

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

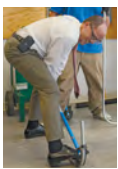
CONSTRUCTION • UTILITIES • TELECOMMUNICATIONS • MANUFACTURING • GOVERNMENT • BROADCASTING • RAILROAD

Printed in the USA

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 14 | No. 5 | May 2020

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Brotherhood Across Borders

Angola Hospital Mission Bonds IBEW, Italian Electrical Workers



Credit: courtesy of Local 3 Journeyman Lineman Lou Alvarez

A trip sponsored by Electrical Workers Without Borders North America sent New York City Local 3 members to Angola last summer to work with Italian electricians on a solar array to power a rural hospital.

After two weeks in the dusty, southwest corner of Angola helping to electrify a remote maternity hospital, Alex Alcantara was full of emotion as his “unbelievable trip” came to an end. “I missed my family to death, but I miss those people I had the honor of serving in Angola as well,” the New York Local 3 journeyman wireman said on social media, where he’d been posting videos every couple of days. “I can’t get that out of my head and my heart,”

IBEW IN AFRICA



he wrote, all caps. “I have way too much. Material things don’t matter any longer. Humanity, friendship, love, health... that’s my goal for a better world for all.” Alcantara, who goes by “Archie,” traveled to Angola with fellow Local 3 journeyman Lou Alvarez last summer to work with Italian electricians on a solar array to power Chiulo Hospital, the only medical facility of its kind for hundreds of kilometers. “We have a skill set that many people don’t have. We can give somebody a resource that they can’t afford,” Alvarez said. “To me, that’s fulfillment. It’s not just about earning a living. It’s about what we can give back.”

Borders North America, an IBEW-supported nonprofit that sponsored the journey to sub-Saharan Africa. The organization is one of the legacies of the late, visionary International President Edwin D. Hill, who lived and breathed the words of the union’s century-old declaration, “Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, human security.” A devout Catholic and proud trade unionist, Hill dreamed of EWWBNA as a way to serve those principles, said Don Siegel, the group’s president and Hill’s decades-long friend. “He saw this as a way to fulfill both missions,” said Siegel, who retired as Third District international vice president in 2017. “He knew that when he retired he would need something to do. He had so many plans. Ed envisioned this becoming a worldwide organization — tied to the IBEW, but with an arm’s-length relationship — that would spread the message of the IBEW and build our reputation throughout the world.”

That spirit imbues Electrical Workers Without

ANGOLA HOSPITAL MISSION *continued on page 4*



THE IBEW's
2020 PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline: Oct. 1
See page 5 for details

FROM THE OFFICERS

Solidarity Amid Crisis



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

The foundation of a strong union is solidarity — the ability of our union sisters and brothers to stand together as one to overcome all the challenges in our way.

And the true test of solidarity doesn't come when times are good. The real test occurs when times are tough, and times don't come any tougher than they are right now.

The rise of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, has led to an unprecedented health crisis facing the entire planet, risking millions of lives and putting us all at risk.

As we write this column in early April, we have no idea how long or how devastating the effects of the coronavirus will be on North America. Our prayers are that they will be limited.

But even now, it's clear that COVID-19 is wreaking havoc, not just with people's lives and health, but with the economy as well.

This virus has already ended the longest bull market in history, sending stocks plummeting and leading to a massive surge in layoffs as businesses shut down in keeping with government orders.

Like nearly every other crisis, from natural disasters to economic crashes, working people have been on the front lines.

Whether it's medical personnel treating a tidal wave of patients in need, service workers who lost jobs and paychecks with little or no warning or government employees rushing to tackle further spread of the virus, working people are taking the risks and feeling the pain of the coronavirus epidemic.

In the IBEW, our members are running the plants and repairing the lines that keep power flowing. We're building and maintaining hospitals and critical infrastructure. Our members are hard at work on manufacturing lines and maintaining the phone and internet systems to keep people connected to work and family. We're broadcasting important information about this pandemic to our neighbors and communities and maintaining

the rail infrastructure that moves critical goods and resources to the places that need them. Working people are the heroes of this crisis.

Thank you to each of you for everything you've done to help our two nations navigate this crisis.

Some of you had no choice but to keep working despite the risks to you and your families. Some of you have had to stay at home, following the government guidelines. And we know that some of you are dealing with the real pain of unemployment.

Economically, this is the biggest challenge we've faced since the 2008 recession, and we still don't know how severe the damage will be or how long it will last.

But the IBEW has faced similar crises in the past and pulled through. As a union we are more prepared than ever before to make it through this new crisis.

Thanks to our strong Membership Development program, we have the growing numbers to ensure that we'll remain strong even in a weak economy. And because of that growth, plus wise and prudent investments on our part, our benefits programs are stronger than ever and will be there to help members in need.

Our commitment to the Code of Excellence and strong labor-management partnerships mean that we're working productively with our employers to navigate these troubled times. Since the very beginning of this pandemic, we have worked with many of our employers to ensure that IBEW members don't bear the brunt of this economic crisis, and there are a number of companies that have involved us in big decisions in the last month.

Our priority, of course, is the safety of you and your families. That's why we signed an emergency agreement with the National Electrical Contractors Association to help all our construction members work safely and avoid unnecessary risks.

IBEW locals across the U.S. and Canada canceled in-person meetings and gave members the option of paying dues and resolving other union business online or over the phone.

And we continue to encourage every member to follow CDC and Canadian government guidelines when it comes to social distancing and workplace safety.

A social and economic crisis of this magnitude requires a strong response by elected officials at all levels of government, and the IBEW has been instrumental in lobbying for legislation that prioritizes the needs of working people and small businesses, demanding more paid sick leave, easier access to unemployment benefits and direct financial assistance to those most in need. We're still pushing for more assistance in both the U.S. and Canada.

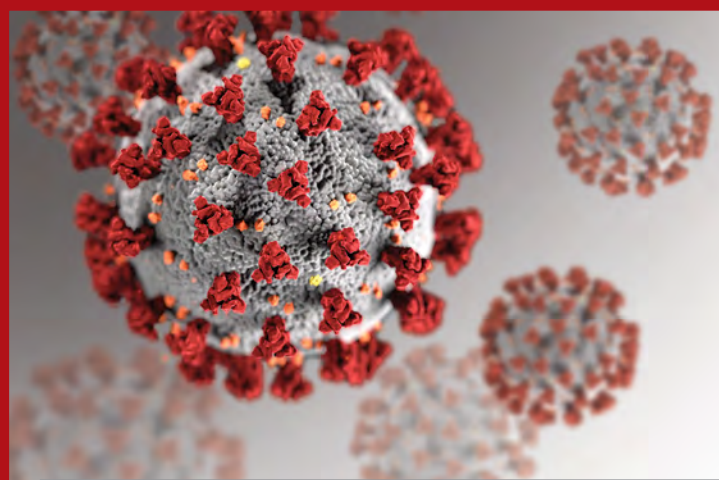
Like everything we do in the IBEW, it's you, our members, that make it possible. Only by sticking together and standing by every single one of our brothers and sisters can we as a union continue to move forward.

These are uncertain times. But there is one thing we can be certain of. And that's the power of IBEW solidarity. So, please, brothers and sisters, take care of yourselves, take care of your families, and take care of each other.

We will get through this. And in the end, we can feel confident that by staying true to our values as union members, the IBEW will come out even stronger than before. ■



Kenneth W. Cooper
International Secretary-Treasurer



A NOTE from The Electrical Worker:

Because of the rapidly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the IBEW and you, our members, the Electrical Worker is unable to provide the most up-to-date information about the crisis. Much of this issue was produced before we knew the full extent of the virus's impact on our jobs and our members.

For the most current information on how the IBEW is responding to COVID-19 and working on behalf of members and their communities, please visit [IBEW.org/COVID-19](https://www.ibew.org/COVID-19).

The page, as well as our Facebook and Twitter accounts, will be updated regularly over the coming weeks and months to keep you best informed.

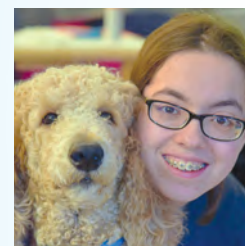
Send us your stories of everyday IBEW heroes during the COVID-19 crisis at media@ibew.org.

"Letters" will return in next month's issue.

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

My IBEW STORY

Pauline Lutton, First-Year Apprentice Wireman
South Bend, Ind., Local 153



“Transitioning from retail to the IBEW was like going from night to day. Instead of being stuck at a job that had little in the way of advancement, I started learning how to do the things that I really enjoy. My trade classes in high school and college had planted these seeds that are now sprouting as I continue my apprenticeship. And having teachers encourage me to apply for an IBEW apprenticeship was extremely important when I was first looking to learn the trade.

Being in the IBEW has helped me become more involved with other women in the trade as well. Since I joined, I've helped start our local's new women's committee and we're currently working towards getting our charter. We're also working on a mentoring program to help our sisters find new ways to approach on-the-job tasks that make more sense for different body types.

Being in the IBEW has helped me become more involved with other women in the trade as well. Since I joined, I've helped start our local's new women's committee and we're currently working towards getting our charter. We're also working on a mentoring program to help our sisters find new ways to approach on-the-job tasks that make more sense for different body types.

Share your story at [ibew.org/MyIBEWStory](https://www.ibew.org/MyIBEWStory)

Unions Fight Back; Trump Backs Down from Plan to Gut Apprenticeships

IBEW Members Make the Difference on IRAPs

After a coordinated response from hundreds of thousands of union building trades workers, the Trump administration backed off its plan to undermine the century-old construction apprenticeship system March 10.

Key to saving the successful union-run apprenticeship system was an unprecedented response from more than 325,000 union construction workers, including 65,000 IBEW members, who submitted their stories to the Labor Department, which was considering changes to expand its Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs to the construction industry.

The idea behind IRAPs was to expand apprenticeships to traditionally white-collar industries that don't have a history of using them like business management, banking, software technology or paralegal work. IRAPs can be a good way to get workers into those jobs without forcing them to take expensive private certification or loan programs.

“The Trump Administration wanted to pick one side, and it wasn't ours.”

— International President
Lonnie R. Stephenson

But the Trump Administration wanted to go much further, imposing IRAPs on construction, too.

“We support IRAPs in principle; we have hundreds of thousands of members who topped out of them, mainly in utilities,” International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. “But applying it to construction would have been catastrophic.”

Stephenson said that not only is the construction apprenticeship system approaching 100 years old, there are life-and-death safety issues.

“There are simply fewer dangers when you are working in an office, not building one,” he said. “Mistakes on job sites can not only get you maimed or killed; they can kill others. And when you start talking about the work our members do with electricity, there are many lives at stake.”

Early in his presidency, Trump issued an executive order authorizing the Labor Department to change the apprenticeship system in the U.S.

“It was a shot across the bow,” said Political and Legislative Department Director Austin Keyser. “We didn't know if they were going to get around to aiming directly

at us, but we knew they were too close.”

The registered apprenticeship program in the building trades was created back in 1937 with the passage of the Fitzgerald Act, but it traces its history to state-run apprenticeship programs at the turn of the 20th century.

It is a partnership of equals, where labor and management decide together not only how many apprentices to train, they decide on wages for their jurisdiction and what skills the future workforce will need to meet the need of future construction customers. Apprentices pay only the cost of books and earn benefits and pay far exceeding minimum wage.

Historically, there has been tension between what management and labor wanted, but if either of them pushed too far, they would start losing jobs to non-union contractors.

“It's a balanced, three-part free market between labor and management on the one hand, but always subject to the needs of customers,” Keyser said. “Over the course of 100 years the marketplace has forced everyone to compromise and find solutions that work.”

All of that would disappear if IRAPs spread to the trades, Keyser said.

Management would be given sole discretion to determine everything: numbers, wages, curriculum and how much — or how little — an apprentice would need to know to become a journeyman. Government oversight, according to the plan, would be replaced with “self-monitoring,” a euphemism for no oversight at all.

Nonunion contractors could pay minimum wage, charge for tools and books and, on federal projects, they wouldn't be bound by Davis-Bacon wage progression rules or journeyman-apprentice ratio requirements.

“Government played next to no role in the apprenticeship marketplace for 100 years and now the Trump Administration wanted to pick one side, and it wasn't ours,” Stephenson said.

Despite two years of meetings with the administration after the executive order, when the proposed rule was finally issued in June 2019, none of labor's basic concerns were addressed.

For example, the proposal gave standards recognition entities — not government agencies — the power to create new apprenticeship programs and approve or reject applicants. But there was next to nothing in the draft plan about oversight over the SREs, whether they could have conflicts of interest, what kind of information they would have to reveal about success rates or even what duty they owed to keep apprentices safe and healthy.

The Labor Department didn't even say how this information must be provided to the public.



Former Labor Secretary Tom Perez visited Washington Local 26's training center in 2015 to promote the importance of construction apprenticeships. The Trump administration threatened to destroy the union apprenticeship system.

And, most importantly, while the rule said the Labor Department would not “initially” accept industry-led apprenticeships for the construction sector, it did not rule out doing so later.

Worse, the 60-day comment period ran through summer vacation season and a personnel shake-up was underway in the administration.

While the proposed bill was bad and vague about IRAPs in construction, labor negotiators had come to understand then-Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta and other officials were opposed to the imposition.

But by the summer of 2019, Acosta's position was frustrating administration officials in the White House, according to published accounts, most importantly then-acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. Mulvaney began stripping power away from Acosta. In July, the axe dropped, and Acosta was ousted.

“Acosta was no great friend of labor and few tears were shed when he was forced out, but on this, we believed he was a reliable backstop” Keyser said. “Once Mulvaney took over, it was a different game.”

Stephenson put out a call, online, through The Electrical Worker and through

the locals. Members needed to speak up to save apprenticeships. It didn't matter that it was summer vacation. Time was short. The other trades did the same.

“It was an existential threat to the IBEW at that point,” Stephenson said.

And the union responded. More than 325,000 trade unionists commented, including more than 65,000 IBEW members.

“It was an astonishing outpouring from our membership,” Stephenson said. “Reading those comments about the meaning of our apprenticeship to them and their families has been one of the highlights of my career. Not just how many, but the depth of feeling.”

As the comment period ended over the summer, Keyser was not sure what the final rule would look like. The response had been overwhelming. Would it be enough?

When the final rule was finally issued March 10, trades were excluded from IRAPs. As always, the strength of the IBEW was built entirely on the solidity of its members.

“This not the outcome the Chamber of Commerce and the Trump administration wanted,” Stephenson said. “They have the money. They have the influence. But they can never buy what we don't have to: our people. We are in every part of this country, with good wages, decent benefits and a pension that promises a dignified retirement. We know the value of that, and we fought to keep it.” ■



Blocking IRAPs in Oregon

Members of IBEW locals and the building trades across Oregon converged on the state Capitol in February to support a House bill barring public money from being spent on industry-based apprenticeships — a preemptive strike against IRAPs as the federal Department of Labor considered their fate. Robert Camarillo, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building Trades Council, said Oregon is the only state so far that's taken on the issue legislatively. He told lawmakers that IRAPs would be a “race to the bottom,” undermining trade union programs that have been the gold standard for decades. Unions “have set the bar for high-quality training, strong oversight, accountability and good family-sustaining, middle-class jobs,” he told the House Committee on Business and Labor. “Anything less than our time-tested apprenticeship programs ... will not only put workers' lives at risk, but also our families and first responders.” ■

Continued from page 1

Brotherhood Across Borders

Angola Hospital Mission Bonds IBEW, Italian Electrical Workers

PREGNANT women show up at the walled Chiulo compound well before their due date, some walking a hundred or more hot, arid miles to give birth assisted by doctors and nurses. It is their best hope in a country with one of the world's highest infant mortality rates.

"Sometimes they come with their own mothers to give them a hand, sometimes with two or three children," Alvarez said. "They walk, with big bellies, from miles and miles away just to get to the waiting area."

A small house provides shelter for some women. But many others pass time on benches during the day and sleep in tents on the compound's primitive grounds. "When they go into labor, that's when the hospital opens the door," he said.

Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erison tapped Alvarez to head the mission, just as he'd trusted him to lead past hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico, the Bahamas and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Alvarez brought Brazilian-born Alcantara on board, knowing his fluency in Portuguese, Angola's colonial language, would be invaluable. He filled out the team with journeymen Everest Campbell and William Bonaparte, who arrived mid-month to help finish the project as their Local 3 brothers headed home.

As they worked, they watched women endure long waits outdoors, tending to restless children, rationing food and pulling what water they could from wells. Though charities provide aid, food is scarce and water more so as Angola suffers its worst drought since the 1940s.

It hadn't rained in seven months when they arrived in June 2019. Alvarez said they didn't see a single cloud, "not one little puff," cross the brilliant blue sky their entire two-week stay.

Drought has killed crops and animals, deepening the agony of Angola's rural poverty. At times, Alcantara couldn't believe his eyes.

"The amount of stuff that we just waste, the amount of water we waste — these people don't have water to drink or shower in," he said. "I came home and I said we need to conserve water, we need to do this and that. These people, they're showering in a hole in the ground, the same hole a cow's drinking from, the same hole where a lady's washing her clothes."

But among the Angolans they met, they found more strength than despair.



From left, Local 3 members Everest Campbell, Lou Alvarez, Alex "Archie" Alcantara and William Bonaparte show their IBEW pride in front of the solar grid they helped install at Chiulo Hospital in Angola in southwest Africa.

"One of the things I came back with is how strong women are, especially when it comes to their children," Alvarez said. "We saw a lot of sad things, but also you learn about the resilience in people. It's pretty amazing how people learn to deal with their environment."

DELEGATES to the IBEW's 2016 International Convention in St. Louis enthusiastically backed the resolution that created Electrical Workers Without Borders North America. Hill had retired a year earlier, but he was invited on stage as members rose to speak in support.

Most referenced the global humanitarian work that IBEW members were doing already in places that included Haiti, Suriname and St. Kitts.

"After the devastation of the earthquake in 2011, I was one of over 75 Local 103 brothers that traveled to Haiti to help build a new 320-bed hospital," Boston Local 103 Business Manager Lou Antonellis said. "I saw what the people of Haiti went through after that tragedy, and I saw firsthand real tears of joy and appreciation from the children and families that were most affected by the generosity of the IBEW."

Brady Hansen, a Seattle Local 77 journeyman lineman who led earlier training missions to Suriname and continues to organize EWWBNA trips, said every IBEW

member who volunteered "will tell you that it has been a life-changing experience... I rise in support of this resolution because when you take a look at who we are, we are humanitarians of light and power in our communities."

EWWBNA would support and expand those efforts, formalizing what had been a patchwork quilt of good works.

About a year earlier, the Italian Federation of Electrical Utility Workers and energy companies did the same, establishing Elettici senza frontiere Italia, or Electrical Workers Without Borders of Italy. Similar groups operate in France, Germany and other European nations.

The U.S. and Italian organizations were conceived and nurtured by the relationship between Hill and Carlo de Masi, then-secretary-general of the Italian Federation of Electrical Utility Workers.

Planning accelerated in 2015 when de Masi came to the IBEW construction conference on the heels of a trip Hill made to Italy to receive one of its government's highest honors, the Golden Eagle award. He was the first American recipient, honored in part for his support of Italian unionists and his overtures to Italian companies operating in the United States.

Accepting the award in Assisi, Hill evoked the town's famous saint, "The spirit of St. Francis is badly needed in today's world. Growing inequality and violence threatens all that we stand for. And we must continue to stand together to be a force for good."

Many pregnant women make long treks on foot to reach Chiulo Hospital, which specializes in maternity care. Often accompanied by young children, they typically arrive weeks early and live in tents until they go into labor.



The late International President Edwin D. Hill, who established EWWBNA, pictured, at left, at a 2014 awards ceremony with his friend Carlo de Masi, head of the Italian electrical trades.

ANGOLA, which was in the planning stage at the time of Hill's death in December 2018, embodied his vision.

Italians, Americans and, earlier, a Chinese team of electricians lifted up an impoverished hospital and changed lives — including their own.

"What happened was something magic," said Felice Egidi, president of Elettici Senza Frontiere. "A perfect blend between Italian mentality and U.S. mentality."

Far off any electrical grid, the 224-bed hospital had limped along on diesel generators to fulfill its many obligations: maternity care, surgery, outpatient services for more than 300,000 widely dispersed people, and training nurses for a network of rural health clinics.

Local 3 volunteers helped the Italians complete a 50-kilowatt solar mini-grid and renovate the electrical system throughout the hospital compound.

"Although fuel is inexpensive in Angola, it still costs the hospital money to

run the generator 24/7," Alvarez said. "So the Italians' idea was to store energy from this solar array. They did a great job designing the system."

Enel, an Italy-based energy multinational with a growing footprint in the United States, provided the solar panels, storage batteries and other materials. The Americans arrived with a wealth of donations from Milwaukee Tool, hand-held equipment they left behind for the hospital's maintenance workers.

"They were astonished, the Italian guys, astonished because the guys from the states arrived with a lot of materials and tools," Egidi said. They told him, "Oh my god, they have everything!"

THE Italians hosted the Americans at a secure compound near the hospital that serves as a regional home base for Italy's Doctors with Africa.

Access to the aid organization's housing was essential, Egidi said. "First, from a security point of view, because you have volunteers, you have to decide that a country is safe. A second point is to have a structure on site to receive us. Not five-star hotels we're talking about, but something acceptable."

For most of their stay, Alvarez and Alcantara worked with a team of three Italians. The men became fast friends, sharing a house and forging what Alvarez described with amusement as their own Romance language. They mingled English and Italian, with Alvarez and Alcantara adding Spanish and Portuguese to the mix.

It bridged the gap as the Americans got a crash course in Europe's electrical system, the foundation for the hospital





From left, above, the Local 3 team and their Italian brothers at the hospital compound wall: Louis Alvarez, Luciano Isoldi, Everest Campbell, Maurizio Nurchis, Riccardo Porcu, Alex “Archie” Alcantara, and William Bonaparte. At left, one of the many meals the Italian hosts prepared for themselves and their American guests in a shared home near the hospital.

“He was a great communicator, a great leader. We have big shoes to fill.”

When he passed, Siegel said, a Catholic priest they worked with in Haiti cried, “Our dream has died.” In Italy, de Masi’s heart broke, and he feared what would become of EWWBNA without Hill.

But Siegel and others devoted to EWWBNA, aided by generous help from International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and IBEW staff, are determined that Hill’s vision will be fully realized.

The virus is interfering for now, but it won’t always be that way.

“In founding EWWBNA, President Hill did something very special that not only reflects well on the IBEW but also confirms his lifelong commitment to his faith and trade union principles,” Siegel said. “We’re not going to let him down.”

Learn more about EWWBNA and how you can support its mission at: www.ewwbna.org

another month before he saw them. But he brimmed with cheer talking about the success of the Angola mission and what it holds for the future.

“Having done this experience, it is quite easy now to discuss other missions,” he said. He cited projects being planned or already launched in countries that include Peru, Zambia and Kenya, as well as an eventual return to Haiti, where IBEW and Italian electricians have partnered in years past.

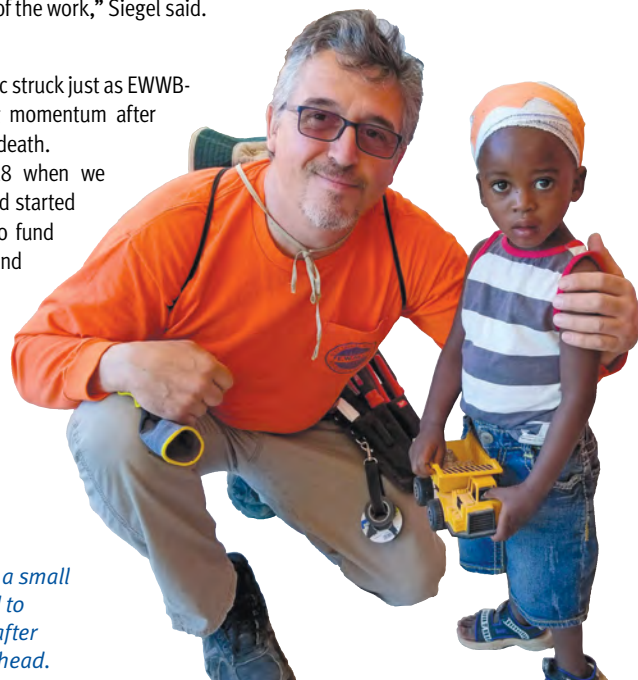
Haiti, in fact, is central to EWWBNA, with projects at schools, hospitals and a vocational training center. But Siegel said security concerns in the country have put progress on hold.

Now, COVID-19 is causing delays around the world, such as plans for a 20-kilowatt solar field at a Peruvian school. “We were ready, just before the virus hit, to send one of our people down to Peru to meet up with an Italian project manager and assess the scope of the work,” Siegel said.

THE pandemic struck just as EWWBNA was regaining momentum after the shock of Hill’s death.

“It was 2018 when we really got going and started to research how to fund these projects and get everyone on board. Everything stopped around mid-August when Ed got ill,” Siegel said.

Lou Alvarez with a small patient admitted to Chiulo Hospital after a donkey bit his head.



THE IBEW’s 2020 PHOTO CONTEST

Enter Today!
Deadline: Oct. 1
1st Place: \$200
2nd Place: \$150
3rd Place: \$100
Honorable Mention: \$50

The IBEW’s annual photo contest is an opportunity for members from across North America to share the images that remind us why we’re proud to be members of the greatest union in the world. Whether you’re working on an awe-inspiring jobsite or capturing the simplicity and beauty of an everyday assignment, we want to see and share the images that move you.

Last year’s winner came from Los Angeles Local 11 apprentice Natalie Anaya, who captured journeyman Ron Torres during a pause in the action while building MetroLA’s new Regional Connector rail system. We can’t wait to see who will take home the top prize for 2020.

Photo Contest Rules:

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

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Charitable Donations Mark the CFL's Closure

When representatives from the IBEW presented more than CA\$250,000 to seven children's hospitals across Canada, the charitable act brought closure to a turbulent chapter in the Canadian labour movement.

"The money came from the last of the funds held by the Canadian Federation of Labour," said First District International Vice President Tom Reid. "As one of the members of the CFL's executive committee, I'm pleased with our decision to designate our donations to these unquestionably deserving recipients."

Receiving CA\$36,000 each in January were the British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver; the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary; the Children's Hospital of Manitoba in Winnipeg; the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa; the Montréal Children's Hospital; the Izaak Walton Killam Health Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia; and the Janeway Children's Hospital in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

These gifts marked the official end of the CFL, an organization created following a series of bitter and seemingly unsolvable policy disputes that came to a head in 1982. That year, fed-up IBEW locals in Canada elected to combine their forces with several other construction trades unions that also had broken away from the Canadian Labour Congress to affiliate with this wholly separate organization for workers.

"Quitting the CLC was a tough call, but we felt that the needs of the building trades unions simply weren't being heard by the CLC back then," said Reid. "We believed that we simply had no alternative." At one point, the CFL represented nearly 200,000 men and women from Canada's building trades.

The rift came at a tough time for Canada's workers, Reid said. Labour laws favouring workers slowly and consistently were being repealed across Canada just as unemployment in the country's building trades began to rise sharply. Anti-labour businesses started taking advantage of this inter-federation rift, meanwhile, by awarding more of the country's available electrical and construction work to nonunion contractors.

Stung by all of these problems, not to mention the resulting raiding that had grown commonplace for unions in both federations, delegates to the IBEW's All Canada Progress Meeting in 1995 authorized then-First District Vice President Ken Woods to decide whether to permit Canada's locals to rejoin the CLC. Two years later, Woods declared they would do so. "The issues of raiding, representation and labour unity could not, and would not, be resolved while labour was fractionalized," Woods said.

Gradually, the remaining CFL organizations also returned to the CLC. "It may be a lesson that many of our unions had to re-learn the hard way," Reid said, "but the

ultimate message of the labour movement is that we are truly stronger when we all act together as one."

Even so, the IBEW and other unions continued to administer the CFL's executive committee until a few months ago, mainly to supervise the donation of funds still held in the federation's treasury.

"That money, which had been collected from members over the years, had been slowly disbursed to various charities," said First District International Representative Cheryl Paron. But last fall, she said, the executive committee voted to disburse the last of its funds and close down the CFL for good.

"We just started looking around for reputable and worthy organizations," Paron said, eventually settling on the seven children's hospitals. "Members can rest assured that the money is going to a really good cause."

But the IBEW had a little more work to do. Reid realized there was no plan for getting the cheques to the hospitals other than simply dropping envelopes in the post. So, he tapped several IBEW members to personally deliver the money to as

many of the hospitals as possible.

Making the presentations — complete with appropriate oversized ceremonial cheques — were First District international representatives Brian Matheson, Brian Murdoch and Adam Van Steinburg; Ottawa, Ontario Local 586 Business Manager John Bourke; Calgary, Alberta, Local 254 Assistant Business Manager Karen Stoshnof; and Montréal, Québec, Local 568 business representative Derek Harvey.

"We're proud to support in this small way the hard-working individuals who work faithfully to keep Canada's world-famous health care system running smoothly," Reid said. "We also think it's a fitting final act for the CFL before we turn out its lights for good." ■

IBEW members presenting the cheques from the CFL were, clockwise from top left, Int'l. Rep. Brian Matheson, Local 586 Bus. Mgr. John Bourke (right), Local 568 Bus. Rep. Derek Harvey, Local 254 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Karen Stoshnof (right), Int'l. Rep. Brian Murdoch and Int'l. Rep. Adam Van Steinburg.



Des dons de bienfaisance confirment la fermeture du FCT

Le geste de bienfaisance a entraîné la fermeture d'un chapitre turbulent au mouvement syndical canadien au moment où les représentants de la FIOE ont remis des dons de plus de 250 000 dollars canadiens à sept hôpitaux pour enfants à travers le Canada.

« L'argent provenait des derniers fonds gérés par la Fédération canadienne du travail », mentionne Tom Reid, le vice-président international du premier district. « En tant que l'un des membres du comité exécutif du FCT, je suis heureux de notre décision de remettre nos dons à ces donateurs incontestablement méritants.

Les hôpitaux suivants ont chacun reçu un montant de 36 000 dollars canadiens en janvier : le British Columbia Children's Hospital à Vancouver ; l'Alberta Children's Hospital à Calgary ; le Children's Hospital of Manitoba à Winnipeg ; le Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario ; l'hôpital de Montréal pour enfants ; l'Izaak Walton Killam Health Centre à Halifax en Nouvelle-Écosse ; et le Janeway Children's Hospital à Saint-Jean de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador.

Ces dons ont confirmé la fermeture officielle du FCT, une organisation qui a été créée à la suite d'une série de conflits politiques qui semblaient impossibles à résoudre et qui se sont envenimés en 1982. Dans cette année, les sections locales de la FIOE du Canada ont voté pour unir leurs forces avec plusieurs autres syn-

dicats des métiers de la construction qui s'étaient également séparés du Congrès du travail du Canada pour s'affilier à cette organisation totalement distincte pour les travailleuses et travailleurs.

« Quitter le CTC n'a pas été une décision facile, mais nous avons eu le sentiment que les besoins des syndicats des métiers de la construction n'étaient tout simplement pas entendus par le CTC à l'époque », déclare M. Reid. Nous avons pensé qu'on n'avait pas d'autre solution. À un moment donné, le FCT représentait près de 200 000 femmes et hommes des métiers de la construction du Canada. »

La rupture est survenue à un moment difficile pour les travailleuses et travailleurs canadiens, mentionne M. Reid. Les lois du travail qui étaient en faveur des travailleurs étaient lentement et systématiquement abrogées dans tout le Canada au même moment où le taux de chômage dans les métiers de la construction du pays commençait à augmenter rapidement. Les entreprises antisyndicales commençaient à tirer avantage de cette rupture interfédérations en confiant une plus grande partie des travaux électriques et de constructions disponibles dans le pays à des entrepreneurs non syndiqués.

Secoués par tous ces problèmes, sans parler du résultat de maraudage qui était devenu une chose banale entre les syndicats dans les deux fédérations, les

déléguées et délégués à la Conférence canadienne annuelle de la FIOE en 1995 ont autorisés le vice-président international du premier district de l'époque, Ken Woods, de décider si les sections locales canadiennes doivent regagner les rangs du CTC. Deux ans plus tard, M. Woods a déclaré qu'il le ferait. « Les questions de maraudage, de représentation, et d'unité syndicale ne peuvent pas, et ne pourraient pas être résolues pendant la division des syndicats », mentionne M. Woods.

Graduellement, les organisations restantes du FCT se sont affiliées au CTC à nouveau. « C'est peut-être une leçon que beaucoup de nos syndicats ont dû apprendre à leur dépend », dit M. Reid, « mais le message ultime du mouvement syndical est que nous sommes vraiment plus forts lorsque nous agissons de façon unie. »

Malgré tout, la FIOE et les autres syndicats ont continué d'administrer le comité exécutif du FCT jusqu'à il y a quelques mois, principalement pour superviser la collecte des fonds gérée par la trésorerie de la Fédération.

« Peu à peu cet argent collecté des membres avec les années, était versé à de différentes œuvres de charité », dit Cheryl Paron, la représentante internationale du premier district. Mais en automne dernier, dit-elle, le comité exécutif a décidé de verser les fonds restants et de définitivement fermer le FCT.

« On s'est mis à chercher des organisations réputées et méritantes », déclare Paron, et nous avons finalement choisi sept hôpitaux pour enfants. « Les membres peuvent être assurés que leurs argents seront distribués à une très bonne cause. »

Mais la FIOE avait un peu plus de travail à faire. M. Reid a réalisé qu'il n'avait pas de plan en place pour remettre les chèques aux hôpitaux que de simplement les envoyer par courrier ordinaire. Il a donc fait appel à plusieurs membres de la FIOE pour remettre l'argent personnellement au plus grand nombre d'hôpitaux possible.

Les remises, accompagnées des chèques surdimensionnés ont été faits par : les représentants internationaux du premier district Brian Matheson, Brian Murdoch et Adam Van Steinburg ; le gérant d'affaires John Bourke du local 586 d'Ottawa en Ontario, l'assistante gérante d'affaires Karen Stoshnof du local 254 à Calgary en Alberta et l'agent d'affaires Derek Harvey du local 568 à Montréal, Québec.

« Nous sommes fiers d'appuyer avec ce petit geste les individus qui travaillent d'arrache-pied pour assurer le bon fonctionnement des systèmes de santé mondialement connus du Canada », dit M. Reid. « Nous pensons également que c'est le dernier geste approprié du FCT avant de définitivement fermer ses portes. » ■

THE FRONT LINE: POLITICS & JOBS

Trump Slashes Navy Ship Orders, Threatens to Cancel Shipyard CBAs

President Trump's 2021 budget cuts new ship construction by 20%, killing 10 new ships, some of which were set for construction this year. The cancellations put thousands of shipyard jobs at risk, including many IBEW jobs.

The cancellation follows closely on a Feb. 20 executive order that would allow the Defense Department to abolish the collective bargaining rights of civilian labor unions.

Trump's budget marks a stark reversal from a commitment less than 12 months ago to increase the fleet by 30% in the next 10 years. The Navy is now on course to fall more than 50 ships short of the two-year-old national strategic target of a 355-vessel fleet.

On the campaign trail, former Vice President and presumptive Democratic nominee for president Joe Biden attacked the last-minute and haphazard budget proposals for their impact on American security and workers.

"China and Russia are aggressively challenging our Navy's ability to project power and to protect American interests. I am committed to continuing to make important investments in our naval fleet with ships like those being built by IBEW members, here in Mississippi and around the country," Biden said.

Biden was also critical of the threat to cancel the contracts and collective bargaining rights of workers.

"He was critical of the threat to tear up collective bargaining rights for good reason: its a sword hanging over every union defense worker," said Government Employees' Director Paul O'Connor. "Trump's version of creating a more efficient and effective government is to strip workplace and labor rights from a million federal employees and their unions."

Taken together, the proposed fleet cancellations and the threat to every collective bargaining agreement in the national security supply chain creates chaos in some of the nation's most important industries, said Political and Legislative Affairs Director Austin Keyser.

"They pose a genuine threat to the livelihood of our members and the safety of our country," Keyser said.

If passed into law, the Trump budget would cancel 10 ships, including a \$3.86 billion Virginia-class attack submarine built by members of Groton, Conn., Local 261.

Pascagoula, Miss., Local 733 members expected work on 13 of the Flight III Arleigh Burke destroyers at an average of \$1.82 billion each. Five are canceled in the president's budget.

Local 733 also faces the cancellation of C-Amer-

ica Class Amphibious assault ship LHA-9.

Total cuts could rise to \$650 million at Pascagoula alone.

The FFG(X) guided-missile frigate and the Common Hull Auxiliary Multi-Mission Platform program are also on the chopping block.

The budget also accelerates the decommissioning of three dock landing ships, four cruisers, and the first four littoral combat ships.

"This is bad for our members. We have been expecting this work. But it is worse for our nation's defense," O'Connor said. "Attack submarines are a primary focus of China and Russia's militaries."

Congressional leaders from both parties attacked the budget proposal, with 17 senators and 109 members of the House signing a letter encouraging the White House to go back to the drawing board.

"Fast attack submarines will help ensure our asymmetric advantage and undersea superiority during a potential conflict with near-peer adversaries," the Senate letter read, adding that a delay would contribute to "supplier instability."

The cuts couldn't have come at a worse time for America's shipyards, O'Connor said. The Navy is about to replace the fleet of nuclear submarines that carry nearly 70% of the ballistic nuclear arsenal.

This monumental undertaking will absorb nearly 40% of the Navy's shipbuilding budget for the next two decades. The 12 Columbia-class submarines will cost in excess of \$109 billion.

"Cuts before Columbia gets underway will be difficult to replace," O'Connor said.

And while the budget funds \$160 million in shipyard upgrades, that money has been diverted in the recent past, O'Connor said.

"We're already seeing the impact of a failure to invest in the naval maintenance workforce and facilities," he said.

Admiral Michael Gilday, chief of naval operations, recently told Defense News that the Navy is getting less than 40% of its ships out of maintenance on time.

This is an improvement over the early days of the Trump administration when on-time completion rates fell into the 20% range.

The Trump administration has also deferred maintenance on the nation's shipbuilding facilities. One of the more startling shortfalls is at the Norfolk Naval shipyard where the Ship Maintenance Facility has been cited numerous times for life safety violations. One building has been deemed so hazardous fire guards must be posted any time it is used.

Cutting the ships and the submarine on the eve of construction could have long-lasting effects, even if they are eventually restored, O'Connor said. It took substantial political and industrial

muscle to get sufficient resources to build two Virginia-class submarines per year, he said.

In addition to the loss of work and jobs at the shipbuilding yards, if construction of surface-ship and submarines is slowed or even interrupted, workers at the four Naval maintenance and repair shipyards would also feel the pinch.

There are IBEW locals at the Portsmouth, Norfolk, Puget Sound and Pearl Harbor maintenance facilities as well as at the Submarine Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Point Loma San Diego.

"We aren't talking about a pair of shoes; these are some of the most technologically sophisticated machines in human history. It takes years to get the feeder industries in place to build a nuclear submarine," O'Connor said.

Any disruption in funding creates tactical and strategic instability which, ultimately, adversely impacts hiring and retaining workers.

"Where do those people go? Do they even stay in the industry or will they take these highly important skills, retool, and get out of the business?" he said. "At the stroke of a pen, Trump has created chaos." ■

IBEW Member Wins Maine House Seat



Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 member Kevin O'Connell won a special election on March 3 to serve in the Maine House of Representatives.

Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 member Kevin O'Connell has been a lot of things throughout his career. Now he can add "member of the state House of Representatives" to his résumé.

"I've known Kevin for a long time. He knows what it's like to be a working person," said Local 1837 Business Manager Dick Rogers. "I think he'll do a great job for the people of our state."

O'Connell won a special election on March 3 to fill a seat that became vacant when the current office holder, Rep. Arthur "Archie" Verow, passed away in December.

A lineman with Emera for 30 years, O'Connell has served in other public service roles including two terms as mayor of Brewer, a city that sits on the boundary of the House district O'Connell now represents. He's also been a city councilor, a school board member and served on a number of other boards and committees.

"I'm proud to carry on the legacy of service that was so important to Archie," O'Connell said. "In him, we had a representative that represented the values of this city. I am committed to doing my best to be that person for Brewer."

Brother O'Connell, who also served in the Maine Air National Guard for 24 years, will bring something unique to the lower chamber in the Pine Tree State: a working person's worldview.

"I look forward to sharing my blue-collar perspective," O'Connell said.

O'Connell racked up 1,403 votes to his Republican rival's 1,017 on election night. In classic IBEW fashion, he was back at work the day after his win.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," he said. "I just know that I was on my feet for 13 hours on Election Day and then it was time for work the next day."

O'Connell campaigned on housing, infrastructure investments including fixing public roads, and making health care more affordable and accessible. With friends on both sides of the aisle, he says he's looking forward to getting to work in Augusta.

"Kevin recognizes the importance of unions, and of contracts, and that's something that benefits all working men and women," Rogers said.

While the opportunity came at an unexpected time, O'Connell says he's been thinking about running for the House for a while but didn't want to do so until the seat was no longer occupied by Verow. Now he can bring his unique combination of experience to the legislative process.

"There's a lot you've got to consider when thinking about running, but I advocate for any union brother or sister to get involved in politics, at any level," O'Connell said. "The more our voices are heard, the better." ■

IBEW MP Paves Way for Canada's Ratification of CUSMA

An IBEW member in Parliament led the way to Canada's ratification of the new version of NAFTA in March after striking a deal for more transparency in future trade talks, a win-win outcome for workers.

"It's very much the attitude of the New Democratic Party to fight for the interests of working people, and we used the leverage we had to do that," said Daniel Blaikie, a journeyman wireman from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 who was elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

Until Blaikie's intervention, the Liberal Party didn't have the support to move the bill through the Trade Committee in a timely way, which threatened to delay ratification of what Canada calls CUSMA — the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement. The United States and Mexico ratified the pact, which they know as USMCA, in 2019.

U.S. and Canadian unions have criticized the agreement but also recognize that it includes more labor protections than the original NAFTA. Parliament's only decision was to vote the pact up or down; lawmakers couldn't change it.

"We knew we couldn't reopen the deal and fix it," Blaikie said. "So the question was, what can we do so that the interests of workers are first and foremost in the future instead of being an afterthought?"

That kind of advocacy illustrates why it's so crucial to have union members in elected office, said First District Vice President Tom Reid.



Serving in the House of Commons, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 member Daniel Blaikie struck a deal that helped lead to Parliament's ratification of a new North American trade deal.

"Our members and all workers are better off because Daniel is fighting for them every day in Parliament," Reid said. "We hope more IBEW members will consider running for positions in their communities and provinces because we need many more people like him at every level of government."

The transparency Blaikie negotiated as his party's trade critic will give Parliament the right to review future trade agreements — authority that Canadian lawmakers, unlike the U.S. Congress, have never had.

"Once Parliament knows, then the public knows, which means more time for civil society to get involved, and that includes the labor movement," he said. "Right now, there's no requirement whatsoever for the executive branch to consult the legislative branch, no requirement that they tell Parliament they are negotiating, no requirement to outline their objectives."

POLITICS continued on page 8



Bremerton, Wash., Local 574 workers at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility — like all union defense workers — face the potential loss of their right to collectively bargain after a Feb. 20 executive order issued by the Trump administration.

POLITICS & JOBS *continued*

The New Democratic Party is one of four opposition parties in Canada's current government, with the Liberal Party holding power but not a majority. Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland accepted Blaikie's terms in February, insisting in her letter to the NDP that CUSMA negotiations were open and transparent.

Blaikie disputed that, telling news media that the secret talks left Parliament and all Canadians in the dark about the pact's provisions and its economic impact.

Both the House of Commons and Canada's appointed Senate voted to ratify CUSMA on March 13, accelerating the process before shutting down Parliament due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Blaikie was named the NDP trade critic, part of the minority party's shadow cabinet, after national elections last October. In that role, he challenges the government on trade matters to secure the best possible outcomes for working people.

First District International Representative Matt Wayland, who speaks regularly with Blaikie about issues affecting IBEW members, said what he accomplished "is very beneficial not only for the IBEW but for the labor movement and the party as well."

On the front end, Wayland expects CUSMA to bring stability and growth to a workforce dependent on trade.

"We're such intertwined trading partners," he said, referring primarily to Canada and the United States. "There are so many businesses integrated on both sides of the border, providing jobs on both sides. [CUSMA] will make it a lot easier to do business, provide stability for jobs and the economy, and in the long run that puts our members to work."

Despite the pact's shortcomings, Blaikie said that labor leaders in Canada and the United States pushed hard for it to protect low-wage workers from the kind of past trade-deal exploitation that "undermines the position of workers in countries with a stronger labor culture."

"CUSMA took a meaningful step by having enforceable labor protections," he said. "How effective enforcement will be remains to be seen."

If it works as intended, Mexican workers will have a clearer path to organizing and bargaining collectively. "If they are treated fairly and paid fairly, that's going to make our workers here more competitive," Blaikie said. "If it's just a race to the bottom, everybody loses except for the guys at the top."

His pro-worker party will use its new influence to minimize that risk going forward, he said, steering trade deals away from the kind of "nefarious aspects" that marred NAFTA.

It could be tested soon, with Canada exploring talks with China and India, among others. "This has the potential to have an impact on some real things coming down the pipe — agreements, in the short term and medium term," Blaikie said. "It's not just an academic victory." ■

How Prevailing Wage Boosts Homeownership

The benefits of a prevailing wage extend beyond just pay and benefits, according to a study from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute. Prevailing wage laws also make it easier to get a piece of the American Dream.

"This just goes to show that paying a fair wage is the right thing to do," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "IBEW members are community members too, and when we do well, when we can own a home and give back, that prosperity extends in all kinds of ways."

The ILEPI report finds that state prevailing wage laws, which mandate a fair level of pay on government-funded projects comparable to wages in the area, extend homeownership to more than 61,000

PREVAILING WAGE PROMOTES THE AMERICAN DREAM

- Expands the construction worker homeownership rate by 2%, resulting in **61,000 more families** owning homes
- Improves construction worker housing wealth by **13%**
- Boosts property tax revenue by more than **\$500 million**



A new study shows the benefits of a prevailing wage extend to homeownership.

blue-collar construction workers and boost the value of those homes by more than \$42 billion. It also found that the laws increase the annual earnings of construction workers by 5%.

"Our study highlights the fact that inequality is not just a function of income — but also of the gaps in homeownership that can inhibit longer-term economic mobility," said ILEPI Policy Director and study co-author Frank Manzo IV. "Prevailing wage is enabling more workers — and especially people of color — to build a brighter future for their families."

The study found that, in states like Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and Ohio, construction workers have a 2% higher rate of homeownership and a corresponding 13% increase in the average value of their homes. For African Americans in construction, the difference was even more pronounced with an 8% increase in homeownership and an 18% increase in average home values.

These benefits extend to the broader community. The research links the 61,000-plus homes to an estimated \$508 million increase in property tax collec-

tions tied to those home purchases.

"While there is a clear link between prevailing wages for construction workers and increases in their rates of homeownership, it is equally clear that taxpayers are getting a strong return on their investments," said ILEPI research analyst and study co-author Jill Gigstad. "It's not just the quality roads, bridges, schools and other vital infrastructure that these workers are building in their communities. It's the hundreds of millions of dollars in increased property tax revenues that their home purchases are generating to help fund these critical investments."

Previous research has also found benefits to the prevailing wage — and serious drawbacks when such wages are absent. A study in West Virginia found that an anti-labor-led repeal of the state's prevailing wage law in 2016 led to lower wages, no cost savings and a 26% increase in on-the-job injuries.

A 2017 study from the Economic Policy Institute found that median construction wages were much lower — 21.9% — in the 20 states that have no prevailing wage law than in the states that do.

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

ORGANIZING WIRE

VEEP Graduates Get a New Brotherhood

The Veterans Electrical Entry Program recently graduated its second class, opening life-changing career opportunities for veterans and strengthening IBEW locals across the U.S.

"I think this is probably the best thing for vets," said Nicholas Campbell Wardwell, an Army specialist who joined the Carolinas Electrical Training Institute in Charlotte, N.C., last May. "I've learned so much about this field."

VEEP works with base leadership to provide an opportunity for servicemen and women in their final six months of service to complete a pre-apprenticeship in an intensive, full-time course. The free, seven-week pre-apprenticeship training works in tandem with the more than 300 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees across the U.S. to place service members in IBEW apprenticeships based on their top three choices. When a service member or spouse applies, VEEP then contacts those programs to see if there's room and to secure a direct entry agreement. Completion of VEEP training can also lead to advanced placement in the apprenticeship.

For service members nearing the end of their time in the military, it can be stressful to envision the future. Once they're out, they're no longer guaranteed a job, a place to stay, or the structure that many have come to rely on. For those interested in the electrical trade, VEEP offers a bridge to not just a job but all that a job entails: a paycheck, health insurance and a sense of purpose.

"Active duty service members, veterans and their spouses benefit by having a huge stressor removed from their lives in that there is a smooth pathway to a rewarding career with great pay and benefits," said the Electrical Training Alliance's Greg McMurphy.

McMurphy notes that from each graduating class JATCs get apprentices who have proven they can succeed, know a lot more about the life of an electrician than a typical applicant and are ready to slot into the second year of coursework, which shortens the time to get another productive electrician out in the field. Longer term, the program gains exposure among the military, which can lead to stronger relationships between it and the IBEW. That's a relationship that benefits both parties.

"[Veterans] make great candidates for apprenticeship. There's no question about that. They're disciplined, they're responsible, they're drug-free," said Jon Medaris, former training director of the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship and Training Trust. "For any program that's not recruiting from this pool ... they're missing a huge opportunity."

McMurphy says 24 veterans have gone through the program so far, with the third cohort slated to start this fall. So far, the feedback has been very encouraging. "I found myself humming at work, which hadn't happened in a long time," said Raymond "Jay" Droessler, a VEEP graduate who is now a member of Madison, Wisc., Local 159.

While the trades are known to be veteran-friendly, Droessler noted that the timelines don't often line up. But VEEP, with its ability to place someone in



VEEP participants learn the electrical trade while transitioning out of the military, setting them up for success with the IBEW.

their local of choice, allowed him to really consider the option of transitioning to the trades.

The former Army major says he is now working for Staff Electric on the University of Wisconsin Chemistry Building complex. He's on the new tower crew and has been able to work on fire alarms, switch gears, temporary lighting and more.

"The VEEP program helped me answer the question, 'What do I want to be when I grow up?' as well as 'Where do I want to be when I grow up?'" Droessler said. "Having those two significant stressors taken care of opened up a lot of mental bandwidth to deal with the rest of the move, help transition the family, and really enjoy the journey from military service back to civilian life."

The program is also open to military spouses. Matthew Wallace's wife served in the Air Force while he worked as a stay-at-home dad with their daughter. When it was time for him to transition back into the workforce, his wife learned about VEEP and he was accepted into the second cohort out of Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547.

"It seems so daunting to get on a job and have no experience. This program has prepared me to take my first steps as an electrician and I couldn't be more excited for the opportunity," Wallace said. "I was also able to make friends with some awesome veterans and I'm excited to go through the apprenticeship process with them."

That sense of camaraderie is shared by Army Specialist John Nyongesa.

"I like a brotherhood," Nyongesa said. "With the union, they try to push you to go somewhere better. They try to make your life better. And you've got to start from somewhere to get where you need to go." ■

TRANSITIONS

RETIRED

Jerry Westerholm



When Jerry Westerholm was finishing high school, he didn't know what he wanted to do when he grew up, but he knew he didn't want to

milk cows anymore like his father and grandfather before him.

After a 40-year career in the IBEW, the last five as special assistant to the international president for construction, maintenance and business development, Westerholm retired at the end of March. Over the last two decades, he had a hand in nearly every major policy innovation in the IBEW's construction branch and the confidence and attention of the union's senior leadership.

And he never did milk another cow.

After telling his father that he didn't want to work on the farm, Westerholm said his dad suggested he become either a veterinarian or an electrician. Daunted by the potential of years of vet school, Westerholm chose electrician.

In the late 1970s, the only path into Minneapolis Local 292's apprenticeship went through the Dunwoody Institute, the nation's oldest private trade school. Westerholm enrolled and after classes wrapped up at 2:30, he and some of the other students went to work at a union panel shop until 8 p.m. More than 30 years later, Westerholm's oldest son Greg followed him, first to Dunwoody, then to the same panel shop and then into Local 292. His younger son, Tony, works at the International Office in Washington.

In his second year at Dunwoody, Westerholm went to work for a nonunion contractor. He didn't come from a family in the trades, let alone a union family, and he says he didn't really think too much about working nonunion at the time. But the contractor told him he should really join Local 292. So, he did in 1979, and nearly 20 years later, when Westerholm was business manager of Local 292, he signed that contractor to an IBEW agreement.

Soon after topping out of his apprenticeship, Westerholm began to rise in the local.

Starting with attending local meetings and helping out with the picnics, he soon joined the COPE and the examining board, and also served on the Executive Board. In 1989 he was hired as a business representative covering the city of Minneapolis, downtown, the parks and the University of Minnesota.

He was elected vice president of the state AFL-CIO in 1996, a position he held until his move to Washington, D.C., 14 years later.

In 1997, Westerholm was appointed Local 292 business manager and elected to the position the following year.

He assisted grassroots efforts in support of Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton and the late Sen. Paul Wellstone and helped elect county commis-

sioners and school board members who supported union labor.

Even though Local 292 had a small municipal workforce, Westerholm was selected to serve as co-chair of the labor side of the city's Labor Management Committee. The other chair was the city's chief of police, and Westerholm recalled that relationship fondly.

When Westerholm took over as business manager, Local 292 had 3,500 members. When he came to the International Office, it had 5,000. Timing was good — the local had a lot of work, including the record-setting Mall of America and a boom in commercial construction downtown. But it wasn't just that.

"We had an abundance of work, but we were very aggressive organizers," Westerholm said. "We advertised on the radio that we would give a \$100 gift certificate to a local sporting goods chain for any licensed electrician to meet with one of our organizers, no strings attached."

He also helped negotiate a project labor agreement covering all work performed for the Minneapolis school district, a pact that is still in effect.

But being a business manager, Westerholm said, was the hardest job he ever had.

"It's the most stressful job in the entire IBEW. And I told that to [former International President Ed] Hill," Westerholm said. "Ed said, 'What about my job?' and I told him it was nowhere near as hard. He didn't like that much, but it's true."

One of the hardest parts of the job, he said, was showing the membership the value of the job you were doing. Even though he always ran unopposed, he never felt like what he was doing was clear to the members.

Don't confuse that with needing thanks. If you have met Westerholm, you know he is not the kind of man who loses sleep worrying about being liked.

"My son once said to me, 'Whether they like you or hate you, they fear you' and that's fair," he said. "But if we want to grow this union, we have to make bold moves. We always have, and it's still true. People who maybe underestimate what we're up against may not like that."

After 11 years in Local 292's office as a business representative and four years as business manager, Westerholm was appointed an international representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department and was assigned to help administer national agreements and process disputes over craft jurisdiction.

In 2007, then-Director Mark Ayers was elected president of the Building and Construction Trades, and he recommended Westerholm as his replacement. When Hill appointed Westerholm, he became responsible for the growth and future of the largest branch of the IBEW.

In 2015, Hill again turned to Westerholm to build the new Business Development Department. The plan had been to set up a completely new department outside of Construction and Maintenance, but Westerholm pitched keeping it all together as it grew.

The idea of focusing on business

development was not new, he said. Lots of business managers did it, including Westerholm during his time at Local 292. But doing it at the international level, reaching out to the largest customers with the biggest projects in a coordinated nationwide effort, was different enough that Westerholm wanted to keep everyone moving in the same direction.

Hill agreed and Westerholm was appointed to a new position, special assistant to the international president for construction, maintenance and business development.

And now that Business Development has been running on its own for several years, the special assistant position retires with him.

"It's amazing how many business managers and business representatives are doing development work, but when I began a great number didn't know how to talk to customers," he said. "Now we have business development international representatives in every district and Director Ray Kasmark in Washington. In Ray and [Construction and Maintenance Department Director] Mike [Richard] we have steady hands."

For the last several years, Westerholm and retired Director of Outside Organizing Ed Mings have organized the IBEW's annual charity motorcycle ride, which brings hundreds of members out for a weekend every summer. He and Mings plan on mapping out this summer's ride — if it is unaffected by the global COVID-19 epidemic — but after that he said he plans on handing off the baton.

"I'll still come. Riding my motorcycle is one of my favorite things in the world. I'm just done organizing the thing," he said.

His only other plan right now is to spend as much time as possible motorcycling and hunting. Westerholm has been on the board of directors of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance and is proud to be Member No. 17 of the hunting and public service organization.

"I've known Lonnie for decades and Kenny and I are old hunting buddies. I want to thank them for the confidence they and Ed and J.J. Barry had in me," Westerholm said. "I have that confidence in my brothers and sisters out there. Organizing will solve nearly any problem we have."

The officers thank Brother Westerholm for his life's work building a stronger, smarter IBEW and wish him a long, healthy retirement. ■

DECEASED

Mike Emig



Retired Legislative Affairs Director Mike Emig died at his home in Laytonsville, Md., on Feb. 7 after a brief battle with cancer. He was 86.

"When you got my dad something, you better make sure it was made in the USA," said Mike Emig Jr., a journeyman

inside wireman who followed his father into the brotherhood and New Orleans Local 130. "If you bought him something and it wasn't made in America, he wouldn't wear it. Everything he used was union-made stuff."

A native of Louisiana, Brother Emig joined Local 130 in 1952 and later topped out as an inside wireman. He worked on major projects in New Orleans and throughout the country as a traveler, but that didn't stop him from being active in his local union.

Emig served on the executive committee and as assistant business manager before being elected business manager in 1972, defeating an incumbent in the process.

The younger Emig said his father always was interested in politics but working as a traveler taught him the importance of building relationships. He spent time in New York and got to know several Local 3 officials, including meeting legendary Business Manager Harry Van Arsdale.

When New York's construction industry was struggling in the 1970s, the elder Emig made sure Local 3 members found work in New Orleans after Local 130 reached full employment, his son said.

"He was always socially conscious," Mike Jr., said. "That was his draw into politics."

In 1976, Elaine Emig — Mike Sr.'s wife and Mike Jr.'s mother — passed away due to cancer. The elder Emig accepted a position as administrative assistant to the Fifth District vice president and the family moved to Birmingham, Ala., so he could spend more time at home with Mike Jr., and his five siblings.

"He knew that he would be home every night," his son said. "My youngest sister was 10 at the time. The days of hitting the road were over."

Emig stayed in that position until moving to the International Office in 1985, first as director of the Council on Industrial Relations before taking on the legislative affairs position in 1987.

"He was very dedicated to what he was doing," said Robert Bieritz, who was the executive assistant to then-International President J.J. "Jack" Barry at the time and remained friends with Emig until his death. "That's a very difficult job, in my opinion, and Mike really handled it well."

"I know he was very well thought of on [Capitol] Hill. He got to know quite a few congressmen and senators. He was a heck of a nice guy and that was because he had a gift of communicating well with everybody."

Emig's son said that was evident in the way his father could get people with opposite views on most issues to find common ground on items important to the labor movement.

"He knew how to make connections and that was really his gift as far as politics," Emig Jr., said. "He always said, 'You can't get anything done if you can't get people to the table. We can disagree with each other when this is over, but right now, we need each other.'"

Emig retired in 1998. He is survived by his six children, 12 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and his second

wife, Maureen, a retired International Office employee.

During his time in New Orleans, he was active in several local and statewide labor and political organizations, including serving as president of the Louisiana State Conference of Electrical Workers. While in Washington, he was president of the National Democratic Club.

Frank Emig, an older brother, also was a Local 130 member and served 22 years as the AFL-CIO's community services director, a role in which he was credited with drawing up policies to help the labor movement better deal with the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. Frank Emig died in 1988 at the age of 62.

The officers and staff extend their condolences to Brother Emig's family during this difficult time. ■

DECEASED

Douglas E. Wiegand



Retired international representative Douglas E. Wiegand died on Feb. 26 at his home in Avoca, Iowa. He was 80.

Wiegand was born on May 2, 1939, in Petersburg, Neb., but soon afterward his family pulled up stakes and moved to Avoca in southwestern Iowa. After graduating from Avoca High School, Wiegand briefly worked as a milk truck driver.

In 1959, he married his wife, Patricia, and the couple moved east across the state to Cedar Rapids, where Wiegand took a job at what is now known as Collins Aerospace. Back then it was Collins Radio Corporation and there Wiegand worked on the critical radio equipment that was specifically designed to support NASA's Apollo program, the multi-year effort to send humans to the moon and bring them back safely.

In 1960, Wiegand was initiated into Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Local 1362, which represents Collins' workers to this day.

Brother Wiegand quickly became active with his local and his adopted community. For Local 1362, he served on its job evaluation, education and strike committees, and from 1967 to 1970, he was assistant business manager. Wiegand also was a delegate to the Cedar Rapids Labor Assembly, and in his spare time he served as a board member of his local Citizens Committee on Alcoholism.

Wiegand proudly represented his local as a delegate to the IBEW's 29th international convention in Seattle in 1970, and later that year, then-IBEW International President Charles Pillard appointed him to the start of a long run as an international representative in Washington, D.C., where he started in the Research and Education Department.

The ever-curious Wiegand took classes on labor law, union leadership and other related topics at the Kirkwood

TRANSITIONS continued on page 10

TRANSITIONS *continued*

Community College in Cedar Rapids, the universities of Iowa and Wisconsin and the George Meany Center for Labor Studies. Throughout the 1970s and well into the 1980s, he put that learning to good use by representing the IBEW in a variety of forums, such as the AFL-CIO's Industrial Engineering Institute in 1970.

He also was assigned by Pillard to serve stints as a grievance and arbitration instructor for Electrical Manufacturing System Council 2, which represented IBEW members working for Gould Electronics, and Council 3, which covered electrical workers at Western Electric and AT&T. And Wiegand was known to lecture from time to time on methods for controlling the costs of arbitration at several IBEW national telephone conferences, broadcasting and recording conferences and district progress meetings across the United States and Canada.

"He was a good guy," said Dale Dunlop, former executive assistant to International Secretary-Treasurer Jack Moore, who worked with Wiegand at the International Office. "I remember he did a lot of work in time study," he said, helping workers improve manufacturing techniques and set realistic and reachable production standards. Wiegand held an applicator certificate from the Methods-Time Measurement Association, and that led him to teach a number of MTM seminars at various IBEW conferences.

In 1983, the year before AT&T's Justice Department-mandated breakup, Wiegand sat on the IBEW/AT&T Occupational Job Eval-

uation Committee; three years later, he led a bargaining workshop for the AT&T workers in System Council EM-3. That same year, Pillard also appointed him to serve on the IBEW Founders' Scholarships Committee.

Pillard's successor, J.J. Barry, put Wiegand's wealth of knowledge to full use by moving him over to the Telecommunications Department in 1987. Two years later, IBEW stewards could catch Wiegand playing a role in a steward training video, or they could see him in person conducting construction-specific steward training or continuing to lecture on grievances and arbitration.

Brother Wiegand was known for pitching in wherever help was needed, whether it was raising money for the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department's Dollars Against Diabetes campaign or staffing the merchandise store at the IBEW's 100th anniversary International Convention in St. Louis.

In 1992, Barry appointed Wiegand to a one-year stint as director of special projects before moving him over to serve in the union's Purchasing and Inventory Control Department. Wiegand retired in 1994 and moved his family back to a simpler life in Avoca.

Dunlop recalled that Wiegand was an avid fisherman, and he pursued that passion in retirement, splitting his time between his grandchildren and fishing and hunting.

The officers and staff of the IBEW send heartfelt sympathies to Brother Wiegand's wife, Pat, and to his three children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ■

CIRCUITS

Journeyman Uses Life Story in Appeal to U.S. House Panel

Witness John Harriel began his testimony on Capitol Hill in the middle of his harrowing life story of gangs, prison, reform and ultimately service.

"When I got out, I thanked God that the IBEW allowed someone like myself to join their union," the Los Angeles Local 11 journeyman wireman said, facing a U.S. House subcommittee.

Known to his friends and the countless people he's helped as "Big John," Harriel spoke at a Feb. 27 hearing about the steep challenges facing former prisoners when they're released.

He'd been invited by Rep. Karen Bass, chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, who has long admired Harriel's work with the organization 2nd Call (2ndCall.org) in her district.

Ex-offenders at high risk of returning to prison, or dying on the street, develop life skills and self-esteem through 2nd Call that lead many of them to building trades apprenticeships and careers.

"I've been able to get thousands of young men and women to pick up tape measures instead of guns," Harriel said as he talked about weekly classes he teaches, mentoring and other outreach and activism that has driven the second half of his life.

"This is why 2nd Call was formed; when a man puts down his gun and his flag, then what? I was over 25, from one of the hardest communities in the city. I had to get my GED. I had to go to a program. How do I deal with being in a community where suppression and violence was the norm?"

Through the "blessings of the IBEW," he said, "I started a pathway into the trades."

His apprenticeship led him to electrical contractor Morrow Meadows, and 22 years later he's still there, having spent the past four as a superintendent.

"They grew me as a man," Harriel said. "That family took me in and treated me as one of their own, made me feel like I was part of something greater. I took that back to my community."

He credits the Abundant Life Christian Church, too, which long ago embraced him. His pastor, John E. Tunstall, provides space for Harriel's 2nd Call classes for people newly released from prison and those who keep coming back for inspiration.

Committee members were riveted by Harriel's words. He described growing up in poverty and despair, with a drug-addicted mother in a neighborhood where gangs and gunshots were everyday life. School was "enemy territory."

"The teachers didn't know that I'd just got shot at, that I hadn't eaten in two days. What they were doing was just housing me," he said. "I ended up dropping out in 9th grade."

Street gang The Bloods were his family, dealing drugs his livelihood. It landed him in prison at age 18. Two years later, he was released with no life skills,



Los Angeles Local 11 member John Harriel tells a U.S. House subcommittee how the IBEW set him on a life-changing path after spending his young adult years in prison, and how he has used his second chance to help thousands of former inmates like him.

no self-esteem, no hope. Soon he was behind bars again.

It turned out, he said, "to be the best thing that happened to me." At age 26, an IBEW journeyman who mentored prisoners took him under his wing, while a prison lifer taught him algebra.

The head start led him to Local 11 and his IBEW career, to a life as a family man and homeowner, a productive citizen. He wanted lawmakers to grasp that more than anything else — that preparation before release is the key to never going back.

"It was the power of a man showing me what manhood is," he said. "I knew that when I returned to society, I had the tools to produce and help build back the communities I once destroyed."

Of the many things that make him proud to be an IBEW member, he said a big one is knowing how much International President Lonnie R. Stephenson cares about people like him.

"Lonnie and I have had conversations and he is committed to diversity — he's not just said it, he's proven it," Harriel said. "He knows my work and he knows the difference that a second chance makes in someone's life."

Harriel still marvels at how a kid who grew up a gangster with a drug-addicted mother, who dodged bullets and nearly starved, became a man who started setting his alarm for 3 a.m. to take a series of buses to work, determined never to be late.

"I wish I could tell that young man that someday he'd sit on the executive board of IBEW Local 11 and sit as a trustee of the same union that I once thought was only for Caucasian men," he said in his prepared remarks. "More important, that he would change policies and provide career opportunities to hundreds of people that look like him and also help hundreds of others that don't."

His second chance means that "hands that were used to sell drugs are the same hands that have built hospitals, sporting complexes, train stations, power plants and water facilities,"

They are hands, he said, that will never stop guiding people toward new lives, keeping families together and benefiting society at large.

But he stressed that he and 2nd Call can't do it alone: leadership and funding are essential.

"I am asking you to help me transition people that may not have had the same opportunities others might have had growing up," he told the committee. "My accomplishments show what hard work and assistance can do." ■

Oregon Locals Provide New Pregnancy Benefits for Members

Pregnant IBEW members in Oregon now have more options when it comes time to plan their families.

Portland, Ore., Local 48, working with the National Electrical Contractors Association and Harrison Trust, added a new maternity leave benefit for its members, as well as those of three other locals in the state. The benefit allows for six months of paid leave, with 13 weeks being available prior to the expected due date and 13 more available after.

It's available to any pregnant member of Local 48, Salem Local 280, Medford Local 659 and Coos Bay Local 932. Members will receive \$800 per week in time loss benefits.

"I want choices available to our members," said Local 48 Business Manager Garth Bachman. "This benefit allows people to make decisions about pregnancy without worrying about going broke or losing health insurance."

Modeled on a similar benefit offered by the Ironworkers, Bachman says theirs, which went into effect on Jan. 1, goes one step further by not requiring any disability requirements, like doctor-mandated bed rest, in order to qualify. Any pregnant member who wants to access this can do so.

The Trust will also pay monthly health insurance premiums so that the member will receive six months of free health insurance coverage during that time for their families.

"I don't want the industry dictating when members have kids," Bachman said. "This puts the decision in the hands of the member."

Bachman says the idea came to him from Bridget Quinn, workforce development coordinator for the NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center. Quinn attended the 2017 Women Build Nations conference in Chicago where the Ironworkers unveiled their maternity leave plan and a member, Bridget Booker, told her miscarriage story, which was caused by working too far into her pregnancy for fear of losing her job.

"At that moment, the trades were not keen on having pregnant women on the job site," Booker said. "So, you would hide it. [The question was] do I provide for my children ... or do I quit? Do I provide for my rent and my bills or do I tell them I am pregnant and lose everything?"

While it's illegal to fire someone for being pregnant, Quinn noted that proving

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such discrimination is difficult.

“Our industry has frequent layoffs and it is difficult to prove when a layoff is due to a woman being pregnant. Being able to take leave eliminates that fear of pregnancy-related layoff,” Quinn said.

Bachman and Quinn said that the current healthcare coverage depends on banking hours over time to maintain coverage — hours that can quickly run out if a pregnant person takes leave. The new policy will freeze the member’s healthcare bank so that her hours are not depleted.

“This leave policy will enable more women to join and remain in our industry, which is a huge benefit to contractors who rely on women to help them build their workforce,” Quinn said.

With women comprising only about 3% of the construction workforce, offering such a benefit is a great way to recruit and retain more women. Quinn noted that when a woman knows that having children is a goal, they are left with some considerations to make regarding the type of career path they choose. Roughly 86% of women ages 40 to 44 are mothers, according to the Pew Research Center.



Pregnant members in Oregon now have expanded maternity leave benefits, making it easier to plan their families without risking their health.

“Women will be encouraged to join and remain in this industry when they know that their healthcare and family needs are taken into account,” Quinn said.

The benefit has already been utilized, Bachman said, and so far there have been no complaints.

“I’m so glad to see NECA/IBEW are supporting women who work in the trades,” said Oregon Commissioner of Labor and Industries Val Hoyle in a statement. “Increasing the amount of protected time off women can take while pregnant and after childbirth is a great investment. It’s good for women’s careers, good for families and good for our workforce.” ■

Ohio Locals Honored by LAMPAC for Job-Protecting Efforts

Two IBEW locals in northern Ohio were honored in March for their work in helping to preserve nearly 4,300 nuclear energy jobs in the state.

“Thanks to the efforts of our members across Ohio, nuclear power in the Buckeye State will continue to provide

steady, dependable employment for hundreds of our brothers and sisters, not to mention carbon-free electricity for millions of Ohioans,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson.

In a March 2 ceremony in Washington, Stephenson and Edison Electric Institute President Thomas R. Kuhn presented the IBEW’s Fourth District — and Toledo Locals 245 and 1413 in particular — with the National Labor Management Public Affairs Committee Edwin D. Hill Award, which recognizes union and industry leaders who advance energy issues at various levels of government.

EI represents investor-owned electric companies in the U.S. and more than 90 other countries, and the Hill Award is named for the former IBEW international president who died in 2018. National LAMPAC is a collaboration between the IBEW and EI that focuses on making it easier for the two parties to address challenges within the energy industry together.

Last year, union activists across Ohio turned out in force to drum up support for House Bill 6, the Ohio Clean Energy Act, a measure to maintain operations

at the state’s only two nuclear power stations: the Davis-Besse plant outside Toledo, and its sibling facility, Perry, near Cleveland. Combined, the two plants employ hundreds of IBEW members and are owned by FirstEnergy Solutions, which also was lauded by National LAMPAC for its collaboration with the union’s members to gain legislative backing for the bill.

The nuclear plants had struggled financially in the face of falling natural gas prices and other factors that put baseload power generation in Ohio at a marked disadvantage, and FES said it needed H.B. 6 to prevent the shutdown of both stations.

Local 245 members perform in-plant work and Local 1413 represents security workers at Davis-Besse, which opened in 1977 as Ohio’s first nuclear power station. Toledo Local 8 also provides construction and maintenance workers there, while members of Painesville, Ohio, Local 673 have similar jobs at the decade-younger Perry plant.

“So many of our members, and the communities they live in, depend on these facilities for their survival,” Stephenson said. The district and the locals helped customers and legislators see through the rhetoric against H.B. 6, he said.

“Local 245 Business Manager Larry Tscherne and Local 1413 Business Manager Brad Goetz never gave up. They kept it on the radar, which in turn kept me and other people focused on the issue,” said Fourth District International Vice President Brian Malloy. “All our local unions definitely stepped up and lobbied their reps. The members never let up.”

It was a process, Tscherne said. “Vice President Malloy made so many trips

between [his office in] Maryland and Columbus,” he said. “It took a full-court press, and it was really great to see it happen.”

Together, Goetz and Tscherne led the effort to get representatives from both parties to sign on to the bill. “For Larry and me, we probably spent six years on this bill,” Goetz said, a measure that had to be reintroduced every two years after elections brought in a new Ohio Legislature.

Hundreds of Ohio’s union activists attended hearings and called on officials to bolster support for the bill, and Goetz and Tscherne gave the state’s legislators personal plant tours.

“It’s easy to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ on a bill,” Goetz said. “But once you put a name or a face to what you’re voting on, you might think twice about it.”

Their efforts paid off: Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed the bill into law last June, and it took effect in October.

“Before H.B. 6, I talked to candidate DeWine about his vision of nuclear energy in Ohio,” Tscherne said. “He told me that a bill has to reduce customers’ electric bills, continue to address renewables, and preserve nuclear in the state.”

H.B. 6 does all of that, Stephenson said. “Positive change can happen when we collaborate with our industry partners on behalf of our customers,” he said.

You can read more about the bill and the battles to preserve Ohio’s nuclear power plant jobs in the June 2018 Electrical Worker.

Honored during the same event in March were Rep. Mike Doyle, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, and Rep. Adam Kinzinger, a Republican from Illinois, for their combined efforts to help make nuclear plant licensing more efficient and to help provide some stability for future nuclear power plant investments.

In recognition of their efforts, the representatives were presented with an award named for Rep. John Dingell of Michigan, who died last year. Stephenson noted that the congressman had been a true champion of labor-management collaboration. The congressman’s widow, Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan, presented the award. ■

IBEW Visit Proves Eye-Opening for Ohio Students

American hero, astronaut and U.S. Sen. John Glenn had a long history of supporting organized labor and working families during his decades in public service.

In March, 25 students from his



On hand for the presentation of National LAMPAC’s 2020 Hill Award were, from left, EEI President Tom Kuhn, FirstEnergy Corp. Senior Vice President Mike Dowling, Local 245 Business Manager Larry Tscherne, Local 1413 Business Manager Brad Goetz, Fourth District International Representative Steve Crum, International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and American Electric Power CEO Nick Akins.

namesake John Glenn College of Public Affairs at Ohio State University visited the IBEW’s International Office for a tour and a lesson in the importance of unions and collective bargaining.

Katy Hogan, the director of the Glenn College’s Washington Academic Internship Program, said the idea for the visit came from Brandon Bryan, an Ohio State graduate who toured the office and visited the IBEW’s museum as a member of the program last year. Bryan’s father is a member of Toledo, Ohio, Local 8.

“The students are asked to reflect on the most impactful things they did in D.C.,” Hogan said. “Brandon said it felt like it connected him to his dad and how he learned about his career and how it led him on his own path to college.”

The students got a surprise visit when they toured the executive offices from International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper, an Ohio native and former business manager of Mansfield, Ohio, Local 688.

“The visit was a surprise to him, and he was so excited,” said the IBEW’s archivist and museum curator, Curtis Bateman, who led the tour. “Secretary-Treasurer Cooper described the mission of the IBEW, its priorities, and not only what it provides to our members, but what unions do for the American economy to lift up all working people.”

Cooper said speaking to students from his home state and studying at a program with Glenn’s name was especially meaningful. Glenn, a native of Cambridge, Ohio, became the first American to orbit Earth in 1962. He later represented the state for four terms in the Senate and, at the age of 77, returned to space in 1998 as part of a nine-day mission aboard the shuttle Discovery. He died in 2016.

“It was just a great, great moment,” Cooper said of the half hour he spent with the group. “I had the honor of meeting Sen. Glenn a few times, and I know he would have been proud of those students. They

were just so smart and so well prepared.

“Plus, I think we helped them appreciate the role of the IBEW and all unions in our society a little more. Educating younger people on the importance of organized labor is needed now more than ever.”

Hogan said the students were impressed when they learned the IBEW was founded in 1891 to fight for safer conditions for workers in the burgeoning electrical industry, among the most dangerous jobs in America at that time.

Many were surprised to learn that collective bargaining is one of the most successful ways to eliminate gender pay gaps, because contracts don’t distinguish between men and women on the job.

“They learned that unions are often in the public interest because they help create equality,” Hogan said. “You get paid the same for the work you do at your skill regardless of race or gender. To hear that from the secretary-treasurer who has been in the union his entire adult life is really meaningful.”

Students in the Glenn College’s Washington program work as interns Monday-Thursday of each week and tour notable places on Friday. Past visits have included Smithsonian museums and think tanks, but the visit to the IBEW was among the best, she said.

Students were impressed, too.

“Getting a tour of the museum was really interesting,” said Julia Romie, a junior from Dayton, Ohio, who took part in the visit. “We learned a lot about the history and the legacy of collective bargaining.”

“Coming in, I was not familiar with the work of the IBEW. It was kind of cool to get a peek at all the work they’ve done and just how massive it is.”

Cooper said he left the students with a quote from Sen. Glenn he often uses during organizing campaigns, which he said perfectly sums up what the labor movement is all about. “I told them, ‘Your self-worth is worth a lot more when you’re part of something bigger than yourself.’” ■



Secretary/Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper (center, seated) meeting with students and staff from Ohio State’s John Glenn College of Public Affairs on March 7.

LOCAL LINES

Editor's Note: Many upcoming events announced in this month's Local Lines have been canceled or postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please check with your local regarding the status of any event listed here.

Local 17 Training Center

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — Last year our members agreed to invest in our future by purchasing 52 acres of property becoming the first Local 17 IBEW Training Center. Our members understand clearly the need to raise our value by further separating ourselves from non-union. We currently have 100% of our jurisdiction for line work and line clearance tree trimming and need to continue taking steps to ensure it stays that way! Sitting still and doing nothing to increase our value is failed leadership! Improving safety, productivity, and quality of work is our goal.

We have broken ground on our first 60' x 80' pole barn. This structure will provide a place to train and store equipment for our 1,250 LCTT members. The second building will be an 80' x 120' structure where our linemen, cable splicers, traffic signal techs, and substation members will train. Our plans include building a pole yard, substation, transmission tower, and two fully functioning traffic signal intersections. We will also provide training on backhoes, excavators, directional boring, and crane certification.

We mourn the loss of Brothers Al Lach, Delton "Dutch" Miller and Will Cisco, all longtime members of Local 17.

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

Annual TTF Conference

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA — Local 37's Training Trust Fund (TTF) is hosting its ninth annual professional development conference open to members and their guests on June 13 and 14 this year in beautiful Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. Each year the conference is a great success, highlighted by international keynote speakers, informative and engaging breakout sessions, a kids' program, evening entertainment, great prizes, and so much more. Each year, about 150 attendees partake in the event.

This year's theme is "Reconnect, Renew, Refocus!" and will feature a number of sessions on how to do just that. Members will refresh their skills, receive helpful information, and refocus on their goals — and leave recharged, reconnected and ready for new possibilities. The TTF conference is also a great opportunity for members to network and meet other members from each corner of the province. This is a great chance for Local 37 members to take advantage of one of the many benefits of membership.

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

Updates on Negotiations

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters.

City of Anaheim negotiations — bargaining continues for a successor agreement. City of Colton — Water/Wastewater bargaining continues for a new contract. Electric side-contract was re-voted and passed; waiting for the city council for final approval. City of Banning — bargaining continues for a successor contract for both Utility & General Units. Southern California Edison (SCE) double time/meal waiver — one discussion has taken place as of press time with more meetings scheduled. City of Long Beach contract vote passed by 84 percent in February 2020. Line Clearance Tree Agreement — we continue to sign contractors to the updated line clearance tree trimming agreement with approximately 30 signed with around 1,000 members. San Bernardino Water & Sanitation (WAS) Unit — bargaining continues.

The Local 27 Safety Conference held April 4 at Universal Sheraton was a huge success.

A salute to those who served in the military took place at The Honda Center at the Anaheim Ducks hockey game on Jan. 17. Congratulations to Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Patrick A. Lavin, who was among those honored. In 1969, Lavin enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served on active duty in the Pacific with the Marine fleet force until 1972. Lavin was honorably discharged in April 1975. "We salute you, Corporal Patrick Lavin."

Work safe, live safe and free — and buy union!

Mitch Smith, P.S.



IBEW Local 47 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Patrick A. Lavin was among the military veterans honored at a Jan. 17 Anaheim Ducks hockey game at the Honda Center stadium.



At the Local 55 Recognition Dinner on Feb. 22, 2020.

Local's Membership Grows; June 27 Golf Outing Benefit

L.U. 55 (c,lctt,o&u), DES MOINES, IOWA — Hello, brothers and sisters.

Our local held its annual Recognition Dinner on Feb. 22, and more than 130 members attended. Two former business managers were present, Don Barrow and Mike Brooks. Newly retired member Bob Dilky received his 45-year pin. Everyone enjoyed visiting and swapping stories.

Our Annual Golf Outing will be June 27 this year, at Copper Creek in Pleasant Hill. Last year it raised over \$50,000 for Cradling New Life. That money went to many families who needed help.

I was just informed that our local will have one of its best years ever and will need a lot of extra help in all classifications, so if you want to travel this year, give our local a call at 515-265-6193.

Our local has grown by over 400 members since 2010. Missouri Valley Apprenticeship has broken ground on its new building in Indianola, Iowa, and that work is going well. The Substation Technician program is also moving along.

If we have any retired members who would like to join us for breakfast at Prairie Meadows, we meet just inside the front doors on the first level on the first Monday of each month, at 8:45 a.m. We eat at 9 a.m. sharp!

By the time you get this article, our work load will have greatly increased, so make sure you keep your eyes open and work safely and follow all the safety rules. Don't take short cuts and use plenty of cover up. Never put your hands where you can't see them. Lift properly and treat your back kindly. Safety is becoming one of the biggest aspects of your job.

Have a happy May Day. See you back here in a couple of months!

Myron Green, P.S.

Annual Toy Drives a Success; Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 89 (catv,em,lctt,o&t), SEATTLE, WA — As active union members in our communities, we had two of our local's units collect and donate to programs that provided toys for kids during the

holiday season. The members in Unit #114, out of McMinnville, OR, have donated for the past several years. This year they worked collecting on behalf of over 300 needy children throughout the area. Their contributions were added to the local fire department's attempt to address the overwhelming need.

Our AT&T Unit #112, in Vancouver, WA, also collected donations and participated in the Labor Community Services annual toy drive and holiday giving party. Thank you to all who helped in making this effort a success.

We also thank the officers, staff and membership of the local for their support and efforts that helped us recently purchase a building for our local's offices. The ability to purchase our building located in Mount Vernon, WA, was a group endeavor and was very much appreciated. The purchase will help ensure financial stability for several years to come. Thank you!

Matthew P. Carroll, B.M.



Local 89 members in McMinnville Unit #114 were among those who helped make holiday toy drive a success. From left: Tim Connoy and his daughter, Mike Shannon, Curtis Bushart and Dan Schrepel.

IBEW Life Saving Awards

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY — On April 24, 2019, one member as part of an eight-person transmission line crew was electrocuted and suffered cardiac arrest.

His seven union brothers sprang into action. One called 911, another retrieved the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) that was on site, others

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

Trade Classifications

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



Local 97 members receive IBEW Life Saving Awards: from left, Christopher Rhodes, Michael Garufi, Thomas McGrail Jr., Sean Demarest, Roger Ellis and Christopher Murphy. Not pictured: Eric Dahl Jr.

began CPR while the remaining members began clearing a path from the Transmission Right-of-Way to the roadway and took position to flag down first responders when they arrived.

The AED was powered on and attached and a defibrillating pulse was initiated. Our fallen brother responded and regained consciousness.

Being in a remote area, it was still several more minutes before first responders arrived. They expressed complete surprise when they learned that the victim that they expected to find was sitting upright and conscious. Because of the swift actions of the crew that day, our brother has made a full recovery and has returned to work. We hold these men up as examples of the finest qualities of our brotherhood and thank them for their actions that day. They received Life Saving Awards and Certificates of Appreciation from the IBEW. (See accompanying photo at above.)

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

Local's 120th Anniversary

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA — We're well into 2020, a big year for Local 103.

This year we celebrate our 120th year serving the electrical needs of Greater Boston. A historic milestone of longevity and staying power. In celebration of this anniversary, Local 103 has hired a historian to help us track and retain our great history, the people, the generations of Local 103 families, the job sites, the stories and Local 103's role in the constantly changing landscape of the city of Boston.

We welcome and encourage the input of our members. We want your stories and pictures to be included in a "Local 103 120 Years" book we intend to print, publish and distribute to each member at a celebration event later this year.

Please send your stories, pictures and memorabilia to IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street, Dorchester, MA 02122 (Attention: 120 Year Celebration). Please identify your pictures and stories with your name and return address so we can be sure to return your pictures.

Jimmy Fleming, P.S.

Contracts Ratified; Active on the Political Front

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO — 2020 has been a very busy at Local 111. The PSCO Units overwhelmingly ratified a three-year contract extension to secure their contract through May 31, 2023. The United Power trades units have agreed to a new three-year agreement as well, with negotiations beginning for the United Power Member Service Representatives agreement. Congratulations to those units. Thank you to all the members who took time to vote.

We continue to be very active on the political front at the state Capitol and the PUC, focusing on the membership's interests. This year is a big election year, and we encourage the membership to be involved in the process and to please make sure you and your fam-

ily are registered to vote. Every vote counts!

Have a safe Memorial Day weekend and remember those who have sacrificed for our families.

Please attend your unit meetings and continue to make safety your No. 1 priority.

Patrick S. Quinn, P.S.



Trade unions, including IBEW Local 113 members, helped defeat a "right-to-work" proposal in the Colorado legislature.

'A Time for Reflection'

L.U. 113 (ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — Wow, how time flies by. Here it is May already and summer is just next month. At this time of year, I like to reflect on where we've been, where we are now, and where we would like to be in the future.

Unions have been in better shape; the Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court decision in 2018 somewhat took the wind out of us, but we are never down for the count. The current administration would love nothing more than to pass a national "right-to-work-for-less" law. We must never let that happen! We were successful yet again in Colorado when a "right-to-work" proposal was defeated in a state legislative committee. Over 100 trade unionists turned out at the state capitol to oppose the anti-worker measure.

In November 2020, we have a chance to vote the Instigator in Chief out of office, but it will take everyone's help. Please ensure that everyone you know is

registered to vote in the upcoming election. When asked to volunteer your time, please do so. Keep in mind that the IBEW will never tell you how to vote, but we will make every effort to inform our membership as to which candidates will have our back regardless of party affiliation.

Also, let's take time to reflect on the good brothers we've lost this last year: Joe Collins, Roger Mealer, William Allenbach, Richard Benell and Travis Smith. Our prayers and condolences go out to their loved ones and may our brothers rest in peace.

Brian Putnam, P.S.

Kurt "Bug" Reed, P.S.

Annual Events & Elections

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR — 2020 is going to be a busy year for our local. In addition to our annual events —

Casino Night, Benefit Golf Classic, Safety Summit, NW Lineman's Rodeo, and Bend Golf & Softball Tournaments — we have our local union elections.

As a member in good standing, you have the right to vote on our local's officers and this year, delegates to the 2021 IBEW International Convention. The nomination process took place at the April unit meetings. Read the May issue of the Labor Press to read the biographies on nominees. Please note some nominees may choose not to publish a bio. Most importantly, please complete your ballot and send it on time, so your voice can be heard through our democratic election process.

With spring upon us, just a reminder to stay cut in. Don't let the warm weather and sunshine distract you from working safely and professionally every day — no matter your classification. Every one of our brothers and sisters bring value each day. Your focus on quality, safety and timeliness allows work to be completed right — the first time. Look out for your brothers and sisters every day on every job. IBEW equals ALL IN!

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.

Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV — Hello, brothers and sisters. As of this writing, work remains slow, with 46 members on Book 1. There are some projects starting in the spring that should put many of our members back to work.



Local 141 congratulates newly graduated journeyman inside wiremen: front row, seated, Eric Minor (left), Ryan Garloch, Hunter Allen; back row, Logan Jarrett, Nickey Renforth, Fred Metcalf and Jordan Steele.

Organizing & Brotherhood

L.U. 177 (bo,ees,govt,i,mo,o&pet), JACKSONVILLE, FL — Work in the Jacksonville area has been getting better and better; with no real big jobs, a 60-man job is a big job for us these days. We have several of these similar-size jobs underway and more in the pipeline, with most of them in the health-care industry.

Local 177 has even been able to employ a few travelers and organize new members, taking a little bit of the manpower away from the nonunion. Right now, we are experiencing a great opportunity to increase our membership and gain market share. We need these people working with us and not working against us with substandard wages and benefits. Some great members have come in through organizing and many others may also fall in that category.

As we organize new electrical workers, please make them feel welcome and show them the ropes and what real brotherhood is all about. [See photo, bottom, right.]

Alan Jones, B.M./F.S.

Unity on Parade

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — Every year around March, 17 people around the U.S. and the world embrace their Irish heritage and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with festivities ranging from the religious to the downright rowdy.

Whatever foot your camp happens to be in is hardly relevant. The feeling of unity and fellowship is everywhere. And when you combine a shared heri-



IBEW Local 177 members and Miller Electric working at Orange Park Medical Center expansion project.

LOCAL LINES



Local 269 members and their families gather to march in the 2019 Mt. Holy St. Patrick's Day parade in Burlington County, NJ.

tage with the bonds of union membership the result is a mixture of pride, friendship and appreciation. The tradition of marching in our local St. Patrick's Day parades — whether it's in Mt. Holly, NJ, Buck's County, PA, or Hamilton, NJ — is something that our members look forward to every year.

It is a chance to wear your union pride on your sleeve as you march along with all the other members of organized labor from your surrounding community. It is an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances along the parade route. And perhaps most of all it is a time to look around and truly appreciate what you mean to your local union and what your union means to you.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

Organizing Campaign

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — Local 309 is assisting IBEW Local 1 with their effort to organize electricians working under a Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis collective bargaining agreement. Years ago, in a supposed effort to "promote harmony among the trades," the Carpenters formed the Associated Electrical Contractors Local 57. In reality, the Carpenters' vindictive move was intended to circumvent the jurisdictional dispute process and take any work that they wanted.

To correct for past transgressions against us and to advance the prosperity of Assoc. Electrical Contractors Local 57 members, the IBEW is asking for the opportunity to represent the electricians of Assoc. Electrical Contractors Local 57. Former Assoc. Electrical Contractors Local 57 electricians, now IBEW members, are partnering with IBEW organizers and visiting job sites during the day. They are also meeting with individuals in the evenings and weekends as well. Thanks to former Assoc. Electrical Contractors Local 57 members Don Heberer, Carlos Henderson, Chris Kettelhut, Mike Meinhardt and Andrew Schaefer for their dedication in this endeavor.

The general response from Assoc. Electrical Contractors Local 57 members is that a change in representation to the IBEW is desirable. It was reported that one long term Assoc. Electrical Contractors Local 57 member stated that: "If this gets to a vote, no one will vote for [AEC] 57."

Carlos S. Perez, R.S.

Politically Active Membership

L.U. 313 (i&spa), WILMINGTON, DE — We have had many events in the past couple of months: the St. Patrick's Day parade, Annual Shrimp Feast, Beef 'N Beer, car show, hockey games and softball games. We are getting ready for a local election, then a golf outing — and probably summertime overtime and then some vacation. Of course, there are meetings and classes; and do not forget to renew your electrical license.

With summer coming, we will conclude another

year of working with the lawmakers in Dover. It is hard for most to connect with how working with politicians benefits electricians directly. Not working with them and leaving our fate up to chance is not a tried-and-true option. When they want yard signs planted in front yards and boots on the

ground come Election Day, nobody is better at these important tasks than organized labor. That fact alone keeps us in the conversation! And, as the saying goes, "If you're not at the table, you're on it."

Our competition would love to put a wedge between the building trades and our friends of labor. For now, we push and holler, as much as we can get away with. When things work out, the tangible effects are not always easily seen. When they go wrong, sometimes we all feel it right away. Political action on behalf of working people involves many hours and days of hard work.

One thing I know everybody relates to is how the raise will get distributed. So please send back your responses to the hall as soon as you receive them.

Bruce W. Esper, P.S.

'Labor Battles Then & Now'

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LESUEUR, MN — May 1 is International Workers Day, celebrated as an official holiday in 66 countries. The USA is not one of them. In 1995 and 1996, then-Pres. Bill Clinton declared May as Labor History Month. In May of 1886, union members and supporters gathered in Chicago's Haymarket Square to rally for the adoption of the eight-hour workday. The rally exploded into violence with gunfire being exchanged between the police and union members with deaths on both sides. This came to be known as the Haymarket Riot.

It wasn't until 1940 that the 40-hour workweek became federal law. Thirty-five states have 40-hour workweek laws to protect workers and provide overtime pay not covered under federal law. Minnesota has a 48-hour workweek. Minnesota Statute 177.25 states overtime compensation is not required until the employee works in excess of 48 hours. Members who attended precinct caucuses last February advanced an AFL-CIO endorsed Minnesota DFL (Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party) resolution to establish a 40-hour workweek in MN. Our negotiated contract assures us of overtime pay after eight hours.

Working conditions, fair wages, and fringe benefits are not guaranteed. Informed and involved members are the core of our union. In July, we allocate our pay raise of \$2.95. Attend the union meeting and be a part of the decision-making process.

Keep America strong — buy "Made in USA."

Tom Small, P.S.

Springtime Events

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IOWA — At the time of this writing, Local 347 members were making plans to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade and working toward the goal of securing another trophy. We do this for the challenge and the fun of it, not just to make the other trades green with envy.

At press time, Local 347's RENEW was making plans to present an Easter gathering scheduled for April 11. RENEW decided to capitalize on last year's successful egg hunt with the ever present Easter Bunny and expand the event to include a breakfast also. Hope you made it to the Labor Park for the fun. The event makes the younger ones in the family "hoppy." Get it? Hoppy like a bunny? Never mind.

Journeyman wireman classes have begun; please consider yourself encouraged to take classes early and get that item knocked off of the "to do" list.

The work forecast for this area remains strong. If you're looking for work, get your name on the book.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

Members Run for Public Office

L.U. 369 (em,es,i,lctt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), LOUISVILLE, KY — Local 369 has two members running for elected public office this year.

Jeremy Shumate, a 12-year member from southern Indiana, is running for Floyd County commissioner from District 2. This is Bro. Shumate's first time running and he is working hard to meet voters in his community. Jeremy has gained the notice of and will be receiving help from Indiana's AFL-CIO and the group "Path to Power," which kicked off in 2019 and helped elect 10 of 13 union candidates.

Jonathon Cacciatore, an 11-year member, is making his first run for the Kentucky State House of Representatives. Jonathon is also working hard to gain name recognition by meeting his constituents and getting his message out. Bro. Cacciatore is running in House District 49, Bullitt County, for a seat now occupied by a Republican. Brother Cacciatore has a tough fight ahead, and Local 369 will do everything in its power to help.

Good luck and thank you to both these members. They show great courage putting themselves in the public eye while endeavoring to make both Indiana and Kentucky a better place to live for all working women and men. God speed, Jeremy and Jonathon.

Gene Holthouser, Political Dir.



Local 375 Bus. Mgr. Paul Anthony (fifth from left) greets U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (sixth from right) at a meeting with labor leaders and apprentices. Attendees included: Pete Mitchell (left), Ian Ameer-Beg, Dustin Morales, Kevin Schartel, Allen Umbenhauer, Phil Cole, Kyle Novak, Tony Oswald and Mike O'Brien.

IBEW Local Hosts Labor Meetings with U.S. Legislators

L.U. 375 (catv,ees,et,govt,i&mo), ALLENTOWN, PA — In February, Local 375 hosted a meet and greet with U.S. Rep. Susan Wild attended by local labor leaders. The congresswoman spoke about many of the bills that are coming out of the House and she focused on the Pro Act, which recently passed in the House and is sitting in the Senate, waiting to be brought up for a vote.

The Pro Act is one of the friendliest labor bills to be put forth in decades. It revises the definition of "employee" and "supervisor" to prevent employers from classifying employees as exempt from labor law protections; it expands unfair labor practices to include prohibitions against replacement of or discrimination against workers who participate in strikes; it makes coercing employees to attend employer meetings designed to discourage union membership an unfair labor practice; and it allows

injunctions against employers engaging in unfair labor practices involving discharge or serious economic harm to an employee. Those are a few of the key points in the Pro Act, and we thank Rep. Susan Wild for supporting the act.

Also in February, Local 375 hosted U.S. Sen. Bob Casey to meet with labor leaders and apprentices. The senator's message was very enlightening, as he spoke about the contributions that both journeymen and apprentices make to the community with their skills and ability. He also thanked all the apprentices for the many hours they give back in community service.

Justin Grimshaw, A.B.M.

Upcoming Summer Events

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, IDAHO — Brothers and sisters, I hope everyone had a great winter.

Local 449 has two upcoming summer events. The Chukars Baseball night is scheduled for June 26 at the Melaleuca Field in Idaho Falls. And our annual picnic will be July 18 at Lower Ross Park in Pocatello. These events are always a great time and a way to keep the brotherhood together.

The work is picking up and the outlook for Local 449 looks good for several years to come at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), along with the offsite work, which will be busy as well.

Congratulations to our recently retired brothers: Michael Davis, Jim Hoadley, Wendell "Ray" Mortensen, Samuel Rosen and Larry Tauscher. You have earned it, brothers — and best of wishes from Local 449!

We honor the memory of our late Bro. Walter Johnson. He will be truly missed. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends.

Clay Hirning, A.B.M.

'Staying United and Involved'

L.U. 531 (i), LAPORTE, IN — With the political season in full swing, I feel it's important to remember that we are all in this boat together. Everyone has their political leanings, whether it be left, right, or somewhere in the middle. You might be motivated by social issues, financial issues or moral issues. Whatever drives you to vote the way you do, I think we need to remember how we as a labor movement as a whole

are treated by the people we are voting for. Sometimes when things are going well economically it can be easy to forget how quickly politicians can affect our way of life and take away the benefits provided and fought for by those before us.

It's also important to remain involved and informed. It is easier than ever nowadays with the use of social media and other electronic means to stay in contact with other members of your local. In Local 531 with our new website and app on your phone, most of the vital information about our local is right at your fingertips.

The way we get our information is changing compared to the way it was in years past, but the goal should be the same as always. Keep in communication with your local membership, stay informed of what is going on in your local, and no matter what your political beliefs, we are union members who need to remain united against those who would negatively influence our way of life.

Jeremy Woolever, P.S.



RENEW members from Locals 553 and 379 march together on North Carolina's state Capitol.

Women Leaders Bridge Jurisdictions in Solidarity

L.U. 553 (i,lctt,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC — Women in our industry are, once again, stepping up in a big way in the effort to organize all electrical workers. In one of the most anti-union states in the nation, two women rallied a small army of future IBEW leaders from Locals 553 and 379 and crossed jurisdictional boundaries to march around the Capitol of North Carolina, displaying solidarity for their union and their basic human rights.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, RENEW presidents Emma Basmayor (Local 553) and Melissa Reyes (Local 379) led several of their fellow brothers and sisters from across the state in the Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HKonJ) / Moral March in Raleigh. This is an annual event that supports labor unions and promotes safe working practices, education, and many other progressive ideas.

"This was the first time members from both locals met in our state's capital to attend an event together," Basmayor said. "We're looking forward to having future events with them and working to build stronger unions everywhere!"

Steve Baker, V.P.

Upcoming Family Activities

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA — Greetings, sisters and brothers. As summertime is fast approaching, we are looking forward to our upcoming family events day at Great America, our union picnic, pin party and our annual benefit educational workshops. Workshop topics include: our pension plan, NEBF pension plan, steps to retirement, investments, etc.

Along with Bay Area Sports, NECA and IBEW Local 617 provide wellness services. Our members participate in healthy lifestyle programs — including wellness screenings, weight loss and advice on healthy diets and exercise — in order to keep our sisters and brothers healthy.

At the time of this writing, California was scheduled to hold state and local elections on March 3. Election results impact our jobs, families and the future. In future elections, let our voices be heard and vote for those who support unions and act upon it. Local politicians and our registrar have spoken at union meetings about the importance of getting out to vote.

As we take time to enjoy family and friends on the 79th annual Memorial Day in May, please take a moment to remember and honor our fallen warriors. "Semper recordare" (always remember).

Kenn Perfitt, P.S.

Updates & Events

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar &mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA — The following members have recently retired: Larry Duggan and Sam Cassar.

We recently lost the following members: Johnny Meagher and Donnie Harrison in November, Ray Wilkie in December, and Donnie Sampson in January. Condolences go out to their families.

Congratulations to the following brothers on completing their Certificate of Qualification and becoming Red Seal electricians: Tristun Doherty, Alden Burke, Ken Webb, Paul Murphy, James Mackinnon, Vasquez Moule, Mark Huyghe, Andrew Bond, Cory Pettipas and Alex Betts.

We held the annual Kid's Holiday Party at Hatfields Farm, with over 150 in attendance. The Holiday Dinner & Dance on Dec. 14 was a huge hit as always with over 400 members and guests attending. Our local held its first-ever Family Ski Day at Ski Martock on Saturday, Feb. 15. We had 89 in attendance and everyone had fun. Plans are to make the Family Ski Day an annual event.

Local 625 would like to welcome newly organized developer/contractor MacGillvray Properties Limited.

Brad Wood, B.R./Organizer

Support for Friend of Labor

L.U. 639 (i&rts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — Ellen Beraud, candidate for San Luis Obispo County 5th District supervisor, stands with IBEW Local 639 veterans showing her support. (See photo, below.)

Ellen Beraud, wife of Local 639 member and signatory contractor Francois Beraud of French Electric, is no stranger to organized labor. As a union member and facility chief steward of AFSCME (American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees) Local 2620, Ellen knows the importance labor unions play in providing good paying jobs in the community. IBEW 639 has endorsed Ellen Beraud for 5th District supervisor and has worked tirelessly canvassing neighborhoods, placing yard signs and phone banking to help her win this election. If elected, Ellen will work with the Board of Supervisors to negotiate a county-wide project labor agreement (PLA). She will also advocate to expand resources for veterans services and our counties most vulnerable, including homelessness, health care and affordable housing.

Local 639 veterans who met with candidate Beraud include: Kevin Grimes, U.S. Marines (2004-'08), E-5 infantry; Jeff Buchanan, U.S. Army (1968-'70), E-4 Vietnam veteran; Taylor Apetz, U.S. Navy (2014-'16), E-3 submarine service; Mike Johnson, U.S. Marines (1996-'99); Dru Hernandez, U.S. Army (2006-'11), E-5 one tour Iraq; Darren Lapitan, U.S. Air Force (2016-'19),



Candidate Ellen Beraud (front row, third from left) with IBEW Local 639 military veterans. Front row: Darren Lapitan (left), Juan Guzman-Garcia, candidate Beraud, Don Proeber, Arnoldo Gomez and Sean Perry. Back row: Kevin Grimes, Jeff Buchanan, Taylor Apetz, Mike Johnson and Dru Hernandez.

officer O-1; Juan Guzman-Garcia, U.S. Army (1996-2016), E-5 1 tour Iraq; Don Proeber, U.S. Marines (2007-'13), one tour Iraq, two tours Afghanistan; Arnoldo Gomez, U.S. Army (1998-2006), E-5 1 tour Afghanistan; and Sean Perry, U.S. Navy (1980-'84).

Thank you to all for your service.

Kurt McClave, P.S.

Work Outlook

L.U. 649 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), ALTON, IL — Here is the outlook for our bargaining units and construction work in our jurisdiction:

- The work outlook for construction looks good through summer of 2020.
- Negotiations were completed for the Industrial Motor Repair bargaining group, with a four-year agreement ratified.
- The contract for electrical maintenance work at P66 Refinery was awarded to J.F. Electric. J.J. White was awarded a five-year mechanical maintenance contract at P66 Refinery.
- Multiple solar installation projects commenced in the Jersey Community School District taking place at all schools.

Special thanks to our retired and active members for volunteering their time to our local communities.

Please remember to support our Democratic candidates who support organized labor.

Thank you to Bro. Alan Rubenstein for compiling the information for this article.

Terry Wilhite, P.S.

Work Opportunities; Electrical Trades Center

L.U. 683 (i), COLUMBUS, OHIO — 2020 is looking to be another great year for Local 683! Work opportunities continue to be plentiful. We are fortunate to have

over 300 travelers helping us man our projects. We anticipate the need for more traveling brothers and sisters in the future. Several large data center projects continue to require manpower on top of the upcoming Columbus Crew Stadium project and several OSU projects on the horizon.

The Electrical Trades Center (see photo) continues to grow and modernize to accommodate increased numbers of Inside and I.T. apprentices. Fire Alarm and wiring methods labs have been upgraded with new equipment and workstations for our Inside program. A new and improved BICSI lab has been completed for our I.T. program.

On June 5, Local 683 will host our annual Chuck Bland Memorial Fish Fry! Our local union elections are on June 11. Hope to see you at both!

Pat Hook, Pres.



Local 683's new Electrical Trades Center fire alarm lab.

Local 697 EWMC Hosts Annual Charity Basketball Day

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — On Feb. 22 this year, the Local 697 IBEW-EWMC held its 6th annual charity basketball day. The event was held at the all-union-built Hammond Sportsplex. [Photo, Pg. 16, top left.] A day of fun activities with a 3-on-3 tournament, 3-point and free throw competition. The 3-on-3-tourney was won by defending champs Bros. Adam Spurr, Brad Stooksbury and Paul Quiroz. The 3-point competition was won by Bro. Paul Quiroz, and the free-throw competition was won by Sister Paula Orueta. The event successfully raised an additional \$500 from the participants

IBEW MERCHANDISE



Ladies Navy Blue Polo Shirt \$30.00

100% polyester, navy blue moisture management polo shirt with IBEW initials embroidered on collar. Wicks moisture away from the body by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

Golf Umbrella \$41.00

Red and black golf umbrella with 62" arc, fiberglass shaft & rubberized handle with IBEW logo on 2 panels.

Playing Cards \$3.00

Plastic coated playing cards with IBEW logo. Made using a custom lamination process for increased durability, improved shuffling and dealing.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

LOCAL LINES



Local 697 members who participated in the sixth annual Local 697 EWMC charity basketball day event, along with the family of Thomas Richardson.

to go to the family of Thomas Richardson. All the pictures from that day are located on our website www.ibew697.org in the "Photo Gallery."

Ask of this writing, the warm April weather has allowed the Local 697 Golf League to start play for the 2020 season.

Tuesday, May 5, is the Indiana primary election, so please remember to get out and vote!

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

Local Congratulates New Journeyman Inside Wiremen

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TEXAS — IBEW Local 1015 would like to send a big Texas salute to Francisco Hernandez, Sergio Torres and Jose Guadalupe Solis. With their very big effort working long days and studying late at night, we are very proud to announce that those Local 1015 members were able to get their journeyman inside wireman licenses. If you want something bad enough you will try even harder to get it. These three members tried even harder than most due to the fact that they do not write, read and/or speak the English language fluently. Bus. Mgr. Sergio A. Salinas offered free tutoring classes for the members to understand the terms without getting stressed out due to the language barrier. Once each of these guys passed their test and came by the office to present their JIW receipt with that big smile on their faces, IBEW Local 1015 made sure to put it on the local's monthly newsletter to encourage other members to do the same. It doesn't make any difference how many times you try and fail, what counts is that you keep trying until you pass. That piece of paper makes a difference in wages for each of these families.

Tammy Casas, P.S.

'Welcome to New Members'

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY — In the past year, under the leadership of Bus. Mgr. Ronald Bauer, we at Local 1049 have increased our membership by 200. With the signing and ratification of a new collective bargaining agreement with Premier Infrastructure and Energy LLC, we have added 62 new members. This new three-year agreement includes wage increases in each year and an employer funded

annuity. For several years we have attempted to organize several mark out/underground utility locating contractors. Premier is our first success in the gas business. We are hoping to expand into the Electric Underground Field as well. All members who will be working under this agreement will be trained and certified in our newly designed Locating Training room, which is a part of our training center.

Mark your calendars! Local 1049's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) will be hosting their first Casino Night on May 29. All proceeds will benefit the MSC Kyle Sports Program. Our Annual Golf Tournament will take place on June 19. Reserve your foursomes early, as the tournament regularly sells out. Proceeds will support the Local 1049 Scholarship Fund and our COPE fund.

As of this writing, we are preparing for negotiations for our members who work under the NECA Agreement. We look forward to a successful conclusion.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

A Career of Service

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY — IBEW Local 1249 would like to wish David T. Burnett a very happy and healthy retirement. Dave was initiated into IBEW Local 1249 on Nov. 16, 1977, and he worked in the field as a journeyman lineman. In 1993, Dave began his career with NYS Lineman Safety Training. Dave's hard work and dedication helped to build our safety and training program into what it is today. Good luck, Dave, and enjoy your retirement — you deserve it!

Colby J. Czajak, A.B.M.



Local 1249 congratulates David T. Burnett on his retirement.



The first of many Local 1049 locating technicians with Premier Infrastructure.



A contingent of Local 1347 members, along with members from several sister locals, volunteered for community service.

Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — On Saturday, Dec. 28, last year IBEW Local 1347 met with several other IBEW Locals (71, 212, 1224) at Matthews 25 Ministries in Kenwood, Ohio, for an afternoon of volunteering. In just two hours' time, our efforts can help as many as 150-plus individuals, which is why we love coming back every year! This is our fourth year in a row attending a Matthews 25 Ministries event, and plans are already underway for a fifth year come December 2020. We appreciate everyone who donated their time and hope to keep growing our group of volunteers as the years go by.

Volunteers pictured in the accompanying photo are: Kristen Kallaher, Pat Kallaher, Ray Fowee, Linda Dixon, Will McMahan, Kyle McMahan, Don Scott Smith, Tom Messamer, Sophia Sheppard, Bear Sheppard, Bill Dietz, Rachel Glover, Lee McIntosh, Dustin Fossette, Danny Fossette, Dominick Fossette, Greg Prewitt, Andrew Kirk, Adrienne Fossette, Richard Heimbrock, Liza Bruggeman and Matt Bruggeman.

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

work at several racetracks in New York. The accompanying photo, below left, was taken at Bus. Mgr. Guthrie's meeting with some members at the Aqueduct Racetrack in South Ozone Park, Queens, New York. That racetrack is a thoroughbred horse racing facility, which is open from October through April.

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

IBEW Member Wins Iron Dog Snowmobile Race

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,lctt,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK — Congratulations to Bro. Tyler Aklestad and his team partner, Nick Olstad, on winning the Iron Dog snowmobile race. The Iron Dog is the world's longest, toughest snowmobile race covering more than 2,400 miles in Alaska's backcountry. Bro. Aklestad and his partner led the entire race.

"It's an amazing race and great opportunity," Bro. Aklestad said. "I appreciate all the support I got from the brotherhood." When asked why he thought his team won he replied: "We spent a lot of time getting prepared. We put in a lot of work and dedication, so this was definitely a labor of love." This year, an additional 375 miles were added to the race and with the extreme weather, only 11 of 29 teams finished.

Bro. Aklestad is an OSP Engineer with Matanuska Electric Association. He won the race previously in 2016 with his team partner Tyson Johnson.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.



Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie (second from right) with some of the members employed at Aqueduct Racetrack in New York. From left, front row, Janet Costa, Pedro Alicea, Daniel Kuzyk, shop steward Vincent De Martino, Bus. Mgr. Guthrie, Javier Adrianzen; and in the back, Jose Calderon.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD — Recently, Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie, reportedly the longest serving business manager in the IBEW serving over 50 years and with 60 years as an IBEW member, had a meeting at the Aqueduct Racetrack in New York with the members there to discuss the new collective bargaining agreement. The members there helped to add their input to the proposals that were negotiated with Amtote International for the new CBA. We don't have the final results as of this writing, but we are looking forward to successful contract negotiations.

The local has members who



Local 1547 member Tyler Aklestad (front row, fourth from right) displays Iron Dog snowmobile race trophy.

➔ **HAVE YOU MOVED?**
 Notify us of an address change
www.ibew.org/ChangeMyAddress or call 202-728-6263

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in March 2020

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Coffman, C. T.	12/29/19	53	Hamblin, E. L.	12/14/19	176	Brockway, R. L.	11/21/19	402	Cameron, R. A.	12/4/19	613	Wofford, R. M.	2/7/20	1393	Reid, R. J.	9/23/19
1	Dudley, L. L.	12/14/19	57	Jordan, G. L.	1/3/20	194	Hopkins, S. C.	11/26/19	405	Isbell, G. S.	12/28/19	640	Trottier, E. H.	12/31/19	1393	Thomas, J. R.	12/12/19
1	Fogelbach, D.	9/29/19	57	Riddle, B. K.	1/10/20	212	Carpenter, O. W.	12/11/19	413	Hindmarsh, J. L.	2/2/20	640	Welch, L. R.	12/7/19	1531	Perry, L. W.	1/1/20
1	Lee, V.	12/21/19	58	Bell, G. D.	4/17/19	212	Williams, W. W.	11/28/19	424	Beck, D. E.	8/15/19	649	Newton, J. C.	12/14/19	1547	Reynolds, M. D.	11/26/19
1	Mahoney, B. H.	1/8/20	58	Peters, H. W.	2/21/17	213	Afrasiabi, M. R.	4/9/19	424	Wiseman, O. F.	10/21/19	659	Robison, H. J.	2/7/19	1701	Hermann, B. B.	1/1/20
1	McLean, G. F.	12/13/19	58	Rabine, T. M.	11/22/19	213	Kovacs, L.	4/12/19	429	Martin, E. B.	1/31/20	666	Priest, L. A.	1/18/20	1703	Brown, C. W.	12/23/19
1	Miller, H. K.	2/7/18	58	Swartz, L. D.	1/13/20	213	Leemhuis, P. V.	1/3/20	436	Attaway, J. D.	2/13/20	668	Wallace, D. L.	11/16/19	2150	Laird, D. J.	12/8/19
1	Mueller, G. E.	1/20/20	60	Frazier, T. E.	6/29/19	213	Weiss, W. K.	9/4/19	440	Isenberg, D. F.	9/14/18	676	Shelton, J. W.	11/11/19	2166	St. Pierre, S.	4/12/19
1	Reid, G. L.	11/13/19	60	Wright, M.	11/23/19	213	Worledge, G. T.	11/10/19	441	Western, N.	1/19/20	697	Richardson, T. J.	1/12/20	2330	Gale, R.	8/31/18
1	Schisler, D. D.	1/18/20	68	Slife, D. R.	10/26/19	226	Baer, E. F.	4/21/19	453	Perry, H. C.	1/13/20	700	Harp, J. W.	10/24/19	I.O. (15)	Myron, D. S.	1/16/20
1	Treis, A. N.	1/12/20	70	Tuck, M. S.	1/6/20	226	Stice, D. D.	12/3/19	463	Harlow, M.	12/26/19	700	Reiss, D. J.	12/12/19	I.O. (134)	Dalicandro, M. J.	8/17/19
1	Uteley, B. D.	12/30/19	76	Carter, D. C.	12/29/19	230	Browett, T. A.	12/12/19	481	Hardcastle, D. S.	12/12/19	702	Crane, W.	1/12/20	I.O. (134)	Glancey, J. L.	1/20/20
2	Ruettgers, E. J.	1/20/20	76	LaFond, D. M.	12/21/19	230	Moore, G. E.	12/23/19	481	Holzworth, R. L.	2/20/20	712	Freed, H. T.	12/27/19	I.O. (134)	Smol, H. S.	2/6/20
3	Adetunji, B. M.	12/13/19	77	Johnson, C. D.	12/17/19	231	Koetters, G. B.	12/16/19	481	Proctor, L. K.	4/4/19	714	Paterson, K. J.	2/12/20	I.O. (134)	Wavrunek, J. R.	12/3/19
3	Ceconi, W. J.	1/16/20	77	Page, W. J.	1/1/20	234	Carpenter, R. D.	12/7/19	481	Steffy, J. A.	1/15/20	716	Malcolm, K. J.	1/9/20	I.O. (292)	Simonsmeier, R. L.	12/21/19
3	DeBonis, R. D.	11/20/19	77	Thoms, R. M.	1/11/20	236	Crandall, H. H.	11/16/19	483	Johnston, T. L.	12/24/19	716	Talbott, W. B.	12/5/19	I.O. (324)	Sanford, W. R.	9/1/19
3	Devoy, D. J.	1/8/20	77	Young, J. L.	9/25/19	236	Parks, M.	1/16/20	490	Lariviere, J. J.	6/13/19	728	Anderson, E. R.	1/13/20	I.O. (1925)	Marcum, T.	12/16/19
3	Fezzauglio, R. P.	12/23/19	80	Marshall, A. M.	9/18/19	245	Anderson, G. B.	1/13/20	505	Parmer, B. W.	11/16/19	728	Horan, W. D.	12/22/19	Pens. (77)	Johnson, D. M.	11/27/19
3	Gannon, E. T.	1/22/20	81	Jennings, J. F.	2/11/20	245	LeFever, G. N.	12/7/18	508	Alsobrooks, E.	10/14/19	756	Shrader, F. V.	12/17/19	Pens. (134)	Paul, D. A.	11/19/19
3	Giandana, C. R.	12/31/19	81	Klikus, J. J.	10/11/19	246	Kane, F. L.	1/1/20	508	Bowen, D. T.	8/22/19	759	Peyton, J. W.	12/17/19	Pens. (424)	Moores, D. W.	3/23/19
3	Hitscher, H. J.	12/4/19	82	Ulrich, R. E.	1/22/20	258	Bially, H.	6/6/19	508	Mallard, W. M.	12/25/19	760	McCloud, J. W.	1/26/20	Pens. (852)	Gentry, L. E.	1/11/20
3	McManus, J.	1/15/20	86	Howard, J. W.	11/16/19	258	Cowan, H. D.	12/7/19	518	McLaughlin, J. W.	10/16/19	760	Thomas, R. E.	5/12/19	Pens. (1788)	Perry, K. E.	12/11/19
3	Minghillo, J. A.	12/21/19	86	Waldeck, J. F.	12/4/19	258	Fooks, D. J.	12/14/19	531	Courington, R. R.	1/22/20	768	Harrah, B. A.	11/5/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Bruce, C. E.	12/2/19
3	Roccki, C. J.	10/18/19	89	Brend, O. A.	11/25/19	258	Managh, J. R.	10/31/19	532	Schwab, R. D.	10/21/19	840	Swenson, T. E.	1/1/20	Pens. (I.O.)	Casteel, S. O.	1/16/20
3	Rodney, M.	12/10/19	97	Darra, R. L.	11/5/19	269	Parziale, E. J.	12/16/19	551	Reed, C. W.	9/17/19	861	Leslie, A. E.	1/18/20	Pens. (I.O.)	Comer, L. F.	9/22/19
3	Weinstein, L.	1/7/20	98	Archer, O. D.	12/15/19	270	Wade, H. T.	1/4/20	551	Stafford, R. L.	1/2/20	861	Michna, D. R.	2/1/20	Pens. (I.O.)	Doehrel, L. E.	1/22/20
5	Adamson, D. R.	12/11/19	98	Cassel, W. E.	12/26/19	275	Stegenga, R. J.	9/30/19	557	Peil, C. O.	11/22/19	861	Moss, C. B.	2/1/20	Pens. (I.O.)	Garbett, C. T.	12/18/19
5	Almasy, G. R.	12/30/19	98	Foulke, J. L.	1/25/20	278	Diegel, B. W.	11/25/19	558	Roberson, C. R.	1/9/20	876	Corbett, C. W.	12/22/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Hagemeyer, J.	2/27/20
5	Petersen, U. D.	12/2/19	98	Grant, R. J.	1/19/20	278	Garcia, J. E.	2/1/20	558	Roden, R. E.	1/7/20	876	Nickel, J. D.	12/10/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Honeycutt, M. O.	12/24/19
5	Remele, W. F.	1/1/20	100	Boydston, F. D.	2/2/20	278	Jensen, R. L.	12/12/19	569	Chester, J. G.	9/12/18	903	Wilson, G. R.	4/24/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Johnson, J.	10/22/19
6	Luzzi, M. J.	2/13/20	100	Eichhorn, J.	12/21/19	280	Gerber, V. L.	7/25/19	569	Luhnnow, A. L.	1/15/20	906	Herro, J. G.	1/24/20	Pens. (I.O.)	Krueger, G. R.	12/15/19
11	Barksdale, H. L.	10/14/19	103	Ciampa, C. A.	4/11/19	291	Strand, D. L.	12/11/19	569	Wooten, F. D.	1/24/20	915	Walters, D. J.	12/27/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Kukla, E. J.	1/21/19
11	Ferrick, C.	11/27/19	103	Goode, J. A.	9/27/19	292	Popma, J. R.	12/23/19	573	Whaley, J. M.	12/10/19	948	Denman, N. E.	12/22/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Kuntz, J. D.	12/29/19
11	Fuentes, M. H.	12/30/19	103	Kincaid, G. B.	6/30/19	295	McCormick, J. A.	8/19/19	586	Weiss, F.	11/20/19	968	Cruck, E. E.	3/3/16	Pens. (I.O.)	Lehrman, M. H.	9/16/19
11	Gutierrez, R. J.	11/10/19	103	Lindsay, S. J.	8/21/19	295	Stancil, J. M.	12/18/19	595	Crandall, R. H.	11/1/19	1141	Thacker, E. C.	11/18/19	Pens. (I.O.)	McCabe, J. M.	12/31/19
11	Hughes, W. E.	1/18/20	103	Robblee, J. A.	1/15/20	301	Richardson, D. J.	12/17/19	595	Nielson, T. J.	6/24/19	1158	Graziano, L.	12/24/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Rhyne, L. G.	1/2/20
11	Lindsey, R. L.	1/12/20	103	Schneider, R. G.	12/6/19	301	Stringfellow, C. W.	10/29/19	606	Lavergne, J. E.	11/18/19	1186	Kouchi, G. T.	6/20/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Rich, C. D.	12/12/19
11	Sterling, J.	12/9/19	103	Sullivan, E. A.	8/13/19	302	Goss, R. A.	12/29/19	611	Woodard, D. M.	11/10/19	1245	Oxford, D. F.	11/22/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Skolnik, S. M.	1/18/20
11	Wilson, E. J.	1/2/20	104	Artruc, D. E.	1/8/20	303	White, G. A.	9/14/19	613	Kirkley, J. J.	1/20/20	1245	Trimble, J. T.	12/17/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Tomsich, P.	12/23/19
14	Wall, T. J.	12/9/19	105	Menzies, S. W.	7/2/19	304	O'Connor, D. G.	1/10/20	613	Powell, J. F.	12/3/19	1249	Bishop, C. H.	9/25/19	Pens. (I.O.)	Witek, A. J.	4/18/18
17	Lindsey, L. D.	10/21/19	105	Wilson, J. B.	2/2/20	304	Prater, M. C.	12/17/19	613	Quisenberry, M. L.	1/2/20	1319	Brozema, E. C.	1/2/20			
17	Vella, C. K.	11/7/19	110	Glancey, L. T.	10/24/19	304	Pressler, D. S.	8/16/19	613	Rabideaux, S. D.	1/20/20	1393	Ingram, K. R.	1/6/20			
20	Cooksey, J. E.	1/31/20	111	Emore, M. D.	12/12/19	305	Cooper, C. B.	1/2/20									
20	Givens, G. G.	1/9/20	111	Robinson, W. E.	10/24/19	305	Lauer, M. A.	2/1/20									
22	Beaver, H. L.	1/6/20	124	English, W. M.	12/2/19	307	Trite, C. E.	11/23/19									
22	Colpitts, T. F.	1/2/20	124	Hersh, E. I.	10/2/19	309	Paulovich, M. D.	12/17/19									
25	Barnes, A.	10/12/19	124	Kendrick, M. K.	1/22/20	317	Connor, J. W.	12/2/19									
25	Barnhardt, A. L.	12/21/19	125	Obermeyer, F. G.	12/27/19	317	King, C. L.	1/16/20									
25	O'Keefe, M. A.	2/16/20	126	Clyde, D. R.	1/15/20	322	Flaten, R. J.	12/29/19									
25	Stanley, J. H.	12/12/19	126	Gavioli, G. M.	11/14/19	332	Cowan, S. A.	12/24/19									
25	Wolf, G. A.	12/29/19	126	Offerman, L. M.	1/16/20	332	Utzerath, B. C.	7/25/19									
26	Gilman, D. J.	1/23/20	130	Bergeron, L. J.	12/25/19	332	Zavala, J.	12/30/19									
26	Haspel, R. F.	12/30/19	130	James, A. G.	11/2/19	340	Cosby, T. A.	1/18/20									
26	McClung, B. W.	12/24/19	134	Cobetto, J. V.	11/21/19	349	Gimenez, D. A.	1/9/20									
26	Miller, J. L.	12/10/19	134	Dagenais, R. J.	8/13/19	349	Self, A. C.	12/28/19									
26	Nicholson, J. M.	12/11/19	134	Fender, G. W.	1/21/20	351	Beckman, H. W.	10/22/19									
26	Varady, B. T.	11/5/19	134	Gaynor, W. F.	12/28/19	351	Conover, S.	12/12/19									
26	Woodward, T. A.	7/11/19	134	Gordon, T. F.	11/15/19	353	Borgatti, N.	8/23/19									
34	Fulton, R. D.	1/21/20	134	Karolczak, W. E.	12/7/19	353	Godfrey, R. L.	1/24/20									
34	LaHood, H. M.	11/2/18	134	Miosi, V.	12/19/19	353	Mitolinski, M.	1/8/20									
38	Carcioppolo, J. D.	1/17/20	134	O'Brien, T. F.	12/28/19	353	Porter, R. H.	1/6/20									
38	Kay, R. B.	1/24/20	134	Patterson, M.	12/16/19	353	Rogge, H.	1/21/20									
38	Shingary, E. D.	7/11/19	134	Quinn, B. M.	12/14/19	353	Urban, G.	5/26/19									
38	Walczak, J.	11/28/19	134	Schaefer, P. F.	8/24/19	353	Westcott, J.	2/3/19									
41	Hartman, K. R.	1/16/20	134	Siska, J. J.	1/1/20	354	Bronson, R. M.	11/25/19									
42	Panzner, P.	11/8/09	134	Zak, L.	1/9/20	354	Osoro, J. B.	11/20/19									
46	Callander, D. M.	12/21/19	136	Rheuby, R. W.	8/11/19	357	Hollowell, J. S.	12/30/19									
48	Damus, R. J.	3/3/18	143	Steel, J. S.	12/21/19	363	Hollister, R. A.	1/8/20									
48	Ebeling, J. F.	1/15/20	153	Brockway, G. E.	1/10/20	363	Tolomeo, J. G.	12/4/19									
48	Grabner, R. L.	12/11/19	163	Binley, J. P.	12/26/19	363	Weisblatt, J. H.	7/23/19									
48	Johnson, M. R.	1/21/20	164	Bucci, S. E.	10/22/19	364	Eldridge, C. L.	11/12/19									
48	Lawson, G. L.	12/26/19	164	Cramer, B. E.	11/8/18	369	Elder, V. L.	12/24/19									
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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 IBEW news, including the online version of the Electrical Worker, at IBEW.org.

YouTube

San Bernardino, Calif., Local 477 convinced several smaller electrical companies to sign on as signatory contractors, leading to a 7% growth in membership. See how they did it at [YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](https://www.youtube.com/TheElectricalWorker).

Vimeo

IBEW organizers from across the First District gathered in Toronto for the Canadian Membership Development Conference. See more at [Vimeo.com/IBEW](https://vimeo.com/IBEW).



HourPower

Members continue to step up and help those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Watch the latest edition of the Good Newscast at IBEWHourPower.com.



ElectricTV

Denver Health provides services to the area's most vulnerable citizens. IBEW members continue to work on its new outpatient medical center during the COVID-19 pandemic because they are considered essential by the state of Colorado. Learn more at ElectricTV.net.



WHO WE ARE

Tennessee Utility Members Honored After Pulling Woman from Raging Flood Waters

Cody Bryant felt a little out of place when the Tennessee General Assembly honored him and fellow Kingsport, Tenn., Local 934 members Rick Courtner and Mollie Ingle in February.

"We stuck out like a sore thumb down there," said Bryant, a lineman for Mountain Electric Cooperative. "We were told business casual. Nashville is a little different than Mountain City's business casual."

Mountain City, home to both Bryant and Courtner, is a small, rural community tucked neatly in the state's northeastern corner near its borders with Virginia and North Carolina. It's more than a four-hour drive from the neon lights and business suits of the state capital.

As it turned out, fashion didn't matter in the end; the trio were the stars of the show as members of the Legislature turned out to honor their heroism. Weeks earlier, with help from three other Local 934 members, Bryant, 31, and line foreman Courtner, 52, pulled a woman from her Ford F-150 pickup truck moments before she would have been swept up in flash flood waters.

Other Local 934 members involved in the rescue were Ingle, a meterperson, along with lineman Charlie Grindstaff apprentice lineman Dakota Tester.



Kingsport, Tenn., Local 934 members Mollie Ingle, Rick Courtner and Cody Bryant were honored by the Tennessee Legislature for saving the life of a woman trapped in flood waters. Sen. Jon Lundberg [left], House Speaker Cameron Sexton and Rep. Timothy Hill met with them afterwards.

[Bottom photo] Courtner and Bryant in the bucket as they get ready to rescue a woman trapped in her truck on Feb. 6.



Credit: Mountain Electric Cooperative

"We didn't feel like it was anything heroic. It was something that needed to be done and we were in a position to do it."

— Kingsport, Tenn., Local 934 member Rick Courtner

"It was a team effort," Courtner said. "Everyone was doing a job they had been trained to do. It saved a lot of time."

Ingle was working on a meter after heavy rain pounded northeast Tennessee the afternoon of Feb. 6. A resident in the area where she was working approached and told her about a woman trapped in her vehicle in some roaring creek waters along State Road 91.

Her calls to 911 kept dropping, so Ingle called her husband, an off-duty police officer, and he called 911. Ingle then reached Courtner and Bryant via cell phone and told them to bring their bucket — which usually means it's a rescue situation.

Courtner got to the area first, analyzed the scene and called Bryant and "told him to step on it," he said.

"It was a dire situation," Courtner said. "Cody later told me from the point she ran off, she had been pushed about 450 yards down the creek. She had gotten hung up on a rock. The emergency per-

sonnel on the scene did not have any swift water rescue stuff and were unable to reach her."

Getting caught on that rock turned out to be a blessing. Without it, the driver might have been swept up over a bridge about 100 yards away, Bryant said.

"Mollie had called and told me to go around the traffic," Bryant said. "When we got down there, there was a yard between some houses and trees. Rick was motioning me to turn back into the yard where it sloped into the creek."

By that time, Grindstaff and Tester had also arrived. They helped set up the truck so Courtner and Bryant could get in the bucket and out over the water. Their first attempt came about 10 feet short of the truck, so they had to return to the yard and back the truck closer to the water.

On the second attempt, they reached the woman's vehicle.

"She was actually very calm considering the situation," Courtner said.

"She remained calm. I started talking to her as soon as we got close enough. We got her to come through the window and we helped her over the door. I looked over at Cody and just said, 'Pull,' and we pulled her into the bucket."

Bryant estimated the rescue took about 10 minutes. The woman was identified as Cathy Souder of Laurel, Tenn. According to reports, the vehicle Souder was driving was struck by a falling tree, sending it over a guardrail and into the flooded creek that ran besides the roadway.

"Just God bless to everyone," she told the *The Tomahawk*, a weekly newspaper in Mountain City. "But my heroes are Rick Courtner and Cody Bryant and their bucket for saving me. Our small community was there and I'll always be grateful."

News spread about the rescue after Mountain Electric posted pictures of it on its Facebook page, bringing a spate of media coverage in eastern Tennessee and recognition from the Legislature. Courtner and Bryant appreciated it, but both say it really wasn't necessary.

"We didn't feel like it was anything heroic," Courtner said. "It was just something that needed to be done and we were in a position to do it. Every other linemen would have done the same thing if they had been on the scene."

That humility didn't come as a surprise to Local 934 Business Manager Roger Farmer, who said the work by all five IBEW members was exemplary.

"We've got a really good group of folks that work there," he said. "They just consider this another day in the park, even though they saved a life. They don't consider themselves heroes by any means."

But plenty of other people certainly do. "It was a very serious situation and emergency personnel had limited options due to the raging waters," said Joseph Thacker, Mountain Electric Cooperative's general manager. "Our line workers put themselves at risk every day to serve our communities. We are very proud of Rick, Cody, Dakota, Charlie and Mollie and their willingness to go above and beyond to help others in need. This is Mountain Electric at its best." ■

December International Executive Council Meeting

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

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m., by Chairman Erikson, on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Calvey, Burgham, Riley, Furco, Wine, Lavin and Galbraith.

International President Stephenson

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

International Secretary-Treasurer Cooper

International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood both in Canada and in the United States. IST Cooper and the actuaries presented the actuary assumptions for the Pension Benefit Fund, the Pension Plan for Officers, Representatives and Assistants and the Pension Plan for Office Employees. Discussed were various aspects relating to actuarial valuation results, including a background of the plans, contributions and funds structures, and reviewed actuary assumptions for future goals and benchmarks and effects of legislation.

Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1, of the IBEW Constitution.

Financial Reports

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

Appeals Filed with the International Executive Council

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 177 member Richard C. Barfield, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Barfield's appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 400 member Thomas Juliano, and it is the decision of the IEC to approve Brother Juliano's appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 424 member Roy D. Eigner, and it is the decision of the IEC to approve Brother Eigner's appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 505 member Kenneth A. Boutwell Jr., and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Boutwell's appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 716 member Charles E. Peacock, and it is the decision of the IEC to approve Brother Peacock's appeal.

Local Union(s) Under International Office Supervision

Local Union 2330 was placed under trusteeship on June 3, 2019. The trusteeship has been extended for an additional six (6) months.

Article XX and XXI Cases

In the fourth quarter of 2019, the IBEW was involved in one case under Article XXI case of the AFL-CIO Constitution.

Retirement of Director and International Representatives

William T. Bohne,
Director, Railroad Department
Effective — November 1, 2019

Richard K. Deering,
International Representative,
Second District
Effective — February 1, 2020

Benny J. Hunnicutt,
International Representative,
Tenth District
Effective — September 1, 2019

James T. Springfield,
International Representative,
Tenth District
Effective — January 1, 2020

Retirement of International Office Employees

Saundra L. Delgado,
Secretary, Investments/401(K) Department
Effective — December 11, 2019

Janice M. Pelz,
Secretary, Sixth District
Effective — January 1, 2020

Ernest K. Wagner,
Support Services Department
Effective — October 31, 2019

Vested Pension

Margaret R. Reale,
Secretary, Fourth District
Effective — July 1, 2019

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned, on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, February 3, 2020, in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary
December 2019

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult www.IBEW.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "Who We Are" page. ■



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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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

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

Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

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The Electrical Worker (print)
ISSN 2332-113X

The Electrical Worker (online)
ISSN 2332-1148

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

The Electrical Worker will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

Paid advertising is not accepted.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756.
Canada Post: Return undeliverables to P.O. Box 2601,
6915 Dixie Rd, Mississauga, ON L4T 0A9.

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Louisville Members Score Big with Soccer Stadium Project



More than 60 Louisville, Ky., Local 369 electrical workers installed everything from wiring to signs at the city's new soccer-only Lynn Family Stadium, where Louisville City F.C. officials and players joined construction officials last summer to present samples of natural grass turf to be used there.

IBEW Members Help Give LouCity Soccer a Home of Its Own

Louisville, Ky., is already famous for its contributions to the world of sports — think Louisville Slugger baseball bats, legendary boxer Muhammed Ali or the spectacle of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs. Now, with some help from the members of the city's IBEW members at Local 369, professional soccer is set to join that distinguished list.

Nearly 60 of the local's electricians recently wrapped up work on an 85,000-square-foot soccer stadium, installing wiring, lights, signs, sound systems and more. And they managed to have fun doing it, said Local 369 Business Manager Charlie Essex of building the Lynn Family Stadium in the city's Butcher-town neighborhood.

But the work didn't come to the local without a struggle, he said, a reality that remains sadly unsurprising in largely anti-union Kentucky. "We spent a ton of target money to keep the 'rats' out," Essex said, referring to numerous nonunion bidders for the job.

The investment paid off. "We did everything," the business manager said. "No one but us worked on anything electric."

The stadium is the new home of the Louisville City Football Club, the Bluegrass

State's first — and, for now, only — professional soccer team. Although this was Local 369's fifth soccer facility, Essex said, Lynn Family Stadium was its first professional one, another successful project for the busy local, whose 3,600 members work in 77 of Kentucky's 120 counties plus seven in southeastern Indiana. It is the second-largest local in the IBEW's Fourth District, after Washington, D.C., Local 26.

"No one but us worked on anything electric."

— Local 369 Business Manager
Charlie Essex

Since its debut season in 2015, LouCity — the team's less-than-a-mouthful nickname — has been a leader among the more than 30 teams that compete in the United Soccer League's Championship tier, one level below Major League Soccer. In fact, the "Boys in Purple" won the Championship's top prize in 2017 and 2018 and finished in second place last fall.

And the team accomplished all of this while sharing space at the built-for-baseball Slugger Field, home of the Louis-

ville Bats, a minor league affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. For four seasons, LouCity managed to make things work, configuring a rectangular soccer pitch onto the field's baseball diamond while scheduling their matches to accommodate the Sluggers' home games.

A local business study showed, however, that if Louisville was serious about growing the professional game in the city, a permanent soccer-specific stadium would be needed. A home of its own also would help put LouCity on solid financial footing and allow it to attract top-quality players from all over the world.

Ground was finally broken on a new facility a few blocks east of Slugger Field in June 2018, with Local 369's electricians working with signatory contractor Delta Services on a project that ended up mixing union and nonunion construction workers.

Probably the project's biggest challenge was beyond anyone's control: dealing with the record-setting rains that waterlogged the Ohio Valley and much of the Midwest in the summer of 2018. Nevertheless, the 12,000-seat stadium was

completed on time for the season's scheduled start in April, with Delta noting that Local 369's members worked nearly 60,000 hours on the project without a lost-time incident.

Like most other spring and summer sports leagues around the world, though, the USL announced in March that it was delaying the start of its season to at least mid-May on account of the various measures put in place to help fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Even so, LouCity's games already are among the hottest tickets in town, Essex said. "The stadium is already sold out for this year," he said, adding that Local 369 has the contract to maintain the stadium's electrical systems and equipment, and it will almost certainly get the work on the stadium's inevitable expansion.

And beyond LouCity's matches, the Lynn Family Stadium expects to handle plenty of other action going forward, especially now that the top-flight National Women's Soccer League has announced that its expansion Proof Louisville Football Club will play there beginning in 2021.

Incidentally, the "Lynn" in "Lynn Family Stadium" is Dr. Mark Lynn, a prominent Louisville-area optometrist who owns dozens of Visionworks franchises in Kentucky and four other states. Essex noted with pride that one of Lynn's children is enrolled in Local 369's apprenticeship school.

Meanwhile, other jobs for the local lately have been "fantastic," Essex said. Recent Local 369 projects have included work on four new schools, plus remodeling projects at four others, along with expansion of United Parcel Service's Worldport hub at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport and an expansion of the airport itself. And that's not to mention plenty of ongoing work for the local's tree-trimmers.

But when they have some down time, Local 369's members will have a chance to take in some professional soccer at their newly built stadium. There's certainly one record-breaking statistic to attract anyone looking for a good time, Essex said. "Out of every sports venue in North America, that stadium has the most bars per square foot." ■