

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## IBEW on the Front Lines of Recovery

Hurricane Michael brought more than 35,000 mutual assistance lineworkers to the Southeast, including this crew from Mississippi Power, which was repairing damage in Panama City, Fla.

Photo courtesy: Gulf Power

The most powerful hurricane to make landfall in the Florida Panhandle in at least 150 years smashed houses, sent a storm surge dozens of miles inland, tore up thousands of trees and cut power to an estimated 2.6 million customers. At least 39 people were killed, but weeks after Hurricane Michael's Oct. 10 landfall, dozens of people were still missing, and the ultimate toll may never be known.

From all across the state and country, tens of thousands of IBEW lineworkers staged safely outside the heart of the storm, waiting to enter what Florida Power and Light System Council 4 Business Manager Gary Aleknavich called "the devastation."

The Edison Electric Institute said that more than 35,000 lineworkers and tree-trimmers from more

## REBUILDING THE GULF COAST

than 25 states were sent to Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Virginia and the Carolinas. Many were there for weeks, living in "tent" cities, trailers and, for some, the cabs of their bucket trucks.

"Hurricane Michael — like Florence earlier this year and wildfires in California — asked a lot of the men and women of the IBEW, but I'm happy to report we rose to the challenge, as we always have before," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "I couldn't be more proud of the lineworkers and tree-trimmers who rode into the storm to do their jobs, and I know members from all of our branches will be heavily involved in the recovery effort going forward."

Hurricane Michael made landfall as a near-Cat-egory 5 storm with sustained 155-mph winds, stronger than Hurricanes Katrina or Andrew, and far stronger than Florence, which caused more than \$45 billion in damage earlier this year. Only the

so-called Labor Day hurricane of 1935 and Camille in 1969, when they came ashore, registered a lower barometric pressure, the most accurate way to determine the total power of a storm.

Hurricanes get their power from warm water and tend to weaken when they hit land, but the National Weather Service said this was not the case with Michael and issued an extraordinary extreme wind warning including an all-caps message calling the situation "extremely dangerous and life-threatening."

As meteorologist Matthew Cappucci put it, "Imagine a tornado parking over you for three hours. This is it." The miles-wide scar of browning and dying trees and plants torn up by the storm was visible in photographs taken from the International Space Station.

The storm arrived at the highest tides of the year, the King Tides, when the moon is full or new and the earth is closest to the sun. It was, said NWS Director Louis Uccellini, the "worst-case scenario."

As the sun rose the next morning, the toll was clear. The Department of Energy reported nearly 400,000 power outages in Florida, 336,000 in Georgia and more than 60,000 in Alabama. As the storm

AFTER THE STORM continued on page 4

## FROM THE OFFICERS

## On the Front Lines



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

**T**he last few months have been trying times for IBEW members on the front lines of disaster.

Hurricanes Florence and Michael on the East Coast and Hurricane Lane in Hawaii tested our linemen, groundmen and tree trimmers. In California and British Columbia, another devastating wildfire season demanded the most of our members there. In Massachusetts, IBEW gas workers were among the first on the scene of a series of home explosions that rocked an entire community.

I've said it before, but it bears repeating as we approach the end of another year. The IBEW is not just a job. It's bigger than a simple paycheck, important as that may be. IBEW members serve our communities, often on the front lines.

Police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians get a lot of credit — and they should — but it's easy to forget about the electrical professionals making sure lines are de-energized so it's safe for them to do their jobs or working round-the-clock to get those hospitals and power plants back online.

2018 has seen 15 tropical storms, eight hurricanes, two of them major, that have done nearly \$29 billion of damage in the U.S. Our disaster response crews have been working nearly nonstop this hurricane season. As you'll read in this month's issue, some of the members of Pensacola, Fla., Local 1055 who were rebuilding their homes on the Florida Panhandle after Hurricane Michael had just returned from storm duty in the Carolinas after Hurricane Florence. When bad weather looms or disaster strikes, our members head toward the problem.

And believe me, for the families who've had to live for days or weeks without power, there's no one they'd rather see than an IBEW line crew.

After the 9/11 attacks more than 17 years ago, members of our New York locals also went toward the danger. I'll never forget the letters "IBEW" scrawled on the Last Column, the final piece of steel removed from Ground Zero that now resides inside the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. Brother Kevin Flynn, one of the hundreds of Local 3 members who worked that site in the aftermath of the attacks, left those letters there to memorialize the 21 IBEW lives lost that day from Locals 3 and 1212. Our members showed up while the wreckage was still smoking to make sure rescue teams had light to work around the clock, and they stayed there for months.

A day doesn't go by without IBEW sisters and brothers giving back, whether it's serving on the front lines of disaster, rebuilding after one or simply donating money or items to the displaced. We're a critical part of the communities we live in, and I couldn't be more proud of each and every one of you for the work you do. ■

## Agenda for Change

**A**merica went to the polls in record numbers last month in one of the most historic midterm elections of recent times. Power in the House of Representatives changed for the first time in eight years, while governors' seats flipped in seven states. And voters in Arkansas and Missouri approved big minimum wage increases, while voters in three other states approved Medicaid expansion. It is clear that looking beyond partisan rancor, voters above all else want to see our elected officials focus on putting the government back on the side of working families.

For eight long years, in our state capitals and in Congress, the priorities of the top 1 percent and big corporations too often came first when it came to policy-making. And we have seen the results: growing income inequality, stagnant wages and too many jobs that just don't pay the bills.

This is a historic opportunity to rebuild an economy, where, in the words of President John Kennedy, "a rising tide lifts all boats," an economy, in other words, that works for everybody, not just the very rich.

So what now?

Here are some ideas on what our newly elected officials can do to help make that happen:

**Promote worker freedom.** The fundamental freedom of workers to come together in a labor union has been under attacks for decades now, but the assault picked up steam in the last eight years — especially on the state level. It is vital that right-to-work laws and all other restrictions placed on workers' rights are overturned, and labor law is not only respected but expanded at all levels, because stronger unions translate into higher wages and better benefits, two things our economy desperately needs.

**Prevailing wage.** Prevailing wage laws maintain a fair wage for local workers and should be protected on the state and federal levels.

**Training for today's jobs.** America faces a skilled worker shortage, especially in construction and the utility industry. Elected officials should work with business and labor to promote more opportunities in the skilled trades for young people.

**Infrastructure investment.** In many places, our roads, schools, bridges and electrical infrastructure have suffered years of neglect and are in dangerous states of disrepair. We need a bold investment plan to bring our infrastructure into the 21st century, which would also create tens of thousands of good jobs.

**End gerrymandering.** Gerrymandering — drawing electoral districts to maximize one party's political advantage — is bad for democracy and working people. We need a nonpartisan approach to redistricting that is fair to all voters.

**Protect and expand Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.** These programs are absolutely vital to the health and well-being of working America and should be expanded, not cut.

The IBEW is ready and willing to work with leaders from both parties, from the White House on down, to make this agenda a reality. America faces many challenges, but if our leaders put working people first, we can put this country back on the right track. ■



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

“LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR”

## Happy Holidays

My name is Bill Gehm, and I'm a 60-year member of Jacksonville, Fla., Local 177. I retired in 1995.

In 1976, I started playing Santa for the children of members of Local 177. I began doing it because a fellow brother was ill, but the job has lasted 43 years as of this month. I've loved every minute of it, and it's been a lot of fun.

I'd love to be in contact with brothers at other locals who've taken on the job of Santa to compare stories. Some of the kids I've asked, "What do you want for Christmas?" are third-generation IBEW, and that always makes me happy to see. I'd estimate I've asked that question to more than 8,000 kids over four decades. We call it a Brotherhood, but the IBEW really is a family, and one I'm proud to be a part of.

Merry Christmas to my IBEW brothers and sisters.

*Bill Gehm (a.k.a. Santa), Local 177 retiree  
Jacksonville, Fla.*



## Electchester's Origins

In a response to the letter of Brother Michael Peck, Local 449, in the September Electrical Worker, it got me dusting off my memory on "Remembering Electchester."

When I was a third-year apprentice at [New York] Local 3 in 1966, I had the good luck of working with George Klein in the Empire State Building. He was my sub-foreman.

Over a coffee break he said to me, "I named it Electchester. As it went, they had a contest for a name and mine was picked."

He lived in Parkchester in the Bronx, so he put Electric and Parkchester together.

There are not too many members who know of this today. I was with a group of retirees, and only one member knew of the contest because he lived in the Electchester housing complex. "What did he win in the contest?" one asked. I think it was a savings bond.

I wanted to share this so others will know how the name came about. Electchester was Harry Van Arsdale's vision, but it had George's name.

He was a good union man. I was lucky to have met him that long ago.

*Stephen Santangelo, Local 3 retiree  
New York*

**[Editor's note:** The Electrical Worker confirmed Brother Santangelo's memory, as recorded in the biography, "Harry Van Arsdale, Jr.: Labor's Champion," by Gene Ruffini and Theodore Kheel, 2003. The savings bond was for \$100.]



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

*[Responding to "IBEW Congressman Pushes Funding for Pre-Apprenticeship Training" on IBEW.org]:*

A step in the right direction. Unions need to support congressmen whether they are Democrats or Republicans, as long as they are for the working class.

*Daniel Wright, Local 102 retiree  
Paterson, N.J.*

*[Responding to "Organizing Success at Local 307" on IBEW.org]:*

Congratulations to Local 307! You came to our aid assisting Local 870 to restart an apprenticeship program that was non-existent since 1990! Then in 2017-18, when our local fell on hard times and saw most of our railroad local members furloughed, you brought our members on board to gain employment! That is the true value of Brotherhood! Thank you!

*Timothy Yarnall Sr., Cumberland, Md., Local 870 retiree  
Cumberland, Md.*

*[Responding to "Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf Delivering for the IBEW" on IBEW.org]:*

Excellent work! The young women and men, the future of the electrical industry, need good training, and introduction to the history of the American labor movement and how our industry started. Good for you guys in Pennsylvania.

*Pete Brisette, Local 3 retiree  
New York (now in Riverview, Fla.)*

*Election 2018:*

# Union Legwork Helps Strengthen Workers' Voices in Congress, State Government

As the ballots were counted Nov. 6, IBEW volunteers saw their hard work pay off in vital races around the country — the nights, weekends and lunch hours spent knocking on doors, making phone calls, writing postcards, leafleting job sites and other efforts to ignite voter turnout for pro-worker candidates at all levels of government.

From flipping control of the U.S. House to lawmakers who ran on workers' issues, to electing seven new labor-friendly governors in states where leaders had been on a rampage against unions, to state-house and local victories, IBEW and fellow union activists played an essential role.

"We have some great victories tonight and reason to celebrate, but I know we have a few disappointments as well," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said in an election night message from Wisconsin, where Democrat Tony Evers defeated Gov. Scott Walker, ending his eight-year reign bulldozing workers' rights.

"Regardless of the final outcome, I want to say thank you!" Stephenson wrote. "We all are associated with the greatest labor union in the world and I am proud of all your work over the last several months."

In addition to Wisconsin, six other governor's offices flipped in workers' favor, with wins by J.B. Pritzker in Illinois; Gretchen Whitmer in Michigan; Steve Sisolak in Nevada; Laura Kelly in Kansas; Janet Mills in Maine; and Michelle Lujan Grisham in New Mexico.



*Sixth District International Representatives Robert Koerschner knocks on doors in Wisconsin.*

Workers also regained a voice in six state legislative chambers, with the Senate changing hands in Colorado, Maine and New York, the House in Minnesota and both chambers in New Hampshire.

Understanding what was at stake, more IBEW members hit the campaign trail every week as Nov. 6 grew closer.

"They're motivated. They get it," said Sixth District International Vice President David Ruhmkorff, pointing to fallout in parts of his Midwest region from right-to-work and attacks on prevailing wage laws. "They've seen the direct results of how the wrong people in leadership impacts their livelihood, and they're doing something about it."

"It's so important," said Jennifer Wilson, a journeyman inside wireman at San



*Worker-friendly candidates in Michigan rallied the Sunday before Election Day at Detroit Local 58's hall. Election Day winners pictured include U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer, whose campaign shared the photo.*

Diego Local 569 who took her sons along on weekend labor walks sponsored by the city's building trades. "The more we get involved, the better chance we have of electing politicians who will have our backs on issues that affect us and our families."

From collective bargaining rights to retirement security, health care and more, "this election could be a three-generation game-changer," said Joshua Fluharty, active volunteer and journeyman inside wireman at Colorado Springs, Colo., Local 113.

"We've got a voice, and now's the time to use it," he said. "The future's at stake, for us, for our kids and for our grandkids."

## Knock, Knock

Going door to door can be daunting at first, as any seasoned canvasser will tell you. And, for volunteers who aren't comfortable doing it, there are myriad other ways to lend campaigns a hand.

But when it comes to voter turnout, personal contact is the gold standard. Research over the past 20 years shows it can increase the number of ballots cast by 6 to 12 percent in national elections and up to 14 percent in local elections.

Greg Vogt, registrar for Pittsburgh Local 5, visited IBEW homes in Allegheny County every weekday afternoon for weeks leading to Election Day and took part in larger labor walks on Saturdays.

"Many of our members haven't seen a Local 5 person come to their door before," said Vogt, whose last name is appropriately pronounced "vote." "May-



*San Diego Local 569 member and active volunteer Jennifer Wilson regularly brought her family along for weekend labor walks. From left: Wilson, sons Christian, 13, and Jacob, 17, and her partner, Alexandria.*

be they'll get a phone call or see our newsletter, but the actual face-to-face, they'll remember that. And hopefully that translates into them going to the polls."

Together with Local 5 organizer Bill Garner, Vogt had knocked on about 200 doors by mid-October. With one exception, he'd had warm receptions. He even left one retiree's home with a jar of homemade pickles.

"I look forward to talking to our members, finding out a little about how they live and what they do, and if they have any concerns," he said.

Wilson, of Local 569, said she learned to "kill them with kindness" if voters at the door weren't friendly right away.

"I was scared when I first started to do it, fear of confrontation," she said. "But after the second or third door, you'll find that people are more receptive than you imagine. Even when you do get someone disgruntled, a little rude, you just smile and say, 'Have a great day!'"

Her Local 569 brother Roman Villal-

pando, a third-year apprentice and U.S. Navy veteran, was turned away from a few homes. But when reluctant union members were willing to listen, he told them, "This is important — the candidates who support labor are the ones who help us get jobs and put food on your family's table."

Like almost everyone who canvasses and makes calls for candidates, Villalpando was rebuffed at times by people who mistook his efforts for soliciting and claimed he was breaking the law. Not true.

"The only thing I'm selling is the democratic process, and it's everyone's duty to participate," he said.

## Eyes Wide Open

Union leaders saw a clear link between the energy members brought to the 2018 elections and greater understanding of the role that politics plays in everyone's lives.

Not that long ago, recalls Wheeling, W. Va., Local 141 President Doug Giffin,

"we'd have one guy stand up at our meetings and give a political report." That changed after 2014, when Republicans took control of the state House and Senate and went on the attack against unions, passing right-to-work and repealing prevailing wage.

"The newly elected officials were taking marching orders from some pretty deep pockets," Giffin said. "We hit back with local campaigns, member education and did radio shows with the Upper Ohio Valley building trades."

Between those fights, the aftermath of the 2016 elections and the way West Virginia teachers galvanized the union movement earlier this year, Giffin said it's not unusual at today's meetings for eight or 10 people to talk about politics.

"With prevailing wage and jobs going away, and right-to-work, they could see that politics does have a big outcome on your ability to earn a living," he said.

In Colorado's El Paso County, Local 113 Treasurer Ken Schauer said he and others knocking on doors saw a sharp shift in union members' focus about a month before Election Day. "It was like one day everyone woke up and educated themselves," he said. "I think the election switch finally got flipped."

In the Sixth District, where members helped elect four new governors and re-elect four U.S. senators, Ruhmkorff said local leaders did an excellent job educating and motivating volunteers, drawing a direct line between their family's economic security and the people in power.

In Illinois, for instance, they saw the Democratic-controlled legislature derail Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner's anti-worker agenda — his push for laws to end prevailing wage and enact right-to-work, among other attacks. On Election Day, voters sent Rauner packing and expanded the pro-worker majority in the statehouse.

Amid a flurry of pre-election activity, Ruhmkorff said it was exciting to see IBEW members so motivated and mobilized in his district and beyond.

"A lot of the credit goes to President Stephenson for getting us started earlier," he said. "I think it's paying dividends, being out there in July and August and getting volunteers engaged instead of waiting until after Labor Day."

Stephenson urged IBEW members to focus on how much they accomplished at such a critical moment for America's workers.

"We helped put the brakes on a runaway train that was headed for the economic security of working people and their families," he said. "Everything unions fight for was at stake."

"Now we have to make sure those brakes hold, and that they get stronger with every election. Thanks to the solid foundation we laid leading up to the election and the lessons we learned along the way, we're ready for those battles." ■

## After the Storm: IBEW on the Front Lines of Recovery



Photos courtesy: Gulf Power

### Continued from page 1

headed north, it weakened before colliding with a cold front from the northeast, unleashing a torrent of rain that knocked out power for about 500,000 households in both North Carolina and Virginia and more than 100,000 in South Carolina.

Gulf Power's territory bore the brunt of the storm, and company spokespeople said, in some areas, recovery will require rebuilding the system, not merely repairing it.

"Much of what we are doing is rebuilding from the ground up," said Gulf Power CEO Stan Connally. "Certainly, we have seen hurricanes but, what I'm hearing from people coming from all over the U.S., is that this is the worst they have ever seen."

But within a week, the army of lineworkers and support crews deployed across the South had restored power to nearly 95 percent of the affected customers. The majority of the remaining outages were confined to the worst hit corners of the Florida Panhandle, where large sections of the high-voltage transmission system were wiped away in addition to the localized distribution network. Gulf Power's workers alone have raised more than 6,500 poles.

"Every one of my members suffered damage to home, car or property. Our schools are closed and most of those are heavily damaged. Some folks lost every-

*Tree-trimming crews are central to the recovery effort, but it wasn't trees that took down this 115kv transmission tower. Sustained winds in excess of 150 mph snapped trees and bent metal across nearly half a dozen states.*

thing," said Pensacola Local 1055 Business Manager Rob Pribbenow. "A lot of my members have been on many storm trips. It's really different being on this side."

Duke Energy Florida's territory lies just east of where the storm came ashore. Before landfall, the company warned that up to 200,000 customers were at risk of losing power. But after the wind and rain subsided, the company reported only 30,000 customers without power. Lineworkers from Duke Energy's Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky divisions were brought in, and the company made mutual assistance requests to utilities in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Illinois, Texas and Missouri.

"It was a lot of whacking. Lots of down trees, lots of down poles," said Fort Lauderdale Local 759 member Abel Hernandez. "But we know how to work safely in these scenarios, and it's an honor to help people. When they see the trucks rolling in, it's a feeling of joy: help is on the way."

For Jim Hamilton, Florida Power and Light safety coordinator for power delivery, the surprising thing wasn't the dam-

age to the distribution network, it was the downed transmission towers.

"I've been through a lot of hurricanes, but you can tell the very destructive ones instantly by the way the trees just broke. But when you see transmission towers down, it isn't the trees that did it. It's just the wind," he said.

The massive response was one of the largest in history, but still smaller than Superstorm Sandy in 2012, which knocked out power for over 10 million customers in 24 states in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest. More than 50,000 workers from almost every state and Canada were called in to repair the damage then.

When it was originally intended, the Regional Mutual Assistance Groups system was designed primarily as a response

to regional events. But in recent years, as storms have grown in frequency and intensity, the investor-owned utility association, Edison Electric Institute, developed the National Response Event program to scale the regional response.

While the goal of power restoration is to get the power back on as quickly as possible, the first step utilities take when a natural disaster hits is often the opposite. Typically, companies' first step is to make sure lines are de-energized, to prevent electrocution of people in standing water and to prevent home or wild fires. Only after public safety is assured, crews begin their work based on pre-established priorities.

First come power plants and transmission lines. Then crews restore substations and service to emergency respond-

ers, including hospitals and water treatment plants. Only then do significant resources turn to restoring the bulk of the distribution systems, focusing first on population centers and moving, finally, to isolated single-family homes.

It's a job easier said than done in a disaster this widespread, said Utility Department Director Donnie Colston.

"We have the men and women to clear the trees, set new poles and hang new lines, but it isn't always up to us," he said. "Whole circuits are down and thousands of poles. And the infrastructure has to be replaced. I've seen videos with half a mile of road just washed away. Bucket trucks need roads. This is slow, dangerous work. It will take time, but IBEW members will lead the way." ■

# Code of Excellence Wins Refinery Work for Indiana Members



Credit: Creative Commons / Flickr user BP Images

The BP Oil Refinery in Whiting, Ind., has been a source of IBEW work for decades.

Oil refineries along Lake Michigan have been a steady source of good union jobs in northern Indiana for generations, but they aren't the guarantee of a comfortable, middle-class life they once were.

Jobs have been lost due to consolidation in the industry. Nearly all of the oil corporations are now foreign-owned. Longtime partners are feeling the pinch, said Gary and Hammond, Ind., Local 697 Business Manager Ryan Reithel.

So, when it came time to bid a job at the BP Refinery in Whiting, Ind., Local 697 worked with the Education and Business Development departments and made a Code of Excellence presentation for M.J. Electric, a longtime signatory contractor in the area.

The result? M.J. Electric used the Code to land the work for a new extractor within the refinery, a job that will employ about 50 Local 697 members at its peak. Work began in late 2018.

"It's a challenge because our customer is in England," Reithel said in reference to BP, which is headquartered in London. "They just look at the numbers. They don't have the understanding of the expertise we bring to the job."

But M.J. Electric does. With the help of the Code, company leaders convinced BP they were the right choice for the project. The IBEW's quality work — one of the pillars of the Code — resonated with BP.

"They get it," Reithel said of M.J. Electric. "They get the nonunion competition we're up against."

M.J. Electric is based in Iron Mountain, Mich., and specializes in electrical distribution and transmission, renewable energy and substations. It employs about 250 workers in northwest Indiana, said Jim Maness, operations manager for the company's central division.

Maness is a journeyman inside wireman and remains a Local 697 member. The company has long used union labor. The Code of Excellence is another tool to show larger corporations why that work is superior to nonunion counterparts.

"Our work rules at M.J. align very nicely with what the Code of Excellence is all about," he said. "When we work with larger organizations ... we're also talking about the rules we live by. They are very similar to what is called out in the Code of Excellence."

The Code started in the construction branch, but it has spread to other branches and is used by the IBEW to distinguish its members from the competition. The Code is based on the principles of safety, professionalism, accountability, respect and quality, and it assures business partners the IBEW is on top of the competition in quality and value.

Reithel worked with Education Department International Representative C.J. King and Business Development International Representative John Bzdawka to assist M.J. Electric in making that case in its bid on the \$300 million project.

"To me, it comes down to making sure there's the right culture in the workplace and excellence is the top priority," said King, who has worked in the Education Department since 1999. "It's making sure we do everything right. I think we do a good job of explaining that during our apprenticeship training, but sometimes when you get on a job, other things can distract from that mission."

Take accountability — not just to partners and employers, but to fellow employees, King said. If someone is late for work without notifying a foreman, his or her co-workers have a responsibility to let them know it isn't acceptable.

It's easy to shrug that off on a busy

jobsite. But using the Code, members let their fellow members know they have to do better.

"Are we comfortable enough to hear a little bit of criticism?" King said. "In the IBEW, our culture has always been one of excellence and we can't forget that. Sometimes, that means telling someone, 'Hey, you were a little bit late today.'"

Bzdawka, a former Milwaukee Local 494 business manager, said most contractors on high-profile jobs are receptive to the Code when they learn about it. He credits Reithel for the meeting with M.J. Electric, as he's done with several other contractors in Local 697's jurisdiction.

"The Code of Excellence empowers individuals that may have remained silent to jointly address a person who may have strayed and get them back on the right path," he said. "When you have the vast majority of people rowing in the right direction, but someone may have lost their way, you've got a better chance of collectively getting them back on track."

Added Maness: "I love what the Code stands for. It's all about getting guys to step forward and do the right thing."

Local 697 has a history of excellence at the BP Plant in Whiting, which dates back to 1889, when it was originally built by Standard Oil of Indiana. Members were instrumental in a massive renovation and expansion, which was completed in 2013.

That's a history Reithel hopes to continue. He's confident the Code of Excellence will help do just that.

"What a better way to do this," he said. "When our customers and our contractors know that we take their job seriously, that we're all working toward the same goal, using IBEW professionals is an easy sell. The Code is the perfect way to send that message." ■

## Summary Annual Report for Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Pension Benefit Fund

This is a summary of the annual report for the INT'L BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS' PENSION BENEFIT FUND, (Employer Identification No. 53-0088380, Plan No. 001) for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

### Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust (benefits are provided in whole from trust funds). Plan expenses were

\$158,583,669. These expenses included \$11,402,920 in administrative expenses and \$147,180,749 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 474,278 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$1,930,638,918 as of June 30, 2016 compared to \$2,020,585,849 as of July 1, 2015. During the plan year the plan experienced a decrease in its net assets of \$89,946,931. This decrease includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$68,636,738, including employee contributions of \$66,924,084, gains of \$57,589,067 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$-51,904,332 and other income of \$-3,972,081.

### Your Rights To Additional Information

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

1. An accountant's report;
2. Assets held for investment;
3. Transactions in excess of 5 percent of the plan assets; and
4. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Plan Administrator:

Kenneth W. Cooper  
International Secretary-Treasurer  
900 7th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-4089  
45-3912185 (Employer Identification Number)  
(202) 728-6200

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
900 7th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001-4089

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

## Support the Campaign for 'Lineworker Appreciation Day'

**A** push is on in Canada to designate July 10 as National Lineworker Appreciation Day, and International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and First District Vice President Tom Reid are encouraging Canadian sisters and brothers to help make it happen.

"Through snow, ice, wind and hail — day and night, 24/7 — Canada's lineworkers and tree trimmers are there, braving the elements, working hard to keep the lights on for schools, hospitals and businesses," Stephenson said. "We all depend on the hard work of linemen and linewomen, and it's time they get the appreciation that they truly deserve."

At an Oct. 2 event on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Reid joined representatives from the Canadian Electricity Association to launch the campaign to convince Canada's lawmakers to set July 10 as the official appreciation date.

"Together with our industry partners," Reid said, "we're calling on the Government of Canada to recognize lineworkers and the essential work they do to build, repair, and maintain the infrastructure that powers our daily lives."

Taking a day to acknowledge the sacrifice and risk inherent in the jobs of lineworkers and tree trimmers is the least we can do, Reid said.

"There are nearly 70,000 IBEW members in Canada, many of whom face working in challenging weather and at heights, in addition to the risks of cuts and high-voltage burns," he said. "These highly trained men and women work efficiently, safely, and collaboratively to keep electricity flowing across Canada."

Member of Parliament Daniel Blaikie, a member of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085, has sponsored an online petition in support of the effort posted on the House of Commons website at [petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Sign/e-1809](https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Sign/e-1809).

"Lineworkers play an essential role in building, maintaining, and repairing the infrastructure that powers our economy," Blaikie said in a video posted to his Facebook page. "And when disaster strikes, they work long hours in dangerous conditions to get our lives back to normal."

July 10 has particular significance to the IBEW: It's the date in 1896 that Henry Miller, the union's founder and first president, died on the job.

"All the more reason to make that day the day to celebrate the important work lineworkers do for all of us," Blaikie said.

In Miller's time, huge numbers of all electrical workers were being killed on the job, Reid noted. "That's why he fought for a union and apprenticeships, a fight we continue today," he said.

The event in Ottawa kicked off a campaign to support the National Lineworker Day across Canada, where countless residents have learned to rely on the

quick action of lineworkers to restore power — and, many times, heat — following destructive weather events.

A January 2017 ice storm in New Brunswick, for example, snapped utility poles and knocked out electrical service to about 300,000 NB Power customers just as temperatures fell as low as -20°C.

"I think that lineworkers are sometimes the forgotten first-responders," said Fredericton, N.B., Local 37 Business Manager Ross Galbraith, who also represents Canada on the International Exec-

utive Council. "Often, they are the first first-responders."

That's not to diminish what police officers and firefighters do, Galbraith said: "It just gives credit to the professionalism lineworkers show every day."

Local 37's executive board voted unanimously to support the initiative, he said. Many other locals' boards across the First District have followed suit, urged on by various utilities and trades-related agencies in an impressive display of labor-management cooperation.

"Lineworkers are compelled to get out

there and work under some very trying conditions," said Canadian Electricity Association President Sergio Marchi in a video posted online. "You name it, they've faced it."

CEA also has plans to help spread word about the initiative and the e-petition through op-eds published in a number of Canadian newspapers, Galbraith said.

While only residents of Canada are eligible to sign the online petition, International President Stephenson encouraged anyone to join in the effort to get the issue trending on social media by posting supportive messages that include the

hashtag #LineworkerDay.

Meanwhile, IBEW members continue to lobby the U.S. Congress to officially designate July 10 as National Lineworker Appreciation Day there. At last count, 27 co-sponsors from both parties had signed on to House Resolution 986, Rep. Linda Sánchez's resolution boosting the most recent effort.

"Linework is at times a tough and dangerous job," Stephenson said. "July 10 is a day where we pause for a moment to thank our lineworkers for the important work they do." ■

## Appuyez la campagne pour la « Journée nationale de reconnaissance des monteurs de lignes »

**L**e Canada met tout son effort pour faire déclarer le 10 juillet comme la « Journée nationale de reconnaissance des monteurs de ligne ». Le président international Lonnie Stephenson et le vice-président Tom Reid du premier district font appel à tous les consœurs et les confrères canadiens pour les aider à le réaliser.

« À travers la neige, la glace, le vent et la grêle, jour et nuit et ce 24/7, les monteurs de lignes et les émondeurs au Canada travaillent fort. Ils bravent les éléments pour s'assurer de la distribution de l'électricité dans les écoles, les hôpitaux et les entreprises, » dit Stephenson. « Nous dépendons tous du travail acharné qu'effectuent les monteurs de lignes, et le temps est maintenant venu pour qu'ils obtiennent cette reconnaissance si bien méritée. »

Lors d'un évènement qui a eu lieu le 2 octobre sur la Colline du Parlement à Ottawa, Reid s'est joint aux représentants de l'Association canadienne de l'électricité pour lancer la campagne pour convaincre les législateurs du Canada de désigner le 10 juillet comme Journée de reconnaissance officielle.

« En collaboration avec nos partenaires de l'industrie, nous demandons à notre gouvernement de reconnaître les monteurs de lignes du Canada et du travail indispensable qu'ils accomplissent pour aider à bâtir les infrastructures qui servent à transporter l'électricité dans nos vies quotidiennes, » mentionne Reid.

Prendre une journée à l'occasion de cette Journée pour reconnaître le sacrifice et le risque que comporte le métier de monteurs de lignes et celui des émondeurs est la moindre des choses, ajoute Reid.

« On retrouve environ 70 000 membres de la FIOE au Canada, dont plusieurs d'entre eux travaillent dans des conditions climatiques difficiles et en

hauteur, en plus des risques de blessures et de brûlures sous haute tension, » dit-il. « Ces hommes et femmes hautement qualifiés travaillent de manière efficace, sécuritaire et en collaboration pour assurer le transport de l'électricité partout au Canada. »

Le membre du parlement Daniel Blaikie et membre de la section locale 2085 situé à Winnipeg au Manitoba a lancé une pétition électronique à l'appui du mouvement sur le site internet de la Chambre des Communes au <https://petitions.noscommunes.ca/fr/Petition/Sign/e-1809>.

Dans une vidéo publiée sur sa page Facebook, Blaikie a dit: « Les monteurs de lignes jouent un rôle essentiel dans le domaine de la construction, de la maintenance et de la réparation des infrastructures pour assurer le transport de l'électricité dans notre économie, lorsque survient une catastrophe, ils travaillent de longues heures dans des conditions précaires pour nous garantir un retour à la vie normale. »

Le 10 juillet à une importance particulière pour la FIOE: Henry Miller, le fondateur de notre syndicat et étant le premier président de notre organisation, est décédé le 10 juillet 1896 suite à un accident au travail.

« Une autre bonne raison pour faire de ce jour, la Journée pour célébrer le travail important que les monteurs de lignes font pour nous, » spécifie Blaikie.

À l'époque de Miller, la moitié des travailleurs en électricité perdaient leur vie au travail, souligne Reid. « C'est pour cette raison que nous nous sommes battus pour avoir un syndicat et des apprentissages, une lutte que nous continuons aujourd'hui. »

L'évènement pour lancer la campagne en vue d'appuyer la Journée nationale de reconnaissance des monteurs de lignes partout au Canada qui a eu lieu à



Ottawa, a vite fait réalisé à de nombreux résidents de l'action rapide des monteurs de lignes pour restaurer le service d'électricité, et dans plusieurs cas le chauffage suite à des phénomènes météorologiques destructeurs.

À titre d'exemple, la tempête de verglas qui a eu lieu en janvier 2017 au Nouveau-Brunswick a brisé les poteaux électriques et causé une interruption de courant à environ 300 000 clients de NB Power alors que la température avait chuté à -20°C.

« Je crois que les monteurs de lignes sont souvent oubliés comme premiers intervenants, » exprime le gérant d'affaires Ross Galbraith de la section locale 37 de Fredericton au Nouveau-Brunswick ainsi le représentant qui représente le Canada au sein du Comité Exécutif International. « Ils sont souvent les premiers intervenants. »

« Ce n'est pas pour diminuer le travail que font les policiers et les ambulanciers, dit Galbraith: « ceci est pour attribuer le mérite au professionnalisme dont les monteurs de lignes font preuve tous les jours. »

Le comité exécutif du local 37 a voté à l'unanimité pour appuyer cette initiative, dit-il. Plusieurs comités exécutifs des autres locaux partout dans le premier district ont suivi le même exemple, encouragés par plusieurs organisations du secteur public et du même métier dans à une impressionnante coopération patronale-syndicale.

« Les monteurs de lignes sont obligés de se rendre sur les lieux et de travailler

sous des conditions extrêmement défavorables, » dit le président Sergio Marchi de l'Association canadienne de l'électricité, dans une vidéo publiée en ligne. « Et ils ont été confrontés à bien d'autres choses. »

L'Association canadienne de l'électricité prévoit aider à promouvoir cette initiative et la pétition électronique par l'entremise d'articles d'opinion dans les journaux canadiens, ajoute Galbraith.

Bien que seulement les résidents canadiens soient éligibles à signer la pétition électronique, le président international Lonnie Stephenson encourage la participation à toutes personnes de faire circuler le plus possible le hashtag #LineworkerDay sur les réseaux sociaux ajouté à un message d'appui.

Entre-temps, les membres de la FIOE aux É.-U. continuent à faire du lobbying auprès du Congrès américain pour faire déclarer de manière officielle le 10 juillet comme *National Lineworker Appreciation Day* (Journée nationale de reconnaissance des monteurs de ligne). Aux dernières nouvelles, 27 coauteurs des deux partis ont signé la résolution 986 de la Chambre, introduite tout récemment par la démocrate Linda Sánchez.

« Le métier des monteurs de lignes est souvent l'un des métiers les plus difficiles et le plus dangereux, » dit Stephenson. « Le 10 juillet est l'occasion de prendre le temps pour remercier le travail acharné mené par nos monteurs de lignes. » ■



# TRANSITIONS

## RETIRED

### Robert Corrado



Second District International Representative Robert Corrado retired on July 1 following more than 50 years of membership in the IBEW.

“My first job was as a summer helper in 1965 for Delta Electric, when I was in high school,” Corrado said.

He was initiated four years later as a member of New Haven, Conn., Local 90, which was looking for apprentices. “My uncle was in the local at the time, and I did know a few people in the union. Growing up in New Haven, everyone was in a union.” His mother, father and two brothers were all union members.

Corrado quickly became active in Local 90, an inside local with nearly 600 members. After serving on several social committees early on, in 1974 he became a member of the local’s examining board. He later was on the executive board; he also served for a time as Local 90’s vice president, and, for many years, as its press secretary. He even managed and played on the local’s softball team for over 30 years.

In 1995, he was appointed an organizer by then-Business Manager Ken King. “Working with Ken was great,” Corrado said. “He was as solid a unionist you could find.”

Soon, Corrado uncovered another of his many talents. “During my years as organizer, I was always big into compliance,” he said. “So, while some unions will hire third-party compliance agencies, I started doing my own compliance for Local 90, and I had over 70 percent of our members active in organizing and compliance activities.”

He became really good at it. “Over eight-plus years, I filed around 2,500 complaints against law-violating contractors, with a 98-percent success rate,” Corrado said. “Some contractors were arrested — one served 12 years in federal prison — and many lost their ability to be contractors in Connecticut.”

Having worked as a general foreman and superintendent helped him spot violations, he said.

“The more I got involved, the more I found employees who had been cheated,” he said — cheated out of benefits and pay, and too often placed in harm’s way on the job.

Corrado recalled that his largest case was against a contractor cited for more than 1,100 violations. “The company was hit with \$1.1 million in fines,” he said. “The state revoked their license and forced them to make restitution to their employees.

“Cleaning up the industry and leveling the playing field was always what mattered to me,” Corrado said, adding that it was also a great way to establish credibility with nonunion electricians. “When they received restitution for \$10,000 to \$100,000, you made a friend for life and a valuable IBEW recruiter,” he said.

He admitted that he probably made a few powerful enemies along the way, although he never truly feared for his safety. “I was cautious as I could be, but I received no serious threats,” he said. “But just in case, my business manager made sure I had a remote start for my car,” he said, laughing.

Eventually, Corrado was able to convince Connecticut’s chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association and the state’s inside locals to let him establish and modestly staff a labor-management cooperation committee — the CLMCC — capable of serving those locals.

In 2003, then-International President Edwin D. Hill appointed Corrado as an international representative for the Second District, which covers Connecticut as well as Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Hill assigned him to be the district’s organizing coordinator, a role that brought Corrado a new set of challenges.

“I worked on a bottom-up campaign that was — at the time — the largest inside organizing campaign in the Second District,” Corrado said — about 165 workers at a utility company’s electrical contractor subsidiary. “After 13 months, they couldn’t deal with our pressure anymore, and they agreed to meet and do a card check.” Later, he said, the subsidiary bought two of its largest competitors and merged their workers into the existing collective-bargaining agreement.

“I worked with a good group at the international office,” he said, noting then-Special Assistant to the International President for Membership Development Cecil “Buddy” Satterfield, who retired in 2010, and Satterfield’s replacement, International Representative Kirk Groenendaal. “In addition, I will always be thankful for the opportunity to work with retired Second District Vice President Frank Carroll and retired International Representative Richard Panagrossi, who assisted in many ways.

“Organizing is the lifeblood of the IBEW and works best with membership involvement and utilizing all your tools,” Corrado said.

Corrado also was appointed by Gov. John Rowland as the IBEW’s representative on Connecticut’s State Apprenticeship Council, serving in that role for nearly 20 years. He also served as chairman of Local 90’s political committee.

Although he is officially enjoying the retirement he deserves, Corrado said he still speaks regularly with local and district organizers. “I haven’t gotten into a retirement groove yet,” he said. “Just because July 1 came around, my work didn’t come to an end. My classification may have changed from active to retired, but I’m still IBEW, and I’m going to be there for my brothers and sisters.”

Retirement has afforded Corrado the chance to spend more time with his wife of 49 years, Jean, as well as with their three adult children and eight grandchildren.

The officers, staff and the entire membership wish Brother Corrado a long and happy retirement. ■

## RETIRED

### John Faria



Second District International Representative John Faria retired on Dec. 1, wrapping up a 50-year IBEW career that started after his father moved to

North America and his son took a fortuitous trip to Rhode Island as a teenager.

Brother Faria was born in the Azores, a group of islands in the North Atlantic that are officially part of Portugal, but have largely autonomous control. His father moved to Toronto, looking for a better life for the family, which included young John and five siblings.

The elder Faria got a job working for the railroads in Canada and John joined him in Toronto in 1962 at the age of 14.

“It wasn’t easy, you know, getting on that plane by myself,” Faria said. “But you make the adjustment and you make the best of it.”

Fast forward to 1964. Faria met his future wife, Tima, while visiting an aunt in Rhode Island. The two stayed in touch and married in 1969, and John moved to the Ocean State. [The Farias will celebrate their 50th anniversary next year.] The couple settled in East Providence and John got a job at an American Insulated Wire facility, where employees were represented by Pawtucket, R.I., Local 1203.

Local 1203 was on strike against the company in January 1978 and Faria led a group of younger members who regularly walked the picket line and urged leadership to push for a better deal during acrimonious negotiations. The business manager noticed and offered to resign and turn the job over to Faria, thinking that would encourage him and others to quickly reach an agreement.

Faria took the job and an agreement was reached. But he found he enjoyed the work and served as business manager for 18 years, being re-elected five times. [Local 1203, which was primarily a manufacturing local, dissolved in 2009.]

“I enjoyed the job not only because you were helping people in grievances and negotiations, but also by helping them individually,” he said. “My situation was kind of unique. Our location was near the facility and we did everything we could to set up programs to help members with their personal problems. Dealing with people and helping them improve their lives, I really enjoyed that.”

After 18 years, however, Faria was ready for a new challenge and accepted an offer from then-International President J.J. “Jack” Barry in 1996 to become an international representative. He was primarily in charge of servicing non-construction locals in the Second District, which includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Faria stayed in that position until his retirement. Other highlights from his career included serving as a sergeant-at-arms during the 1982 International Con-

vention in Los Angeles and as a member of the law committee at the 1991 convention in St. Louis.

He’s also been active in the greater labor movement. Faria currently sits on the Rhode Island AFL-CIO’s executive committee and has been chairman of the East Providence Democratic Party for the last 12 years.

“He’s the King of East Providence,” Cranston, R.I., Local 2323 Business Manager Steven Murphy said. “He’s been a champion of workers’ rights and working families for as long as I’ve known him. No one will fight longer or harder.”

Murphy said Local 2323 members especially appreciated Faria during two strikes against Verizon. When he wasn’t performing his international representative duties, he was with workers on the picket lines, often having food delivered. Murphy noted the East Providence City Council adopted a resolution supporting the striking workers, something that few other cities impacted by the strike did.

That was due to Faria’s influence, he said.

“If you wrote down all the qualities you want in a man, he has them all,” Murphy said. “That’s why you want him around.”

Faria said he viewed his work in local politics as a necessity in protecting the IBEW’s hard-won gains.

“We have to be in the political arena,” he said. “It’s part of the job.”

In retirement, Faria will keep his home in Rhode Island, but he and Tima will spend winters at their condominium in Fort Myers, Fla., where Faria plans to play plenty of golf. The couple has two children and two grandchildren.

“I’ve had a great run,” he said. “A guy like me, I’m certainly humbled and blessed to work for the IBEW. It’s the best organization in the world.”

The officers, members and staff thank Brother Faria for his decades of loyal service and wish him and his family a happy retirement. ■

## RETIRED

### Fernando Huerta



Seventh District International Representative Fernando Huerta retired on Nov. 2, capping a 42-year career with the IBEW.

“Fernando is a class act and a true brother,” said International Representative Joel Bell, who has known Huerta since the mid-1990s.

Brother Huerta was initiated into El Paso, Texas, Local 960 in January 1976 when he worked for the El Paso Electric Company in the meter and relay department. In 1984, he was elected vice president of Local 960 and then president in 1987. He then served as business manager from 1989 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1997.

Huerta also served on the El Paso United Way committee, Texas State Electrical Workers Association, Rio Grande

Workers Alliance and the El Paso Central Labor Council.

On Nov. 1, 1997, the first-generation IBEW member was appointed international representative in the Professional and Industrial Organizing Department, a position he held for 10 years. He then worked as a service representative until his retirement.

“I loved helping nonunion workers gain a voice at work,” Huerta said. “I loved getting those [National Labor Relations Board] wins.”

One win in particular stands out for Huerta. Workers at TXU, a nonunion utility in Texas, were fighting a move by the company to subcontract more work, which would have reduced benefits like holidays, sick days, overtime and vacation days. Huerta was part of an IBEW team that devised a plan to not only stop the subcontracting plans, but also to organize the workers into the IBEW.

Huerta and his team successfully fought TXU’s union-busting efforts and won the election for representation, 254-218.

“The company hired professional union-busters, but we were able to overcome their lies,” Huerta said. “The employees realized that the IBEW was the right choice.”

Huerta is highly respected for his organizing skills, as well as his IBEW knowledge, said Ninth District International Representative Kelly Foster, who met him at a railroad conference in 2007. He also earned a reputation as someone you could count on for help.

“He never said no,” Foster said. “It didn’t matter what the job was, he’d jump right in. You never had to ask twice.”

Kelly said it was not unusual for Huerta to be found at a registration table when asked by a sister during the IBEW Women’s Conference, or at the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus’ day of service.

“It was an honor, and it still is, to be his sister,” Foster said. “He’ll be missed.”

Huerta’s duties included servicing railroad locals in the Seventh District, which operate under the Railway Labor Act. It’s similar to, but also different from, the National Labor Relations Act, which covers other IBEW locals, so Huerta worked with his system councils — 2, 7 and 16 — to get up to speed.

“I want to thank the general chairmen and their assistants for helping me service our railroad locals,” Huerta said. “The railroad membership are strong union sisters and brothers.”

Now that he’s in retirement, Huerta says he’s enjoying spending the holidays with his family. After that, he plans to build a new home on lakefront property and do some fishing.

“The very fact that the IBEW provides us all with a voice at work and the opportunity to negotiate our working conditions has been a blessing,” Huerta said. “What I will take with me is the opportunity the IBEW has given me and the solidarity working women and men can produce when we all stand together.”

On behalf of the members, staff and officers, we wish Brother Huerta all the best in his retirement. ■



## DECEASED

## John “Jack” Kearney



The officers regret to announce the death of retired First District International Representative Jack Kearney on Oct. 8. He was 84.

Kearney was one of the founders of Ottawa Local 2228 in 1967. Until that year aviation electronics technologists who maintained ground-based radar and communications systems like Kearney and other public workers in Canada did not have the right to collectively bargain. When the Canadian government passed a law allowing public sector workers to organize, they expected most workers to simply roll into the existing associations, loosely-organized employee groups with little power and less credibility.

“The government liked the associations and thought the workers would just take what they were given. They were in for quite a surprise,” said former Local 2228 Business Manager Gary Myers. “The workers called it ‘collective begging’ and called the First District instead.”

Former First District International Representative Jim Wolfgang was given the assignment to organize the far-flung bargaining unit, which included workers from one end of the country to the other and even a handful of electronics specialists working in embassies and airfields around the world. Kearney was his man on the inside.

“He was a very honorable, capable person. And he came across that way. Not overpowering, but very methodical, and more than anything, that was the source of his strength,” Wolfgang said. “And he seemed to know everyone.”

Kearney wasn’t a table-pounder or a rousing speaker, said former Local 2228 Business Manager Des Davidge, but the workers he was organizing wouldn’t have responded to that anyway.

“Jack’s coolness was a real help. There were real problems — overtime, how they were paid for emergency calls — but those guys weren’t the type to wave their placards. You weren’t getting them out on the streets,” he said. “Jack could walk into a meeting of any of them, of any union in Canada, and be accepted. They would have trusted him.”

Davidge said Kearney was supposed to quit and become the full-time organizer but his wife Carole Anne got sick and he had to stay in his job and close to home. Kearney became the financial secretary before there was a business manager or even a local. Davidge took the job instead. So, for two years, while Davidge and Wolfgang crisscrossed the country, Kearney worked the phones and his connections in Ottawa.

“The government did not want an international union. Neither did the labour board. So Jack had these political fights all while calling people every day from Vancouver to Halifax,” Davidge said.

“I could call him anytime and he was always ready to help.”

In a final act of resistance, the government only put the name of the association on the ballot. The IBEW wasn’t even named. A “no” vote was a “yes” for the IBEW. More than 85 percent voted no, overwhelmingly saying yes to the Brotherhood.

Kearney and Davidge made a deal that both would run for business manager and whoever finished second would become assistant business manager. Davidge won and Kearney happily took the assistant role in addition to his duties as

financial secretary. The result was what Davidge called “the best contract any public-service unit negotiated with Ottawa.”

“Jack was perfect as a lobbyist. He was the same person when he was talking to a first-year tech as he was with cabinet ministers,” Myers said. “I was always grubby, but he always was straight and presentable. He never raised his voice and he was very logical, almost mathematical in his thinking. People just found it hard to argue against him because he knew more than they did, and he wouldn’t yell at you.”

Kearney worked at Local 2228 for four years before he was appointed a First District international representative in 1971, servicing Local 2228, the shipyards in British Columbia and Nova Scotia and utilities in between. He stayed in the position until he retired in 1991.

He was asked to serve in many consequential positions in the labor movement, including on the Central Labour Council Energy Committee; Canadian Federation of Labour Organizing Task Force; Education in Canada Committee; Federal Government Major Projects Task Force; Dock Yards Liai-

son Committee; and the Atomic Energy Allied Council Negotiating Committee.

“The key to Jack’s success was he never gave the impression of being personally ambitious. He was there to help,” Wolfgang said. “That meant he could be in a room full of ambitious people, and when it came time to find a leader, they would always turn to him.”

The officers and staff express our most heartfelt condolences on Brother Kearney’s death to his five children, seven grandchildren and his many friends. ■

## CIRCUITS

## Political Leaders Urge WUSA-9 to Bargain in Good Faith

As Washington, D.C., Local 1200 enters its second year battling for a fair contract at CBS-affiliate WUSA-9, members of Congress and other area political leaders are urging the station’s corporate owner Tegna Inc. to show its workers the respect they deserve at the bargaining table.

“I am astonished that Tegna reported \$1.9 billion in revenue in 2017 and will reap over \$35 million from the federal tax cut, but is unable to negotiate justly and fairly for employees that live in a region with one of the highest costs of living in the world,” At-Large D.C. Councilwoman Anita Bonds said in an October letter to station manager Richard Dyer.

Bonds said she’s deeply troubled that Tegna “wishes to diminish the agreement with lowered salaries, reduced benefits, and less employment security” and that its failure to bargain is “leaving dedicated and talented employees in an abyss.”

U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Benjamin Cardin of Maryland sent a similar letter in September, asking the company “to negotiate in good faith to come to a resolution that includes a fair wage and benefit package.”

Washington, D.C., Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton wrote, “There is no doubt that the workers represented by the IBEW have contributed to [WUSA-9’s] success. I look forward to hearing of a speedy, positive agreement.”

Despite the local’s compromises and concessions over the course of 16 bargaining sessions in the first year of talks, including five with a mediator, Tegna, formerly Gannett, has refused to discuss any of the union’s proposals. “Not interested” has been chief negotiator Tim Fair’s stock response.

“Everything we’ve proposed, it’s been ‘no, no, no,’” Local 1200 Business Manager Ken Brown said.

Putting Tegna’s foot-dragging in perspective, Brown said that since talks began in October 2017, he’s negotiated five other contracts — two Baltimore local stations plus CBS News, Fox Sports and MoodMedia — wrapping up each one in a matter of days.

The WUSA-9 unit, which includes nearly 40 technicians, camera operators, editors and other employees, has been working under an expired contract since November 2017.

Other IBEW locals with members at Tegna stations around the country have fought, or are fighting now, against concessionary demands affecting wages, shifts, vacation schedules, overtime, layoffs, severance, training and more. At KSDK in St. Louis, Local 4 has erected a billboard calling for people to boycott the station.

Local 1200 filed an unfair labor practice charge in August, detailing the union’s efforts and Tegna’s bad faith. The National Labor Relations Board is investigating it, along with a shop steward’s charges of management harassment over the past year.

Some minor progress earlier this fall suggested that management was concerned about the NLRB probes, but overall Tegna is still defiant, Fourth District International Representative Gina Cooper said.

“I think the board charges are having an effect, but we’re not seeing anything drastic,” she said, explaining that the company’s only real movement was dropping its

demand to pay overtime after 40 hours in a week instead of eight hours in a day.

“They really have held tight to trying to dismantle a lot of pieces here,” Cooper said.

One of the union’s key issues is the company’s merit-pay system. Or, as Brown puts it, “a system of ‘who do you like best?’ There’s not really any merit to it.”

With Tegna flatly refusing to switch to a wage scale, the bargaining team has proposed ways to make the system more fair, so far to no avail.

“When you look at it, in this day and age, we’re trying to save them from themselves,” Brown said. “Because some of the workers who aren’t getting the raises they deserve are women and minorities.”

As some of the letters from public officials suggest, the company’s enormous tax savings mean it has no excuse for refusing to raise workers’ pay.

“We are aware that the new tax law provided a substantial windfall to Tegna,” Van Hollen and Cardin wrote, citing the \$35 million the company told the SEC it expects to save in 2018 taxes alone.

“Advocates of the new tax law claimed that its corporate tax cuts would trickle down to workers in the form of pay raises,” they said. “It is our understanding, however, that WUSA-TV and the IBEW have not reached terms on multiple bargaining points, including wages.” ■



San Jose, Calif., Local 332 didn’t just transform their local into a net-zero building, they turned the solar panels on the roof into an advertisement for the Brotherhood that can be seen from the sky.

## San Jose Local Gives Flyers an Energizing Eyeful

Most roof-top solar systems aren’t much to look at. They’re hidden from view. Maybe the corner of a panel or two sticks out and can be seen from the street.

So, if you want to make a big splash announcing a green energy project, you can throw in a little wind turbine, or a big green sign, but there is only so much you can do with photovoltaic.

That is, unless your local hall is underneath the arrival path of a major international airport like San Jose, Calif., Local 332. Then you spell out IBEW 20-feet tall on the roof giving an eyeful of pride to everyone sitting on the left side of a plane landing at Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport.

And then you light it from below so they see it at night.

The project, completed entirely using Local 332 members, is more than just a show pony. It was part of a complete retrofit and update of the local hall finished early this year, replacing the original solar system the local installed nearly 30 years ago. Every load in the building was turned electric, and batteries were dropped in core systems that will run no matter what. Every fixture was replaced with the latest LED lighting. It is a net-zero building and next year’s energy bill will drop from \$140,000 to nothing.

The whole project was so impressive it was nominated for Solar Builder magazine’s Project of the Year, which will be announced in the end-of-year issue. Local 332 already received an Editor’s Choice Award from the magazine for “Coolest Design.” ■



Washington, D.C. Local 1200 members who work at Tegna station WUSA-9.

# LOCAL LINES

## 2018 Labor Day Weekend — Celebration at Fairgrounds

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN — The 132nd Labor Day Association Celebration was held Aug. 31 through Sept. 3 at the Warrick County Fairgrounds in Boonville, IN. This year's theme was "Unions Build the Middle Class." Those attending enjoyed car shows, contests, free carnival rides, live music, and a Labor Day parade with several thousand participants. The local's cook committee, with the help of the softball team, served excellent brisket sandwiches throughout the weekend, and all the IBEW locals in southern Indiana came together to share a meal after the parade.

Local 16's Family Picnic was Sept. 30. This event would not be possible without dozens of volunteers who step up to prepare food, handle door prizes, set up tables, ready the drinks and ice cream, check in members, sell raffle and half-pot tickets, call bingo games, help with children's activities, and clean up afterward.

Bro. Cory Titzer was recently nominated for the IBEW Life Saving Award. When an electrician on his job site was injured, Cory's actions revived the journeyman and stabilized him until first responders could arrive. Thank you, Bro. Titzer, for being there and showing what the IBEW is all about!

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

## RENEW Event a Success

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — The local held its 19th Annual Family Picnic on Aug. 12 this year. Over 1,250 members, retirees and their families attended, and the weather was perfect that day. Thanks to all the sisters and brothers who helped make the day a success.

Congratulations to the members at Triangle Sign & Service. On Sept. 7, they ratified a new contract. Due to unreasonable demands from Triangle and its parent company, Sinclair Broadcasting, negotiations were slow moving and difficult. However, by sticking together, the members were able to thwart



Local 24 Bus. Mgr. Peter Demchuk (far right) along with RENEW members and Corn Hole Tournament participants.

several unfair demands by management including an attempt to eliminate dues check-off.

On Sept. 22, the RENEW members held a corn-hole tournament at the union hall. It was their first event and they did an outstanding job. Participants enjoyed plenty of fun, food, drink and unionism. If you are under 35 years of age and would like to get involved, please contact the union hall. Your union, your future.

Peter P. Demchuk, B.M.

## Holiday Celebrations

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — As the holidays approach, I hope you have planned to enjoy some brotherhood/sisterhood and holiday cheer by attending one of our Local 26 December parties/meetings. This year's schedule is as follows:

Front Royal — Friday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites-Front Royal Blue Ridge Shad-ows, 111 Hospitality Drive, Front Royal, VA.

Roanoke — Saturday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m., at Hunting Hills Country Club, 5220 Hunting Hills Drive, Roanoke, VA.

Maryland — Friday, Dec. 14, at 8 p.m., at Camelot by Martin's, 13901 Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Our very active retirees enjoyed their eight-day cruise to Alaska in August. They also held their annual crab feast in October and had their raffle drawing in November. They will set sail again in April for a 12-day Caribbean cruise.

On behalf of the officers and staff, I'd like to wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Our condolences to the families of members who passed away since our last article: Renaldo D. Christie, Mervyn Chancellor, Charles K. Cannon Jr., Claude S. Cornett, Raymond J. Dimmick, Thomas J. McCawley III and Anthony W. Lombardi.

Best wishes to recent retirees: James M. Clark, Robert J. Goldbeck, Alan Hoffnagle, James C. Welch, Joseph J. Breen III, Ricky L. Fletcher, Craig J. Cockerille, David K. Swick, Albert K. Ord, Craig P. McNulty, John R.

Fancey, Charles R. Martin Jr., John E. Paulos, Daniel Cushman, Dennis W. White, Jeffery B. Talaga, Steven J. Hickmann, Thomas E. Jennings, Glenn M. Laser, George G. Haney, Robert Kaplan and Clifton A. Hoyte.

George C. Hogan, B.M.



U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (left), an IBEW member, presents award to Local 30 Bus. Mgr. Alfred C. Laubsch Jr.

## Humanitarian of the Year Award

L.U. 30 (govt), TRENTON, NJ — Alfred C. Laubsch Jr., business manager of IBEW Local 30, was awarded the George E. Norcross Humanitarian of the Year Award. The award was presented at the Central Labor Council - Southern New Jersey AFL-CIO 124th Annual Peter J. McGuire Labor Day Observance.

The award — which is named after the father of U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (NJ), an IBEW member and former Local 351 business agent — recognizes community service.

Addressing a crowd of over 400 — which included labor council delegates, Gov. Phil Murphy, state Senate Pres. Steve Sweeney, and U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez — Rep. Donald Norcross presented the award and Congressional Citation thanking Al for his service.

Al, as a founding member of Local 30, felt honored to receive the award, whose namesake was a giant in the IBEW Third District and in the New Jersey labor movement. "It is a tremendous honor for me to be this year's recipient," Al said. After he thanked all those who helped and inspired him, he reflected on the recent Supreme Court decision in Janus vs. AFSME, and said to thunderous applause: "Frankly, I am not ready to give up the fight started all those years ago by Henry Miller, founder of the IBEW, or Peter J. McGuire, the father of Labor Day."

William F. Lowry IV, Pres.

## Work Picture Update

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OHIO — The work outlook for the future is still good here as Herbst Electric and Lake Erie Electric continue to hire for the new steel mill at Charter Steel. Multiple school projects have been awarded to contractors such as Contemporary Electric, Gateway Electric, Legacy Electric, Einheit Electric and Zenith Systems. We still have about 120 travelers in town.

Pictured in the accompanying photo are members of Local 38 at a job-site picket at a new Amazon facility in Euclid, Ohio. The conveyor contractor Honeywell Intelligrated hired an out-of-area, nonunion contractor to do the conveyor portion of the project.

This year's Local 38 Family Christmas Party will be Dec. 9, at the Masonic Hall located at 3615 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland. Doors open at 1 p.m. and a one-hour show is scheduled for 2 p.m.

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



Local 38 members picket a nonunion contractor at the site of a new Amazon facility in Euclid, Ohio.

## Local 40 Fishing Trip — Building Member Solidarity

L.U. 40 (em,i&mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA — Local 40 held its first fishing trip on Sept. 22 this year to build solidarity and partnerships with our current members as well as future members. We plan to make the fishing trip an annual event.

Events like these bring us together as a local and show that we believe in solidarity as a group to promote the union cause. A special thank-you goes to Bro. Frank Monzon for stepping forward and taking the lead in promoting and coordinating the fishing trip. I also thank all those who had a hand in making this event a success.

Frank is just one of our many Local 40 members who have stepped up to show their fellow sisters and brothers that their actions are bringing a culture of positive change. Strong membership participation is

## 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                   | (uow) Utility Office Workers      |
| (es) Electric Signs                | (mar) Marine                           |   |                                   |

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

key — whether it's through helping promote our union cause on the jobsites and by way of the apprenticeship program; through community involvement in our EWMC and RENEW programs; or through voter registration promotions. It is through these tools that we work to shape our future and ensure a place for organized labor for future generations to come.

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



Participants enjoy Local 40's fishing trip in September.

## 2018 Activities & Events

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT — 2018 has been a busy year for Local 42, with an extremely busy work picture with both distribution and transmission working overtime. In November we started our third boot camp for apprentice applicants. We also have active organizing efforts with local tree-trimming contractors, and we signed a new traffic control contractor, Dinto Electrical Contractor, to Local 42.

This past summer, Local 42 coordinated several events for members, including our first Golf Tournament and Annual Summer Picnic; the local plans to make the golf tournament an annual event. The dinner cruise along the Connecticut River, the annual Local 42 Motorcycle Run and our Fall Trap Shoot were also great successes.

This year Local 42 was well-represented at the International Lineman's Rodeo by the lineman teams of Bros. Patrick Dowland, Tom Hoffman, Dan Kingsley, Tyler Hall, Matt Peery and Zach Barry. Matt Koons, Zach Fonicello and Jordan Benz competed in apprentice events. (See photo below.) The brothers performed extremely well, and the results are posted at [www.linemansrodeokc.com](http://www.linemansrodeokc.com).

The local is also providing organizer training to members who are interested in becoming more involved in organizing efforts, as well as the RENEW program to get the next generation of linemen and high-voltage electrical workers involved in our great union. Stay safe and here's looking forward to a prosperous 2019.

Ebony DeJesus, P.S.



Local 42 linemen and apprentices represented the local well at 2018 International Lineman's Rodeo.



Seattle Local 46 swore in 72 new members in September.

## 'Season's Greetings' — Staying IBEW Strong & Growing

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA — Happy holidays from IBEW Local 46! Please join us for our Retirees Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 13, beginning at 11:30 a.m. For information or to RSVP, please call the union hall.

Local 46 is committed to "Staying IBEW Strong," growing our membership and advancing the first objective of the IBEW Constitution, to organize all electrical workers.

Local 46 had a total membership of 5,500, including 1,181 apprentices, at the end of September. Our local has added 843 new members since the beginning of 2016 — that is a net membership increase of 18 percent! Our public-sector members are staying IBEW strong! Since the misguided Janus decision, we have lost one member and our local has only one "agency fee payer." Local 46's organizing efforts have generated over half of the new members. Our outreach to unrepresented electrical workers takes many forms, including: job-site visits, job fairs, signage, advertising, door-knocking campaigns, and our Associate Membership educational program.

Local 46 continues to have more work than our members can staff. We need travelers! If you are interested in working out of Local 46, please take the necessary steps to get your state of Washington journey-level electrician certificate before you come out. Washington does not reciprocate with any other state, and there are no temporary electrical licenses. If you have completed an IBEW apprenticeship, getting approved for testing is quick and simple. Please contact us and we will assist you with getting your Washington state license.

Warren Shill, V.P.

## Busy Work Picture — Organizing New Members

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts,st&tm), PORTLAND, OR — In the Pacific Northwest, work is better than it has been in years and it doesn't look to be slowing down anytime soon. We have had a walk-through for a couple of months now and reportedly more large projects will be starting soon, ensuring that there will be plenty of work for everyone for quite a while.

Our organizing department has been talking to and recruiting record numbers of unrepresented workers to help us complete this work, but non-union contractors have responded to our efforts by raising wages, offering additional benefits,

and other "pot-sweeteners" in efforts to retain their workforce. One large non-union contractor has even taken to offering more money on the check than our base wage, but none have come close to matching the pay and benefits of our IBEW signatory contractors.

A wage increase of \$3 to over \$69 per hour total package on Jan. 1, 2019, plus potential incentive pay that may start soon, should assist our organizing department in organizing more electrical workers to help Local 48 staff this work. We are expecting a mild winter and travelers are always welcome!

Ray Lister, B.R.

## Local Celebrates 125<sup>th</sup> Year

L.U. 60 (i), SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — Local 60 celebrated 125 years on Saturday, July 21, 2018. The local was chartered July 22, 1893.

Being in a right-to-work state since 1947 shows resilience, dedication and determination, which allowed us to reach this milestone.

We will continue to move forward as an organization and strive for excellence for the next 125 years.

We extend our thanks to all who attended the celebration, including Int. Sec.-Treas. Kenneth W. Cooper, Seventh District Int. Vice Pres. Steven M. Speer, numerous political guests and business managers.

Most importantly, special appreciation goes to those who came before us and to all of the current membership at IBEW Local 60 who made this celebration possible. With a showing of more than 600 guests, I believe we had a huge success in continuing to keep this Brotherhood at its finest. Thank you all for coming out!

Paul Garza, B.M./F.S.



At Local 60's celebration of its 125th anniversary year.

## Organizing Gains Continue

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Local 68 held its annual picnic on Aug. 18. It was well-attended — approximately 550 members and their families participated. This year the weather started out a little rough, with rain and strong wind gusts, but the storm moved out quickly and we were able to proceed. I thank all those who donated gifts for the door-prize giveaways. And a big thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the picnic a success.

Organizing efforts have not slowed since the last writing. For the months of August and September, a combined total of 78 new members received

the "oath of obligation." We welcomed 40 new members in August, and 38 new members in September. The work continues!

I would like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell and extend congratulations and much-deserved thanks to former Asst. Bus. Agent Jim Perizzolo, who recently retired. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Bro. Perizzolo, and enjoy your retirement!

We extend deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased brothers and sisters: Kathy Corona, Keith B. Wilson, Gary J. Mesch and Randy B. Casados.

Morgan J. Buchanan, Pres.



Local 80 members on the jobsite at Sentara Virginia Beach Hospital CUP project: front row, Bros. Eric Ziegelbauer (left), Ben Borum, Joseph Weil; back row, Bros. Alan Hurst, Mario Zetino, Dylan Fell and Sister Brianna Bennett.

## Hospital Electrical Upgrades

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA — When Whiting-Turner company needed an electrical contractor to complete the utility upgrades at the Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, the firm looked to Blackwater Electric.

In May 2017, the project supervisor was Bro. Richard Durham, a 22-year member of the IBEW. The task was not small and had several challenges along the way. On paper, it was the construction of a new central utility plant (CUP) located at the rear of the building.

The objective was to keep all electrical, communications, fire alarm and utilities in operation while installing the new 12,000-amp service and its conduit systems from the old electrical rooms. Apart from the Internal Conduit Systems installed, there needed to be a Conduit Rack System with seismic supports designed to withstand the weight of 100 rigid galvanized conduits and their associated conductors outside the building footprint.

These systems would support the hospital's needs for normal power and the addition of three new 800-kW generators for emergency power.

The Central Utility Plant is scheduled to go online in late December 2018. The job has been steadily worked by 20 electrical workers with moderate overtime. Once the CUP is energized, the final phase will be to demo four generators, the service tie breaker, panel boards and conduit systems.

In other news, Local 80's Annual Oyster Roast on Oct. 12 was a great success as always. At September's union meeting, we awarded over 100 IBEW service pins for service ranging from 20-70 years. The work picture has slowed somewhat but is expected to improve soon with a new Wegmans grocery store, along with numerous jobs on the Navy base in Norfolk.

Wil Morris, A.B.M.

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## LOCAL LINES

## Fifth Annual Bike Rally Nets \$36,000 for Charity

L.U. 102 (em,govt,i,mt,o&ws), PATERSON, NJ — On July 21, Local 102 hosted its fifth annual Bike Rally & Cruise In. This event has quickly become a member favorite as our brothers and sisters come together to help those in need. Each year 100 percent of the net proceeds go directly to a local charity. Daytop NJ was this year's deserving recipient of over \$36,000.

Daytop New Jersey has a long and successful history of meeting the needs of adolescents, adults and families struggling with the disease of addiction and its effects by providing a continuum of treatment services including residential treatment for adolescents, outpatient treatment for adolescents and adults, recovery-based day school for students in grades 6-12, and a halfway house for adult women.

At Local 102 we know that addiction does not discriminate. It touches each of us in some way. Over the past year we've seen some of our own members lose their battle with addiction. Take the time to educate yourself on the signs of addiction and take the steps to help someone. If you need help, ask! For the brothers and sisters of Local 102, remember that you can always call CONCERN at 1-800-242-7371.

Bernie Corrigan, Pres.



Local 102 Bus. Mgr. Patrick DelleCava (left) and Treas. Dave Fiore (third from left) present check to Daytop New Jersey Chmn. John Sette. Also pictured are Pres. Bernard Corrigan (right) and Daytop staff.

## The Fight for Working People; 'Elections Have Consequences'

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se,spa&t), KANSAS CITY, MO — Sometimes a friendly reminder helps: Unions are important because they help set the standards for education, skill levels, wages, working conditions, and quality of life for workers.

Of course, we also know how unions gained us the weekend, child-labor laws, better wages, retirement and many other benefits.

These are all known facts, so it is very hard to explain the support for anti-labor politicians from union households. Reportedly, 42 percent of union households voted for Trump. There are more than 68 Trump-appointed judges currently, and that number is growing. Most of these labor-hating judges get a lifetime appointment. Don't be fooled about their agenda, it's not to help the working class.

Elections have consequences. Union labor will always fight for the betterment of working-class people, but that fight is much more difficult and expensive when the courts are stacked against us.

Work in our jurisdiction is still slow. Thanks to surrounding locals, our members have work opportunities.

Steven Morales, P.S.



Local 124 retired members receive IBEW 65-year pins: Lawrence Roven Jr. (left), Gene Hersh, Haywood Bales Jr. and John Johnson



IBEW Local 134 hosts Boxing for Brotherhood fundraiser, with proceeds donated to a scholarship fund for children of union members.

## 'Boxing for Brotherhood' Fundraiser a Great Success

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL — On Sunday, Aug. 5, IBEW Local 134 hosted its inaugural fundraiser "Boxing for Brotherhood."

This event consisted of 10 bouts of amateur boxing, which paired area fighters competing against fighters from Ireland and England. We even had one of our own apprentices compete, and he didn't disappoint, walking away victorious.

The event was a huge success and each bout was highly competitive. The turnout was amazing, very well-attended by our membership and their families and friends. This event was made possible by our electrical contractors and all our friends of the electrical industry.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to our Chicago Federation of Labor Delegates Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund began in 2017 and provides scholarships to Local 134 members' children who apply and qualify. Thus far, this scholarship fund has awarded scholarships to over 30 students. Great to see true brotherhood in action!

Kevin Connolly, R.S.

## 'New Year, Clean Slate'

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — As the year 2018 closes out, we have enjoyed some nice social events for our membership. As always, we had our local family picnic this summer. It is open to all our members, spouses and children with lots of food, drinks and games for both the kids and the adults.

We also had our annual golf outing in September with a great day of weather and golf. The venue was new this year, but it was wonderful. The staff couldn't have been more accommodating and the food for the golfers was excellent. As always, there were lots of prizes for everyone.

If you've never attended any of the Local 150 social events, please consider doing so next year. It is a good way to meet other members outside of work in a cordial setting and even learn a bit more about them as people and their families too!

This past year we lost the following members: Roy Flood, Dan Vetter, Jim Behof, Gil Glader, Allen Maatta, Nick Ford and Dick Bouma. We thank them for their years of service on behalf of IBEW Local 150 and wish them Godspeed.

Best wishes to all for a great year in 2019.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

## Projects Are Underway

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI — As of this writing Local 158 is very busy with work. We are manning up for an outage at Point Beach Nuclear Plant. We have just starting work at running temporary power to

feed an existing paper machine so that work can move forward next year on a new paper machine and boiler house and other ancillary work at Green Bay Packaging. Our contractors have also acquired work at OSMS Surgery Center, Curative Connections Facilities, Menards and STEM Innovation Center for Brown County at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay. More projects on the way.

As this went to press, November midterm elections were fast approaching. Our local has been busy working to help elect our state candidates. We have attended many functions and fundraisers. We held our own fundraiser at our union hall and training cen-



U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin visits IBEW Local 158 training center and bends conduit with an apprenticeship class.

ter on Sept. 24. Public officials and state candidates who visited our offices during the recent election cycle included: Wisconsin state Sen. Caleb Frostman; Kyle Welton, candidate for state Senate; Staush Gruszynski, candidate for the state Assembly; Tom Sieber, candidate for the state Assembly; state Sen. Dave Hansen; state Rep. Eric Genrich, who announced plans to run for mayor of Green Bay in 2019; Lee Snodgrass, state Senate candidate; Josh Kaul, candidate for state Attorney General; Beau Liegeois, candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives; and a few others who attended our fundraiser. [Editor's Note: November election results were not yet available at press time.]

U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin visited our training center to talk about apprenticeship with one of our apprenticeship classes, and she even learned to bend a little conduit.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

## Training Center Addition — Advancements in IBEW Training

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ — On Sept. 10 this year, IBEW Local 164 JATC held the official grand opening ceremony for our new training center addition. It was a proud moment for our local and the culmination of a lot of hard work by many. In attendance were many members of Local 164 as well as our sister locals, Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson, Int. Sec.-Treas. Kenneth Cooper, NECA Pres. David Long, as well as New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, who graciously came out to help us celebrate this advancement in IBEW training.

Built union-proud, our new training center wing greatly enhances the ability of our instructors to provide high-quality, cutting edge training to our membership. Some of the training available: confined space operations, including medium-voltage splicing, rigging and hoisting, wire-pulling, conduit-bending, NFPA 70E training, and lockout/tagout on a mock 800-amp service.

Bus. Mgr. Dan Gumble, Pres. Tom Sullivan, Training Dir. Rich Paredes and the JATC board members would like to thank all involved for helping make our new training center wing a reality. We at the training center look forward to continuing to provide our members with the training they need to continue to meet the needs of our contractors and their customers.

Warren Becker, V.P.



At Local 164 training center grand opening. From left, seated on dais: Training Dir. Richard Paredes, New Jersey state Sen. Paul Sarlo, Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco, Bus. Mgr. Dan Gumble, Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson, NECA Pres. David Long and Local 164 JATC Chm. Phil Chianetta. Standing at lectern, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy.

## Tribute to Service — Union Women in Workforce

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA — We are pleased to recognize the efforts of the women in our local workforce. Acknowledging the service of a couple of them here can help put perspective on what our members do in addition to their work building high-quality electrical installations. For example, member B.J. Heading, who in addition to ably serving as a steward for the largest solar project in our local, has also represented us at numerous Women in Construction conferences. Sister Heading, thank you for your efforts.

Executive Board member Gale Michalek attended the Western Regional Summer Institute on Union Women (SIUW), sponsored by the UC Berkeley Labor Center, held in July at Sonoma State University. In addition to a full schedule of coursework devoted to leadership skills development, Sister Michalek with many others actively participated in a successful labor action. They picketed the local Hyatt hotel to present a petition to management on behalf of the working staff seeking improved working conditions, pay and benefits. Although it was a very hot northern California day when management came out, greeted them, and willingly accepted their petition, everyone was relieved and thrilled for this outcome. Thank you to all the participating SIUW women and especially you, Sister Michalek.

*Stephen Slovacek, P.S.*



*Local 234 Executive Board member Gale Michalek at the SIUW Conference.*

## Local Union Election

L.U. 236 (catv,ees,govt,i,mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY — On June 1, the membership elected Michael Mastropietro as the new business manager to lead Local 236. We are confident he will bring Local 236 members together and continue to advance our standard of excellence. Congratulations to all who were elected and thanks to the nominees for their desire to advance our local.

On Aug. 11 we had our annual golf outing. Thank you to all who attended, and congratulations to the winning foursome.

Sept. 7 was the Labor Day parade held in downtown Albany. There was a great showing of solidarity and pride among organized labor.

On Sept. 8, we had our annual steak bake, attended by members and retirees. It was great to see old friends getting together and having a good time.

Our work picture this past summer was good, and we thank Book 2 for helping us with the work load. The work outlook has slowed at the time of this writing, but we have some large projects on the horizon.

Remember, your involvement is our local's true show of strength and solidarity.

*Joe Hlat, A.B.M./P.S.*



*Local 280 dispatcher Lynn McDonald (left), member Matt Wolfe and Bus. Mgr. Drew Lindsey.*

## Strong Work Picture — Ongoing Organizing Success

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR — We had a long, hot and busy summer here in Oregon, with a record amount of work. At press time, winter is about to close in on us, but the work shows no sign of slowing down. We have a large data center project in Prineville, with more on the drawing board. Manpower was dribbling in for that project, but when the three contractors on-site added \$100 per diem, the floodgates opened! At press time, we have 200-plus members on the job, with word that there's a possibility of doubling that number.

The rest of our local is hopping as well, except for the Eugene market. However, two fast-paced jobs on the University of Oregon campus are breaking ground, which should give that area a much-needed shot in the arm.

Local 280 has record membership numbers, both for journeymen and apprentices, and we are still organizing like crazy!

Our Local 280 Annual Picnic, held Sept. 8, was well-attended by members and their families. Matt Wolfe won a Traeger Grill and generously donated it to be raffled off again. This act of kindness raised \$2,600 for two Central Oregon members in medical distress.

*Tim Justis, P.S.*

## Annual 'Old Timers' Dinner

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA — Thanks to everyone who came out for Local 302's annual Old Timers Dinner Sept. 7. There was a turnout of over 200 and everyone had a great time. We were delighted to present Donald Burkhart, Allen Dumont, Sammy Kempner and William Wise with their IBEW 65-year pins. Kirk Ferreira accepted the service pin for his deceased father, Clyde Ferreira.

Sixty-year pin recipients were: retired Ninth District international vice president and former Local 302 business manager S.R. "Jack" McCann, Jack Mecklenberg, Fred Merritt and Warren Smith. Congratulations to all our longstanding members on their years in the industry and their dedication to our trade!

As the demographics of our local change, we rely on our seasoned members more and more to teach our incoming apprentices and newly organized brothers and sisters what Local 302 is about: craftsmanship, dependability, safety and brotherhood.

We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's dinner!

*Melissa Vaughn, P.S.*



*At Local 340's September membership meeting at its new union hall, 70 new members were sworn in.*

## A New Union Hall — New Members Sworn In

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — We moved into our new business offices and union hall in mid-August. We held our first membership meeting at the new facility on Sept. 5. Due to our ongoing and very coordinated organizing efforts, Pres. Mark Steelman had the honor of swearing in over 70 new members that evening.

As I looked over the crowd of these members, I shared and witnessed a lot of pride, not only pride in the new building that Local 340 purchased but also pride in the direction Local 340 continues to move. I received great positive comments from the rank-and-file members attending the meeting, and many of the new members came up to me to say thank-you for the opportunity to join the IBEW. They said they really felt that, by taking the oath of membership that evening, they were a part of IBEW Local 340 history being made. [Photo, at bottom.]

This has been a very good year for the members of Local 340. Work has been plentiful, and we are looking at another good year ahead in 2019.

On behalf of all Local 340 members, officers and business office staff, we wish you and your families a great holiday season as well as success and great health in the new year!

*Robert D. Ward, B.M.*



*At Labor Day picnic, Local 342 retired member Ray Conrad (left) presents check to apprentice Vander Robinson for union meeting attendance. Standing at rear are Bus. Mgr. Alvin Warwick and Pres. Dan Post.*

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Labor Day Picnic

L.U. 342 (i,lctt&o), WINSTON-SALEM, NC — On Sept. 1, IBEW Local 342 celebrated Labor Day at Triad Park in Kernersville, NC. The Executive Board was charged as the picnic committee and they did a great job. We had a good turnout including a lot of retired members. Kathy Manning, then-candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from North Carolina's 13th Congressional District, was also there to help us celebrate. We enjoyed some fine North Carolina-style pork barbecue, and the Executive Board grilled hot dogs and hamburgers.



*Local 364 swore in first-year apprentices at September meeting. Standing with the new apprentices are Bus. Mgr. Alan Golden (front row, center) and Pres. Mike Miller (back row, third from left).*

Retired member Ray Conrad handed out checks to apprentices for union meeting attendance to help pay for their books. The James Ray Conrad Education Fund was set up in honor of Ray's father and brother, who were also IBEW members, to compensate members for completion of college courses to further their education. It was a great time and good to see everyone.

Work currently is going well with various small projects making up most of the work. At this writing, ABCO South is finishing up a project at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. We are excited to get work there, and they are hopeful for more projects in the future. The Wyndham Open Golf Championship at Sedgefield Country Club was a success. We thank IBEW Local 1200 and CBS for the opportunity to assist with that event.

Thanks to the traveling brothers and sisters who have helped us man our work in the past. It's nice to return the favor. As always, remember to register and vote in any upcoming elections and support your COPE!

*Robert Cook, P.S.*

## Work Picture Strong

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — The work picture remains strong for IBEW Local 364 and its members going into the winter months. The Mercy Hospital project is winding down with an expected January grand opening. But as one project ends, several others have begun, including the new addition to Swedish American Hospital's main campus at a cost of \$126 million, as well as the beginning of two wind-farm projects, and a 650,000-square-foot building by Berner Foods, to name a few of the projects already underway.

The Byron power plant outage was a success again, and we would like to thank all the traveling brothers and sisters who have helped us man work, not only on this project but also going forward into 2019.

We also congratulate all our new inside apprentices, who were sworn in at the September meeting. The new first-year inside apprentices are: Nathan Asbury, Brian Casey, Conley Creton, Job Israel, Daniel Kite, Jacob Laskonis, Monica Musselman, Jordan Pendzinski, Connor Rice, Andrew Ritter, Shane Ryczek and Ezequias Sanchez; and the new first-year residential apprentice is Seth Jones. (See accompanying photo, at bottom.)

We wish all of you years of safe and successful work. Welcome to the IBEW!

*Brad Williams, P.S.*

## LOCAL LINES

## Apprentice Orientation Night; Community College Program

L.U. 400 (es,i&o), ASBURY PARK, NJ — On Sept. 18, Bus. Mgr. Robert Shimko held the local's annual Apprentice Orientation night. All commercial apprentices and CE/CW trainees attended. For the new apprentices and trainees, it was a good introduction to the values and expected standards of excellence held by the IBEW and Local 400. As for the more experienced apprentices, it was a positive reinforcement that they have grown accustomed to, as they move closer to graduating to journeyman wiremen.

Representatives from Brookdale Community College were invited to speak to the group about the school's new Technical Studies associate degree program. The curriculum is something that Brookdale and Local 400 have been working hand in hand on for some time. The degree would be a combination of the credits earned during a five-year apprenticeship along with the necessary classes from the college. Participating students would be required to enroll in classes at the college that will help them excel within the electrical industry. Examples of classes that would be available include project management, estimating, CAD drawing and construction business studies. The combination of an IBEW apprenticeship and a degree in technical studies will help to take IBEW representation not only to the men and women in the field building the projects, but also to those designing, estimating and managing them.

Scott Clayton, P.S.



Local 400 Bus. Mgr. Robert Shimko addresses the apprentices during orientation night.

## New Union Hall Renovation; Holiday Service to Community

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — Local 530 wishes all IBEW members and their families a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year!

September 3 saw the Sarnia and District Labour Council host our Annual Labour Day Parade and once again Local 530 had a strong showing. Sarnia's parade is the third largest in Canada, which is quite an achievement. After the parade all members and their families were welcomed at The Polish Hall for food and refreshments.

With the Christmas season rapidly approaching, we are again collecting non-perishable goods for donation to the Inn of the Good Sheppard. We have all enjoyed a successful year and this is our chance to help the less fortunate.

At the time of this early fall writing, our new union hall is undergoing a complete renovation. As of this writing, Oct. 23 was the set date for opening our new union hall. The new building is located at 128 Kendal St., in Point Edward and offers more storage, office space and a huge training area.

We thank our travelling brothers and sisters who are helping us man our jobs during our current stint with full employment.

Local 530 is saddened by the recent passing of Bro. Jack McLennan.

Al Byers, P.S.



At the Local 558 class of 2018 apprenticeship lineman graduation.

## 2018 Labor Day Rally; Several Contracts Ratified

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,lctt,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

On Sept. 3 this year, IBEW Local 558 proudly participated in the Labor Day Rally hosted by the Shoals Central Labor Council in Spring Park in Tusculumbia, AL. Reportedly the "nation's longest continuing Labor Day rally in North America," this event has taken place every year since the early 1920s. The Labor Day parade this year was the largest we have had in many years, and we thank everyone for their support and participation.

Our work picture has been good for the year 2018. At the time of this writing, the fall outage at the TVA Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant was nearing successful completion.

In recent months, several contracts have been negotiated and ratified, including contracts with: URS Federal Services Inc., Aetos Systems Inc., Aerie Aerospace LLC, and the Packaging Corporation of American.

Congratulations to the lineman graduating class of 2018, pictured in the accompanying photo (at top) along with instructors. We had seven lineman apprentices to graduate this year. The Outstanding Lineman Apprentice of the Year was Lucas Wesley Richardson, from the Florence Electric Department.

We send our best wishes to everyone for a merry Christmas and prosperous new year.

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

## Tribute to Career of Service

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL — This past October, longtime member Bob Bartlett retired after a distinguished career with Local 606.

Bob entered the apprenticeship in 1968, joined the local in 1970 and graduated the apprenticeship in 1972. For his first 22 years in the local, Bob worked in the construction unit and then for the next 26 years worked for Reedy Creek Utilities at Walt Disney World. In the 48 years Bob was a member of Local 606, he was an officer of the local for 45 of those years on the Executive Board serving every business manager of Local 606 except the very first one. We at the local are very appreciative of Bob's years of service and will miss his guidance and experience on the Executive Board. We wish him well in his much-deserved retirement.



Local 606 Bus. Mgr. Clay McNeely (left) congratulates recently retired member Bob Bartlett.

Work continues to be good in the jurisdiction, and we are aggressively organizing nonunion electricians.

Fernando Rendon, P.S.

## Safety Reminders

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI — It's not something we really think about as much at this time of year as we do in the summer months, but dehydration can sneak up on you in the winter also, so be sure to drink plenty of fluids.

Be sure to wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and use your equipment in the manner for which it was designed. On all accounts, make sure you also look out for our apprentices. We are all in this together so be safe, brothers and sisters.

On a separate note, congratulations to the newest apprenticeship graduates of 2018. Their hard work and determination have led them to a bright new future.

It is with regret that we report the death of retired Bro. Gerald Dishaw, who passed away Sept. 22, 2018. He will be missed.

James Hunt, P.S.



Local 692 Bus. Mgr. Travis Brady (left); recent apprentice graduates Ethan Rau, Jason Clements, Ben McFarland, Kevin Shooltz and Jimmy Hunt; and Training Dir. Steve Pahl (right).

## Big Labor Day Celebration

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORD, IL — We celebrated Labor Day with a blowout gathering at Rent One Park in Marion, IL. Over 4,000 union members and their families came together for a day of food, fun and fellowship, capping the night off with a live band and a fireworks display.

Solidarity Fund Drawing winners were selected at the Labor Day celebration and are as follows: \$25,000 prize winner - Ms. Pam Ellis; \$10,000 - Egyptian Building Trades; \$5,000 - Jack McNeely; and \$1,000 each won by Adam Robinson, Hunter Malone, Lindell Fitch, Josiah Sullivan and Myron Choisser. Many thanks to all who purchased and/or helped sell tickets to make this another successful effort!

At the time of this writing, we are working tirelessly with our members and volunteers to elect Bus. Rep. Jason Woolard to the Illinois state House of Representatives from the 117th District. Labor could not have a better candidate or friend in Jason, and we are proud to be associated with him and his campaign. [Editor's Note: At press time, November election results were not yet available.]



Local 760 held a service-pin ceremony to recognize honorees for their IBEW service.

Finally, our Lineman Training Facility is nearing completion. A ton of credit and appreciation goes to Bro. Scott Kerley for all his work and diligence in bringing this vision to reality.

As of this writing, our referral books are as follows: Inside Construction — 79; Outside Construction — 19; and Line Clearance — 7.

Mark Baker, B.R.



IBEW Local 702 Solidarity Fund grand-prize winner Pam Ellis accepts \$25,000 check presented by Outside Construction Bus. Rep. Josh Holmes (left). Ellis is flanked by her son, Local 702 apprentice lineman John Trotter (second from right), and IBEW Local 702 Apprentice Lineman Dir. and Bus. Rep. Scott Kerley (far right).

## Politically Active Membership

L.U. 716 (em,i,lctt,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TEXAS — I hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving. At Local 716, we are thankful for the local unions that have put our traveling members to work.

With the mid-term elections over, we are thankful for the actions of our members who participated in our "get-out-the-vote" effort. This was a first-time experience for many of our members; hopefully we are realizing just how important our actions are and how we can

affect the political process. We thank all our members and their families who are exercising their right to vote.

We recently had our Children's Christmas Party, and everyone had a good time. We appreciate all the members who helped decorate the hall, fill candy bags and helped to serve the 400-plus children of our members. We also thank the members who stayed after the children's party to set up for the party for the adults that night. We appreciate those who donated for the door prizes. Finally, we appreciate the members who helped serve refreshments.

Unfortunately, we have some bad news to report: Our 70-year IBEW represented Siemens plant is closing, affecting 143 members and their families.

David R. Alley, Pres.

## IBEW Service Awards

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN — Congratulations to all those who received their IBEW years-of-service pins in 2018.

The dedication and leadership of our brothers and sisters are of vital importance to our membership. "No man was ever so completely skilled in the conduct of life, as not to receive new information from age and

experience,” as writer Jonathon Swift so elegantly stated. Much can be learned from our more-experienced generation. Their wisdom and experience shared with our younger brothers and sisters will only make us stronger in the future. Thank you to all for your service.

*Jason Leary, A.B.M./Organizer*

## Training Program Going Strong

L.U. 776 (i,o,rts&spa), CHARLESTON, SC — By the time you read this, we will all have had our Thanksgiving food drives and be in the middle of our Christmas Toys for Tots drives! Our Southern Santa, Ric Meyer, is once again in charge. If ever Santa had an apprentice, it's Ric!

We have made some modest renovations at the union hall improving our looks and function. Our new curriculum and training program for journeyman wiremen and everyone else is going strong. It's great to see so much interest in education. Many people don't realize it, but being an electrician is akin to being a doctor in that there is a great deal of specialization and no one person can know all there is to know about the craft. You are never too old to learn new skills.

Finally, a word about a touchy subject: politics. We have an obligation to tell others in a gentle yet convincing way about the situation in our government today. We need to be a counter to some of the erroneous information that is being spread by certain anti-union entities. It's one thing to hear a college professor or a politician give a speech or a talk, but it's a powerful thing to hear words from a working man or woman. Try to talk to your neighbors and your young people in the gentle but persuasive way as a working person. You'd be surprised how much weight your words can carry when the listener looks down and sees your steel-toed boots.

*Andy Weiner, P.S.*

## 2018 Annual Picnic

L.U. 968 (catv,i,mt,o,rts,spa&t), PARKERSBURG, WV — IBEW Local 968 held its annual picnic Aug. 11 at the Nemesis Shrine Building with food catered by Tasteful Occasions. Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 129, their leader Allen Lloyd (a Local 968 member), and his wife, Denise, the kids enjoyed a variety of games and activities. Caleb “Bud” Maston and Mark Holbert won the corn-hole tournament. Members Lorne Mills and Bill Meredith came in second place. Bingo was played throughout the afternoon with lots of gift cards going to the winners.

Accompanying this article is a group picture of the retirees in attendance for the 2018 Local 968 picnic.

Bro. Jess Blair II received his 20-year IBEW service award, and Bro. Woody Burns received his retiree watch. Congratulations to these members.

We regret to report the passing of retirees Bob-By Anderson and Augusta “Jack” Blue. Also passing away after brief illness were members Greg Whaley and David Williamson. Our brothers will be missed but not forgotten.

*Lynford C. Lovell, B.M.*



Local 968 retirees attend Local 968 picnic in August: front row, seated, Jess Blair (left), Harry Meredith, Doug Spears, Bob Lockhart, Clerven Parsons, Max Rebholz, Larry Guinn and Woody Burns; back row, Bill Smith, Gerald “Jerry” Holbert, Greg Gore, Jonathan Reynolds, Ray Byrd, Ted Weaver, Jerry Barnes and Bob Hammond.

## Member Completes TEP Program

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ — Please join IBEW Local 1116 in congratulating Kristopher George for completing the Quality Control Damage Investigators Program at Tucson Electric Power Company.

Kris is a third-generation member of our local. Kris's mother, Jennifer Necas, is a journeyman designer, and his grandfather is former Local 1116 business manager and now-retired international representative Joe Carl. Damage investigators are responsible for monitoring our “blue stake” contractors to ensure that work is done properly, and that they are in compliance with Arizona state statutes. They also perform “blue stake” in controlled areas that are not accessible to contractors. Congratulations, Kris!

As the holidays approach, it is easy to get distracted. Stay aware of your surroundings and leave the phone alone when you're driving. If you're shopping for the season, remember to buy American-made as much as possible. If you plan to celebrate the season with cocktails, please designate a driver. Local towing companies often offer free towing to get you and your vehicle home safely.

The local's leadership wishes you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a bright new year. I will close with this quote from Charles Dickens: “The year-end brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to express to you season's greetings and good wishes. May your holidays and new year be filled with joy.”

*Sharon Williams, P.S.*



Local 1116 former business manager and retired international representative Joe Carl (left), journeyman designer Jennifer Necas, and local member Kris George, a quality control damage investigator.

## IBEW Member Elected Trades Council President

L.U. 1340 (i&o), NEWPORT NEWS, VA — Local 1340 is proud to announce the election of Bro. Jason Parker, who recently served as assistant business manager of our local, to the office of president of Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council. Bro. Parker began his term on Oct. 1 and brings his experience and skills to a new position to advance and defend the rights of workers and their families. Best wishes

to him in this new journey!

Local 1340 held its 75th Anniversary Banquet at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News on Oct. 6. Photos of the festivities are available on our website.

Local 1340 is sad to announce the passing of Bros. Carl Murphy and Jesse Owens. Bro. Murphy was a longtime supervisor for H.P. Foley Co., and Bro. Owens was retired from the maintenance unit at NASA Langley Research Center.

Special thanks to all locals that continue to employ our traveling brothers and sisters across the country!

*James Avery, P.S.*

## Contract Negotiations

L.U. 1924 (mo&u), FERNANDINA BEACH, FL — We have elected our negotiating committee at Local 1924 for the Rayonier property negotiations.

At the time of this writing, negotiations were scheduled to begin as early as November of this year with hopes for a good contract by May 1, 2019. The Local 1924 negotiating committee is as follows: Bus. Mgr./Pres. Kevin James, Rec. Sec. Jake Mottayaw, Damon Rowland and Ron Patton (alternate). Best of luck to you, brothers! In solidarity!

*Jose Luis Perez, P.S.*

# RETIREES

## ‘Season’s Greetings’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — Holiday greetings to all. Well, it's probably cold outside by December. Don't stay home; get out and do something.

The Labor Day parade and barbecue afterward were great. It's always fun to see members I've worked with and compare memories about jobs long over, and to talk with others who are still working. It also makes me happy for retirement.

I hope everyone went to the Health Fair. The report on the blood work alone is amazing.

As I write this in early fall, I pray that we all learned from the long fight to rid Missouri of the anti-worker right-to-work law and vote for labor-friendly representatives.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

*Neal McCormack, P.S.*

## December Gala Celebration

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — Greetings! As of this writing, we're enjoying a beautiful fall season in our area. We had a great summer and enjoyed our annual picnic at Kruckers Picnic Grove, and the weather cooperated too!

For our trip out to the Long Island Educational Center in August, initially the weather was not so cooperative. We traveled out in a torrential downpour, but after we checked in the skies brightened and the sun was shining during our entire visit! We had a great time together and as always enjoyed the educational sessions, our potluck dinner, and barbecue nights. And of course, the sights and sounds of the North Fork!

We enjoyed our fall luncheon at La Terrazza Restaurant and are looking forward to our December Gala holiday celebration at Seasons. Plans are in the works for some fun activities and trips in 2019!

Happy holidays to all!

*John Krison, P.S.*

## Long Island Educational Center

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER — We traveled to the Long Island Educational Center on Monday, Aug. 6. We were welcomed by our Pension Dir. Maureen Steiger. On Tuesday morning after breakfast, we attended an informative seminar presented by Judy Blades, who moved us into the 21st century by providing useful information about our phones and computers. We can access the Joint Industry Board website to get exercise programs and diet information on healthy life styles. On Wednesday morning a helpful seminar was given by nutritionist Erica Vinas. Both speakers can be reached at our union medical department.

Club Chmn. Richard Duva gave closing remarks on Thursday morning. He reminded us about the Labor Day parade and encouraged us to participate. We must stay politically active and support labor-friendly political candidates.

At our September meeting, Chmn. Duva called the meeting to order and asked for all reports. Jim Joust reported on our end-of-summer barbecue. Jim is also starting to make plans for next year. John Schoenig reported on our Holiday Party scheduled for Dec. 5, 2018. John also discussed our Toys for Tots Drive, and he asked the members to bring new, unwrapped toys to our meeting. Harvey Goldman spoke about our Annual Food Drive to benefit Long Island Cares. Chmn. Duva also spoke about some of the trips we are planning and reported that we would have a guest speaker at our October 2018 meeting.

*Harvey Goldman, P.S.*

## 2018 NYC Labor Day Parade

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — On Sept. 8 this year, members from the IBEW Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club participated in New York City's Labor Day



Local 3, North New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club members enjoy trip to Long Island Educational Center.

## RETIREES



A strong IBEW contingent marches in the 2018 New York City Labor Day parade. Leading the group, in the front row, are Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson (fifth from left) and Local 3 Bus. Mgr. Christopher Erikson (fifth from right).

parade in Manhattan. In attendance were officers of the IBEW, Local 3, and the Joint Industry Board.

The Labor Day parade is an opportunity for organized labor to join forces in a show of solidarity. Local 3 has, historically, been the largest and most impressive group to march. With all the affiliated clubs and divisions marching, Local 3 makes a great impression, especially when the 100-plus Harleys come rolling by.

This year, we were honored to have IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson joining Local 3 Bus. Mgr. Christopher Erikson in leading our group.

The IBEW parade contingent is shown in the photo above. Marching in the first row, left to right, are: Barbara Ineson; Bus. Rep. Christopher Erikson Jr.; young Madeline Erikson (in stroller); Kim Baker; Sr. Exec. Asst. to the International Officers Brian A. Baker; IBEW Int. Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson; Dawn Stephenson; Denise Erikson; Local 3 Bus. Mgr. Christopher Erikson; Local 3 Pres. John Marchell; NYS Employee Conference Chmn. Keith Meringolo; Local 3 Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Raymond Melville; and chairman of the Joint Industry Board, Dr. Gerald Finkel.

*Dick Mills, Treas.*

### Retirees Recognition Dinner

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Hope everyone had a great summer!

Local 35 held its semiannual Retirees Recognition Dinner on Oct. 13 at U.S.S. Chowder Pot IV in Hartford. This event recognizes our members who have retired in the past two years. They are as follows: John E. Bailey, Alan E. Begin, Raymond D. Busch Jr., Jeffrey S. Darling, Gregory L. Everett, James A. Godin, Robert C. Kemp, Ernest H. Kent, Mark A. King, Henry B. Lauder Jr., James F. Lurate, John R. Lurate, Joseph A. Pacheco, Michael J. Philipp, David J. Popielarczyk, Robert Schmidt, Richard E. Smith and Stephen J. Szarkowicz. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement to them all.

Thanks to Local 35 for hosting our annual Retirees Club luncheon on Oct. 17. This event is always a great time for us to get together with our spouses and/or significant others to reminisce over old times and catch up on what is happening in one another's lives now.

Thanks to Dennis Machol, Retirees Club president, and retired member Charlie Rose for their involvement in the American Retirement Association. They help us to stay informed on issues that affect us as retirees.

*Kenneth R. White, P.S.*

### Fall Retiree Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — On Oct. 4 we held our Fall Retiree Luncheon. We had a great turnout and the food was excellent as usual. Thanks to Local 53 for hosting these luncheons. A big thank-you to the local for donating the gift cards for the drawings also. Wishing a speedy recovery to those who couldn't attend. We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Luncheon.

As most of you are probably aware, we were successful in defeating anti-worker "right to work," which was on the ballot in August. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on this and to everyone who got their family, friends, neighbors and anyone else to get out and go to the polls to vote this down. We couldn't have done it without them. Sadly, I don't think this fight is over yet. We have to get these anti-worker politicians out of office!

Sad to report we lost another retiree, Billy Crabtree. Rest in peace, brother.

Just a reminder, we still have a small group of retirees who meet for lunch on the odd-numbered months at 11 a.m. at the Lumberyard Bar & Grill in Ulrich, Missouri. We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

*Duane Pearce, P.S.*

### Holiday Community Service; 2019 Golf Tournament in May

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — After a summer break, club members enjoyed a catered meal of barbecue pork steak with side dishes at their September meeting. After lunch was served, Pres. Coy Rogers re-opened the meeting. Club members voted on "Construct a Kids Christmas" for their upcoming holiday project. Gifts for children, up to age 18, were collected at the October and November meetings.

Bro. Gene Chamberlain, chairperson of the club's Golf Tournament fundraiser, informed club members that this event will be held at the Pleasanton golf course on May 4, 2019. Every year, the tournament grows bigger and better, and members expect the upcoming tournament to be the best one yet.

The Retired Members Club of Local 60 meets the second Thursday of each month at the Plumbers and Pipefitters training building, 3630 Belgium Lane, at 12 noon. Some meals are furnished by the club, and some are furnished by the members. At each meeting, a report is given in advance about what type of food will be served the following month and who will furnish it, so everyone will be prepared. Members enjoy 10 games of bingo after the meeting/luncheon, with modest cash prizes. Retired members of Local 60, please come and enjoy the company of your fellow brothers and sisters in the electrical trade.

*Sandy Rogers, P.S.*

### Annual Retirement Dinner

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 90, NEW HAVEN, CT — Well, 2018 is about over and the holidays are upon us.

On Oct. 4, Local 90 held its annual retirement dinner at the WoodWinds in Branford, CT. Twelve gentlemen were honored: Gregory Bellemare, Kenneth Berkmoes, Brian Burdacki, Daniel Calini, Dennis Craft, Anthony Delasota, David Hale, Richard Intravia,

Howard Ross, John Schleifer, Thomas Smith, and Frederick Walton III. We congratulate these gentlemen and thank them for their years of IBEW service. We invite them to join our Retirees Club. The club meets the first Tuesday of each month (except July, August and December), at 2 North Plains Industrial Road, in Wallingford, CT, at 1:30 p.m.

At the time of this writing, the Local 90 Retirees Club was scheduled to hold its annual holiday luncheon for club members and their spouses on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at Fantasia, in North Haven, CT. This event is always a wonderful time with great food and good company. We thank our club officers and Rose Kirby for a job well-done.

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

*Richard Launder, P.S.*

### Holiday Events & Camaraderie

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA — We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year! At this writing, we are all so looking forward to the Christmas events, one in Toronto with other locals, and another in Hamilton at Michelangelo's with our own members. Good times, good people and great camaraderie!

In the fall, we enjoyed a trip to the Mandarin (all you can eat Chinese Food buffet), a trip to Octoberfest in Kitchener, and a beautiful three-day stay in Niagara Falls!

A reminder that euchre and bowling started in September and will run until June — always lots of fun! To become a Local 105 Retirees Club member, you must be 55 years or older and the fee is \$25 a year, well worth the price of admission!

Remember our motto: Don't Wait — Participate! Please remember, what we have and all of our events are all made possible by our hard-working local members and Executive Board, past and present. Our sincerest thanks to each one of you!

*Eden McLean, P.S.*



The Local 105 Retirees Club congratulates the IBEW over-40 Hockey Team on winning this year's championship cup.

### 2018 Activities & Events

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — As another year closes, I'd like to recap a few of our club's 2018 activities and events.

Our luncheon meeting in March was held at our new home at our IBEW Local 134 union hall at 2722 S Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Chicago. At the March meeting, we elected our club officers and board members.

For Memorial Day, our retired members placed a wreath at the Mount Emblem Cemetery to honor those who gave their lives so that we may be free.

In June, at our annual luncheon meeting, we

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honored 53 members for 50-70 years of service.

Our club also assists with the Annual Honor Flight Chicago program, through which we contribute to help fly our senior war veterans to Washington, D.C., where they visit the beautiful memorials and gardens and are honored for their service.

In September, several retirees attended the John Cummins Memorial Golf Outing. Also, this year our club attended four excellent plays, lunch included.

In December we have our Annual Holiday Party, and this year the party will also be a celebration of our club's 30th anniversary. Now we have 30 years of history behind our Local 134 Retirees Club, and we are all so proud to be a part of it.

Happy holidays to all!

Sue Kleczka, P.S.



Local 134's custom-painted van is used to represent our electrical union in Chicago parades; it is used to carry generators and picket signs when there's a strike on construction sites, and it's also a great advertising tool.

### IBEW Service Award Recipients

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OHIO — 2019 will soon be upon us. A new year is always a good time to reflect on ourselves to see where we might make changes to improve our lives and relationships with others. A good place to start our self-examination is in our point of view. When we start feeling sorry for ourselves because of circumstances in our lives, know that there are many people in the world who would gladly change places with us, given the chance. All we have to do is open our eyes and look around.

We remember recently departed IBEW brothers: Leroy Landwehr, who was a 65-year IBEW member; Roger Curran, 62-year member; James McCracken, 58-year member; Jack Dumford, 56-year member; Carey Ellison, 41-year member; Michael Drees, 29-year member; and Raymond McCartney, 29-year member.

We celebrate our club members who recently received IBEW Service Pin Awards. Recent service-award recipients include: 60-year members — Dale Brunner, Noel Bruzina, Tom Lanter; 55-year member — Paul Kallmeyer; and 50-year members — Lester Hudson, Bob Rizzo and Mike Roma. Congratulations to all!

FYI — January is a perfect time to join the Retirees Club. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month, at 11 a.m., at the union hall in Sharonville.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

### 44th Annual Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 236, ALBANY, NY — On Oct. 9 this year, the IBEW Local 236 Retirees Club held their 44th Annual Luncheon at Treviso in the Italian American Center. The event was attended by over 62 retired members and their spouses. Guests included officers of Local 236 and their staff as well as the staff from Local 236 benefit funds.

Retirees Club Pres. Bob Jenne not only presided over the event but also was responsible for putting it together. The day was a huge success with great food and many stories of days gone by. Seeing and talking with the men and women who paved the road for our

local's continued success was truly inspiring. Bob thanked the local for their continued generosity and support and was hopeful that next year's event will be even larger. Special thanks to the photographer, retiree Ken Hinkley.

John Mosher, Local 236 Pres.



Local 236 Retirees Club Annual Luncheon in October was a great success.

### 'Thank You to Volunteers'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — The Retirees Club met Tuesday, Sept. 25, at the American Legion in Jefferson City for our monthly luncheon. Also, on Saturday, Sept. 29, Local 257 hosted their annual picnic at Riverside Park in Jefferson City. There was a large turnout and, as always, the food was great and everyone enjoyed playing bingo and visiting with friends. Several of our club retirees were awarded service pins. Pin recipients included: 60-year member — Danny Melloway; 50-year members — David Brunk, Robert Evans, Ron Holzhauser, Larry Jones, Doyle Maupin; and 40-year member — Mark Gallatin.

The Retirees Club thanks the following:

- All the volunteers who assisted at the Skills USA Competition at Linn State Technical College on April 6. These volunteers have participated for many years and their help is greatly appreciated;
- All the retirees who helped with the Labor Day parade. Although it was a rainy day, everyone along the parade route enjoyed the candy that was given out. Also, a special thank-you to Jerry Rehagen for providing the truck and trailer used in the parade;
- And all those who donated their time and energy to get everyone out to defeat anti-worker "right-to-work" in Missouri. Right-to-work was successfully defeated by a margin of 2 to 1.

On a sad note, Mrs. Catherine Bruemmer (mother of Local 257 Bus. Mgr. Don Bruemmer, and mother and grandmother to several other Local 257 members) passed away Sept. 28. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family.

Our Christmas luncheon will be Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Delores Melloway, P.S.



Retired Int. Rep. Danny Melloway (center) receives his 60-year service award, presented by Local 257 Pres. Joel Vanderslice (left) and Bus. Mgr. Don Bruemmer (right).

### 2018 Club Activities & Guest Luncheon Speakers

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA — 2018 has been a successful, enjoyable year for our retirees with all the events planned by our social committee and guest speakers at our luncheons keeping everyone active and informed.

As of May 1, 2018, Local 353 Health & Welfare Plan trustees and working members approved increasing the Local 353 retiree death benefit from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and also now provides free travel insurance for 30 days to Local 353 retired members.

We are trying to establish an East Unit retirees group. The first barbecue was not a total success, with poor weather and not enough advertising notice. We will try again in 2019.

The North Unit, under the guidance of John Hawkins, continues to thrive and grow.

Plans for 2019 events are being finalized. At the time of this writing, plans were also underway for our Gala Annual Retirees Christmas Dinner/Dance on Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018. Invitations to the gala also were sent out to our sister Locals 105, 120, 303 and 804 — which should bring the number of gala attendees to around 700 again this year.

On behalf of Local 353 working and retired members, we extend to all IBEW members good wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

Robert Rynyk, P.S.

### Annual Shrimp Boil; Service Awards Presented

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 443, MONTGOMERY, AL — Greetings from Local 443 retirees.

Our 2nd Annual Shrimp Boil was held at the union hall on Aug. 3 this year. It was a great time for members, spouses and friends. Thanks to Bros. Jerry Pittman and Dalvin Johnson for cooking and to all who helped and brought desserts.

After the meal, a pin ceremony was held honoring several brothers for their years of dedication to the union. [Photo at bottom, right.]

Our luncheons are held the first Friday of April, August and December, at 11 a.m. Come and share the good times with your brothers and sisters.

Gene Budraitis, Pres.

### Sarnia Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — Reporting on a glorious fall day in Lambton County.

We held 2018 elections at our September meeting. Ray Lucas was elected as our new club president,



New IBEW Local 530 union hall opened on Oct. 23, 2018.

and Fred Sterling will continue to serve as secretary-treasurer.

George Mathieson, who served faithfully as our former president, stepped down due to health concerns. Thank you, George, from the membership for all the work you did on our behalf.

On Oct. 25, the Retirees Club held its first meeting at our new Local 530 IBEW union hall, located on Kendal Street, Point Edward. We were pleased to have at our convenience one of the new classrooms!

On a sad note, John "Jack" Robert Allan McLellan passed away Sept. 10 this year. Jack was a founding member of our club and served our president in years past. Jack received his 65-year service pin earlier this year. Jack was one of the main reasons for the continued success of our Retirees Club, and he will be greatly missed by all. Our condolences go out to Jack's wife, Jackie, and their family.

Merry Christmas and good wishes for a healthy 2019 to all journeymen and their families. Until next time.

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.



Local 570 Retirees Club Pres. and retired business manager William Turner (left), retired business manager Rick George, and Bus. Mgr. Chuck Grube.

### Retirees Meeting/Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 570, TUCSON, AZ — The Retirees Meeting/Luncheon was held Oct. 11. A catered luncheon was served. The food was excellent and enjoyed by all! A huge thank-you to Bus. Mgr. Chuck Grube and the members of Local 570 for sponsoring the lunch.

Congratulations to retired members and service-pin recipients: Bros. Rick George and Duane Ryberg (50-year members); Andrew Atkisson and Jack Duffy (55-year members); and Donald Sowle (60-year member).

We thank all the honorees for their longtime dedication and service to the IBEW and Local 570.

William Turner, Pres.



Local 443 presented IBEW years-of-service awards. Award recipients included, from left: Patrick Dorough (50 years of service); Ben Adkins (60 years' service); Malcomb Graves (50 years); Howard Ledbetter (60 years); John B. Ratliff (65 years); and Danny Stewart (45 years).

## RETIREES



Local 611 retirees at July 2018 union meeting: front row, Richard Sandoval (left), Kenny Vaughn, Tracy Hall, Andy Palmer and Bennie Sandoval.

A pocket knife donated by Carol and Jr. Marlow was won by Jim Lipe. The total deposit to be made was disclosed, and it was announced that the next meeting would be held at Bennie's in Marion on Oct. 4, 2018, at 11:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the August meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

Mark Baker, P.S.

## Retirees Attend Union Meeting

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Retirees attending the union meeting on July 21, 2018, included: Richard Sandoval, a 45-year member and past president; Kenny Vaughn, 60-year-service-award recipient; Tracy Hall, 48-year member and Retirees Club president; Andy Palmer — 50-year-service-award recipient and past business manager; Bennie Sandoval, 42-year member and retired Seventh District international representative.

Local 611 officers attending the July 21 meeting included: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Carl Condit, Pres. Ruben Romero, and Asst. Bus. Mgr./Rec. Sec. Santos Griego.

We extend our condolences to the family of retiree Overton Prather, who recently passed away.

Here's hoping everyone enjoys a merry Christmas and a happy new year! Let's all pray for unity and peace in 2019 and beyond.

Tracy Hall, Pres.

## August 2018 Club Meeting

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The IBEW Local 702 Retirees Club met Thursday, Aug. 2, at Golden Corral in Carbondale, IL. Club Pres. Gary King opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Minutes from the last meeting and the financial report were both read and approved. An announcement of deaths for June, July and August was read and a moment of silence was held.

Guests included Local 702 Inside Organizer Corey Jarrett, who gave a brief description of his job and explained the need for our Solidarity Fund and its drawing at the annual Labor Day picnic.

Under "old business," names were taken of those interested in a trip to the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis.

Under "new business," Pres. King reminded everyone that the 2018 Labor Day picnic would be at Rent One Park in Marion, IL.

Bro. Darrell McClellan won the 50/50 drawing.

## Spirit of Brotherhood

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA — Members enjoyed a Retirees Club Spring Luncheon joined by spouses. The attendance was good and so was the food.

At our last meeting, the club voted to have our Christmas luncheon the first Monday in December, at 11 a.m. Each couple is to bring one of the following dishes: vegetable, salad or dessert. The meat is to be furnished.

I hope each of our retirees will be able to attend the holiday luncheon. If I do not see you there, I want to wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.



Local 995 Retirees Club members enjoy spirit of brotherhood and camaraderie.

## 2017 Summary Annual Report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan, #52-6132372, for the year ended December 31, 2017. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

### Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were \$273,274,884. These expenses included \$16,146,030 in administrative expenses and \$257,128,854 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 111,583 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$7,678,461,343 as of December 31, 2017, compared to \$6,653,293,089 as of January 1, 2017. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$1,025,168,254. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$1,298,443,138, including employer contributions of \$558,746,883, gains of \$31,764,470 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$696,716,237, and other income of \$11,215,548.

### Minimum Funding Standards

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

### Your Rights to Additional Information

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

Lonnie R. Stephenson  
NEAP Trustee

Kenneth W. Cooper  
NEAP Trustee

John M. Grau  
NEAP Trustee

Dennis F. Quebe  
NEAP Trustee

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

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Trustees of the National Electrical Annuity Plan, who are the plan administrators, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, (301) 556-4300. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$18.25 for the full annual report, or \$.25 per page for any part thereof.

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

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

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

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

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

### Elections/Consents

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

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

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

### Lump Sum

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

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# WHO WE ARE

## Nebraska Wireman Wraps Up an 89-Year Career

Every year, the IBEW hands out hundreds — yes, hundreds — of 70-year pins to men and women marking seven decades as members of the Brotherhood.

But how many arrive before the recipient retires?

There is now at least one.

After 89 years doing electrical work — the first couple OSHA would have had a word or two about if it existed at the time — Lincoln, Neb., Local 265 member Norm “Pinky” Stentz is out of work.

“I’m an old buzzard,” he said.

Stentz, 95, is a second-generation member of Local 265. His father, Howard, was president of the local 60-odd years ago. He got into the business in 1929, when Stentz was only 6 years old, and times being what they were, it wasn’t long until he was helping his father out on jobs.

“I was very close to my dad. He’s the one who nicknamed me Pinky the first time he saw me,” he said. “I had a brother who wanted no part of it. So old Pinky had to help his dad. I crawled under buildings where he couldn’t get in.”

By 1931, his father taught him all the tools and had him fetch them out of the Model T Ford they’d converted into a work truck. By his tenth birthday in 1933, he was drilling holes in joists and studs with a brace and bit for the knob and tube work.

“You have to understand, back in those days you could do things you can’t do today with a 10-year-old kid on a construction site,” he said.

Stentz worked with and for his father until the outbreak of World War II when he enlisted in the Navy, where he was soon made a 3rd class electrician’s mate after drawing a “legal” three-way circuit for the electrician’s mate.

By 1943 he was transferred to the newly commissioned USS Independence, an aircraft carrier that was torpedoed during the Battle of Tarawa and supported the attacks on Okinawa and the Philippines. The ship was awarded eight battle stars.

After the war, Stentz returned home to Nebraska and got a job at Industrial Electric. He volunteered to come in on weekends so he could learn to wind motors. That initiative won him an invitation to learn estimating, and later, a visit to the boss’s house where Stentz found something even more valuable: a wife.

“Long story short, I married his daughter, quit him and went to work at



Above: Stentz retired after 89 years of electrical work, starting at age 6 working for his dad.

Left: Stentz on top of father Howard’s company pickup truck in 1931. The truck was bought with bonus money for his father’s service in World War I.

Commonwealth Electric,” he said.

In 1953 he was called back into service and sent to Korea, where he served in the 1st Marine Airwing alongside astronaut and Sen. John Glenn, Red Sox great Ted Williams and Tonight Show co-host Ed McMahon. Stentz maintained the unit’s generators and was seconded to the Korean power company to rebuild and connect destroyed 500 kva transformers.

**He is one of a very few — possibly the only — 70-year pin recipients still on the job when it arrived.**

“We often had to use barbed wire on the primary side because it was all we had,” he said.

When he returned home to Commonwealth in Lincoln, Stentz made his transition to the office final. He was the only estimator who came from the field and, at first, the room full of engineers weren’t sure what they had.

“I was very humble. They finally accepted me and said, ‘You’ll make a good man.’ We had a chief engineer, he

took me under his wing. He worked mainly power houses, but I did everything,” Stentz said.

Within a few years, Stentz said he was not only estimating jobs, he was given the go-ahead to bid them. Soon after, he was designing projects from the start.

“He became one of Commonwealth’s best engineers, and he never took a single college course,” said Local 265 Business Manager Chris Callihan.

He drew up everything from office buildings and power houses to factories and a 15 MW co-generation plant for Archer Daniels Midland.

“They put that plant online in the ‘80s and they have never had a nickel’s worth of trouble with it,” Stentz said.

“Pinky put hundreds of our members to work with the projects he designed and his insistence that IBEW do the work,” Callihan said. “He had a hand in a bunch of buildings right across the U.S. and a bunch of careers.”

Stentz retired in August, and he’s not sure what his next chapter will be. At least one of his children, an engineer in the Navy, retired before he did. But after 89 years doing electrical work, he thinks often of the people who got him here.

“I attribute my success and know-how to the owners of Commonwealth and the engineers that taught me. They were very nice,” he said. “But I worked real hard. When I got off from work, I didn’t go to beer joints. I went home and studied. I think I earned my stripes.” ■



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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Lonnie R. Stephenson  
International President

Kenneth W. Cooper  
International Secretary-Treasurer

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### HOW TO REACH US

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

#### Send letters to:

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

Or send by email to: [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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IBEW members pose for a photo with AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, sixth from left, at the Women Build Nations conference in October. Shuler, a member of Portland, Ore., Local 125, addressed the 2,000-plus attendees and was joined on stage with some of her sister apprentices.

## Tradeswomen Find Solidarity in Numbers at Annual Women Build Nations Conference

It took Briane Montoya two days, but she finally found another woman who was an outside lineman like her. For someone who's often the only woman on her job site, it was a big moment.

"It felt really good to meet her," the Denver Local 111 pre-apprentice said. "It was cool to see someone who's going through what you're just getting into."

They met at the Women Build Nations conference in Seattle, and it's moments like theirs that encapsulate the three-day event: it's a space for tradeswomen to see each other.

"We can go for long periods without seeing other sisters on job sites. The feeling of isolation is real," said Erin Sullivan, Third District representative for the IBEW's International Women's Committee. "This conference is a reminder that we're not alone."

The 2,000-plus attendees traveled from the U.S. and Canada — even Ireland — to share stories and strategies and, for a few days, experience what it's like to be around other women who are like them; women who know what it's like to be on the tools.

**"Women know how to build, and right now we are building a powerful movement."**

— Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer and Portland, Ore., Local 125 member

Held in October at the Washington State Convention Center, the conference was hosted by North America's Building Trades Unions and local nonprofit Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Employment for Women. It's grown over its eight years, and this year, IBEW women led the way with the largest contingent at approximately 300 attendees. Roughly a third of them were apprentices.

"I think that shows that our sisters feel valued," Sullivan said. "When women see value in their union and the union sees value in the women within the local unions, the circuit now has continuity. It is this continuity that generates the power within the local unions and builds power and strengthens IBEW."

The conference included a community service project that hit capacity with about 80 women, including IBEW members, building tiny houses for the home-

less community.

The IBEW was also represented at the opening plenary when AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, a member of Portland, Ore., Local 125, addressed the conference with apprentices joining her on stage.

"Women know how to build, and right now we are building a powerful movement," Shuler said. "We're seeing women from every city and every state and every town across America standing up and speaking truth to power."

### 'We Can, We Will'

IBEW sisters also participated in panels covering topics including careers beyond the tools and Robert's Rules of Order.

"This conference lets women know they can be more than just a worker, that other opportunities exist like becoming a foreman, project manager or owning their own company," said Boston Local 103 business agent Kenell Broomstein. "Or even running for office."

Vancouver, British Columbia, Local

213 member Emelia Colman-Shepherd sat on a panel on career options and shared her story of recently becoming a coordinator with the B.C. Centre for Women in the Trades, a new initiative to recruit and retain women in the western Canadian province.

The session was packed, with people sitting on the floor and standing on the sides. Many in the audience shared their stories and many more shared advice, from union training opportunities to the benefits of a women's committee. For Colman-Shepherd, it was analogous to what tradeswomen often do for one another.

"Tradeswomen are a powerful force," she said. "We want the opportunities to move into leadership positions, and we want to help each other get there."

Portland, Ore., Local 48 member Val Madsen said one thing she'll take back with her is the opioid toolbox talk, a resource offered by the Center for Construction

Research and Training and highlighted during a plenary session to help attendees talk to their co-workers about the deadly epidemic at weekly safety meetings.

"We've got 52 weeks in a year. We always talk about ladder safety, inspecting your lifts, but we don't talk about opioids or addiction," Madsen said. "This is one tangible thing I cannot wait to bring back."

### 'There's Somebody Out There Who Has Your Back'

For Colman-Shepherd, attending Women Build Nations is about empowerment.

"It's about making women feel heard," she said. "It's not to give them something special; it's about letting them see their own strength."

It's a sentiment shared by Detroit Local 58 business agent Grace Trudell, the first woman to serve in the role at her local.

"You get so drained with everyday stuff, then you come here and it's like, 'This is why I'm here. This is why I'm doing what I'm doing,'" Trudell said. "The energy in every room is incredible. There's inspiration at every turn."

Trudell noted the pervasive refrain of being the only woman on a job, and how for a lot of sisters, especially early on, it's not something they're used to.

"This is why we have our women's committee, to lift each other up," said Trudell, her committee's co-chair. "We've been through it too. It helps to know there's somebody out there who has your back."

Madsen noted the conference's importance for another reason.

"At the end of the day, it's about organizing," Madsen said. "Women are often the movers and shakers of their unions, I see that. To be surrounded by that energy, it nourishes my soul and propels me through the year."

Trudell noted the importance of having men, especially those in leadership, as allies. She was elected business agent after being asked by one of her brothers, Michael Richard, who was then running for business manager. Current business manager, Brian Richard, has carried on that legacy of inclusion, she said.

"They're great guys," Trudell said. "It makes a difference to have that support."

For Seattle Local 46 retiree Nancy Mason, who worked on the first IBEW women's conference, IBEW allies go all the way to the top.

"It's such a breath of fresh air to have Lonnie [Stephenson], as [international] president," Mason said.

The conference held an award ceremony honoring IBEW sister and retired director of the Civic and Community Engagement Department, Carolyn Williams, who was also recognized for her pioneering work at the IBEW caucus.

Theresa Moss King, the IBEW's Fifth District Women's Committee representative, read a brief list of Williams' accomplishments, which include being one of the first women — and women of color — to become a journeyman wireman with Atlanta Local 613. She was also instrumental in creating the young members initiative, Reach Out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Workers, and the unanimous resolution passed at the 2016 International Convention to establish women's committees in all 11 districts.

"You are truly a woman of honor and dignity," King said of Williams.

If being the only woman was something attendees came to Seattle to get away from, something they came to share was their love of the work and that sense of accomplishment that comes from building something with your own hands.

"I really loved being an electrician," said Mason, who now works as an apprentice consultant with South Seattle College. "I can drive around and point to all these buildings I worked on. That's a great feeling."

That job satisfaction is something Montoya is experiencing as she goes through her training. She loves that linemen and women are like "secret superheroes" that restore power and help places like hospitals. And she loves doing it as a union member. Now she knows there's an entire sisterhood to help her.

"When I'd tell other women what I was doing, they'd say, 'We're all behind you.' That meant a lot to me," Montoya said. "It makes me feel like I'm part of something bigger than myself." ■

## 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 the latest news about the IBEW, including the online version of the Electrical Worker, at [IBEW.org](http://IBEW.org).

### YouTube

How do you staff a 500-plus person job with a 225-member local already at full employment? Good old-fashioned organizing. Find out how Newark, Ohio, Local 1105 made it happen at [bit.ly/IBEWLU1105](http://bit.ly/IBEWLU1105).

### Vimeo

With the help of the IBEW



business development staff, Cumberland, Md., Local 307 is building relationships and opening doors that are changing lives and growing its membership. Watch the story at [bit.ly/IBEWLU307](http://bit.ly/IBEWLU307).

### HourPower

New Orleans Local 130 members are

working on a \$1 billion addition to the Louis

Armstrong International Airport that includes a new 35-gate terminal, FAA system and more. Get the story at [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com).



### ElectricTV

Tucson, Ariz., Local 570 members are powering a new, state-of-the-art hospital and they're doing it in a new, state-of-the-art way with the latest digital technology. Watch it at [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net).

