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IBEW News

5 Things Locals Must Do
Cut Out This Guide **3**

IBEW at the White House
Members Advise on Policy **5**

Local 134 Reaches Out
Attracting New Talent **6**

In This Issue

Editorials **2**

My IBEW Story **2**

NEW FEATURE: The Meter **2**

North of 49° **7**

Politics & Jobs **8**

Circuits **9**

Transitions **10**

Spotlight on Safety **10**

Local Lines **12**

Retirees **16**

In Memoriam **18**

Grounded in History **19**

Who We Are **20**



**Promises
MADE.
Promises
KEPT.**

Joe Biden's Winning Record for Working Americans

**THE IBEW'S 2023
PHOTO CONTEST**
Deadline: Nov. 1 • Details on pg. 8

Construction is booming. Jobs are soaring. Manufacturing is returning to American shores for the first time in a generation. Hundreds of billions of dollars are being invested to modernize the grid and employ electrical workers for decades to come. Labor laws have a new bite. Multi-employer pensions are safe.

For workers broadly and the IBEW specifically, it is a White House track record unlike any compiled in nearly a century.

IBEW leaders say President Joe Biden met every goal they set for him on behalf of the union's 775,000 members and retirees during his first two years, and they are confident he can achieve even more.

"We've had friends in the White House, but no one has ever had our backs like Joe Biden and Kamala Harris," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said April 25 after the candidates announced their run for a second term.

"It's impossible to count the ways they have made workers' lives better. Imagine what they can do with another four years," he said. "The IBEW couldn't be prouder to endorse them for re-election in 2024."

NO GREATER FRIEND

Editorial on Page 2

As Biden stressed that afternoon to an audience of thousands of building trades unionists, the administration's work isn't done.

"I look at the world through the eyes of Scranton and Claymont, Delaware, where I grew up," Biden told the legislative conference of North America's Building Trades Unions. "Through the eyes of the working people I grew up with. Through the eyes of people like you who have been able to make it because you're union."

"We had to fight hard to get prevailing wage, Butch Lewis [pension security], Davis-Bacon project labor agreements," he said. "We had to fight like hell, and we made a lot of progress because of you. But there's more to do, so let's finish the job."

The IBEW endorsed Biden early in his 2020 campaign, during which he famously pledged "to be the most pro-union president you've ever seen."

President Joe Biden has built his economic agenda around workers, as he laid out in a major speech in February before pumped-up Local 26 members in Lanham, Md., above.

"Promises made and promises kept," Cooper said, explaining how heavily Biden relied on the IBEW's expertise along the way.

"Joe Biden didn't just want the IBEW's support. He wanted our advice, especially when it came to energy, jobs, and infrastructure."

"A lot of what we talked about with him ended up in the American Rescue Plan, in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act," Cooper said. "We got things into those bills that with any other president would have been mere dreams — like the Inflation Reduction Act's penalties for intentionally violating prevailing wage requirements to the tune of \$10,000 per worker."

"Per worker," he said, emphasizing the point. "That's a penalty with actual teeth."

JOE BIDEN *continued on page 4*

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FROM THE OFFICERS

No Greater Friend



Kenneth W. Cooper
International President



Paul A. Noble
International Secretary-Treasurer

In the long history of the IBEW, there have been many U.S. presidents. Few of them have been our friends, however. Some refused our friendship outright, opening the Oval Office to corporate bosses instead. Some even sent the military after unions, turning American guns on working Americans.

Grover Cleveland was one of these. He ordered soldiers to bring down the 1894 Pullman railroad strike, just when IBEW founder Henry Miller was starting to organize. This was the first time the federal government intervened to break a strike. (It wouldn't be the last.)

Other presidents were less straightforward about their opposition to us. They promised their partnership, only to later close the door on our goals. We have seen presidents election after election promise bright futures to working people but fail to deliver when it counted. In fact, nearly every president, Democrat and Republican, has offered little to the working Americans who voted for them, outside of empty promises and half-hearted hopes.

But why bring up ancient history now? Why look to the past?

Because that history still lives today.

It's in the hollowed-out towns and left-behind factories we still see. It's clear when we look at the jobs shipped across oceans, the banks bailed out and the anti-worker policies as recent as 2018 — when President Donald Trump issued executive orders that limited collective bargaining rights and supported programs that forgave employers that violated wage laws. His boards even made it harder for janitors to picket where they worked, while making it easier for employers to search their workers' cars.

Trump may have shouted at rallies about how important working people were to him, but you don't have to look far to find his real friends: union-busting bankers and big business execs who grew up just like him.

But President Joe Biden has been the exception to this history. His father was a car sales manager who also cleaned boilers for a heating company. President Biden remembers bill collectors from the electric company knocking on his front door when he was a kid. Perhaps this is why President Biden stands out as the president who has done more than just vow to help working people. He has

delivered real on-the-ground results that blue-collar people can see and feel in their lives.

These results didn't happen by accident. They were crafted by a president who invited the IBEW into his decision-making. Literally. In 2019, when he was still a candidate, Biden asked International President Lonnie Stephenson what the White House could do for the IBEW. He asked for an actual list.

We didn't hold back.

The long list we gave him spelled out how to rebuild this nation by focusing on working people. We asked for policies that would provide dignity and opportunity for all Americans. We asked him to secure prevailing wage, protect collective bargaining, uphold apprenticeship requirements and save the pensions working people deserve.

There's no other way to put it: President Biden checked every item off that list.

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, worth \$1.2 trillion, including project labor agreement language in more than \$100 billion worth of federal agency grant programs.
- The Inflation Reduction Act, growing the middle class with standards and incentives that ensure that more Americans have access to registered apprenticeships and high-quality union jobs, as well as tens of billions of dollars in grants and tax credits to help companies build out or expand facilities, reshore manufacturing jobs, and make new products for the clean economy.
- The CHIPS and Science Act, bringing home modern manufacturing, like the production of semiconductors used in everything from cars to smartphones, with PLA preferences that attract developers to unions and give IBEW institutional leverage by advantaging companies that use PLAs.
- Executive orders that increased the federal contractor minimum wage and overturned Trump-era orders that gutted federal unions and undermined IBEW apprenticeship programs.
- Nominations of no fewer than 19 pro-union leaders to key roles and appointments, including two IBEW members!
- And finally, the Butch Lewis Act, which not only kept pensions alive but kept them on track.

We got everything we asked for without pushback or compromise. No half-measures, no backpedaling, no bending to Congress or big business. No switching sides or straddling lines. The proof is in the pro-union policy, and there's no shortage of it when it comes to President Biden. This is how to be a real friend to labor and working people. This is what matters.

It's not that we don't appreciate how he says our name in nearly every speech. That's nice to hear. It's also a true honor that he and Vice President Kamala Harris show up to our training halls and jobsites. But as flattering as these gestures are, it's commitment on the House and Senate floors that counts. Plenty of presidents have given us photo ops and pretty pledges. It's legislation and policy that make presidents true friends.

Now it's time to hold up our end of this historic friendship. It's time to commit to vote for President Biden.

Of course, pro-union, pro-worker policies are not the only reasons we head to the ballot booth. There's a laundry list of important issues we care about that fall outside of union concerns. Some may line up with President Biden's agenda, some may not.

Despite this, the IBEW believes there are a few questions worth asking, regardless of where you fall when it comes to social issues. They are the questions that drive the IBEW every day: Will you be safe in the workplace? Will you earn what you are worth? Will your retirement be protected? Will working Americans like you have opportunities and keep their rights? Will they have a president who returns their votes with friendship? Who returns their list of demands with not an item overlooked?

The proof is in the policy, and the policies make it plain. Joe Biden has been a true friend to working people when and how it counts. He deserves your vote because working people need a friend in the White House. It's time to vote for President Biden. It's time to get started on our next list. ■

My IBEW STORY

Alex "Archie" Alcantara, journeyman wireman
New York City Local 3



“I grew up in Yonkers, N.Y., and I had a friend, Dennis McSpedon, whose family were all members of Local 3 and had been for generations. Through my friend and his family, I learned about IBEW values and the Brotherhood overall, and I understood that it was an organization that I'd want to join.

In 1995, Brother McSpedon, who believed in me and showed me a pathway into the union, changed my life when he handed me an application for an apprenticeship.

Now I'm a journeyman and an active member in my local and my community, involved with the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, and I consider myself to be a Local 3 soldier!

Being a first-generation IBEW member has given my family a different experience growing up than I had. I emigrated from Brazil when I was 10 years old, and back in those days, my family and I would pick out furniture that had been left behind as trash.

Today, I own my home, and my daughters have pretty much anything they desire, not to mention medical, dental and prescription services, and all of the benefits that come with IBEW membership. I'll never forget that our present good fortune was the result of sacrifices made by my earlier brothers in the IBEW.

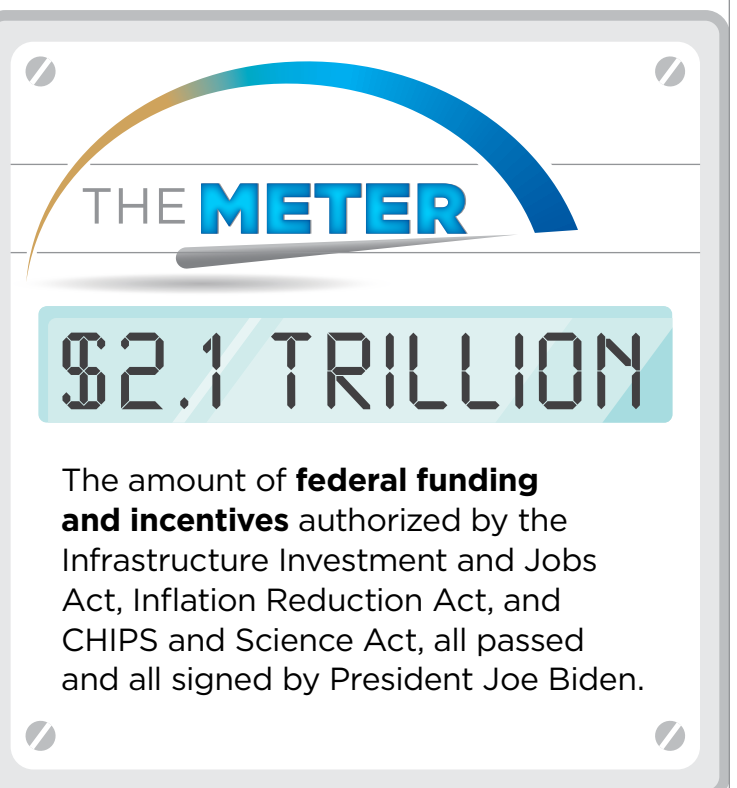
I have had many proud moments in my career, but my proudest was traveling to Angola in 2019 to help bring power to a hospital that was off the grid. I was one of four IBEW members chosen by Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erikson to work alongside Electricians Without Borders Italy, and because I speak Portuguese, I could be of service with our communication while we were there. Over my two-week stay, I learned so much about what we take for granted in our country on a daily basis.

We were in the village of Chiulo, and we worked at a pediatric/maternity hospital that was kept running with diesel generators that were outdated and unreliable. Local 3 Vice-President Louis Alvarez, who had worked humanitarian efforts in Puerto Rico and in other countries, led the way. Working with the Italian volunteers, we installed a 50-kW solar grid and renovated the hospital for electricity. We installed circuit boxes and connected the solar array. This work brought reliable electricity for the first time to care for new mothers and their children. It was such a moving experience, one that I'll never forget.

While I don't love talking about myself, I do love the IBEW and will take every opportunity to talk about the ways that it can change lives. It truly has changed mine forever.”

Every member in every branch has a story to tell about how the IBEW has improved their life both on and off the job. Tell us yours today for a chance to be featured here.

ibew.org/MyIBEWStory



5 THINGS Every Local Must Do to Win the New Work

The U.S. government is wagering trillions of dollars on our country's future as a union-dense clean energy juggernaut. This is the IBEW's time to take advantage. The three main infrastructure and manufacturing laws President Joe Biden has passed — the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, and CHIPS and Science Act — amount to \$2.1 trillion in funding and incentives. Aside from the dollar figure, these bills also build in unprecedented labor standards.

“Everything we asked for, we got. The IBEW’s future depends on what we do now. Every member has the tools to shape our future or let this opportunity slip away.” – International President Kenneth W. Cooper

1 Call Nonunion Contractors Back Within 5 Days

2 Be Vigilant About Your Prevailing Wage

3 Bring a PLA to the Developer

4 Expand Your Training Program

5 Punish the Cheats

Here are the five most important things business managers and locals can do now to maximize the gains we make while denying our nonunion competition any air to grow.

1 Call Nonunion Contractors Back Within 5 Days

This one is the easiest, and that's why it is first.

The IRA established tax credit programs that include a modest base credit for clean energy projects.

If the developer pays the prevailing wage and hires registered apprentices, those tax credits may increase by as much as 400%.

But a contractor or developer can get out from under these labor standards (and still get a bonus) if they request registered apprentices from our programs and we don't respond within five days.

If a local union or training program doesn't call back — even to say no — the developer may qualify for the full bonus tax credit.

“Do not blow people off,” said Construction Department Director Matt Paules. “Call them back immediately. Tell them there is an easy way to get access to our apprentices: Sign up to the standard contract or a project labor agreement.”

2 Be Vigilant About Your Prevailing Wage

Nearly all of the \$2.1 trillion is subject to prevailing wage.

“If the rate in our collective bargaining agreements is the prevailing wage, our contractors have a tremendous advantage going into the bidding process,” Paules said.

But in almost half of U.S. counties, said Esmeralda Aguilar, a lawyer in the IBEW general counsel's office, our negotiated rates are not the prevailing wage.

The only way our rates become the bid spec rates is if every business manager participates in the Department of Labor's prevailing wage survey and regularly updates the wage rate by submitting Form 654 through Local Connections.

If a wage survey is coming up (looking at you, Texas, Arizona, New Hampshire and North Carolina), the Construction Department offers a training on how to participate.

“If nonunion contractors set the prevailing wage because they responded to the wage survey and we didn't, all the political work we did is flushed down the toilet,” said Government Affairs Director Danielle Eckert.

3 Bring a PLA to the Developer

Manufacturing in the U.S. is set to boom in the next decade driven by the Buy American incentives in all three laws. We are already seeing new construction of colossal semiconductor campuses, and there will be billions more in new factory construction across the country.

The CHIPS Act and IRA, developed with input from the IBEW and support from Biden, include a host of workforce development requirements, prevailing wage requirements and other important grant conditions for creating good jobs. By committing to use a PLA, a grant applicant can satisfy all of those requirements.

Explaining this to a developer needs to happen at the earliest stages of a project's life, said Director of Business Development Ray Kasmark.

“In your left hand you should have the workforce development requirements from the bill and in your right hand a PLA,” he said. “You tell them, ‘Every problem in my left hand is solved by what's in my right.’”

4 Expand Your Training Program

Crafting this legislation to benefit working people with union careers will not matter if we don't match the increase in work with an increase in market share.

“We are like the dog that caught the car,” Cooper said. “Now, whatever we were planning on doing before that bumper was in our mouth has got to change.”

He estimated that the IBEW will need at least 400,000 new “A” construction members in the next five to 10 years. That doesn't even account for needed growth in non-construction membership.

Thanks to the new apprenticeship requirements and work opportunities in the IRA, our apprenticeship programs will be able to take in far more apprentices than ever before and significantly grow the workforce to meet demand.

To find these new people, shake every tree in the forest and then find new forests.

“Work with local high schools, not just community colleges but four-year college job fairs, community organizations, veterans' organizations to find workers who do not know about us but who are looking for the wages, benefits and job security we provide,” said Government Affairs specialist Taylor Waites. “We're not going to reach 1 million members without targeting everyone.”

And if you think Cooper is talking about some other locals where work is already being let out to bid, he is not.

“One million members isn't a nice benchmark. It's a life-or-death necessity,” he said. “The JATC trustees need to buy those seven acres next to your JATC today and get started building tomorrow.”

5 Punish the Cheats

The good news is that all these federal dollars are chained to labor standards and high wages.

The bad news is that an alliance of anti-union politicians and businesses is standing there with bolt cutters.

Significant portions of the IJJA money flow from federal agencies to their state-level equivalents. Those state agencies are ultimately responsible for complying with the workforce development and labor standards.

And all too often, they don't even pretend to try, Aguilar said.

“We see it all the time: A state Department of Energy represents to a federal authority one thing, but then does exactly the opposite. They simply get a variance, like a doctor's note, and we call it a day,” she said.

Even when there is a labor-friendly administration in the White House, federal agencies might not armor up and fight to get that money back.

Taking this fight into our own hands can't be done by business managers and locals alone. It is a duty we can do together, primarily through the state building trades councils.

“There should be someone in each state, or a group of someones, tracking the contracts, tracking the program requirements and insisting the law is executed as written,” Cooper said. “It's our money. We cannot rely on anyone else to guard it.” ■

Promises MADE. Promises KEPT.

*Joe Biden's Winning Record
for Working Americans*

▼ *Continued from page 1*



President Joe Biden electrified the 40th IBEW Convention in Chicago in 2022 as he detailed the job-creating \$1 trillion infrastructure law and other pro-IBEW victories since he took office.



Biden has tackled his agenda from every direction. He selected Cabinet members who share his vision and are carrying it out across the federal government; restored a pro-worker majority to the National Labor Relations Board; appointed union members to key policy positions on staff and advisory boards; and issued executive orders that protect workers' rights and safety.

Together with Democrats on Capitol Hill, he also pushed the historic bills that Cooper cited through Congress:

- Biden signed **the American Rescue Plan Act** just seven weeks after taking office, providing urgent pandemic relief for unemployed workers and a third stimulus check, as well as funding transit system capital projects that continue to employ IBEW members. Most critically, one of the union's highest priorities was folded into the bill: The Butch Lewis Act, shoring up troubled multiemployer union pension plans and protecting them against political attacks that threatened even healthy plans like the IBEW's.
- Passed in November 2021, the \$2.1 trillion **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** is expected to generate 1.5 million jobs annually for the next decade. It is the largest investment since World War II in America's highways, bridges, ports, railways and other infrastructure — including, as Biden frequently touts, a nationwide electric vehicle charging network being built by IBEW members. Other projects include water systems, energy and power generation and delivery, and broadband expansion.
- The \$52 billion **CHIPS and Science Act** to spur U.S. production of



The IBEW's most high-profile supporter, President Biden makes a point of meeting members and visiting locals. Above: Touring the IBEW-NECA training center in Cincinnati Local 212 in July 2021. Above right: Chatting with New Castle, Del., members working on Hurricane Ida recovery on Labor Day 2021. At right: Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris cheer Boston Local 103 member Lovette Jacobs at a White House event celebrating passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in September 2022.

semiconductor chips is part of Biden's agenda for reviving the manufacturing sector and fortifying the American supply chain. As soon as the bill became law in August 2022, tech companies began announcing their own multibillion-dollar investments to build massive chip factories, including two \$100 billion facilities in Ohio and New York that will be built by IBEW members working under project labor agreements.

- The **Inflation Reduction Act**, also passed last August, is a prime example of Biden's attention to policies vital to IBEW members. It includes hundreds of billions in

job-creating tax credits for contractors to build clean energy infrastructure. But they come with strings attached: strong labor standards with painful consequences for lawbreakers. In addition to the apprentice rules and steep fines that Cooper noted, contractors also must pay prevailing wages. Violations could cost them \$5,000 to \$10,000 per worker per day.

Workers' rights across the board are having a renaissance under Biden, after decades of attacks that got worse in the years before he took office.

At that time, the NLRB was controlled by union-busting lawyers and a



general counsel so toxic to workers that Biden fired him immediately after being sworn in as president. Today's board and its top lawyer are working on multiple fronts to overturn harmful precedents and set new ones that protect workers against employer abuses.

Biden also established a one-of-a-kind White House task force. Chaired by Harris, the panel is researching and prescribing ways for the federal government to encourage the growth of unions, as directed by the 1935 National Labor Relations Act.

The administration also strongly

supports the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, the most substantial pro-worker, pro-union legislation since the 88-year-old NLRA.

Cooper said the previous administration "talked a big game but never delivered anything for the IBEW — not infrastructure, not bringing back American manufacturing, labor standards and bargaining rights. Nothing."

"Today, we've got a president who puts working people at the center of his agenda," he said. "There is nobody — nobody — more important to Joe Biden than American workers." ■

For Leaders and Members Alike, White House Doors Wide Open to IBEW

Administration Seeks Union's Input on Good Jobs, Energy Policy and More

From his bully pulpit at home and on the road, President Joe Biden often salutes “the men and women of the IBEW” and the unparalleled skills they bring to America’s building and infrastructure boom.

But away from the media spotlight, his respect for the IBEW is just as fervent.

Rank-and-file members, local leaders, international officers and staff regularly are invited to White House summits and roundtables, bringing their voice and expertise to the Biden administration’s pro-labor, job-creating agenda.

Recent events have focused on infrastructure spending in the states, workplace diversity and equality, policies to support organizing and collective bargaining, and much more.

They are learning opportunities for guests and hosts alike, led by high-level White House staff with Cabinet members and even Vice President Kamala Harris as speakers.

It was eye-opening for Milwaukee Local 494 apprentice Jessica Berndt, who joined Business Manager Dean Warsh and a cross-section of Wisconsinites discussing state priorities and federal resources with officials including Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

“In my mind, I’m like: ‘Oh my God, these people are so important. I’m just a Wisconsin girl, an apprentice,’” said Berndt, who talked about her work rebuilding an affordable housing community. “But the beauty of it is that you see that everybody’s just a normal human being, just trying to do their best. It opened up the world a little bit for me.”

“It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to talk about how legislation has changed IBEW members’ lives for the better here in Minnesota.”

— Andy Snope, legislative director for Minneapolis Local 292

Similarly, Lanh Khampeth of Fort Worth, Texas, Local 220, could hardly believe she was at a table with Harris and then-Labor Secretary Marty Walsh in the vice president’s ceremonial office in March.

She and other union and business guests brought their perspectives to the work being done by the White House Task Force on Organizing and Worker Empowerment.

“Just being in that environment, knowing that Vice President Harris and Secretary Walsh were listening to us and acknowledging us, I loved it,” said Khampeth, a foreman at a Siemens plant producing electrical switchgear.

Conquering her nerves, she spoke proudly about working hard at a good, union job, a journey toward the American dream that began when her family fled Laos when she was 6 years old.

“It wasn’t until I came to Siemens that I finally found the job security and opportunity for

growth that I was looking for,” she said. “With the support of my IBEW brothers and sisters, I have taken on new responsibilities. This job is constantly changing and challenging me.”

Harris chairs the Cabinet-level panel created by Biden two years ago to ensure that the federal government is fulfilling the promise of the 1935 National Labor Relations Act by supporting the growth of unions and collective bargaining.

The meeting singled out companies like Siemens that understand what the data proves: Union workplaces enjoy higher productivity, lower turnover and far fewer safety violations.

“We were very intentional about wanting to uplift the examples of employers who have embraced union labor ... and who also can speak to the business model that benefits from union labor,” Harris said.

Khampeth sat a couple of chairs away from Harris and next to International President Kenneth W. Cooper.

“Lanh did a tremendous job representing the IBEW,” Cooper said. “Vice President Harris listened intently, as did Secretary Walsh — the only labor secretary who was a card-carrying union member. That tells you everything about President Biden’s commitment to American workers.”

“Having this administration’s ear as a union leader is invaluable,” he continued. “But to know that our own members are welcome at the table and are actually being heard is an even greater source of pride.”

The following week, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo led an Equal Pay Day conversation that included three IBEW members: Donna Hammond and Tia Vonil from Portland, Ore., Local 48, and a notable sister from Portland Local 125 — AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, the first woman to lead the federation.

The “Women Rebuilding America” roundtable convened private employers and unions to discuss strategies to recruit, train and hire women in the trades, especially women of color.

Hammond has been a trailblazer in that arena for decades. A Black journeywoman who began her apprenticeship in 1978, she now serves as interim executive director of Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.

Vonil, also a Black journeywoman, was the table’s only tradesperson still in the field. She relayed how much it meant to her as an apprentice a decade ago to see other women working on the renovation of Portland’s Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt



“There is so much passion and energy and drive to get this done.”

— Oregon Tradeswomen Inc. Director Donna Hammond, Portland Local 48, on the White House’s push for women in the trades.

building — a federal megaproject, defined in part as a public project costing at least \$500 million.

“I told them there were a lot more women and people of color than you would normally see on a construction site, and that made a big difference for me as an apprentice,” Vonil said. “If I was having a hard day, it made things a little bit lighter just to be able to cross paths with another woman and say hello.”

She left the White House confident that women in the trades, and those who want to be, have genuine allies in Washington.

“I really felt like they recognize that having women in the construction industry and having pay equity is just common sense, that it is good strategy for our economy and for American commerce,” she said.

The events are part of a series of state forums that began with Ohio last fall, focusing on infrastructure spending and other job-creating investments. Mayors, community activists, business owners, union members and other invitees provide ground-level perspectives on local projects and needs, while learning how their states are benefiting from Biden-era programs and legislation.

They return home as experts on the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, the American Recovery Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the projects these new laws are funding.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to talk about how legislation has changed IBEW members’ lives for the better here in Minnesota,” said Andy Snope, legislative director for Minneapolis Local 292, referring to projects such as an Xcel Energy 460-megawatt solar farm that will create 900 union construction jobs.

On top of the opportunity to speak directly with Biden administration officials, Snope said, the forum brought together a wide variety of stakeholders who don’t regularly cross paths back home.

“I enjoyed connecting with local elected officials, other union members and leaders of fraternal, social and environmental organizations,” he said. “The connections we made with our fellow Minnesotans will help to bring forth even more positive change.”

Warsh, of Local 494, agreed, saying he and the IBEW made new friends in Wisconsin.

“I was sitting next to the guy from the Veterans Chamber of Commerce. I’d never met him before, and we got to chit-chatting. And the mayor of Madison, who I hadn’t seen in a long time,” he said. “It was good, the chance to talk with all these different mayors and community leaders — people from causes we support like the United Way and Habitat for Humanity. We do so many Habitat houses, so it was nice to meet the person in charge.”

As the event sped by, information flowing and hands flying in the air, the clock ran out before Warsh had his turn to speak. But he was preparing to remedy that in late May, taking the White House up on its offer to host the spring meeting of the IBEW’s Wisconsin State Conference.

“They said this is something they want to start doing, to get as close to the ground as possible when it comes to labor issues and hear directly from union locals,” Warsh said. “As far as I know, our business managers from Wisconsin will be the first ones at the plate.” ■



Hammond was struck by the administration’s depth of commitment to promoting diverse and union-friendly jobsites, including using billions of federal dollars as leverage.

“They stressed that right now with all of the megaprojects, we have momentum and we have money to focus on truly bringing women and minorities into the trades, and how important that is to building the middle class,” she said.

Those goals were reinforced when Hammond visited the Women’s Bureau at the Department of Labor. Marveling at what she saw and heard from its busy staff, she said, “There is so much passion and energy and drive to get this done.”

The Wisconsin event was the first in 2023 to bring IBEW members to the White House. Dubbed “Communities in Action: Building a Better Wisconsin,” the half-day session was followed by a Minnesota gathering two weeks later.

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

In addition to your monthly issue of *The Electrical Worker*, check out lots of other IBEW-related content online.

www.ibew.org

Get the latest IBEW news, including an electronic version of this and previous newspapers, at ibew.org.

YouTube

Cincinnati Local 212 apprentice Robert Lewis is using the power of IBEW membership to turn his life around. Visit [YouTube.com/@theIBEW/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@theIBEW/videos) to check out that and other videos about the brotherhood.

Vimeo

Get the inside story on the birth of San Juan Local 757 and plans to modernize Puerto Rico's electrical grid by going to [Vimeo.com/IBEW](https://vimeo.com/IBEW).

HourPower

See an interview with International President Kenneth W. Cooper, who took office in January, and learn about his career and vision for the IBEW by visiting IBEWHourPower.com.

ElectricTV

See what transmission projects the IBEW and NECA have been working on at ElectricTV.net.

Powering Chicago: How Local 134 Connects With Overlooked Communities

IBEW local unions know they need to grow quickly with the massive surge in infrastructure projects across North America. Part of that means extending their reach to historically underrepresented groups in the electrical trade.

Chicago Local 134 has a successful template for that.

Through the Powering Chicago partnership, Local 134 and the Electrical Contractors' Association of Chicago and Cook County reach into area high schools, community colleges and local groups to share the benefits of being part of the IBEW.

"These relationships have helped identify talent and create opportunities for women, African Americans, Latinos, LGBTQ people and more," Powering Chicago Executive Director Elbert Walters III said. "And we're all stronger for it."

One example can be seen at Chicago's Simeon Career Academy, a vocational high school. A Local 134 member works closely with Simeon and establishes programming that shows the predominantly Black student population what the local offers, Walters said. Contractors and members visit the school to share insights from their experience, and even perform mock interviews to help students hone their skills for the apprenticeship process.

"This relationship has produced jobs within the contracting space as interns and also inspired a number of students to enter our apprenticeship program," Walters said.

Local 134 is plugged into Chicago's various resources, like its city-wide career technical education program, Chicago Builds, which provides high school juniors and seniors the chance to learn about the skilled trades. For its part, Local 134 provides instructors who prepare the students on what to expect in a career in the electrical industry.

Another program that Local 134 works with is Chicago Women in Trades, which offers training and other resources to prepare women for a career in the industry. Local 134 members, like IBEW NECA Technical Institute Director Gene Kent, have hosted groups at the local's training center to show what a day in the life of an apprentice is like.

"CWIT is one of my favorite third-party organizations," Kent said. "They do the best job of preparing women for the trades, and the applicants we get from them are phenomenal. They're always successful."

What makes these programs work, Walters said, is the purpose that drives them.

"The intent is to provide access to the best and brightest talent around and encourage them to take part in our industry," said Walters, who is a 24-year member of Local 134. "It's to provide a pathway by reaching out to all communities



Powering Chicago's "mobile field trip" truck takes the trade on the road to events and neighborhoods in the Chicago area.

and have members who are representative of those communities be the advocates for our industry. In short, it has been successful because the industry has been intent on making a difference."

Spreading the Wealth Statewide

Local 134 isn't just diversifying its own workforce. It's also partnered with the other inside construction locals in Illinois to share resources, creating the Illinois IBEW Renewable Energy Fund.

The REF came about from the passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act, state legislation that IBEW members lobbied hard for. That law is spurring major investments in renewable energy, including job training. Through grants provided under the FEJA, any local that's interested has been able to get training in solar installation and other opportunities.

The REF also provides that training to high schools and other groups through pre-apprenticeships and a two-week summer program.

"With this funding, we've been able to provide valuable, hands-on learning to people all throughout the state," Local 134 Business Representative Robert Hattier said. "And we're seeing the results, with students from these programs entering our apprenticeship."

Hattier said REF has trained more than 2,000 people with the money from its first grant.

Another benefit of these programs is that those apprentices can now talk to the new students coming in.

"It really helps to hear from someone who's from your own neighborhood or school," Hattier said.

Having people who look like the prospective students or come from similar backgrounds is an invaluable component, Hattier, Kent and Walters all said.



Powering Chicago often works with Chicago Women in Trades, a local organization that prepares women for success in trades apprenticeships like Local 134's.

"The instructors at our apprenticeship facility consist of members from underrepresented groups. And as an industry, having these groups represented throughout makes it that much easier to speak with credibility," Walters said.

Hattier said Local 134 has even seen benefits from the parents' nights it puts on before the students graduate.

"It's important to engage the family," he said. "And sometimes the parents themselves will say they're interested in learning the trade."

For students at schools who can't make it to the training center, Powering Chicago can come to them with its "mobile field trip" truck. The 73-foot semitrailer is outfitted with current and emerging technology, including EV charging infrastructure. Initially purchased as a marketing tool, it now contains a replica of a corner of a residential home that demonstrates how distribution works. At other stations, students can try their hand at tasks like bending conduit and pulling wire.

"At first, we were using it just to showcase the local, like a billboard and

something to use in parades," Kent said. "Then we realized it could be used as a traveling road show, and we could do hands-on events. It's gotten a good response so far."

Walters attributed much of Powering Chicago's achievements to support from leaders like Don Finn, Local 134's business manager and an International Executive Council member.

"The biggest reason we've done so well is because of forward-thinking leadership, which has empowered us to grow and try out new ideas, resulting in the diverse staff and innovative programming we have today," Walters said.

There is still a lot of work to do, Kent said, but the team is up for the challenge.

"Even in a union town like Chicago, there are a lot of people that don't know about us, so we've got to keep reaching out, especially to the decision-makers like principals and leaders of community organizations," Kent said. "Because when we show them what we can do, and what we earn, it awakens them to the great opportunities that the IBEW offers." ■

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

Organizing Plan Ignites Growth at Newfoundland and Labrador Local

For years, Local 2330 was in a slump. Membership was declining at the local in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, and there was little active organizing. But with a few changes, it's on a new path — and already adding signatory contractors and members.

"It's been a breath of fresh air," said First District International Representative Cordell Cole.

"And we expect to see a lot more success over the next couple of years."

Newfoundland and Labrador is a province rich in resources, providing work in power generation, mining, oil and gas, and green fuel products. Megaprojects like the Churchill Falls hydroelectric plant gave thousands of IBEW members work for years.

But those days came to an end, and many members left for jobs in other provinces. Local 2330 needed a new strategy.

"We were at a point where if we didn't turn it around, we wouldn't have anything left," Business Manager James Martin said.

Local leaders sat down with First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk and others to hash out an organizing plan. It included connecting with current members, recruiting new members and more signatory contractors, and — perhaps most importantly — hiring an organizer.

"You've got to have somebody dedicated to doing the work," Martin said. "Before, it was just me calling members."

He hired 15-year member Ryan Morgan in February. A past foreman and shop steward, Morgan hit the ground running.

"Ryan is the perfect fit for the job," Cole said. "He works hard every day, and he really cares about the union."

With the help of Martin, Cole and District Organizing Coordinator Brad Wood, Morgan began checking in with members. Some were working as contractors, so the local offered voluntary recognition agreements as a way to bring them in as signatories.

It worked. They signed Upper Limit Industrial, owned by a Local 2330 member, and secured two other contractors. "We've barely got our toes in the water, and already we have three new contractors," Cole said. "That's pretty impressive."

Local 2330 had attempted to organize one of them, Ontario-based Pivot Systems, in 2014. This time, things were different.

Notably, Pivot had reached out to Local 2330 seeking workers for a job at a brewery. The local agreed to send some of its members and then had

them sign cards. Pivot honored them and signed on.

Morgan's calls to members were fruitful in another way, even if disheartening at first. He discovered that some Local 2330 members were working non-union in other provinces. He and Martin notified the locals with jurisdiction, and together they salted the jobsites with IBEW members. So far, they've certified two new signatory contractors in two provinces.

Local 2330 is also marketing itself — meeting with community colleges, using social media, and creating brochures and flyers with QR codes that lead prospective members to the local's website.

The local, about 1,200 strong, is adding about 20 members a month, already hitting its goal of 4% growth. "We're on the road to building our local

back," Morgan said. "Our books are open. We're not making it hard to join."

They're not done rolling out new strategies. Cordell said plans are in the works for industry nights, casual opportunities for journeymen, apprentices and signatory contractors to mingle.

Every Friday, Martin delivers a business manager's report to the membership that includes an update on organizing. He and the local's other leaders also have an open-door policy at the office.

"It helps with transparency," Martin said. "And it gets the members involved."

He, Cole and Martin said their success has been a team effort, from the executive board to the office staff and members.

"You can't do it without everyone being on board," Martin said.



Local 2330 Business Manager James Martin, left, and organizer Ryan Morgan are part of the team that's leading the local's organizing success.

"Once you start working, everything comes together."

Shewchuk, who has made organizing his highest priority, applauded the local's turnaround.

"I am so proud of our team at Local 2330," he said. "They've put in a lot of hard work, and their plan is bringing in real results. It's good to see them on the right path." ■

Grâce à ses efforts de syndicalisation, le local de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador a connu un succès rapide

Pendant des années la section locale 2330 à St. John's à Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador était en régression. Le nombre de ses membres diminuait et peu d'activité de syndicalisation avait lieu. Mais grâce à quelques changements, le local est sur une nouvelle voie et compte déjà de nouveaux membres et de nouveaux entrepreneurs signataires.

« C'est un vent de fraîcheur », déclare le représentant international Cordell Cole, en parlant de la récente croissance du local. « Et on s'attend à plus de réussites au cours des prochaines années. »

Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador est une province qui possède de grandes richesses. Elle fournit du travail dans la production d'énergie, dans les mines, dans le pétrole et le gaz et dans les produits dérivés de combustible propres. Des mégaprojets comme la centrale hydroélectrique à Churchill Falls a donné du travail à de milliers de membres de la FIOE pendant des années.

Mais ces jours sont derrière nous, beaucoup de nos membres sont allés travailler dans d'autres provinces. Il était temps d'un changement au local 2330 et il fallait que ce soit important.

« Nous étions rendus à un point que si nous ne faisons pas volteface, il ne nous restera plus rien », déclare le gérant d'affaires James Martin.

La section locale 2330 a rencontré le vice-président international du premier district Russ Shewchuk et d'autres personnes pour arriver à un plan de syndicalisation stratégique. Il s'agissait de contacter les membres, d'augmenter le nombre des entrepreneurs signataires ainsi que, peut-être le plus important, d'embaucher un organisateur syndical.

« Vous devez avoir quelqu'un de dévoué pour faire le travail », mentionne Martin. « Avant, c'était seulement moi qui appelais les membres. »

À la mi-février, il a embauché Ryan Morgan, un membre du local 2330 depuis quinze ans et l'ancien contremaître et le délégué syndical a vite passé à l'action.

« Ce poste convient parfaitement à Ryan », dit Cole. « Il travaille d'arrache-pied tous les jours et la cause syndicale lui tient vraiment à cœur. »

Avec l'aide de Martin, Cole et le coordonnateur de l'organisation syndicale du district Brad Wood, Morgan a commencé à contacter les membres. Certains travaillaient comme entrepreneurs, le local a donc offert des accords de reconnaissance volontaire pour les attirer à titre de signataires.

Le plan a fonctionné. Ils ont signé Upper Limit Industrial, dont le propriétaire est un membre de la section locale 2330. Ils ont aussi obtenu deux autres entrepreneurs. « Nous avons à peine commencé et nous comptons déjà trois

nouveaux entrepreneurs », mentionne Cole. « C'est assez impressionnant. »

Pivot Systems était l'une de ces compagnies. La section locale 2330 avait déjà essayé de syndiquer cette compagnie de l'Ontario en 2014. Cette fois-ci, c'était différent.

Pivot a d'abord contacté le local pour demander de la main-d'œuvre pour remplir un contrat dans une brasserie. Le local a fait signer des cartes d'adhésion aux membres, et le local a gagné: Pivot a accepté la certification syndicale.

Même si les appels de Morgan ont aussi porté fruit, ils étaient un peu décourageants, car certains membres travaillaient sur des chantiers non syndiqués et étaient à l'extérieur de leurs provinces. Morgan et Martin ont commencé à appeler les sections locales pour les aider à syndiquer les compagnies non signataires avec l'aide de ces membres, et on depuis fait certifier deux nouveaux entrepreneurs dans deux provinces.

En rencontrant les collègues communautaires, en faisant appel aux réseaux sociaux, en créant des dépliants qui incluent des codes QR qui dirigent les membres potentiels vers le site Web de la section locale, elle réussit à faire circuler son nom.

Le local qui compte environ 1 200 membres réussit à faire signer environ 20 nouveaux membres par mois, et son objectif d'augmenter le nombre de ses

membres de 4% est déjà atteint. « Nous sommes en route pour rebâtir notre section locale », mentionne Morgan. « Des places dans nos livres sont prêtes à être occupées. L'adhésion est facile chez nous. »

Leur travail n'est pas terminé. Cordell mentionne que le local prévoit organiser des réceptions destinées à l'industrie.

Tous les vendredis, Martin présente des rapports du gérant d'affaires aux membres pour les informer sur les emplois à venir et les efforts déployés en matière de recrutement. Les leaders du local ont aussi une politique de la porte ouverte.

« Ça nous aide à rester transparents », exprime Martin. « Et ça contribue à la participation des membres. »

Cole, Martin et Morgan ont tous dit que leur succès reposait sur le travail d'équipe, du comité exécutif au personnel du bureau jusqu'aux membres.

« Vous ne pouvez pas y arriver sans une équipe », dit Martin. « Une fois le travail commencé, tout tombe en place. »

Shewchuk, qui a fait de l'organisation sa plus haute priorité, a applaudi le revirement de la section locale.

« Je suis tellement fier de notre équipe à la section locale 2330 », a-t-il déclaré. « Ils ont travaillé dur et leur plan donne de vrais résultats. C'est bien de les voir sur la bonne voie. » ■

POLITICS & JOBS

Prevailing Wage Laws Work, Multistate Study Finds

Anti-union politicians have been targeting prevailing wage laws, one of the most effective tools for ensuring fair wages for public construction projects, for years, with six states repealing theirs in the past decade.

A new study shows just how harmful the campaign against these laws has been, with consequences for working families, businesses and communities.

"Construction worker wages, benefits, and productivity fall behind, on-the-job fatalities increase, reliance on government assistance programs worsens, and fewer projects are completed by local contractors — all without saving taxpayers any money," the study's authors wrote.

The report, from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute and the Project for Middle Class Renewal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, compared states that repealed prevailing wage laws to those that maintained them. The repeal states are Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas, Wisconsin and Michigan, all of which repealed their laws between 2015 and

2018. Since the report's release in January, however, Michigan has since reinstated its prevailing wage law.

It found profound benefits for the workers in states with prevailing wage, highlighted by 5% to 16% higher wages.

Prevailing wage laws establish a minimum wage for construction workers on public projects that aligns with similar work in the area. These laws level the playing field for contractors bidding on the work and are intended to prevent a race to the bottom where workers would end up making less than the local prevailing wage. And by paying the prevailing wage, the projects are more likely to attract the skilled workers that are needed to complete the job on time and on budget.

The findings back up previous research that showed the benefits of having a prevailing wage. It's also the experience of IBEW members.

"A prevailing wage ultimately leads to good IBEW signatory contractors being able to compete against contractors who otherwise would lowball bid these public projects by paying substandard wages and benefits," said IBEW Construction Department Director Matt Paules. "Prevailing wage laws lead to more IBEW projects and more hours for IBEW members."

Summary Statistics of Blue-Collar Construction Worker Labor Market Outcomes, 2014-2019

Construction Worker Metric, by State Prevailing Wage Status*	States with Prevailing Wage			6 Full Repeal States			Repeal Difference
	2014	2019	Change	2014	2019	Change	
Inflation-Adjusted Annual Income	\$41,296	\$46,627	+12.9%	\$42,938	\$45,244	+5.4%	-7.5%
Health Insurance Coverage Rate	65.6%	70.5%	+4.9%	76.6%	78.8%	+2.3%	-2.6%
Share Receiving Food Stamps	15.4%	10.2%	-5.2%	12.2%	7.9%	-4.3%	+0.9%

Prevailing wage laws have been associated with a number of positive outcomes, like increased wages and benefits, while also decreasing reliance on public assistance, according to a new study.

That level playing field helps local contractors in particular. According to research cited in the report, in-state contractors are 8% more likely to be awarded federal highway projects that pay Davis-Bacon prevailing wages compared to similar projects that do not. Davis-Bacon refers to the law that covers contracts with the federal government. Local contractors also account for a 10% higher market share when prevailing wages are paid on public school projects, while county-resident contractors account for a 16% higher market share when such wages are paid on library construction projects.

"By keeping tax dollars in the local economy, more labor income and consumer spending remain in communities with prevailing wage policies," the authors wrote.

Apprentices also benefit from prevailing wage laws. According to the study, construction apprenticeship enrollments are up to 8% higher and apprentices complete their on-the-job and classroom training faster in states that have these laws.

"These higher apprenticeship rates result in better-trained, safer and more productive electrical workers," Paules said.

Paules also noted that in states with a prevailing wage, safety training is a higher priority for journeymen and apprentices. This coincides with what the report found, which is that the on-the-job fatality rate was 14% higher in states that repealed their laws.

The study also noted that even elected officials in some of the states that repealed their prevailing wage laws have since acknowledged that the repeal did not deliver the outcomes they claimed it would. In 2017, Indiana state Rep. Ed Soliday, a Republican, lamented: "We got rid of prevailing wage and, so far, it hasn't saved us a penny."

Likewise, in 2021, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice, also a Republican, said, "We've run to the windows — and they haven't come," referring to the fantasy of low-wage, high-quality local contractors. What did happen, the authors stated, was that the share of construction work performed by in-state contractors has fallen by 8% since the repeal.

By contrast, the Biden administration has embraced prevailing wage, including tax incentives that depend on paying such wages in the Inflation Reduction Act, a first in U.S. history. According to the law, projects that use

prevailing wage and apprentices from certified programs will get five times the benefit of ones that don't.

With so much data supporting prevailing wage, the study authors concluded with a recommendation to either expand these laws or implement new ones, and to reverse repeals.

"As our members can attest, prevailing wage laws support good wages and benefits, apprenticeship training, safety and good work sites, and they help create family-sustaining careers in the construction industry," Paules said. "These are all things that attract people to our industry, and a prevailing wage helps make it all possible." ■

'We Never Stopped Applying Pressure': Hard-Fought Success on Rail Sick Days

After months of negotiations, the IBEW's Railroad members at four of the largest U.S. freight carriers finally have what they've long sought but that many working people take for granted: paid sick days.

This is a big deal, said Railroad Department Director Al Russo, because the paid-sick-days issue, which nearly caused a nationwide shutdown of freight rail just before Christmas, had consistently been rejected by the carriers. It was not part of last December's congressionally implemented update of the national collective bargaining agreement between the freight lines and the IBEW and 11 other railroad-related unions.

"We're thankful that the Biden administration played the long game on sick days and stuck with us for months after Congress imposed our updated national agreement," Russo said. "Without making a big show of it, Joe Biden and members of his administration in the Transportation and Labor departments have been working continuously to get guaranteed paid sick days for all railroad workers."

"We know that many of our members weren't happy with our original agreement," Russo said, "but through it all, we had faith that our friends in the White House and Congress would keep up the pressure on our railroad employers to get us the sick day benefits we deserve. Until we negotiated these new individual agreements with these carriers, an IBEW member who called out

sick was not compensated."

While President Joe Biden was calling on Congress in November to pass legislation to implement the agreement, he stressed that he would continue to encourage the railroads to guarantee paid sick time for their employees.

"I share workers' concern about the inability to take leave to recover from illness or care for a sick family member," Biden said. "I have pressed legislation and proposals to advance the cause of paid leave in my two years in office and will continue to do so."

That pressure, plus the IBEW's ongoing efforts, is paying off at last. The IBEW and BNSF Railway reached an agreement April 20 to grant members four short-notice, paid sick days, with the ability to also convert up to three personal days to sick days. The union reached similar understandings with CSX and Union Pacific on March 22, and with Norfolk Southern on March 10. Unused sick time at the end of a year can be paid out or rolled into a worker's 401(k) retirement account.

Under the Railway Labor Act, national railroad labor agreements don't expire. Instead, the parties enter a "status quo" position: Workers remain on the job with no changes to their pay and benefits until a replacement contract is approved. The current national pact was first reached last summer by negotiators from the railroad unions, the railroads, the Labor Department and the White House.

"We've been playing the long game on this, too," Russo said. "We never stopped applying pressure on the companies or on Congress."

On Feb. 8, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, wrote a letter to the leaders of six Class I railroads, urging them to guarantee at least seven paid sick days for all of their workers.

"Last year, the companies you lead made over \$22 billion in profits," Sanders wrote, noting that they had cut 30% of the workforce over the last six years. "Guaranteeing seven paid sick days to rail workers would cost your industry just \$321 million."

Russo is grateful that Sanders stepped in. "We truly compliment his effort to bring dignity to workers in the rail industry," he said. "Without it, we very likely would not have gotten what we have gained today."

Sick leave had always been a

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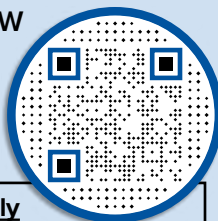
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CIRCUITS

sticking point in negotiations toward a national rail contract update, which began in late 2019.

After almost 2½ years of ongoing refusal by the Class I rail carriers to accept the unions' good-faith settlement offers or to offer their own, the IBEW and the other unions sought help from the National Mediation Board in early 2022. By July, the carriers still hadn't budged.

Once the mediators determined that negotiations were at an impasse, Biden appointed a Presidential Emergency Board to hear testimony from both camps. While this board made a number of positive recommendations in its proposal — including improved health care benefits and one additional personal day — guaranteed paid sick days still was not among them.

“We’re thankful that the Biden administration played the long game on sick days and stuck with us.”

— Railroad Department Director
Al Russo

Even so, the IBEW said Sept. 1 that it had reached a tentative agreement with the rail carriers that included the board's recommendations. Negotiations with the other labor coalition unions continued toward a Sept. 15 deadline, but when it became obvious that the bargaining parties would not reach consensus by then, Biden asked then-Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh to assemble the sides and reach an acceptable agreement that would head off a national freight rail strike.

On deadline day, the parties reached an agreement on an updated contract that included the biggest wage increases in 47 years. Over the next several weeks, while acknowledging that the agreement was less than perfect, the IBEW and several of its fellow coalition unions voted to ratify the agreement. A handful of others, however, did not, instead threatening a December freight rail strike.

Biden, citing the potential economic impact of a national freight rail strike during the winter holidays, on Nov. 28 called on Congress to impose the emergency board's agreement.

Since then, several other railroad-related unions have also seen success in negotiating for similar sick-day benefits. These 12 unions represent more than 105,000 railroad workers.

“Biden deserves a lot of the credit for achieving this goal for us,” Russo said. “He and his team continued to work behind the scenes to get all of rail labor a fair agreement for paid sick leave.”

Russo said talks are continuing toward reaching a sick-days agreements with Canadian Pacific and Kansas City, recently designated a Class I rail carrier by the Surface Transportation Board. ■

Panasonic Battery Plant Means Work for Busy Kansas City Local

Kansas City, Mo., Local 124 construction members already were busy with a number of major projects.

Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the CHIPS Act — both signed into law by President Joe Biden — along with a substantial investment from Kansas officials, they are about to get even busier.

Panasonic is building a \$4 billion electric vehicle battery plant in De Soto, Kan. Ground was broken in November 2022, and electrical work is expected to ramp up this summer.



Credit: Creative Commons / Flickr user the U.S. Department of Transportation



Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Rep. Sharice Davids celebrate Panasonic's electric vehicle battery plant under construction in De Soto, Kan., during a February visit.

The project, about 30 miles from Kansas City, is expected to employ 700 to 900 wiremen, Business Agent Jason Duke said.

“The truly exciting thing is that it is going to bring more new opportunities,” he said. “We’re hoping this will bring another car manufacturer and more electric vehicle plants coming to our jurisdiction.”

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visited the site of the new plant Feb. 27 with political and labor leaders, including Business Manager Bo Moreno.

“I wanted to make sure we were represented,” Moreno said. “Like President Biden, he spoke very favorably of unions, and he emphasized the importance of this being done by union labor.”

The addition of such a massive project is welcome in any jurisdiction. Local 124 is no different.

Still, it presents some challenges.

Like many local unions, Local 124 is at full employment. Many members are working on a nearly 1 million-square-foot data center being built by Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, after working on a recently completed terminal at Kansas City International Airport.

Additionally, Panasonic is calling for an ambitious construction schedule, wanting the plant fully functional during the first quarter of 2025. Work will likely go seven days a week to meet Panasonic's schedule, Duke said.

“This going to be a heck of a challenge, not just for us, but for our NECA contractors,” he said.

Local 124's apprenticeship class numbers 120,

the largest in its history. That's important, but it merely scratches the surface of what's needed. The local will have to recruit nonunion electricians for IBEW membership.

“Our organizers have already started that part,” Duke said. “Once the work starts, the floodgates will open, and I think you'll see a lot of interest.”

Plus, the project likely requires a substantial number of travelers.

“Right now, it's kind of a worker's market,” Moreno said, in reference to the ongoing shortage of skilled construction workers in all trades across the United States. “The bottom line is you need that skilled trades worker, so you do what you have to do to get the project built.”

Buttigieg told reporters during his site visit that the Panasonic plant is an example of green energy products helping revitalize rural areas, something the IBEW has committed to be being part of. When finished, the facility is expected to have about 4,000 full-time workers with an average wage of \$30 per hour.

In addition to federal incentives, Kansas — which has a Democratic governor and a GOP-dominated legislature — offered Panasonic an incentive package that could be worth as much as \$892 million.

“So many people in so many communities, in places like Indiana, in places like Kansas, grew up with the message that the only way to succeed was to get out,” Buttigieg, a former mayor of South Bend, Ind.,

told the Kansas Recorder.

“This really is a new and stronger era for American manufacturing,” he added.

Batteries at the plant will be primarily made for cars manufactured by Tesla. IBEW members also worked on a Tesla plant near Reno, Nev., that opened in 2016. Panasonic manufactured batteries at that plant, although Tesla owns the facility and used most of it for other operations.

Panasonic will own the Kansas facility, Moreno said.

“There won't be so many cooks in the kitchen,” he

said. “They've been very receptive with us when it comes to our needs and letting us know what's expected.” ■

‘Lead by Example’: Oklahoma Members Help Feed Needy Kids

Oklahoma City Local 1141 members stepped up to volunteer February at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma in February, continuing a tradition of solidarity and goodwill in the community.

“It is rewarding knowing that we are helping Oklahoma's most vulnerable,” said Local 1141 President Jennifer Duncan, who organized the event. “Volunteering reminds everyone that there are people around us in need, and it broadens our horizons by helping our neighbors.”

Duncan said she chose the food bank in part because it provides volunteer opportunities on Saturdays and is kid-friendly, allowing children 8 and up to volunteer as long as an adult is with them.

“It is our job as parents and members of society to lead by example,” said Duncan, who also designed T-shirts for the 13 volunteers.

The team spent its day stocking groceries for Food for Kids backpacks.

Through the program, elementary school students receive a backpack full of kid-friendly, nonperishable and nutritious food on Fridays to sustain them over weekends and school holidays. The food bank delivers the backpacks to participating schools at no cost to the school or the child.

All told, the volunteers packed 12,540 pounds of food, enough for 10,450 meals. “Events like this help us connect to the community by improving it a little,” Duncan said.

Local 1141 is no stranger to giving back. Members volunteer for Love OKC, a yearly event that offers free groceries, essentials boxes, dental work and other services to people in need.

They also do electric work at Peppers Ranch, a foster care community, build Habitat for Humanity homes; and staff water stops along the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon route each year.

Duncan is encouraging more good deeds. She is working to organize a volunteer project each quarter and, as participation increases, make it monthly.

“Oklahoma is a right-to-work state, and unions are frequently associated with negativity,” she said. “I would like to help change that image by doing more community service and by helping others in need.”

To that end, the local was readying for a community service day in May at the Food and Resource Center, a food pantry that allows clients to shop and select their groceries rather than receiving a pre-packed bag.

“Local 1141 members care about their community,” Duncan said. “We will always step up to help others when asked.” ■



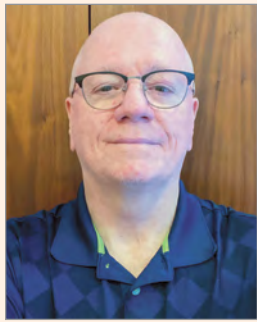
Credit: Jennifer Duncan

Oklahoma City Local 1141 members volunteer at a food bank stocking groceries for children in need. “Volunteering ... broadens our horizons by helping our neighbors,” local President Jennifer Duncan said.

TRANSITIONS

RETIRED

David Mullen



Safety Director David Mullen retired June 2, ending a 38-year IBEW career that began in a Midwest coal plant and ended at the International Office in Washington, D.C.

Born and raised in Peoria, Ill., Brother Mullen originally followed in the footsteps of his father, Fred, who worked for Caterpillar for 38 years and was a member of the United Auto Workers. His son worked for Caterpillar and was a UAW member himself for 6½ years.

His time there ended with a layoff, but it turned into a blessing. Mullen landed a job at the Powerton coal-fired plant in 1984 after its owner was forced to hire additional staff following two explosions. He joined Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15 in the process.

“I felt like my job was on the line almost from the day I got hired,” Mullen said. “Even back then, the viability of coal plants was in question. It was like, ‘Hey, if you guys want to keep your job, you’ve got to transfer out.’”

He eventually did just that. Mullen moved to Exelon’s Quad Cities Nuclear Generating Station in 1994 to work as a plant operator.

That’s where his interest in safety took off. His work also was noticed at Local 15, where Business Agent Dean Apple asked him to serve as a shop steward.

“That’s a moment I think about,” Mullen said. “He chose me, and it kind of put me on this path. If he had chosen someone else, I’d probably still be back in Illinois.”

Mullen served in that role for five years, during which time he also co-chaired the plant’s safety committee. Apple, who was now business manager, hired Mullen on staff as a business representative for the local’s nuclear division in 2007 — a big assignment at Local 15, which has five nuclear power plants in its jurisdiction, more than any other IBEW local.

“My work ethic and attention to detail is important to me. I’ve always been that way, but once I became a nuclear operator, it allowed me to grow exponentially.”

— Retiring Safety Director
David Mullen

Two years later, he moved to Washington as an international representative in the Utility Department, where most of his duties involved working with government officials to improve grid reliability and to ensure that the transition to clean energy is done in a way that lessens the impact on IBEW members and other workers in the coal industry.

In 2014, he was named safety director by then-International President Edwin D. Hill. Mullen sometimes is teased by friends for his meticulous, orderly personality, but he takes that as a compliment. It has helped in his role leading the Safety Department and may be part of why he was chosen for the position, he said.

“My work ethic and attention to detail is important to me,” he said. “I was always that way, but once I became a nuclear operator, it allowed me to grow exponentially.”

Among Mullen’s proudest accomplishments are forming an emergency response team among the International Office staff, with all members trained in CPR and first aid, and making the Safety Caucus and its resources easier to access for members in all branches. About 90% of the members involved in the caucus were linemen when Mullen took over.

Its annual meeting was extended from two to three days for the first time this year. Mullen said he’s also worked to keep costs down so more people can attend.

“I think we’ve been able to reach more members than we ever have before,” he said. “My message to everyone is no matter where you work, if you’re an IBEW member, we have something for you.”

In retirement, Mullen and his wife plan to relocate to southeastern Wisconsin to be closer to family in the Midwest. They have five children and nine grandchildren.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Heat Safety in Focus as States Seek Emergency Federal Standards

It’s no longer a question: Summer temperatures in the U.S. are rising, and the heat is clearly taking its toll.

There are more than 67,000 heat-related emergency room visits each year, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data. On the job, there were 344 worker deaths in the U.S. attributed to heat exposure in 2011-2019, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The true number could be far higher because such deaths could be under- or misreported.

These grim facts are among the reasons attorneys general in California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania moved in February to protect working people from the dangers of rising temperatures by asking the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue an emergency temporary heat standard.

“[E]xtreme workplace heat poses a grave danger to the health and safety of tens of millions of outdoor and indoor workers in our states and across the nation,” they wrote, declaring that “an emergency temporary standard is necessary to abate and protect workers from the grave danger of extreme workplace heat.”

The urgent action is needed, the attorneys general argued, because while federal regulators are trying to come up with a permanent heat standard — with input from unions including the IBEW — it could take years. This “[leaves] millions of outdoor and indoor workers exposed to dangerous levels of heat in the interim,” they said.

Safety Director David Mullen is one of the people working on defining that standard, part of a committee that’s been tasked with developing the American National Standards Institute’s draft A10.50 Heat Stress Standard, which aims to address basic concerns such as acclimatizing workers to heat, assessing risk, action-level triggers, emergency action plans and training.

“Heat stress is a complicated subject, especially for our linemen, because different environments throughout the country and how they affect each individual makes it very difficult to write a blanket standard,” Mullen said.

PREVENT HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

Wearing PPE increases your risk for heat-related illnesses.



TAKE TIME TO ACCLIMATIZE.

Work shorter shifts until your body has adjusted to the heat.



STAY WELL HYDRATED.

Drink often, before you get thirsty.



WATCH FOR SIGNS OF HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES.

Designate a buddy and ask how they feel periodically.



TAKE TIME TO REST AND COOL DOWN.

Sit somewhere cool, rest, and rehydrate frequently.

For more information visit the NIOSH Heat Stress topic page: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/>
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2016-151

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



Heat Safety Resources

OSHA: Heat Illness Prevention [osha.gov/heat](https://www.osha.gov/heat)

CDC: Heat Stress [cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress)

For many members of the IBEW — especially those who work in the union’s southern portions — high outdoor temperatures can be the norm almost every day of the year, not just in summer, Mullen added.

“Coming up with a baseline standard at least gives us a step to build on,” he said. “Our challenge is also coming up with a standard that’s simple and enforceable.”

There are 75 voting members on the ANSI committee, with 17 representing unions. “We’re at the table with the AFL-CIO and the Building Trades, doing our best to make sure that discussions don’t get into standards that can affect employment status,” he said. “There’s enough stuff now that results in people losing their jobs already.”

A draft of the proposed A10.50 standard goes to the full ANSI committee soon, with a possible vote early next

year, Mullen said. But, considering the document’s complexity — not to mention the inevitable resistance from the industries that will be affected by the new standard — an OSHA heat standard could take up to 10 years to get finalized. “It’s a long road,” he said.

Meanwhile, 27 states and territories have taken more immediate action on their own to protect workers from heat-related issues. For example, last year in Oregon, officials rolled out a mandate to provide workers with shade, breaks and water when temperatures climb above 80, and longer breaks along with increased monitoring and person-to-person check-ins when it gets above 90. California and Washington state have enacted similar policies.

Editor’s Note: Safety Director David Mullen retired from the IBEW effective June 2. See his Transitions story at left. ■

Report an Accident

“Each L.U. shall investigate and report to the I.O. all serious lost time accidents and fatalities Reports shall be submitted using the web-based, electronic version of Form 173 I.B.E.W. Report of Occupational Injury, Illness and Fatality.”

— Article XV, Section 15 of the IBEW Constitution



A Test That Could Save Your Life

When Mike Finn, a retired journeyman from Portsmouth, N.H., Local 575, first found out about the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program, it didn't seem urgent. But eventually he signed up, and it may have saved his life.

"I didn't jump on it at first, but then my friends were doing it, so I thought, 'Why not?'" Finn said. "I'm glad I did, because we probably wouldn't have found it without the screening," Finn said of his diagnosis of berylliosis, which is a result of inhaling beryllium, most likely from his time working construction at a nuclear site.

Often, health problems from work don't arise until years later. That was the case for Finn, who worked for a number of contractors.

"The work was fine. Just regular construction work. But we didn't know exactly what we were working on," he said.

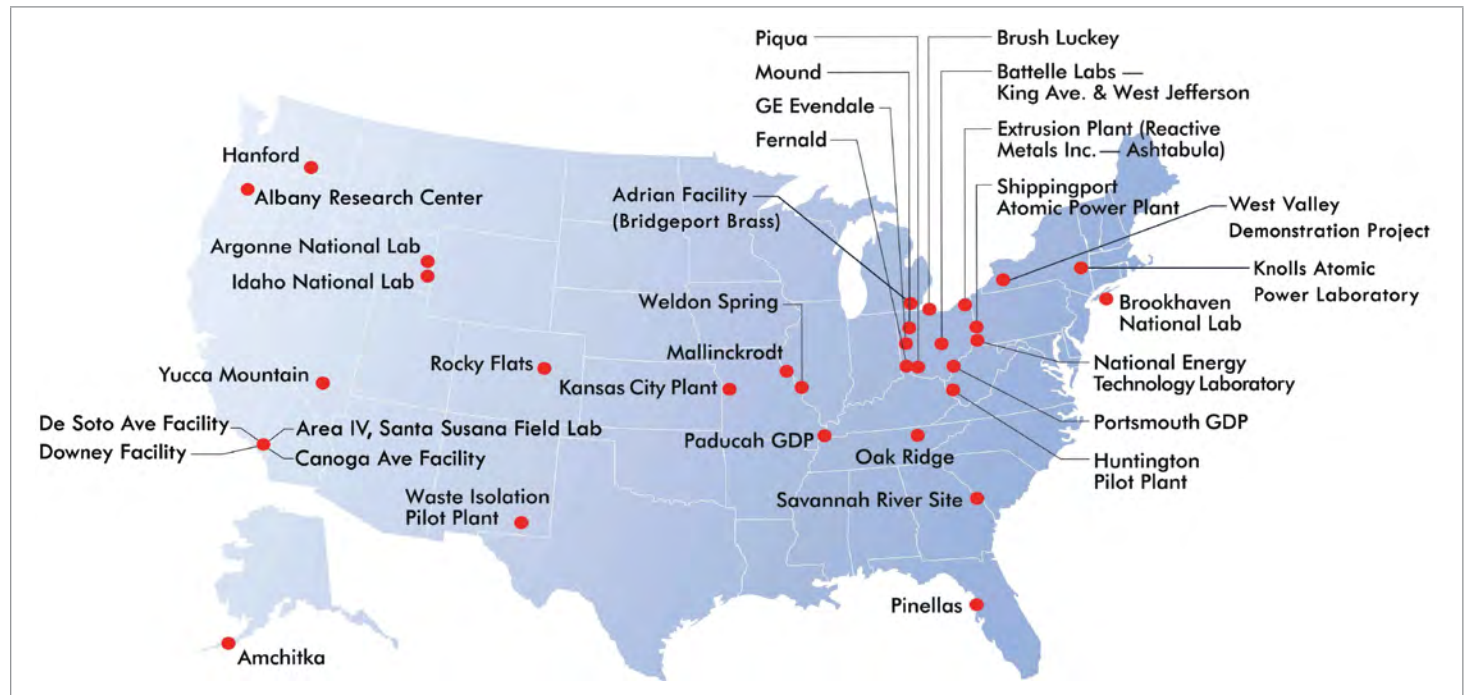
Finn isn't alone in finding out about health complications from past work at nuclear sites. Joe Cousineau, a retired member of Denver Local 68, worked for a contractor at Rocky Flats for three years in the '90s. It was good, steady work at a time when there wasn't much else going on, and it paid a lot of overtime. Plus, the workers rarely went through the barbed-wire fence, where the greater danger was.

"It was a pretty good gig," Cousineau said. "And we didn't get near the real stuff. We didn't want to."

Both Finn and Cousineau took advantage of the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program, or BTMed. It's a free medical screening that's available to former construction workers who were previously employed at Department of Energy nuclear weapons sites. In some cases, participants can even be eligible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in compensation.

Started in 1996, the program is administered by the Center for Construction Research and Training, also known as CPWR, the health and safety research center of North America's Building Trades Unions. The test is

Work Sites Covered by Free Health Screening Program



The BTMed program screens people who worked at 35 Department of Energy sites. "It's through BTMed that construction workers who worked on a DOE site can monitor their health. And their health is our number one priority," CPWR Executive Director Chris Cain said.

available at more than 225 sites across the country, and eligible people can get the screening once every three years.

"We're proud to administer a program that has served building trades workers all across the country for more than 25 years. It's through BTMed that construction workers who worked on a DOE site can monitor their health. And their health is our number one priority," CPWR Executive Director Chris Cain said.

Those who worked at DOE sites may have been exposed to hazards like asbestos, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, silica or various solvents, which can cause cancer and other serious, even fatal, health problems. A common condition that can occur is lung disease from breathing in dust, fumes, vapors or gasses. When these substances are inhaled, they can affect the lungs in two different ways: airway obstruction or scarring of the lung tissue. The BTMed screening is designed



"The only reason any of this worked is because of that screening, which caught the cancer early. It probably saved me, and it was free and convenient."

— Joe Cousineau, retired Denver Local 68 member

to look for possible signs of these symptoms as well as other health issues so patients can catch them early and get treated as quickly as possible.

"The exam is better than what you get from a regular doctor," said Gary Hom, a retired Augusta, Ga., Local 1579 member who now works as an outreach coordinator and work history interviewer for the program. "It's way more thorough."

BTMed has provided over 44,500 medical screening exams and 9,150 low-dose CT scans to former DOE construction workers, and more than 6,500 of those exams and 1,150 of the CT scans have been for electricians. Among the electricians who received a chest X-ray, 17.5% were found to have changes consistent with pneumoconiosis, a type of lung disease caused by inhaling certain dust particles like silica and asbestos. And for the electricians who had a lung function test, 41.8% were found to have abnormal results.

Hom said that a lot of people are afraid to find out whether they have something serious and put the test off.

"You need to know," Hom said. "It's two hours every three years. Isn't

that worth it for your health?"

Some workers may also be eligible for compensation. Separate from the BTMed screening, the compensation program is run by the Department of Labor. It provides payments and medical benefits to qualified workers who were diagnosed with conditions including radiogenic cancer, chronic beryllium disease, beryllium sensitivity or chronic silicosis as a result of exposure to radiation, beryllium, or silica while employed at covered DOE facilities.

For those who qualify, they are given what's called a "white card" that covers any treatment needed for the accepted condition. In Finn's case, he found out he was eligible for \$150,000 in compensation, plus the white card.

"It covers anything related to my beryllium exposure," he said. "And the process itself was pretty straightforward."

Hom noted that another benefit of the BTMed screening is that the doctors can see changes in participants over time.

"Years ago, we didn't know the dangers of asbestos and beryllium and all that. And it can take a long time for

symptoms to show up," Hom said. "It's better to catch it early."

The screening consists of two steps: a work history interview and a medical exam. In step one, a specially trained building trades worker conducts the interview to find out whether the participant came into contact with any hazardous materials. In step two, the participant receives the free medical exam to test for work-related health conditions, as well as any other health problems. Following the exam, the participant receives a letter indicating any medical findings and assistance with referrals for further care.

In Cousineau's case, the screening turned up something that may not have been related to his time at Rocky Flats but still required medical attention. During one of his CT scans, the doctors noticed something in his liver, so they referred him to his primary doctor, who then sent him to an oncologist who found a small tumor. Cousineau was treated with radiation and put on a systemic anti-cancer regimen. Now there's no sign of cancer, and his liver is functioning normally.

"The only reason any of this worked is because of that screening, which caught the cancer early," Cousineau said. "It probably saved me, and it was free and convenient."

Cousineau, Finn and Hom all stressed how easy it is to get the screening, and to get one as early as possible.

"Take advantage of it," Cousineau said. "It could save your life."

To find out more about the free screening, including how to get one, go to www.btmed.org or email btmed@btmed.org. You can also call 1-800-866-9663. ■



IBEW members who worked at Department of Energy sites like the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, pictured, may be eligible for a free medical screening.

LOCAL LINES

Local 16 Spring Activities

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN — In February, our local earned a second-place finish in the first annual Battle of the Beans Chili Cook-Off. Proceeds went to the RENEW fund, and everyone there had a great day of brotherhood. Also that month, the Executive Board and the entertainment committee hosted another excellent winter gala. Thanks for the work that made all this possible!

Because of weather-related damage to the hall, activities other than business operations and monthly union meetings are being curtailed. However, the Easter egg hunt was still held on the front lawn. Thanks to all who stuffed thousands of eggs to bring joy to IBEW families.

On April 1, members began enjoying increased wages and fringe benefits. For specific changes or to verify that you are being properly compensated, please contact the hall.

Thanks to Spencer Baumholser for giving his time to attend the IBEW's school for election judges. Elections in this local provide every member the opportunity to send a strong message that will be heard by the contractors and the community. When many come out to vote, that message becomes even stronger.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

North Texas Electrical JATC Honors Outstanding Students

L.U. 20 (em,i,mt,spa,t&u), DALLAS-FORT WORTH, TX — The North Texas Electrical JATC held its annual completion dinner at the Hilton Hotel on June 10, 2022.

Awards are presented for outstanding performance.

- NECA Outstanding Award: David Brower.
- IBEW Outstanding Award: Patrick Riney.
- L.U. 20 Gold Pliers: Salim Amara, Joseph

- Barkell, Jesse Campbell and Paul Warren.
- NECA Achievement: Jesse Campbell, Joseph Barkell, Edward Davis III and William Rematore.
- L.U. 20 FCU: Salim Amara, Hector Martinez, Paul Warren, Zachery Welch and Logan Wells.
- Perfect Attendance: Andrew Carnes, Efigenio Cordova, Courtney Crawford Jr., Nelson Escobar, Daniel Faber, Lisandro Figueroa, Paulo Chavez Gonzalez, Travis Gragan, Jorge Hernandez, Jose Mendoza, Hector Meza, Diego Oviedo, Ivan Pina, Patrick Riney, Cameron Roberts, Andrew Robinson, Benjamin Rodarte Jr., Roger Rosillo, Jacob Russell, Shawnda Starr, Fausto Tellez, Lance Troutman and D'Andre Watts.

Price Warwick Jr., B.M./F.S.



Jack Powell prepares for Union Night in Annapolis, Md.

Local 24 Congratulates Jack Powell, Apprentice of the Year

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — Greetings from Charm City. We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate fifth-year apprentice Jack Powell for becoming IBEW Hour Power's 2023 Apprentice of the Year. The grandson of Local 1307 Brother William

Powell, Jack learned that our union apprenticeship was the best electrical education out there. An active member of our local, Jack is the chair of our RENEW chapter. He works to push the boundaries of what's possible, especially with technology. "We do biweekly updates for RENEW in an email newsletter," he explains. "RENEW members who are involved are willing to try new things to help the union. I tell the members, 'Put in the time now to get the benefits later!'" I am grateful to have such a dedicated brother among our membership.

In closing, thank you to all our IBEW brothers and sisters for the outpouring of support on the loss of Assistant Business Manager Nick Caruso. Sadly, Nick passed March 25 after a difficult battle with cancer. Please continue to keep his family in your prayers.

Live Better/Work Union.

Michael J. McHale, B.M.



President Joe Biden and Local 26 Business Manager Joe Dabbs.

Local 26 Hosts President Joe Biden

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — It was a true honor for Local 26 to host President Joe Biden on Feb. 15 at our union hall in Lanham, Md. President Biden paid our local a visit to show his support for organized labor and to announce his plans for investing in America, particularly infrastructure investments, which will greatly benefit the IBEW.

Fourth-year apprentice and Culpeper, Va., Councilman B. Travis Brown had the honor of introducing President Biden. Local 26 Business Manager Joe Dabbs and President Tom Myers escorted the president during his visit, and they were joined by special guests: International President Kenneth W. Cooper, Sen. Ben Cardin, newly elected Rep. Glenn Ivey and newly elected Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Also in attendance were Local 26 officers and staff, apprentices, and other guests from organized labor and local and state political entities.

Best wishes to the following new retirees: Jeff N. Engelhard, Jeffrey Galamb, Theodore J. Gast, Patrick A. Hall, Michael J. Johnson, Neil S. Leary, David V. McDaniel, Elliott D. Moore, Larry W. Remington, Cris D. Ritter, Edward S. Roach, Robin P. Stannard, Alton K. West, Kevin L. Weyant, William S. Whitney, Curtis J. Wick and John F. Williamson.

The following members have passed away since our last article: William E. Barger, Arthur R. Campli, Mark S. Capik, Milton G. Connor, Thomas E. Frank, Michael D. Hoyt, Taeseul Moon, Joseph R. Sweeney Jr. and Norman C. Thompson Jr.

Joe Dabbs, B.M.

Springtime for Local 34

L.U. 34 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL — Hello, brothers and sisters of the IBEW. Our local is pleased to share that spring was filled with sustainability, growth and renewal. Work remains steady in all areas, with the promise of several solar projects in the Peoria area this summer; continued work at the Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy; and ongoing work at the Western Illinois University Center for Performing Arts in Macomb, Ill., to name a few.

Members found rest from their labors in March at the annual Local 34 steak fry at the Elks Lodge. Thanks to our newly established RENEW Committee members for volunteering to run raffles, help the caterer and make the event go smoothly. Roughly 120 members were in attendance.

New apprentices completed orientation in April and now have their boots on the ground. These new faces of the IBEW are our future; thanks to our journeymen who will be their mentors and guides.

On April 29, Local 34 commemorated Workers' Memorial Day in the Peoria and Galesburg areas. This yearly event is a somber reminder of the dangers in the construction industry. It was eye-opening for apprentices in attendance to understand the importance of being alert, aware and present every day in order to return home safely to their families. Our loved ones are the reason we are in this career — to provide a good quality of life, stay well with good health care and enjoy a great retirement.

Stay safe, brothers and sisters. Enjoy your summer and soak up time with friends and family!

George Rudd, Pres.

Richard Herman Awarded for 75 Years of Service

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH — Our local had the honor of awarding Brother Richard Herman with his pin for 75 years of service in the IBEW in October 2022. Brother Herman served his country with



Local 20 congratulates the 2022 graduates of the North Texas Electrical JATC.

Submitting Local Lines Articles

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd local number schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via our online form. For deadlines and questions, please visit ibew.org/media-center/submitting-local-lines or email locallines@ibew.org.

We make every effort to assist local unions in publishing useful and relevant local union news; however, all final content decisions are made by our editorial team. Please adhere to a 200-word limit.

If you have an idea for an Electrical Worker story, please contact the Media Department at (202) 728-6219 or media@ibew.org.

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	(u) Utility	(tm) Transportation Manufacturing
(ei) Electrical Inspection	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(uow) Utility Office Workers	(ws) Warehouse and Supply
(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers		
(es) Electric Signs	(mar) Marine		

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

distinction in Korea and was initiated into Local 38 in 1947. Brother Herman's father, William, and son, Thomas (both deceased), were also members of Local 38. Brother Herman retired in June 1993 and was the father of six children and a beloved husband of 69 years to Judy. Brother Herman passed away Feb. 28, 2023, at the age of 94. A grateful union will remember Brother Herman's years of service and honors his incredible life.

Dan Gallagher, B.M.



Brother Herman receiving his 75-year service award with his wife, Judy; son Marty; and Local 38 Business Manager Dan Gallagher.

Re-Energizing Committees at Local 46

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA — Hello, IBEW family! Our local is happy to announce our dedication to re-energizing our political action committee and veterans outreach. Every PAC event has seen increased participation from our membership!

Political Director Nicole Grant kicked things off for our PAC with a lobbying event in Olympia alongside Local 77 members. Our members had the opportunity to speak with their elected representatives and lobby for the bills they care about.

Many of us don't care for politics; we'd rather just go to work and not have to think about the headaches politics can bring. Unfortunately, it's vital that we get involved to fight for better workers' rights and not allow these rights to be stripped from us. It is inspiring to witness so many of our members standing up and pushing for better — not only for themselves, but for everyone.

Brothers Keith Weir and Bernard Johnson have stepped up our veterans outreach, making trips to military bases in the Seattle area to talk with service members about pathways from the military into the IBEW. We thank you for your efforts and the support you show our veterans during their transition from military to civilian life.

Megan Kirby, P.S.



Locals 46 and 77 lobbying in Olympia, Wash. — all the power together!

Swearing In Local 50 Officers; Business Manager Site Visits

L.U. 50 (u), RICHMOND, VA — On Feb. 1, President/Business Manager/Financial Secretary John Albert and Treasurer Eric Napier were sworn in to their new offices in accordance with the IBEW Constitution. John Albert has been an IBEW member for 33 years, serving as a local officer for 16 years and as a representative for more than 20 years. Eric Napier has been an IBEW member for more than 22 years, serving as a representative for almost 15 years. Both John and Eric are humbled and honored to continue serving the members of Local 50 in their new roles.

Local 50 represents members in diverse sectors of the utility energy business. Recently, Business Manager Albert and Vice President Jason Davis toured North Anna and Surry nuclear power plants, Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center, Chesterfield Power Station and other sites.

Brothers Albert and Davis also visited the Dominion Energy Training Center for Electric Construction and Operations, watching Local 50 members safely training to become proficient as linemen and groundmen. Business Manager Albert, Vice President Davis and lead Business Representative Ryan Gettier also provided a joint safety message with management to linemen trainees.

Jason Davis, P.S.



Local 50 representatives visit members at the Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center: From left, President/Business Manager John Albert, Vice President/Senior Business Representative Jason Davis, Business Representative Adam Howlett and Chief Steward Mike Deal. In back is Treasurer/Lead Business Representative Eric Napier.

Happy 125th, Local 68!

L.U. 68 (j), DENVER, CO — On March 25, Local 68 celebrated its 125th anniversary. At least 1,110 members and their guests attended the celebration, which was held at the Denver Art Museum. Attendees enjoyed food, drinks, fellowship and art.

The anniversary committee deserves a tremendous amount of thanks and appreciation for all of their hard work planning and coordinating everything that was



In March, Local 68 celebrated its 125th anniversary (chartered on March 24, 1898).

necessary to put this event together and make it such a great success. The committee members are Tito Aleman III, Steve Block, Bruce Dahl, Robert Delgado, Rick Francone, Felicia Hackney, Joel Knutson and Ted Thomas. Also, the front office helped out quite a bit: Thanks to Amanda Perkins, Erin Sandholm and Natalie Williams. If you happen to see any of these brothers and sisters, make sure that you let them know how much their hard work and dedication were appreciated.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased brothers and sisters: Edward R. Archer, Clifford R. Lane and Jimmie Wallace.

Natalie Williams, B.M.

Union Contractor Beats Out 6 Nonunion Contractors

L.U. 70 (lctt&o), WASHINGTON, DC — Dominion Energy recently completed its last quarter evaluation for 2022, which consisted of safety, observations, deficiencies, line outages, productivity and crew ratings. A big congratulations to W.A. Chester for beating out six nonunion contractors on Dominion. [See photo, below.]

For years, W.A. Chester was the only union contractor doing overhead distribution for Dominion, until they recently added Thayer Power & Communication and Infrasource. Local 70 would like to thank W.A. Chester crews for their hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank our members who have stayed and manned the jobs in 70's area, keeping the union strong and pushing nonunion out.

George Embrey, A.B.M.

Local 90 Retirement Dinner

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT — Our local's retirement dinner was held Oct. 20, 2022, at the WoodWinds banquet facility in Branford, Conn.

There were 14 retirees and eight 25-year pin acknowledgements. The retirees honored were David Brancato, Gary Card, Thomas Comer Jr.,



Local 70 members stand tall at the W.A. Chester yard in Lorton, Va.

Thomas Ferraro Jr., George Froehlich, Chris Hynes, Howard Larson, Henry McMillan, Robert McMillan, Donald O'Connor, David Opozda, Eric Peterson, Gabriel Schillo and Patrick Stanulonis. The 25-year pins were awarded to David Baldi, Arthur Battagliano, Richard Betts Jr., William Brooks, John Goulet, Tyrone Jones, Phil Michaud and Anthony Purificato.

John Bellemare, Pres.



Local 98's Chuck Harvey with Business Manager Mark Lynch Jr. and President Jim Foy.

Local 98 Salutes Chuck Harvey

L.U. 98 (as,catv,em,i&it), PHILADELPHIA, PA — Led by Business Manager Mark Lynch Jr., our local recently honored retiree Charles F. "Chuck" Harvey with its annual service award. Initiated in 1966, Chuck is a proud 47-year member of Local 98. Fittingly, we chose to honor Chuck, an Irishman and a fan of Notre Dame football, during Philadelphia's 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was appropriate that Local 98 honored Chuck at this iconic parade because he always worked hard behind the scenes to make sure the big day was successful for Local 98 and the Philadelphia community.

Chuck held many positions at Local 98, but the most important title he earned was "hero." In 1971, Chuck earned an IBEW life-saving award for helping to rescue Brother Bob Jacobs, who got hung up on a 277-volt circuit and couldn't get off. Chuck quickly reacted, de-energizing the circuit and saving Bob's life. Chuck's bravery didn't surprise anyone — he's always been there to help his fellow Local 98 members.

Chuck Harvey embodies the principles that Local 98 stands for, brotherhood, family, hard work and pride in one's work. The membership of our local is grateful that Chuck continues to inspire us.

Robert Gormley, Bus. Rep.

LOCAL LINES



Retiree class of 2022 attendees, from left: Michael Messer, Kirk McGrath, Mario W. Hernandez, Ken Rousey (2019), Liam Fanucchi, Shannon Gald, Alfred Rodriguez, Douglas Woody and Local 100 Business Manager Ronny Jungk.

Local 100 Celebrates Retirees at Luncheon

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rts,st&ptc), FRESNO, CA — In March, our local held its annual Retirees' Luncheon, which celebrates our brothers' and sisters' years of dedicated service to the IBEW and honors those who have retired from the local. Local 100 would like to acknowledge the retiree class of 2022: Charles Coon, Lance Denton, Doug Deppe, Fredrick Downs, Matthew Evans, Liam Fanucchi, Shannon Gald, Edward Heasley, Mario Hernandez, Daniel Knizevski, Bruce Mackenzie, Kirk McGrath, Kevin McLaughlin, Michael Messer, Craig Newton, Glen Nishihara, Joseph Opdahl, Alfred Rodriguez, Richard Schellen-trager, Samuel Seward, Michael Spaunhurst, Ronald Statham, Jeff Taylor and Douglas Woody.

Local 100 also recognized the following members for their dedicated years of service to the IBEW and Local 100: Mike Messer (25 years); Shannon Gald (35 years); Mike Caglia, Alfred Rodriguez, Robert Statham and Gary Yoshino (40 years); and Gary Bettencourt, Natividad "Netty" Hernandez and Charles "Ed" Weigant (45 years).

We would like to thank all of our retirees for their years of dedicated service and congratulate the retirement class of 2022. May God bless you all, and God bless the IBEW.

Jake Piland, R.S.

Steward Training at Local 104

L.U. 104 (lctt,o,u&ptc), BOSTON, MA — An IBEW steward is a volunteer champion of our constitution, local union bylaws and collective bargaining agreements. These members selflessly advocate for their sisters and brothers when issues arise in their workplace. Thank you for your service!

Local 104 hosted a steward training course instructed by Brother Craig Duffy. This seminar was directed toward municipality and utility local members in the Second District, working in conjunction with Locals 486, 326 and 455, as well as the Education Department at the International Office. In addition to the presentation, special guests discussed the importance of professional legal advice along with the advocacy of elected officials fighting for our interests.



Local 104 hosted a steward training course directed toward municipality and utility members in the Second District, working with Locals 486, 326 and 455.

Thanks to all in attendance: Wendy M. Bitner, Esq. (40+ years of representing unions in Boston, now with Sandulli Grace); John Callahan (B.M./F.S. of Local 486); Kathy Codella (Local 104); Craig Duffy (Local 2323/IBEW Education Department); Massachusetts state Sen. Paul Feeney (Local 2222); Joe Fiorello (Local 104); Ted Fitzpatrick (Local 455); Dan Fogarty, Esq. (Sandulli Grace); Sal Napolitano (Local 455); John Nordquist (Local 486); Andrea Pasternack (Local 455); Paul Pepka Jr. (Local 326); Brian Pierce (Pres. of Local 104); Mark Potter (Local 104 municipal representative/executive board member); and Dylan Weeman (Local 104).

Hugh A. Boyd, A.B.M.



Local 134 members at an IBEW solar train-the-trainer event.

Illinois IBEW Renewable Energy Fund

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL — In 2017, after receiving a grant through the Future Energy Jobs Act, the Illinois IBEW Renewable Energy Fund provided a solar train-the-trainer event and an 8-kW ground mount system to 17 IBEW locals in Illinois. After receiving a second round of funding in 2022, the fund is now providing a 10-kW solar carport to our partner locals. We are looking forward to our continued partnership to train and provide the highly qualified solar workforce for projects all over Illinois and beyond. Thank you to Business Representatives Robert Hattier, Joseph Kilcoyne and Henry Malinowski.

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



The Veterans' Committee of Local 164 organized a collection for area veterans' homes. From left, Roch LePage, James Canino, Business Manager Dan Gumble, President Tom Sullivan, Rich Paredes, Robert DiCrisi, Michael Wolfanger and David DiCrisi.

A Collection For Local Veterans

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ — Our local's Veterans' Committee organized a collection drive for items to benefit area veterans' homes. The membership of Local 164 donated men's and women's socks, adult coloring books,

word search and puzzle books, crayons, colored pencils, and markers.

The committee organized the drive to give back to those who serve and protect our nation and to thank them for their service. Business Manager Dan Gumble, President Tom Sullivan and committee chair Rich Paredes thank the members for their generosity

and the Veterans' Committee for their efforts in organizing the collection drive.

Warren M. Becker, P.S.

Local 196 Elects New Business Manager

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL — The past year has been busy for our local. In June 2022, our local elected new Business Manager Derek Luetgert. Derek hired two new assistant business managers and negotiated a three-year contract for outside construction. He also oversaw the purchase of a new union hall and set up a new 501(c)(3) to help our members. He even set up a meeting with local labor leaders, U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood and

then-Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh at our union hall. It seems like every day there is a new development as Brother Luetgert grows our local.

Our lead organizer, Greg Doss, continues to find new contractors doing fiber work in our jurisdiction, and these nonunion contractors are learning fast. If they don't sit down and sign up, Greg is going to find union jobs for their workers. We continue to grow, and we are doing more fiber installation work every day. This organizing effort is keeping our members working and our membership growing.

Our annual picnic in June will honor retired International Office representative Ed Mings. Ed is a longtime member of Local 196 and a former organizer, business manager and journeyman lineman. We wish Ed all the best and look forward to celebrating his work for the IBEW at the picnic.

Andrew Taft, R.S.



Local 196 Business Manager Derek Luetgert (left), U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood and former Labor Secretary Marty Walsh.

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Local 212 congratulates the graduating class of 2023!

Congratulations, Jerry Mahoney!

L.U. 212 (i), CINCINNATI, OH — The work in our area took a slight dip this spring. At the time of this writing, there are 97 on Book 1 and four on Book 2 with no teledata techs available. As summer progresses, things should be ramping up.

At our meeting in May, we will have a special order of business: a raise allocation of \$1.50 and nominations of officers. Currently, we are at \$33.29 with \$7.35 health and wellness, \$9 pension, \$2.55 NEAP and a total package of \$54.62.

Congratulations to Jerry Mahoney, who was recognized for his years of service as an instructor at our JATC and named instructor of the year! He received his award at the IBEW Construction and Maintenance Conference in April.

Phil Bovard, P.S.



Members of Local 292 met with Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz for the IBEW's Day on the Hill. Photo credit: Logan Beere, Local 110.

Legislative Success

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN — In November 2022, we elected a labor-friendly Legislature and governor in Minnesota.

Our get-out-the-vote efforts paid off this 2023 legislative session. We have seen multiple pro-worker, pro-labor bills passed and signed into law, including:

- Expanded prevailing wage requirements on all construction work funded or incentivized in whole or part by state general and renewable development accounts.
- EVITP and prevailing wage requirements for the funding of EV infrastructure projects.
- State matching funds and incentives for the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs and

Inflation Reduction acts, all with labor-friendly requirements conditional to receiving funding.

- Sustainable transit funding to keep light rail projects on track, as well as provide funds for rail service between Minneapolis and Duluth and improved service between St. Paul and Chicago.

On Feb. 8, we joined with nearly 200 IBEW members from across the state for a successful Day on the Hill event. This was our first such legislative event since 2019, before the COVID-19 crisis. IBEW members met with our Minnesota legislators and Gov. Tim Walz to have effective conversations about our labor priorities this session.

With a pro-labor Legislature this year, we have been able to assure that these projects will be union-built.

With a 400-MW, utility-scale solar project expected to start soon, we have data centers in the works and pro-union state and federal projects on the way. We hope to see a much-improved work picture in the near and distant future.

June is election month. If you haven't already, please remember to participate in the election of local union officers. Our leadership is only as strong as the democracy it represents.

Andy Snope, Bus. Rep.

Local 306 Summer Work Outlook

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH — With winter finally behind us, the work outlook remains positive. There are several jobs just coming out of the ground and should begin to staff up in mid to late summer.

Our annual Easter egg hunt was held in March and attended by many. We greatly appreciated the help from our retirees, as well as many of our active members, to help make this an enjoyable event for the children and their families.

Please stay tuned for information on upcoming events such as Local 306's golf outing, summer picnic and annual car show, to name a few.

Last, we would like to congratulate Brother Mark Douglas Jr. for accepting a full-time position as president of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council. We would like to thank Mark for his many years of service and dedication to Local 306.

Chuck Zittle, A.B.M.

Grateful for Another Year

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — We are halfway through the year, and we have been fortunate to hold many more events than we have in the past two years. Our local is continuing to grow, and this year we brought on a sound and communications representative, John Reardon, a first for our local. We have signed a new contractor almost every

month this year. We had 43 apprentices graduate this May. It has been a triumph for the local, and we are grateful for the opportunity to see continual progression as I reach my 10-year anniversary in office.

It is my — and the local's — hope that we continue to see growth, success and health for the remainder of the year. None of this would be possible without the help of the dedicated team of organizers and staff who assist me everyday.

Have a great summer, brothers and sisters!

Robert Ward, B.M.

Hot Work Outlook for Summer

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — Our new Hard Rock Casino project is underway, with the steel being erected and the casino itself finally taking shape.

This long-awaited project is finally gaining momentum. As of this writing, we do not have the electrical contractor information, but hopefully that information will be available by the time you are reading this. We have waited 30 years for this project to come to fruition, so we are very excited to finally see some work commencing.

Our summer school work has begun with projects throughout Local 364's nine-county jurisdiction. There is a large amount of work to be done in the short three-month window between school years, and we would like to thank all the traveling brothers and sisters who contribute, now and in the future. We simply could not complete this without you, so once again, thank you.

Our Facebook project continues to steamroll along, with well over 900 IBEW members working on-site. This project has hit several important milestones and continues to impress Facebook management with all its deadlines being completed on or ahead of schedule. To all our members and travelers on this project: a well-deserved thank you for all your efforts.

Brad Williams, P.S.

Local 654 Celebrates at St. Patrick's Day Parade

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA — Our local's members and their families were out in full force to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, alongside state Rep. Jennifer O'Mara. Rep. O'Mara, who represents the 165th District of Pennsylvania, has been a friend of Local 654 for a few years. She has helped many members with any issues she could and always makes time to show her support for union labor. The parade route went through the Delaware County community of Springfield. This was the 103rd year of the celebration.

The group braved the cold, wind and rain in efforts to represent IBEW values throughout the local community. Members and their families enjoyed a

day of music, dancing and Irish heritage. It was a great event, despite the weather, and another opportunity for Local 654 to be present in the communities they serve. Brother and Local 654 member Anthony Delvacchio was able to snap a few great photos of the day.

Christopher Schieler, P.S.



Local 654 members Rich Digregorio, Brian Donaldson, Fred Grant, Tom Hart and Brad Peterson are ready for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Motorcycle Club Sponsors Chili Cook-Off

L.U. 1340 (i&o), NEWPORT NEWS, VA — On March 11, our local's Motorcycle Club sponsored the third annual Chili Cook-Off at our union hall. The event, which was canceled during the pandemic, was well attended, with about 150 brothers and sisters and family and friends gathering for good eating, music and socializing.

A number of raffle prizes donated to the club helped to raise money for the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank, with over \$2,000 collected to help with hunger in the area. Winners for best chili were: Jeff and Michelle Rowe (B.M./F.S. and grand champions), Irwin Barker and Tyler Mattox (apprentices), Jack and Michelle Barrett (journeymen), Rob Grainger and Laura Russ (maintenance), Cullen Gaston (Book 2, Local 666) and Ralph Pacheco (retiree). Blackwater Jam Band provided some lively music, and the weather was nice enough to allow riders to show off their bikes. We look forward to enjoying this event for years into the future. Thanks to Aaron Woodard and other members of the club for their work in organizing this event!

We regret to report the passing of brothers Marshall Massengill Jr. on Feb. 3 and Ransone "Ranny" Watterton Jr. on April 1.

Jim Avery, P.S.

Local 1928 Supports Striking UPEIFA Members

L.U. 1928 (i,o&u), HALIFAX, NS — In Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, the University of PEI Faculty Association held a strike rally at the end of their first week walking the picket line in front of the



Local 1928 stands in solidarity with its sisters and brothers from the UPEI Faculty Association at a strike rally in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

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LOCAL LINES

Honourable George Coles Provincial Building. Local 1928, which represents the maintenance staff at the university, was also at the rally to show support and solidarity for the picketers.

IBEW and the UPEIFA are just two of four unions in tough negotiations with the university this year, trying to get a fair deal for their members. With inflation that hasn't been seen in a long time — PEI has the highest rates in Canada — unions in this region are battling to get fair deals for their members.

It's not just pay that's a major issue in this case, but also class size and faculty workloads. They are fighting to provide quality education for their students, the future of our country.

Business Manager James Sponagle offered words of encouragement and solidarity to the UPEIFA with other members in support of the cause. These are challenging times for unions across North America, and we need to stick together and support one another to continue to build and move forward.

Todd MacInnis, Bus. Rep.

Aislinn Bauer Receives Inaugural Sixth District Medal of Courage

L.U. 2304 (u), MADISON, WI — This March, at the Sixth District Membership Development Conference in Chicago, Ill., our local's Aislinn Bauer was awarded the inaugural Sixth District Medal of Courage Award for her organizing efforts over the past few years.

In fall 2021, Aislinn and her coworkers decided they needed a union at their workplace. A great majority of the workers signed cards to join the IBEW, and the process began. Aislinn teamed up with coworkers Kyle Flood and Olive Rose, Local 2304 President/Business Manager Nate Rasmussen, Wisconsin State Organizer Kim Moon and International Representative Shawn Reents to form a bargaining committee.

Contract negotiations began in 2022, and Local 2304's team secured significant improvements in the first contract, including wage increases, seniority language, just-cause and grievance procedures, additional paid time off, and added structure to work hours and productivity metrics.

Aislinn has since been appointed Local 2304's assistant business representative.

Congratulations to Aislinn and to Local 2304!

Nate Rasmussen, B.M.



Local 2304 Assistant Business Representative Aislinn Bauer, pictured with fellow IBEW award recipient Daniel Armstrong, received the Medal of Courage Award at the 2023 Sixth District Membership Development Conference.

RETIREES

Do You Need a Living Trust?

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA — You are invited to our Aug. 9 monthly Retirees' Club meeting, where we will be hosting a seminar on living trusts. A living trust can spare your heirs the expense, inconvenience and delay of probate. You don't need to be a Retirees' Club member or even be retired to attend this seminar. Spouses and partners are encouraged to attend; you just need to register.

The seminar will be presented by Counsel Mike Moore. Note that Moore is not affiliated with Local 11 and his legal opinions and advice are not those of Local 11. He can be retained to prepare a basic living trust, a deed placing real estate in the trust and an advance health care directive for a flat fee of \$500.

If you are interested in attending this seminar, email us at RetireesClubIBEWLocal11@gmail.com, and we'll provide the details by Aug. 1.

Robert Corona, P.S.

Important Changes for 2023 Leadership

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — At the time of this writing, spring is here in Washington, D.C., along with the cherry blossoms. By the time you read this, we will all be wearing shorts and no coats!

Brother Rick Warner has already started things rolling with a bus trip to the casino. If you are interested in joining an event or have a suggestion, please give him a call at 240-472-0438. We're still hoping to get to the Panama Canal, but they have their own COVID-19 restrictions, so stay tuned.

After our summer break, we will return to in-person and Zoom meetings in September. If you want to hear about upcoming travels, attend our meetings on the second Saturday of the month at noon in the Lanham, Md., union hall, September through May. If you are interested in joining our meeting through Zoom, please email us at flashmanbissell@aol.com. We'd love to hear how retirees are doing all over the U.S. and Canada!

In March, we had a belated election of officers, and retired Sister Susan Flashman is our new president. Retired Brother Dick Bissell stepped down after almost 20 years as our president, and we thank him for his dedication. In his time as president, we have grown and flourished with over 500 dues-paying members. In September, we will have a new meeting chef. Rick Warner took over from our (now deceased) Chef Nick Del Erba years ago, and we will welcome retired Brother Kenny Hunt in September.

In April, we began a new tradition by holding a luncheon for our retired members to receive their years-of-service awards. The awards ranged from 20 to 75 years! In September, we will repeat the luncheon for those scheduled to receive pins from September to December.

Local 26's picnics will proceed this year with three dates and locations to serve all our active and retired members and their families. The annual Local 26 golf tournament to benefit diabetes research will be in June, and we have three teams of four retirees lined up.

Susan Flashman, Pres.

Support Your Local Retirees' Club

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Our first retiree meeting of the year was March 8, and we had a good turnout, including former business agent Bruce Silva and retired office manager Vicki Dougherty. We caught up with one another after the winter break. Pizza was on the menu.

Local 35's Retirees' Club is looking to increase attendance at our monthly meetings. They are held the second Wednesday of each month at the Elks Club in Rocky Hill, Conn. Dues are \$35 per year, and lunch is always served. We hope that you will come out and join us. We are always looking for new ideas, and your ideas are always welcome.

Baseball season is here, and Hartford is fortunate to house the Hartford Yard Goats. We should be honored and proud to support them because the IBEW helped build that stadium.

We would also like to thank Dennis Machol and Charlie Rose for their dedication to the retirees, including their participation in the meeting of the Alliance for Retired Americans. By attending meetings such as these, they keep us informed with many issues affecting retirees in our chapter.

Kenneth White, P.S.



Local 35 helped build the Yard Goats' baseball stadium in Hartford, Conn.

Greetings From Local 53 Retirees' Club

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — I want to start with some words about Keith Query. At the last regular meeting, the members dedicated the meeting hall to Keith. It was a great, fitting thing to show respect to a deserving union man and brother. Brother Query served Local 53 as business manager/financial secretary for 24 dedicated years. He did many great things for Local 53, far too many to elaborate in this article. Three of his representatives went on to become business managers themselves: Jim Lynch, Bobby Stuart and Steve White. Thank you very much for everything you did for us all.

We had our retirees' luncheon at the hall, and we handed out service pins: Larry Barker, Kevin Boosher, Myron Burrows, Virgil Franklin, James Orth, David Renner, William Wagers and Tarry Youngmans (50 years); Phillip Duncan, James Englis, William Fennel, Nichols Jordan, Jerry Senter, Kenneth Sikes, Robert Walraven and Alva Wright (55 years); Larry Baker, Robert Brandon, R.J. Brown, Joe Padilla and Melvin Simmons (60 years); and Lynn Coats (70 years).

We are sad to report the passing of the following members: Jack Campbell, Dennis Godfrey and Lanny Serici. Rest in peace, brothers.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

Local 58 Plans Trip to Charleston, S.C.

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI — We are celebrating the signing of S.B. 34 and H.B. 4007 by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on March 24. These bills repeal the state's right-to-work policy and reinstate prevailing wage requirements for public construction projects. This is the first time Democrats have had the majority in both houses of our Legislature since the mid-1980s. All segments of union labor joined forces to support our representatives in passing this legislation. With this shift in power in the Michigan House and Senate, there remains more to do, including work on campaign finance, repairing workers' compensation and improving unemployment benefits.

The Retirees' Club bus trip to Charleston, S.C., will run Sept. 10-16. This is the first trip organized since several COVID-19 cancellations. The \$75 deposit was due May 10, and final payments are due July 3. Seats usually fill up fast, with a limit of 50. For information about available seats, contact Rick Koerber at rick_dona@hotmail.com.

The oral history project continues. If you haven't been interviewed yet and would like to be, please call the union hall at 313-963-2130 to put your name on the list.

Pat Nuznov, P.S.

Local 60 Retirees on Summer Vacation

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — Summertime is here, and our Retirees' Club is taking a break from monthly meetings in June, July and August. So far this year, our retirees have had some delightful afternoons socializing, sharing meals and enjoying their bingo time together. We share the sad times, as well, when we pause for a moment of silence to honor members who have passed, as well as our friends and family. Monthly meetings of the Retirees' Club will resume at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 14 at Local 60's union hall (3518 N. Loop 1604 E).

On July 22, retirees of Local 60 will have the opportunity to join the 130-year anniversary banquet of their local union, which was established July 22, 1893. This will be a special occasion for Local 60's retired members who helped build it, passing along a wealth of experience and wisdom to the younger generation of electricians, teaching them the right way — the union way — and to take pride in their work. The banquet will be at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio. For more information and tickets, please contact the hall at 210-337-1741.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Local 104 Retirees Get Together

RETIRES' CLUB OF L.U. 104, BOSTON, MA — The joy of brotherhood is a difficult feeling to express in words. Being there makes all the difference. All had a great time at the Local 104 Retirees' Club get-together March 22. We had a great showing with the pleasant surprise of celebrating Brother Thomas O'Hara's 75 years of membership. Brother O'Hara joined Local 104 in 1948.

Brothers in attendance were Assistant Business Manager/Treasurer Hugh Boyd, former Executive Board member Armand "The Joker" Cabral, John Consoletti, George Froias, Robert Gray,



Everyone had a great time at the Local 104 Retirees' Club get-together in March.

Stephen Locke, former Vice President William Matthews, Walter McCann, Joseph Mortimer, Business Manager/Financial Secretary Brian Murphy, former President Stephen O'Donnell, Lenny O'Hara, Thomas O'Hara Sr., Michael Rock, Richard Rock Sr., former executive board member Rich Rock, Frederick Tompson and former Business Manager/Financial Secretary Robert Ward. (Unfortunately, two missed the photo: Brothers Thomas O'Hara Jr. and Eddie Lee.) Thank you to all who could make it!

We all had a wonderful time celebrating our history and reminiscing on how far we have come as a local, and we all know working with your brothers and sisters is a special experience. This trip down memory lane is priceless. Please join us for the next get-together!

Hugh Boyd, A.B.M.

Local 134 Retirees' News

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — It's hard to believe that it's been a whole year since our city of Chicago hosted the 40th International IBEW Convention at McCormick Place (within walking distance of our local hall). We all have great memories of that historic event. We hope all who attended had a good time in our beautiful city.

We voted "yes" on the Workers' Rights Amendment to the state constitution, and we won. Illinois is the first state in the country to outlaw "right-to-work" laws. The amendment guarantees workers the fundamental right to organize and collectively bargain for wages, health care and safety. It benefits all workers, union or non-union. A big thank you to the Workers' Rights Committee of Local 134 for all their hard work to get this amendment passed.

Climate change around the world cannot be ignored any longer. In the U.S., the past year has been crazy, with stronger hurricanes, tornadoes so strong that whole communities are demolished and so much snow that it covers homes to their rooftops. The loss of everything owned in minutes. Our first responders work with speed to save lives, and our electricians, working long hours to restore power, should be commended for their coura-

geous actions and hard work.

Our retirees wish all a healthy, safe summer.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

Local 257 Retirees' Club Updates

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — The retirees met in January and February — 43 and 45 attendees, respectively — at the American Legion Post 5 in Jefferson City. Family-style dinner was served with the meeting that followed.

President Ron Holzhauser shared that retiree insurance covers membership at Sam B. Cook Healthplex. Call United Health (866-815-5334) to get an approval code.

Retirees discussed bills in the Missouri House that would overhaul the initiative petition process, making it more difficult. Missouri citizens have the ability to propose new laws and constitutional amendments and to challenge laws passed by the General Assembly, such as right-to-work, using the initiative petition process. If one of these bills is passed by the House and Senate, then it goes on a ballot to be voted on by the people. Updates will continue.

Condolences to the family of George John Rehagen, who passed on Jan. 1 at the age of 88. Don was a member of Local 257. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956. He worked for Howerton Electric and Rehagen Electrical Contracting. Brother Rehagen enjoyed working on the family cattle farm. Funeral services were held on Jan. 7.

Connie Hamacher, P.S.



Local 257 Retirees' Club members enjoying their luncheon in February.



Local 134 Retirees' Club members with family and friends at Drury Lane Theater in Oakbrook, Ill., where everyone enjoyed lunch and a production of "A Chorus Line."

Thanks For Your Service, Brother Rutland

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 349, MIAMI, FL — At our March meeting, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a special request from the members for Judi Parker's traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage plus her boiled potatoes. Thank you, Judi, for honoring our request. Several side dishes and desserts were provided by the members. We also had a St. Patrick's Day costume contest. Our two winners were Ruth Wolff and Judi Parker, both dressed in their finest green bling.

On April 1, Honor Flight South Florida thanked Vietnam veteran and Local 349 member Doyle Rutland with a trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. It was also his birthday! Doyle was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966 at the age of 19, and he completed basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. His advanced training took place at Fort Jackson, S.C., where he trained to be a field wireman. Doyle served in Vietnam in 1967-1968 with the 129th Main Support Company and was honorably discharged July 21, 1968.

Brenda Auer, P.S.



Vietnam veteran and Local 349 member Doyle Rutland, who had an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

Local 530 Retiree Adventures

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ON — It has been a while since you have heard from our local's retirees. Well, 2022 was a busy year for us. We have all enjoyed going to baseball games, theater, golf tournaments and our Labour Day parade.

Congratulations goes out to the Local 530 members, who were recognized for having the most represented union in our Labour Day Parade.

We finished 2022 with a lovely Christmas luncheon and the annual Christmas dance, where everyone enjoyed themselves.

The retirees have wonderful upcoming adventures in 2023. Come join us every second Friday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Spouses and significant others are also invited to attend.

Cathy Coates, P.S.

Local 649 Retirees' Club Updates

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 649, ALTON, IL — First and foremost, congratulations to Local 649's newly retired members: Brent Hartley (Olin Winchester),

Steve Twitchell (Ameren), Perry Lorts and Jeff Woelfel (journeymen wiremen). Enjoy your retirement, brothers!

It is always an honor to report the names of those IBEW and family members who have passed:

Melanie Baremore, wife of Local 649 Brother Brian Baremore, and Sandy Marie Burke Moehn, mother of Local 649 journeyman lineman Niles Moehn and administrative support staff Niki Moehn Elliott.

Hopefully, now that weather is breaking and health issues are overcome, we retirees can be more active.

Reminder: The Retirees' Club meets at 9 a.m. on the last Thursday of each month for breakfast at the Eagles Nest Restaurant in Bethalto, Ill. This retiree group is open to all bargaining group retiring members. I hope to see everyone soon!

Many thanks to Alan Rubinstein. Without his input, the highlights in Local Lines would not be possible.

Strength in Unity!

Terry Wilhite, P.S.

Local 756 Retirees' Club on for Summer

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — It has been wonderful seeing more of you at our meetings. We are testing scheduling meetings through the summer instead of stopping in May. We would love to see you!

We are providing sandwiches and drinks, so there is no need to bring a covered dish, but desserts are welcome.

Meetings are held at the Local 756 union hall in Port Orange, Fla., on the second Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Please note that the day of the month has changed.

We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting.

Diane Gibbs, P.S.

Celebrating Years of Service

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 2113, TULLAHOMA, TN — Brother James Farley recently had the honor of presenting Brother Jim Garland with his 55-year IBEW service pin and certificate. Brother Farley is a 45-year IBEW member. Brothers Farley and Garland are both graduates of the IBEW apprenticeship program under Local 429, and they retired under Local 2113 after long careers at Arnold Air Force Base (Arnold Engineering Development Complex) in Tennessee.

Robert Smith, P.S.



Local 2113's Brother James Farley presenting Brother Jim Garland with his 55-year service pin and certificate.

In Memoriam

Local Surname Date of Death

1 Cook, R. E. 2/20/22
 1 Ruder, G. G. 12/8/22
 1 Williams, T. 12/14/22
 2 Brown, K. C. 12/7/22
 3 Asencio, R. 11/4/22
 3 Attia, H. A. 6/13/22
 3 Bush, E. 3/1/23
 3 Cheo, R. 12/1/22
 3 Chester, J. J. 3/28/22
 3 Doidge, T. R. 1/17/23
 3 Doyle, K. W. 12/10/22
 3 Furnari, S. 11/16/22
 3 Gerolimatos, A. 12/9/22
 3 Gross, S. A. 5/18/21
 3 Grossman, D. I. 12/31/22
 3 Lowy, H. 12/30/22
 3 McGarry, G. J. 1/18/22
 3 Movchan, S. V. 11/3/22
 3 Napolitano, P. 11/23/22
 3 Perin, G. 12/13/22
 3 Pincus, I. 5/26/22
 3 Sanchez, W. 8/13/22
 3 Sobrito, T. C. 4/18/22
 3 Stark, R. L. 9/26/22
 3 Stevens, H. 11/17/22
 6 Brown, L. 1/10/23
 6 Doyle, R. B. 12/11/22
 8 Lipinski, M. A. 10/7/22
 11 Gott, R. D. 11/27/22
 11 Lubben, C. R. 12/28/22
 11 Moore, T. A. 1/13/22
 11 Rock, D. B. 12/15/22
 11 Vasquez, R. A. 7/31/22
 16 Woolsey, S. G. 10/29/22
 20 Ellis, P. M. 10/1/22
 20 Taylor, A. L. 1/11/22
 20 White, E. C. 11/19/21
 22 Combes, J. M. 12/3/22
 22 Ellis, J. M. 4/27/22
 22 Graber, T. P. 10/8/22
 22 Shiflett, S. D. 12/21/22
 24 Fair, R. N. 9/19/20
 25 Alberigo, J. W. 12/10/22
 25 Finn, M. R. 1/12/22
 25 Krause, R. L. 12/11/22
 25 Theriault, R. J. 12/25/22
 26 Connor, M. G. 2/19/23
 26 James, E. J. 11/24/22
 26 Wooten, W. G. 10/26/22
 38 Biedenbach, J. D. 11/15/22
 38 Catteau, S. C. 12/2/22
 41 Fruehauf, A. P. 12/10/22
 41 Greco, R. 2/1/23
 41 Houck, D. R. 12/1/22
 41 Machelski, N. A. 11/8/22
 41 McLaughlin, B. L. 10/6/22
 41 Nelson, R. P. 1/20/23
 41 Shreder, A. A. 11/26/22
 42 Basmajian, R. 10/23/22
 43 Hasenbauer, D. J. 1/31/23
 43 Hubalek, J. 11/26/22
 43 Martin, R. E. 12/2/22
 46 Harnasch, J. W. 11/27/22
 46 Klingman, M. L. 1/2/23
 46 Lawson, W. E. 1/23/23
 47 Lussier, S. M. 4/27/22
 48 DeGarmo, T. E. 2/14/22
 48 Dwyre, R. B. 10/31/21
 48 Hopkins, D. T. 1/5/23
 48 Wetzal, G. W. 12/18/22
 48 Woodhouse, S. H. 12/2/22
 56 Paschke, R. D. 6/20/21
 58 Bouvrette, J. E. 12/10/21
 58 Cates, R. F. 1/10/23
 58 Fowler, R. C. 10/11/22
 58 Hall, T. J. 11/9/22
 58 Rupersburg, F. J. 2/12/23
 58 Rysiewicz, J. V. 1/6/23
 58 Stewart, M. R. 11/11/22
 58 Terrell, D. J. 12/22/21
 58 Varvouzos, G. 1/31/23
 64 Lyden, J. E. 11/8/22
 64 Rogers, J. P. 12/2/22
 66 Drake, W. N. 11/19/22

Local Surname Date of Death

68 Boes, R. D. 12/26/22
 68 Wallace, J. W. 12/27/22
 70 Eubank, M. G. 8/13/22
 70 Horton, W. C. 12/1/21
 70 Meidling, A. 3/1/21
 71 Ledford, H. C. 11/30/22
 71 Sallee, A. L. 12/18/22
 71 White, H. D. 12/1/22
 77 Barnaby, M. D. 2/15/23
 77 Gilbertson, R. R. 11/8/22
 80 Smith, M. H. 11/6/22
 81 Hardy, W. R. 12/19/22
 81 Nebzydoski, M. F. 1/13/23
 81 Timlin, R. J. 1/10/23
 82 Miller, J. L. 2/20/23
 89 Gelenaw, R. A. 11/24/22
 90 Demorro, E. J. 10/25/22
 95 Johnson, J. G. 12/12/22
 97 Piazza, S. A. 9/30/22
 98 Lawson, W. E. 11/2/22
 102 Elder, M. R. 6/9/22
 102 Estep, C. R. 12/29/22
 102 Marrese, M. J. 10/23/22
 102 O'Connor, M. 10/18/22
 102 Shupack, J. L. 12/18/22
 103 Galante, L. 8/25/22
 103 Harding, P. F. 12/18/22
 103 Kealy, J. A. 12/18/22
 103 Lawson, P. H. 11/10/22
 103 McConville, P. M. 11/14/22
 104 McLachlin, P. R. 10/16/22
 104 Whitehouse, W. G. 9/22/22
 105 Ryder, F. 10/6/22
 110 Glass, C. L. 1/9/23
 110 Hanson, R. C. 1/30/23
 110 Marty, J. R. 1/18/23
 110 Nielsen, G. R. 12/1/22
 110 Patrin, S. M. 4/27/22
 110 Tennyson, J. F. 10/23/22
 110 Tidgwell, J. L. 10/29/22
 110 Vodinelich, T. M. 2/23/22
 111 Harms, C. J. 12/7/22
 112 Kloster, M. J. 1/13/23
 115 Vanweelie, E. 11/29/22
 124 Bua, M. J. 12/23/22
 124 Davis, J. P. 6/23/22
 124 Mitchell, G. R. 11/24/22
 125 Hamelin, J. P. 1/19/23
 125 Larsen, J. S. 1/22/23
 126 Schultz, T. L. 12/2/22
 130 Ramagos, D. J. 12/23/22
 130 Salathe, W. R. 11/14/22
 131 Whisler, O. J. 11/20/20
 134 Born, E. J. 10/16/22
 134 Cassidy, D. J. 12/16/22
 134 Castaneda, H. 12/1/22
 134 Contreras, E. 9/23/22
 134 Griffin, T. J. 11/6/22
 134 Jensen, R. J. 10/26/21
 134 Laurino, J. M. 12/19/22
 134 Lonergan, M. J. 11/30/22
 134 Martin, R. O. 1/24/23
 134 McLaughlin, M. P. 12/3/22
 134 Morin, G. C. 7/27/22
 134 O'Brien, J. T. 11/13/22
 134 Vannoort, L. 11/12/22
 136 Linder, R. 10/26/22
 136 Tucker, J. O. 12/7/22
 146 Nave, R. E. 12/6/22
 150 Berger, R. 12/29/22
 159 Boe, D. O. 10/13/22
 160 Stedje, S. B. 7/11/22
 164 Vehling, L. 10/21/22
 175 Long, B. E. 3/3/23
 175 Patrick, M. T. 1/22/23
 176 Holloway, R. J. 12/18/22
 176 Johnson, R. M. 12/26/22
 177 Haugen, V. R. 6/30/22
 177 Lusk, C. F. 3/7/23
 180 Cowles, C. E. 11/21/22
 191 Gaschk, T. 1/29/23
 191 Gifford, R. B. 10/17/22
 193 Wilson, L. 2/14/23
 212 Beagle, L. G. 12/18/22

Local Surname Date of Death

212 Kirschner, B. W. 8/16/22
 212 Neeley, M. C. 12/24/22
 212 Sarver, G. R. 12/27/22
 213 Dight, J. J. 10/18/22
 229 Miller, D. L. 9/17/18
 242 Ruhanen, C. E. 1/15/23
 245 Mines, R. L. 9/24/22
 266 Cavender, M. J. 11/3/22
 269 Gadsby, M. J. 5/25/22
 278 Gobeau, R. 12/13/22
 292 Blackowiak, D. A. 5/31/22
 292 Johnson, D. A. 12/9/22
 292 Page, G. R. 11/5/22
 292 Thornquist, L. C. 12/19/22
 295 Tustison, S. F. 1/7/23
 306 Boyle, R. L. 12/25/22
 306 Shorter, C. 12/13/22
 306 Stewart, R. C. 11/6/22
 306 Textor, P. R. 12/8/22
 309 Trybinski, V. J. 11/29/22
 317 Hineman, J. E. 2/8/23
 322 Cron, W. M. 9/25/20
 322 Murdoch, J. D. 12/28/22
 332 Jackson, L. M. 11/23/22
 332 Johnson, J. A. 1/25/21
 340 Hogue, B. W. 1/12/23
 340 Mills, I. W. 1/20/23
 340 Moore, B. 7/27/22
 340 Silva, R. J. 7/24/21
 340 Spencer, S. R. 12/31/22
 342 Collins, K. E. 12/5/22
 343 Kramer, K. D. 12/16/22
 343 McLaughlin, R. F. 12/1/22
 349 Desjardins, R. H. 1/12/21
 353 Bertola, G. 10/16/22
 353 Gottfried, J. 12/29/22
 353 Levine, S. 12/28/22
 353 Ross, T. R. 12/5/22
 353 Thompson, D. E. 7/29/21
 354 Horan, J. D. 11/29/22
 354 Johnson, D. T. 12/26/22
 357 Munding, M. D. 1/20/23
 357 Smith, E. J. 12/24/22
 357 Walker, M. G. 12/2/22
 363 Delprincipio, G. 10/23/22
 363 Stoughton, M. B. 2/5/23
 364 Schandelmeier, M. E. 6/12/22
 369 Burford, J. A. 12/6/22
 369 Nix, F. W. 1/11/23
 369 Perkins, R. A. 12/7/22
 369 Rowe, W. R. 9/19/22
 375 Rosner, G. L. 11/4/22
 379 Stankiewicz, T. J. 8/31/21
 387 Poling, E. 11/15/22
 388 Bradley, M. S. 11/8/22
 388 Diestler, R. A. 12/16/22
 401 Zehner, A. B. 8/24/22
 424 Dezentje, J. F. 12/1/22
 424 Hansen, T. A. 4/11/22
 424 Hawkins, L. D. 11/8/22
 424 Hoggund, H. H. 12/21/22
 424 Martyshuk, J. 12/9/21
 424 Mokken, K. 12/1/22
 424 Rywak, L. 12/10/22
 424 Streliaf, E. 9/25/22
 429 Claud, R. B. 11/2/22
 429 Grisham, G. B. 12/17/22
 429 Mains, J. W. 9/9/22
 429 Smith, B. S. 9/11/22
 441 Robertson, D. L. 11/13/22
 446 Barnes, H. H. 1/18/23
 461 Konow, R. C. 12/1/21
 466 Rectenwald, F. E. 10/11/22
 474 Ackerman, R. C. 1/4/22
 474 Jourdan, C. B. 12/8/22
 479 Gauthier, C. G. 1/31/22
 480 Windham, D. P. 11/3/22
 490 Kearney, K. M. 12/4/19
 494 Lampiris, W. 11/14/22
 494 Lilley, C. E. 1/17/23
 498 Woodard, R. W. 2/2/23
 499 Carnine, R. G. 1/9/23
 502 Cormier, C. J. 11/9/22

Local Surname Date of Death

502 Gaynor, P. R. 6/24/22
 505 Baker, J. C. 12/2/22
 505 Rohmer, H. A. 12/4/22
 508 Harper, W. M. 8/27/22
 540 Materna, J. S. 3/31/23
 545 Reiner, R. E. 12/7/22
 553 Miller, D. A. 1/29/23
 558 Breland, E. M. 11/17/22
 558 Hughes, C. L. 12/8/22
 558 Richardson, N. L. 11/15/22
 569 Sage, K. T. 2/25/21
 569 Thomas, R. R. 5/26/22
 573 Faler, R. C. 7/29/22
 577 Godschalx, S. J. 12/4/22
 595 Cole, R. 10/22/22
 595 Eggens, G. T. 11/1/22
 601 Moody, R. D. 12/21/22
 601 Reynolds, R. 1/24/23
 601 Wieczorek, T. E. 1/6/23
 602 Hardin, J. R. 9/30/22
 606 Sofran, K. A. 10/18/22
 613 Snider, C. M. 8/26/21
 617 Murray, G. R. 3/23/20
 640 Gonzales, S. T. 12/9/22
 649 Newell, G. A. 4/4/22
 665 Lutz, G. L. 11/3/22
 666 Mullins, J. F. 12/13/22
 681 Swearingen, C. A. 11/23/22
 682 Crews, W. 9/19/22
 683 Kocher, D. E. 12/25/22
 683 Tinney, J. D. 11/17/22
 692 Prevost, L. R. 11/22/19

Local Surname Date of Death

697 Johnson, D. C. 12/9/22
 700 Homen, J. E. 12/25/22
 702 Eastin, E. L. 10/10/22
 702 Korando, A. R. 9/2/22
 702 Wheat, D. E. 12/3/22
 712 Estelle, R. G. 10/6/22
 714 Foss, P. J. 12/7/22
 716 Byrd, J. F. 11/8/22
 725 Cassady, D. M. 11/18/22
 728 Grimes, J. A. 11/26/22
 769 Umfress, H. D. 1/7/23
 776 Sarvis, S. N. 11/22/22
 816 Ruley, R. A. 12/7/22
 816 Wilson, M. H. 12/7/22
 890 McLean, J. H. 11/10/22
 915 Cooper, C. R. 12/30/22
 915 Hands, C. S. 12/6/22
 953 Meyers, E. G. 11/4/22
 993 Adams, E. J. 11/13/22
 993 Giroux, R. J. 12/3/22
 993 Gould, L. K. 11/2/22
 993 O'Connell, P. 12/31/22
 993 Walter, R. G. 11/20/22
 995 Sanders, J. M. 12/30/22
 1003 Parent, P. W. 9/11/22
 1141 Absher, E. C. 11/22/22
 1141 Meiwes, A. C. 10/27/22
 1141 Moss, L. C. 11/20/22
 1249 McCormick, J. B. 10/4/22
 1288 Woody, G. N. 12/21/22
 1319 Makley, O. A. 12/1/22
 1319 Wolfgang, R. L. 12/10/22

Local Surname Date of Death

1393 Grimes, F. 12/3/22
 1393 Shaffer, E. W. 12/4/22
 1547 Ryon, G. R. 12/8/22
 1579 Short, A. S. 10/3/22
 1615 Davis, G. S. 7/7/22
 2150 Mooney, J. H. 1/5/23
 2166 Gagnon, Y. 1/28/23
 2166 Savoie, S. S. 12/6/22
 I.O. (3) Murray, F. E. 11/4/22
 I.O. (6) Lemoge, P. K. 11/27/22
 I.O. (134) Keane, J. F. 8/26/22
 I.O. (266) Rosendaul, C. M. 12/11/22
 I.O. (1289) Owens, W. R. 1/10/23
 Pens. (I.O.) Bosstic, W. M. 11/14/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Brewer, M. C. 10/22/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Brubaker, J. L. 1/28/23
 Pens. (I.O.) Canora, W. A. 1/21/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Dillon, J. M. 9/4/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Flannery, W. J. 11/11/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Gannon, E. L. 10/17/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Hiltz, H. A. 10/7/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Honeywell, C. B. 11/9/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Kimbrell, E. G. 12/3/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Lee, E. A. 1/16/23
 Pens. (I.O.) Paul, R. M. 8/7/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Waryas, F. J. 2/24/22
 Pens. (I.O.) Winstead, B. J. 11/17/22

This list shows members for whom PBF death claims were approved in April 2023. ■

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GROUND^{ED} IN HISTORY

Organizing Canada: The National Brotherhood Becomes International

At the dawn of the electrical age, telegraph lines spread across North America at a rapid pace. The thirst for this new tool of communication knew no bounds or borders. Toward the end of the 19th century, as electrical workers in the United States fought to organize the burgeoning industry, so too did their counterparts in Canada.

This is the story of how our union stepped into the Great North and onto the international stage.

After the successful strike of the Toronto Printers Union in 1872, Canada passed the Trade Union Act, which legalized unions throughout the country. Over the next several years, unions combined their efforts by forming federations, first with the Toronto Trades and Labour Council in 1881, and then expanding with the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada in 1886.

The electrical industry took note, and in 1891, several contractors joined to form the Canadian Electrical Association, today known as Electricity Canada. With the formation of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in the U.S. that November, it wasn't long until electrical unions began taking shape in Canada.

The first call for organizing Canada's electrical workers came at the fourth IBEW (then NBEW) convention in 1895. A resolution submitted by Purcell Wissinger of Baltimore Local 27 sought to change the first word of the union's name from "National" to "International." The resolution failed to gain approval, but Wissinger was undeterred.

In 1897, an article in *The Electrical Worker* from Thomas Wheeler of Cleveland Local 38 called for our craft's "complete organization all over the United States and Canada." At the fifth NBEW convention that November, Wheeler served as a delegate and submitted a constitutional amendment to change the name. Although the amendment failed to pass, it was clear that pressure was building.

The dam finally broke in 1898 with the formation of the Ottawa Electrical Association. Announced in the April issue of the *Ottawa Journal*, the association aimed to provide "an opportunity for all divisions of electricians to consult standard works and leading papers, offer lectures given by prominent electricians, and promote feelings of fraternity and mutual helpfulness."

Encouraged by the news, James Burgess, president of Buffalo, N.Y., Local 41, crossed the border to Ontario that September for work. He soon found a contract job in St. Catharines and was honored to serve as the grand marshal's aide in Toronto's Labor Day Parade. It became clear that he had a knack for organizing when NBEW Grand Secretary Harry Sherman reported a breakthrough that November: Burgess had formed a local of electrical workers in Toronto through the TLC.

"Our brothers across the water are very desirous of having the Brotherhood made international," Sherman wrote. He advised each local: "Be broad in our ideas of unionism. Remember, the man in Canada has the same at stake that we have and should get the same protection."

In 1899, *The Electrical Worker* was flooded with articles voicing support for internationalism. Members traded ideas on what method would work best, such as referendums or constitutional amendments. Harvey Barnett of Kansas City,



MONTREAL LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER CONSOLIDATED SUB-STATION AT MONTREAL, EAST. 100 PER CENT UNION JOB BY MEMBERS OF L. U. NO. 568, I. B. E. W.

Montreal Local 568 members in 1931. Today, there are 80 locals and about 60,000 Canadian members.

Mo., Local 18 wrote: "Our brothers over the line ought to be affiliated with us. Let us all try and get this question before the convention for favorable action. I shall do my part."

Dan Ellsworth of Detroit Local 17 chimed in: "The border cities suffer from unorganized men from Canada taking jobs that union men ought to have. We cannot really blame them but let us change this condition at our next convention."

An update on Burgess' efforts fueled momentum: "The local at Toronto is progressing nicely and has a membership of 140. It seems to me that our craftsmen across the water must be rather good material. Why can't we make this Brotherhood international?"

In October 1899, the sixth NBEW convention convened in Pittsburgh to finally decide the question. Leading the charge once again were Purcell Wissinger, having been elected grand treasurer in 1897, and Thomas Wheeler, delegate of Local 38. On the first day, five locals submitted resolutions to make the Brotherhood International, and all were found favorable by the committee.

Wheeler introduced two constitutional amendments, one to "substitute the word National for International" in Section 1, Article 1, and the other to "give Canada one vice-president." Both passed with an overwhelming majority. The NBEW had officially become the IBEW.

In his summary report, Sherman proclaimed that "we extend our hands across the water and say to our brothers, come with us, your fights shall now be our fights." On the final day of the convention, thanks in part to his amendment victory, Wheeler was elected grand president of the IBEW.

Organizers wasted no time getting to work. The first to receive an IBEW charter was Ottawa Local 93 after 40 members signed their names on Dec. 20, 1899. The local was organized by Wissinger himself. "The capital of the Canadian Dominion can now boast of possessing an electric local promising in its infancy to rival some of its American seniors," wrote C. Boudrault, press secretary of Local 93.

"Wissinger came along at the opportune time. He felt the pulses of his clients, pointed out the beneficial results that follow unionism, and gradually drew the confidence of the men by practical illustration of electrical objects," Boudrault continued. "The men opened their eyes, drank eagerly at the fountain of knowledge, and today are firmly rooted to the principles of trade unionism."

The next to be chartered in 1900 were Hamilton, Ontario, Local 105; Quebec City Local 71; Montreal Local 111; Toronto Local 114, organized by Wissinger; and London, Ontario, Local 120. Locals 105 and 120 are still active.

After years of struggle, two nations were united and the dream of an international union was realized. Today, the IBEW has 80 local unions in every province and territory, totaling about 60,000 Canadian members. ■

Visit nbe-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.



A ceremonial badge from the chartering of Hamilton, Ontario, Local 105 in 1900.



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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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

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

Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

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WHO WE ARE

‘Like the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the IBEW’

After 58 Years, Hockey Tournament Remains a Beacon of Brotherhood

Ottawa, Ontario, Local 586 Business Manager John Bourke had a message for the coach of his local's hockey team when it finished in second at the IBEW's highest-level hockey tournament: Pretty good — but you can do better.

“Of course I told him that,” said Bourke, who has played in the tournament in previous years. “Sharpen it up, buddy,” Bourke said with a chuckle. “You’re close but not good enough.”

At many Canadian-based locals, and increasingly at U.S. locals, hockey is a big deal. That was on display in the Ontario Provincial Council Tournament — which is commonly called the IBEW hockey tournament — when it was hosted by Detroit Local 58 on April 13-16.

The action on the ice was spirited. So was the time away from it, with players and their friends and families celebrating brotherhood and what the sport and the IBEW mean in two nations.

“I think it’s the camaraderie piece that’s so important at the end of the day,” St. Catharines, Ontario, Local 303 Business Manager Mark Cherney said. “Everyone is an electrician. We’re coming together to play a sport we all know and love.”

This was the 58th edition of the tournament, which is why Local 58 requested to host it. Originally for the construction locals in hockey-mad Ontario, which now total 11, the tournament has expanded its reach.

Now, locals from other Canadian provinces enter, and the tournament was held one year in Winnipeg, Manitoba. IBEW hockey also has made inroads into the United States. The popularity of IBEW hockey is also on the rise in the United States. U.S. locals participating



Detroit Local 58's 40-and-over team celebrates its championship at the Ontario Provincial Council Hockey Tournament in Detroit. Above: Coach Jamie Berlin, hat turned backward, encourages a Local 40 team from behind the bench.



St. Catharines, Ontario, Local 303 celebrates winning the C division title on the ice and in the locker room afterward.

this year included Local 58; Toledo, Ohio, Local 8; Boston Local 103; and New York City Local 3, which used donations from its annual game against Long Island, N.Y., Local 25 to help pay for its travel to Detroit.

Detroit Local 17, the city's outside construction local, also had a team in this year's event. St. Louis Local 1 sent a team for the first time.

“This is like the Stanley Cup playoffs for the NHL,” Bourke said.

It was the fourth time the tournament was held in the United States, and Local 58 made it a top-notch event. The games were played at a rink just outside the city, but players, fans and families stayed at the Marriott Hotel at GM Place downtown.

Speakers at a reception in Local 58's hall included former Detroit Red Wings player Mickey Redmond, a two-time 50-goal scorer who has been a Red Wings broadcaster for more than 40 years, and Darren McCarty, a four-time Stanley Cup winner for the team.

Redmond kept their attention with stories about playing with the great Gordie Howe. McCarty, who sported a red mohawk, told about the thrill of carrying the Cup around the ice and other stories from his colorful career.

The party continued long after that. “It’s the brotherhood within the Brotherhood,” said Local 58 member Jamie Berlin, an inside wireman who coaches the local's hockey team. “We had more than 500 IBEW electricians in our city for a reason, and those people were pretty blown away. We were looking to showcase the city of Detroit and how far we’ve come in the last 15 to 20 years.”

Berlin agreed with others that the competition on the ice was intense. But those competitive fires gave way to fellowship once the final horn sounded and the teams shook hands.

“You’re competing against your brothers in other locals and other cities that do the same things you do on a daily basis,” he said. “But you don’t know them. You go out and compete against them and then you go out and have a beer.”

The A class featured the highest-skilled players. Toronto Local 353 President Jodi Hill, who has played in the tournament several times and attended this year's event, said some A players have played at high levels of junior hockey in Canada.

Games are 40 minutes long instead of the 60 minutes in the NHL. No body checking is permitted. That lessens the chance of injury that can keep an electrician off the job.

“We all have to go back to work on Monday morning,” Hill said. “We’re not making a career out of this. You’ve got to take care of yourself.”

Local 353 beat Local 586 by a 5-1 score in the title game.

“We had gone 22 years without winning that trophy, and now we’ve won it back-to-back,” Hill said. “To be able to

go to Detroit and win it again this year, I’m pretty happy with the guys.”

Local 58 won the B and 40-and-over divisions. Local 303 won the C division title. There were 28 teams from 17 local unions across the competition.

Cherney noted that most of the Local 303 players are members of its NextGen Committee, an IBEW initiative that encourages members 35 and younger to become more active in the union and develop leadership skills.

“They’re seeing that when you work together to achieve a goal like this, you learn to rely on each other,” Cherney said. “It’s like working together on a jobsite, where they’ll now have a better ability to deliver for our partners and signatory contractors.”

Next year's tournament will return to Canada, although just a few miles from Detroit. It will be hosted by Windsor, Ontario, Local 773, just across the Detroit River.

The tournament is a tradition for the Ontario locals, along with some in Quebec and the United States. But everyone involved said there's room for more locals, especially as hockey continues to grow in nontraditional areas for the sport.

“The guys take it very seriously,” Bourke said. “But when I think back over all the years I’ve been involved, every single member tells me how much they enjoy the camaraderie of brothers and sisters getting together and playing. It’s about the brotherhood and bringing members together.” ■

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