forces that multibillion-dollar corporations can bring to bear. Local 97 Bus. Mgr. Ted Skerpon is placing an even greater focus on member engagement and will be reinvigorating both our Women's Caucus, "The Power and Light

Society," and our Youth Caucus, "Ignite." "Ignite" will now be under the mentorship of Bus. Rep. Steve Givney. Look for opportunities to get involved. Remember: "United we bargain, divided we beg."

Our Benefits Committee, long a strength of the local, is now co-chaired by Bus. Rep. Dan Machold and Bus. Rep. Duane Richardson. For unresolved benefits issues, please contact your divisional union hall to speak to a member of the benefits committee.

Congratulations to Administrative Asst. Ann Dunham on her March 9 retirement. She worked for this local and predecessor former Local 79 for 29 years. Annie, thanks for all your hard work and patience. You will be missed!

As you are reading this, summer vacations are right around the corner. Continue to work safely every minute, every day. When you return home from work safely, you can enjoy the fruits of your labor.

*Dan Machold, B.R./P.S.*

## Dedicated Career of Service

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA — On Feb. 28, 47-year member Jim O'Connell retired as training director of the JATC. Jim started his remarkable career with Local 103 as an apprentice, graduated with his journeyman's license and went on to receive his master's license in 1976. Not long after, Jim attended Fitchburg State University to pursue a vocational teaching certification. Jim started teaching at the JATC in the mid-1990s and was elected as a Local 103 Executive Board member. During this time, he was working as a general foreman with Mass Electric Construction and was employed as an electrical inspector in the Town of Westwood. In 1993, Jim accepted a position with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and continued there until he was appointed a business agent for Local 103. In 2012, Jim was appointed to the position of training director for the JATC. Jim's leadership guided the JATC through the transition from evening school to the current day-school program.

On behalf of Local 103 officers, staff and membership, and the JATC staff, we wish Jim the best in his retirement and thank him for his dedication and service to this organization.

*Jimmy Fleming, P.S.*



*Local 103 member Jim O'Connell retired as JATC training director.*

## Members Ratify Contracts

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO — Following a year of contentious negotiations with Public Service Company of Colorado, an agreement worthy of presentation to the affected membership was attained, and the contract was successfully ratified. It had been almost a decade since the membership had the opportunity to vote on their contract, with some members voting for the very first time. Highlights of the three-year agreement include 2.8 percent wage increases for each year of the contract, and a Letter of Agreement protecting and freezing retiree medical benefits until 2030, when negotiations over this letter will resume. Our attorneys believe this letter of agreement is the biggest win for



organized labor this century.

Other new agreements ratified include: a Tri-State Generation & Transmission, Craig Station, agreement (a three-year extension was reached); and a Construction Traffic Unit (ITS) three-year agreement, with the upcoming Interstate 70 project on the horizon. Congratulations!

The Local 111 Policy Committee will meet in Denver on Saturday, May 5, this year. And we will be celebrating the local union's 111th Year Anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Denver Zoo. More details to come soon — save the date!

Work safe and please attend your monthly unit meetings.

*Patrick S. Quinn, P.S.*

## Work Picture Good; Negotiations Ongoing

L.U. 113 (ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — As of this writing the work picture remains good with many of the recent layoffs catching calls at one of the two hospitals. We are hopeful that the work in town will remain strong at least through 2018. Input for our opening letter during the negotiation process was held at our recent general membership meeting. The current contract expires at the end of May. The local union also has statewide line, and service contract negotiations happening this year.

Concerning your journeyman wireman license, and as was stated in a previous article, HB 1073 changes the way we renew them. You will be required to have at least 24 hours of upgrade before renewal. Also, some additional recent training in code and safety will be required.

This brings us in line with many states already doing this. As you may know, it would be wise to complete your training sooner than later. Call Francis Vigil or John DeLuke for a complete list of requirements and to schedule classes.

You can also find useful information on the Local 113 website, [www.ibew113.com](http://www.ibew113.com), for future dates of classes. CPR, First Aid, and OSHA 30 are some of the classes already offered to keep your certifications current.

Please work safe!

*Brian Putnam, P.S.*

## 16th Annual Casino Night — Fundraiser a Great Success

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR — The local hosted its 16th Annual Casino Night to benefit our Brotherhood Fund. More than 180 attendees joined for this event, which kicks off our yearly fundraising activities. Nearly five barrels of food were filled with donations for a local food bank along with the money raised. Outside of raising money for the Brotherhood Fund or the Oregon Burn Center, our events provide an opportunity to fellowship and serve as a reminder of our purpose as a labor union. We must not get so absorbed by the negativity associated with political, regulatory, or management actions which do not align with labor's needs that we forget to celebrate, honor and promote the importance, necessity and history of our union.

If you've never participated, attended or sponsored any of our activities, please consider doing so in 2018. Don't forget that the Pacific Northwest Line-man Rodeo and IBEW Local 125 Softball tournaments are family-friendly activities, which are terrific opportunities for our families to meet. Please join us!

As we transition into spring, don't lose focus on safety at home or work. Stay safe!

*Marcy Grail, A.B.M.*

## 'Advancing Our Union'

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA — We all enjoy the benefits of collectively bargained wages and benefits. However, we need to pause and think about how we got them and what we must do to preserve them.

Every member can have a role in promoting and expanding our local. Here are a few examples to remember:

- being a good and productive craftsman
- welcoming unrepresented workers into the union
- participating in the various volunteer projects for the union
- bringing your family to our social events
- mentoring an apprentice
- becoming informed of the issues and voting for candidates who support labor
- going to a career day and promoting our industry

We welcome your participation and hope to see you at one of our many social events this year, which include the following:

- June 16 — Walla Walla State Park — Eastside Picnic
- June 30 — Bellingham Picnic — Deming Log Show
- July 21 — Westside Golf Tournament — Avalon
- Aug. 4 — Snohomish Picnic — Willis Park
- Dec. 1 — Bellingham Christmas Party
- Dec. 8 — Everett Christmas Party

More events are being scheduled, so please check the local's website frequently.

Remember to work safely and make it home every day.

*Bill Mirand, P.S.*



*IBEW Local 213 members and signatory contractor City West Cable and Telephone will participate in Connect to Innovate program to bring faster, better internet service to rural and remote communities in coastal British Columbia.*

## Faster Internet for Rural Areas Of Coastal British Columbia

L.U. 213 (c,catv,em,i&u), VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA — Through a combined investment of \$45.4 million, the Government of Canada, in partnership with the Government of British Columbia, is bringing new and improved high-speed internet to 154 rural and remote communities, enabling residents to get online.

Local 213 signatory CityWest Cable and Telephone will receive a total of \$12.4 million — \$9.3 million from the federal government and \$3.1 million from the Government of British Columbia — to improve high-speed internet service for 23 communities and 97 institutions.

"This is very exciting news for our employees and shows the faith that the provincial and federal governments have in us" said CityWest CEO Chris Maret.

"Projects like this secure the future for our highly skilled IBEW Local 213 members working for CityWest," said Robin Nedila, Local 213 assistant business manager representing members in cable and telecommunications. "Our telecommunications training department, NETCOM, offers the very best fiber optic training in the industry and we're confident that our members will succeed in northern B.C."

This investment will help residents of these

communities connect with family and friends, do business online, participate in distance education and take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the digital age. It will also help connect schools, hospitals, libraries and businesses to networks that are essential to their services.

"High-speed internet service is a basic tool that all Canadians should have access to, regardless of their postal code, said Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. "Thanks to our Connect to Innovate program, more Canadians will be able to participate fully in the digital economy."

This investment includes new subsea fibre optic cable that will connect communities between Prince Rupert and Vancouver, as well as around Vancouver Island — a total of 3.5 million metres of cable. Thanks to this investment in high-capacity networks in remote and underserved communities, all British Columbians, including First Nations, will be able to fully participate in the digital economy.

*Todd Nickel, P.S.*

## Tours of Davis Besse Plant; Annual Hockey Outing

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OHIO — Local 245 is currently in negotiations, as of press time, with newly organized Nelson Tree and WNW-Channel 24, our NBC affiliate.

On the outside, the work picture is good and should get better with the warmer weather coming.

We should know the long-awaited fate of the Bayshore Plant by the time this article gets published. Davis Besse's future is still in limbo at press time. Local 245 Bus. Mgr. Larry Tscherne and Local 1413 Bus. Mgr. Brad Goetz have been working tirelessly lobbying state representatives in Columbus and inviting them to take a tour of the plant with the hopes of putting a face to Davis Besse. Initially, these tours were slow to get underway with little interest shown, but as they progressed interest grew and many more got interested in seeing the plant. Those who toured the plant have all left impressed with what they saw.

On the social side of things, 200+ members and their families were treated to one heck of a hockey game at the local's annual hockey outing. Hats off to Lisa Tracy and Amanda Parker for their help in making the event a success. And, of course, the hometown team won.

The weather should be warming up by now. Take some time to enjoy it. Until next time, work safe and stay healthy.

*Ray Zychowicz, P.S.*

## Union Pride on the March

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — Undaunted by the effects of a powerful nor'easter and chilly temperatures, the Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade in Levittown, PA, went on as planned.

Parade goers were treated to dance troupes, pipe bands and plenty of Irish cheer. Several civic

organizations marched, not the least of which were the brothers and sisters of IBEW Local 269. Along with their family members they marched the parade route proudly wearing their union shirts and hats, tossing candy to young spectators along the route.

To some people the marchers are just a bunch of people wearing the same shirts. But to us members and others, it is a group of tradesmen and tradeswomen, dedicated to their craft and to their communities and to the quality of life that our livelihood affords. One cannot deny the unbridled joy on the faces of the young, the hugs and the handshakes between the members, and the overall sense amongst all involved that events like this are indeed a worthwhile endeavor. Our profession does not define us; however, our work ethic and community involvement does shape our view of the world and how the world views us. Stay strong, stay union.

*Brian Jacoppo, P.S.*

## Solidarity & Brotherhood

L. 313 (i&spa), WILMINGTON, DE — Spring is here and among other things this year that means negotiations. We encourage all to call, text or show up and have their voices heard. The more voices together, the stronger the message.

After-work socials are still happening at the hall. We encourage any member who works nearby to come join us. Talk of a dry social is being considered and we hope to provide this part of brotherhood sometime in the future.

Also, make sure to renew your Delaware Electrical License — now is the time.

With the nice weather, we encourage members to take in a ballgame and support our local's teams. Call the union hall for details on ball games, socials or anything else.

*Bruce W. Esper, P.S.*

## 'A Night Out' to Showcase IBEW Local's Training Center

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — The Local 343 union hall and training facility was the host site for a "Business After Hours" event held in March this year. The evening networking get-together with the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce as guests was an opportunity to meet in a relaxed setting. Most importantly, the event was an opportunity for our local to showcase its training center.

Local 343 Bus. Mgr. Chad Katzung and staff, along with Training Dir. Andy Toft and instructors Dan Goodew and Mike Bambrick, were present to answer questions from the curious visitors. Typically, many chamber members do not have much face-to-face contact with the building trades. Twenty-two IBEW apprentices (representing the first- through fifth-year apprenticeship classes) demonstrated their developing skills by working the transformer trainers, fire alarm, motor control, and DC electronics boards.



*IBEW Local 269 members and their families gather to march in the 2018 Bucks County, PA, St. Patrick's Day parade.*



## LOCAL LINES

They also demonstrated conduit bending techniques, residential and commercial wiring methods, and on-line blended learning. Many of the approximately 200 guests said they never knew that the local provided this training. They were even more surprised to learn that our training program is totally self-funded.

In exchange for volunteering, the apprentices received "Ohm's Law" T-shirts and credit toward the scholarship drawing. The apprentices enjoyed the various benefits of volunteering for union functions after hours. If you work for the union, the union will work for you.

Protect American jobs ... buy "Made in USA."

Tom Small, P.S.

## 'We Must Vote' — Stand for Those Who Labor

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rt&spa), DES MOINES, IOWA — Iowa labor, in the private and public sectors, is experiencing a rollback in the basic protections previously afforded us.

In 2016 elections, the Republican Party won the governor's office, the House and the Senate. Since then labor, the environment, education and Medicaid recipients have been under attack by state government. Iowa is following the actions of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas to starve the government. In the last two years, the Iowa legislature and governor cut previously approved state budgets by nearly \$500 million, claiming reduced tax receipts.

They issued tax credits and other incentives to large corporations of a similar amount. Now that government agencies and their employees are on their heels, the governor and the legislature are considering bills to reduce state income taxes by more than \$1 billion per year. In households, this would equate to taking a pay cut if you can't currently pay your monthly bills. All this activity was designed by the right-wing American Legislation Exchange Council (ALEC), largely funded by the billionaire Koch brothers.

What does this have to do with labor? When tax dollars go to corporations rather than to a local workforce, the profits often leave the country. When the same money is paid to the local workforce, more than 90 percent of it is spent locally.

It is vital to labor and working people that we remember this when we vote in Iowa's June 5 primary. We must vote! Please give Nate Boulton due consideration in the Iowa gubernatorial race. As a state senator, he has been fighting for the working people of Iowa.

In other news, the local is currently involved in labor contract negotiations.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

## Strength & Solidarity

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY — Greetings from IBEW Local 363 in New York. Brothers and sisters, everybody knows we are under attack legislatively and there are a few important things that we all must do if we want the IBEW to grow, stay strong and become stronger.

We need to show the younger generations behind us that the union — the IBEW — is the lifeblood of us all. We need to let them know that the union, the IBEW, is something to be proud to be a part of.

In Local 363, we are constantly planning for our future and we demonstrate exactly what needs to be done for younger generations behind us to continue to have this strong union.

We must work together with strength and solidarity to build the union. Knowing the union is valuable and where it came from is the foundation to that strong union. Our members are proud to be IBEW Local 363.

Accompanying this article is a picture (at top) taken at a recent union meeting, which was packed by the way. Our latest tribute to our IBEW Founding



Local 363 union meeting is well-attended. Displayed on the back wall of the meeting room is a large, framed photo of the founding fathers.

Fathers, a large framed photo of the founders, is displayed in our monthly meeting room. We know where we come from and we are proud of it!

Sam Fratto, B.M.

## Fighting for Working People; A 2018 Special Election Win

L.U. 369 (em,es,i,lctt,o,rtb,rt&spa&u), LOUISVILLE, KY — Eighteen months ago, Democrats became the minority party in Kentucky's House of Representatives. The state Senate was already being controlled by the Republican Party, with a record opposing the interests of workers. Riding the coattails of Donald Trump, a Republican was elected governor of the commonwealth.

So-called "right-to-work" and the demise of prevailing wage soon followed. This legislative session, the war on workers continued with bills concerning workers' compensation, unemployment insurance and many others being pushed through the legislature.

On Feb. 20 this year, the tide may have begun to turn. A special election was held in a district that Trump won by 49 points. The Democrat, Linda Belcher, won election for a Kentucky state House seat by 68 percent to 32 percent. That victory could well be the first snowball in a coming avalanche of Democratic wins that will turn the House blue again. Ms. Belcher is quoted as saying: "I could not have won that election without the help labor provided." We will continue fighting for the working men and women of our great commonwealth.

Gene Holthouser, B.R.



Local 379 Bro. Doug McDaniel (in foreground) at the 2017 Labor Day parade carrying the local's flag. 'Off to a Great Start'

L.U. 379 (i,lctt,o&rtb), CHARLOTTE, NC — We are off to a great start in 2018! Work is picking up, even as we are at full employment. We expect to be working a record number of people come summer. Contract negotiations will start in May and our negotiating team is already hard at work.

We closed out 2017 with our Annual Holiday Party, with over 150 members and their guests in attendance. It was a great party! Bro. Doug McDaniel was voted Brother of the Year by our members and present-

ed with a plaque at the party. Bro. McDaniel is a journeyman wireman at Preferred Electric who topped out of our apprenticeship program in 2013. He is the Local 379 recording secretary, serves on the Apprenticeship Committee and is one of the founders and consistent leaders of BOLT 379, our Young Worker's Group. Doug is always happy to lend a hand and to remind his co-workers of the upcoming union meeting.

In February, we were proud and excited to bring a new way to communicate with our members into our arsenal: We started a podcast! The IBEW LU-379 480 Volts podcast is available on Sound Cloud and iTunes. Check it out and leave a comment!

Ashley Hawkins, Organizer



Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. John J. O'Rourke (left), Local 413 Bus. Mgr. Chuck Huddleston, Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson and IEC member Patrick Lavin.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 413 (i&mo), SANTA BARBARA, CA — We marked our local's 100th anniversary year by celebrating last summer at the Chumash Casino. Master of ceremonies Bus. Mgr. Chuck Huddleston welcomed Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson as the keynote speaker along with guest speakers Int. Vice Pres. John J. O'Rourke, IEC member and Local 47 Bus. Mgr. Patrick Lavin, NECA Chapter Mgrs. Shari Brunner and Jerri Champlin, and Unity Shoppe Exec. Dir. Tom Reed.

The well-attended event included former Local 413 business managers Joseph Furino Jr., Steve Ray and Joseph Tighe. Many other business managers and officers from other local unions joined the great number of celebrating Local 413 members in attendance. We were pleased by the show of support by local contractors who attended our event. Elected public officials who honored Local 413 that night included California State Assemblywoman Monique Limon; Santa Barbara County Supervisors Das Williams, Joan Hartmann and Steve Lavagnino; and Santa Barbara City Council members Cathy Murrillo and Gregg Hart.

It was a night of great fun, speeches, dining and

dancing. Our appreciation goes out to the 100th anniversary committee as well as the event sponsors who made our celebration possible. Most importantly, thank you to past and present Local 413 members for making it all possible.

Chuck Huddleston, B.M./F.S.

## Big Projects Underway; New Heights for Membership

L.U. 441 (as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA — In a change from prior years, the area has seen a boom in construction this year. With high-profile jobs such as Star Wars at Disneyland, the Huntington Beach power plant, and JW Marriott and Westin hotels coming out of the ground, our members have enjoyed a stretch of good jobs that looks to continue well into 2019.

Overall membership continues to reach new heights in the ongoing push for market share in the county. With the increase in membership, more members are getting involved with our RENEW, EWMC, volunteer opportunities and sports teams.

Recently, our football team competed in the 6th Annual SoCal

IBEW Flag Football Tournament held at the Army/Navy Academy Stadium in Carlsbad and came away with their fifth championship. Competition was very tough from the surrounding locals and we appreciate all the hard work put in by the team. Congratulations, brothers!

The future is bright here in Orange County with our member involvement, job forecast, and commitment to being proud union electricians representing the IBEW.

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

## Successful Fundraiser For Special Olympics CT

L.U. 457 (u), MERIDEN, CT — Members of Local 457 held their annual cigar dinner to benefit the Special Olympics Connecticut Penguin Plunge. It was an evening of fun that raised over \$1,600. Some of those who participated in the fundraiser took part in the Penguin Plunge, diving into Long Island Sound in the first week of March.

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



Local 457 members hold fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut Penguin Plunge.



## Positive Work Outlook; Volunteer Opportunities

L.U. 531 (i), LAPORTE, IN — Work has been abundant in the area recently and is looking good for the foreseeable future. We have been putting out travelers and will continue to have a need for them throughout 2018 and into 2019. Industrial work has been steady and there has been a boom in commercial work around the local. A major new hospital is being built in Michigan City with another in the planning stages in LaPorte. Several of the area school systems are either building new schools or renovating old ones. There has been a lot of retail development also, including smaller stores and some major anchor stores as well.

With everyone being busy, there has still been time for volunteer work and community activism. Many members are active with Habitat for Humanity and similar organizations in several of the area communities.

Thank you to all the brothers and sisters who give up their free time at night and on the weekends to help with these causes, and thank you in advance to the volunteers who will be needed for the local summertime activities.

Jeremy Woolever, P.S.



IBEW Local 569 members working with Sullivan Solar on the San Diego Padres' Petco Park project. Photo credit: Sullivan Solar Power.

"This solar project is larger than the other seven major league baseball solar projects combined," Sullivan Solar reported.

We invite you to come see their work at our 4th Annual IBEW Padres Day on Saturday, July 14. The Padres will play against the Chicago Cubs. An IBEW 569 member will throw out the first pitch, and we'll host a

great tailgate with plenty of refreshments. Discounted tickets are available at our union hall until sold out.

We also wish to congratulate our Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) on their successful 3rd Annual San Diego Women in the Trades Conference. This event was attended by over 100 women and created much sisterhood and solidarity.

And congratulations to our IBEW 569 Flag Football Team. They took third place in the IBEW SoCal Flag Football Tournament and did us proud!

Finally, if you missed it, you can check out our IBEW 569 State of the Union here: [www.ibew569.org/news/2018-state-ibew-569-union](http://www.ibew569.org/news/2018-state-ibew-569-union).

Gretchen K, Newsom, P.S./Organizer

## IBEW Railroad Members Install Advanced PTC System

L.U. 589 (rr), JAMAICA, NY — We would like to say thank-you to all our Long Island Rail Road members for their hard work and dedication on the installation of the Positive Train Control (PTC) system.

As you all know, PTC has been in the news and is a major topic in the railroad industry. Thankfully, we have some of the best electricians in the railroad industry to maintain the system for the next century.

The membership of IBEW Local 589 plays a vital role in the transportation system of the New York City area. Our members work in the Newark and JFK AirTrain systems, and the LIRR. We are very proud to be the largest railroad local in the country. We sincerely thank all our members for their work and dedication, and we hope everyone has a productive and healthy 2018.

Augie MacCarone, R.S.

## 2018 Election Year

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — This year's state legislative session ended in late January. We survived the last eight years with a Republican governor and were fortunate not to become a "right-to-work" state. This is an election year, so I

encourage anyone who is not registered to vote to please contact the hall to find out how to register.

Our negotiations started in April; hopefully we can come out with a fair contract that will benefit everyone.

This year's Apprentice of the Year is Chris Baker. At this writing, Chris was scheduled to compete at the Seventh District competition on March 24 in Albuquerque this year. Good luck, Chris.

As of this writing Facebook and Alamo projects are still calling for workers.

Local 611 sends condolences to the families of members who recently passed away: Louis R. Jacobs, Andres O. Martinez, Juan B. A. Villareal, Tommy L. Soonts, Troy L. Canada, Richard W. Corman and Harrison N. Herder Jr.

Don't forget to attend your local union meetings and support COPE.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



Local 611 RENEW Committee members volunteered to help with yard work for a fellow brother who recently had surgery. Volunteers, from left: Alan Hammack, Ruben Romero, Jamie Trout and Bo Beebe.

## Members Ratify Contract; Grant for New Training Center

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,ltt,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA — Congratulations to Bro. Jeff McBarron for completing his apprenticeship program and receiving his certificate of qualification.

Recently retired members include: Bros. Steve Fader and Brayne McGrath, in January; and Bros. Larry Shaw, Darrell Knickle, Jeff Durling, Dwayne Armsworth and Charlie Franklin, in March.

We are saddened to have lost a member, Bro. Fred Whalen, in February. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

Exciting news for our members on Prince Edward Island! There has been a Memorandum of Agreement reached and the membership voted in favour of the contract after being locked out for five years. We also reached a Memorandum of Agreement for the contract on mainland Nova Scotia and, at the time of this writing, we were scheduled to vote on this contract.

The four unions that jointly own our building — IBEW Local 625, Iron Workers Local 752, LIUNA Local 615, and Painters and Allied Workers Local 1439 — submitted a proposal for grant money from Canada's Union Training and Innovation Program, for a 26-foot scissor lift and a 40-foot boom style lift. We will receive 50 percent of the funding amount of \$51,008. This equipment will be used for the building's new Training Centre.

Brad Wood, B.R./P.S.

## 'A Busy Spring for Local 697'

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — IBEW Local 697 had a very active spring season.

In March, we launched the "Sisters of 697" committee and the Local 697 Motorcycle Club. These two new additions will complement our established EWMC and RENEW groups as we are focused on strengthening our local union from within.

Keeping with our annual March traditions, Local 697 hosted our annual Spring Blood Drive, and the Local 697 EWMC hosted our annual 3-on-3 Charity Basketball Tournament with all the proceeds going to a 697 family in need.

The Local 697 RENEW committee volunteered their time to set up and tear down the temporary electric power for the annual City of Crown Point St. Patrick's Day Parade.

In April, the Local 697 Golf League began play with another fun season of camaraderie on the course.

We will celebrate the 59th year of the Local 697 Credit Union at our annual Dinner/Dance Meeting on Saturday, May 5.

On Sunday, May 6, Local 697 will represent our organization in the community at the annual March of Dimes walk for babies in Highland, IN.

Ryan Reithel, B.M./F.S.

## 70-Year Service Award

L.U. 873 (em&i), KOKOMO, IN — Bro. Kenny Talbert recently received his IBEW 70-year service pin and certificate.

"What a distinguished honor to present to my friend and brother such a prestigious award," Local 873 Bus. Mgr. Mike Young said.

Kenny is one of only four members of Local 873 to receive an award for 70 years of service. Kenneth R. Talbert was initiated on Sept. 26, 1947. He retired in March of 1993. Of the millions of members who have been part of this great organization, Bro. Talbert is part of an elite group! Thank you, Bro. Kenny Talbert, for your honorable service to Local 873 and the IBEW!

Mike Young, B.M.



Local 873 retired member Kenny Talbert (left) receives 70-year service award presented by Bus. Mgr. Mike Young.

## New Organizing Stewards; Union Solidarity & Strength

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA — Local 1245 recently inducted 111 new organizing stewards, our largest class since the local launched this groundbreaking intergenerational, hands-on organizing program five years ago. This dynamic group of member-leaders kicked off the year with a powerful training on "right to work" and Janus v. AFSCME, led by renowned labor expert and activist Gordon Lafer.



Local 531 members working for Circle R Electric are finishing a new Meijer store in Valparaiso, IN. It is one of the many commercial jobs in the jurisdiction.

## Negotiating Strength

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI — Strong contracts and members sticking together have historically made the IBEW great. As Local 557 negotiates our contract this spring, we must remain strong and remain together. Bargaining strength comes from the membership and their ability to stick together on issues and conditions while producing efficiently throughout the workday. The future can only be as bright as we wish to make it and today's fights will be tomorrow's benefits.

Local 557 wishes to pay tribute to two great members who recently passed. Bros. William McMall and Daniel Alcock Sr. were longtime, dedicated members who will be extremely missed. Bro. McMall had received his 65-year IBEW pin in December and Bro. Alcock was one of the most respected and well-known members of 557. Both served on the Executive Board during their time in this local. Our heartfelt condolences go out to their family and friends.

Evan Allardyce, B.M.

## Solar Surge for the Padres & Major League Baseball

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA — We congratulate IBEW Local 569/NECA contractor Sullivan Solar Power and our highly trained and skilled workforce for the construction of the largest solar power array in major league baseball.

According to Sullivan Solar, the 336,520-watt system at Petco Park — home of San Diego Padres — will generate more than \$4,117,000 in utility savings.



## LOCAL LINES



An enthusiastic group of IBEW Local 1245 members attended a powerful training on “right to work” and Janus vs AFSCME on Feb. 24. Photo by John Storey.

The training is just one part of Local 1245’s ongoing effort to build union power and capacity in anticipation of the Janus decision. For the past eight months, member-powered Volunteer Organizing Committees have been holding one-on-one, face-to-face conversations with their co-workers at Local 1245-represented public sector properties, sharing their stories about the concrete difference that the union makes in their lives, and inviting their fellow members to recommit to the union by signing voluntary membership cards. This approach has proved remarkably effective, and is now being emulated by other unions in California and beyond.

“While I’m not one to take any attack on labor lightly, I wholeheartedly believe that we can not only survive, but truly thrive in the face of this court ruling,” said Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell.

In Outside Construction, the overall work picture looks very good, with a projected increase of about 30 percent in electric distribution work, and increases in other types of work as well.

Rebecca Band, P.S.

## St. Patrick’s Day Parade; Puerto Rico Storm Restoration

L.U. 1347 (ees,em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — In January, IBEW Local 1347’s linemen from Duke Energy traveled 1,798 miles to help restore power to Puerto Rico. Power restoration on the island has been a daunting task in the aftermath of the destruction caused by Hurricane Maria in September 2017. This tiny island has struggled with disaster relief since three consecutive hurricanes hit the region.

We are pleased to share a photo taken in Puerto Rico during the restoration efforts put forth by IBEW members, who worked to restore not only electrical power, but also to assist the community by giving life back to the businesses there, and most importantly, to help the residents, one day at a time. (See photo below.) Bus. Mgr. Andrew Kirk traveled to Puerto Rico

on Feb. 20 to check on the men who were sent to help restore power and to acknowledge all the great work they have provided to assist with restoration in the wake of the devastating storms.

On March 10, the Cincinnati St. Patrick’s Day parade occurred a week before the actual holiday to set the mood for the next weekend’s celebration. The procession wound along the riverside and up through “The Banks” before a large sea-of-green crowd. The IBEW Local 1347 contingent marched alongside fellow local unions in support of union solidarity. We plan to increase the size and status of our float next year to further promote the IBEW.

Andrew Kirk, B.M./F.S.



Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie attends conference on labor’s agenda for 2018.

## AFL-CIO Conference — ‘Labor’s Agenda for 2018’

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD — Local 1501 Bus. Mgr. Dion F. Guthrie attended an AFL-CIO regional conference held Jan. 24-26 in New Jersey on the topic of labor’s agenda for 2018.

The conference provided an opportunity for the Maryland AFL-CIO and fellow labor union activists to exchange ideas, discuss regional issues, and address the 2018 agenda for labor.

Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Pres. Jermaine Jones chaired this event for the first time and did an outstanding job for all his constituents. The theme of the conference was “Labor First.” The event was well-attended and a great success.

The three-day conference provided much information for the AFL-CIO members in attendance and we all were able to take home a lot of valuable information to our fellow members regarding labor’s agenda for 2018.

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

## Property Improvements

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — Over the past few years, Local 1579 has made its place downtown a dominant and respected business. The main building that houses our business offices, welding lab, classroom space and the meeting hall received a much-needed facelift inside and out. Additional lots purchased on the corner of Reynolds and 13th Streets now make us the proud owner of the entire corner. Two of those lots had former businesses on them. One was in poor condition and had to be demolished; the other was historical and is now renovated and will be used for additional training space. This building was built the same year that the IBEW was chartered, in 1891 (NBEW at that time), so we felt we should renovate and keep it.

The Apprenticeship Committee is exploring the possibility of relocating their offices and training. Currently, the Apprenticeship leases from Local 1579 and partners with Augusta Technical College for additional training space. Our training programs have grown so much, we feel there is a need to explore this possibility.

Our work situation remains strong. These are historical times in Local 1579, as we have an abundance of work and stand to pick up much more. Much of this work will be in the downtown area. I stay in contact with the mayor and will make sure our contractors have the information needed to bid these projects.

Let’s continue to remember the “B” in IBEW. Treat each other with respect, help each other when in need, and guide each other in a positive way. Until next time, be safe.

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



A rendering of Local 1579 building renovations.

## Spring & Summer Events

L.U. 1687 (i&o), SUDBURY, ONTARIO, CANADA — At this writing, winter in Local 1687 is almost over. We look forward to spring and summer. In the months of November and December, Brother Owen and his wife provided a grilled-cheese lunch every Wednesday. NextGen arranged a family swim at the Sudbury “Y” in January and at this writing has plans for one in the Sault. Turnout in Sudbury was a little low; hopefully it will be better in the Sault.

We are looking to summertime fun, although we do like our ice fishing. The May 24 run is a big event

here. That weekend, most northerners abandon their homes for a trip to the lakes and rivers in search for pike and pickerel.

At the time of this writing, our hockey team was making plans to travel to London, Ontario, for the OPC Hockey Tournament on April 27 to defend our trophy as group “C” champions.

Our ball team will travel to Windsor for the OPC ball tourney on June 29. The ball tournament participants are from Ontario locals, while the hockey tournament has teams participating from locals in Ontario, Province of Quebec, Manitoba, and northern states.

Our golf tournament will be held Aug. 11 in the town of Blind River, Ontario. It is always a good time and an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

Bruce Palmer, B.M./F.S.



Local 1701 second-year apprentice Hunter Henderson.

## IBEW Members Score Win For Kentucky Working People

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY — Once again, we must report on more attacks against our members by the Kentucky Legislature. As of this mid-winter writing, we are closely watching two bills in the state legislature. HB 252 would reduce the number of weeks individuals can draw unemployment by nearly half, and SB 78 is a bill designed to reduce the amount of experience needed to get a Kentucky state journeyman license to two years from the current four years. Even with the phone calls, emails and letters from our members to their representatives and senators, it is doubtful that these bills will have any problems passing with Kentucky’s current administration.

**[Editor’s Note:** For an update on a successful development regarding the unemployment bill, see news article “In Kentucky, IBEW Members Thwart Attack on State’s Unemployment Benefits,” on Page 8 of this issue and posted on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/18Daily/1803/180321\\_InKentucky](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/18Daily/1803/180321_InKentucky). In a win for working people, as the article reports: “IBEW members in Kentucky joined with labor allies to put a stop to the state’s attempt to roll back unemployment benefits.”]



Some of the Local 1347 members who helped restore power in Puerto Rico after 2017 hurricanes struck.

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Negotiations for our Big Rivers Generation Division contract should begin soon with high hopes of a good outcome for our members.

The Local 1701 retirees extend an invitation to anyone who would like to attend their monthly lunch. It is held at the local union hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. and is \$5 for all you can eat.

In sadness, we report the passing of Sister Mary Helen Baker and Brother Robert "Jim" Bishop. May they rest in peace.

Nathan M. Knott, B.R.

## Tribute for Career of Service

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, MAINE — IBEW Local 1837 member Pam Paquette retired in March from Eversource Energy/PSNH after 37 years at New Hampshire's largest electric utility. Sister Paquette was active in her union for more than 30 years. Originally hired as a nonunion customer service clerk, she helped organize her co-workers to join the union, winning their NLRB election in 1984. Pam not only served as recording secretary for the Local 1837 E-Board, she was also a steward, a unit officer, a contract negotiations committee member, and an elected delegate to six International Conventions.

"One of the most prominent things I'll take with me is all the brothers and sisters that I've met and talked with along the way," Sister Paquette said. "As union members, we all share the same dream — which is to protect what we have, have a say in where we are going, and make sure everyone is treated equally with dignity and respect."

Matthew Beck, Organizer/B.R.



IBEW Local 1837 Bus. Mgr. Dick Rogers (left) and Pres. Michelle Crocker (right) present retiring Sister Pam Paquette with a plaque commemorating her IBEW service.

## Growth in Membership

L.U. 2001 (ptc), FREMONT, NE — Our members were pleased to hear that Local 2001 was recognized at the September 2017 IBEW Membership Development Conference for being among the locals with the largest percentage of growth in BA membership for the year of 2016. This came as a welcomed and much



Local 2001 receives plaque presented by Sav-Rx Prescription Services CEO Christy Piti (fourth from left). From left are: IBEW Local 2001 E-Board member Christopher Marsh, Treas. Tonya Rawson, E-Board member Michelle Kreikemeier, [CEO C. Piti of Sav-Rx], Bus. Mgr./Pres. Nicole Ranslem, E-Board Chmn. Troy Miller, Vice Pres. Amy Earnest and Treas. Ashley Lendos.

appreciated surprise to our local. This growth reflects the hard work of IBEW Local 2001 union members and the companies where they work.

To commemorate this achievement, Christy Piti, CEO of Sav-Rx Prescription Services, presented Local 2001 with a plaque. Many of Local 2001's members are employed by Sav-Rx. Among those present for the presentation of the plaque were: IBEW Local 2001 Treas. Tonya Rawson, Bus. Mgr./Pres. Nicole Ranslem, Vice Pres. Amy Earnest, Rec. Sec. Ashley Lendos, E-Board Chmn. Troy Miller, and E-Board members Christopher Marsh and Michelle Kreikemeier.

From all of us at IBEW Local 2001, thank you to all involved!

Nicole Ranslem, B.M./Pres.

## IBEW Support for Community

L.U. 2067 (o&u), REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA — IBEW Local 2067 has always promoted family and community. On Feb. 19, we had a chance to support both when Sister Nicole Stewart spearheaded a unique opportunity.

The Northern Saskatchewan community of Sandy Bay (population 1,200) hosts Family Day celebrations annually, encouraging the community to get outside for family fun.

Sister Stewart contacted the Local 2067 office and inquired about getting toques and mitts sent up to the remote community to allow the young people to enjoy the day while staying comfortable and warm.

Local 2067 procured \$2,400 worth of toques and convinced the major employer in the community, SaskPower, to supply mittens and scarves to match. The clothing had quite the trip: It was chauffeured by car from Regina, SK, to Nipawin, SK, (360 kilometers), then sent by plane for a 270-km flight to Island Falls, where it finally met up with Sister Stewart, who took it the final 5 kilometers to the community of Sandy Bay.

Local 2067 Bus. Mgr. Jason Tibbs stated: "It was a great opportunity to show the community of Sandy Bay that the IBEW and SaskPower care about them, and their contributions to the utility and province. We hope they enjoy the Stat [statutory] Holiday."

Curtis Lizée, A.B.M.

# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in March 2018

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Aten, V. J.	11/16/17	26	Jones, G. L.	11/30/17	100	Terrell, N. L.	12/5/17
1	Dinnella, R. C.	12/18/17	26	LaScola, S. J.	1/18/18	102	Rourke, B.	2/1/18
1	Hodo, R. C.	9/29/17	26	Moore, S. A.	1/23/18	102	Ryan, V. T.	10/8/17
1	Holloway, J. A.	8/7/17	26	Motes, F. M.	2/10/18	102	Woodhead, W.	12/7/17
1	Montaigne, J. G.	1/5/18	26	Stephens, R. G.	1/7/18	103	Baccari, D.	2/5/18
1	Raines, W. L.	12/2/17	31	Syring, L. G.	4/12/15	103	Hooper, W. G.	1/15/18
3	Agi, R.	12/22/17	32	Arnold, B. E.	12/23/17	103	Loadwick, E. A.	12/27/17
3	Anderson, W. C.	1/25/18	34	Greene, J. L.	1/11/18	103	McDermott, E. J.	10/21/17
3	Bargone, C. P.	8/22/17	34	Niemann, K. M.	1/15/18	103	O'Donnell, J. J.	12/23/17
3	Caban, S.	1/22/18	35	Forler, G. E.	12/3/17	103	Roberts, W. J.	1/7/17
3	Cacaci, J. F.	12/12/17	38	Andrews, F. E.	1/7/18	103	Schlaich, W. W.	12/30/17
3	Cardillo, A. S.	12/5/17	38	Embrescia, A.	1/25/18	103	Vetrano, J. M.	1/31/18
3	Caruso, J. A.	12/25/17	38	Hahn, W.	1/12/18	105	Brunhart, P. S.	1/23/18
3	Chirico, M.	1/26/18	38	Olenick, T. J.	1/23/18	105	Hicks, L. B.	1/29/18
3	Correa, J.	12/21/17	38	Pozna, R. A.	2/4/18	105	Poklecki, J.	12/28/17
3	D'Andrea, F. A.	1/17/18	38	Roth, H. A.	1/17/18	105	Shrum, J. N.	8/31/17
3	DeMarinis, A.	9/20/16	38	Scott, J. A.	1/16/18	110	Burkhart, C. E.	1/28/18
3	DeVincenzo, M.	12/29/17	40	Jones, E.	11/29/17	110	Lamberty, F. M.	12/18/17
3	Devlin, N. J.	1/26/18	40	Williams, W. W.	2/3/18	110	Pettijohn, R. E.	11/7/17
3	Estevez, V.	1/16/18	41	Bull, M. C.	1/13/18	110	Prazak, T. C.	1/14/18
3	Fazio, R. A.	1/17/18	43	Pagano, J. V.	8/15/17	112	Myers, D. E.	2/5/18
3	Fressle, M. H.	1/27/18	43	Righi, A. T.	12/12/17	113	Charles, R. K.	5/15/17
3	Garcia, L.	8/6/17	44	Jorgenson, T. W.	2/19/18	113	Newendyke, R. J.	1/24/18
3	Gianatiempo, G. L.	11/28/17	45	Moore, T.	1/29/18	113	Phillips, B. E.	2/4/18
3	Grow, G. L.	1/1/18	46	Jones, H. L.	12/29/17	117	Taylor, G. L.	1/3/18
3	Ingenito, R.	12/11/17	47	Sandow, R.	12/30/17	117	Welisek, B. F.	10/12/17
3	Janousek, R. C.	1/16/18	48	Engle, E. R.	12/26/17	124	Baker, N. H.	11/11/17
3	Josephs, D.	11/1/15	48	Gerg, R. L.	1/14/18	124	Buckman, J. L.	12/13/17
3	Kreckel, G. L.	1/1/18	48	Gibb, F. D.	1/10/18	124	Mychalczuk, H.	12/18/17
3	LaBruyere, R. F.	1/12/18	48	Irby, J. K.	12/26/17	124	Ping, R. G.	1/3/18
3	Marano, R.	12/14/17	48	Lewis, L. V.	12/27/17	124	Sullivan, J. J.	1/1/18
3	Marshall, R. D.	1/23/18	48	Manning, D. E.	1/18/18	125	Hensley, J. D.	11/18/17
3	Mela, A.	1/19/18	48	Milling, R. E.	1/12/18	125	Mason, R. L.	12/18/17
3	Meyer, R. P.	12/25/17	51	Johnson, C. E.	7/28/17	126	Boccella, A. J.	1/10/18
3	Nevins, I.	1/30/18	51	Moore, A. W.	1/11/18	126	Janke, G. A.	12/23/17
3	Perin, V.	12/19/17	51	Webster, C. N.	9/19/17	126	Sykes, W. A.	11/10/17
3	Permahos, W. M.	7/25/16	56	Jeschke, R. D.	12/28/17	126	Tornetta, C.	11/24/17
3	Rodriguez, M. A.	1/1/18	56	Sandiff, D. L.	1/27/18	130	Adams, K. R.	12/16/17
3	Salerno, A. J.	1/20/18	57	Purcell, J. E.	9/27/17	130	Barovechio, F. P.	1/9/18
3	Salerno, C. A.	12/18/17	58	Kraft, B. M.	11/15/17	130	Belcher, A. W.	12/29/17
3	Scaringi, J. F.	12/30/17	58	Locher, J. C.	12/12/17	130	Dickinson, L. A.	1/14/18
3	Spence, W. D.	1/13/18	58	Ogden, H. C.	12/28/17	130	Lowe, W. C.	1/24/18
3	Stahlin, W. J.	9/20/17	58	Rowe, K. E.	3/16/17	130	Morell, E. A.	1/4/18
3	Stephenson, E. J.	12/24/17	58	Williams, J. E.	11/29/17	130	Rupp, L. C.	1/19/17
3	Strollo, G. J.	12/9/17	60	Gonzalez, D. H.	1/10/18	130	Seals, K. J.	1/7/18
3	Tardibuo, J. M.	11/26/17	60	Kasberg, W. C.	11/28/16	134	Amendola, A.	1/12/18
3	Virtuoso, P. P.	8/14/17	60	Suggs, R. E.	1/6/18	134	Anderson, L. E.	11/5/17
3	Wines, R. A.	10/2/17	60	Woolard, D. W.	11/29/17	134	Ausherman, G. C.	11/27/16
3	Wolfe, E. J.	1/10/18	64	Anderson, R.	1/1/18	134	Behrens, T. J.	12/26/17
3	Zephyr, P. J.	12/26/17	66	Miller, J. W.	12/23/17	134	Brandt, H. J.	1/10/18
4	McCullough, E. K.	7/5/17	66	Mondor, N. J.	7/12/17	134	Bruhns, M. T.	12/17/17
5	Donaldson, T. R.	1/17/18	68	Botts, D. L.	12/10/17	134	Dawkins, B. T.	1/2/18
5	Headlee, H. R.	1/16/18	68	Langlett, D. D.	1/18/18	134	Dembraski, J. T.	1/7/18
5	Holland, D.	1/11/18	68	Nelson, A. C.	2/12/18	134	Devaney, M. B.	9/18/16
7	Mykytiuk, P. C.	11/14/17	68	Richardson, M. L.	10/23/17	134	Eldridge, P. W.	11/12/17
8	Willett, D. L.	12/25/17	68	Robb, D. J.	12/14/17	134	Ford, R. M.	10/5/17
9	Davenport, E. E.	1/11/18	68	Yeager, R. A.	12/26/17	134	Fraser, T.	1/26/18
9	Grant, R. L.	12/31/17	70	Boley, P. G.	12/20/17	134	Furbush, G. L.	12/25/17
9	Harwick, D.	1/26/18	70	Poteat, J. A.	12/16/17	134	Goering, H. M.	1/5/18
9	Kennedy, R. S.	8/30/17	70	Reedy, V. A.	12/30/17	134	Hahn, D. E.	12/28/17
9	O'Brien, L. M.	12/24/17	71	Grunder, W. J.	12/27/17	134	Heneghan, W.	1/14/18
11	Babcock, F. E.	9/12/17	76	Holt, J.	1/7/18	134	Hyde, R.	1/15/18
11	Berry, L.	12/14/17	77	Bryant, J. A.	1/10/17	134	Kane, J. N.	11/3/17
11	Duran, G. C.	12/25/14	77	Diede, H.	1/3/18	134	Lamberg, J. E.	12/19/17
11	Hollingshead, F. A.	1/22/18	77	Holmes, F. W.	1/24/18	134	Lary, M. C.	1/25/18
11	Madden, V. R.	12/23/17	77	Newbury, W. E.	12/24/17	134	McCormack, R. P.	12/29/17
11	Page, D. L.	2/2/18	77	Perry, J. R.	1/16/18	134	O'Donnell, J. L.	12/20/17
11	Yu, J.	1/28/18	77	Thorson, J. W.	12/29/17	134	Patterson, V. P.	12/27/17
13	Bunnell, P. L.	1/16/18	80	Larkins, H. E.	1/11/18	134	Perry, J. R.	12/24/17
17	Collier, L. P.	11/20/17	82	Bach, R. E.	1/9/18	134	Ross, M. P.	10/5/17
17	Lieb, W. J.	7/9/17	82	McDonald, P. J.	1/28/18	134	Santoni, V. L.	3/15/16
20	Cable, L. L.	12/20/17	86	Bullen, T. W.	11/4/17	134	Seeck, W. H.	12/18/17
21	Chamerlik, R. W.	9/24/17	86	Catalano, A. A.	12/12/17	134	Silvers, M.	12/23/17
22	Babb, R. L.	12/16/17	86	Isaac, R. E.	11/26/17	134	Small, R. J.	12/8/17
22	Hanny, R. L.	1/22/18	86	Jordan, F. E.	12/2/17	134	Stampley, A.	12/9/17
22	Schaefer, J. L.	2/3/18	90	Ciastko, F.	12/12/17	134	Trojanowicz, E.	12/25/17
24	Dinneen, T. J.	1/9/18	90	McGowan, D. B.	12/25/17	136	East, B. J.	1/4/18
24	Jones, J. F.	1/8/18	95	Earl, J. M.	12/31/17	136	Roberson, R. E.	1/27/18
24	Unger, S. L.	12/30/17	97	Jennings, R. D.	10/15/17	139	Davis, L. A.	12/21/17
24	Woollen, E. S.	1/7/18	97	Titus, H. G.	10/20/17	139	Roloson, D. E.	2/4/18
25	Ambrosio, F.	2/1/18	98	Elfreth, D. C.	12/1/17	141	Dallison, J. R.	10/10/17
25	Corallo, C. J.	11/27/17	98	Nees, D. W.	1/22/18	141	Sarris, T. G.	11/12/17
25	Hunter, B. P.	12/31/17	98	Tims, J. R.	1/17/18	143	Rowe, P. E.	12/22/17
25	O'Shaughnessy, E.	1/14/18	98	Tyler, T. H.	1/6/18	143	Weller, L. C.	1/6/18
25	Raineri, S.	1/7/18	98	Zerby, C. H.	12/24/17	145	Kavanaugh, K. P.	1/2/18
25	Werner, G. L.	12/20/17	99	Goodreau, W. L.	12/31/15	160	Martin, L. L.	1/11/18
26	Allison, D. E.	10/19/17	99	Poland, J. R.	12/20/17			
26	Hibbard, R. F.	1/23/18	99	Reilly, R. F.	1/27/18			

continued on page 18

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# IBEW MERCHANDISE



The top section features three photographs of IBEW merchandise. On the left is a circular magnetic golf ball marker with the IBEW logo. In the center is a blue cooler bag with the IBEW logo and a lightning bolt. On the right is a red and black golf umbrella with the IBEW logo on the canopy.

**Clip-2-me Ball Marker \$4.50**  
Strong magnetic golf ball marker with 1" diameter IBEW logo. Easily clips to shirt or hat.

**IBEW Personal Cooler Bag \$16.00**  
Personal cooler bag holds up to 6 cans and contains a thermal lining to keep beverages cold. Measures 15"h x 6.5"w x 3.5"d, embroidered with grey IBEW initials, fist and lightning bolts.

**Golf Umbrella \$41.00**  
Red and black golf umbrella with 62" arc, fiberglass shaft & rubberized handle with IBEW logo on 2 panels.

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## WHO WE ARE

# Ohio Local Pitches in to Ease Electrical Burden for Low-Income Families



Members of Hamilton, Ohio, Local 648 who worked on the lighting system at a homeless shelter in the city included retired International Representative Don Vidourek, President Matt Von Stein, Kevin Angst, Financial Secretary and Training Director Bobby Angst, Patrick Williams, Tim Williams, Joey Jacobs, Adam Long and Mark Pfeiffer.

Just north of Cincinnati, union activism, community service and politics go hand in hand. And Matt Von Stein hopes it stays that way.

Von Stein is president of Hamilton, Ohio, Local 648. He's also been a member of the Hamilton City Council since 2016, giving voice to working families and labor in the city of about 63,000 people. But his dual duties offer opportunities in the other direction as well, providing an inside track for Von Stein's brothers and sisters at Local 648 to help their neighbors where they're needed.

"I want the community to see us," he said. "I want them to know the union exists and how much we do compared to what happens in a nonunion community. I want them to see the value we bring."

Von Stein said Local 648's commitment to the community has been going on for decades. But members took it to another level when they pitched in to help the city's Efficiency Smart program. Hamilton officials credited them with helping to save an estimated \$120,000 in energy costs for the city's poorest residents during the past year.

Local 648 members did it by upgrading the lighting system at several community organizations, such as food pantries and homeless shelters, and by donating energy-efficient LED lights to low-income families.

"When I got into office [as local president], things like this are what I wanted to focus on," Von Stein said. "We started doing that. When I got on the city council, I wanted to put my money where my mouth was."

The projects Local 648 was involved in as part of the Efficiency Smart program were:

- Replaced aging light fixtures and installed 80 LED fixtures at Serve City Homeless Shelter. The facility provides more than 14,000 nights of shelter to approximately 450 people in the community every year.
- Installed 60 LED light kits provided by the city at Open Door Pantry, which has been serving area families in need since 1981. Officials at both the food pantry and homeless shelter plan to put the savings on electrical bills into needed programs.

Separate projects completed by Local 648 members with either funds provided by the IBEW or signatory contractors include:

- Wired and installed new lights at the Booker T. Washington Community Center's baseball fields in Hamilton, allowing children from a low-income area to play games at night. Members installed LED wall packs inside the fields' concession stands, making them more efficient for the community center to run.
- Installed LED wall packs at the Crawford Woods baseball fields, a longtime youth baseball facility in Hamilton.
- Installed wall packs at Hamilton's Living Water Ministries, which is run by the United Methodist Church and serves at-risk families. Members also installed LED lay-in fixtures.

Von Stein said Local 648 retirees were instrumental in helping with the projects. They provided a great educational opportunity for apprentices working alongside them, said Bobby Angst, Local 648's financial secretary and training director.

"Some members are retiring earlier and earlier and our younger apprentices do

not have a lot of opportunities to work with them anymore," Angst said. "When you lose a 30- or 35-year journeyman wireman, a lot of experience walks out that door. It was a great experience for our apprentices."

The homeless shelter job also gave apprentices an opportunity to replace and install an electrical system in an old building. It ended up taking many months and was the type of project they likely will see in the field when working on older structures, Angst said.

"From my perspective, it's a great way to use the talents that we have to offer assistance in the community," he said. "A lot of people are unaware of who we are. They know what an electrician is, but they're not aware of 648. This allows us to introduce ourselves in a positive manner."

That's just what Von Stein is hoping for, adding that being active is especially important for Local 648 because it is in a politically conservative city. Most Cincinnati suburbs have been Republican strongholds for years. For many residents and city officials, the image of unions might be a negative one.

But seeing Local 648 members and retirees out in the community helps to change their perception. More projects are ongoing, Von Stein said. And the active community engagement also helps in contract negotiations. Local 648 represents about 60 employees of the city.

"Since being elected to the city council, we now have more interactions with city officials," Von Stein said. "The city manager, the mayor, other elected officials are seeing what makes the union family special and they see what the great brothers and sisters of Local 648 can do to change a city." ■



*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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#### Send letters to:

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# Women's Committees Empowering the Sisterhood

*Drawing sisters together to share, inspire, take action and volunteer, and showing what it means to be an IBEW woman in the trades.*

**T**hey're advocates for their union and the building trades, mentors, volunteers and friends who understand what it's like to be a woman in a male-dominated industry.

New local women's committees are embracing those roles and more, empowering IBEW sisters, spreading goodwill and inspiring future tradeswomen.

"We get a lot of questions about what it's like to be part of a union," said Susan Sweeney, co-chair of the Syracuse, N.Y., Local 97 committee that makes a splash wherever members turn up in their Rosie the Riveter "Power and Light Society" T-shirts. "We're getting our good name out there."

Local 97 women have filled the pantry at a Ronald McDonald house, walked for Alzheimer's research and are talking about building a Habitat for Humanity home. Women in Portland, Ore., Local 48 are wiring a transitional home for Native American women recently released from prison, mentoring them in the process and steering some toward IBEW apprenticeships. Women in Vancouver, B.C., Local 258 collect food, clothing and personal hygiene items for the homeless, among a long list of good deeds.

**"It's opening doors for us. To be recognized officially is a source of pride."**

— Christina Daniels, Portland, Ore., Local 48 Women's Committee

And there are social occasions, like the "Paint and Sip" party — an art class with wine — that introduced Local 97 women in the Buffalo area to their new committee. In Albany, at the eastern end of the local's jurisdiction, women gathered for a race-day lunch at Saratoga. In Syracuse, it was a barbecue with a band.

For the women and their locals, the committees are a win-win. In fact, some of the biggest fans are IBEW men.

"Everybody gets it, and loves it," said Local 48 Business Manager Gary Young, citing conversations he's had with IBEW leaders up and down the West Coast.

"They're another tool in our tool box," Kamloops, B.C., Local 993 Business Manager Glen Hilton said, praising the women who founded a committee that meets via teleconference to reach the local's far-flung boundaries. "If I could have 150 more, 200 more of them, I would. My confidence in them is that high."

Women in many IBEW locals have



gathered informally for years, taking on charity projects and advising each other about surviving and thriving in the trades. But now they're getting the union's formal stamp of approval.

A resolution that passed unanimously at the 2016 International Convention in St. Louis urged locals to recognize women's committees officially, as they do with RENEW/Next-Gen for young workers and the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.

"All locals need to engage our sisters and make them feel comfortable in the workplace," said Don Daley, then-business manager at Long Island, N.Y., Local 1049, speaking in favor of the resolution from the convention floor. "We need to encourage them to gather with a collective voice. This resolution recognizes the importance, strength and success that comes from a diversified workforce."

IBEW sisters attending North America's Building Trades Unions tradeswomen's conferences had raised the subject of women's committees during caucuses chaired by Carolyn Williams, director of IBEW's Department of Civil and Community Engagement. She brought the proposal to International President Lonnie R. Stephenson, who agreed to create an international committee with representatives from each district and to submit the resolution urging locals to launch their own. The Third and Ninth Districts are also forming their own district-wide committees, and other districts have expressed interest.

"Women's committees are an asset to everyone," Williams said. "They are a great resource for local unions in carrying out their duties and responsibilities, from engaging the membership and working in the community to civic and political involvement. And they can play a significant role in motivating women to become active and take on leadership roles within their union and community."

Members and local leaders who attend the IBEW Women's Conference, June 6-9 in St. Paul, Minn., will have the opportunity to learn more about the emerging committees, among many vital and timely topics on the agenda.

The shift from an informal women's group to an official one is already making a difference, said Christina Daniels, a Local 48 organizer who serves as recording secretary for her local women's committee.

"I think we've heard more, we've listened to more because we're official," Daniels said. "One way that's just recently changed is the executive board now hears the minutes of our meetings. They hear the things we're working on, what we want to do, the financial support we need. The lines of communication have opened up."

To make a committee official at the international level, locals need to apply for an IBEW charter. That primarily involves a letter from a business manager and/or president detailing a committee's activities and goals.

Earlier this year, Toronto Local 353 became the first to receive a women's committee charter. Kate Walsh, strategic coordinator for women and NextGen members in the First District, said IBEW women have long been active across Canada.

"The work that our women's committees have been doing informally has been important to the success of our locals," Walsh said. "The feedback I get from local leaders is that once they get a sister involved, they're there at everything — rallies, community events. They're the first to volunteer, the first to show up."

Inspired by IBEW's biennial women's conference, Canadian women held their own national meeting in Toronto last November. Included in an exhaustive three-day schedule of workshops and panel discussions was a session on "building, growing and sustaining" a women's committee.

A small but intrigued group of men in local leadership joined more than 100 women at the conference. Walsh was impressed by their interest, recalling what Local 993's Hilton told her. "He said, 'I just came here to see what this is all about. After listening to the sisters, you have any support you need to grow this. I am there.'"

In 2015, Hilton's local hosted a provincial women's conference that included a presentation about Local 258's new committee. Chair Nicole Biernaczyk, the



Top: At a kitchen serving the homeless, Marci McDougall, left, and Mollie Routledge, right, chairs of the Kamloops, B.C., Local 993 Women's Committee, deliver a check for \$1,500 in charity walk donations. Left, decked in their "Power and Light Society" T-shirts, women of Syracuse Local 97 gather for a Ronald McDonald House fundraising walk. Bottom: Portland, Ore., Local 48's committee is wiring the Red Lodge Transition Center for Women and helping residents rebuild their lives after prison. Pictured left to right are Christina Daniels, Melody Landry, Val Madsen, Dolores Doyle and Jemima Menkhus.

local's assistant business manager and First District representative on the International Women's Committee, spoke of sisters joining together "in an atmosphere of solidarity."

"Our goal is to educate, assist, support and empower women in our union," she said, describing "open and honest discussion to identify some of the barriers we face as women and ways we can work together to help bring those barriers down."

Women in construction can feel isolated on the job, even as the ranks of trade union sisters are growing. "In the trade you're so spread out. We never see each other," said Ann Peek, a journeyman inside wireman and treasurer of the Toledo Local 8 women's committee. "I see this as an opportunity to network, to get to know each other. We need to know each other."

From a practical standpoint, Hilton said inspiring and recruiting more women to the field should be reason enough for any business managers on the fence about women's committees. He pointed to new mandates in Canada that require contractors on public infrastructure projects to hire more women.

Recruiting women "doubles your pool of potential electricians," he said, which can lead to more work for all members. "If I can fill those spots without effort because we've got women electricians in place, that's positive for us. That's selling our brand of labor."

Daniels, of Local 48, said having an official committee shows women that locals are serious about wanting them on

board. "It's opening doors for us," she said. "To be recognized officially is a source of pride. It helps us reach out to women."

Like leaders of other women's committees, she's gratified by the practical and moral support of local officers. In Portland, Young has pledged "whatever resources they need to be successful," and said he's heard the same from other business managers.

Sweeney, who is Local 97's recording secretary, said Business Manager Ted Skerpon "has been nothing but supportive" of their new committee.

She and her co-chairs started brainstorming ideas after a panel discussion at the 2014 women's conference in San Antonio. They were especially fired up by what they heard from members of New York Local 3's Amber Light Society, a women's group founded 20 years ago.

"We saw how much more we could do for our community and our union by getting together," Sweeney said. "There was just so much energy. We came back full of vim and vigor to kick off our own committee."

*Locals interested in establishing women's committees can learn more by contacting the IBEW's Civic and Community Engagement Department. To have IBEW officially recognize a women's committee, local business managers and/or presidents should make a written request through their IVP. The letter should include details about the committee's activities. ■*