

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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*History-Maker*

## Liz Shuler Elected First Woman, First IBEW Member to Head AFL-CIO



Fresh off her historic election in June, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler sat down with *The Electrical Worker* for a wide-ranging interview.

**THE IBEW's 2022 Photo Contest**  
Deadline: Nov. 1 • Details on pg. 2

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**F**ROM her seat on stage at the AFL-CIO convention in June, Liz Shuler could see her father standing next to International President Lonnie R. Stephenson and the IBEW delegation behind them ready to cheer.

"Today we're going to make history by nominating the first woman president of the AFL-CIO," Stephenson said. "We're also going to make history by nominating the first IBEW member to be AFL-CIO president."

"We could not be prouder of our sister, Liz Shuler."

For the self-described worker bee who never aspired to leadership it was surreal, Shuler said.

She flashed to the business manager who hired her three decades ago; the political director who brought her to IBEW headquarters; the president, Edwin D. Hill, who made her his executive assistant; and the chance that the late AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka took asking her to run on his ticket as secretary-treasurer in 2008.

In every case — hired, promoted, elected — Shuler was the first woman through the door.

### READY TO LEAD

The mentors and colleagues she impressed along the way, who talk about her in glowing terms, are unequivocal: she earned it. And now she was about to shatter the labor movement's highest glass ceiling.

"You can't help but think, 'Is this really happening?'" she said. "It was just incredible pride and an overwhelming sense of gratitude."

On the convention floor in Philadelphia, Stephenson shook Lance Shuler's hand and introduced the retired power lineman from Portland, Ore., Local 125 — the same home local as his daughter's.

"Liz has embodied that IBEW can-do spirit that Lance taught her for the nearly 20 years I've known her," Stephenson said. "Her entire life in labor has been devoted to opening doors and creating opportunities for every working person."

**ELIZABETH HOPE SHULER** has been at the helm of the AFL-CIO since Trumka's sudden death last August.

With every visit to a union hall, every call to action, every meeting with workers seeking a voice on the job, Shuler gained allies and respect.

Now hundreds of convention delegates from 57 affiliated unions were affirming their faith in her with a four-year term.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, literally jumped up and down as she seconded Shuler's nomination, calling her a "bridge-builder, consensus-seeker, and unifier."

"She is smart and strategic, an ally and an activist, caring and compassionate, and as tenacious and persistent a champion of the aspiration of workers as you will ever see," Weingarten said. "Liz is solidarity in action."

Shuler wasn't making history alone. Her running mate and trusted friend, the Steelworkers' Fred Redmond, is the first Black secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO.

**LIZ SHULER** continued on page 3



## FROM THE OFFICERS

## Our Sister, Our Leader



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

**T**hirty years ago, as a young woman overflowing with energy and ideas, Liz Shuler joined the mostly male staff of Local 125 in her hometown of Portland, Ore.

Liz has been a trailblazer ever since, and we couldn't be prouder.

Today, she is the first woman and first IBEW member ever elected to serve as president of the AFL-CIO — our own sister, the leader of the American labor movement.

One of the great honors of my life was nominating Liz at the AFL-CIO Convention in Philadelphia in June. And right next to me was her father, Lance, a retired power lineman also out of Local 125.

I know that Lance was beaming behind his face mask, like the rest of the IBEW delegation that stood with me on the convention floor.

"They say if you want the job done right the first time, call an IBEW electrician," I said in that history-making moment. "Throughout her career, Liz has embodied that common-sense, 'Do it the right way, not the easy way' approach

that every IBEW member brings to the job."

As you'll read in this issue of *The Electrical Worker*, Liz has legions of fans among the people she's worked with, worked for and served — from her home local, across the Ninth District, to the International Office in Washington and in 14 years as AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer. Folks can't say enough about her talent, work ethic, disposition, innate sense of fairness and passion for helping working people.

The convention made it official, but Liz has been proving herself as president since her predecessor, our friend and brother Rich Trumka, died suddenly last August. While all of us, Liz included, were reeling from the shock, she quietly stepped up and carried on as seamlessly as anyone could.

She'd be the first to say she didn't do it alone. Her trusted partner Fred Redmond, the first Black person to serve as AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer, has been at her side. Now, both of them have four-year terms and ambitious plans and goals, including organizing a million new union members over the next decade.

This may be hard to believe with so many people fighting for power these days, but that's not Liz at all. She didn't intend to be a leader and never sought the spotlight. She loves the work itself, being on the ground creating and executing big ideas. She kept her head down, worked hard and the spotlight found her.

I couldn't be happier to have Sister Shuler as our movement's leader for these next four years. She'll be a powerful ally, not only for the IBEW, but for every American worker, just as she has been for three decades.

Congratulations, Liz. Your IBEW family is behind you 100%. ■

## Seizing the Moment

**L**ater this month, IBEW activists and leaders from across North America will come to San Antonio for what, outside of our convention, will be the most crucial IBEW gathering of the year.

The Membership Development conference isn't just any meeting. It is the frontlines of the fight to rebuild organized labor and the middle class.

This year's conference comes at a historic moment for the labor movement because the IBEW has not seen this many opportunities to grow in decades.

First off, full employment means workers now have some power to demand higher wages, better jobs and more opportunities.

Workers are leaving their jobs in record numbers because they are fed up with skimpy paychecks and nonexistent benefits and are demanding a better way.

Secondly, we have the White House on our side. President Biden has made it clear again and again that he supports labor and is backing up his words with deeds, from appointing an actual union leader, Marty Walsh, as Labor Secretary to using executive power to require project labor agreements and good construction wages.

In Canada, the IBEW also has a powerful ally in higher office, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

But most of all, this moment is an opportunity for the IBEW because public opinion is on our side.

More than 60% of Americans approve of unions, the highest since 1965.

We are seeing workers coming together in unions at some of the biggest, hardest to organize companies across North America, from Amazon warehouse workers to Starbucks baristas.

In the past year, we have added more than 13,000 new members across nearly every branch.

Any good organizer knows that when you see an opportunity, you'd better seize it fast.

And there is no more significant opportunity to build IBEW power than now.

We'll meet in Texas to plot a path to growing a bigger and stronger IBEW that reflects the full diversity of our two nations, but we won't stop there. We'll take what we've learned back to every local across North America and keep right on working.

President Stephenson challenged delegates at the Convention to top 700,000 active IBEW members before the year was through.

We are well on the way to meeting that goal, and we won't stop there.

Organizing must be every IBEW's member's top priority.

Our founding fathers were organizers first. Everything Henry Miller and his compatriots did was about expanding the ranks of this union.

That's how they turned a small handful of line workers and wiremen into the biggest electrical union in North America. And it is how we will reverse years of union decline and put the IBEW back on offense for the first time in a generation.

I'll see you in Texas. ■



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

THE IBEW'S

2022

Photo  
Contest

The 2022 IBEW Photo Contest is here, and with it a chance to show your union sisters and brothers what being a member of the greatest union in the world means to you. So, grab your cameras and smartphones and get to it! We want to see your best shots of 2022. See below for rules and details, and as always, contact us at [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org) for more information.

See official rules and submission instructions at [IBEW.org/photocontest](https://www.ibew.org/photocontest).

Entries **MUST** be submitted **electronically** via the Photo Contest link on [IBEW.org](https://www.ibew.org). Please contact the Media Department at [media@IBEW.org](mailto:media@IBEW.org) or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.

Enter Today!

Deadline: Nov. 1

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

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

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

Honorable  
Mention: \$50

## My IBEW STORY

**Brian Lewis, Retired Lineman**  
Chicago Local 9



"I'm fourth generation IBEW, but I didn't start out here. I went through an apprenticeship with the Boilermakers first. I was proud to be a union welder; the wages were good but the work was not consistent.

A few years after my father, Arkie, passed away, his best friend Britt Hughes took me to see then-Chicago Local 9 Business Manager Robert Pierson, and my IBEW career took off from there.

I started on a white ticket, welding on a people mover project at O'Hare International Airport in 1990 before being initiated in 1991.

Until the year 1990 my income was flat — and low. But once I entered Local 9, things began to change. My pay and my standard of living began to rise, which is good, but it's not the important thing.

The really important thing is what I did and who I became: a complete lineman. I did everything from traffic, street lighting, railroad work, operating, underground, switching, programming overhead distribution devices, on and on. Near the end of my career, I was ordering and running material for overhead distribution crews.

I'm not boasting. These were all things that were taught to me by fellow IBEW brothers.

The last couple years, I was honored to work for Local 9 as a financial secretary with Business Manager William Niesman and company.

There's a lot I love about being retired while I'm still young enough to enjoy it: traveling with my wife, among other things. The quality of life that we are now living is top-notch thanks to IBEW pensions and health care.

Seeing my three sons and a nephew make their own way through the brotherhood, a fifth generation, makes me prouder than words can explain.

Today, when I'm out driving, I love rolling up to a crew taking a break and talking shop. That time working in the field with your brothers, BS-ing and doing the hard work, those have been some of the best years of my life."

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



# Liz Shuler Elected First Woman, First IBEW Member to Lead AFL-CIO

▼ *Continued from page 1*

Like Shuler, he'd been appointed by the Executive Council 10 months earlier, moving into her job when she took over for Trumka.

She lights up talking about Redmond, calling him her "partner in all things at the federation," and someone who shares her collaborative, inclusive approach to leadership.

Trumka was her friend and partner, too, but their style and ambitions are a study in contrast.

Memorialized as a giant in the American labor movement, Trumka could be pugnacious, a political brawler at home in the spotlight — a man who never doubted that he'd rise from the coal mines of Pennsylvania to lead the AFL-CIO.

Shuler never dreamed it was her destiny, and said she struggles with being the center of attention. The work itself propelled her forward.

"I always felt like this notion of hard work takes you where it takes you," she said. "And so that's what happened at every juncture. I just focused on doing my job, worked hard, and tried to be the best at whatever assignment came my way."

People who know Shuler say that's genuinely who she is.

"Liz's ambition is to stick up for people who need a union," Local 125 Business Manager Travis Eri said. "That's what drives her."

**AT THE 40th** International Convention in Chicago in May, Shuler strode on stage with outstretched arms, symbolically embracing her IBEW family and declaring, "I'm home!"

Her IBEW roots date to preschool, when her father's Local 125 apprenticeship changed everything for their family.

She said he and four siblings grew up in a one-room fruit-picking shack, often going hungry. He joined the Marines, served in Vietnam, and returned home to find work digging holes for Portland General Electric power poles.

Lance Shuler aspired to climb them.

His apprenticeship earnings took the family from a small rental in southeast Portland to a home in the suburbs when Shuler was 5 years old. She and her younger sister spent their childhoods in a safe neighborhood and good school district where she played softball, basketball, and soccer — her passion, still — worked on her high school newspaper, and was student body president her senior year.

She knew her father's job was dangerous and vividly recalls a near-fatal accident that left a close friend of his with life-altering burns. The man had a young wife and baby and a home that was in disarray from his DIY renovation work.

"I will never forget," Shuler said. "The local union guys came together and took care of his whole family. They came weekend after weekend until the house was put back together."

"That to me is the story of the labor movement. Whenever disaster strikes, no matter what it is, people rise to the occasion to take care of each other."

**SHULER** graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Oregon in 1992 and began working part time in public relations and political consulting, piquing her interest in legislative work and social justice.

Her father suggested she call then-Local 125 Business Manager Bill Miller for advice. Right off the bat, he invited her along for a meeting with lobbyists in Salem, the state capital. "I kind of worked the room and asked a ton of questions," she said.



*Clockwise from top left: Shuler and newly-elected Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond will lead the AFL-CIO for the next four years, which they say are ripe for growing America's labor movement; Shuler greets Joe Biden in June at the AFL-CIO Convention, rallies with organizing workers outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art and speaks to Convention delegates.*



Miller, who died last year, was sold. Long-time Local 125 President Larry Browning said he'd found "a hidden gem, a jewel."

It was the first step in an untraditional path through the IBEW for Shuler, but one Browning says deserves no less respect.

"As a lineman, you start at the bottom. You're a groundman, and you want to get that journeyman status," he said. "Liz is a journeyman, too. She started at the bottom and worked her way to the top because of her dedication and commitment."

In Salem, seasoned IBEW lobbyists from other locals took her under their wing and marveled at her instincts, work ethic and positive attitude.

"If you asked her to do something, she did it right away and she did a perfect job," said Greg Teeple, a retired Ninth District international representative and past business manager of Portland Local 48.

Bob Shiprack, also out of Local 48 and the retired head of Oregon's building trades council, said Shuler's talents coupled with her youth helped bridge the gap between older lobbyists and the typically young Capitol staffers.

"I'm kind of getting emotional talking about her," he said. "She was so great to work with. She had that personality that was just conducive to getting things done."

**POLITICAL** work was only part of Shuler's job. Among other tasks over time, she ran trainings, built an early website for the local and wrote its sexual harassment policy.

"I was wearing many hats," as she put it. One day she told Miller that she should be an organizer, too.

Clerical workers had launched a union drive

at Portland General Electric, where Local 125 represented the lineman.

One of those employees was her late mother Joyce, and Shuler herself had worked in payroll at PGE on summer breaks from college.

"Women at the utility company where I had worked, where my mom worked, were standing up and taking a risk," she said. "I wanted to be a part of that."

Almost exclusively, Local 125 was a union of men, run and staffed by men, who lived and breathed the lineman culture. No matter their good intentions, she knew they couldn't relate to all the issues that mattered to women in the office.

She and her mother and other colleagues visited workers at home, listening to their concerns and explaining the power of collective bargaining. But PGE hit back with captive audience meetings and other union-busting tactics that ultimately prevailed.

The loss shaped Shuler's perspective on defeat and spurred her to fight even harder. "I always say it's not a failure, because you're always better off having taken that risk. You always learn something."

She said the late International President Ed Hill felt the same way, encouraging out-of-the-box ideas from the first woman, and youngest person, to serve as executive assistant to the IBEW president — a top-level job overseeing the union's day-to-day operations and major projects.

"It's better to make mistakes than not try new things," Hill would tell her.

**EVER** conscious of the power in numbers, Shuler tends to think big.

It is the foundation of her high-energy agenda



to organize at least a million new union members over the next decade, reversing 40 years of decline.

For once, she says, the stars are aligned, with the most pro-union White House in generations and public support for unions close to a record 70%.

"If not now, when? If not us, who?" she asked IBEW delegates in Chicago. "Think back to our IBEW founders in the earliest days at the dawn of electricity. Think about how much faith they were putting in the unknown, in a new idea."

"They knew it wasn't a guaranteed success, and that there might be failures along the way. But they took the risk. And look at what they created."

She sees that spirit as part of the union's DNA, forever innovating and evolving with changes in technology, industries and workplaces. "I think the IBEW has its finger on the pulse of what's happening around us," she said.

Shuler is especially proud of IBEW Strong, the diversity, equity and inclusion initiative that convention delegates passed in 2016 and enthusiastically reaffirmed in Chicago, where they also made history by electing the first woman to serve as an IBEW international vice president, the Fourth District's Gina Cooper.

"As a woman who came up through the IBEW and worked at the International Office I have dreamed of this day for so long," she said. "There are so many IBEW women who take such great inspiration seeing a woman like Gina rise in leadership and it just shows that our voices matter, that women can impact at the highest levels the decision-making and the work that the IBEW does."

LIZ SHULER *continued on page 4*



# Liz Shuler Elected First Woman, First IBEW Member to Lead AFL-CIO

▼ *Continued from page 3*

**SHULER'S** first big victory was helping to derail Enron's bid to deregulate Oregon's energy industry in the mid-1990s.

"My whole mission in life was to align with a coalition of groups," Shuler said. "We brought together co-ops, consumer groups, obviously the labor movement, and we had to get the rest of labor to understand what electricity deregulation was. It was a big, heavy lift, and Enron had hired every lobbyist in the entire state to work for them."

Around that time, Shuler caught the eye of Rick Diegel, then the IBEW's political and legislative director.

Diegel was at a lively labor rally in Oregon — whether Enron or something else, he can't recall — but with a Texas twang and joy in his voice he remembers what he saw.



*Shuler pledged a new approach to organizing that plans to add a minimum of 1 million new union members over the next decade.*

"I spotted this young gal that looked like she was heading her delegation," he said. "They had IBEW T-shirts on, so I knew she was one of us. Every time I got busy with something else, I'd turn around and there she'd be again."

"I thought, 'My god, this young lady is full of energy and intelligence and in command.' She was running those old folks."

The grassroots campaign against deregulation persuaded the GOP-led Legislature, but Enron wasn't done with Oregon. In 1997, it bought PGE, merged the utility's retirement plan with its own, and offered matching stock to lure workers to invest their own money. When Enron collapsed in 2001, Shuler's father and his coworkers lost everything.

The agony of working families ruined by corporate greed was something she now knew intimately. She also knew that while rage and rhetoric have their place, they aren't solutions.

Last year, her pragmatism helped put an end to Republican inaction that threatened the retirement security of millions of families like her own.

The battle had been brewing for years, as GOP lawmakers rebuffed legislation to shore up troubled union pension plans, well aware that the funds could fail and take healthy plans like the IBEW's down with them.

Shuler rolled out a methodical game plan for a multi-pronged AFL-CIO task force, selecting Interna-

tional Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper to lead the subcommittee on multiemployer pensions. Cooper's team convinced the Senate to include language into the 2021 American Rescue Act to ensure the plans' solvency.

"We'd been waging this war for a long time," Cooper said. "Liz's skills and leadership — those qualities in her that we know so well at the IBEW — united the labor movement and took us across the finish line."

**IN 1998**, Diegel got the green light to hire an international representative to assist him with the union's political work.

"I literally scoured the country looking for the right person in the IBEW to fill that slot," he said. "When it came time to make a decision, hands down it was Liz."

At 28, Shuler packed her bags for Washington, D.C., figuring she'd stay a couple of years, get some experience, and move back to Oregon. Now, she and her husband, David, a federal employee, try to visit home at least four times a year.

Fitting into the IBEW's mostly male professional staff at the time had its bumps. While Diegel bristled at any snickering, Shuler assured him she could take care of herself.

"That impressed me so much, how she interacted in a male-dominated organization with ease," he said, thinking back on her first district-wide progress meeting when she held the rapt attention of local officers and answered their questions with aplomb.

"She was a pro," Diegel said. "When it was all said and done, and over the years we worked together, I just thought she made me look one hell of a lot smarter than I'll ever be. That's how good she is."

Their teamwork turned a small department into a thriving operation with more resources and greater clout to fight for members on Capitol Hill, fueled by soaring growth in voluntary COPE contributions under their watch.

Then one day in 2004 at a conference in New Mexico, Ed Hill winked at Diegel across a banquet table and said, "Meet me outside."

"We leaned over this deck railing and he said, 'Ricky, I need to take Liz from you.' I said, 'Oh, OK, how long are you going to need her?'"

"Forever," Hill said, and asked Diegel what he thought about making Shuler his assistant.

He joked that he felt like punching him, but said he wouldn't be upset with Hill on one condition:

"You don't let her die in that job," Diegel told him. "She's not through yet. She's got a long way to go."

**TODAY**, Shuler has a picture-postcard view across leafy Lafayette Park to the White House with the Washington Monument rising behind it.

She is careful never to take her access to power for granted, reflecting on how her parents' wisdom and model behavior has always kept her grounded.

"You cannot get lost in the notion of those halls of power being any different or more significant than people struggling to put food on the table," she says.

She thinks about that when she heads across the historic park for labor meetings with President Joe Biden and his staff.

"I always make it a point to walk and really take it in," she says. "I never forget that it's not me. The reason I get to go meet with Joe Biden is because of the power of 12.5 million working people sitting on my shoulder." ■



## A Q&A with AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler

**EW:** *You've pledged that over the next decade, "We will organize and grow our movement by more than one million new working people." How? Tell us more about the Center for Transformational Organizing. What is it and when will it be up and running?*

**LS:** The Center for Transformational Organizing is a deep collaboration between AFL-CIO unions to organize workers into unions in a way that's never been achieved. The CTO will provide needed funding, resources, training and strategy development to worker-led, cross-movement campaigns to fight deep-pocketed corporations.

The CTO will catalyze the energy of this moment into worker organizing at a magnitude not seen for decades. The CTO will bring together the brightest minds in organizing, technology and capital strategies to develop, implement and scale powerful campaigns to build union density. By concentrating resources and coordinating to achieve the biggest wins, the CTO will leverage the power and strategic capacity of the U.S. labor movement to meet this moment for working people.

This is also a commitment by AFL-CIO and affiliated unions to create 1 million newly organized workers in coming years, with an immediate infusion of support to lift existing campaigns, build new ones and quickly scale organizing efforts. One million new members is the floor; we want every worker who wants a union to have one. And we are creating a new, dedicated funding stream devoted solely to organizing to support workers on the ground.

**EW:** *The pandemic laid bare just how essential unions are, but there was a lot of momentum already. Now organizing drives and victories are mounting every day. How can we maintain that level of energy and enthusiasm?*

**LS:** We can maintain this energy by doing what we have always done — making workplaces fairer, safer and giving workers a seat at the table. Throughout the pandemic workers were told they were essential, but treated as expendable. They watched corporations pull in record profits but none of those gains made it to the workers who created that wealth. They're sick and tired of the status quo, and they are not going back. It's up to us to prove that the labor movement is the place to go to make the change they're hungry for in their workplaces. Once they take that courageous step forward and begin their organizing drive, unions need to be there for them, answering their questions, helping to negotiate that first contract that will transform their workplace for the better.

We need to listen and learn from workers who are standing up and taking risks. And we have to invest the time and energy to ensure their success. We have to be prepared to do the work to keep this trend going.

**EW:** *With regard to the union surge, what surprises you most? Certain sectors or industries? Employer responses?*

**LS:** I am mostly surprised by the sheer diversity of union drives. They aren't confined to one region of the country or one industry. It is everywhere. Just a few years ago, could any of us have imagined that video game workers or baristas would be making headlines for their organizing efforts?

What we in the labor movement have to recognize is that whether you're writing computer code, making french press coffee or repairing high voltage power lines, the needs of workers remain the same. Workers want fair pay, they want paid sick time, they want a working environment where they feel safe from physical or sexual harassment. Those basic needs stretch across all sectors.

Sadly, I'm not surprised by the reaction of many employers. Let's not forget, an employer can voluntarily recognize a union if their employees want to form one — but they rarely do. The tactics remain the same: intimidation, disinformation and captive audience meetings. What is different now is that when a movement takes hold, when workers everywhere stand up, those tactics will not be able to stop them.

**EW:** *Within the core industries of the IBEW and the other trades, what are the best organizing strategies today? Do we have different challenges and opportunities than other sectors of the labor movement?*

**LS:** I believe that regardless of the industry, every organizing strategy starts the same way, with a conversation between workers. But in today's political landscape, to successfully organize we need to use all of the tools and resources we have at our disposal. One of our greatest assets, that the IBEW was instrumental in creating, is Action Builder. Action Builder is a tool built by and for organizers.

Action Builder empowers and democratizes organizing, making it more accessible for people historically on the margins — women, people of color, young people and people who have never organized before. It allows more people to participate and capture the information instead of it just being an exclusive circle.

There will always be challenges to organizing any sector, but the IBEW's collaborative approach to organizing uniquely positions them to be better prepared to reach and actively engage their members.



**EW:** *The historic \$1 trillion investment in infrastructure under President Biden is already funding critical projects around the country, with the potential to create hundreds of thousands of union jobs over the next 10 years. How could infrastructure alone affect union growth?*

**LS:** President Biden promised to be the most pro-union president in our country's history, and he is delivering on that promise. Central to this transformative piece of legislation is union jobs. Unions will be the engine changing our country's crumbling infrastructure system. And with this influx of new employment opportunities for union members, union enthusiasm will only continue to grow. Allowing millions of workers to see the good jobs, pay and benefits that unions provide will then help us grow our labor movement. Because when people see the union difference firsthand, they will want to join our movement and become our members.

**EW:** *The infrastructure rollout includes many green-energy projects, including a national network of electrical vehicle charging stations. How important is the IBEW in the transition to clean energy? How great of an opportunity is it for us?*

**LS:** It is unprecedented, and the IBEW will play a critical role in reshaping our country as it transitions towards a clean energy future. This is a chance for IBEW members to use our world class training to expand into new industries like offshore wind. Unions have always been the pathway to good jobs as industries evolve and new jobs come online. We are the change-makers, whether it was creating the weekend or improving worksite safety. Now, with the IBEW leading the way, we will be change-makers for a cleaner planet for ourselves and our future generations.

**EW:** *More broadly, you've made climate-change policies part of your AFL-CIO agenda. Not all union members are on board. How do you persuade them?*

**LS:** Climate change is the greatest existential threat we face. Just think back to last summer, when we witnessed power lines melting across the northwest amid record high heat waves. Rising sea levels, record breaking heat and once-in-a-generation storms have become the new normal. But we can't look at this moment without realizing that we have a chance to take advantage of new opportunities in the renewable energy sector. Union workers are the highest-skilled workers who are best suited to address this climate emergency and we need to get that message out to our members.

Whether it is installing solar panels or manufacturing wind turbines or carbon neutral public transit, we have a powerful new green economy emerging and unions are central to it. This means that we have to adapt, as we always have, to emerging technologies and economic demands. It means that the workers in one industry receive new job training from their unions in order to be able to swiftly transition to another sector.

We can help build infrastructure that will better protect our cities and towns from flooding; we can demand workplace protections that ensure that workers will not suffer from heat exhaustion on the job; and we can prepare for future climate challenges with union-made renewable energy technology.

If we want to protect our children and future generations, we have to stand together ready to meet the climate crisis head on.

**EW:** *Over and over, President Biden has made good on his pledge to be the most "pro-union president you've ever seen." What does that mean to individual workers and working families? Is it just as important to workers who have strong unions already, like the IBEW?*

**LS:** It is absolutely as important to not-yet-union workers as it is to those in the IBEW. President Biden's support for the PRO Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act demonstrate his administration's commitment to make joining a union possible for anyone who wants to. He appointed pro-union members to the National Labor Relations Board so that companies who engage in union-busting tactics will have to answer for their actions. Appointing Marty Walsh, a card-carrying union member, as secretary of labor shows that expanding union rights

is a priority at the highest level. And the infrastructure bill's funding for apprenticeship and training programs will create the next generation of skilled union workers. President Biden is investing in the future of our movement and making sure that the strong union protections that members of the IBEW have are not out of reach for working families who are striving to find a pathway to the middle class.

**EW:** *You've said, "This year we are building more than a 'political program' — we are mobilizing for democracy." What does that mean?*

**LS:** Our first priority is to start with the issues, identifying what matters most to our members. Whether it is rising costs or health care benefits, we are engaged in a listening campaign that will dictate where we need to focus our attention this cycle and beyond. We have identified battleground states that will determine whether we continue to have a pro-union administration and elected officials who share those values in office. This means we need to also serve as a source of information for our members. Trust in government has plummeted because of misinformation. It is our job to get people out of their online bubbles that limit their access to accurate information. And who do people trust? They trust their coworkers, the people they see every day. That gives unions a unique opportunity to reach the unengaged voter and to inform them of the threat our democracy is facing, whether it is through voter suppression laws or through anti-labor ballot initiatives.

There's too much on the line — our very democracy is on the line — and union members have always stood in solidarity with marginalized and disadvantaged communities. The urgency exists; we need to get out the vote to make sure that our government works for us, not the wealthy and not the corporations. We have the tools to do it, and we are moving.

**EW:** *You're the ultimate role model for one of your top priorities: elevating union women to leadership positions. What are your strategies? How far have we come already and how far do we have to go?*

**LS:** Many people do not realize that the labor movement is the largest collection of working women in our country, and there are already so many inspiring and dedicated leaders, but we are only at the beginning. Progress has been made, but there is so much more to do. And we will continue our work to reach these women, and to elevate them in our leadership structure by fostering an environment where women feel empowered and welcome to take on greater roles. But we can only do this by taking proactive steps through communication and through our hiring process. I look forward to the day where a woman assuming a role like mine is not groundbreaking, but common.

**EW:** *Same question with regard to young people, minorities and the LGBTQ community. How essential is diversity to the strength of today's unions?*

**LS:** With my partner Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond, we have made clear that every single person, no matter where they come from, who they love or how they identify, they have a place in our movement. Unions have always been the vehicle for change because we are democratic; every person has a say. And we need leadership to reflect our diverse membership. We are informed by the personal experiences of our members, and this is about bringing those who for too long have been marginalized into leadership. We are stronger together. There is still work to be done, but through programs like Pride at Work, our Younger Worker Task Force and our community of color outreach, we are making inclusivity a priority.



**"I look forward to the day where a woman assuming a role like mine is not groundbreaking, but common."**

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

**EW:** *How vital is it to elect union members to office? Not only statehouses and Congress, but city councils, school boards, utility boards, etc., as well as service as appointed members of government task forces and committees? How is the AFL-CIO encouraging and supporting union candidates?*

**LS:** It is critical. Decisions that impact our everyday lives don't just happen in Washington, D.C. Those decisions are made in town halls, on school boards and in state capitals. When union members are represented by their allies and peers, the change is immediate and clear. We need to elect people, especially union members, who share our values and who put workers first. That will result in guaranteed change.

And we are not just focused on the national level, we are working with states to organize at a local level because we know that grassroots organizing is the key to any major change. We are engaging in worker-to-worker organizing efforts so workers have a voice and they know who is on their side. We can't just get out the vote every four years, we have to be active participants in every voting cycle. And that is where our focus lies.

**EW:** *Delegates to the 40th International Convention in May enthusiastically reaffirmed the IBEW's commitment to diversity. What does that mean to you as an IBEW member? What do you think of the progress so far?*

**LS:** I could not be prouder or more encouraged by IBEW's commitment to diversity. The IBEW showed me early on in my career that everyone has a home in the labor community. For too long there has been a misconception that the labor movement is male-dominated and monolithic. That could not be further from the truth. By proclaiming support for increasing diversity and showing that all are welcome at every level, from frontline workers to leadership, the IBEW is making a difference. Is there more to be done? Of course. Is the work IBEW is doing to support diverse backgrounds and voices a critical step towards a fairer, more equitable future? Absolutely. ■



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

## Ontario Local Partners With Area First Nations on Pre-Apprenticeship Program

In an effort to increase Indigenous youth membership, London, Ontario, Local 120 recently launched a pre-apprenticeship program in partnership with area First Nations groups.

The program, which began in April, is headed by Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and works in partnership with Local 120 to help Indigenous young people gain technical skills and certifications, as well as find employment in the skilled trades.

“This program offers an opportunity that the young people in Indigenous communities rarely have,” said Jason Martincich, the lead instructor for the program. “By completing the trainings and certificates awarded, not only does it build skills, it also builds confidence that supports mental well-being with a sense of accomplishment.”

Local 120 Training Coordinator Brad Gard says that local leaders were looking to get more involved in the community and, based on their first meetings with Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, they agreed on a partnership.

“Our hope is that this will provide interest in the trades, especially electrical, and provide better Indigenous representation in the IBEW,” Gard said. “We want these young people to become mentors to the upcoming youth and future generations.”

Funded through the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, the program is open to Indigenous people in London and surrounding First Nations — Munsee-Delaware, Oneida Nation of the Thames and Chippewas of the Thames — who are between the ages of 18 and 30.

About 150 students participate in the first of the program’s three stages, where 12 students each week learn skills like first aid, résumé writing, interview preparation and diversity training. The second stage is limited to 100 of those participants and offers training on a construction site. The final stage is reserved for 50 students who will gain transferable skills to work in any trade. From there, up to five participants are selected to complete paid apprenticeships.

“This program is important on so many levels. Already we have seen many youths — 73 to date — complete Stage 1, and the feedback coming in is that they have increased confidence. They want to attend every day and are enjoying themselves,” said Meaghan MacLeod, the program’s project manager.

Participants also have access to support, including free transportation and lunch and a wage subsidy of \$120 a day.

“The supports are of the utmost importance because many of these

youths would not be able to participate otherwise,” Gard said. “The burdens faced by many of these students are invisible to most people, from violence and abuse in the home to lack of transportation and food security.”

While the skills learned are common to most apprenticeships, one part that’s different is the cultural component. Every Monday of every new class they start with a smudge, or cleansing ritual, the language and a hand drum song provided by one of the student advisors from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

“Rebuilding the bridges between education and culture is imperative as we provide a culturally sensitive environment for the youth at our union hall,” Martincich said. “It’s important that we recognize that many of these youths have been forced away from their cultural heritage. By learning about their culture and developing this program to enhance it, we feel we can bridge the gap between our communities for everyone’s benefit.”

Gard and Martincich noted that, as far as they know, the program is the first of its kind in the province, but hopefully not the last.

“For any other locals that may be interested, I recommend reaching out to local Indigenous communities to see what interest level there is,” Gard said. “Then develop a partnership with them and seek government funding to get the program up and running. We’d be happy to be a resource.” ■

*London, Ontario, Local 120 has partnered with area First Nations groups on a pre-apprenticeship geared toward Indigenous young people. Pictured here, students learned first-aid basics as part of the first of the program’s three stages.*



## Le local en Ontario s’associe avec les premières nations

Dans le but d’augmenter le nombre des jeunes membres autochtones, la section locale 120 située à London en Ontario a récemment mis en place un programme préalable à l’apprentissage en partenariat avec le groupe des premières nations.

Débuté en avril et dirigé par la Première Nation des Chippewas de la Thames et en partenariat avec le local 120, le programme a pour but d’aider les jeunes autochtones à acquérir des compétences techniques et à obtenir une certification professionnelle. Ce programme les aide également à trouver un emploi dans les métiers spécialisés.

« Ce programme donne la chance que les jeunes dans les communautés autochtones ont rarement », déclare Jason Martincich, l’instructeur en chef du programme. « En réussissant les formations et de se voir accorder la certification, non seulement qu’elle développe des compétences, mais elle donne aussi confiance, ce qui aide à la santé mentale avec le sentiment de réussite. »

Le coordonnateur de la formation du local 120, Brad Gard, mentionne que les leaders du local cherchaient à s’engager davantage dans la communauté et d’après leur première réunion avec la Première Nation des Chippewas de la Thames, ils se sont conve-

nu à un partenariat.

« Nous souhaitons que ce programme suscite de l’intérêt dans les métiers, particulièrement dans le domaine de l’électricité, et assure une meilleure représentation aux Autochtones dans la FIOE », déclare Gard. « Nous voulons que ces étudiants deviennent des mentors aux jeunes à venir et aux prochaines générations. »

Financé grâce au ministre du Travail, de l’Immigration, de la Formation, et du Développement des compétences, ce programme est offert au peuple autochtone âgé de 18 à 30 ans provenant de London et les premières nations autour, dont la Nation Munsee-Delaware, la Nation des Oneidas de la Thames et la Nation de Chippewas de la Thames.

Environ 150 étudiantes et étudiants ont participé au programme de trois étapes. Chaque semaine, douze étudiants apprennent de nouvelles compétences comme les premiers soins, la rédaction d’un curriculum vitae, la préparation à une entrevue et une formation sur la diversité. La deuxième étape est limitée à 100 de ces participants et offre une formation sur un chantier de construction. La dernière étape est réservée à 50 étudiants qui vont acquérir des compétences

transférables leur permettant de travailler dans n’importe quel métier. Par la suite, jusqu’à cinq participants seront choisis pour suivre une formation en apprentissage rémunérée.

« Ce programme est important à bien des égards. Nous avons déjà vu plusieurs étudiants terminer la première étape, 73 jusqu’à présent, et les commentaires reçus indiquent qu’ils ont davantage confiance en eux. Ils veulent y aller tous les jours et ils ont du plaisir », déclare Meaghan MacLeod, la gestionnaire de projet du programme.

Les participantes et les participants ont accès à des services comme un transport et un diner gratuits et reçoivent une subvention salariale de 120 \$ par jour.

« Ces aides sont de la plus haute importance, sinon plusieurs de ces jeunes ne pourront pas y participer », mentionne Gard. « Les fardeaux auxquels ces jeunes sont confrontés sont invisibles pour la plupart des gens, ils s’agissent de violence et du mauvais traitement dans le milieu familial, jusqu’au manque de transport et la sécurité alimentaire. »

Bien que les compétences acquises puissent être communes pour plusieurs formations en apprentissage, la seule chose qui diffère est l’élément culturel. Chaque lundi de chaque nouveau cours, ils commencent par une purification par

la fumée, ou un rituel de purification, la langue et un chant exécuté par un tambour à la main mené par l’un des conseillers d’un étudiant de la Première Nation des Chippewas de la Thames.

« Il est impératif de rétablir les liens entre l’éducation et la culture, car nous offrons un environnement adapté à la culture de ces étudiants dans notre local », mentionne Martincich. « C’est important de reconnaître que plusieurs de ces étudiants ont été forcés d’abandonner leur patrimoine culturel. En apprenant à connaître leur culture et à établir ce programme pour l’améliorer, nous croyons être en mesure de combler l’écart entre nos communautés pour le l’intérêt de tous. »

Gard et Martincich font remarquer, au meilleure de leurs connaissances, que ce programme est le premier en son genre dans la province et espèrent ne pas être le dernier.

« Pour toutes les sections locales qui sont intéressées, je vous recommande de contacter les communautés autochtones locales et d’évaluer leur niveau d’intérêt », dit Gard. « Ensuite, essayer d’établir un partenariat avec eux et demander du financement du gouvernement pour vous aider à mettre le programme en place. Nous serons ravis de vous aider. » ■



# New Contract Embraces New Platforms, Extends IBEW's Long Relationship with CBS

**A**t least one thing has remained a constant for decades in the ever-changing broadcasting industry: The IBEW's long, productive partnership with CBS.

That relationship added another chapter on April 11, when approximately 3,500 IBEW technicians employed by the network overwhelmingly approved a new three-year national contract.

The agreement includes a 3% annual raise, increased protections for freelancers and brings in new members not covered by the previous contract. It covers members working in CBS' news and sports divisions, as well as CBS owned and operated television stations.

"This round of negotiations had every big topic in it," said Neil Ambrosio, an international representative in the Broadcasting Department. "Job security for freelancers, new media and streaming platforms, the impacts associated with new sports league rights deals and major technological changes relating to our jurisdictions.

"Resolving these issues through solution-based negotiations provided the IBEW and CBS with a contract everyone could agree to and, most importantly, an agreement that would be ratified by our members."

In one of the most noteworthy developments, the IBEW will represent CBS news technicians working in streaming, including at CBSN, a 24-hour news streaming channel. Like many legacy media companies, CBS is making more news content available via online streaming as in addition to traditional over-the-air programming.

Broadcasting & Telecommunications Director Robert Prunn noted previous contracts didn't address streaming — meaning that, in a worst-case scenario, IBEW members could have lost work as CBS' business model changes.

"We had no true jurisdiction over this," Prunn said. "Now, however they put something on the air, on whatever platforms they use, no matter what the technological advances are, we will maintain jurisdiction."

Co-lead negotiator Tim Dixon, a Ninth District international representative, said, "More and more, the public is not viewing in real time with a broadcast signal, they're watching on their computer or phone and that delivery system is streaming.

"To capture that jurisdiction was monumental. When there's a change in technology in your industry, you either plant a flag or you miss the boat."

The company's flexibility is tied to how many ENG technicians it keeps on staff: The more CBS hires, the more flexibility it enjoys. A staff reduction would mean a loss of that flexibility, which should serve as a good protection against job losses, Prunn said.

"The whole thing with CBS and any other network, with all the different



*Hollywood, Calif., Local 45 member Fernando Burruss on the job for CBS-owned KCBS and KCAL during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

platforms they now have, they want to get as much content as possible," he said. "Content is king."

"We believe in the job protections built in there," added Dominick Macchia, a Third District international representative who also served as a lead negotiator. "I think it was outstanding that we were able to do it."

The majority of IBEW members working for CBS are freelancers — meaning they are not full-time employees but still depend on the network for much of their work, especially in sports. In the past, longtime freelancers could be dropped from traditional assignments with little or no notice, Prunn said.

Now, if a freelancer works more than 750 hours with CBS for 10 consecutive years, he or she must be given at least six months' advance notice if their work is being reduced for reasons other than a reduction in crews. The new contract language gives freelancers advance warning so they can look for other options.

Conversely, freelancers working 750 hours for two consecutive years will receive "preference of employment" in the following year.

Also, 403(g) technicians, who are full-time employees of CBS, have job protections not afforded in previous contracts, such as just cause in disciplinary issues and increased seniority rights.

About 50 broadcasting members advised the IBEW's chief negotiators, Macchia and Dixon. It's become old hat for Macchia and Dixon, who were negotiating with CBS for a fourth time.

This time, however, was different. It was the first since the merger between CBS and Viacom in 2019. CBS' previous lead negotiator, with whom Dixon and others had built a relationship with over the years, retired before this round of negotiations began.

Yet, thanks to the teamwork of the committee and a decades-long, productive relationship with CBS, IBEW representatives worked through some contentious issues with the company

and produced another agreement that works for both sides.

"Our bargaining committee did a masterful job dealing with very challenging issues," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said. "Bargaining covered everything from job security to changing technologies. These aren't easy matters but our committee worked hard to find solutions to ensure that our members continued to enjoy job security, competitive wages and benefits, and a strong voice at work."

The IBEW has had a relationship with CBS since 1939, when it was a radio company. It has been representing broadcast members since the rise of television in the 1950s.

The new contract is an appropriate swan song for Dixon, who is retired in June.

"It's just been a real honor and privilege to serve in this role," he said. "I've had the privilege of being our spokesman during these last four cycles and working with 50 other people. As long as we work the issue long enough and everyone has their say, we're always able to reach consensus on our side."

The new agreement went into effect on April 11 and runs through April 2025. ■

## GROUNDING IN HISTORY

Of the 10 delegates who attended the IBEW's founding convention in 1891, six were from St. Louis and members of AFL Local 5221. However, only three represented the city: Henry Miller, James T. Kelly, and William Hedden. The other three served as proxies for cities that couldn't attend the convention in person. In our last look at two of the IBEW's founders, we covered C.J. Sutter, the proxy for Duluth, Minn. In this column, we'll cover the remaining proxies, Joseph Berlovitz and James Dorsey.

### Joseph Berlovitz



Brother Joseph Berlovitz joined AFL Local 5221 shortly after it was organized in 1890. In January 1891, Local President Henry Miller appointed Berlovitz to the committee responsible for promoting the idea of a convention to form a national organization. He helped the committee prepare a circular letter, which was mailed to electrical workers in every major city in the country. Electricians from Philadelphia voiced their support

but were unable to send a delegate, and Berlovitz was selected as their proxy.

On Nov. 21st, 1891, the first day of the IBEW's founding convention, Berlovitz was elected as assistant secretary and had the honor of introducing the first motion. It was a proposal to name our organization "The National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America" and it passed unanimously. Berlovitz also served as secretary for the Committee on Rituals. He received a nomination for the Grand Office of Secretary-Treasurer but ultimately lost to Kelly. He did, however, win the election for Past-Grand President, a position that was necessary for initiating the newly elected Grand Officers.

On Nov. 28, the final day of the convention, Berlovitz submitted a motion for the NBEW to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor, which passed unanimously. Just over a week later, on Dec. 7, NBEW President Henry Miller presented the motion to AFL President Samuel Gompers, who issued an official certification of affiliation.

Unfortunately, more information, including Brother Berlovitz's birth, death and occupation during his time working in St. Louis, is unknown.

### James Dorsey



As a member of Local 5221, Brother James Dorsey also served on the committee calling for a national organization. At the founding convention, he served as a proxy for electricians in Milwaukee and sat on the Committee for Charters and Supplies. Around 1900, he moved to New Orleans and became a member of Local 4. According

to an article from The Times Democrat, a newspaper there, Dorsey broke his leg in February 1906 while working as a lineman for the Postal Telegraph Company. The article lists his age as 56, which suggests a birth year of 1850.

The only other information known about Brother Dorsey comes from a Local Lines article published by Local 4 in the December 1916 issue of The Electrical Worker. It states that Dorsey had died "some years ago" and that he had a 12-year-old daughter who worked in a factory and was living with relatives of her mother. The article goes on to say that Dorsey had a brother in Indiana who, a few years earlier, had offered to raise the child and pay for her schooling but her relatives refused.

While much of the detail of both these founding fathers' lives is lost to history, what's not forgotten is their contribution to the establishment of the IBEW, and in that, their legacies remain as strong as ever.

If your local has any information about Brothers Berlovitz or Dorsey, please contact the IBEW Museum at [Curtis\\_Bateman@ibew.org](mailto:Curtis_Bateman@ibew.org). ■

Visit [nbeiw-ibewmuseum.org](http://nbeiw-ibewmuseum.org) for more on how to support the IBEW's preservation of its history. Have an idea for this feature? Send it to [Curtis\\_Bateman@ibew.org](mailto:Curtis_Bateman@ibew.org).



# TRANSITIONS

## DECEASED

### James Conway



James Conway, a trailblazer who helmed the IBEW's Sixth District and lived every day of his 95 years with exuberance,

died May 11.

"We have lost the kindest man on earth," his family said in his obituary, a sentiment echoed by colleagues who remember a spirited leader and Renaissance man who loved his union and was generous to all.

"He embraced everything," said newly retired Sixth District International Vice President David Ruhmkorff, laughing about the time Conway adjourned a district staff meeting in Chicago and took everyone to a musical. "He had a zest for life and he made the most of every moment."

Conway's death was announced at the 40th International Convention, believed to be the first one he'd missed since becoming a Sixth District international representative in 1956.

"He was a great visionary," International President Lonnie R. Stephenson told delegates. "Long before we had women's meetings, Jim started the first ever women's conference over 35 years ago. He was a great man who did a lot for the IBEW."

Conway was born and raised in an IBEW home in Minneapolis, where his father was the longtime president of Local 292. Straight out of high school in 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1947, he followed his father into Local 292, later moving to Eau Claire, Wis., Local 953 and then to the international staff, where he serviced construction, utility and manufacturing locals for 22 years. He was appointed Sixth District international vice president in 1979 and elected to three more terms before retiring in 1995.

Ruhmkorff was a young organizer for Indianapolis Local 481 when he met Conway at a Sixth District progress meeting in 1986. Conway's warmth and good will was evident.

"He was very good at encouraging people, building them up," Ruhmkorff said. "He had the ability to make you feel special even in a crowded room, like you were the one and only person there."

He described Conway as a teacher at heart, enthusiastic about new ways to train, educate and inspire members and staff.

"Jim would always encourage us to seek other ways or means to resolve an issue, besides just pounding on the desk or threatening a strike," Ruhmkorff said, noting that he was also a self-

taught expert on labor law.

"He would look at laws in different ways, to see how he could use them to our advantage," he said.

Passionate about art, music and world travel, Conway logged more than a million miles in the air. He skied in Switzerland, played blackjack in Monaco, attended theater in London — his record was eight shows in seven days — and immersed himself in his family's roots in Ireland, among countless other adventures.

He was a man who moved to the beat of his own drum, even within the IBEW.

"Early on when he was an international rep, he had his hair long, he wore leather pants and flowery silk shirts," Ruhmkorff said. "I don't want to say he was nontraditional, but he would push boundaries."

As his family put it in his obituary, "Jim stood out in a crowd." But he was also a union brother to his core.

"Jim was grateful and proud his whole life to be IBEW," they wrote. "Even after retirement, he continued to persuade any nonunion electrician he ran into of the advantages of becoming IBEW."

Ruhmkorff said Conway "loved the IBEW passionately until his death," and always kept up with union business and current events.

"His mind was sharp," Ruhmkorff said. "He was passionate about politics and truly understood the connection between politics and our everyday life and organized labor, and how that impacts workers."

One of the extraordinary things about Conway's indomitable spirit was that he suffered the greatest sorrow imaginable, outliving all of his four children, Ruhmkorff said. He also lost his first wife, Hattie, later marrying Mary Harrigan, a retired Sixth District international representative.

His survivors include Mary, two grandchildren, and three sisters. "Nothing broke his lifelong positive spirit," they said in his obituary. "Even in his final illness, when asked 'How is your day?' he responded, 'Wonderful.'"

The IBEW offers its deepest sympathy to Brother Conway's family with gratitude for service and loyalty that spanned three-quarters of a century. ■

## DECEASED

### Donald J. Funk



Donald J. Funk, whose bold decisions as Third District international vice president included merging his own local

with two others, died April 1. He was 94.

Funk grew up in Schenectady,

N.Y., where he was initiated into Local 166 in 1953 after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. From apprentice wireman to journeyman to a staff member and officer, friends and family said he found his "employment passion" with the union.

"He loved the IBEW and he always held himself to the highest standards," said Funk's close friend Larry Neidig Jr., retired senior executive assistant to the late International President Edwin D. Hill.

Funk had two core identities, said his son-in-law and retired Albany Local 236 journeyman wireman Walter Nielsen.

"Don was a Marine and he was a union man," Nielsen said. "All his cars were union-made, his clothes were union-made. He believed in it and he pushed for it because it was good for working people."

Early on, Funk dug into all aspects of his local, serving on the negotiating, organizing, finance and apprenticeship committees, as well as the Executive Board.

Ultimately, he was elected business manager and also served as vice president of the New York State AFL-CIO, among countless other appointments throughout his life to labor and community advisory boards.

He came aboard the Third District staff in 1976 and took the helm in 1988, first appointed and then elected international vice president at the IBEW's Centennial Convention in 1991.

Friends and family describe Funk as outgoing and charming, with a dry sense of humor. He was also pragmatic, focused and unafraid to make tough decisions.

"He could be forceful, but he was a gentleman about it," said Don Siegel, one of Funk's successors as Third District IVP.

Nielsen said Funk never raised his voice. His larger-than life presence spoke for itself — even as he presided over several contentious mergers, including one that spelled the end of the locals in Schenectady and Troy. Today they are part of Local 236 in neighboring Albany.

"Don knew it was necessary," Siegel said. "They were fighting like cats and dogs. The jurisdictional lines were so close that a contractor from either one of those three cities would be operating in all three."

The fact that Funk was IVP, two steps removed from his old job as business manager of Local 166, made the decision to merge a bit easier, Siegel noted with humor. "I don't know how much he would have fought it before — but he certainly wouldn't have encouraged it," he said.

Funk stayed up on union business and attended district progress meetings long into his retirement, often making the nine-hour drive by himself to Pittsburgh from his home in Lake Placid, N.Y.

"The last time he did that he was 90 years old," said Neidig, who spoke with Funk and his wife, Barbara, nearly every week. "He was still very sharp. He had a lot of institutional knowledge and a good memory."

Most of all, the meetings let him reconnect with his union brothers and sisters. "He had many people he kept in touch with, and he was very well known," Neidig said. "If you met Don Funk, you had a friend forever."

In his leisure time, Funk was an avid skier. He built his home next to the slopes of Lake Placid and later spent winters on the mountains of Colorado and Utah after retiring. "He skied well into his 90s, before age simply wouldn't cooperate with what he loved to do so much," his family said in his obituary.

In addition to Barbara, Funk's survivors include his daughters Kathy Tournellot and Lori Nielsen. Both followed their father into the IBEW as National Grid employees represented by Albany Local 1249. He also has two grandchildren, whose school, musical theater and sporting events he never missed.

The IBEW sends sincere condolences to Brother Funk's family with deep appreciation for decades of devoted service. ■

## ELECTED

### Tom N. Griffiths



Tom Griffiths, business manager of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Local 625 and a widely admired organizer,

wasn't running for anything when he arrived at the 40th International Convention in Chicago in May.

But he turned a 24-hour campaign into victory when the candidate he was backing for the Eighth District seat on the International Executive Council was deemed ineligible and asked Griffiths to take his place.

"It is an honor of a lifetime," he said in remarks to delegates afterwards, offering "gratitude and respect" to predecessor Phil Venoit and praising the job he did.

A journeyman wireman, Griffiths worked with the tools for 25 years until 2002 when he joined the staff of Local 625, which covers mainland Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in Atlantic Canada. He was elected to lead the local five years ago after nearly a decade as assistant business manager.

"He will be a great voice for Canada," said First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk, who was elected alongside Griffiths. "Tom has networked with a lot of the business managers across Canada. He's well known. He'll bring up the conditions

and concerns we face in our country."

He'll also be a strong advocate for growth, Shewchuk said, recalling how he and Griffiths got to know each other as like-minded young organizers working in different regions of Canada.

"When you have that organizing spirit within you, you never lose that," he said. "Tom will bring new ideas to the IEC and open some eyes. He's a mentor, and he's got a great young organizer named Brad Wood, who's going to be another shining star."

Griffiths was born in Boston and has dual citizenship in Canada, where he spent summers with his mother's family in Digby County in southwest Nova Scotia before moving there at age 16. He applied to be a Local 625 apprentice after two years of trade school in Yarmouth.

Until the local called with good news in 1979, Griffiths worked for low pay and no benefits for several non-union contractors. He relishes the memory of returning to one of those employers in 2004 and organizing its workers.

Cordell Cole, the business manager who hired him, sensed right away that Griffiths was the right person for the job.

"I was looking for a special type. I knew that the car salesman approach to organizing didn't work," said Cole, now a First District international representative. "Tom had the patience of Job. It was baby steps at first, small successes."

For two years, Griffiths visited job sites and laid the groundwork. "People got to know him and knew they could trust him," Cole said. "I can't even tell you the stream of nonunion electricians who would come to his office and vent for three hours. He'd listen, and every once in a while he'd get a question in."

Over the course of six and a half years, the local nearly doubled in size — from about 700 members to 1,300. For Griffiths, it was a daily adventure.

"Every day was different. You never knew what might happen," he said. "People always ask me, 'What's the next company you're going to organize?' You'd have three or four pots on the stove, not sure which one was going to blow first. Sometimes it was one you weren't even thinking of."

Griffiths kept things exciting away from work, too. For years, he competed in the BF Goodwrench professional off-road circuit in his Jeep, even helping to organize races and knock out trails. "I did all kinds of events — hill climbs, slaloms, rallies," he said.

In his leisure time these days, he restores classic cars and is an avid golfer. With his wife, Doreen, he's also been renovating a cabin at a lakeside camp that's been in his family for decades. "I've spent every weekend on it for the past couple of years," he said. "I think I'm seeing the light at the end of the tunnel."

The IBEW congratulates Brother Griffiths and welcomes him to the IEC. ■



## ELECTED

**Russell N. Shewchuk**

Russell N. Shewchuk was elected in May as international vice president for the IBEW's First District at the union's 40th

International Convention in Chicago.

A four-term business manager of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085, Shewchuk brings a lifetime of IBEW experience to his new role. His father, Peter, was a Local 2085 electrician for more than 40 years, and the younger Shewchuk grew up sitting in on union meetings and attending the local's social events.

"Dad's fellow IBEW members were like family," he said. "My mom and dad were both very strong union people."

As a teenager, though, Shewchuk didn't think much about electrical work, he said: "I went through high school as kind of an academic." After graduating, he studied political science and labour at the University of Manitoba.

But after working an electrician job during a summer break. "I really got into it, especially the camaraderie," he said. "You can see something be created with your own hands." He was initiated in 1990 into Local 2085 — a local that claims the honor of being the IBEW's largest, geographically, covering Manitoba and the Territory of Nunavut and reaching as far north as the Arctic Circle.

The Red Seal-certified journeyman wireman worked the tools and was a foreman and shop steward. He quickly got active with Local 2085, serving on its Executive Board and often holding leadership roles on local, provincial and international committees, as well as working as a trainer.

But at his core, Shewchuk is an organizer. In the decade leading up to his becoming business manager, Shewchuk was an organizer/Membership Development representative, bringing workers from more than 40 companies into the IBEW. "I talked to contractors as much as I could," he said. "You talk to the head of the company, lay out a plan, and tell them about the IBEW and how there are benefits for both parties." His efforts led to Local 2085's growth from 500 members to its current level of around 1,400. He also helped the IBEW gain steady, reliable work through the development of a provincial condo/residential collective bargaining agreement.

Organizing was why he ran to represent all of Canada as international vice president. "I wanted to do it because I think I can help us move forward. I thought there was an opportunity here," he said. "I don't think we're where we should be in Canada. We have to build our numbers and build a stronger IBEW across the country."

He credits his political science

background for helping him build a supportive coalition. "People said, 'We hope you can do this; we'll help you,'" he said. "It was the right group, the right time, the right moment."

"Russ won the election with a decisive victory involving all sectors of the First District," said James Barry, executive secretary-treasurer of the Construction Council of Ontario, which represents more than 17,000 IBEW members. "I have known Russ for many years, and I am extremely confident that he will be a fantastic international vice president for Canada, bringing creativity, enthusiasm and intellect to the First District office."

Moving forward, Shewchuk said, "We're going to grow the district to where it should be. It's all about getting a fair deal for our contractors while creating a good work-life balance for our members with good benefit plans for our families."

"Look at the work the IBEW has done for our folks," he said. "Lots of people before us worked for that. The IBEW is progressive, looking at the next generation. I'm honored and humbled to be in this position."

"I'm personally looking forward to working with my close friend to make the IBEW in Canada stronger," Barry said, "through hard work and dedication to our existing membership and to those we will welcome into our union over the coming years."

Shewchuk will serve his fellow Canadians from the First District's office in Mississauga, Ontario. But during winter vacations, the avid snowmobiler hopes to spend some time with his fiancée, Katerina, at their home near Lake Winnipeg. "It's not unheard of to ride 200 miles a day there," said Shewchuk. "Everything just goes away in the snow and pine trees." His son, Brendon, is a fourth-year Local 2085 apprentice working for signatory contractor Abco Supply and Service, and his daughter, Devon, works for Bell MTS. His stepdaughter, Elisa, works for VIA Rail and is in her final year of university, and his stepson, Felice, is a third-level UA pipefitter apprentice.

Please join the entire IBEW in wishing Brother Shewchuk the best of luck as he assumes his new role. ■

## APPOINTED

**Ricky Oakland**

Ricky Oakland, who has held numerous high-profile leadership roles in 40 years as an IBEW member and a longtime fixture of the International

Office staff, was named chief of staff to the international president and secretary-treasurer, effective Aug. 1.

Oakland, who served as special

assistant to the president for membership development for the previous eight years, replaces Darrin Golden, who was named the executive secretary-treasurer of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, the IBEW's largest multiemployer pension.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Oakland, who first came to the International Office in 2002 as an international representative in the Construction & Maintenance Department. "It's going to be challenging. When I took the job in Membership Development, I was like, 'Holy cow, this seems so big.' Now, it's even bigger."

International President Lonnie R. Stephenson has no doubt he is up to the challenge.

"Brother Oakland is a proven leader who has done an exemplary job in every position he's had in our great union," Stephenson said. "He is leaving the Membership Development Department in excellent shape. He has my complete trust and will do a tremendous job assisting myself and the other officers in building on our recent successes in the months and years ahead."

After growing up in Coos Bay, Ore., Brother Oakland began his apprenticeship at Casper, Wyo., Local 322 in 1982, topping out four years later. He was an instructor in Local 322's JATC program for four years before being appointed business manager in 1989 at the age of 26. He was re-elected five times and named Labor Leader of the Year by the Wyoming AFL-CIO in 1997.

One year after arriving at the International Office in Washington, Oakland was named director of the CIR/Bylaws and Appeals Department. The Council on Industrial Relations works to resolve conflicts between the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association in a manner satisfactory to both parties. He later moved to the Membership Development Department.

Oakland said he takes pride in leaving the department with the number of "A" construction members at an all-time high. The future is bright for organizing, especially with a pro-union administration in the White House, he said.

"The teamwork in [Membership Development] is excellent and morale is high," he said. "We have a group there that views organizing as fun and exciting. You treat people with respect and dignity and it's amazing what they'll do for you."

In his new role, Oakland will be tasked with tackling the toughest issues facing the IBEW alongside Stephenson and International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper. He also will be involved in planning for the next International Convention in San Diego in 2026.

He follows in the footsteps of Golden, who was the first to hold the position, and Oakland praised how helpful his predecessor has been during the transition. He hopes to maintain Golden's high standards.

"It just blows me away, for those

two officers [Stephenson and Cooper] to have this kind of confidence in me," he said. "It makes it kind of surreal. I'll do everything I can to make them look good and help them be the most effective leaders."

"It's going to be a lot of work with a lot of moving pieces," he added. "I think you have to count on the other executive assistants and directors to continue the team concept and pull the rope in the same direction."

Oakland lives in Annapolis, Md., with his wife, Jennifer Eklof. He has three children.

The officers and staff congratulate Brother Oakland on his appointment and wish him much success in his new position. ■

## APPOINTED

**Jammi Ouellette**

Director of Professional and Industrial Organizing Jammi Ouellette has been appointed Executive Assistant to the International

President for Membership Development, effective Aug. 1. She is the first woman of color to serve in the role.

Ouellette succeeds Ricky Oakland, who was appointed Chief of Staff and praised her fit for the top organizing job. "Jammi is a great leader and communicator. She's always establishing relationships with everyone she meets, which is key to organizing," Oakland said.

Sister Ouellette comes to the role with a strong background in organizing and experience from her own journey becoming an active member of her home local, Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245. She started out as a service representative for Pacific Gas & Electric in 2006 but it took until 2010 before she really got involved.

"I am a prime example of internal organizing and what happens when we educate, activate and mobilize rank-and-file members," Ouellette said. "My business representative never gave up on me. She continued asking me to be involved, and it took four years, but it's because of her and my respect for her that I am who I am as an IBEW organizer."

In 2010, Ouellette attended a training called "Change the Narrative" about how to use more effective language when talking about unions. Within months of that, she became a shop steward and later served as recording secretary and vice chairperson for her unit at PG&E. She also started working on political campaigns, first at home in California against a paycheck deception initiative, and later around the country, including battles against anti-worker laws in Florida, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Ouellette also credits her

then-business manager, Tom Dalzell, for encouraging organizing apprenticeships, where members would be sent to help other locals with organizing and political campaigns throughout the U.S.

"We were immersed, boots on the ground, parachuted in to learn all we could. Then we brought back what we learned and taught our peers," Ouellette said. "He saw it as an investment in the local's future."

It's these organizing experiences, among many others, that Ouellette brings to her new role.

"As a Local 1245 organizing steward, and then organizer, I have an understanding of the IBEW structure and the chain of command that someone off the street would not," Ouellette said. "My love and dedication of the IBEW comes from years of experience and understanding how the IBEW has changed my life, my daughters' and granddaughter's lives and my IBEW siblings' lives."

In her new role, Ouellette will oversee all three divisions of the Membership Development Department: professional and industrial, and inside and outside construction, as well as the International Office staff. It's also a job that interacts with every district of the IBEW.

"Jammi is a team player and very professional. She has already earned the respect of all the P&I team and will do the same for the other departments," Oakland said.

Ouellette says she plans to continue the Membership Development Department's focus on internal organizing.

"Because I know first-hand what internal organizing can do, I always prioritize engaging rank-and-file members and future rank-and-file," she said. "Internal organizing will continue to be a priority for the department."

The California native is also focused on growth and sees this moment as one to seize upon.

"From local union organizers to international organizers, we are focused on growing the brotherhood," Ouellette said. "From President Biden's infrastructure law to the White House Organizing Task Force, to the IBEW's Workforce Recruitment Task Force, we have an opportunity unlike any other to grow."

The IBEW congratulates Sister Ouellette on her well-earned promotion and wishes her much success in her new role. ■

## RETIRED

**Mark Brueggenjohann**

Media Department Director Mark Brueggenjohann retired at the end of June, 40 years after his initiation into St. Louis Local 4.

TRANSITIONS continued on page 10



## TRANSITIONS *continued*

Brother Brueggenjohann knew he wanted to be in TV news early. Very quickly, he realized what he really wanted was a union job in TV news.

He got his first job in 1979 while a student at the University of Tulsa working for a nonunion TV station.

“Everything about it sucked. The pay was so awful. I got fed up and left within a year and went home,” he said.

Home was St. Louis, where he started as an audio editor at an IBEW shop, KPLR, a family-owned independent station with a small newsroom.

“It was the only job they had,” he said.

But it was the start of a storied, Emmy-winning career in the golden age of local TV news before cable and the internet siphoned off the audience innumerable other directions.

Brueggenjohann joined a newsroom that included veterans from the dawn of television, all of them fighting together to scoop the other, well-staffed newsrooms in the city. He went from that audio job into the news department as an engineer, editor and, his favorite, cameraman.

He covered everything from murders and politics to innumerable county fairs and even a local professional wrestling showcase in the days before the WWE.

The newsroom life made it hard to attend to local meetings, but he did when he could, Brueggenjohann said, and when he switched to KTVI, an ABC-affiliate, in 1986, he was asked to join the negotiating committee.

“I had a lot of opinions,” he said with a laugh.

After the successful negotiation, the practice was to make the negotiation committee shop stewards, because they knew the contract better than anyone else. Brueggenjohann found that he liked it.

“If there is a chance to make a difference, I want to make it,” he said. “We worked so hard to get the contract, I wanted to make sure it was done correctly.”

He joined the Executive Board in 1991 and served until he was appointed business manager following a vacancy in 2002.

“The local was really well-run and there were several people who would have been good, but they appointed me. It was a real honor that they did,” he said.

For five years, Brueggenjohann fought to save jobs as the industry transformed and then shrank, first with the move to digital from analog and then as the internet shattered the advertising model of local news.

“It was all rearguard actions against huge companies; Gannet and

Tribune would always come in with a first proposal eliminating the union security clause. Always,” he said. “You knew that people’s livelihoods were always on the line, and I felt like every day we were trying to crawl out of the hole.”

But there were wins. People were retrained. Producers, directors and assignment editors were folded into the bargaining unit and all the major sports stayed in union hands.

In 2007, Brueggenjohann was appointed an international representative in the Media Department to launch the IBEW’s first video operation. His job was to help the Media Department in its task of telling the brotherhood’s story to its members and the world.

“I got the call, and it sounded like an incredible opportunity. I had a lot of experience in newsrooms and understood the process, how you put something together, because I did it three or four times every day before I became business manager,” he said. “I really liked the idea of going back to making something.”

From a modest start, with two people and some antiquated equipment, the IBEW became a leader in the North American labor movement, staffed by industry professionals who produce award-winning videos, national ads, mini-documentaries and hundreds of hours of audiovisual content each year.

Brueggenjohann also oversaw the design and construction of a state-of-the-art production studio. As then-international President Ed Hill saw what was being done, he began to ask what else was possible, Brueggenjohann said, and the Media Department grew and began traveling around North America documenting the impact the IBEW had in the wider world and in the homes of working men and women.

In 2014, Brueggenjohann was appointed director, where he oversaw the IBEW’s media outreach operations, The Electrical Worker newspaper, a redesign of the website and the expansion of the brotherhood’s social media presence.

The Media Department is now a modest, but real, newsroom, he said, filled with journalists and television veterans. The Electrical Worker, YouTube, Facebook and Instagram are now filled with stories about rank-and-file members, the political issues that matter to working people and celebrations of power we have when we work together.

“The museum even has an actual trained curator. It is not just a collection of stuff,” he said. “My job was really easy because of the staff in the department. Everybody cares and works so hard. All I had to do was set them in the right direction.”

Brueggenjohann’s retirement plans are still in flux but will involve his twin passions for golf and the open road, on either his beloved BMW motorcycles or his brand-new RV.

“It’s been an honor to serve the membership and work for the best

leadership in the labor movement. They allowed us the freedom to expand our reach in new ways and build the finest media staff anywhere,” he said.

Please join the officers in wishing him a long, healthy and happy retirement. ■

### APPOINTED

#### Tiler Eaton



Outside Business Development International Representative Tiler Eaton was appointed Director for Outside Membership Development, effective April 2022.

Eaton, who currently covers the South and East regions for Outside Construction in the Business Development Department, will keep that position in addition to his new role.

“That’s a full plate,” Eaton said. But he said the positions complement each other in a way they may not for either Professional and Industrial or Inside organizing.

The outside industry is smaller and more consolidated, both in the number of contractors — union and nonunion — and the number of customers who hire those contractors, he said. That means the conversations he is having now in Business Development overlap almost entirely with the ones he’ll have in his new organizing role.

“I meet with customers all the time. We work with them as partners in Business Development and they have become a great resource when we are organizing contractors,” Eaton said.

Eaton came to linework the old-fashioned way: family. He estimated at least 50 members of his family are linemen, many of them members of Boston Local 104.

After serving from 1983 to 1987 in the Marine Corps as a self-described grunt, Eaton returned to his hometown of Manchester, N.H., and signed on as a groundman until he was accepted into the Northeastern Apprenticeship and Training Program, where he worked for the old Boston Edison and Mass Electric.

He topped out into one of the worst markets for union lineworkers in New England history.

“I was busy my entire apprenticeship and then, right when I topped out, the bottom fell out,” he said.

A terrible economy, some strategic errors by the IBEW and aggressive nonunion contractors eviscerated line work in New England during the 1990s he said. The closest job he could find was Detroit, and he was on the road for more than five years.

What brought him home was the Acela project in the late-’90s,

Amtrak’s high-speed train from Washington to Boston.

It was about the time he returned home that his father suggested he run for president on the ticket with a Local 104 legend, Business Manager Bobby Ward, who had led the union for nearly a quarter of a century by then, guiding the local out of its darkest days.

“I couldn’t have had a better teacher than Bobby,” Eaton said.

After winning, the local sent him to the National Labor College, and when Ward retired, Eaton replaced him.

After five years as business manager, then-International President Ed Hill tapped Eaton to become a Second District international representative.

“There are a lot more inside reps than outside, and I thought I could help the outside,” Eaton said.

One of the IBEW’s biggest challenges in getting jobs approved and keeping contractors signed on has been manpower, he said, and one of the most effective tools it has to solve it are local hire requirements.

“Local hire gets projects approved, and when new projects are up for review people remember we were the ones that fought for their families,” he said. “You want people speaking at hearings who will say, ‘I have a new career. I am providing for my family. I am traveling now; bring me home.’”

Eaton said his highest priority will be building connections during the boom that will last when work inevitably slows. This is especially important when organizing customers who can give approvals for inside-the-fence meetings where we try to organize a contractor on utility property.

This is especially true during the current period of near universal manpower shortages and full employment. The major opportunity in outside organizing, he said, is top-down, where the organizing and business development conversation is essentially the same.

“When the customers see our value, it’s hard for the contractor to pretend they don’t,” he said.

The officers with Eaton the best in his new post. ■

### APPOINTED

#### Jennifer M. Gray



International President Lonnie R. Stephenson has appointed Jennifer Gray as the Membership Development Department’s director of professional and industrial organizing.

Gray, a member of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245, has worked in the P&I department at the International Office as an international representative since

her appointment by Stephenson in 2018. Gray replaces Jammi Ouellette, who was elevated to executive assistant to the international president for membership development.

Gray grew up in Fairfield, Calif., and moved to Roseville in suburban Sacramento following her graduation from high school. Her mother is a former IBEW member, as is her brother, who worked at a call center for Pacific Gas and Electric, California’s largest utility company.

“My family knew there were good union jobs at PG&E,” said Gray, who was hired to be a service representative at the company’s call center in Sacramento in 2006. After she was initiated into Local 1245, she quickly became active with the union.

“I started going to meetings early on,” said Gray, who credits her enthusiastic involvement to Arlene Edwards, a long-time Local 1245 staffer who died in March.

Gray soon became a Local 1245 shop steward and unit recorder for the Sacramento clerical unit. There, she helped represent IBEW members on PG&E’s clerical and benefits negotiating committees.

Contract violations kept the new steward busy practically from the start. “I had to step in when people were working so much mandated overtime with no days off and no rest periods,” Gray said.

In 2012, she got involved in Local 1245’s campaign against California’s anti-union — and ultimately unsuccessful — Proposition 32, which aimed to ban using paycheck deductions for political purposes. Recognizing Gray’s efforts, the California Federation of Labor named her Young Trade Unionist of the Year.

“The union was the first place I ever got involved in politics,” said Gray, who also was among several Local 1245 members who were sent to help fight anti-union campaigns in Florida, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Local 1245’s leaders hired Gray as a lead organizer in 2013. One of her biggest accomplishments in that role came early the following year, when 78 new workers were brought into the IBEW from Sunoptics, a Sacramento-based manufacturer of high-tech skylights.

Gray later was promoted to business representative, where she continued to work with Local 1245 clerical members at PG&E along with public sector IBEW members in Roseville and Vallejo.

“Jennifer was always doing a really good job,” said Local 1245 Business Manager Robert Dean, who was senior assistant business manager when Gray was hired. “I think that anywhere she goes, it’s going to improve that place. I have every expectation that she will continue to do great work.”

Eventually, Gray was made assistant business manager, a position she held until Stephenson appointed her as an international representative.

“The union gave me a purpose. I

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really felt like I was making a difference,” said Gray, whose latest appointment is effective Aug. 1. “That IBEW connection let me have the ability to achieve the American Dream.”

Gray said that she is looking forward to continuing to work directly with Ouellette, a friend and fellow member of Local 1245, on replicating the IBEW’s recent P&I organizing wins at Atlanta Gas Light and Baltimore Gas and Electric at other organizations, large or small.

The officers and staff of the IBEW wish Sister Gray the very best of luck in her new role. ■

## RETIRED

### Denise Johnson



**Agreement Approval Director**  
Denise Johnson, a trailblazer at both the International Office and at Houston Local 716,

retired on July 1.

Sister Johnson grew up in Pittsburgh, where her father, Clarence Green, is a longtime electrical contractor and continues to work at the age of 93. She was hoping to work as an electrician, but her father wasn’t thrilled with the idea.

“He really tried to steer me away from it,” Johnson said. “He knew how women were treated and how they really weren’t wanted in the trades at the time. He didn’t want that for me.”

She instead earned her welding certificate before moving to Houston in her early 20s. She searched for electrical apprenticeship opportunities for more than eight years there with no success.

Finally, in 1994 and while working an office job, Johnson saw an advertisement in the Yellow Pages for electrical apprenticeships. The ad didn’t even specify it was with the IBEW and Local 716.

“I let the [apprenticeship committee] know I knew how to work the tools from my father and I was going to have to take a pay cut from my office job,” she said. “But I said, ‘I see the light at the end of the tunnel and I accept that.’ I got up to leave and said, ‘Don’t let the nails and heels fool you.’”

A few weeks later, Johnson learned she was the first Black woman ever accepted into Local 716’s apprenticeship program. She topped out five years later — becoming the first woman, Black or white, ever named the outstanding apprentice in a Local 716 class. She became a foreman less than one year later.

“I was tested a lot but I just stayed true to myself,” Johnson said. “One thing my dad told me when I was getting into the apprenticeship program was to demand respect and give it in return.”

She became the first woman to hold elected office in Local 716 when she served as Examining Board chairperson and was the first woman to work as an electrical inspector for the city of Houston. She also held several other positions inside and outside of the union, including a spot on the Democratic National Committee.

In that role, she got the attention of Rick Diegel, then the IBEW’s political director, when the two attended a legislative conference in the Houston area in 2006.

“She was moving through the crowd with ease, and that piqued my interest,” Diegel said. “I had no idea what she was saying, but as we say in politics, she worked the crowd.”

After hearing good things about her from Local 716’s leaders, Diegel told then-International President Edwin D. Hill that she would be an ideal addition to the Political Department. A few days later, Hill told him he planned to hire Johnson — but as an international representative in the Construction & Maintenance Department instead.

“He was going to hire her one way or another,” Diegel said. “It didn’t upset me at all that she never worked for me. I’m just happy she made it and I’ve never regretted [recommending her]. She is outstanding.”

As an international representative, Johnson helped shorten the time it took contracts to be approved by the international office after being submitted by local unions. It once took 8-12 months, she said. Now, most are approved within 30 days.

She became a supervisor before becoming the first director of the newly formed Agreement Approval Department in 2015, the position she held until her retirement.

“What I enjoyed the most is helping and meeting with the business managers, the people in the field, and supporting them and figuring out a way to solve their issues and make their jobs a lot easier,” Johnson said. “I know what they had to deal with.”

In retirement, Johnson has returned to the Houston area with her husband, Roosevelt, a retired firefighter. The couple plans to spend time with their daughter and five grandchildren, tend to a ranch they own and travel. Johnson is an avid horsewoman and plans to stay involved in equestrian events.

Johnson’s father, Clarence Green, joined the IBEW after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other legislation banned discriminatory practices that kept Black Americans out of the trades. He left a short time later, however, because he was forced to work as a traveler despite having a family at home and having no desire to do so.

Despite that experience, he always remained supportive of his daughter, Johnson said. “I just really appreciated the opportunity knowing my dad didn’t have the same,” she said.

The officers and staff thank Sister

Johnson for her service and wish her a joyous retirement. ■

## APPOINTED

### Matthew H. Paules



**International President**  
Lonnie R. Stephenson has appointed International Representative Matt Paules to be director of

the Construction and Maintenance Department, effective June 1.

Paules was initiated into the York, Pa., Local 229 apprenticeship in 1987 as a 19-year-old high school graduate.

York, 52 miles north of Baltimore and 100 miles west of Philadelphia and bordered by the Susquehanna River, is typical of the Pennsylvania industrial heartland. It has the factories like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, but central Pennsylvania lacks the union density and pro-worker politics of the big cities, he said.

Over the decades, York lost part of its industrial base overseas, and more recently, to the right-to-work states in the American South. But most of Local 229’s work has been in large factories that remain, including water turbine makers Voith Hydro and American Hydro, HVAC maker York International, Harley-Davidson, Johnson Controls and the BAE Systems facility, which makes tanks and other military equipment.

“Our work was strictly industrial, manufacturing and power generation,” Paules said. “We just let the rest of it slip away.”

In that, Local 229 is not exceptional, and transforming the IBEW back into an organizing union once again was a project that has been central to the brotherhood’s mission over the last few decades. It’s also both the why and the how of Paules’ rise into leadership.

In 1996 he was elected to the Executive Board, serving until 2002 when he was elected vice president and served for three years. He had been on staff as the sole local organizer since 2000, a position he held for eight years.

“We were purely ‘turn ‘em or burn ‘em’ at the time,” Paules said. If a top-down campaign didn’t work, organizers did everything they could to drive a contractor out of the jurisdiction or out of business. If a residential or commercial contractor was interested in signing on, the local had few tools to let them keep their existing business model.

“Our wage structure was set by the big industrial customers,” he said. The result, he said, was nonunion contractors grew until they had all of the commercial and residential market, and then they started eating into the rest of the local’s work.

Paules can identify the moment

and place where that changed.

In 2005, the IBEW expanded a small experiment in the Carolinas into the “Florida Initiative.” Launched by then-International President Ed Hill, the idea was to combine expanded classifications to help organizing electrical workers who didn’t fit neatly into either apprentice or journeyman boxes and also to create small works agreements that offered more flexibility in workforce composition to compete in sectors the IBEW was losing.

Paules volunteered for an organizing blitz in Florida in 2007 — a picture from that campaign was the first thing he hung in his new office as director of the IBEW’s largest branch — and it changed his outlook completely, he said.

“The creation of small works and CE/CW was absolutely a huge turning point,” he said.

After Florida, Hill wanted to test the idea in a state with greater union density, and when he chose his home state, Paules was ready. In 2008 he ran for business manager and went all in on the Pennsylvania Initiative.

“Now we could assess and place nonunion electricians where their skills determined they should be and give them a training path to become a journeyman. And it gave us a model that worked for top-down, too. No matter what part of the market a contractor was in, we could offer a business model that would let them stay there,” he said.

The result was an increase in total work hours for apprentices and journeymen, and tens of thousands of hours for CE/CWs. New contractors signed up and existing contractors opened new lines of business.

“We built our first hotel in three decades,” he said.

In 2018, Lonnie R. Stephenson appointed Paules an international representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department, where, among other tasks, he was responsible for reviewing and approving project labor agreements; Davis-Bacon wage updates and wage survey training; investigating, preparing and arguing grievances under the several national agreements for Construction members; handling jurisdictional disputes with other crafts; and representing the IBEW on the Nuclear Mechanic Apprenticeship Process (NMAP) committee.

The officers and staff with Brother Paules the best as he takes on his new position. ■

## APPOINTED

### Matthew Spence



**Media Director**  
Spence was appointed director of the Media Department by International Presi-

dent Lonnie R. Stephenson, effective July 1, to replace retiring Director Mark Brueggjenjohann.

Spence worked the last five years managing publication of The Electrical Worker and serving as deputy to Brueggjenjohann managing other facets of the department.

“The Media Department is in good hands,” Brueggjenjohann said. “Matt knows the work and understands the role of the department is to serve the membership of the IBEW and share their incredible stories.”

A native of Atlanta who grew up in North Carolina, Spence started his career in politics, working for candidates at every level of government, including two presidential campaigns. On the second he served as the candidate’s liaison to the labor community in New England.

“I really fell in love with the labor movement working in New Hampshire,” he said. “I didn’t come from a labor family, and I grew up in the right-to-work South, so it wasn’t until I started working closely with union leaders and members through politics that I understood the impact a union can have for working families.”

In 2008, Spence took a job with The Times of London newspaper’s Washington bureau, where he reported on U.S. politics and news for a worldwide audience. There, he covered the Obama administration, Congress, natural disasters and more.

“The Times was life-changing for me,” Spence said. “Not only did I learn how to tell people’s stories, I got to witness huge events like presidential inaugurations and smaller, but just as impactful ones, like the gratitude in the eyes of disaster victims when help finally arrived.”

“During some of the worst times, it was IBEW linemen and women who were first on the scene of a hurricane, flood or tornado doing the heroic work of restoring power and beginning the rebuilding process, making things safe for more help to come in.”

In 2015, he joined the writing staff in the Media Department as a member of OPEIU Local 2, which represents staff at the International Office. He took over the day-to-day editorial duties for The Electrical Worker and IBEW.org’s Media Center in 2017.

“We have the best job in the IBEW in this department and really talented people who do it,” Spence said. “Our team gets to tell the stories of members of this amazing union every day. Our members do incredible work across so many fields, and there’s always something going on in the IBEW worth sharing. It never gets old.”

Spence encouraged more local unions and members to send their success stories or news of unique projects or organizing wins to the department at [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org) for consideration for video or Electrical Worker pieces.

TRANSITIONS *continued on page 12*



## TRANSITIONS *continued*

"We're always looking for those stories that will inspire or uplift or help with the hard work of organizing the next generation of IBEW members and putting them to work," he said. "But we can't tell them if we don't know about them."

He's particularly proud of the "My IBEW Story" feature, which has been printed on Page 2 of The Electrical Worker the past few years opposite the officers' columns. It collects tales of how the IBEW has changed individual members' lives for the better and shares them with the entire membership.

"Reading those stories each month reminds all of us why we do what we do, how the power of union can change working families' lives," Spence said. "If it doesn't inspire you to go out and organize and introduce more people to the benefits of a union contract, I don't know what will."

Members and retirees can submit their own stories at [ibew.org/MyIBEWStory](http://ibew.org/MyIBEWStory).

The officers and staff wish Brother Spence the best as he takes on his new role and responsibilities. ■

### APPOINTED

#### Areana Tate



International President Lonnie R. Stephenson has appointed Areana Tate as director of the IBEW's Agreement Approval

Department, effective July 1. She replaces Denise Johnson, who retired.

Tate grew up in the Los Angeles suburb of Carson, Calif. Her first career was with an AT&T call center, where she steadily moved up the ranks. She was weeks away from becoming one of the company's first Black managers in southern California, she said, when AT&T closed her center following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The company lost critical communications equipment in the destroyed North Tower of World Trade Center, which severely affected cellular communication throughout the U.S., Tate said.

While taking on some temp work, she was eventually introduced to the IBEW through a chance meeting with Los Angeles Local 11 member Diana Limón, now training director at the local's Electrical Training Institute.

"I got into the union in June of 2006," Tate said. "A few months later, I got involved with the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus and the Women's Empowerment Group, volunteering where I could."

After Tate finished her apprenticeship, she was a shop steward and foreman before becoming an instructor at the ETI. She also became increasingly involved in her community.

"I really wanted to get active," Tate said. "While I was an instructor, I saw that apprentices sometimes needed extra money to cover emergencies like car repairs or even funerals." Local 11's leaders generously allowed her to collect money from apprentices and journeymen alike, she said.

"I also coordinated what's known as the Tate-Watson Tool Drive," she said. Named for herself and her fellow Local 11 member Deon Watson, the drive called on apprentices, journeymen and instructors to donate spare tools to new apprentices. "The Local 11 EWMC and RENEW/NextGen committees are still doing that," she said. She also managed an EWMC food drive, through which instructors and apprentices collected an eye-popping 7.1 tons of food to help feed L.A.'s hungry.

"Areana is very enthusiastic and outgoing," said Summer Zachary, senior instructor at the ETI, who met Tate in 2014 through the EWMC. "Her love of the IBEW has driven her so much. She cares so much about the membership."

Tate was in her third year as Local 11's recording secretary when her community service efforts caught the attention of the International Office. In 2019, Stephenson appointed her as an international representative in the Civic and Community Engagement Department.

"I was just doing my work, doing what I loved, working in the community. Getting used to the weather here [in Washington] was kind of rough," she said with a laugh.

In her new role, Tate will use her considerable organizational skills to head up the Agreement Approval Department, which ensures that agreements negotiated between locals and contractors stick to the IBEW's established guidelines.

It's a perfect fit for Tate, said Zachary. "She'll still be making sure the members are being taken care of."

Tate plans to build on the legacy left by her predecessor, Johnson, who was the first director in the role when the department was split off from Construction and Maintenance in 2015.

Tate also plans to continue her work in Washington, D.C., with the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and with the A. Philip Randolph Institute, an organization of Black trade unionists that fights for racial equality and economic justice.

In their spare time, Tate and her wife, Tayler, enjoy playing golf, spending time on shooting ranges and going on cruises. "We're also adamant foodies," she said, "trying different things whenever we can." And despite her L.A. upbringing, Tate's family is from Louisiana and Mississippi, which is why she still roots for the NFL's New Orleans Saints. "It's a house divided," she said: "Tayler is a Dallas Cowboys fan."

Please join the entire brotherhood in wishing Sister Tate the best of luck in her new role. ■

### RETIRED

#### Tim Dixon



Ninth District International Representative Tim Dixon, who served as the IBEW's spokesperson and co-chairman

in four national negotiations with CBS and serviced locals along the West Coast, retired on July 1.

IBEW members employed by CBS approved a new three-year contract with the company earlier this year. That and a recent battle with prostate cancer convinced Dixon the time was right to retire.

"If I had any doubts or second thoughts, these medical issues underscored it's the right time to go," said Dixon, adding he is feeling good and looking forward to spending time with his wife and family.

Born and raised in southern California, Brother Dixon earned bachelor's and master's degrees from UCLA with a minor in labor studies. He was hired by Hollywood, Calif., Local 40 as a researcher and business representative in 1984.

Pete Dixon, his father, was a Ninth District international representative at the time. Tim said the two talked nearly every day until the elder Dixon passed away from cancer in 1987.

"He was my mentor in those early days," Tim Dixon said. "Although my dad was not assigned to service Local 40, he was my international rep on speed dial. Even though I went to school, I think he was really proud that I was making a career in the IBEW."

Dixon eventually became assistant business manager for Local 40, which represents electricians and technicians employed in the motion picture industry in California.

He was appointed business manager following a retirement and was re-elected three times. Local 40's membership reached record levels during his tenure following a successful organizing effort of special effects technicians, stage managers and sound mixers at Universal Studios Hollywood.

Dixon and others also convinced MGM to hire Local 40 members to install the new fiber optics technology at their California facilities in the early 1990s. He negotiated the first inside agreement with NECA after Local 40 regained inside jurisdiction in 1996.

Following that, Dixon joined the Ninth District staff in 1998. He was assigned initially as a service representative but likely will be best remembered for his role in negotiations with CBS, which the IBEW has partnered with since it was a radio company in the late 1930s. His organizational skills and rich, baritone voice made him a natural spokesperson.

"The CBS-IBEW relationship prob-

ably is one of the most unique in organized labor," he said. "Yes, there have been challenges. I can remember some issues where you think, 'How in the hell are we going to get through this?' Yet, I think we've found a way through treating each side with respect and really and truly partnering."

Third District International Representative Dominick Macchia served as co-chair with Dixon during all four negotiations. He said Dixon could have stepped aside during the latest round due to his health issues, but he told Macchia, "I have to do this for our members, most of whom I have never met and likely will never meet, who have afforded me and my family a better life."

"You can never replace Tim Dixon," Macchia said. "He was one of the most prepared people I've ever met. He's my brother from another mother."

Dixon also served as co-lead negotiator during two national contract negotiations with Fox Sports. Outside of broadcasting, he became a recognized expert on working with newly organized bargaining units negotiating first contracts. He's traveled across the country conducting training sessions and nurturing new units through the process.

"That has been some of my most rewarding work, to stand with a group of people that has put it on the line and risked everything to join the IBEW and help their co-workers," he said.

Dixon's wife, Erin, an attorney who owns her own firm, also is retiring. The two plan to travel while also spending more time with their five children and eight grandchildren.

He said he'll most miss the relationships with people like Macchia — who isn't retiring just yet but is stepping away from the CBS negotiations.

"Dominick is the ultimate professional and we would we not have been as successful without him," Dixon said. "I trust that he and I will remain friends the rest of our lives."

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

### RETIRED

#### Dave Hoque



Tenth District International Representative Dave Hoque has retired, effective June 1.

Brother Hoque ends a 25-year

career, 15 of them spent organizing at multiple levels of the IBEW, first at Knoxville, Tenn., Local 760, then joining the staff as an international representative. On the I.O. staff, he served as a lead organizer starting in 2007 before becoming the Tenth District organizing coordinator in 2010. He held that position for

five years before moving to the Business Development Department in 2015.

"Dave is a born organizer," said Director of Business Development Ray Kasmak. "It comes naturally to him."

A California native, Hoque spent his organizing days primarily in the South. The Tenth District encompasses North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas, all right-to-work states. But it was a task that he was more than capable of handling, says Kasmak.

"He's a very tenacious individual and really adaptable. Nothing flusters him," Kasmak said. "He had to find unique ways to accomplish things and be more creative, to think outside the box."

"If he didn't have that attitude, he never would have succeeded out there."

Hoque was part of the Carolina Initiative, an effort that began in 2007 and invested International Office resources in the area to grow market share and increase membership. One of the people he worked closely with was International Representative Tommy Hill.

"Dave is a driven, no-nonsense kind of guy," Hill said. "He has a heart for organizing nonunion workers. He wanted to give them the same opportunity he was given and by doing so, grow the IBEW. It wasn't easy, but the local unions in the Carolinas have benefited from these programs."

When Hoque was organized into the IBEW in 1997, he became the second in his family to join, following in the footsteps of his uncle, Buzz Hoque, who joined after World War II. And the legacy has continued, with Brother Hoque's son, Patrick, who is also a member of Local 760.

"My son is enjoying all the things I fought for," Hoque said. "He wants that IBEW life too."

In fact, Hoque says that his son joining the brotherhood might be his greatest organizing achievement.

"The best guy I ever organized was my son. He saw all the behind-the-scenes stuff and still wanted to join," Hoque said. "I think he saw my passion and that made him a believer."

Hoque, who is 60, says it's humbling to be finishing up his career at an age where he can still do and enjoy so much. But this is the right time for him.

"It feels like I'm retiring at a level where I've mentored enough people, I've done everything that was asked of me, and now it's time to get out of the way for the next guy."

While some people are happy to enjoy a leisurely retirement, Hoque is already jumping back in. He's working with his town's mayor on a job fair.

"I'm an organizer. It's my lot in life to help connect people with jobs," Hoque said. "I like classic cars, fishing and spending time with my grandkids, too, but I want to be eulogized as an organizer."

The officers, members and staff of the IBEW wish Brother Hoque all the best in retirement and thank him for his years of service to the brotherhood. ■



# LOCAL LINES

## Local 16 Members Represent in Honor Flight to D.C.

L.U. 16 (I), EVANSVILLE, IN — This spring’s Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., was well-represented by our local’s own Lawrence Francis “Pete” Whitted and former business agent Billy Diehl. Pete, a U.S. Army veteran, served in Korea from 1951 through 1953. During his time overseas, he often operated heavy equipment in heavily mined areas. While both enjoyed the many monuments and memorials of the nation’s capital, what they appreciated most was the warm welcome and heartfelt thanks from the multitude of people that turned out to greet them wherever they went. Many thanks to Pete and all who have served to protect this great country!

The 25th annual Turkey Testicle Festival was held on April 29. More than 300 brothers and sisters participated, and more than \$10,000 was raised for members in need. Thanks to all who made this event possible.

RallyPoint and Thorogood held a joint event with the hall. They each deserve recognition for their commitment to the organized building trades. Thorogood offers high-quality American-made footwear, and RallyPoint continues to provide a first pair of boots at no charge to new craftsmen who have been in the armed forces.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.



Local 16’s former business agent Billy Diehl and Lawrence Francis “Pete” Whitted visiting the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

## Brother Blaine Boone Becomes Director of Community Services

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — We are pleased to announce that Brother Blaine Boone has been appointed as the director for the AFL-CIO Community Services of Central Maryland. Congratulations, Blaine! We look forward to helping you succeed in your new position.

We would like to congratulate Claire Kratz on her retirement. Known to all as “Miss Claire,” Sister Kratz has been Local 24’s fund administrator for 35 years. Anytime a member had an issue with their health care, pension or annuity, Claire would personally see that it was resolved. Thank you, Claire, for your tireless work and professionalism over the years on behalf of all of our members, retirees and their families. May you enjoy your retirement for many years to come.

Assistant Business Agent Mike Azzarello has announced his retirement, effective July 1. Over his 43-year career, Mike has served Local 24 as shop steward, treasurer, examining board member, financial secretary and trustee. We wish Mike a long, healthy retirement.

If you would like to get actively involved in your future, please let me know.

Live Better/Work Union!

Michael J. McHale, B.M.



Local 24’s Brother Blaine Boone has been appointed as the director for the AFL-CIO Community Services of Central Maryland.

## Business Manager George Hogan Retires

L.U. 26 (I,es,ees,govt,em&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — Business Manager George C. Hogan retired on July 8. Brother Hogan was a dedicated and loyal member of our local for almost 50 years. Congratulations on your retirement and your wonderful career!

The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee and the R-to-A Upgrade program graduation ceremonies were held on June 4. There were a total of 215 graduates this year. Best wishes to all of you, and congratulations again!

The Manassas, Va., picnic was held on June 25; the Roanoke, Va., picnic was on July 16; and the Edgewater, Md., picnic is being held on Aug. 20. Also, the chartered fishing trip was held on June 18 and the Poker Run for Special Love is scheduled for Sept. 17.

Best wishes to the following new retirees:

Mohammad Amjad; Michael P. Asman, Mary E. Barnes, Steven T. Bennett, Garry Brooks, Dean E. Fleming, Carlos A. Garcia, Johnny G. Garrett, Tommy R. Garrett, William E. Gatewood, Mark M. Johnson, Daniel T. Jones, Paul D. Kemp, Thomas N. Kolstad, Steven D. Llewellyn Sr., Michael E. Long, Walter W. Mansolillo, William A. Martinez, Stephen L. Mayhew, Patrick J. McCawley, Kevin C. McGuire, Gregory H. Miller, William C. Moore, Marco Penaloza, Robert E. Preston, Patrick J. Reges, Richard D. Rice Jr. and Theodore Soto.

The following members have passed away since our last article: Scott A. Bates, Thomas P. Cave, Albert W. Combs, Leighton M. Crawford, Ernest L. Curtin, John H. Ebron, Ricky L. Fletcher, Charlie Johanning, Ernest L. Jones Jr., Melvin L. King Jr., Michael E. Novitski, Julius A. Pletz, Samuel B. Sneed, Ronald E. Tinsley and Julian W. Williams.

George C. Hogan, B.M.

## Local 38 Joins Firefighters Memorial Ride

L.U. 38 (I), CLEVELAND, OH — Approximately 500 motorcyclists took part in the 18th annual Firefighters Memorial Ride to honor four fallen Ohio firefighters. Local 38’s motorcycle group took part of this great event. The ride began at the Cleveland Fire Fighters Memorial with stops in Bedford Heights, Mentor and Medina. Money raised from the Firefighters Memorial Ride will be donated to the families of the fallen firefighters.

Work outlook remains strong in the jurisdiction. Several massive projects are underway for which project labor agreements have been successfully negotiated. Cleveland-Cliffs steel mill furnace re-line is near completion; Cleveland Clinic hospital projects continue to increase crew sizes along with Sherwin Williams R&D Center and Global Headquarters.

Dan Gallagher, B.M./F.S.



Local 38’s motorcyclists at the Cleveland Fire Fighter Memorial, starting point for the Firefighters Memorial Ride.



Local 46 member Sister Michelle Esguerra is a maintenance electrician for the Port of Seattle at SeaTac Airport.

## Port of Seattle Update

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,rtb,rts,&st), SEATTLE, WA — Not only do we raise buildings from the dirt to the penthouse, we also maintain them. One of our local’s maintenance contracts is with the Port of Seattle. We have our seaport and our international airport known as SeaTac. Two Local 46 members have recently been recognized by the Port of Seattle for their hard work and dedication to their craft.

Michelle Esguerra was nominated to the Women’s Initiative Network for her contribution to the Port, the maintenance of its electrical system. Michelle is one of four women in the electric shop and a fantastic union sister! She has been part of the high-voltage, airfield and loading bridge crews, and she is currently part of the conveyor-system crew that helps ensure that you get your bags when arriving at the baggage carousel. She is known not only for her quick thinking and problem solving, but also for her dynamic personality and warm demeanor. We are excited to see her future growth — not only personally, but as a leader of the Port shop!

Kailean Gorman was recognized by the Port for his contribution to the “Project” crew, which oversees the ever-growing conveyor system. Our baggage-conveyor system runs throughout the airport, including tunnels that run underground to

the North and South Satellites and all the building additions as the airport continues to be expanded and updated. Kailean fought hard for the electric shop to be part of the planning crew for the construction. The commitment Kailean demonstrated to the shop by effectively maintaining and troubleshooting the system is greatly appreciated by his fellow workers.

## Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

## Trade Classifications

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

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



## LOCAL LINES

The work and commitment that these members have for their union and crew is something to look up to. They are great examples of why we can call ourselves the best of the best. Their dedication to being assets to the electrical shop is a fantastic example of what brother/sisterhood looks like. Thank you to all our maintenance electricians from the schools to the air and seaport, to the city and to the zoo!

Together We Stand!

Stephanie McPherson, P.S.

## Local 68 Welcomes New Officers

L.U. 68 (j), DENVER, CO — At the general membership meeting on May 3, the local took nominations for officers. There were no contested races, so all nominees were appointed by acclamation. The newly appointed officers for Local 68 are:

- Business Manager/Financial Secretary — Jeremy Ross
- President — Morgan J. Buchanan
- Vice President — Bruce Dahl
- Treasurer — Dave Trujillo
- Recording Secretary — Felicia Hackney
- Executive Board members — Tito Aleman, Robert Delgado, Curt Engle, Troy Ingals, Mike King, Tony Pastore and Deb Tikka
- Examining Board members — Steve Block and Mark Kirkham (two open seats)
- Building Assoc. — Mike Bartles, Joseph Chavez, Jeffrey Clark, Ricardo Felix Dominguez and Sean McMahan

Congratulations to all who stepped up! The new officers were sworn in at the general membership meeting on July 5.

The Local 68 Retirees Club held their last meeting before summer break with a presentation of IBEW Service Pin awards. Retirees were honored for IBEW service, ranging from 50 to 75 years. Awards were presented to 14 members who were present, representing a combined total of 770 years of service. Congratulations to all honorees and their families.

Mark your calendars: The IBEW Local 68 annual picnic will be Sat., Aug. 20.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased brothers and sisters: Richard W. Armistead, Richard P. Ashcraft, Jack P. Baker, Sid Barcelon, Roman D. Briseno, Harlan J. Combes, John P. Covello, John D. Dodson, Howard L. Doughman, Stephen A. Earley, Alfred W. Franz, Donald L. Gesick, Carl R. Glaze, Rastine J. Harris, Edward F. Humann, George R. Johnson, Sylvan M. Keller, Elmer V. Loeffler, Anthony Lunsford, Eugene T. Mahoney, Jim A. McCoy, Jeffrey D. McLeod, James S. Morris, Timothy C. Murphy, Cecil L. Newell, Brandon Pickering, William L. Ramsey Jr., David A. Sanness, Robert A. Schwab, Charles E. Sereff, Charles Snyder, Curtis L. Steelman, Don Tompkins, Kirk D. Wilson, Jesse M. Wright, Gerald L. Yager and Rex H. Yoshimura.

Morgan J. Buchanan, Pres.

## Congratulations, Local 102 Instructors!

L.U. 102 (em,govt,i,mt,o,ptc&ws), PATERSON, NJ — We offer congratulations and thanks to Brothers Victor Bland and Matthew Oswald. These two gentlemen will walk the stage this August in Ann Arbor, Mi., as graduates of the National Training Institute. Dedicated to the betterment of our membership, these instructors took the time to enhance their skills as educators so they may better prepare our workforce of tomorrow. Our thanks go out to Victor, Matt and our entire team of instructors for being the foundation of all we do at Local 102.



Local 102 delegates attending IBEW's 40th International Convention in Chicago.

In May, our delegates traveled to Chicago to join our brothers and sisters from the United States and Canada for the 40th International Convention. It was our honor to be there as President Biden became the first sitting president to speak at an IBEW International Convention. We applaud our hosts from Chicago for an outstanding job and for sharing their great city with us!

Back home at Local 102, we would like to salute our volunteers for another outstanding job with our annual blood drive. While COVID-19 made the past two years difficult, it was nice to see the number of donors approach pre-pandemic levels. We are grateful for our blood drive chair Chuck Hess and those who came out!

Bernie Corrigan, Pres.

## Local 104 Proud

L.U. 104 (lctt,o,ptc&u), BOSTON, MA — It was another great project by our local's sisters and brothers: Alongside our sisters and brothers from Local 103, we completed the new 4.3 miles of the MBTA Green Line Extension. Balfour Beatty and State Electric Corporation tackled this endeavor on the oldest and busiest light-rail system in the country! The \$2.2 billion project includes six new passenger stations (with a new total of 70 stations) and three new substations added to the existing 51 substations. The finely crafted catenary and power system will be handed off to the MBTA Power and Substation Departments, where it will be maintained for another 104 years by Local 104! Construction and maintenance done at its finest: that's 104 proud!

Hugh A. Boyd, A.B.M./Treas.

## Local 108 Elects New Leadership Team

L.U. 108 (ees,em,es,lctt,mar,mt,rtb,rts,s,spa,t&u), TAMPA, FL — Our local's members elected a new leadership team in March. The voter turnout was very strong, with our new business manager winning more than 70% of the votes. Chris Parsels is now the business manager, with Troy Trice as the assistant business manager. Our new President Michael V. Sladky won by taking nearly 70% of the votes.

The elected delegates who attended the 40th International Convention in Chicago were Troy Trice,

Bobby Adamcek, Bruce Bailey and Justin Carlisle. Brian Simon from TECO is our vice president. The Executive Board members are Rich Hagan from WEDU; Troy Clough, representing SECO; David Schramm and Qquony Sims from Clarios; Daniel Jones representing TAW; and Justin Carlisle and Bobby Adamcek from TECO.

The transition of leadership was assisted by our fabulous office manager, Jennifer Parra. Clifford Fountain is our dedicated recording secretary, and Tim Garland is our treasurer. See the accompanying picture of Chris Parsels and Michael V. Sladky, who were sworn in on April 14. Congratulations to the elected officials, and thanks to Local 108 members who took the time to vote.

Bruce Bailey, P.S.



Business Manager Chris Parsels and President Michael V. Sladky are sworn in as Local 108 officers, with Recording Secretary Clifford Fountain in the background.

## Work, Work, Work!

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,ptc,rts,se,spa&t), KANSAS CITY, MO — As previously mentioned, the Meta Data Center project in Smithville, Mo., is starting to take off. This project is expected to be so big that it will keep many brothers and sisters working for years. Many will hopefully retire from their work on it and enjoy the good life!

It has been a while since Kansas City has needed travelers to help man the work, but so many projects are in the pipeline that we will need them. We encourage everyone to be welcoming and treat them well. They are here to help us complete jobs on a timely basis and with quality craftsmanship.

While work will be good for Local 124, we must not become complacent. The laws in Kansas and Missouri do not make it very easy for our contractors to bid competitively. Kansas is a "right-to-work" state with no prevailing wage, and it doesn't allow project labor agreements. Missouri used to allow PLAs, but that went away under the Greitens administration.

We must be protective and vigilant about our work. Providing a quality product in a timely manner is imperative to staying competitive and relevant in a market that operates under unfavorable laws.

Wade Kiefer, B.R.

## Support the Workers' Rights Amendment

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL — I want to make our entire membership aware of the most important piece of legislation our local has ever been able to vote on. In November, Illinois voters will have an opportunity to vote for a constitutional ban on "right-to-work" laws in Illinois. The Workers' Rights Amendment gives every employee the right to organize and collectively bargain for wages, hours and working conditions at his or her workplace, which will change the Illinois Constitution.

Amendment 1 will be the first constitutional amendment of its kind in the nation. This is an all-hands-on-deck undertaking. If each union member in Illinois and three family members, friends and neighbors vote "yes" on the Workers' Rights Amendment, we win and change things for the better! Workers will no longer have to fear for their livelihood with every election cycle. The "Me Plus 3" program will be a labor-intensive undertaking, but when organized labor comes together as one, we do not lose.

Please get involved in this program. Look for mailings and emails about Me Plus 3 coming soon. And, brothers and sisters, please keep yourselves up-to-date on the happenings in our union by checking our website, [www.lu134.org](http://www.lu134.org), and/or downloading our app.

Donald Finn, B.M./F.S.



Local 134 urges Illinois voters to support the Workers' Rights Amendment, which gives every employee the right to organize and collectively bargain for wages, hours and working conditions at his or her workplace.

## Welcome, New Officers

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL — Our work outlook is great as we continually have open calls for various industrial work. We congratulate Kevin Burke, Kenneth Musick and Michael Sullivan on their recent retirements from the IBEW.

We recently held our local election. We would



Local 104 members worked alongside Local 103 sisters and brothers to complete 4.3 miles of the new Green Line Extension of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.





Local 146's class of 2022: (front row, left to right) Matt Lewis, Brock Oylar, Dylan Weaver, Joe Risby, Patrick Utter, Brandon Presnell, Cory Meyer and Cody Beckman; (back row, left to right) Al Hodges (JATC/IBEW), Paul Artis (NECA-IL), JD Miller (JATC/IBEW), Jason Drake (Dir.), John Sexton, Tom Luttrell, Joseph Rotz, Garrett Hockman, Andrew McWhorter, Robert Beery (JATC/NECA), Dominic Ruholl (JATC/NECA) and Justin Martin (JATC/IBEW).

like to welcome our new Treasurer Michelle Dunn Wayne, Vice President Dillon Lewis and Executive Board members Neil Seeley and Brandon Koehler. We recognize Kaleb Swarts, who served three years as vice president; Myra Walters, retiring after seven years as treasurer; Stephen Tomer, who served six years on the Executive Board; and Mary Sapp, who served the past six years on the Executive Board and Apprenticeship Committee, three years as vice president and two years as treasurer. We thank these individuals for their commitment to serve our local and wish them luck.

We would also like to acknowledge our first-year apprenticeship class: Blaise Baker, Scott Breer, Zach Brown, Nequel Destulien, Blake Doolley, Matt Duncan, Rhayden Gideon, Carter Gordon, Trevor Gordon, Dexter Holley, Hunter Luttrell, Colby Mathias, John Meek, Cory Miller, Ashton Nielsen, Jacob Pals, Trevor Pruemer, Gage Rusher, Gage Taylor-Barker, Noah Thorton, Dalton Wright, Logan Wright and Mike Sokolowski are all embarking on a rewarding career.

Steven L. Tilford, R.S.



Delegates Tracy Martin and Maureen Bothfeld represent Local 300 at the IBEW 40th International Convention in Chicago.

### Happy Trails to Local Leaders

L.U. 300 (govt,i,lctt,mo&u), MONTPELIER, VT — The IBEW kicked off 2022 with its 40th International Convention in Chicago. Sister Maureen Bothfeld and Brother Tracy Martin were delegates for Local 300. Sister Bothfeld has attended two conventions during her tenure at Local 300, and she looks forward to passing the torch to the up-and-coming generation of IBEW members and enjoy her next chapter — retirement. Sister Bothfeld has played an amazing role in Local 300's history as a delegate, steward, recording secretary (13 years), negotiator and all-around great friend.

Brother Martin attended his first convention and was able to see firsthand how the IBEW moves on a national level, and not just on the local level. Brother Martin takes his "quasi"-retirement and is currently enjoying his time at work (when he

chooses) and his time with family. We wish both Sister Bothfeld and Brother Martin the best in their future endeavors and thank them for their dedication to the members of the IBEW.

It's an employee market out there, and companies are coming to the bargaining table with that recognition. Members are receiving significant wage increases, including adjustments to attract and retain employees. We only wish that we could get inflation down — and we are working that as well. Ever heard of holistic organizing? Now you have.

We wish all members a safe and prosperous rest of the year — be well and do good.

Jeffrey C. Wimette, B.M./F.S.

### Congratulations to New Local 302 Electricians!

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA — Our local would like to congratulate our new journeymen inside wiremen and sound and communication installers: Jeremy Arellano, Bruce Beasley Jr., Matthew Beasley, Alejandro Castro, Ryan Cullum, Charles Dadnia, Robert Daly, Mark Gipner, Brandon Goodrich, Aaron Higuera, Jimena Lara, Jason McGee, Cristian Melgoza, James Naraja, Jacob Negrete, Levi "Josh" Nicula, Marcos Paez, Hugo Perez, Darrien Porter, Kyle Rancifer, Kendall Robinson, Ryan Sloan, Tyler Stephens, Brad Steward, Jason Strode, Rance Vaughn and Dylan Wold.

We wish them all the best in their future careers with the IBEW.

Tom Hansen, B.M.

### Hot Work Outlook

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — Our local's work outlook remains as hot as the month of August, and 2022 is shaping up to be an excellent year.

As of this writing, we currently have around 730 wiremen at our Facebook project in Dekalb, and plans have moved forward; construction has begun on three new buildings. Work remains steady on this project. We also have the Nelson Energy Center plant in Rock Falls that has approximately 40 wiremen onsite at this time.

The latest news on the new Hard Rock Casino



Business Manager Tony Quillen (front row, far left) and Apprentice Director Danny McCrory (front row, far right) with Local 558's inside journeymen wiremen class at their graduation banquet on May 26.

are plans to add a hotel to the initial build; once this process is complete, construction should begin. This project has been long awaited and we're excited to get to work on it. The groundbreaking date has not been set, but all indications are for late summer.

On July 16, Local 364 held our annual family picnic after two years of postponements due to the pandemic. Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time, and what a welcome relief it was to finally have some kind of normalcy back. This overdue event was a great time for members and their families to reconnect again, and we look forward to more events for our membership as the year continues.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the traveling brothers and sisters from across the country who have worked and continue to work in our local during this extremely busy time.

Brad Williams, P.S.

### Brother Curtis Bullock Retires

L.U. 446 (i), MONROE, LA — Congratulations to Brother Curtis Bullock on your retirement! Our local would like to thank you for your years of service in representing us with such hard work and dedication in your career as a union electrician. It is with great pride that we honor you as a retired member of Local 446. Best wishes to you on your retirement!

Ken Green, B.M./F.S.



Local 446's Brother Curtis Bullock (front) along with retired members and lifelong friends Fred Tillman and Lonnie Peters.

### Congratulations, Apprentice Graduates!

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,lctt,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL — At the time of this reporting, work in the jurisdiction is still holding steady with an anticipated ramp-up starting mid-summer into the fall of 2022. Facebook will be beginning the next phase at their campus, which is expected to take two years to complete. The Toyota Motor facility has another expansion on the schedule for 2022 to

accommodate the new MTMUS plant and another truck engine in addition to the engines currently manufactured there.

We are excited to announce that the city of Huntsville is expanding the Von Braun Civic Center with at least a year-long project, and the electrical work will be performed by one of our IBEW signatory contractors. In the far eastern portion of our jurisdiction, we have a combustion turbine project located at the Colbert Steam Plant site in Barton, AL.

We would like to send our congratulations and best wishes to our 2022 graduating apprentice wiremen and linemen.

Mac Sloan, Pres.

### Local 636 Celebrates 100 Years

LU. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA — Our local marks its 100th anniversary this year. We hosted a membership conference on April 30, where we celebrated this incredible milestone with our unit executives from across the province. Our members took time out of their busy schedules to attend our conference, gather to exchange ideas and celebrate our local. We appreciate the support from the First District staff in making this conference a success. The anniversary was celebrated with videos, pictures and many items from our archives such as old minute books, financial ledgers and member records. It's amazing how far we've come in the last 100 years, and we are looking forward to the next 100!

Domenic Murdaca, B.M./F.S.

### Work Increases in Arizona

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ — It's a busy time here in the desert. We have many projects manning up, and the work picture should be strong for the foreseeable future. As our large projects are progressing as expected, the need for manpower also increases. We welcome our traveling brothers and sisters to come and help man the work.

We would also like to thank our international officers, Local 134 and the host locals for an excellent 40th International Convention.

Tim Wilson, P.S.



Local 636 celebrates its centennial anniversary as part of the IBEW.



# RETIRES

**Editor's Note:** The following retirees Local Lines articles were submitted to the June issue of the Electrical Worker. They were postponed for our coverage of the 40th International Convention in the combined June/July issue. Regular posting of Local Lines articles, including retirees clubs, will resume in the September issue. Local Lines for the months of June and July ran exclusively online with the electronic edition of the June/July Electrical Worker at [ibew.org/Media-Center/EW-Online](http://ibew.org/Media-Center/EW-Online).

## Meeting Attendees Limited

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WEST-CHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — As we begin a new season, we find very few changes in our chapter. We are still holding our monthly meetings with a very limited number of attendees permitted, under continued masking and social-distancing guidelines. We attempted to organize a spring golf outing, but we could only get a handful of golfers to sign up early enough to make a commitment to the golf course management. Therefore those plans had to be canceled for the fourth time. Just a few days ago, I spoke with the captain of the boat we always charter for our annual fishing trip and, not surprisingly, I was told there would be an increase in the cost of the charter due to fuel price increases. This issue may cause us to put that event on hold as well. I wish there was something positive to close with, but there really isn't anything at the moment. We are continuing with the appropriate pandemic procedures until this problem is behind us.

Dick Mills, Treas.

## We're Back!

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER — Check out our group "all in together" photo! We are so happy to report that our regular monthly meetings have resumed this year at the lovely Bethany Community Center in Washington Township, N.J. We are also well on our way with scheduling some great events for the coming months. First was our spring luncheon at La Terraza restaurant on May 18. We will have our annual picnic at Kruckers Picnic Grove and are looking forward, as always, to our stay at the Educational Center at Santorini! Sending best wishes to everyone for a great spring/summer season!

John Krison, P.S.

## South Jersey News

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER — We re-started our retiree meetings on March 16. It was good to see everyone again after our winter break. We had a busy schedule this spring with many events: Monmouth Park Racetrack, fishing trips, South Jersey Blue Claws baseball picnic and a trip to our Local 3 Educational Center for a week on Long



Local 3/South Jersey members attended a retirees luncheon with members of E-J Electric — Long Island City, NY: South Jersey President Anthony Savarese, Staten Island President Dwight Millman, superintendent Joe Cuzzo and general foremen Augie Calabro, George Iffe, Frank Russo, Mario Messina, Mike Bono and Joe Rosatti.

Island. We also have had our monthly breakfast clubs, luncheons and a couple of trips to Atlantic City. Stay safe!

Anthony Savarese, Pres.



Local 26 retirees and friends were very glad to meet in-person again for some post-pandemic cards: (left to right) Tommy Noyes, Jerry Papa, Dick Bissell (President) Rusty Griffis, Karl Statter, Snuffy Holcomb and Steve Walker.

## A Will and a Way

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — Having changed to daylight savings time, we welcome the time change that gives us more sunshine and daylight. April lived up to the motto "April Showers bring May flowers." However, our plants remain confused by the up-and-down temperatures we have been experiencing: 40-50 degrees in the morning, sometimes 70 degrees by noon.

Brother Warner has started to schedule post-pandemic trips. One went to Delaware Park, but with COVID-19 restrictions made by the bus company, all had to wear masks at all times, with no eating or drinking on the bus and attendees required to show proof of vaccination. If there's a will, there's a way. Also, due to COVID-19, there were fewer seats available in order to leave more room between passengers. At the time of this writing, our train trip to the Canadian Rockies is still scheduled for April. If you are interested in joining an event, or have a suggestion, please give Brother Warner a call at 240-472-0438.

If you want to hear about upcoming travels in 2022, attend our meetings on the second Saturday of the month starting at 12 p.m., September to May. May's meeting is the last before our summer break (June — Aug.). In the meantime, the local's picnics will proceed this year, as COVID-19 rules for Prince George's County, Md., and Virginia have relaxed.

A special "shout out" to our volunteers who will help to mail our raffle tickets in August. If interested

in helping with this extensive volunteer project, please contact Sister Flashman for details ([flashman-bissell@aol.com](mailto:flashman-bissell@aol.com)).

In the meantime, if you would like to help us mail out the minutes of our meeting, join us at the hall starting at 7:30 a.m. on the Thursday following our meetings. All volunteer members and their spouses are welcome! We love to see new faces!

Finally, the word is beginning to pass about our medical equipment program, and we are lending out more items! Thanks to the article in this newspaper that featured a story about this special program [December 2020 Electrical Worker].

Susan Flashman, P.S.

## Baseball Season is Here

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Hartford is very fortunate to be home to the Hartford Yard Goats' stadium. Local 35 has purchased a package of tickets to the games, which will be given out at our membership meetings. We should all be proud to support the Yard Goats, as we took part in building the stadium.

Our annual outing will be held on Oct. 8 at the Colchester Fish & Game Club. It's a great opportunity to visit with members, both active and retired, and a great day with lots of food and raffle prizes. As always, retirees are invited to attend at no cost. Mark your calendar now!

Union elections were held on June 27. As with every election, I urge all members to get out and exercise their right to vote.

I would like to give a special mention to Robert Leech, who passed away in February. Bobby served on the Executive Board from 1983 — 1990 and served as our vice president from 1990 — 1992. He was a good friend of mine and will be greatly missed by all.

The Retirees Club is hoping to increase attendance at our monthly meetings. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at the Elks Lodge in Rocky Hill. Dues are only \$35 per year and lunch is served. It's a great time to see everyone, and we hope you will join us. See you there!

Kenneth R. White, P.S.

## Come and Join Us

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — At the time of this writing, it's spring of 2022. I'm sure glad it is here — had enough of winter. I don't have much to report on at this time. Hope everyone is doing alright.

The crappie tournament was scheduled for April 30. I hope this crazy weather cooperated for us. We hope you came and enjoyed the crappie and the visitation. It is always a good time and good food, while getting to see old friends.

The union hall gave a retiree luncheon on April 8. It's the first one we've had in the last couple of years because of COVID. We were glad to see all of the retirees come and visit again.

On the second Thursday of each month we have a luncheon in Urich at the Lumberyard Grill & Pub. Come and join us!

On a sadder note, Sandy Query passed away on Feb. 4. She was a special lady and wife to our brother and former Business Manager Keith Query. She will be missed. May she rest in peace as the good Lord has taken her home. Amen.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

## Local 60 Retirees Regroup

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — The club met on Jan. 13 after 21 months of meeting cancellations due to the coronavirus. Members enjoyed a barbecue lunch catered by Pure Country while enjoying each other's company and playing catch-up. A short business meeting was conducted after lunch with the agenda of old and new business. The club's annual Golf Tournament fundraiser, which was canceled in 2020 and 2021, was discussed, and tournament chairperson Gene Chamberlain was put in charge on a future tournament. Club President Coy Rogers announced that the Years of Service pins will be awarded at the February meeting by Business Manager Gary Aiken and former Business Manager Gene Chamberlain. At the closing of the meeting, members honored the 22 active and retired members that had passed during the 21 months of meeting inactivity with a reading of names and a moment of silence.

The retirees of Local 60 meets the second Thursday of each month, Sept. — May, and then takes a summer break. Meetings start at 11:30 a.m. at Local 60's union hall, 3518 N. Loop 1604 E., San Antonio.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.



Local 60 Retirees Club members who have met milestones for their years of service: (front row, left to right) Roman Sanchez (50 years), Elroy Sicko (60 years), Phillip Zachman and Keith Schultz (65 years), former Business Manager Gene Chamberlain, (back row, left to right) Julis Nicolas, Robert Moczygamba, David Van Bibber, Patrick Hummel, Andrew Guerrero, Julian Terrazas (all 50 years) and Retirees Club President Coy Rogers.



Local 3/North Jersey retirees hung all in together as meetings resumed in 2022.



## Happy Summer to All

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — It took a while to get back to our pre-coronavirus schedule, and we hope we're all caught up by now. Drury Lane Theater has reopened, allowing us to attend two luncheon plays: "Evita" in February and "The King and I" in May.

Our Feb. 9 meeting was held at the IBEW-NECA Technical Institute. To celebrate Black History Month, our guest speaker was Retirees Club member Russell Ponder, Local 134's first African-American apprentice teacher, telling the story of labor leader Michael Boyle, business manager of Local 134 for 39 years. During that time, Local 134's first African-American electrician, Samuel Taylor, joined in 1919. He was treated badly until Mike Boyle accepted his application in 1922 as the first African-American contractor of the local. Taylor Electric is still here today, and there is more to this story: More information can be found at the Newberry Library of Black History. Thank you, Russell, for this incredible story.

Our luncheon meeting was held March 9 at Local 134's Memorial Hall, and it included an early St. Patrick's Day celebration and a delicious meal served by Gotto's Hospitality catering. At this meeting, we conducted the election for new officers and Executive Board members. The results are as follows:

- President — Keith Berls
- Vice President — Hale Landes
- Secretary — Alan H. Sindelar
- Treasurer — Bernie F. Martin
- Executive Board, 1-year term — James W. Duffy, Susan Kleczka, James E. Martin
- Executive Board, 2-year term — Charles J. Chathas, Mario J. Coletta, James J. Fliris and Hector R. Rivera

Local 134 Recording Secretary Kevin A. Connolly performed the swearing in of the newly elected officers and members of the Executive Board. Thank you, Kevin.

Wishing you all a fun and safe summer.

*Sue Kleczka, P.S.*

## New Officers and Great Meetings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 136, BIRMINGHAM, AL — We are glad to be back in the newspaper again. President Frank Perryman has been able to keep us safely up and running for our previous five or six meetings. We want to thank Business Manager Bill Blackman, President Ross Roberson and our Executive Board for all their support. They provide a meeting area and a lunch to all that attend. Our meeting is still on the first Wednesday of every month, and it's a really good time to visit with all our retired brothers. President Frank Perryman and Otis Graham (Chaplin) offer a moment for our departed brothers. Brother Perryman always reminds us to keep our addresses current along with our benefactor info. We have a sick and needy volunteer fund for any donations.



Retirees Club Vice President Keith Berls and members of Local 134's Motorcycle Club escorted five truckloads of donations from Local 134 to the Jesse Brown VA Hospital for homeless veterans.



Local 257 judges at the State Technical College of Missouri: (front row) Ken Schulte, Herman Grothoff, Dave Apperson, Don Hurst, Ron Holzhauser, Steve Klepel, Larry Jones, Greg Shrock; (back row) Jim Wilson, Jim Winemiller, Todd Gentry, Rick Stokes, Mark Stokes, Dave Hurst, Tom Stokes and Mike Fanning.

Our officers for 2022 — 2023 are President Frank Perryman, Vice President Billy Casey, Treasurer Harold ("Frog") Blankenship, Recording Secretary Gary ("Sky") King, Chaplin Otis Graham and Press Secretary Bill Roberson. Feel free to call Brothers Perryman or Graham if needed. And remember, "If it looks unsafe it might be."

*Bill Roberson, P.S.*

## Retiree Volunteers Judge Skills Competition

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Our club met on Dec. 14 at Reinhardt Circle for our annual Christmas luncheon and meeting. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by Missy Schroeder, wife of Local 257 member Mark Schroeder. After the meal, we had several drawings of names for prizes. A large poinsettia donated by Elaine Jurgensmeyer was the grand prize. We continued our collection of donations for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and were able to send a check for \$1,200. Our January meeting will be held on Jan. 25, 2023, at the Golden Corral in Columbia, Mo.

Local 257 retirees judged electrical projects at the State Technical College of Missouri on April 8 for the first in-person SkillsUSA since the start of the pandemic. Our retirees participated as industry-expert judges for the industrial/motor and residential-control projects. First-place winners will move on to the national SkillsUSA Championship in Atlanta, Ga., where they will compete with the best in the nation. Additionally, Local 257 retirees presented on the benefits of IBEW membership to the Skills USA electrical students. A special thanks is extended to our volunteer judges who gave their time and knowledge to the next generation.

The Retirees Club had luncheon meetings at Reinhardt Circle on March 29 and Hartsburg American Legion on April 26. Both meetings were well attended with 54 and 49 members and guests, respectively.

On a sad note, we would like to send our thoughts and prayers to the family of Emil Fischer, who passed away on Oct. 25, 2021. Emil was a member of Local 257 for over 60 years and served as a business manager. Additionally, we send our condolences to the family of Clare Lang, wife of Bill

Lang, who passed away on Nov. 21, 2021, and to the family of Norma Loyd, wife of Bill Loyd, who passed away on Jan. 7.

*Judy Holzhauser, P.S.*

## Congratulations Local 317 Service Awardees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 317, HUNTINGTON, WV — In March, our club hosted a luncheon, and we awarded Years of Service pins to a number of retirees. The members who received pins are: Dewey Turley (65-year pin), Deward L. Austin (55-year pin), Elmer Mays (55-year pin), Golden Adkins (50-year pin) and John Pelfrey (50-year pin). Congratulations to all for their years of service!

*Jerry Booth, Pres.*



Local 317 Retirees Club members receiving their Years of Service pins: (left to right) Dewey Turley, Deward L. Austin, Elmer Mays, Golden Adkins and President Jerry Booth.

## Local 353 Meetings Return

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ON, CANADA — Ontario has returned to near normal, and retirees can return to rescheduled dates and conditions. Our annual pin/award breakfast has been moved from April to June for members with 50 years of service or more. This year, 230 of our over 3,000 retired members will qualify to attend.

Local 353 agreements for working members — ICI, High Rise, Low Rise, Line & COMM — have all been settled, and house wiring is still pending. ICI gains are \$6.05 over 3 years. The working members will vote on how best to distribute raise on wages and benefits. The wisdom of past officers and Executive Board members, endorsed by the working members, has provided for good pensions and great health and welfare benefits for not only working members' families, but also to retirees and spouses.

While not being able to hold in-person meetings, our Executive Board has been working on holding the South Unit luncheon scheduled for May 3 and is developing a system to notify our local's retirees of dates and events more efficiently. Local 353 provided a Chromebook computer and assisted in developing an email program for our large membership.

*Robert Rynyk, Pres.*

## Retirees Buy American

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 649, ALTON, IL — It is with deep sorrow that I report passings of our members. IBEW brothers who recently passed are: Carl Bopp, an Ameren gas mechanic; Robert Clothier, a Winchester electrician; Gary Couch, a Wieland electrician; and Tom E. Cox, a retired wireman.

While not an IBEW retiree, Daniel W. Flatt also passed away this year. He is the father of Local 649's Brother Dwayne Flatt. Please keep the families of these members in your thoughts and prayers.

Local 134 organizer Mike Gogola would like to draw your attention to a startup tool company made up of Local 134 members. The company's name is Chicago Tool Werks ([www.chicagotoolwerks.com](http://www.chicagotoolwerks.com)), and it is signatory with Local 134. Our members, both active and retired, might wonder why I include this update in the retirees section of Local Lines: Word of mouth travels well, and retirees are a powerful force in transmitting information, especially when it comes to "Buy American!"

And please remember that the Retirees Club meets at 9:00 a.m. on the last Thursday of each month for breakfast at the Eagles Nest in Bethalto. This retiree group is open to all bargaining group retired members. While I can't attend currently, hopefully I will see everyone when possible.

Strength in Unity!

*Terry Wilhite, P.S.*

## Happy Retirement, Brother Arndt

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1042, SANFORD, FL, CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER — Our local would like to announce that Bob Arndt is retiring after 48 years of working in the electrical industry. Bob started his journey in northern Virginia and

then migrated south, working in South Carolina and finally calling Florida his home in 1987. Bob joined FPL in August of that year, spending 35 years there. In 1998, he found his forever family with Local 1042.

Bob is a certified journeyman who finished his career as an overhead senior lineman at the Sanford Service Center. You can find Bob enjoying working behind the scenes in his local community theatre as the sound & lighting guy. Please wish Brother Arndt all the joy and happiness that life has to offer in the next chapter of his life as he enjoys his golden years!

*Ellen Stephenson, P.S.*



Local 1042 congratulates Brother Bob Arndt on his hard (shell)-earned retirement!



# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in June 2022

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	Bostic, C. O.	1/2/22	18	Lespron, J.	3/16/22	98	Sweeney, P. J.	4/9/22	175	Mathis, M. A.	1/18/22	387	Elms, W. J.	2/13/22
1	Hill, K. C.	3/26/22	18	Moore, E.	2/8/22	99	Pihlkrantz, G. W.	1/20/21	175	Smith, S. L.	5/1/22	400	McNerney, N. J.	4/4/22
1	Hopfinger, M. P.	3/22/22	20	Klassen, W. L.	11/28/21	102	DeLoretto, N. A.	3/17/22	176	Cummings, E. P.	4/9/22	400	Mohan, J. F.	2/25/22
1	Jarvis, J. W.	1/15/22	20	Meinzer, V. E.	3/29/22	102	Lawlor, D. R.	5/6/22	176	Martin, S. R.	4/17/22	400	Salter, F. H.	9/20/20
1	Lynn, J. S.	4/17/22	20	Pustejovsky, J. H.	3/7/22	102	Oxley, H. W.	10/29/19	176	Ramuta, F. D.	1/9/22	405	Soukup, A. J.	4/2/22
1	Ostermueller, T. G.	4/24/22	20	Smith, S.	3/9/22	102	Propsner, R. P.	3/24/22	176	Simkins, J.	4/25/22	413	McDonald, C. F.	3/15/22
1	Paar, J. S.	4/9/22	22	Bradley, C. J.	4/5/22	102	Silvestre, J. M.	3/9/22	177	Ayala, N. T.	2/1/22	424	Biffert, R. C.	2/13/22
1	Richards, J. R.	8/14/21	24	Aus, A. F.	2/27/22	102	Stafford, A. J.	1/19/22	191	Lybbert, S. N.	11/30/21	424	Hammond, J. R.	4/27/22
2	Cravens, R. E.	1/16/22	24	Ross, R.	2/20/22	102	Williams, C. F.	8/30/21	191	Peterson, C. R.	1/2/21	424	Miller, J. A.	3/31/20
2	Faust, J. N.	2/10/22	24	Thomas, D. H.	2/25/21	103	Angino, M. F.	3/26/22	193	Clark, J. J.	8/6/21	424	Ricard, D.	3/20/22
3	Brechtel, P.	4/1/22	24	Ziomek, L. P.	3/17/22	103	Balfe, J. J.	3/6/22	194	Clark, J. D.	3/2/22	426	Benson, M. R.	2/17/22
3	Brennan, J. P.	4/16/22	25	Nagengast, T. P.	2/23/22	103	Beausoleil, R. G.	1/7/22	196	Eash, S. H.	3/18/22	429	Evans, D. L.	3/21/22
3	Calaci, M.	4/24/22	26	Canady, R. T.	1/4/22	103	Behan, J. P.	4/13/22	197	Dehart, J. W.	1/28/22	429	Hewlett, E. P.	4/20/22
3	Cannistraci, J.	3/5/22	26	Williams, J. W.	4/14/22	103	Brown, R. T.	12/23/21	197	Stinde, M. R.	10/13/20	429	Houston, B. W.	4/24/22
3	Cardone, B.	4/29/22	35	Barnard, J. L.	2/27/22	103	DeLuca, R. W.	2/24/22	212	Peponis, G. J.	4/14/22	429	Maynard, J. L.	4/10/22
3	Catalanotto, P. F.	2/17/22	35	Moore, T. L.	11/27/21	103	Foley, P. J.	1/4/22	212	Rein, H. J.	3/7/22	430	Reich, T. E.	4/23/22
3	Divanna, J. P.	3/11/22	38	Dunbar, D. D.	4/2/22	103	Garvey, W. A.	11/5/21	213	Hudson, R. B.	8/6/21	441	Snyder, R. L.	3/14/22
3	Erikson, G.	4/3/22	38	Galbraith, D. C.	3/25/22	103	Halpern, M.	1/24/22	213	Johnson, P.	8/11/21	441	Woods, J. D.	4/9/22
3	Flores, J.	3/17/22	38	Lawrence, C. W.	5/22/22	103	McMahon, F. G.	2/20/22	213	Wacker, R.	2/8/22	441	Zitny, R. G.	1/26/22
3	Gabriele, R. P.	1/1/22	38	Rocco, J.	3/23/22	103	O'Brien, W. E.	3/2/22	222	Woolard, M. M.	3/9/22	446	Truett, R. W.	1/23/22
3	Hayes, R. J.	3/15/22	41	Fialkowski, A. F.	4/4/22	103	Scarponi, J. E.	12/31/21	229	Henry, B. S.	4/4/22	449	Byington, R. L.	4/22/22
3	Irby, S. L.	2/21/22	41	Goins, C. J.	4/4/22	103	Sharrigan, G. J.	9/2/21	236	Funk, D. J.	4/1/22	456	Giles, R. A.	5/24/21
3	Jozeff, S.	3/23/20	41	Johnston, D. C.	3/19/22	105	Beaulieu, M.	3/22/22	237	Gemmati, C. G.	1/28/22	459	Bertolino, P. P.	3/18/22
3	Keenan, J. J.	4/13/22	41	Testman, F. L.	3/23/22	105	Buchanan, A.	4/22/22	238	Sawyer, R. L.	2/18/22	461	Albright, R. M.	12/24/21
3	Koenig, S. N.	2/11/22	42	Gangale, V. D.	1/27/22	105	Marrone, J. G.	4/10/22	242	Tigue, G.	12/7/21	461	McConnell, S. T.	1/25/22
3	Leczycki, A.	3/27/22	43	Kneuss, E. R.	4/7/22	105	Moore, D. B.	3/30/22	245	Pump, J. D.	4/8/22	463	Biggs, J. A.	2/22/22
3	Malcolm, L. L.	3/27/22	43	Lokay, R. D.	4/30/22	109	Coats, T. R.	3/17/22	254	Rietze, H. N.	3/4/22	466	Buckalew, J. C.	1/21/22
3	Mandeville, R. C.	4/21/22	43	Ryan, J. J.	2/4/22	109	Johnson, A. G.	11/12/21	258	Hall, R. G.	3/15/22	477	Richards, C. R.	1/3/22
3	Marrow, C. W.	2/19/22	44	Dammann, S. A.	4/23/22	110	Carter, C. E.	3/15/22	258	McKane, L. N.	4/24/21	479	Morrison, L. G.	2/7/22
3	Mawdsley, J. J.	3/5/22	44	Finkbeiner, R. R.	4/5/22	110	Holland, R. L.	11/7/21	265	Albers, J. D.	2/28/22	480	Windham, C. P.	3/28/22
3	McNally, J. J.	3/22/22	44	Pitts, J. W.	2/27/22	110	Johnson, H. A.	11/28/20	265	Fox, R. W.	3/31/22	481	Fleenor, R. L.	12/3/21
3	Nolan, T. P.	4/15/22	46	Boers, A. L.	4/4/22	110	Linde, A. T.	3/25/22	265	McFalls, G. A.	5/12/22	481	Hahn, T. L.	2/26/22
3	Orfano, A.	2/12/22	46	Bybee, E. C.	1/17/22	111	Miller, S. G.	1/14/22	275	Freeman, A. E.	2/20/22	481	Noel, R. E.	12/8/21
3	Pasquale, G. V.	3/1/22	46	Dalrymple, G. D.	3/25/22	111	Shalosky, D. L.	4/9/22	275	Newville, R. D.	3/20/22	481	Washburn, D. G.	3/1/22
3	Pastusak, W. T.	5/9/22	46	Davie, T. J.	2/27/22	111	Smith, B. D.	1/28/22	278	Douglass, J. R.	3/3/22	488	Paniati, L.	12/9/21
3	Pearlman, S. I.	3/15/22	46	Dickson, B. J.	3/14/22	113	Waterhouse, G. K.	2/7/22	278	Kincaid, G. S.	3/8/22	488	Schlack, R. R.	2/23/22
3	Phelan, R. G.	2/20/22	46	Millhuff, R. M.	4/23/22	120	Gough, A. B.	4/19/22	280	Gephart, M. A.	3/18/22	490	Berry, G. T.	3/30/22
3	Quijano Montes, G.	3/14/22	46	Nordlinder, C. L.	12/26/21	124	Barnes, R. K.	3/18/22	280	Kassel, A. W.	1/11/22	490	Yates, W. A.	4/8/22
3	Reiser, J. E.	4/20/22	46	Reid, J. E.	3/26/22	124	Myers, G. D.	3/4/22	291	Badley, R. L.	3/3/22	494	Bialk, B. J.	4/13/22
3	Rosenberg, E.	4/11/22	46	Simkulet, C. P.	4/7/22	124	Pribble, G. L.	3/8/22	292	Borg, B. G.	3/18/22	494	Buggs, M. L.	5/10/22
3	Sieling, F. J.	4/17/22	46	Simon, G. L.	1/17/22	125	Ball, J. R.	4/12/22	292	Harris, C.	3/2/22	494	Laubenstein, R. R.	5/12/21
3	Singh, D. L.	5/1/22	46	Wilson, D. A.	3/18/22	125	Hampton, H. G.	3/29/22	292	Schoen, C. W.	11/13/21	494	Tagliapietra, A.	3/20/22
3	Smith, J. P.	1/7/22	47	Casso, J.	3/31/22	125	Holzemer, R. S.	3/18/22	292	York, A. A.	3/27/22	495	Cranmer, D. J.	12/9/21
3	Thomas, M. A.	3/20/22	48	Hatton, R. L.	11/14/20	125	Wilson, J. H.	4/5/22	295	Hahn, T. L.	2/2/22	505	Barrow, G. T.	2/2/22
3	Wanderlingh, S. R.	4/15/22	48	Hoffmann, R. A.	3/23/22	126	Blockside, G. A.	4/8/22	301	Baker, J. P.	4/18/22	505	Cramer, J. D.	1/30/22
3	Wasilko, J.	2/28/22	48	Lamprecht, D. P.	1/13/22	126	Kennell, R. H.	4/7/22	302	Andelin, D. I.	4/11/22	505	Curtis, G. L.	10/23/21
3	Weller, A.	4/18/22	48	Libby, E. W.	2/26/22	126	McCauley, J. P.	3/6/22	302	Pena, J. C.	5/13/22	530	Moorehouse, E. P.	11/9/21
3	Whelan, J. F.	4/8/22	48	Reiter, P. J.	4/23/22	126	Rowles, F. W.	3/6/22	303	Bernier, G. M.	5/13/22	531	Catron, R. G.	12/24/21
3	Yezza, R.	2/26/22	48	Straessle, A. E.	12/8/21	129	Eakin, J. M.	12/7/21	304	McVay, R. L.	9/21/21	531	Switzer, J. J.	1/20/22
5	Bearer, B. T.	3/4/22	48	Wagaman, E. G.	3/20/22	131	Meech, J. G.	3/25/20	306	Fleet, R. J.	11/11/21	551	Arthurs, J. M.	12/28/21
5	Bisel, T. L.	2/21/22	48	White, R. P.	6/5/21	134	Alcorn, R. P.	3/19/22	306	Gourley, D. F.	2/15/22	551	Blair, J. M.	4/4/22
5	Gross, G. W.	3/21/22	51	Hayes, L. W.	3/29/22	134	Byerly, J. L.	4/22/22	307	Kelly, M. D.	3/10/22	558	Abrams, R. D.	1/27/22
5	Necciai, D. M.	2/25/22	51	Vezenia, C.	8/9/21	134	Cariato, L. A.	2/26/22	309	Lorentzen, J. P.	3/2/22	558	Chaney, W. H.	4/20/22
6	Childree, R. E.	3/9/22	53	Gilkeson, K. N.	4/16/22	134	Garcia, J. L.	1/15/22	309	Verschuyf, W. G.	2/8/22	558	Rich, D. L.	4/11/22
6	D'Augusta, L.	4/9/22	57	Hall, J.	2/26/22	134	Hart, A. G.	3/21/22	317	Endicott, J. E.	4/20/22	568	Morier, R.	11/28/21
6	Gonzales, G. R.	1/5/22	58	Driscoll, C. A.	10/14/21	134	Hoey, J. P.	12/22/21	322	Ballard, D. W.	3/27/22	569	Kelley, C.	3/13/22
6	Hammons, J. S.	10/30/20	58	Gill, K. E.	3/22/22	134	Kassner, E. C.	2/28/22	322	Marx, J. R.	3/6/22	569	Leavitt, D. L.	2/11/22
6	Husband, J. L.	2/27/22	58	Gower, D. E.	3/27/22	134	Kroner, M. E.	4/9/22	340	Dalrymple, D. H.	4/12/22	569	Spielman, T.	12/15/21
6	Meurer, F. R.	3/1/22	58	Lassaline, M. G.	4/10/22	134	Levine, W. K.	12/12/21	340	Doi, J.	4/23/22	584	Bryan, J. P.	3/16/22
6	Olson, N. I.	4/15/19	58	Litt, N.	3/20/22	134	McDonnell, G.	4/27/22	340	Hilliker, J. R.	3/4/22	586	Dare, B.	4/15/22
6	Schalch, S. J.	6/4/20	58	Marcoux, D. C.	4/7/22	134	Ramsden, T. D.	4/17/22	340	Zimmerman, R. M.	1/13/22	595	Hudspeth, D. B.	4/9/22
6	Wilson, R. J.	10/23/21	58	McGinnity, E. J.	3/30/22	134	Raymond, J. L.	3/14/22	343	Jenson, K. P.	3/24/22	595	Meyer, S. R.	2/28/21
8	Goetz, J. R.	1/6/22	58	Schoeninger, R. H.	11/3/21	134	Reid, T. P.	3/7/22	347	Lindberg, R. L.	2/21/22	595	Sheldon, J. O.	2/7/22
8	Kinkaid, J. S.	1/25/22	58	Witoszynski, J. M.	3/29/22	134	Scales, W.	4/25/22	347	Wiese, C.	3/4/22	595	Stubbs, D. N.	4/18/22
8	Ladd, N. R.	3/21/22	60	Laskowski, W. H.	3/28/22	134	Warkentien, M. P.	3/28/22	349	Aguilar, D. J.	3/11/22	596	Hamilton, C. D.	4/5/22
8	Ropp, J. L.	9/20/21	64	Hopfer, W. J.	1/28/22	134	Yancy, D. M.	3/31/22	349	Hardy, D. C.	2/8/22	601	Fogarty, R. E.	2/8/22
8	Seibert, N. M.	12/23/21	66	Gardiner, G. R.	1/3/22	136	Horn, K. A.	1/26/22	349	Nichols, G. G.	3/1/22	601	McHenry, H. E.	3/3/22
9	Dusek, G.	4/11/22	66	Herbert, J. M.	1/8/22	139	Mathews, G. A.	5/8/22	350	Lambert, H. E.	7/17/21	601	Ragland, J. G.	4/5/22
9	Maciel, R.	3/23/22	68	Mahoney, E. T.	1/13/22	143	Boyanowski, K. E.	2/20/22	353	Bailey, A. I.	4/4/22	602	Carver, J. C.	4/11/22
11	Alva, H.	3/9/22	71	Lute, H. A.	2/28/22	143	Hess, L. M.	3/17/22	353	Bridgmohan, G.	4/17/22	606	Heaton, R. R.	3/21/22
11	Bonnie, F. E.	4/3/22	73	Foster, T. N.	12/30/21	145	Williams, J. G.	2/13/22	353	Lewis, C. D.	3/18/22	606	Malone, T. A.	7/30/21
11	Byerly, D. G.	3/9/22	73	Wright, W. M.	12/24/21	150	Brieden, J. L.	12/20/21	353	McNeil, J.	3/26/22	611	Crank, L.	11/11/21
11	Haendle, C. F.	3/24/22	76	Hinkson, L. E.	1/30/22	150	Rivelli, J. J.	12/1/21	353	Porter, J.	3/10/22	611	Katz Chavez, K.	2/12/22
11	Harris, W. E.	10/28/21	76	Kerilla, B. M.	3/1/22	159	Hesher, T. M.	12/20/21	353	Supino, A.	3/1/22	611	Marshall, D. W.	2/21/22
11	Kaelble, R.	1/20/22	77	Dyer, G. R.	11/29/20	159	Krey, D. A.	3/12/22	353	Swanback, A. E.	6/23/20	611	Nunnelle, C. W.	1/20/22
11	Palazzolo, S. J.	1/28/22	77	English, E. E.	3/19/22	160	Olson, A. L.	3/20/22	357	Brown, K. S.	12/16/21	611	Torres, A. R.	1/5/22
11	Pan, G. C.	3/14/22	77	Lechner, L. R.	10/25/21	160	Puls, R. A.	3/31/22	357	Gibson, J. P.	4/21/22	613	Chadwick, T. T.	2/19/22
11	Randolph, W. A.	1/30/21	80	Bannon, F. P.	11/15/21	164	Desrosiers, R. F.	3/20/22	357	Hanson, G. M.	10/23/21	613	Dressler, H. W.	8/15/21
11	Simon, H. R.</													



# WHO WE ARE

## Colorado Apprentice Has a Unique Side-Gig: Modeling

**W**hen Pueblo, Colo., Local 12 member Tyshawn Nicholas posted some birthday photos to his Instagram account earlier this year, he had no idea it would lead him to a modeling gig at Denver's Fashion Week, but his post caught the right eyes and earned him an opportunity he couldn't pass up. "I wasn't hoping to get anything out of it," said the first-year apprentice wireman. "Those were the first professional pictures I ever took. It was just a birthday gift to myself."

Those photos got over 1,000 views in just two days, thanks to friends, family and the photographer sharing them online. From there, Nicholas was invited to audition for Denver Fashion Week, held in April, where he walked for several different designers, including one who usually designs for women but worked on a custom piece for him.

"It was astounding," Nicholas said of the show. "It was eye-opening to get a chance to see the process that it takes to put such a big show together. The biggest highlight for me was the networking. I got a chance to meet so many great people and make some new friends. And I got a chance to share and hear a lot of different ideas."

It's a world that is still very much new to him, having only started earlier this year.

"As us electricians would say, I'm still green," he said.

While he may be new, it's something he's taken to naturally.

"For me the reason I started taking pictures was to keep memories, so aside from that I just love self-expression through style like clothes and hair. I love the art in it and I love being



Credit: @davidlookitico

*Pueblo, Colo., Local 12 apprentice Tyshawn Nicholas recently participated in Denver's Fashion Week, held in April.*

myself," Nicholas said. "And it's nice that people like it. There is no better feeling than that."

His comfort in front of the camera is something that dates back to his high school and college years playing sports.

"It's kind of something that just happens," Nicholas said. "I've been in front of the lights and camera since high school sports, but the presence is just me being myself, having fun and enjoying life and smiling while I do it."

Being a model and an electrician isn't something that likely happens a lot, but Nicholas says it can be done. And more than that, it can be done in a way that promotes the trades.

"They always say it can't be done until someone does it, and I'm going to do it," he said. "Hopefully it can inspire more apprentices to pursue a side hobby while completing school and go out and support their local because we're always trying to add members to our brotherhood."

Nicholas says he also feels for-

tunate to be able to pursue both an apprenticeship and modeling.

"Being a part of the IBEW, with the benefits and flexibility we have, it gives me the opportunity to pursue my other passions, and I know not everyone has that," he said. "It's like they say, 'choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.'"

As for his day job doing electrical work, Nicholas says there's a lot to like there too.

"I love to imagine a project and watch it come to life," he said. "What I like most about it is learning new skills in the classroom and being able to take it straight to the field and put it to use. The feeling of growth after that is amazing."

While modeling and electrical work may seem like polar opposite pursuits, Nicholas says they actually share some commonalities.

"There is definitely an overlap in the creation aspect of modeling and being an electrician," he said. "You have to finesse each one a little different. Being an electrician is more of a mental art and modeling is more of a physical art, but at the end of the day, whether it's modeling or electrical work, you have to have the vision."

Nicholas credits Local 12's Training Director Dan Kraus for helping him get into the apprenticeship.

"Tyshawn certainly has the desire, the want and the drive to succeed in the apprenticeship," Kraus said. "I know he's really excited about the modeling stuff too and we're excited for him. Hopefully he can make it all work out."

Nicholas has since done two other fashion shows, along with some photo shoots, with more shows scheduled for later in the year. ■



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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

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## In Memoriam continued

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
I.O. (300)	Selby, R. A.	11/6/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Falasco, P. L.	4/6/22	Pens. (I.O.)	McKay, E. R.	3/10/22
I.O. (697)	Walton, W. B.	1/14/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Garrett, W. O.	2/8/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Miller, C. J.	3/11/22
I.O. (724)	Kavanaugh, K. P.	3/21/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Goldstein, I.	4/27/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Payne, B. G.	1/22/22
I.O. (1388)	Daoust, R. D.	5/7/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Halverson, C. E.	3/6/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Racicot, A. H.	5/5/22
I.O. (1474)	Latham, E. L.	3/17/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Hazelwood, P. D.	3/8/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Roden, L. C.	4/25/22
I.O. (1920)	Navarrete, R. A.	4/12/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Iannone, A.	6/17/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Rouse, L. G.	1/29/22
Pens. (101)	Loveless, C. E.	12/19/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Lomonico, F. J.	7/29/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Rubino, J. R.	3/11/22
Pens. (101)	Sorrells, O.	3/31/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Long, E. E.	3/17/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Sass, J. F.	3/14/22
Pens. (I.O.)	Amerman, C. J.	1/19/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Martin, L. A.	10/17/21	Pens. (I.O.)	Savarese, A. J.	3/1/20
Pens. (I.O.)	Arnold, J. D.	1/16/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Mavis, D.	5/31/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Shultis, W. J.	6/2/20
Pens. (I.O.)	Domingo, M.	4/6/22	Pens. (I.O.)	McBride, B. D.	3/18/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Smith, J. D.	3/29/22
Pens. (I.O.)	Erickson, W. A.	1/5/21	Pens. (I.O.)	McCrorry, J. H.	4/3/22	Pens. (I.O.)	Zins, W. R.	12/20/21





# IBEW-Backed EV Training Picked for National Charging Network

The task of building a national network of electric vehicle charging stations could soon fall primarily to IBEW members, thanks to a June 9 announcement by the U.S. Department of Transportation that recommends the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program as the preferred national certification standard for training the workers who will install \$5 billion of EV charging equipment.

"We helped create the EVITP more than 10 years ago and it's been our gold-standard EV training and certification program ever since," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "We've consistently touted our highly skilled, highly trained workforce as leaders in installing and maintaining EV charging infrastructure, and we're very pleased that the DOT is putting its faith not just in the program, but also in the skills that make our electricians the best qualified men and women to help build a quality and reliable national charging network."

The non-profit EVITP was developed in collaboration with industry partners and stakeholders across the automotive, utility and manufacturing sectors, alongside the IBEW, National Electrical Contractors Association and educational institutions.

The Electrical Training Alliance, which oversees and develops curricula for the IBEW's joint apprenticeship train-

ing centers, estimates that more than half of the IBEW's roughly 270 inside wiremen JATCs in the U.S. are actively enrolling students for electric vehicle charging system training programs.

"The rapid adoption of electric vehicles hinges on the safe, orderly build-out of charging infrastructure," Stephenson said. "Proposing the EVITP as the required certification, something that the IBEW already offers, is a huge win for our members."

President Joe Biden has long promised that, under his administration and its signature \$1 trillion infrastructure law, the \$5 billion, 500,000-station national charging network would be built by IBEW members.

Federal agencies like the Transportation Department have the authority to create rules that will help them implement laws like the infrastructure law, and guidance the agency released earlier this year strongly encouraged jurisdictions to consider using the EVITP when applying for a share of the funding. The DOT's Federal Highway Administration formalized that recommendation when it specified the EVITP within FHWA's proposed federal rules governing the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program.

As written, the rule, under Section 680.106(j) of the Federal Register, requires journeymen wiremen who install, maintain and operate EV service

equipment be certified through the EVITP. It also mandates, for projects where more than one electrician is needed, that at least one be an apprentice in a registered electrical apprenticeship program.

The FHWA admits that jurisdictions can meet the requirement through another appropriate registered apprenticeship program, but states that the EVITP would be the preferred one. Electricians must be licensed or certified by the states where they live to be eligible for the EVITP, and if their states do not license or certify, then they must prove that they've had at least 8,000 hours of hands-on electrical construction experience — similar to what an IBEW journeyman wireman already brings to the table.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that there are already about 43,000 charging stations installed across the country. NEVI aims to add 500,000 more by 2030, in convenient locations no more than 50 miles from each other and near rest areas and off-

ramps and rest areas along designated "Alternative Fuel Corridors." As many as 18 million EVs could be in use by then.

Stephenson urged business managers to work on getting members registered for EVITP certification as soon as possible, to meet the demand both from the federal government as well as from the private sector. The growing need for EV charging stations also creates major opportunities for the IBEW to organize nonunion electricians into the brotherhood, he said.

"With the right federal standards in place," he said, "our government can ensure that EV charging stations are installed to high-quality standards, sparing costly and time-consuming repairs down the road while creating good, union jobs. All of this is a huge step in the right direction."

The Federal Register is accepting public comments on the rule through August 22. The rule will go into effect 30 days after it's finalized. ■



*The June EVITP recommendation announcement coincided with a Department of Transportation symposium held at the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C., where attendees and passersby couldn't miss Chicago Local 134's Illinois Renewable Energy Fund education and recruitment tractor-trailer parked outside. Local 134 Business Representative Robert Hattier, in green, the fund's executive director, and Local 134 business representative and fund trainer Joe Kilcoyne, top, were on hand to give tours and answer questions throughout the day.*

## February 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 11:54 a.m., by Chairman Erikson, on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, in St. Pete's Beach, Florida. Other members of the council in attendance were Calabro, Shirey, Furco, Wine, Chincio, and Venoit. Calvey and Riley also attended via electronic teleconference.

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

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

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

**Local Union(s) Under International Office Supervision**  
Local Union 2330, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, remains under trusteeship. The IEC authorized a six month extension.

The trusteeship over Local Union 1501, Baltimore, Maryland, was imposed on October 19, 2021. Although six months have not passed since the imposition of that trusteeship, the IEC will not meet again prior to the six months having passed. Therefore, the IEC authorized the continuation of the trusteeship of Local Union 1501 for an additional six months.

**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.

**Article XX and XXI Cases**  
The IBEW was involved in no Article XX disputes, and no disputes under Article XXI for the quarter.

**IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement Covering the 6-Month Period Ending December 31, 2021**  
Reviewed and Filed

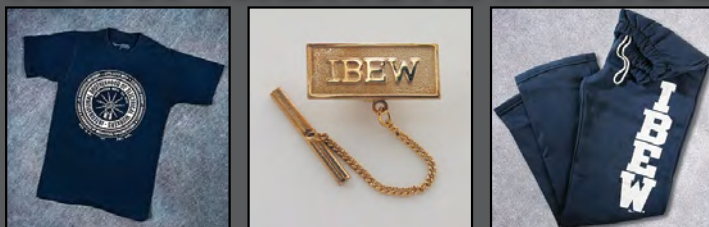
**IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets/Changes Covering the 6-Month Period Ending December 31, 2021**  
Reviewed and Filed

**RETIREMENT OF INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**  
John E. Meyer, International Representative, Railroad Department  
Effective — February 1, 2022

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned, on Friday, February 4, 2022, at 10:39 a.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois.

**For the International Executive Council**  
Myles J. Calvey, Secretary  
February 2022

## IBEW MERCHANDISE



### LOGO TSHIRT \$8.50

100% cotton blue t-shirt with white silk-screened IBEW logo on front.

### TIE TACK / LAPEL PIN \$3.00

Gold-tone bar with raised IBEW initials, features jewelry grade ball clutch. Can be used as a tie tack or lapel pin.

### IBEW ATHLETIC PANTS \$36.00

80% Cotton - 20% Polyester. Left leg has large IBEW initials silk screened in white. Elastic waist with drawstring. No elastic at ankles. Pants fit true to size with very minimal shrinkage. Heavy duty stitching.

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

[www.ibewmerchandise.com](http://www.ibewmerchandise.com)

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