

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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**THE IBEW'S 2023  
PHOTO CONTEST**

Deadline: Nov. 1 • Details on pg. 16

**800,000+**  
new jobs

**\$500 billion**  
investment

**MADE IN  
AMERICA**

**IBEW Is at the Center of a New Manufacturing BOOM**

America's factory floors are busier than they've been in generations. Massive new plants are under construction. And more are on the way as manufacturers pour more than \$500 billion into U.S. microchip production and clean energy technology.

It is nothing short of a modern industrial revolution.

"After decades of corporate offshoring and devastating job losses, we're talking about half a trillion dollars — so far — in new investments in American industry," said International President Kenneth W. Cooper.

"For workers and the IBEW, there is nothing but opportunity right now."

Nearly 20 million workers were employed in manufacturing when the sector last peaked in 1979. The IBEW's Manufacturing Branch boasted nearly 400,000 members. Those numbers fell to a low of 30,000 over the next 40 years.

The national slide continued until the pandemic, when factory jobs ticked up slightly to produce vaccines and supplies needed to fight COVID-19.

Then President Joe Biden hit the accelerator, declaring that "Made in America" is back for good.

"One of the many reasons the IBEW backed Joe Biden so early in his campaign was his promise to

## 'NOTHING BUT OPPORTUNITY'

make the U.S. a world leader in manufacturing once again," Cooper said. "And he's doing exactly that."

Biden's historic job-creating legislation and multipronged agenda for a robust American supply chain have added 800,000 new jobs to domestic production lines over the past 2½ years. And the demand for workers keeps rising.

"We're in the middle of a revolution that will make the U.S. a global manufacturing center once again," Cooper said. "But this revolution didn't just happen. The IBEW was on the front lines of making it possible."

Commitments to build and expand high-tech factories began early in the Biden administration. But they have skyrocketed since the president and lawmakers — lobbied intensely by IBEW leaders and activists — pushed game-changing bills through Congress: the \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in November 2021, followed in August 2022 by the \$550 billion Inflation Reduction Act and the \$53 billion CHIPS and Science Act.

"Our manufacturing sector has the ability to grow like never before as we organize and train members for the jobs of the future," Cooper said. "And that's on top of the tens of thousands of IBEW jobs building those new plants and the infrastructure that supports them. If you trust us to build your factory, you ought to trust us to work in it, too."

In fact, construction spending related to manufacturing in the U.S. nearly tripled in just two years, from a \$76 billion annual rate in May 2021 to \$195 billion in May 2023, according to Federal Reserve data.

Biden hailed the surge in manufacturing in a series of major speeches this summer — several of them with familiar shout-outs of respect and affection for the IBEW. One took place in late July at an Auburn, Maine, textile plant, where the president signed an executive order called "Invent it Here, and Make it Here."

"Here's how it works," Biden said. "Federal agencies research and fund development to encourage innovation. This executive order dictates that those agencies have to prioritize domestic manufacturing when it comes time to bring those inventions to market. They can't go abroad. They have to look here, (at) who can do it here. That's the law."

**MANUFACTURING BOOM** continued on page 4

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FROM THE OFFICERS

# IBEW Built, IBEW Made



**Kenneth W. Cooper**  
International President

For generations, “Made in America” was a source of national pride. And nothing beat a Made-in-America label with a union bug.

Many of you aren’t old enough to remember those times, the heyday of U.S. manufacturing before the race to the bottom began in the 1970s.

Everywhere you looked, greedy corporations were shutting down factories and the family-sustaining union jobs they provided that supported tens of millions of Americans. Politicians in both parties helped them do it, passing the North American Free Trade Agreement and other trade pacts that had devastating consequences. Not only did the wealthiest companies ship our work to the cheapest labor markets possible, but they also walked away with tax breaks on their skyrocketing profits.

But now, practically overnight, the outlook couldn’t be more different. A modern manufacturing boom is happening right before our eyes.

As you’ll read about in this edition of *The Electrical Worker*, makers of advanced technology like semiconductors and batteries for clean energy storage are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in new and expanded factories. That includes production lines for millions of electrical vehicle chargers that IBEW electricians will be installing and maintaining nationwide for decades.

Unlike 20, 30 and 40 years ago, these companies are building the factories right here in America.

That wouldn’t be happening without President Joe Biden’s agenda putting American workers first. The investments and tax incentives that he and partners in Congress fought for are luring employers to create jobs here.

More than 800,000 manufacturing jobs have been added already in Biden’s first 2½ years. Massive building sites are employing tens of thousands of IBEW members, with no end in sight for job growth.

Major projects include new Siemens plants in Texas and California and a new assembly line for wind turbine maker Ingeteam in Wisconsin, as these IBEW employers dive into the EV charger market. In Syracuse, N.Y., Micron is building a \$100 billion campus of semiconductor plants. Intel is making similar huge investments in Ohio and Arizona.

My message to manufacturers is simple: If you trust us to build your factory, trust us to work in it, too. Through these projects and many others, there will be career-long work for IBEW members. If, that is, we can fill those jobs.

I can’t say it enough: It is up to every one of our locals to make sure that our organizing and apprenticeship programs are keeping up with the vast and increasing demand for IBEW labor.

I don’t care if you’re a business manager, rep, local staff or rank-and-filer. I’m asking every one of you to commit to bringing in new brothers and sisters.

If you know someone working in nonunion construction or someone considering a career in the trades, talk to them. Volunteer at job fairs or speak to high school students about the benefits of union membership when your work schedule permits it.

I’ve set a very aggressive growth goal: 1 million IBEW members within five years. I’m proud to say we’ve got 700,000 active members now, more than we’ve had since the ’70s. Back then, the majority of our ranks were in manufacturing. I don’t have to tell you that hasn’t been the case in a while.

But now that America’s mighty production potential is being unleashed, we are right there at the center of it. Let’s organize the work and build a bigger, stronger IBEW for the next generation. ■

## Celebrate, Then Organize

Brothers and sisters, this Labor Day is especially joyous.

Don’t get me wrong. It’s always a special day. It’s just that this year, we have more to celebrate than we’ve had in a long time.

Americans support unions at a higher level than in nearly 60 years. Organizing drives are breaking out all over. The most pro-union president in our nation’s history sits in the Oval Office.

Take a moment to remember those who came before us and the sacrifices they made. Attend a parade in your community.

It’s a good time to be an IBEW member. So enjoy Labor Day. You’ve earned it.

Once it’s over, however, commit to work harder than ever to grow our Brotherhood. Even with things looking up, this is no time to rest.

The IBEW is growing but not fast enough to meet North America’s need for skilled workers.

This has been an issue for some time but has intensified with the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in 2021 and other measures. Manufacturing construction investment in the U.S. has nearly tripled in two years, thanks in large part to the Biden administration’s landmark legislation — the \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the \$550 billion Inflation Reduction Act and the \$280 billion CHIPS and Science Act. These laws provided the rocket fuel for this construction growth, and they also have the strongest labor standards ever enacted.

This means prevailing wage, project labor agreements, apprenticeship requirements and collective bargaining rights. It means nothing will be built with federal money unless union members get the chance first.

To meet this need, all of us must reach out to others and tell them about the advantages of IBEW membership.

You’ll see the payoff quickly. When we can expand even more quickly, it improves wages and working conditions for you and your fellow IBEW members.

It also makes the union movement stronger.

In short, we have an amazing opportunity. We must meet the moment.

So please, after celebrating your holiday, recommit to making the IBEW a stronger union than it has ever been.

You won’t be doing it just for the brothers and sisters who follow us. You’ll be doing it for yourself and your brothers and sisters on the job today. ■



**Paul A. Noble**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

## My IBEW STORY

**Daniel Lassotta**, safety infrastructure protection team technician  
Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245



“Before joining the IBEW, I worked for the federal government as a wildland firefighter. It was hard work for little pay. After 10 years, I was barely making \$20/hour. The cost of living is very high in California, so I relied on working close to 800 hours of overtime each year. That was very hard for my family as I was gone a lot. During slow years, the overtime wasn’t there and we struggled a lot financially, which led to many fights and almost a divorce.

My wife’s brother works for PG&E and is an IBEW member. He talked to me about the benefits the union provides and how it

offers great work-life balance. He said that I can be as busy as I want to be, that there would be opportunities for overtime, but I wouldn’t have to take it to survive financially. There would be vacation time and more time to spend with my family.

PG&E started a program for wildfire operations, the Safety Infrastructure Protection Team, after the devastating Camp fire in 2018. I took my chances, applied and got hired in 2020. Our team drives PG&E fire engines that carry 300 gallons of water, fire tools and EMS gear. Because we’re EMTs, we get called as support on remote jobsites and for fire watch during welding operations. On large wildfires, we work ahead of the fire, clearing vegetation around power poles and spraying them with fire retardant to give them a higher survival rate.

I’ve only been an IBEW member for three years, but I’ve already made a lot of lifelong friends in the Brotherhood. One thing I noticed is that, with the IBEW logo being so visible, I can strike up a conversation with anyone that’s got one. Now I’m friends with a bunch of linemen. My neighbor is a gas guy. I took my daughter to swim class, and there was a member from Hawaii there. It’s easy to build community in the Brotherhood.

Getting hired with union benefits was the best thing that happened to me other than getting married and having three kids. I am now able to support my family without having to rely on overtime. I’m home on the weekends and at normal hours during the week. I was able to buy a house, and my wife and I are planning a trip to Disneyland with the kids. Before, our big summer event would be a day trip to the Sacramento Zoo on a Tuesday or Wednesday — the only days I could go. Recently, we took a two-week trip to Colorado and had a great time there. Now I truly work to live, not the other way around.”

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](http://ibew.org/MyIBEWStory)

**THE METER**

**100%**

**Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213’s win rate** (six out of six items) versus construction giant Ledcor in the Canadian Industrial Relations Board’s ruling imposing a first contract between the local and the company in June.

*See “Ledcor Workers Earn Total Victory After Grueling Fight for First Contract” on page 6.*

# IBEW Sisters Find Their Careers in Growing Manufacturing Sector

## Pay Equity, Benefits Helping Draw Women to Union

**K**ianni Vigeant had never considered a job in manufacturing before serendipitously landing in one. Dianna O'Brien only knew about the possibilities because of her mother. Yet both women have found successful careers in this growing segment of the American economy, reinvigorated thanks to new investment and an emphasis on "Buy American" by the Biden administration.

Now, Vigeant and O'Brien want more women to follow in their footsteps.

"Union manufacturing jobs offer women independence and financial security," said O'Brien, the business manager of Lincoln, Neb., Local 2366. "There should be more recruiting for these jobs because they offer fair pay and good benefits, and our women members want that just as much as anyone else."

**"There should be more recruiting for these jobs because they offer fair pay and good benefits, and our women members want that just as much as anyone else."**

—Dianna O'Brien, Lincoln, Neb., Local 2366 business manager

With the passage of the CHIPS and Science and Inflation Reduction Acts ushering in a new era of domestic manufacturing, there's a need for more workers to fill the family-sustaining jobs that will come with billions of dollars in funding, much of which is geared toward recruiting people from traditionally underrepresented groups.

In 2022, more than 30,000 manufacturing jobs were added each month, and the industry is projected to continue growing. When combined with the need to replace retiring workers, employers will need to attract more than 4 million new workers before the end of the decade. In short, more women need to know about these opportunities, particularly when they are unionized.

Manufacturing employs one in 10 workers in the United States, but fewer than a third of them are women, much lower than the share of all jobs in the economy held by women. And in

higher-earning shop floor positions, women are particularly underrepresented, according to a report from the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

In an effort to find out what's behind that disparity, the think tank, in collaboration with the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council, surveyed more than 400 women about their experience in the industry. The findings paint a picture of a job sector ripe with opportunity, especially where unions are present, and a workforce that's eager to grow its ranks.

"The report shows that many women are thriving in manufacturing but also highlights practices that need to change for the industry to attract and retain a diverse set of women," the authors wrote.

One of those practices is getting women in the door. According to the survey, fewer than one in 10 respondents learned about manufacturing opportunities from high school counselors, during their military service, or at a job center.

"We don't offer enough education in high schools about manufacturing jobs," O'Brien said. "I found out about my job because my mom worked here."

For Vigeant, she was working as a paralegal in a lawyer's office when she saw that an assembler at Raytheon, one of the firm's clients, was making almost double what she was. After speaking with the woman, Vigeant quickly applied for the position. She hasn't looked back since.

"It was the best decision I ever made," said the Waltham, Mass., Local 1505 vice president and benefits counselor.

O'Brien and Vigeant agree there should be more dedicated recruiting to let women know about what they only learned by chance.

"I share my story in new hire orientations all the time about how this job allowed me to support my two kids, and that I was a single parent during some of that time," O'Brien said. "A union manufacturing job, with its pay and benefits, can offer a lot of security."

Manufacturing jobs can also offer opportunities for advancement, though it seems to be harder for women to climb the ranks than men. According to the IWPR report, women account for just one in seven production workers who are paid at least \$1,000 per week, and they hold fewer than one in 10 higher-paying jobs like machinists or welders. IWPR also noted that survey respondents in leadership development were the least likely to report equal treatment.

O'Brien, who works at Schneider Electric producing circuit breakers and other component parts, said she's seen



IBEW sisters like Waltham, Mass., Local 1505 Vice President Kianni Vigeant, second from right in both photos among Local 1505 colleagues and friends, are finding rewarding careers in the booming manufacturing sector, which has been reinvigorated by new federal investments and "Buy American" incentives.

similar disparities. They have 122 "set-up jobs" which don't require a degree but do require testing. They're higher-paying jobs that require mechanical ability, and only 25 of those positions are filled by women. They also have 61 skilled trades jobs, which include machinists, toolmakers and electrical mechanics. Just one toolmaker is a woman.

"I'm not sure why the numbers are low. I feel like sometimes the women who have been here for a long time are just comfortable where they are and may be getting close to retirement," O'Brien said. "However, I do see more of the newer women employees testing for the set-up jobs and upgrading to those classifications."

O'Brien said she herself is a set-up and encourages everyone to try for the positions.

"With automation I feel like it gives you more job security," O'Brien said. "At our facility we encourage everyone to upgrade their skills and to go for those higher-paying opportunities."

When it comes to discrimination and harassment, manufacturing, like most industries, is not immune. Fewer than half, or 45%, of the survey's respondents said they are always or frequently treated equally as men in recruitment and hiring.

Notably, union members, who made up a majority of the respondents, were more likely than nonunion members to report always or frequently being treated equally when it comes to pay, access to good shifts, layoffs and



recruitment. And 68.5% highlighted the importance of support from their locals for their success and staying power. Union members also pointed to the collective voice they have as members, as well as mentorship and support from other women.

"The IBEW has and continues to lead the way when it comes to diversity and inclusion, and within the manufacturing industry we have always welcomed everyone to become a member regardless of gender, ethnicity, creed, sexual orientation or any other protected status," Manufacturing Department Director Brian Lamm said. "Working under a union contract ensures that there are no disparities in pay or benefits and means men and women doing the same job are paid the same."

Vigeant credits her union status for protecting her from harassment and discrimination, and for being able to advance in her career.

"In my past work experiences, I had to deal with harassment and discrimination because I'm an Asian American. I felt that I could never get ahead or be treated equally," she said. "Since I have been at Raytheon, I've been able to get an upgrade from an assembler to a quality assurance inspector, and now to my current role as

the local's vice president and union benefits counselor. This is all due to being a member of Local 1505."

O'Brien said she's seen some harassment, but it gets addressed. For her personally, she recalled a time when she brought up something with a former plant manager in a meeting only to be blown off by him. Then a male officer said the same thing and got the recognition she had been denied.

"I was a little shocked because I hadn't really experienced that before," she said.

Like Vigeant, O'Brien said their union contract has helped provide a more level playing field.

"I think union workers are more likely to speak up because our contracts have language regarding just cause, wages and job awards, and our local would and does address any violation of that," O'Brien said.

Despite the imbalances, O'Brien and Vigeant said that manufacturing jobs, with union representation, offer a great pathway to a fulfilling career.

"There are plenty of opportunities to rise through the ranks," Vigeant said. "The recruiters just have to make it known that women can do the same jobs as men, that we are all equally talented if given the opportunity." ■

Continued from page 1

# MADE IN AMERICA: IBEW Is at the Center of a New Manufacturing BOOM

## Investments Skyrocket

The billions available in federal funds are igniting private investments: In 2022, the amount of money that companies committed to high-tech manufacturing in the United States was 20 times higher than the value of projects announced in 2019, according to reporting by The Financial Times.

In June, a Bank of America Private Bank report called the boom the “early stages of a manufacturing supercycle,” and in July, Morgan Stanley published a rosy revision of its earlier economic forecasts.

“The economy in the first half of the year is growing much stronger than we had anticipated,” the company’s chief U.S. economist wrote, citing manufacturing construction as a key factor. “The narrative behind the numbers tells the story of industrial strength in the U.S.”

Currently, IBEW employer Intel is building four new semiconductor plants, two in Arizona and two in Ohio, and is in the permitting process to spend billions more expanding its facilities in Oregon. Micron Technology is at work on a \$100 billion complex of chip factories in central New York, and featured a Syracuse Local 43 member at a news conference last October to announce its plans. This was featured in the January issue of The Electrical Worker.

Another major area of growth for the IBEW is in the production of batteries and parts for a nationwide network of electric vehicle charging stations.

“Companies that weren’t in EV manufacturing are now getting into it to meet demand,” said Manufacturing Department Director Brian Lamm, pointing to Siemens and Ingeteam as examples.

In Milwaukee, wind turbine maker and Local 2150 employer Ingeteam is expanding its already massive factory to build 500,000 electrical vehicle chargers over the next five years.

The project is a case study in the value of the IBEW’s working relationship with the Biden administration: In May, Local 2150 Business Manager Jim Meyer was able to help Ingeteam connect with the White House Made in America Office to find the domestic components it will need to assemble the chargers, opening



President Joe Biden speaks with workers building a silicon carbide plant in North Carolina. More than 800,000 jobs have been added to the manufacturing sector on Biden’s watch.

## MAKING ‘MADE IN AMERICA’ WORK

White House investments in U.S. manufacturing can’t be measured in dollars alone. The Biden administration is putting a premium on bringing its agenda to life and making it accessible to American businesses and unions. Here are some of these moves:

- ★ Fortifying the decades-old Buy American Act, Biden issued an executive order requiring that products purchased by U.S. government agencies must be at least **75% American-made**, ending loopholes in the law that watered down the rules.
- ★ While visiting a Maine factory in July that makes high-tech heat-resistant fabrics, Biden signed an executive order dubbed **“Invent It Here. Make It Here.”** It sets policies for supporting U.S. research and innovation to ensure that resulting technologies and inventions are manufactured here at home.
- ★ A dedicated **Made in America Office**, established by President Joe Biden five days after his swearing-in. As part of the Office of Management and Budget, it is a first-ever central hub to support the growth of U.S. manufacturing and a healthy domestic supply chain.

the door to new IBEW jobs.

Siemens, which employs hundreds of IBEW members in Texas and California, is investing \$54 million to build a new facility and add a production line to another as it expands to

produce EV components. A major data center is also in the works.

“Our members build and ship switches and breakers all over the country,” Arlington, Texas, Local 220 Business Manager Josh Worthey said, noting that hundreds of new jobs are being created as the company grows — secure, solidly middle-class jobs, starting at hourly rates well above the national average for an electrical assembly position.

## Organize, Organize, Organize

As manufacturing booms, so do organizing prospects, and Lamm said business managers nationwide need to be ready to capitalize on them.

“Our gains are spread out across the country, including the ‘industrial belt’ that’s been so ravaged by outsourcing,” he said. “EV car charging, renewable energy, semiconductors, battery storage — they all demand the

unique skills of IBEW members.”

In so-called right-to-work states, where the law lets freeloading workers reap the benefits of union representation without paying dues, “it might take more time to organize,” Lamm said. “But we never say it’s impossible. We just have to get out there and start taking advantage of all the opportunities out there now.”

Right-to-work Texas is a prime example. “Organizing is a challenge. You have to stay on top of it all day, every day,” Worthey said. “Fortunately, we have a really great relationship with Siemens’ advisory board and our counterparts at IG Metals.”

As the company navigates an influx of new workers and new work, he said, both sides are learning. “Our stewards’ skills are getting stronger by the day.”

The federal spending bills include unprecedented labor standards for construction and tax incentives for builders to comply, all part of Biden’s agenda for stronger unions and better wages,

benefits and job conditions for America’s workers.

But there’s a steeper hill to climb once the factory is built.

“There’s a recognition by the administration that the laws don’t include the same kinds of labor standards and organizing incentives for manufacturing workers as they do for members of the construction and utility trades,” said Erica Fein, an IBEW government affairs specialist.

But Biden staffers are working with unions to find solutions. “There is a willingness to engage with us,” she said. “We talk regularly with them about making it easier to unionize the country’s manufacturing workforce.”

The administration, like the IBEW, also is keenly interested in manufacturing-sector apprenticeships.

“Federal agencies want unions like the IBEW to apply for new training dollars,” Fein said. “The Department of Labor’s infrastructure pathways grant that encourages establishing or expanding apprenticeships in key industries is just one example.”

For Cooper, organizing has been job No. 1 since he took office in January, and he stresses to business managers and local organizers that the Brotherhood is behind them 100%. “Whatever support you need from the I.O. or your district’s vice president, you’ve got it,” he said.

The Membership Development Department is at the ready.

“We are encouraging all locals to work with us on strategic organizing plans,” said Jennifer Gray, director of the department’s professional and industrial organizing arm that specializes in the manufacturing sector.

Staffers have been mapping out organizing opportunities across the country, Gray said, with an eye on such data points as new or existing prospects, the industry involved, the status of construction projects and the number of potential members.

The data is stored in the web-based Action Builder system, the union’s robust and customizable tool to streamline the work of organizing teams. Those kinds of digital resources are vital today, but successful campaigns still depend on getting the word out about the many advantages of joining the IBEW.

Toward that end, Gray said public information campaigns and orientations for new employees are as indispensable as ever. “The most important organizing tool we have is our members talking about how the IBEW changed their life,” she said.

Cooper doesn’t want a single opportunity for the IBEW in manufacturing to fall through the cracks.

“It means looking at all the manufacturing projects coming down the road and making a plan to bring those folks into the IBEW,” he said. “In every corner of the nation, ground is breaking and factories are going up. We must use every connection we have to get our foot in the door.” ■



Journewoman Shawni Davis of Syracuse, N.Y., Local 43 speaks at an event hailing Micron’s plans for a massive microchip complex. “This means good-paying union jobs,” she said in warming up the podium for Biden.

# British Columbia Local Graduates First Indigenous-Specific Apprenticeship Class

**W**hen Wakenniosta Cooper graduated from her apprenticeship in August, she wasn't just part of the Electrical Joint Training Committee's first Indigenous-specific cohort. She was already a decorated tradeswoman, having won Apprentice of the Year in 2021.

"Wakenniosta is one of our star students in the program," said Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213 Business Manager Jim Lofty. "She has really proven to be an excellent worker and IBEW member."

This year's cohort is the culmination of a program started in 2017 to bring in more Indigenous people to the EJTC and Local 213. Prior to that, they were competing with other organizations for the same candidates, EJTC Managing Director Phil Davis said.

Instead of fighting for the same pool of people, they decided to expand it by offering a pathway to the trade for potential apprentices and fill their largest knowledge gaps. Working with Skill-Plan, the training arm of the British Columbia Building Trades, they designed an eight-week Entry Level Trades Training course with two goals. First, it targets math and science, two areas where many struggled to meet requirements, and second, it prepares participants for the apprenticeship.

"The curriculum was developed around the specific needs of folks that may not have our prerequisites," Lofty said. "A lot of Indigenous youth may only have a Grade 10 math and science foundation, oftentimes due to socio-economic circumstances or their geographic location."

Building on previous attempts to recruit Indigenous students that weren't as successful as hoped, the EJTC partnered with a leading organization in Canada, the Aboriginal Community Career Service Society, or ACCESS, to handle the screening and recruitment, as well as provide resources like lab equipment to the EJTC.

"We work with spectacular partners, and ACCESS is definitely one of them," Davis said. "Without them, we couldn't do this."

ACCESS also provides wraparound services for candidates, from help with resume writing and interview skills to counseling, childcare and startup tools.

"These students have faced challenges including the impact of COVID-19, the emotional toll of discovering Indigenous mass burials, family difficulties, homelessness and the lack of traditional prerequisites," said Buddy Cardinal, ACCESS director of trades and apprenticeship.

The program proved so successful that it has been expanded to cover additional levels of the apprenticeship. Initially, a student would graduate and then go straight to the second year of the traditional apprenticeship, which is taught by private technical institutions. But those



Indigenous students from British Columbia graduated in August from the Electrical Joint Training Committee's first Indigenous-specific cohort.



Credit: George Mitchell - ACCESS

*Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213 worked with the Indigenous community and others to develop a program that's brought in more people from a historically underrepresented population.*



larger settings didn't always provide the one-on-one attention that proved so successful in the entry-level program. Without it, many students started to slip through the cracks, Lofty said. They went back to what worked and started offering second- and third-year Indigenous cohorts, again with help from ACCESS and other partners. It paid off: They had pass rates of 85% and 90%.

"We were able to develop curricula in our training facility that allowed for smaller, more boutique-style classes that offered more time for individual student needs, and the apprentices had a better experience," Lofty said. "It speaks well to how great our staff and instructors are."

These successes led to a fourth-year Indigenous cohort, which had similar results.

"These apprentices have defied the odds," Cardinal said. "Now they are in a position to become journey persons in the most academic of the skilled trades, one that only about 50% of all Canadians complete. The sky is the limit for them."

And those apprentices are now serving as role models and inspirations for other Indigenous Canadians to consider the trades.

"Some have said they previously didn't see being an electrician as a possibility for them. Now they're going back and telling others," Davis said.

Training more Indigenous apprentices will increase the likelihood that when projects come to their area, they'll get the high-wage jobs, further benefiting their communities, Lofty said.

"We've witnessed Indigenous nations gain significant work in their region but miss out on the real hours of work and development for their people," he said. "Projects of varying scope and size may pop up in an area with many Indigenous communities and potential workers, but they would end up doing security, food services, house-keeping or tasks that pay less than what the skilled trades could offer for long-term careers."

For Cooper, the Indigenous cohort gave her more than just a top-notch education. It provided a sense of community.

"I moved away from my home in Quebec over 10 years ago," Cooper said. "I felt alone and misunderstood without my family and friends. This course not only gave me a career but lifelong friends that I cherish."

Cooper accompanied Lofty to Ottawa when Local 213 was invited by the Prime Minister's office to attend President Joe Biden's address to Parliament.

"It was a very interesting experience," she said. "I don't think anyone in my family has met a prime minister before. I feel like I'm carving a path for future Indigenous generations."

It's not just the students who are benefiting from new ties, either. Cardinal, Davis and Lofty all said the program's success was possible because everyone worked together, toward the same goal.

"It took the forming of mutually beneficial partnerships between the EJTC, Local 213, employers, regulators, government and, most importantly, the Indigenous community," Lofty said. "If you can utilize others to open doors, channel funding or bring skills and resources to bear, you won't have to do it all on their own, only to fail in the end."

That success was commemorated with a witnessing ceremony, an Indigenous practice where community members are called to serve as keepers of history and witness an event of historical significance.

There was also a blessing ceremony, Cardinal said, which is considered a high honor.

"To celebrate this momentous achievement, as an Indigenous organization serving urban Indigenous apprentices, we wanted to honor their accomplishment through traditional Indigenous protocols," Cardinal said. "That includes prayer, blessings, song, dance and a shared meal embracing the concept of all our relations."

"We are holding witness to the tremendous work they have done not only for themselves, but for their families and communities, and we're acknowledging them for their efforts," Cardinal said. "There is, however, much work to do." ■

# Ledcor Workers Earn Total Victory After Grueling Fight for First Contract

**N**early 240 British Columbia telecom workers won the final step in a nearly six-year battle for their right to organize.

After an unprecedented ruling last November from the Canadian Industrial Relations Board that the construction giant Ledcor had negotiated in such bad faith that it broke the law, all that was left was for the CIRB to do something it hadn't in more than four decades: impose a contract.

In June, it did. The sweeping ruling was a total victory for Vancouver Local 213.

In section after section of the ruling, the CIRB chose the workers' position without fail. It was a clean sweep: union security, wages, health and welfare, pension and retirement benefits, and a closed shop, the first in Ledcor's history.

"I'm still kind of in shock at how much they ruled for us," Local 213 Assistant Business Manager Robin Nedila said. "Not in arbitration, never in front of a labor board, no hearing I have been a part of has been so completely one-sided. Usually, employers will start being somewhat reasonable ... once lawyers get involved. Not Ledcor."

A total of 238 Ledcor telecom workers had voted to join Local 213 in August

2017. They faced opposition from Ledcor from the start.

"This is a story about perseverance," said First District Lead Organizer Dustin Brecht.

In 2017, Brecht was a member of the volunteer organizing committee at Ledcor Technical Services. LTS had won a contract from British Columbia's legacy telephone company, Telus.

That 2017 authorization vote met with stonewalling from Ledcor. After what Nedila called "the worst first contract proposal in Canadian history," the unit authorized a strike.

After months with no progress, Nedila and Brecht noticed an obscure part of the Canadian Labour Code, Section 80, that allows unions to bring a claim of bad-faith negotiating to the labor minister.

The last time a Section 80 claim was made was in the 1980s. No one could remember when a Section 80 claim won.

The picket lasted two years. The appeals process lasted almost four. The original group of technicians dwindled to less than 70.

But the gambit worked. The November CIRB ruling eviscerated Ledcor.

"The employer's approach to

bargaining, particularly since the advent of the strike, makes a mockery of the collective bargaining process," the board wrote. "Canadian law is clear. The duty to bargain in good faith and make every reasonable effort is a continuous duty from when notice to bargain is given until the final resolution of an agreement."

After the ruling, both parties made proposals on what the imposed contract should be. In the June contract, the Board ruled completely in the IBEW's favor.

The fight isn't completely over. Ledcor has not given up its commitment to deny workers their rights and flout Canadian labor law. Executives from the company have threatened to abandon British Columbia entirely.

"Sure, Ledcor can pack up and leave, or try to get around the ruling by subcontracting the work," he said. "I'm no lawyer, but it's not that easy."

"First, it's not like a single Walmart location they can shut down. They have a massive telecom construction business they've built and agreements with other unions in the province. Besides, as bad as this has been, we want work for our members, and Ledcor can be successful and profitable under the terms of this CBA."

Brecht and Nedila said the full impact of the CIRB decisions won't be known for years. But they show that Section 80 is a viable and powerful tool for unions.

"Every labor lawyer is grinning ear to ear now," Brecht said.

Brecht and Nedila take pride in knowing they were the ones who studied the law and encouraged the union's lawyers to use Section 80.

"If we can take on an anti-union employer that thought it was smarter than everyone else and could avoid unions or a contract by hiring the most expensive experts on the labor law ... well, a couple of construction workers had a surprise for them," Nedila said.

In addition, the plight of the Ledcor workers has spurred renewed interest in changing national labor law. The government has already committed to passing anti-scab legislation, and there is renewed momentum in favor of a one-year limit on first-contract negotiations.

That would radically redraw the power dynamic between labor and management in Canada.

But so does this one decision, Brecht said.

"From the beginning (then Local 213 Business Manager, now First District International Representative) Adam Van Steinburg was clear about the stakes," Brecht said. "This company built a business model on abusing workers, and that would not stand in British Columbia and should not stand anywhere in Canada."

"The company expected us to give up," he said. "They didn't understand who they were (messing) with." ■

## NORTH OF 49°

# Members With Hydro Ottawa Strike for Safer Working Conditions

**T**he nearly 400 IBEW members who work for electrical utility Hydro Ottawa went on strike against their employer June 28 after the utility's final contract offer ignored their concerns about safety on the job.

"Hydro workers know all too well that failure to comply with strict industry requirements and safety standards could result in serious injury or loss of life," said Domenic Murdaca, business manager of Local 636, chartered in Toronto but representing workers all over Ontario. "If employees do not trust the company to do the right thing, how can they trust the company to keep them safe?"

Last year, the local reported several safety violations by Hydro Ottawa to the Ontario Ministry of Labour, including refusing to fulfill requests for basic protective gear and challenging shift workers' need for adequate rest periods. But the problems continued, Murdaca said.

For more than 30 years, Local 636 has represented Hydro Ottawa workers, keeping in good working order the power grid that serves Canada's capital city region. "Our frontline staff there plays a key role in meeting the needs of the city and its residents every single day and night, no matter the weather," Murdaca said.

In recent years, Murdaca said, Local 636's members have raced to restore power quickly to millions of Hydro Ottawa customers following major weather events such as tornadoes, winter storms and even a derecho in May 2022.

They've done so as staffing gradually decreased: Five years ago, Hydro Ottawa employed 115 lineworkers, a figure that has dropped to 70 as vacated positions were left unfilled. Repair crews — including those working to restore power after storms and other weather emergencies — have been increasingly forced to work harder and for longer periods.

The rest of Local 636's 3,500 members work for nearly 60 employers, Murdaca said, and "none of those have had as many grievances filed against them as Hydro Ottawa."

The collective bargaining agreement between the local and the utility expired March 31, but its provisions remained in place as negotiations toward a replacement pact continued. Hydro Ottawa's final offer May 25 didn't just ignore Local 636's safety concerns, but it also called for allowing the utility to start using nonunion contractors.

A month later, 74% of voting bargaining-unit members voted to reject the offer, and the strike was on.

On July 13 — just two weeks afterward — two tornadoes ripped through the southern Ottawa suburb of Barrhaven, cutting power to thousands of customers. The outages lasted longer than expected, Murdaca said, because the nonunion scabs Hydro Ottawa brought in to make repairs lacked Local 636 workers' IBEW training and experience. Customers noticed the difference.

"We want to help and get back to work, safely," Murdaca said. "Strikes are an absolute last resort for workers when every reasonable effort to negotiate an agreement has failed, but we believe many people would agree that management's contract offer was unfair."

Local 636 has other concerns with Hydro Ottawa, Murdaca said, including an increase in workplace negativity resulting from high supervisor turnover and chronic management understaffing. Some members also have complained about unfair work practices, wage freezes and an uneven distribution of benefits.

As the strike wore on, it created complications for members of Ottawa Local 586 and Toronto Local 353 who routinely perform construction and maintenance work at Hydro Ottawa's facilities.

"It's a fine line respecting the picket line," said First District International Representative Bruce Harris, who services Local 636. "You have to speak with the strike captains, be cordial and follow the rules. In a perfect world, since this is IBEW members dealing with other IBEW members, our construction people would try to find work somewhere else during this time of labor unrest until it's all settled. We're making sure our members get that message and have respect."

Harris also has kept an eye on Hydro Ottawa's scabs. "There's an organizing opportunity there," he said.

For most of June, Hydro Ottawa negotiators refused to meet with Local 636 officials. But as of press time, conversations and formal negotiations had resumed, and Murdaca was optimistic that an agreement was within reach.

"We're at the table at least, but we're still far apart," he said, acknowledging the sacrifice that the striking workers were making. "We desperately want to get back to work — but the work must be safe, healthy and fair."

First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk applauded Local 636 members' resolve and

## HELP ELECT PRO-WORKER CANDIDATES



The IBEW Political Action Committee supports political action and candidates who will strengthen and protect workers' rights. It also serves as a resource for member organizing during pivotal elections.

Contribute at least \$75 and receive this limited-edition challenge coin celebrating the Biden administration's PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT to working people and the IBEW!

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encouraged all IBEW members to stand in solidarity with them.

“These hard-working Local 636 members are making huge sacrifices in the name of worker safety,” Shewchuk said. “That Hydro Ottawa could use scabs during this stoppage reinforces the need for federal anti-scab legislation that strips away the unfair advantage that employers have during strikes.” ■

*In June, after Hydro Ottawa's final contract offer ignored their safety concerns, members of Local 636 who work for the utility went on strike.*



## AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

# Les membres à Hydro Ottawa font la grève pour un milieu de travail plus sécuritaire

**E**n date du 28 juin, les quelque 400 membres de la FIOE, qui travaillent pour Hydro Ottawa, ont fait la grève contre la partie patronale lorsque l'offre finale de la convention collective du service public n'a pas tenu compte de leurs préoccupations au sujet de la sécurité sur le lieu de travail.

« Les travailleuses et travailleurs d'Hydro savent très bien qu'à défaut de se conformer aux exigences sévères de l'industrie et aux normes de sécurité risque d'entraîner de graves blessures ou peut causer des pertes de vies », déclare Domenic Murdaca, gérant d'affaires de la section locale 636. Sa charte a été accordée à Toronto mais elle représente les travailleuses et travailleurs partout en Ontario. « Si la main-d'œuvre ne fait pas confiance à la Société de faire ce qu'il faut, comment peut-elle faire confiance à la Société d'assurer leur sécurité? »

L'an dernier, la section locale a signalé plusieurs infractions relatives à la sécurité commises par Hydro Ottawa au ministre du Travail de l'Ontario, y compris le refus de répondre aux demandes d'équipements de protection de base et en remettant en question le besoin de repos adéquat de la main-d'œuvre de quart. Mais les problèmes ont persisté, mentionne Murdaca.

Depuis plus de 30 ans que le local 636 représente la main-d'œuvre à Hydro Ottawa, laquelle assure le bon état de marche du réseau électrique qui dessert la région de la capitale du Canada. « Chaque jour et chaque nuit, notre main-d'œuvre de première ligne joue un rôle clé pour répondre aux besoins de la ville et des résidentes et résidents, peu importe la température », dit Murdaca.

Murdaca a dit que suite aux grands événements météorologiques survenus au cours des dernières années tels que les tornades, les tempêtes de neige et même le dérèglement qui a eu lieu en mai 2022, les membres du local 636 se sont vite déplacés pour rétablir le courant pour les millions de clientes et clients d'Hydro Ottawa.

Tout ce travail a été effectué pendant la diminution progressive de la main-d'œuvre : il y a cinq ans, Hydro Ottawa a embauché 115 monteuses et monteurs de lignes, un nombre qui a baissé à 70 lorsque les postes vacants ont été laissés vacants. Les équipes de réparation, y compris celles qui travaillent pour rétablir le courant après les tempêtes et autres urgences météorologiques, ont été de plus en plus forcées à travailler plus fort et pendant de longues périodes.

Le reste des 3 500 membres de la section locale 636 travaillent pour près de 60 employeurs, mentionne Murdaca, et « aucun d'entre eux n'a fait l'objet d'autant de griefs qu'Hydro Ottawa. »

La convention collective entre la section locale et la Société a pris fin le 31 mars, mais ses dispositions sont restées en place alors que les négociations se poursuivaient en vue d'un pacte de remplacement. Non seulement que l'offre finale d'Hydro Ottawa du 25 mai n'a pas pris en considération les préoccupations de sécurité de la section locale 636, mais a aussi permis à la Société de faire appel à des entrepreneurs non syndiqués.

Un mois plus tard, 74 % des votants de l'unité de négociation ont voté pour rejeter l'offre et la grève a déclenché.

Le 13 juillet, juste deux semaines plus tard, la tornade a balayé la banlieue

sud d'Ottawa de Barrhaven, coupant l'électricité à de milliers de clients. Les coupures de courant ont duré plus longtemps que prévu, mentionne Murdaca, car les briseurs de grève embauchés par Hydro Ottawa pour effectuer les réparations n'avaient pas la formation et l'expérience des membres du local 636 de la FIOE. Les clients ont remarqué la différence.

« Nous voulons aider et retourner au travail de manière sécuritaire », exprime Murdaca. « Les grèves sont les tout derniers recours pour les travailleuses et travailleurs lorsque tout effort raisonnable pour négocier une convention collective a échoué, mais nous croyons que nombre de personnes conviendraient sur le fait que l'offre de la direction n'était pas juste. »

Le local à d'autres inquiétudes par rapport à Hydro Ottawa, formule Murdaca, notamment l'augmentation de la négativité dans le milieu de travail en raison du roulement élevé de superviseurs et du manque chronique de personnel de gestion. Certains membres se sont aussi plaints des pratiques de travail injustes, le gel des salaires et la distribution inégale des avantages sociaux.

La grève a entraîné des complications pour la section locale 586 à Ottawa et pour la section locale 353 à Toronto qui effectuent régulièrement des travaux de construction et d'entretiens dans les installations d'Hydro Ottawa.

« La ligne est mince quant au respect de la ligne de piquetage », déclare Bruce Harris, le représentant international de service du premier district pour le local 636. « Tu dois parler avec les capitaines de la ligne de piquetage, d'être cordial et de respecter les règles. Dans

un monde idéal, comme c'est des membres de la FIOE qui font affaire avec d'autres membres de la FIOE, nos personnes de la construction essaieraient de trouver du travail ailleurs en cette période d'instabilité syndicale jusqu'à ce que le tout se règle. On s'assure à ce que nos membres comprennent le message et soient respectueux. »

Harris a aussi gardé un œil sur les briseurs de grève d'Hydro Ottawa. « Il s'agit d'une bonne occasion de syndicalisation », dit-il.

Pour la plupart du mois de juin, les négociateurs d'Hydro Ottawa ont refusé de rencontrer les représentants du local 636. Comme le temps était un facteur, les conversations et les négociations formelles avaient repris et Murdaca avait bon espoir qu'une entente serait conclue.

« Au moins, nous sommes à la table, mais nous sommes très éloignés l'un de l'autre », dit-il, en soulignant le sacrifice fait par les grévistes. « Nous voulons désespérément retourner au travail, mais le travail doit être sécuritaire, sain et juste. »

Le vice-président international du premier district Russ Shewchuk félicite les membres du local 636 pour leur détermination et encourage tous les membres de la FIOE de faire preuve de solidarité.

« Ces membres qui travaillent d'arrache-pied font d'énormes sacrifices au nom de la sécurité des travailleuses et travailleurs », formule Shewchuk. « Le fait qu'Hydro Ottawa puisse avoir recours à des briseurs de grève pendant cet arrêt de travail renforce la nécessité d'une loi antibriseurs de grève qui enlève les avantages injustes dont jouissent la partie patronale pendant les grèves. » ■

## 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](http://ibew.org).

### YouTube

Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 member Pam Pendleton is breaking down barriers as a foreman for PG&E. Visit [YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](https://www.youtube.com/TheElectricalWorker) for her story and other videos from the Media Department.

### Vimeo

Prevailing wage laws are essential to ensure fair compensation for IBEW members on public projects. Check out the video at [Vimeo.com/IBEW](https://www.vimeo.com/IBEW).

### HourPower

You might get hungry watching members of Rockford, Ill., Local 364 compete in the Union Sportsmen's Alliance BBQ Bash in support of a good cause. For more visit [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com).

### ElectricTV

San Diego Local 569 and the National Electrical Contractors Association are long-time supporters of NAWIC, a summer camp that teaches girls about the electrical industry. See the video at [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net).

## POLITICS & JOBS

### Local 3 Members Stand Up to Greed, Earn Fair Contract With Wesco

Fighting back against corporate power paid off for New York Local 3 members who won a new three-year contract at Wesco in June, ending a seven-day strike against the multinational electrical distribution and services company.

The deal includes wage increases every year and improves pension and health benefits, all without any give-backs. It covers about 60 Local 3 members employed at Wesco facilities in Queens and in Hauppauge, N.Y., on Long Island.

New York Local 3 Business Manager Christopher Erikson saluted the brothers and sisters for the solidarity they showed in the face of adversity.

"I couldn't be prouder of our members at Wesco who stuck together and demanded a fair contract and respect in the workplace," said Erikson, who is also chairman of the International Executive Council.

Local 3 had a generally good relationship with Wesco for decades. Most contract negotiations were amicable.

That wasn't the case this time. Despite record profits, the company sought to reduce its contributions to the pension and medical plans.

The strike began Monday, June 19, when the Local 3 members rejected what Wesco called its final offer. Thus began seven days of picketing by workers at both locations, with fellow members of Local 3, neighboring IBEW locals, other unions and allies joining in.

The two sides returned to the table June 26 and reached an agreement later that day.

"This outcome should be celebrated and a reminder to all employers who think workers can be underestimated, mistreated and undervalued," Erikson said. "With a fair agreement in place, we look forward to a renewed relationship with Wesco."

Local 3 officials thanked Long Island Locals 25 and 1049 and Westbury Local 1922 for their support, along with the New York City Central Labor Council, the Long Island Federation of Labor and the New York State AFL-CIO.

They also thanked the Long Island Progressive Coalition and other

community allies.

Wesco is a Fortune 500 company based in Pittsburgh that specializes in the construction, maintenance and operation of electronic instruments and controls. It reported \$1.4 billion in profit in 2022 from a record-high \$21.4 billion in sales, an 18% increase over the previous year. ■

### IBEW Member Introduces Mass. Bill for Benefits for Striking Workers

A bill introduced by Massachusetts Sen. Paul Feeney, a Boston Local 2222 member, would allow striking workers to collect unemployment benefits after 30 days out on the picket.



"The corporation or employer in the middle of often contentious collective bargaining can weaponize certain unemployment benefits ..."

— Massachusetts Sen. Paul Feeney, a Boston Local 2222 member

"Unemployment insurance comes out of workers' wages to carry us through hard times," Local 2222 Business Manager Myles Calvey said. "Striking to protect our wages, benefits and working conditions is a difficult but sometimes necessary step. For most workers, it is a hard time no different from a layoff, and unemployment insurance can let workers protect their rights without risking everything."

Feeney said the law is necessary because striking workers' eligibility for unemployment has fluctuated over the years in Massachusetts, leaving no guarantee of protection.

Workers from Local 2222 have received unemployment assistance during strikes only twice in the 35 years he has been business manager, Calvey said. Even then, in both cases they had

to pay it back after the company challenged the payments in court.

"Our members received letters from the state informing them of this decision and had their state tax returns garnished until it was paid back in full," Calvey said. "In the first case, companies fought to take it away from us for 17 years until the courts finally agreed."

For Feeney, the bill is about giving workers a boost, however small, when they face off against billion-dollar companies.

"The corporation or employer in the middle of often contentious collective bargaining can weaponize certain unemployment benefits to coerce action and activity that is favorable to the employer and that adversely affects the worker," Feeney said during a Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development Committee hearing.

Nearly identical bills have failed to make it into law in recent years.

"Massachusetts fancies itself a liberal state, but it isn't a union state," Calvey said. "We have too many politicians who tell us they are all for our bills but then won't let them come up for a vote."

Feeney modeled the bill after New York state law, Calvey said.

"We jointly bargain with the New York unions representing Verizon members, and they do get unemployment benefits during a strike. Knowing union members could count on unemployment benefits, rather than that decision being left to the whim of whichever administration happens to be in office, is vital," Calvey said. "It may not happen this time, but we will see who our friends really are." ■

## CIRCUITS



St. Louis Local 1 members setting a generator during the building of CityPark, the home of the city's Major League Soccer team. Local 1 handled the electrical work at the stadium.

### 'The Fans Are All Into It' Local 1 Members Reflect on Pride, Challenges in Building Soccer Stadium

When a major new sports venue opens in the city of the IBEW's birth, it's a safe bet that St. Louis' Local 1 performed the electrical work.

Those members can take a bow again as CityPark, home of Major League Soccer expansion franchise St. Louis City SC, draws rave reviews since hosting its first match in November 2022.

connected so closely to the main stadium. Local 1 and the other trades worked on the building of that, too.

"I'm just very happy our members worked on this," said Paul Reinheimer, Local 1's telecommunications business representative. "They should be very proud. How can you not walk by that stadium without a smile on your face and say, 'I worked on that?'"

"How can you walk by that stadium without a smile on your face and say, 'I worked on that.'"

— Paul Reinheimer, Local 1 telecommunications business representative.

The team has sold out every MLS match at the 22,500-seat facility, which has spurred a new interest in investment on the west end of St. Louis' downtown. A city with a deep soccer history is celebrating finally having an MLS team.

Local 1 Business Agent Mike Newton, a city resident who has worked on the current Busch Stadium (home of baseball's Cardinals) and Enterprise Center (hockey's Blues) during his 31-year career, said Local 1 members usually jump at the chance to work on sports arenas and stadiums. This was no different.

"It's like a historical thing for them," Newton added. "People will be telling their grandchildren that grandpa or grandma worked on that place."

Every seat is within 120 feet of the pitch, the closest in the league. A canopy roof protects all those seats from the elements and makes the noise generated by the raucous crowds even louder. HOK, the stadium's architect, kept the corners open so spectators could naturally mingle in plazas.

St. Louis City SC's training center and team offices sit just to the south and are connected to the stadium via underground tunnel. It's a rarity in American team sports for a training center to be

Every project has obstacles, however, and CityPark had more than its share. That's where Local 1 members used their skills and expertise to help keep the project on time and under budget. (It cost more than \$400 million and was privately financed.)

Local 1 member Tim Culleton, now a superintendent for signatory contractor Sachs Electric, is a veteran of stadium projects in the city. This one was the most difficult, he said. The electrical rooms weren't stacked on top of each other from floor to floor like other stadiums he has worked on.

HOK called for all conduit to be hidden from view — a challenge in a facility that relied on tall, round, narrow columns for support. The floors weren't terribly deep, either. Culleton said electricians couldn't install anything longer than 1-inch conduit.

In the end, however, after long days that included plenty of trial and error, they found the right conduit and installed it in a way that met the architect's demands.

Now, Culleton is a St. Louis City SC season ticket holder.

"Going in there every day and going through the difficulties and the



New York Local 3 members and allies picket outside a Wesco facility during a seven-day strike in June.

coordination due to the pandemic, the timelines and the weather, it wasn't all that fun at times," Culleton said. "But once you're in there now, the atmosphere is unreal. My wife and I go to every game and just have a blast. I don't think we've ever had that good of a time at a venue.

"This is just unique," he added. "The fans are all into it."

Reinheimer said the crews that installed the lighting and sound systems were accustomed to working on scaffolding. But for this project, the signatory contractors rolled out a suspended deck supported by a giant platform. The new system was safe, but it was an adjustment, he said. Crew members felt like they were hanging out over the ground more.

"It's not something that we're used to," he said. "But our crew understood there was a job to be done and we were happy to do it."

Local 1 Vice President Frankie Valleroy said more than 300 members worked on the stadium and adjoining team facility. Work started in February 2020, just before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. That forced numerous adjustments on the job, including wearing face coverings and social distancing.

"Trying to keep the project on schedule and maintaining a good workflow, it was challenging," Valleroy said. "But all the craftsmen on the job were very excited. It's a very modern stadium with a lot of amenities, especially on the electrical side. There's some things we haven't been able to do in St. Louis before."

Maybe the team took notice. In its debut season, St. Louis City SC had a record of 13 wins, eight losses and two draws as of late July, the best in MLS' Western Conference and third-best in the league overall. Driving by the stadium now, it's hard to image it was a vacant lot just four years ago.

"Like an aggressive midfielder, CityPark has claimed a vacant spot on the pitch, filled it with numbers and pushed forward. ...People are heading to the city from the far reaches of the region and they are loving it," wrote Tony Messenger, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Local 1 members are pleased to say they did their part.

"Quite a few of our people were there for more than a year," Valleroy said. "We're a proud bunch. We put a lot of pride into our work." ■

## IBEW Sisters Parade With WWII 'Rosies' at Oregon Festival

Members of Portland, Ore., Local 48 have been dressing up as Rosie the Riveter for years as part of the city's annual Rose Festival, which includes marching in the Grand Floral Parade. They even do a rehearsed routine.

But 2023 was different. This time they met some of the women who kept wartime factories and industries running during World War II, as immortalized by the Rosie posters.

"It was an honor to represent my union in this way," Local 48 journeyman inside wireman Isis Harris said of the June event. "I don't think I stopped smiling from the beginning of the parade to the end."

It turned out that the annual Rosie convention, an event put on by the American Rosie the Riveter Association, was in Portland during the Rose Festival, and the parade coordinators wanted Local 48's team of 21st century Rosies to escort the original women who would serve as the parade's grand marshals.

Roughly 70 members from Local 48, Salem Local 280, Coos Bay Local 932 and Seattle Local 46 marched in the parade with their trailblazing World War II sisters riding along on a float. It's estimated that over 2 million people see the Grand Floral Parade each year, Local 48 Membership Development Representative Matt Smyth said.

"It was such an awesome opportunity to participate in the parade," Local 48 apprentice Kayte Krout said. "This is my third year doing it, and what inspires me is knowing that other young women can see all of us and how happy and successful we are as tradeswomen."

For a lot of participants, it's not just an opportunity to have some fun. It's also a chance to spend time with dozens of sisters, something that doesn't often happen on a jobsite.

"There are few opportunities to spend time with other trade siblings en



IBEW sisters from Oregon and Washington marched in Portland's Grand Floral parade, part of the city's annual Rose Festival, dressed as World War II icon Rosie the Riveter and had the honor of serving as escorts to some of the original Rosies who had worked in wartime factories and were the parade's grand marshals.

masse," Local 48 Business Representative Kelly Bond said. "It's always invigorating to have the 'We can do it' energy in the air with all the sisters."

That energy showed up in full force for Local 280 apprentice Rachel Cannon when a member from Local 48 helped her and other Local 280 members throw a baby shower for sister McKaylee Casey at the parade's after-party.

"We took over half a restaurant, and nearly every Rosie in attendance chipped in to buy her an amazing assortment of baby books and toys," Cannon said. "As an apprentice, it's always uplifting to meet female-identifying journey workers, especially all in one spot."

Some IBEW sisters got to meet the original Rosies, now in their 90s and 100s, at various points during the festival.

"It was such an honor and privilege to meet them," Local 280 member Bethany Dickson said. "They are so humble about their legacy."

Local 48 journeyman Leslie Troup said that when she thanked them for all they had done to pave the way for future tradeswomen, they responded by thanking her and her IBEW sisters.

"We were taken aback at first, and I asked whatever they had to be thanking us for, and one woman said for continuing what they had started," Troup said. "It never dawned on me that they would thank us. It made us tear up to think we

were like an extension of them."

Bond had the honor of giving the Rosies a Local 48 Rosie-styled pin.

"It was truly one of the most touching moments I will ever experience, seeing the fire and spunk in their Rosie eyes and their pride in leading the way," Bond said.

Local 932 member Maria Hughes noted how the WWII Rosies and today's tradeswomen have had to endure hostility and discrimination on the job, but at the parade they all got to be the recipients of a cheering and congratulatory crowd.

"The welcoming and loud support the crowd showed throughout the parade was the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow," Hughes said. "Seeing such open joy as our fierce ladies passed by and introduced the original Rosies was priceless. And the number of parents pointing us out and whispering in their children's ears illustrates the positive impact we have had on multiple generations."

That impact is already taking effect. Local 48 member Tara Wyman-Smith said that a few months after last year's parade, a young woman told her that she was in the crowd near where the Rosies did their routine and was so moved that she went to the union hall the next week to join.

"Now she's helping build the Ritz-Carlton," Wayman-Smith said. "It

feels great knowing we have another sister among us."

Troup said there are always people who want a picture with them, and oftentimes they want a picture of their child standing with the Rosie-clad members. As a Portland native and mother of a daughter who is entering the Local 48 apprenticeship, it's something she takes a lot of pride in.

"It always amazes me when people, men and women, come up to us before or after the parade and say things like, 'The Rosies are always my favorite.' I love those moments," she said. "It's on this day that I'm glad I am a woman electrician."

Troup and Local 48 member Lynn Cuevas said they were invited by the original Rosies to come out to Pearl Harbor for the memorial Dec. 7 and sit up front with them and march in the parade. Even if they don't all make it out, that feeling of connection and solidarity isn't something that's going to fade anytime soon.

"These Rosies built the foundation for us women working in the trades, and to get that opportunity to meet them was something I will never forget," Krout said. "We have come a long way, and those Rosies were so happy to see us carrying on the legacy they started. One of them actually said: 'Wow I really like your boots. Those are so neat.' They were dirty and grungy from work that week." ■



A canopy roof covers the 22,500 seats at CityPark, and the corners were left open to give a view of St. Louis to every fan.

Credit: Creative Commons / Flickr user Scott

# TRANSITIONS

## RETIRED

### Ray Kasmark



Ray Kasmark, a third-generation IBEW member, the founding director of the Business Development Department and one of the union's great optimists, retired Sept. 1.

From where he sits, infectious optimism is the only rational position to take about the future of the Brotherhood.

"We see things two to five years out. We know what the opportunities are," he said. "That is why I am so optimistic: Everything is being electrified, and that is us."

Four decades ago, when Kasmark started at his grandfather and father's local — Gary and Hammond, Ind., Local 697 — times had been equally optimistic.

"I met old timers in 1981, guys who started work right after the war, who told me they had never missed a day of work they didn't want to miss," he said.

Even so, as early as the '60s, Kasmark said, the leaders of his local were aggressively organizing, and not just workers and contractors. They were organizing the work, reaching out to customers long before projects were ready for bid and joining the Chamber of Commerce and development boards.

But by the time Kasmark joined in 1982 — after earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Utah — the American economy had changed.

"Everything started to go in the toilet in '81," he said. Instead of working in a boom, most of my career was in a period of cyclical contraction — booms followed by bigger busts, one following the next."

Local 697 was better off than many other locals, he said, because it never stopped organizing the work.

It wasn't until 2008 or 2009, Kasmark said, that he heard this tactic called "business development." Marvin Kropke, then Los Angeles Local 11's business manager, was giving a presentation at a Construction and Maintenance conference describing almost exactly what Local 697 was doing but using this new term.

By then, Kasmark was the business manager of Local 697, a position he had held since 2004. Before that, he was the staff organizer for eight years. Kasmark said he turned to his assistant business manager, Ryan Reithel (now senior executive assistant to the international secretary-treasurer), and said, "I guess we're changing the name."

In 2011 at the International Convention in Vancouver, the entire weight of the IBEW got behind business development. The delegates passed a resolution requiring the creation of a national team "to aggressively seek and secure work for all IBEW members by

building strategic partnerships and engaging in customer outreach."

In 2013, that team began to take shape, and Kasmark was brought in as an international representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department. Two years later, a stand-alone Business Development Department was created, and Kasmark was hired to be the first director.

At first, Kasmark said, much of their time was spent hunting through construction databases like Dodge and IIR and reaching out to locals about projects coming down the road. But very quickly, they realized that this was holding the telescope the wrong way around.

"There just weren't enough of us to do a good job of giving people fish. We needed a tool to teach people how to fish — to use these resources be proactive on their own," he said.

By 2019, they had their tool.

Every construction local's business manager has access to IIR and Dodge. The SPIRIT — Sustainable Project Information Resource Inventory and Training — program Kasmark and his team developed teaches them how to use those tools. Week after week during the pandemic, the Business Development team trained local leaders to stay in front of development in their own jurisdiction, what actions to take on their own and when it was time to call in Kasmark and his team.

"We never want to be back where we are combing through and sending leads to locals, and usage of the online databases is way up," he said.

Kasmark said the Driftwood gas pipeline project exemplifies what the department can accomplish. The Louisiana project is managed by a contact Kasmark first made almost a decade ago. The contact was then working for Energy Transfer Partners, overseeing the Rover and Dakota Access pipelines.

"I had heard that in sales it takes seven touches to make a connection. It took all seven times before he finally called me back," Kasmark said. "I told him we would help with advocacy publicly and politically if we could get an MOU on the pump and compressor stations, valve stands — all the electrical work. He agreed."

Fast forward to 2021. The contact had moved to a new company, building Driftwood. This time, the contact called Kasmark.

"The key was we delivered everything we promised, and he remembered," Kasmark said. "That's my measure of success: when they start calling us."

And because of the IBEW's massive political victories over the last 18 months, the entire union must be ready for the phones to ring off the hook.

"The number one challenge we face is convincing our people to be optimistic. We live in a new world. We are back to the postwar era, when there was 30 years of no unemployment in our industry," he said. "We can shout all we want: 'Exponential growth! There's more jobs and more of those jobs are

electrical!' Local unions have to hear us. The first question we get when customers call us is 'Can you provide the workers?' not 'How much does it cost?'"

But this is for the next generation of IBEW optimists.

Ray and his wife, Teri, are moving to within an hour's drive of their four kids and five grandkids. He plans to get back into the woodworking shop, get back on his bike and get into the woods.

Please join all officers, staff and members in wishing Brother Kasmark a long, healthy and sunny retirement. ■

## RETIRED

### Jeffery L. Carter



International Representative Jeffery Carter, whose helpfulness during arbitration sessions was "legendary" in the Sixth

District, retired from the IBEW effective Aug. 1.

"I've been a union member since I was 17," the Marion, Ind., native said proudly, noting that he worked for organized businesses for two years before he became a welder and machinist at the RCA plant represented by Marion Local 1160 in 1978.

Carter was initiated into the IBEW when he was hired, and within six months, Local 1160's leaders had asked him to consider becoming a shop steward, a job he officially took on two years later. He performed so well in that role that his fellow members encouraged him to become increasingly active in the union.

Carter joined key Local 1160 committees, such as bylaw, overtime, apprenticeship, negotiating and organizing. He also served on the local's executive board, becoming its chairman in 1993. Three years later, Carter was assistant business manager, and in March 1999, he was elected business manager.

These were tough times for Local 1160. In the mid-1970s, it represented nearly 4,000 workers at that Marion plant. By the time the factory was purchased by Thomson Consumer Electronics in 1987, global trade policies that were destroying the U.S. manufacturing industry also were behind Local 1160's tumbling membership numbers. By the late 2000s, the local was defunct. Carter's membership was transferred to Indianapolis Local 481.

In 2002, International President Edwin D. Hill appointed Carter as an international representative in the union's Sixth District, which covers Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Indiana.

Indianapolis Local 1048 Business Manager Brad Plank has known Carter since then. "I always liked having Jeff come into our locations during

negotiations," Plank said. "He always had a good way of being able to be firm with companies and explaining to members how something was going to impact them in everyday terms, breaking it down so they could understand."

Among his favorite retirement presents is a Damascus knife in a wooden box bearing the message: "The legend has retired."

Among his favorite retirement presents is a coffee mug he received from a contractor that bears the message: "The legend retires." Carter said "it's nice to be appreciated," though he didn't realize anyone considered him a legend.

"He was always available," Plank said. "It did not matter if you called him while he was on vacation. He might not answer right away, but he always got back to me. He never made me feel like I was bothering him."

Shane Walker, a Local 1048 steward, agreed. "He's extremely good at what he does. He's educated me so much," Walker said. "He fully cares about working-class people. I'm going to miss having him around."

Many IBEW retirees travel when they retire, but Carter does not plan to be one of them. "The pandemic ruined me about travel," Carter said. "Being home [during the lockdowns], I realized what I was missing" when I was traveling for work.

Instead, Carter hopes to spend quality time with his wife, Lori Jo, and their family, including his five grandchildren, most of whom live within a few hours' drive of his home.

Golf also figures into his retirement plans, as does using his decades-honed skills as a welder and machinist to restore a couple of classic Chevrolets: a 1967 Chevelle Super Sport and a 1970 C-10 Longbed. "I've got a little machine shop set up, with drill presses and a lot of tools," he said.

Carter has two nieces who are IBEW members. One is a journeyman inside wireman with Fort Wayne, Ind., Local 305, and the other is a fifth-year apprentice with South Bend, Ind., Local 153.

Please join the entire IBEW membership in wishing Brother Carter a long and happy retirement. ■

## RETIRED

### Bruce McNamara



Bruce McNamara, a First District international representative known for his big personality, command of the facts and

dedication to his far-flung Ontario locals, retired Aug. 1 after 43 years of service.

Formerly the business manager of Sudbury Local 1687 in northeastern Ontario, McNamara spent the past 11

years servicing mainly construction locals throughout the province.

"Bruce became very critical to me as a confidant — someone I could really rely on," said Travis Merrett, another former Local 1687 business manager, who stepped into his mentor's shoes on the international staff Sept. 1 after nearly six years at the helm. "He's been a huge resource, and I know he'll continue to be."

The son of a union crane operator, McNamara still lives in the small Sudbury Basin town of Chelmsford, where he was raised with a twin and four other siblings. After high school, he spent a year at Cambrian College studying electronics and instrumentation.

"I realized that wasn't what I wanted to do," he said. "My passion was to work with my hands and work in the electrical industry."

Within months of applying to be a Local 1687 apprentice wireman in 1980, he landed on his first construction site — a federal taxation data center that brought 1,200 jobs to Sudbury. Later, he would serve as a steward at many of the area's more traditional worksites, including heavy commercial and industrial plants, paper mills, smelters, refineries, and mines.

The mineral-rich region is in a boom period today, and Merrett said McNamara has been invaluable in helping the local's young staff capitalize on it.

"We can't rely on our own memories for what happened the last time we were flush," said Merrett, who at 39 was the oldest on staff at the local. "So to have access to Bruce, for him to be so free with his time has been vital. He's an encyclopedia of our history."

McNamara took an early interest in union politics. "As apprentices, we were highly encouraged to attend membership meetings," he said. "I didn't really have a background in it, but I was intrigued by things like the jurisdictions between the trades and enforcement of the CBA."

He became Local 1687's treasurer in 1992 and recording secretary in 1995. That same year, he began an 18-year run as a trustee for the health and welfare fund and the pension fund — roles he is reprising as a retiree at Merrett's request.

Hired on to the local staff as an organizer in 1996, McNamara was appointed business manager in 1999 and elected three times until joining the First District staff in 2012.

His assignments took him to the far reaches of Ontario's 1 million square kilometers. "I loved to be able to help business managers with the day-to-day operations of their locals," he said, even when that meant eight hours or more behind the wheel one way.

McNamara also savored collective bargaining, describing "the thrill of the whole negotiation process, starting from the beginning and working your way through and coming out with the best deal for our members."

Every three years, he took a

# GROUND<sup>ED</sup> IN HISTORY

## Fighting Right-To-Work

### The Deep Roots of Manipulation

Part one of a two-part series.

leading role at the table as one of 11 business managers who make up the IBEW Construction Council of Ontario. Later, he guided the talks as the group's international representative.

A friend and colleague, Sarna, Ontario, Local 530 Business Manager Frank Harris, said McNamara's knowledge and straightforward approach made him highly effective in each of his roles.

"He's a standup guy," Harris said. "His presence will be deeply missed at the international level and local level, and at the Construction Council. In my eyes he's a big part of our success because he keeps us on track."

Those capabilities earned McNamara a nickname: Sarge. "It's affectionate, but also legitimate," Merrett said. "It's a testament to his grasp of what his professional responsibilities are. But we have another name for him, too — the Friendly Giant. He's a very tall guy and very jovial."

McNamara doesn't mind either moniker. "I've been called Sarge forever because of my assertiveness, because I take charge, and I can be serious when I need to be," he said. "But I also like to have a lot of fun and joke around."

One of his greatest joys away from work is snowmobiling. He's excited about having more time for it in retirement, along with renovating the home he shares with his spouse, Penny. He said he's had enough travel for now after so many years on the road but wants to eventually join his brother for a trip to Ireland, the family's ancestral home.

McNamara said the IBEW is the reason that's all possible for him at age 62.

"People really need to look at good-paying union jobs when they're looking at a career," he said. "When you belong to a union, you have the security of knowing that everybody is getting paid the same for the same type of job, you've got a set schedule, and health and welfare and pension benefits. The IBEW has been a fantastic career choice for me."

The officers, staff and members of the IBEW thank Brother McNamara for his decades of service and wish him a long and happy retirement. ■

The IBEW's fight against "right-to-work" laws, where workers can enjoy the benefits of union membership without contributing to the union, stretches back further than you might think.

The Electrical Worker first reported on the issue in 1922, and for over a century, our members have been raising the alarm about this manipulative idea. The recent success in overturning right-to-work in Michigan is a reminder that the fight is far from over.

It's no surprise that the term originated in the 1920s from industrialists who were eager to claw back the gains made by labor during World War I. Tycoons such as John D. Rockefeller promoted the "American Plan," a pro-business agenda that promoted company unions managed by executives, labeled trade unions as anarchist and communist, and introduced the concept of "open" and "closed" shops. This terminology defined nonunion businesses as "open" to everyone, whereas those with union contracts were "closed" to new hires.

The IBEW was quick to point out the fallacies of such a plan. Writing for The Electrical Worker in 1922, International Secretary Charles Ford observed that "when stripped of its pretense, the so-called 'open' shop is the 'closed' shop because it is closed to any measure of democratic action. The employees are voiceless. The union shop is the open shop because the worker's representative meets the employer on common ground."

Ford drew an analogy to the many associations representing doctors, bankers and lawyers. These groups regularly establish requirements for membership and regulate rates, hours and conditions governing their contracts. "But when the members of

labor unions say they will not work with those who will not join, it is heralded as a crime and their destruction by law is advocated," Ford observed. Sure enough, anti-labor protests brought on by the American Plan eventually turned violent in the nation's first red scare. Fearing the loss of public support, leaders of the movement decided to rebrand with a new name. By late 1922, the slogan "right-to-work" first appeared in print.

"The country is now being deluged with canned speeches about this sacred right-to-work," Ford wrote in The Electrical Worker. "What they probably mean is that every employer has the 'right to work' his employee under any conditions and for whatever wages he chooses."

The new slogan represented just another attempt by business oligarchs to reduce wages, increase profits, remove workplace protections and ultimately destroy the labor movement. Though it never became law, this new

movement spread quickly during the Roaring '20s. Union membership, including the IBEW's, slowly dwindled and many unions went out of existence. Wages did not keep up with prices. Workers could not buy the goods they produced. And the Great Depression, born from the market crash of 1929, seemed almost inevitable.

With the economy in freefall, the conversation over labor quickly flipped and government efforts began to shore up worker protections. The National Labor Relations Act passed in 1935 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "second New Deal." It established three workplace categories for union representation: closed shop, in which employees must be members of the union as a condition of employment; union shop, in which employees must pay for the cost of union representation but need not join the union; and open shop, in which an employee cannot be compelled to join or contribute to a union.

Roosevelt also established policies many of us take for granted today. Social Security, minimum wage, a five-day work week, and other protective labor measures became a fact of life.

With this legislation, trade unions found a new lease on life. When America entered World War II, the labor movement was a revitalized force that played a key role in making the United States the arsenal of democracy and the leader of the free world. However, with union strength growing throughout the war, the power-hungry industry leaders started the union-busting cycle all over again. They blamed strikes on the "powerful unions" and "labor bosses" when they were actually caused by the sharp drop in income and increases in living costs that came with ending wartime restrictions.

The tactic bore fruit in 1944 when Arkansas and Florida voted to outlaw "closed shops" by amending their state constitutions. Arizona and Nebraska followed suit in 1946. Anti-labor forces then brought their case before Congress.

"They are trying to create the impression that the world is up in arms against the unions," International Secretary Gustave Bugnizet wrote for The Electrical Worker in 1947. "The world is not up in arms. Neither is the United States, but the old anti-boycott, open shop, American Plan crowd are back at the doors of Congress asking for free enterprise for themselves and restrictions on union organization."

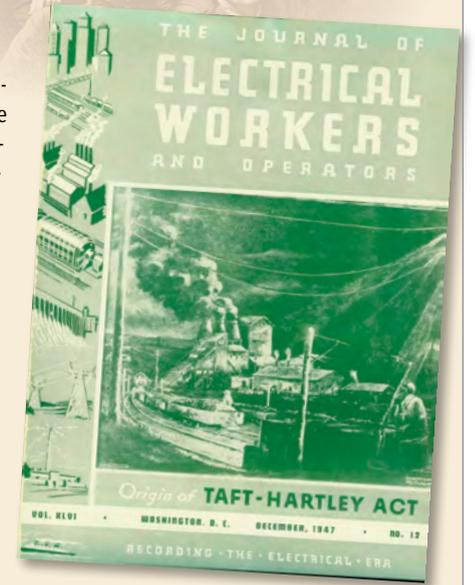
What they were asking for specifically was passage of the Labor Management Relations Act, commonly known as the Taft-Hartley Act after its two Republican sponsors, Sens. Robert Taft and Fred Hartley. This legislation would not only outlaw closed shops nationally, but also authorize states to outlaw "union shops" as well.

It was here that the right-to-work movement finally found its teeth. Supporters claimed that union shops force workers to financially support an organization they didn't vote for, which they saw as a violation of their right to work without restriction. Opponents argued that the new act would actually restrict a worker's rights by limiting the agreements they could collectively make with their employer.

Norfolk, Va., Local 80 wrote to The Electrical Worker in March 1947 with a call to action. "The political machine has picked another apple for the basket of dictatorship," said



International Secretary Charles Ford



The IBEW's December 1947 journal spread the word about the detrimental effects of the Taft-Hartley Act, which ushered in right-to-work laws.

Press Secretary E.A. McCulloch. "Should such an act be declared lawful, it shall infringe upon the right of any two parties to make a contract where labor is involved."

In an argument almost identical to that made by International Secretary Ford more than 20 years before, McCulloch noted that "our lawmakers should awaken to the fact that the closed shop agreement is for the protection of the honest workmen against the unscrupulous, just as it is necessary for lawyers to be admitted to the bar before they can practice law in this state."

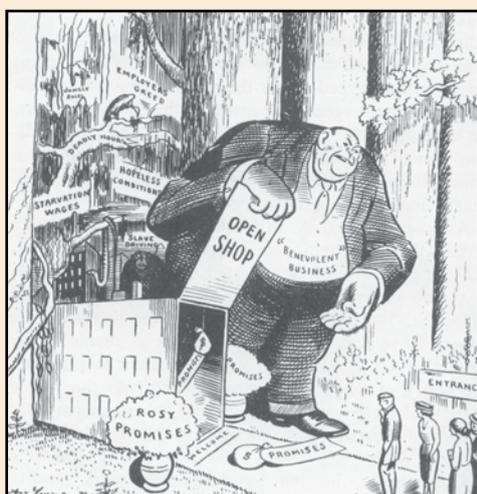
The hypocrisy was clear as day, and for McCulloch the solution was equally clear. "We are fully aware that the so-called 'right-to-work' bill in Virginia is aimed wholly at the IBEW. Brothers, let's accept this challenge and put into action our only weapon — the vote!"

Unfortunately, the votes were not on their side. The Taft-Hartley Act became law June 23, 1947, after Congress overrode a veto from President Harry Truman. In the following months, the law was invoked to outlaw union shop agreements in Iowa, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, while South Dakota did so by constitutional amendment.

By the end of the year, 11 states had implemented right-to-work. That number would only grow, as would the fight to repeal it.

This story will continue next month. ■

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



A 1922 editorial cartoon in The Electrical Worker exposing the "open shop" movement.

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# LOCAL LINES

## Lending a Helping Hand

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st,ws&ptc), ST. LOUIS, MO — Summer is winding down, and it's time to refocus our efforts to remain ever vigilant in the face of adversity. As chairman of our safety committee, I had the privilege of attending the IBEW Safety Caucus. I learned a lot, got some excellent information, and listened to enlightening presentations on workplace mental health and suicide.

We are the agents of change. Encourage safety culture. Become familiar with Article 15, Section 15 of the IBEW Constitution, which governs safety committees. Help the International Office in compiling accident data that can be used for effective training to prevent accidents.

Our local's health fair is just around the corner, Oct. 7. It's free, it's easy, and you can win stuff. Come for your health and free flu shot. Stay for the petting zoo and fellowship.

As always, organize, Organize, ORGANIZE!

Kyle Hunter, P.S.

defined in the ARTICLE 2, SCOPE, of the PLA.”

Our members who worked the project were instrumental in bringing this to our attention and documenting the violation. Always remember that our members are our eyes and ears out in the field, and when you see something wrong, you need to report it to your business agent. Great work, everyone!

Robert Corona, Comm. Dir.



Local 15 President/Business Manager/Financial Secretary Chris Riser, who began his leadership in May.

## Congratulations, Graduates

L.U. 11 (i,rts,spa&em), LOS ANGELES, CA — Congratulations to our 2021-2022 graduates who celebrated the momentous occasion at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. We had 341 journey-level graduates: 246 inside wiremen, 71 sound and communications wiremen, and 24 intelligent transportation wiremen. In each classification, an outstanding apprentice was recognized. Four awards were given for meritorious achievement, or an average grade of 95% or higher. There were 29 graduates recognized for having perfect attendance throughout their apprenticeship.

Our Compliance Department recently pursued and prevailed in an arbitration case against a local refinery for its use of a nonunion contractor performing high-voltage electrical testing work. The arbitrator ruled that the refinery did not comply with the PLA process when it awarded the work and that “the Union has met their burden to show that the work in dispute is ‘Covered Work’ as

## Welcome, Local 15 President Riser

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Our local's executive board unanimously approved Chris Riser as president/business manager/financial secretary beginning May 6, replacing the retiring Terry McGoldrick.

Chris started with ComEd as an overhead apprentice in June 1990. He completed his

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apprenticeship in October 1992. Chris was promoted to overhead electrician special in May 2002, followed by overhead crew leader in September 2015.

President Riser first became a Local 15 steward in September 2007. He was promoted to chief steward in May 2010, and in October 2016 he joined the Local 15 office as a business representative. Chris was promoted to assistant business manager in December 2021 and senior assistant business manager in July 2022.

In accepting the position, Riser commented: “I am honored and excited to represent Local 15 as the president/business manager. My staff and I will always work hard to do what is best for Local 15 and our members. Moving forward, I want to keep our members informed and involved with all aspects of Local 15. It is extremely important for us to be united. I look forward to making Local 15 stronger than ever before. Thank you to President McGoldrick and the executive board for trusting me with Local 15.”

John Richards, A.B.M.

## LCTT Tree Jamboree

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — Our local held its annual Tree Jamboree at our training center June 24, hosting more than 500 members and their families. This climbing competition gives our members the opportunity to showcase their skills in five events: work climb, belayed speed climb, ascent event, throwline and aerial rescue.



From left, Local 17 climbers Tom Pacheco, Jacob Johns, Jacob Kropik, Cameron Lowe, Jeremy Ferguson, Aziza Quashie and Lucas Hudson.

The competition is divided between journeyman and apprentice divisions. The winners in each division will be proudly representing Local 17 at the Michigan Tree Climbing Championship in September at Prospect Park in Holland, Mich., where we look to capture the Corporate Cup for the fourth year in a row!

Congratulations to the following members, shown in the above photo:

Journeyman division winners are Lucas Hudson (first place), Jeremy Ferguson (second), Tom Pacheco (third) and Jacob Kropik (fourth).

Apprentice division winners are Jacob Johns (first place), Cameron Lowe (second) and Aziza Quashie (third).

James Shaw, B.M.



Local 35 welcomes the graduating class of 2023.

## 2023 Apprentice Graduation

L.U. 35 (i), HARTFORD, CT — Our local would like to congratulate its 2023 graduates:

Christopher Arsenault, Spencer Douglas, Kyle Driscoll, Colin Lanagan (top 2023 apprentice graduate), Blake Lebrun, Samuel McPhee, Jordan Moffitt, Brian Perry, Seth Voisine and Steven Willard.

Wishing the graduates an electrifying future. As always, never forget where you started and where you're about to go!

Michelle Cleveland, P.S.



Local 11 welcomes 341 journey-level graduates, some pictured here at the graduation banquet held in downtown Los Angeles.

## 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](http://ibew.org/media-center/submitting-local-lines) or email [locallines@ibew.org](mailto: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](mailto: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	(rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting	(tm) Transportation Manufacturing
(ei) Electrical Inspection	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing	(u) Utility
(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	(ws) Warehouse and Supply	(uow) Utility Office Workers
(es) Electric Signs	(mar) Marine		

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

## Local 43 Apprenticeship Class of 2023

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — Congratulations to our fifth-year apprentices! They not only graduated from Local 43's apprenticeship program, but because of our partnership with Mohawk Valley Community College, they also received an associate degree of occupational studies degree in electrical service technician/electrical maintenance. On May 12, they walked on the stage at Memorial Auditorium in Utica, N.Y., and received their diplomas.

Jeff Cassano, P.S.



Local 43 celebrates 2023 MVCC graduation day.

## Colin Lavin Elected Business Manager/Financial Secretary of Local 47

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Business Manager/Financial Secretary Colin Lavin wants to thank all members for their support in electing him.

We have some updates from our local:

- We settled the Robert Anderson discharge case with Southern California Edison with the grievant being reinstated. The case was scheduled for arbitration in July.
- Mike Phillips' demotion case was set to be arbitrated in July.
- In the City of Anaheim-General case, we are going to a state mediator before we reach impasse.
- Negotiations continue with Professional Management Group. Part-time customer service is connected to the Anaheim General Group for economics.

Local 47's motorcycle run will be held Sept. 23, and we expect it to be a huge success.

We're sad to report the deaths of Luis Anton, Nicholas Bressman, Eric Chrismen, Larry Cournoyer, James ("Jim Bob") D'Avanzo (retired), Ron Flores, Alick Fragoso (Local 640, working in our jurisdiction), Dean Francisco, Daniel Garcia, Carlos Peredia, John Pruden (retired), Juan Rodriguez and Shane Slaght. Our condolences and prayers are with their loved ones.

Work safe and buy union!

Mitch Smith, P.S.



Congratulations to Local 47's newly elected Business Manager/Financial Secretary Colin Lavin!

## Scholarship Winners

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Our annual golf scholarship outing was June 17, and the following were recipients of scholarships: Jackson Baber, son of Jeff Baber; Logan Dirr, son of Jill Dirr; Eric Gilmore, grandson of Bob Reed; Billy Gyuse, grandson of Ron Gillen; Shelby Hoffman; Matthew Holliday, son of Jonathan Holliday; Teri Jones; Brooke and Colt Kitner, children of Kendra Kitner; Katelyn Koerber, daughter of Matt Koerber; Holton Soberg, son of Scott Soberg; Olivia and Isabel Perez, daughters of Kimberly Washabaugh; Kaitlyn Schweighart, daughter of Chad Schweighart; Grady Thompson, son of Eric Thompson; and Kayden and Kyle Trenkle, sons of Zach Trenkle.

We would like to thank the following sponsors of our scholarships: Local 51 executive board; Locals 9, 134 and 702; Utility Dynamics Corp.; Vistra; J.F. Electric; Stephen Kelly, attorney at law; Lowder Govern-

mental Solutions; American Water; L.E. Myers Co.; Champaign Signal & Lighting; and Cornerstone.

Our annual picnic is scheduled for Sept. 23. Please make plans to join us at the hall for a great day.

Karlene Knisley, Bus. Rep.

## Retirement and Transitions

L.U. 71 (lctt,o&rtb), COLUMBUS, OH — Our local would like to congratulate Business Manager Bryan Stage on his recent retirement. Brother Stage served as business manager since 2011 and embodied the principles that Local 71 stands for: brotherhood, family and taking pride in your work. Enjoy your retirement, Brother Stage!

Local 71 elections were held in June, and we would like to congratulate the new officers and board members: Business Manager/Financial Secretary Todd Kessler; President Walter Gribble III; Vice President Dirk Dozer; Recording Secretary Chris Corney; Treasurer Kurt Williams; and board members Matt Bruggeman, Cody Davis, Jake Hostetter, Josh Malone and Mitch McCloskey. Thanks to all members who participated!



Local 71 congratulates Bryan Stage on his retirement!

Also in June, Local 71 visited the NSUJL Rodeo, put on by the National Sisterhood United for Journeymen Linemen. While we didn't have a team in the Saturday competition, members Briten Kessler and Preston Kessler climbed for two linemen who passed away the year before: Assistant Business Manager Jason Doran and Doug (Dougal) White. The Kesslers and many others climbed at dusk on Friday to hang a lantern for lost linemen. Local 71 is a proud sponsor of the NSUJL and has been for many years. We would like to thank Tommy Young, Logan and Amanda VanDyne, Tina Cooper White, and Charity and Addison Ashworth for attending and showing their support.

Remember, plan your work and work your plan — stay safe out there!

Matt Bruggeman, Bus. Rep.

## Local 99's Annual Solidarity Ride

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI — On May 21, our local had a great turnout for its seventh annual Solidarity Ride. Although the weather the night before kept a few of our brothers and sisters from surrounding locals from attending, we still had more than 245 bikes. All the delicious food was donated by Local 2323 and cooked by Brother Josh Brothers. A total of \$35,000 was raised for charities thanks to the support of our members and local restaurants and shops, who donated 72 raffle items.

Local 99 also would like to congratulate our 23 graduates for 2023! The ceremony was held June 3 at the Quonset "O" Club. Nine awards were given at the ceremony, four of which were awarded to Brother John Batalon: perfect attendance, highest grade point average over five years, and top apprentice from Milwaukee Tool and Klein Tools. The remaining awards were: E.W. Audet Award to Christopher Gough; Perfect Attendance to Alec Debarros, Devyn Fontaine and Nikolaus Goff; and Top Gun Award from South Wire to Anthony Tucciarone.

Congratulations, 2023 graduates!

Sidney Jablonski, P.S.

## Busy Times for Local 103

L.U. 103 (cs,i&ptc), BOSTON, MA — The past few months have been busy at our local. Our contractors aggressively bid for and won more than \$100 million for public work against our largest competitors. The projects at the airport, convention center and schools will keep our members working for the foreseeable future.

Local 103 recently held its apprentice graduation, and we congratulate our newest journeymen and technicians as they move forward in their electrical and telecommunications careers. Our first-year apprentice class of more than 280 eager men and women is off to a great start and will be initiated this summer.

Another successful pin night was held in June. Congratulations to the 1,500 members who were honored for their years of service in the IBEW. A special congratulations goes to William Cormay, who received his 80-year pin at the event.

We have been working hard this summer to negotiate new contracts for our largest groups in the inside and telecommunications divisions.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe summer!

Jimmy Flemming, P.S.

## Welcome, Smiley

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t,u&ptc), PORTLAND, OR — Our local is pleased to announce the arrival of Kurk "Smiley" Shriver, who has joined staff as the Bonneville Power Administration business representative. He replaces Dave Rondeau, who has transitioned to construction representative. Brother Rondeau completed his apprenticeship through the Northwest Line JATC and is excited to assume his new duties.

Smiley joined the IBEW in October 1986, and he has worked for a variety of employers. Prior to joining staff, he served as the apprentice lineman coordinator at the BPA. As the Pacific Northwest continues efforts to harden the grid and transition to zero emissions, we know his experience will serve our local well.

We also welcome Traci Holmes back to the office. While many of our members have spoken to Traci and other members of our clerical staff, this is an excellent opportunity to remind everyone how valuable Traci, Nancy Harper, Andrea Fry, Cheryl Arrant and Lihau Perreira are to our local.

Election season has started. If you have an opportunity to promote working people, ask candidates if they support organized labor and the right to collectively bargain and organize. Are they willing to put unions first?

Marcy Grail, A.B.M.



Local 131's softball team won their league and commemorated fallen Brother Mark Sears.

## Apprentices and Softball Team Both Doing Well

L.U. 131 (l,rtb,rts,se&spa), KALAMAZOO, MI — The work outlook is steady in Kalamazoo. Several projects are keeping the book clear. Travelers are working in the jurisdiction.

Local 131's annual picnic was July 29 at River Oaks County Park in Galesburg, Mich. Jon Current, Christine Bohms and Ryan Lewis did a great job organizing the event. Thank you!

The apprenticeship committee has hired Anthony Gaudio, a 23-year member, as the new training director. I am sure Tony will do an excellent job. The committee has also started 30 new apprentices in this year's class. Yes, the apprenticeship is growing.

We recently lost a 23-year member, Mark Sears, to cancer. Mark was a good friend and a mentor to many in the local.

The local's softball team won its league on a night celebrating Mark. Our team this season consisted of Travis Baird, Jason Boyer, Shane Howe, Dalton Hufford, Tyler Klinger, Noah Leinaar, Nick Leitch, Jason Nagy, Todd O'Donnell, Trevor Pryson, Dave Richmond, Mark Sears, Sam Sears, Spencer Sears, Hunter Tanner, Nick Voss and Matt Wood.

Morris Applebey, B.M.

## LOCAL LINES

## Local 141 Congratulates New Journeyman Wiremen

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV — Greetings, brothers and sisters. As of this writing, we have 36 brothers and sisters on Book 1. Calls are picking up at the local, and as you are reading this, we could very well need help from Book 2.

May and June proved to be very busy months for Local 141. First, the local is proud to announce the graduating class of our newest journeyman wiremen. Brothers Derek Borsos, Cole Crow, Kevin Johnson, Jordan Mehlman, Jason Reed, Tyler Robinson and Josh Sabinski have completed the required classroom and on-the-job training and are ready to embark in a fulfilling career as IBEW journeyman wiremen. Congratulations on this huge accomplishment!

Local 141 held its election of officers in June. Results are as follows: business manager, Glenn Giffin; president, Dave Cantrell; vice president, Dan Morris; recording secretary, Joseph Wycherley; treasurer, Kurt Reed. The executive board members are Brothers Wayne Crall, Cody Cumpston, Andrew Ellis, Jake Hileman, Dave Jurovcik, Joseph Sberna Jr. and Dave Squire. The examining board will be overseen by Brothers Bretton Merryman, Thomas Orth and Nickey Renforth.

Local 141 would like to make special thanks to retiring Business Manager Thomas Conner for his many years of service and dedication to our local. Brother Conner not only served three consecutive terms as business manager, but he also served Local 141 as president and recording secretary and as apprenticeship director. We thank him for his dedication to the local.

*Kurt "Bug" Reed, P.S.*



From left, IBEW 141's newest journeyman wiremen: Jordan Mehlman, fifth-year instructor Justin Klempa, Jason Reed, Josh Sabinski, Derek Borsos, Tyler Robinson, Cole Crow and Kevin Johnson.

## Retirees Get Their Due

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — The dinner honoring our retirees has grown exponentially over the last two decades. What was once a small gathering of officers and honorees has blossomed into an event that many members have circled on their calendars, and for good reason. Word has spread among the membership that to skip this dinner is to miss out on one of the best nights in the local. With more than 300 members attending this year's dinner, the numbers certainly support the claim. And, as usual, this year's event did not disappoint.

Members enjoyed cocktails and appetizers while catching up, some having seen each other earlier in the day at work with others having not seen each other for years. As the membership seated themselves for dinner, the local's senior retirees were led through the dining hall, accompanied by bagpipes, and received their certificates of appreciation and service pins.

The remainder of the retirees were honored with much-deserved pins and watches as the membership saluted their service. After a top-notch meal, the local's brothers and sisters either retired to the patio for hand-rolled cigars or stayed inside to mingle and catch up with old friends.

Thanks to all who made it possible, and we will see you next year!

*Brian Jacoppo, P.S.*

## Gateway Grizzlies Game; RENEW Conference

L.U. 309 (i,ictt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — This summer, the Gateway Grizzlies minor league baseball team hosted the local for a game and family celebration. Everyone had a blast, and we look forward to the next one.

Local 309 will be sending a delegation to the RENEW Conference in New Orleans in August. Coming out of the COVID years, we have seen revitalized interest and forward movement within the group. RENEW is demonstrating to the members that a local union can be what you make it. Our leadership has done a fantastic job of increasing participation and creating opportunities that make our membership proud.

The annual golf tournament will be held Sept. 15 at Arlington Greens Golf Course in Granite City, Ill. Attending this event guarantees a great time!

*Carlos S. Perez, A.B.M.*

## It's in the Constitution

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Happy Labor Day, brothers and sisters! It's a day to celebrate and enjoy the benefits of union membership. On Sept. 11, we remember and honor the 2,977 lives lost in 2001. Sept. 17 is Constitution Day, commemorating the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

On Nov. 28, 1891, the IBEW Constitution was signed by 10 members of the newly formed National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Those ten delegates to the first NBEW convention spent seven days and nights crafting the language. That initial document continues to guide today's IBEW in how it operates for the benefit of the membership.

The goals set at the first convention are known as the "Objects" of the IBEW and can be found on page IV of your copy of the IBEW Constitution. The Objects are just as important today as when they were written 132 years ago. Make time to read them. Need a copy? Ask your steward, call your rep, stop by the hall, attend a union meeting.

On July 4, we remembered and celebrated the signing of the Declaration of Independence by our founding fathers in 1776. On July 10, we remembered Henry Miller's death in 1896 and the work he did as founder of the IBEW. Miller was elected the first "grand president" at the first convention of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1891. After serving as president and then grand organizer, he returned to the tools working as a "float." He traveled the country, following the line work and organizing along the way.

Miller's last job was in Washington, D.C., for Potomac Electric Light and Power Co. Attempting to repair a storm-damaged line in nearly total darkness, with scant illumination from a kerosene lantern, he came into contact with a 2,200-volt conductor. The shock knocked him from the pole, striking his tool partner as he fell. Miller landed on his head and died the next morning. He was about 40 years old. Local 26 donated to his burial; Potomac Electric paid funeral expenses. In 1941, the IBEW placed a memorial at Henry Miller's grave. In 2021, the IBEW,

NECA and others urged Congress to declare July 10 National Lineworkers' Appreciation Day.

Save American jobs, buy "Made In USA."

*Tom Small, P.S.*

## Happy Labor Day

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA — Our local wishes all who labor a great Labor Day. May the fruits of your work be greater than the beans on your table.

We want to acknowledge that the brothers and sisters of RENEW have taken on the task of refurbishing the local's parade float. Plan on attending the parade and seeing the finished product. Now that COVID-19 is essentially over, this year has the potential of being the biggest year ever for Labor-Fest. Come join the fun!

Congratulations to Pat Wells, our most recent business manager, on his new position for the International Office, representing the Eleventh District in the Government Affairs Department. The local has seen a lot of progress in Pat's tenure. We thank him for the time he gave to the day-in and day-out operations and maintenance of our local. During Pat's leadership, Local 347 was able to put down a new landmark in Ankeny.

The new local union hall is as attractive as it is effective. It seems to also have garnered new interest in attending meetings, as attendance has improved. Thanks, Pat.

We also want to congratulate Dave Reid, who is stepping up to the position of business manager. We believe the local's confidence in him is well placed and well deserved. May you and the local prosper in the years to come.

Work in Local 347 is bountiful, and there are standing calls.

"Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital and deserves much higher consideration." — Abraham Lincoln

*Mike Schweiger, P.S.*

## Local 357 Brothers Receive IBEW Life Saving Award, Recognition

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV — We want to thank Brother Michael E. Decilla, who received the IBEW Life Saving Award, and Brother Ryan S. Milliken, who received the IBEW Life Saving Certificate of Recognition.

These brothers were instrumental in saving the life of Brother Brian Zannone, who had fallen and was unresponsive while working at the Las Vegas Convention Center in February 2023.

Upon seeing Brother Zannone fall, Brother Decilla called 911 and began chest compressions and CPR. Once security arrived, more than five minutes later, a security officer took over the CPR. Brother Milliken helped by counting out loud for the security officer.

Several minutes later, the LVCC medical team arrived with an AED. The AED revived Brother Zannone, who was transported to the hospital and

subsequently had open-heart surgery.

If it weren't for the quick response by Mike Decilla and Ryan Milliken, Brother Zannone could have suffered brain trauma from lack of oxygen or, more likely, would not be here today.

Julie-Ann Peeples, press secretary, thanks Bill Spielberg, Local 357 business agent, for help in writing this article.

*Julie-Ann Peeples, P.S.*



Brother Michael E. Decilla, left, of Local 357 received the IBEW Life Saving Award, and Brother Ryan S. Milliken received the IBEW Life Saving Certificate of Recognition.

## Congratulations to the New JWs

L.U. 405 (em,i,rtb&spa), CEDAR RAPIDS, IA — Our local turned out another great class of journeyman wiremen this spring. We would especially like to recognize our first-ever female outstanding apprentice award recipient, Sister Miranda Lewis. Congratulations to all on your hard work as we look forward to your successful careers in the IBEW!

*Jon Fasselius, R.S.*

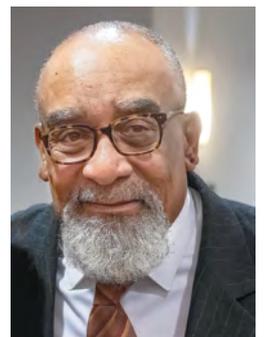
## Thanks, Henry Burks

L.U. 481 (c,ees,i,mt,ptc,rts,s,spa&ws), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — In June, our local held its election. Congratulations to Business Manager Jeff Wheeler for winning reelection, and congratulations to all the newly elected officers and board members. Involvement and representation in our local union is very important. Thank you to everyone who threw their hat in the ring to run for positions.

A special thank you goes out to retiring member Henry Arthur Burks, who for 17 years has been an executive board member of Local 481. Henry has served in several roles throughout his career, always looking for ways to give back and help promote the IBEW. From volunteering at parades to door-knocking to being a jobsite steward, executive board member and agent, Henry always puts Local 481 and his brothers and sisters first in everything he does.

Henry is also the founding member of the Local 481 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus chapter. He has always been a voice for those who needed it most. Our local is in a better place because of his exemplary dedication. We cannot thank him enough for all he has done for Local 481 over his 30 years as a member. Enjoy your retirement, Henry. You have certainly earned it!

*Blake A. Andrews, Treas.*



Local 481 wishes Brother Henry Burks a happy and healthy retirement.



Former Local 483 Business Manager Alice Phillips swears in new Business Manager Byron L. Allen.

### New Business Manger Byron Allen

L.U. 483 (catv,lctt,o&u), TACOMA, WA — On June 2, longtime Business Manager Alice Phillips retired. Sister Phillips started with the IBEW on July 1, 1988. In January 2005, she was appointed business manager and held the position for 18 years, making her one of the longest-serving business managers in the Ninth District.

Alice appointed longtime Assistant Business Manager Byron Allen to fulfill the remainder of her term. Byron is a journeyman lineman and has been active in the electrical industry for more than 44 years. Throughout his career, he has undertaken many types of work and responsibilities in the IBEW.

He has been the assistant business manager for Local 483 since 2008, so he not only has vast knowledge but also a strong desire to continue to represent the members of Local 483 and the IBEW. His extraordinary knowledge and experience make him the ideal person for this position, and Local 483 is lucky to have him! We are confident that he will fulfill the duties of our new business manager/financial secretary in an outstanding manner.

Rose Mitchell, A.B.M.

### Another Great Day for Brotherhood

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — Local 601's RENEW Committee held its third annual fishing tournament at Clinton Lake in late May. We thank all those who came out, including a team from Local 176 in Joliet, Ill. Winners of the tournament were Jacob Terven and Cole Halberstadt from Local 601, who also won our first fishing tournament two years ago. We congratulate them both for etching their names on the traveling trophy once again. We hope to have an even better turnout next year.

Stay union strong.

Luther Baker, P.S.



Brothers assemble before making their way down to the boat ramp for Local 601's fishing tournament in May.

### Local 611 Elections and Softball Tournament

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — This year's local election was held June 1, with the runoff June 22, and the winners are as follows: Patrick E. Cota (president), Santos Griego (vice president), Jason "Hippie" Bowers (recording secretary), Jerome L. Garcia (treasurer) and Alfonso "Fonze" Martinez Jr. (business manager). The executive board members are as follows: Rick Chavez, Kenny Ortiz, Eduardo "Eddy" Roman, Jedidiah "JD" Tratechoud, Julio D. Vigil and Levi Wilson. The examining board members are Justin Archibeque, Matt Baca, Cale Cecil, Adam Goetz and Randy Hill. Congratulations to the winners.

This year's softball tournament was held at the beginning of June, with more than 75 teams. A shout-out goes to Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47, who flew out to support and participate in this year's tournament. Over \$8,000 was raised for Cuidando Los Niños. Great job, Randy Cummings.

On behalf of the local, I would like to send condolences to the family and friends of Albert Cardoza, Robert Eavenson, Simon Jaramillo, Alex Lovato, Charles Morris, Charles E. Nelson, Brandal Padilla, Jenaro "Jr" Pedroncelli, Jimmy Rylee Jr., Trifin Sergieff Sr., Chris Stoltenberg, John R. Taylor and Stephen J. Tucker.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



Local 611's Alfonso "Fonze" Martinez Jr. is sworn in as business manager by former Local 611 President Richard "Buffalo" Sandoval.

### Local 659 Welcomes Nick Carpenter as Business Manager

L.U. 659 (c,catv,em,i,lctt,o,st,t&u), MEDFORD, OR — Congratulations, Nick Carpenter, on your election as the new business manager of our local. As we enter this new chapter at Local 659, the membership anticipates positive changes.

Nick fosters an inclusive and collaborative environment, where every member's voice is heard, respected and valued. With unity, determination and solidarity, we can overcome challenges and achieve remarkable accomplishments.

We are confident that under Nick's leadership, Local 659 will continue to be a strong and influential force, ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions and improved benefits for our members.

As we welcome Nick into this esteemed role, we also express our gratitude to his predecessor, Jon Flegel, for his tireless efforts, commitment and leadership.

After 31 years of service to our local, our office manager, Katherine "Kathy" McUne, has retired. We express our gratitude for the guidance that Kathy has given to the membership and our office staff.

We welcome Nicole Milam to her new role as office manager. Nicole has worked in the office for 15 years and is excited about her role in moving our local forward.

James Davidson, A.B.M.



From left, Local 1347's Nate Taylor, Heath Powell and Ed Mandzukic.

### Bright Futures Ahead

L.U. 683 (i&ptc), COLUMBUS, OH — With the ongoing boom of construction in central Ohio, this year's graduating apprentices appear to have busy and bright futures. The apprenticeship banquet was held May 12 and was very well attended by the new journeyman inside wiremen and journeyman installer technicians.

Highest GPA honors went to Talon Hodgeson (installer technician) and Ray Bandy (inside wireman). Jacob Rettstatt was honored with the Jim Dew Leadership Award, and Samuel Ramirez received the Dick Roberts Leadership Award. Congratulations to all of the new journeymen in this year's class, and thank you for your investment of time and the sacrifices made by those closest to you throughout the apprenticeship.

The work outlook continues to be outstanding in our jurisdiction. Calls have continued going out on Book 2 and should continue for the immediate future, with data centers, hospitals and solar farms driving the calls. The announcement of new projects coming to the area has not slowed down, and we will continue to need the help of our traveling brothers and sisters to meet needs.

Have a great Labor Day!

Mike Morey, Pres.

### Building a Better Relationship

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,u&ptc), CINCINNATI, OH — One year into our second CBA with NAES, our relationship has greatly improved, and it's become among the best places to work in our jurisdiction. We met

with the company recently about creating a new union job classification.

There's nothing better than having a good working relationship; it makes the work process very enjoyable. We keep working together and overcoming challenges in the electric generation industry. I appreciate Steward Nate Taylor for stepping up and working with plant management Ed Mandzukic and Heath Powell.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

### Local 1547 Elects Leadership

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t,u,lctt&ptc), ANCHORAGE, AK — Interim Business Manager Doug Tansy was elected to a three-year term as business manager/financial secretary of our local. Brother Tansy said: "I am beyond humbled to be elected by the membership to serve as business manager. I am committed to doing my best to represent all members. This organization has changed my life, and I aim to continue to convey to young people the importance and need for skilled craftspeople to pursue careers in any of the fields we represent, plus the fair pay, benefits and retirement the IBEW offers."

He continued: "It is a privilege to lead this organization at a time when once-in-a-generation infrastructure investment is coming to Alaska. It will be skilled IBEW workers that will modernize our electrical grid; upgrade energy transmission along the Railbelt; install new and renewable methods of power generation; build out broadband; support transportation and pipeline projects, as well as ports and clean drinking water systems; and build out the electric vehicle charging network."

Tansy is the first Alaska native to be elected as business manager of a labor union in Alaska. Doug is half Athabaskan and half Tlingit and is a shareholder of Ahnta Inc. and Sealaska Corp.

Other members who were elected or reelected to three-year terms are: Cecil Colley (president), Cache Carr (vice president), Laura Bonner (secretary), Spencer Ruhl (treasurer), as well as executive board members Tim Estesen (Unit 102), Tucker Harper (Unit 103), Hans Hubbard (Unit 104) and Eric Runyan (Unit 101), and examining board members James Cheatham (at-large), Von Danskin (Unit 104), Melissa Lee (Unit 101) and Alycia Rahlfs (Unit 102).

Melinda Taylor, Comm. Dir.



Local 683 welcomes its new inside apprentice graduates!

LOCAL LINES

### Passing the Torch

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — Our local would like to congratulate J.R. Richardson, newly appointed as business manager/financial secretary, and G. William Salters, our former business manager and newly appointed Fifth District international representative for government affairs. We are extremely proud of both of you and wish you good luck with your new positions.

We would also like to congratulate our 2023 apprenticeship graduating class. We thank all 44 of you for sticking it out through thick and thin. As Michael Phelps noted, "If you want to be the best, you have to do things other people aren't willing to do."

Our work situation is still bright even with layoffs at Plant Vogtle. The prime contractors at SRS are hiring and picking up a lot of the slack, and the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility project will be ramping up soon. Our in-town contractors are holding their own.

We will continue to offer continuing education for our members. These classes include CPR, rigging, OSHA 10 and 30, electric vehicle charger training and steward training.

Until next time, stay safe!

Mike Greene, Pres.



From left, Local 1579's new Business Manager J.R. Richardson and new International Representative G. William Salters.

## RETIREEES

### New Local 1 Retirees' Club President

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — This year at our opening meeting, we thanked Retirees' Club President Larry Bausola for his years of dedicated service and greeted Matt Lampe as the new president.

This year we have had the honor of welcoming guest speakers such as Jake Hummel, president of the Missouri AFL-CIO and Local 1 member, to discuss current and upcoming legislation of our concern. Pat White, president of the St. Louis Labor Council, also gave a report at a meeting on proposed construction projects in the region and the scope of future work.

Business Manager Frank Jacobs applauded the large attendance at our meetings, and we welcome new members each time. Our annual golf tournament and yearly dinner scheduling is underway.

We are saddened by the passing of our dear brother and friend, Neal McCormack, who served as our press secretary. Jim Schario has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Jim Schario, P.S.

please contact us at [RetireesClubIBEW11@gmail.com](mailto:RetireesClubIBEW11@gmail.com). Please RSVP on or before Dec. 4.

Robert Corona, Comm. Dir.

### Local Happenings

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Greetings, brothers and sisters! It's time for a few updates.

The annual crappie tournament/fish fry went well. Everyone had a good time, and the fishing was good. We had plenty of fish and other good things to eat at the fish fry. The winners of the tournament are: Dillon Myer and Ryan Burks in first place; Jeff and Jordan Langford, second place; Trevor Warlen and Zachary, third place; Anna and A.J. Jobe, fourth place; and Garret Sage and Luke Bailey, fifth place.

But everyone there was a winner! There were 36 boats this year, a great turnout. Mark your calendar: Next year's event will be April 27, 2024.

On a sad note, we lost two members in May, Charlie Johnson and Roy Allen "Snuffy" Smith. Although Roy Allen was a member of Local 1464, Local 53 was his home local. May they rest in peace, and may the good Lord take them home.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

### Retirees Appreciation Day

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — On May 20, our Retirees' Club was recognized for their part in building a strong and successful local with a Retirees Appreciation Day. An assortment of appetizers were laid out for all to enjoy, and a delicious steak luncheon was served. Bingo was the perfect ending and had some awesome prizes. The retirees would like to thank all those involved for their special day and the great respect shown toward the retirees that day and every day.

Although the Retirees' Club was on summer break, members celebrated their local's 130th anniversary on July 22. If my calculations are correct, Local 60 was established July 22, 1893.

Monthly meetings will resume Sept. 14, starting at 11:30 a.m. at the hall (3518 N. Loop 1604 E). A barbecue luncheon of brisket, sausages, potato salad and beans plus all the trimmings will be served before a short business meeting. Members are asked to furnish dessert. Membership for the club is open to any retired member, spouse or widow/widower.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.



From left, Local 11's Retirees' Club Presidents Al Etherton (2016 to present), Al Ortiz (2016) and Butch Bachand (2013-2016).

### Retirees' Luncheon

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA — We had more than 50 people at this year's Local 11 retirees' summer luncheon. The past and current presidents of the Retirees' Club can be seen in the accompanying photo taken at the luncheon. We are looking for donations to add to our Local 11 museum, so if you have anything you would like to donate, send us an email so we can pass the information on to the business manager's office.

Our upcoming Local 11 Retirees' Club annual Christmas and holiday luncheon will be held at Clearman's North Woods Inn in San Gabriel, Calif., Dec. 13, and check-in time for the event is 11:30 a.m. If you would like to join us or receive an invitation flyer or other information about the luncheon,



Local 60's awesome cooks, who helped prepare lunch for Retirees Appreciation Day in May.

**NEW & IMPROVED**

**THE IBEW'S 2023 PHOTO CONTEST**

## NEW FOR 2023

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE: \$1,000**

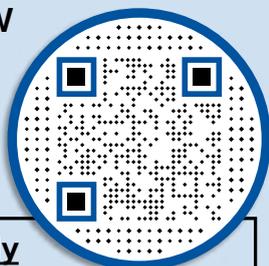
**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE: \$750**

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE: \$500**

**HONORABLE \$200 for EACH MENTIONS: BRANCH of the IBEW**



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**Deadline: Nov. 1**



From left (back row) Local 134 members Thomas Payton (70 years); Business Manager Donald Finn; Arthur Studenroth (60 years); Michael Carr, Joseph Drelicharz, Thomas Schaub and Michael Hickey (55 years); (front row) Edward Polaski (70 years); Ronald Sowizol and William Dimoff (65 years); Gerald Behan (50 years); Thomas Felsenthal Sr. (75 years); Anton Schnauffer (70 years); Frank Stenson, Ron Lewis and Michael Davis (55 years).

## Local 134 Celebrates Years of Service

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Soon it will be autumn, but climate change all over the world is messing with Mother Nature. The Chicago area saw little rain last spring, which is our rainiest season. By the end of June, we were in drought conditions. I'm hoping that fall and winter will cool us off.

At our June 14 luncheon, it was once again time to honor our members for their 50 to 75 years of service. The recipients were Gerald Behan, Ronald Finley, Paul Irving, Charles Kipp, Angel Kustief, Matthew Marich, Gerald Miller, Russell Ponder, Richard Ryba, Robert Schuenemann, Rush Syse and Eugene Walker (50 years); Michael Carr, David Chapman, Louis Dato, Michael Davis, Joseph Drelicharz, Michael Hickey, Joseph Ippolito, Richard Johnson, Ronald Jones, Ronald Lewis, Charles Malchiodi, Michael Nugent, Gerald O'Malley, Gregory Post, Thomas Schwab, Elmer Steinbeck and Frank Stenson (55 years); Robert Fee, Kenneth Gallagher, Frank Hauser, Gerald Krzywdzinski, Lawrence Kulik, Anthony Manisco, Raymond O'Donnell, Robert Schwab, Norman Sheehan, Arthur Studenroth and Paul Wiora (60 years); Joseph Angelo, William Dimoff, Thomas Gullfroyle, John Krueger and Ronald Sowizol (65 years); Sheldon Lerman, Thomas Payton, Edward Polaski, Anton Schnauffer and Thomas Sinclair (70 years); and Thomas Felsenthal Sr. (75 years).

Thanks to Local 134 Business Manager Donald Finn, who handed out pins and handshakes to congratulate all our 2023 honorees, and also for all he does for our Retirees' Club.

Susan Kleczka, P.S.

## Local 257 Retirees' News

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Retirees participated as expert judges for Skills USA hosted by State Technical College of Missouri on March 30-31. Winners will attend the national Skills USA competition in Atlanta later this year.

Luncheon meetings were held in April, May and June. At the June meeting, Bill Lang shared his experience building the KOMU-TV tower (794 feet) in 1953; the tower is to be replaced this year for new technology. His interview with KOMU aired July 13.

On June 30, a group of retirees attended "Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" at the Maples Repertory Theatre in Macon, Mo. (See photo, right.)

Legislation that would overhaul the initiative petition process and make it more difficult did not pass this year, but it is expected to return next year. Missouri citizens have used the initiative petition process to oppose right-to-work. If approved by legislation, changes to the process could be placed on the November 2024 ballot or be addressed in a special election.

We send condolences to the family of Charley F. Farris, age 78, of Eugene, Ore., who died March 30. He served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967, mostly in Germany. He was a proud member of Local 257. During his time, he held a term as president and almost single-handedly wired most projects he was on.

We also send condolences to the family of Delores Melloway, who passed on June 4 at the age of 84. She is preceded in death by her husband, Danny, a Local 257 member and retired 11th District international representative. She is survived by her son, David. Delores worked for 38 years at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Delores lived a life filled with cherished memories and supported and promoted Local 257.

Connie Hamacher, P.S.

to the club and for a job well done, and we look forward to seeing you both at future meetings.

Frank Auer was nominated for president along with his wife, Brenda, as recording secretary. Both were voted on and accepted for these offices.

The club discussed and voted on two summer field trips for July and September. The July field trip was a 90-minute cruise aboard Jungle Queen Riverboats to a private island for dinner and entertainment. The September field trip is to Lion Country Safari, Florida's only drive-through safari, with 1,000 animals roaming free. Thank you again to our entertainment chair, Candy Nelson, for the time she spent planning and making the field trip arrangements.

Please feel free to join us for lunch and plenty of laughs on the second Thursday at noon of each month at the Local 349 hall (1657 NW 17th Avenue, Miami). We continue to thank all of our members who provide our entrees, sides and desserts.

Brenda Auer, P.S.



Big fun was had by members of the Local 257 Retirees' Club at "Big River" at Maples Repertory Theatre in Macon, Mo.

## Join Us, and Bring a Friend

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — Hello to everyone, and we hope you are all doing well. We are still having meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. and encourage more members to come.

With sadness, so far this year we have had three members pass. We send our condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Brothers Alfred W. Bailie, Don L. Helm and George C. Hopper.

We would like to also invite any retired and unemployed brothers and sisters and their spouses in the area to come and join us. Our meetings are held at the Local 756 hall in Port Orange, Fla.

Diane Gibbs, P.S.

## Local 317 Honors Retirees' Service

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 317, HUNTINGTON, WV — Our club held its monthly luncheon June 6, where we honored years of service for our members. Brothers Thomas Gore, Douglas Plybon, Paul Roush and Butch Wells each received a pin for 60 years of service to the IBEW. Brothers Jennings Copley and Steve May received their 50-year pins. (See below photo.) Congratulations to all!

Jerry Booth, Pres.

## Summer Meetings and Field Trips

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 349, MIAMI, FL — Our members continue to meet throughout the summer even though we had to cancel one meeting due to heavy rains and flooding.

Our beloved president and recording secretary announced their resignations at the May meeting. President Doyle Rutland and his lovely wife, Joanne, have served Local 349's Retirees' Club for many years. We thank you both for your dedication



Wallace Blanchard (left) is congratulated by Local 756 Retirees' Club President John Barrington (right) on his recent retirement.



From left, Douglas Plybon, Thomas Gore, Paul Roush, Butch Wells (60 years of IBEW service), Steve May, Jennings Copley (50 years) and Local 317 Retirees' Club President Jerry Booth at a recent club meeting.

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# In Memoriam

Local Surname	Date of Death	Local Surname	Date of Death	Local Surname	Date of Death	Local Surname	Date of Death	Local Surname	Date of Death	Local Surname	Date of Death						
1	Graham, J. W.	2/17/23	41	Zeis, F. J.	8/14/22	115	Tetreault, P.	5/17/23	292	Butler, G. E.	2/26/23	505	Adams, R. R.	6/21/23	948	Lindley, J. R.	8/23/22
1	Krutzman, N. E.	12/28/22	42	Fraser, J. D.	3/7/23	120	Taylor, D. D.	5/11/23	292	Schaefer, R. L.	4/28/23	520	Chaney, R. B.	12/25/22	952	Dawes, L. P.	5/14/23
2	Whitebread, C. F.	1/1/23	42	Shane, J. D.	5/4/23	124	Allison, E. J.	2/2/23	301	Odum, O. R.	4/15/23	540	Snyder, G. W.	5/23/23	952	Moriwaki, N.	11/4/22
3	Anglero, E.	4/4/23	43	Pafumi, F. S.	6/8/23	124	Brancato, F. J.	2/10/23	302	Morales, J. A.	9/12/22	551	Simonson, G. W.	3/16/23	953	Bachler, D. A.	6/12/23
3	Bloomer, S. G.	11/5/22	46	Bange, P. L.	5/1/23	124	Oconnell, J. P.	4/8/23	303	Angle, W. R.	4/9/23	557	Kinsella, D. A.	3/4/23	972	Miracle, J. R.	3/10/23
3	Brown, O.	5/3/23	46	Costello, E. K.	12/5/22	124	Thorp, T.	1/17/23	306	Gurski, S. J.	6/10/23	558	Gerbige, H. G.	5/9/23	995	Arnone, V. J.	11/11/22
3	Byfield, E. C.	11/7/22	46	Fuller, B. C.	11/29/22	125	Martin, R. J.	12/2/20	309	Diepholz, V. W.	1/28/23	558	Graves, W. M.	7/4/23	995	Ott, D. A.	4/17/23
3	Cabano, R. L.	2/7/23	46	Hembroff, L. W.	3/2/23	125	O'Meara, M. D.	5/24/23	309	Kassaros, D. S.	4/18/23	567	Belanger, N. J.	4/21/23	1002	Due, B. R.	12/31/22
3	Cohen, M. S.	1/25/23	46	Lehman, A. G.	12/26/22	126	Pallo, G. J.	11/9/22	309	Keeney, T. G.	11/5/22	567	Goudreau, B. A.	5/25/23	1002	Walker, M. A.	6/8/23
3	DeGeorge, R. N.	4/19/23	48	Benthin, J. D.	2/11/23	130	Barbier, N. J.	1/31/23	309	Klaus, V. W.	10/23/22	568	Villeneuve, J.	2/6/23	1106	Morgenstern, D.	12/14/22
3	Ginocchio, R. R.	2/15/23	48	Bess, B. G.	10/27/22	130	Berthelot, E. J.	12/17/22	309	Richter, T. C.	2/25/23	569	Morrison, C. C.	12/20/22	1141	Counts, T. D.	12/15/22
3	Hansen, S. A.	4/10/23	48	Gentry, G. C.	7/30/22	130	Chestnut, T. M.	11/18/22	312	Donahue, J. E.	10/30/22	570	Padilla, M. E.	3/3/23	1186	Watanabe, T. Y.	5/2/23
3	Hochman, E. S.	4/23/23	48	Melnick, A.	2/23/23	130	Wright, S. M.	1/29/23	317	Keener, R. L.	6/14/23	576	Williams, K. R.	2/21/23	1205	Havelock, J.	7/7/23
3	Jamieson, G. A.	1/23/23	48	Mofford, K. E.	5/5/23	134	Boudart, R. C.	2/21/23	317	Spry, W. G.	6/6/23	586	Leonard, A. C.	12/17/22	1220	Janney, R. L.	11/14/22
3	Kabat, F. J.	1/10/23	48	Webb, G. F.	10/23/22	134	Castaldo, D. J.	3/20/23	322	Beitel, W. L.	4/20/23	595	Clark, R. G.	6/2/21	1245	Harper, R. S.	2/20/23
3	Klatch, W. R.	3/14/23	51	Dooley, J. P.	5/6/23	134	Hangleitner, R. D.	1/22/23	322	Gangl, G. E.	1/24/23	595	Schroeder, B.	4/8/23	1250	Nelson, L. J.	11/25/22
3	Liquari, R. J.	3/11/23	51	Hicklin, G. M.	3/24/23	134	Kingston, J. P.	5/5/23	332	Bisson, C. L.	2/18/23	595	Schwoerer, M. J.	3/30/23	1253	Coady, T. F.	3/30/23
3	Lubbers, J.	3/19/23	56	Corbin, J. B.	1/22/23	134	Kintz, J.	5/20/23	332	Guida, L. P.	2/9/23	602	Gregory, J. L.	1/14/23	1289	Patterson, L. R.	4/9/23
3	Mainberger, W. E.	1/27/23	58	Barnes, R. A.	2/19/23	134	Kosey, R. J.	4/4/23	332	Thompson, A. C.	3/10/23	606	Light, D. A.	8/17/22	1340	Watterton, R. W.	4/1/23
3	Muhammad, A. M.	11/24/22	58	Conflitti, R. D.	5/17/23	134	Mansfield, W. G.	4/14/23	332	Vandenbogaardt, J.	5/1/23	606	Liotti, J. S.	5/15/23	1393	Irwin, A. W.	5/10/23
3	Napoli, D.	5/23/21	58	Gaut, P. A.	3/1/23	134	Mastyj, P.	5/19/23	340	Burnett, T. G.	3/3/23	611	Eavenson, R. C.	5/17/23	1426	Bourcy, A. E.	6/2/23
3	Pennacchia, D. J.	2/14/23	58	Gray, H.	12/20/21	134	Mitchell, R. G.	10/3/22	340	Cota, R. A.	10/15/22	611	Lovato, A.	5/10/23	1547	Gray, J. R.	12/31/22
3	Piper, G. K.	6/8/23	58	Hall, M. G.	11/18/22	134	Nardella, J. R.	5/6/23	340	Gann, R. F.	12/12/22	611	Nelson, C. E.	5/10/23	1547	Iverson, J. A.	4/16/23
3	Ryan, R. E.	5/18/23	58	Lavallee, A.	12/31/22	134	Nicholas, C. R.	2/13/23	342	Overby, K. D.	2/24/23	611	Stoltenberg, C. M.	4/2/23	1547	Lucas, M. J.	1/15/23
3	Stansky, W. D.	5/3/23	58	Puckett, R. L.	4/18/23	134	Omara, T. M.	3/31/23	343	Sturm, V. B.	11/29/22	613	Akins, J. M.	9/19/22	1579	Denton, C. L.	6/15/23
3	Swinburne, J. F.	3/2/23	58	Rose, M. C.	11/11/22	134	Polak, E.	5/2/23	347	Goben, A.	5/8/23	613	Carroll, J. M.	8/17/22	1701	Hallstrom, R. J.	2/10/23
3	Switzer, R. J.	11/16/22	60	Denson, C. R.	5/6/23	134	Richards, R. R.	3/29/23	347	Jelsma, T. W.	3/6/23	613	Jackson, N. E.	6/16/22	1710	Chavarria, H. E.	11/22/22
3	Tudisco, E.	1/5/23	60	Elsworth, E. R.	12/6/22	134	Sessa, E.	4/14/23	347	Scott, I. D.	5/4/23	613	Okelley, C. A.	6/7/23	1852	MacPhee, G. W.	11/20/22
3	Van Lenten, B. D.	11/23/22	60	Valdez, D.	1/27/23	134	Steg, R. A.	10/14/22	349	Cruz, D. R.	2/7/23	613	Stretch, F.	5/6/23	1852	Roland, H. C.	4/22/23
5	Kallis, R. G.	3/30/23	66	Burns, F. G.	5/24/22	134	Stroh, J. C.	3/6/23	349	Gracy, S. C.	4/17/23	617	Bingley, J. J.	1/31/23	1920	Miller, L. M.	11/25/22
5	Maley, R. G.	2/2/22	68	Acton, R. D.	4/21/23	134	Swanson, E. J.	6/5/23	349	Yarosz, T.	12/12/22	617	Corey, D. F.	3/20/23	2085	Ducharme, B. J.	4/27/23
5	Rittberg, R. E.	10/19/22	68	Archer, E. R.	3/24/23	134	Timmins, J. V.	2/18/23	353	Boz, W.	2/6/23	625	Comeau, E. J.	4/9/23	2085	Vagasi, A.	9/28/22
6	Desmond, J. G.	5/23/22	68	Beougher, T. S.	12/20/22	134	Vogel, J. W.	5/18/23	353	Jappinen, A.	4/29/23	640	Blankenship, M. J.	3/20/23	2166	Manderson, R. M.	5/20/23
6	O'Brien, J.	11/29/22	68	Connell, J. A.	1/6/23	134	Weiss, R. J.	1/25/23	353	Murphy, B. D.	3/16/22	640	Kaminsky, J. B.	2/4/23	2286	Blum, P. C.	11/7/22
6	Prisk, R. C.	3/29/23	68	Jackson, J. M.	12/4/22	136	Horn, C. E.	2/5/23	353	Paul, D. C.	2/16/23	640	Scott, B.	2/5/23	2286	Gonzales, R.	3/27/23
6	Selover, J.	3/22/23	68	Owen, W. R.	12/27/22	136	Jenkins, M. J.	12/5/22	353	Pearce, W. J.	5/19/23	640	Wolfe, R. E.	5/3/23	2286	Lilly, J. W.	2/27/23
6	Umland, R. R.	2/13/23	68	Vacilek, J. M.	5/7/23	136	Palmer, D. K.	5/8/23	353	Suljic, M.	5/13/23	659	Dalton, P. M.	4/14/23	2295	Anderson, K. A.	3/5/23
6	Woods, J. R.	3/4/22	71	Righman, M. W.	10/16/22	136	Pennington, W. D.	12/22/22	353	Takac, K.	5/22/23	666	Akin, S. M.	5/24/23	I.O. (3)	Amendola, A.	12/5/22
8	Barker, H. W.	3/28/23	76	Christenson, S. M.	2/28/23	136	Stoudenmire, S. H.	2/12/23	354	Strebel, J. A.	6/26/23	666	Taylor, B. C.	4/27/23	I.O. (134)	Glass, W. H.	5/6/23
8	Beaty, J. E.	5/22/23	76	Salstrom, J. R.	4/3/23	141	Hammond, P. L.	4/9/23	357	Rodriguez, D.	12/28/22	668	Nigh, T. A.	4/30/23	I.O. (134)	Platt, T. E.	10/13/22
11	Cornelius, R. L.	3/22/23	77	Chandler, A. L.	2/13/23	143	Kyle, G. E.	4/27/23	357	Yauger, J. A.	5/3/23	683	Sites, L. D.	5/29/23	I.O. (134)	Ryzner, R. A.	11/27/22
11	Goddard, M. A.	5/2/23	77	Smeltz, R. L.	2/4/23	146	Anderson, L. A.	4/29/23	360	August, J.	4/2/23	688	Fulton, C. R.	5/15/23	I.O. (185)	Sutherland, K. J.	3/29/23
11	Lee, G. S.	3/28/23	77	Tawney, E. A.	4/26/23	146	Echler, W. B.	6/8/23	363	Keller, R. F.	12/21/22	692	Goss, L. W.	12/9/22	I.O. (441)	Ryerson, E. A.	4/29/23
11	Litalien, B.	2/10/23	77	Vasilescu, C.	3/20/23	146	Littrell, M. T.	6/15/23	363	Ray, W. E.	11/9/22	692	Hollenback, T. L.	1/10/23	I.O. (495)	Ramsey, D.	2/21/23
11	Masek, T. O.	5/3/23	80	Bagley, J. W.	11/22/22	150	Ferguson, K. A.	4/28/23	363	Sicheri, W. A.	12/10/22	697	Mysliwicz, B. P.	1/4/23	I.O. (532)	Zier, R. D.	4/12/23
11	Nester, J. D.	11/12/22	84	McCart, D.	6/17/22	153	Enders, L. G.	6/16/23	363	Sloat, B. D.	11/5/22	700	Cotton, W. G.	4/2/23	I.O. (625)	Williams, G. W.	4/28/23
11	Peterson, H. R.	7/26/21	86	Beal, B. H.	5/9/23	159	Byrne, R.	11/17/22	369	Devine, K. L.	4/20/23	701	Krause, S. R.	4/26/23	I.O. (773)	Maarhuis, P.	12/8/22
11	Ray, R. L.	11/10/22	89	Slusser, R. D.	2/5/23	160	Young, L. C.	1/18/23	369	Nichols, T. L.	12/24/22	702	Curby, C. L.	2/7/23	I.O. (1205)	Stearns, C. T.	5/15/23
11	Shanahan, M. J.	9/7/22	90	Opozda, R. J.	1/1/23	164	Stanaback, R. D.	1/2/23	375	Spaulding, J. W.	12/19/22	702	Gravil, J. F.	6/3/23	I.O. (1377)	Hildebrand, E. A.	3/2/23
11	White, G. M.	12/7/21	98	Heiser, H.	5/20/23	175	Brown, L. J.	1/3/23	388	Ritter, D. T.	12/19/22	712	Pross, R. T.	10/17/22	I.O. (1377)	Loyer, R. A.	4/28/23
11	York, T. R.	6/19/23	98	Landeck, C. F.	2/16/23	175	Ford, M.	12/21/22	400	Spiegel, J. J.	4/19/23	716	Bryant, L. J.	5/6/23	Pens. (I.O)	Bukowski, T. J.	1/22/23
14	Willmarth, L. C.	4/10/23	99	Hoppe, J. P.	1/13/22	176	Ferguson, J. S.	6/23/23	402	Noll, R. F.	2/10/23	716	Dierks, C. A.	4/30/23	Pens. (I.O.)	Dickens, C.	10/28/20
17	Gates, C. R.	11/23/22	99	Precourt, J. E.	5/6/23	176	Norrick, R. E.	10/18/22	413	Kardacz, K.	3/24/23	716	Jones, H. L.	2/15/23	Pens. (I.O)	Dryden, E. L.	11/14/22
18	Adams, E.	11/5/22	100	Singleton, P. V.	2/21/23	194	Crawford, R. G.	5/3/23	413	McConnehey, J.	6/13/23	716	Kiesewetter, E. L.	4/3/23	Pens. (I.O)	Edwards, J. H.	5/12/23
18	Clermont, D. A.	4/27/23	102	Callahan, S. W.	4/8/23	210	Jones, L. L.	5/9/23	424	Stepanko, B. F.	5/30/23	721	Armstrong, J. D.	4/19/23	Pens. (I.O)	Fesler, R. W.	2/27/22
20	Davis, R. L.	2/17/23	102	Deem, E. G.	1/3/23	212	Dickman, C. B.	2/16/23	428	Gonzalez, J. R.	6/29/22	728	Dipol, E.	3/4/23	Pens. (I.O)	Goering, J. M.	5/10/23
20	Jones, J. C.	4/5/23	102	Holleran, T.	2/16/23	212	Jansen, G. K.	1/28/23	428	Smith, O. J.	3/13/23	728	Johndro, J.	12/23/22	Pens. (I.O)	Grams, D. H.	2/3/23
20	Shewmake, L. L.	3/20/23	102	Hughes, J. H.	12/10/22	212	Luce, T. R.	11/16/22	429	Hargrove, L. T.	1/17/23	728	Mangos, W. J.	10/15/22	Pens. (I.O)	Grega, S.	3/22/23
20	Straatveit, S. E.	2/19/23	102	Leach, D. W.	2/8/23	213	Durie, B. K.	4/2/23	441	Lane, W. C.	6/10/22	733	Moody, W. D.	5/8/23	Pens. (I.O.)	Havrilla, J. F.	1/30/23
20	Walker, L. R.	9/20/21	103	Carter, L. E.	9/30/22	213	Easton, G. D.	3/19/23	441	Mears, G. C.	1/4/23	743	Jones, L. P.	12/18/22	Pens. (I.O)	Klinkenberg, R. H.	7/14/22
22	Kudlacz, F. A.	11/29/22	103	Daly, F. J.	2/9/23	213	Martens, D.	4/17/23	441	Sawin, C. M.	11/18/22	769	MacLean, D. D.	1/22/23	Pens. (I.O)	McDonald, D. B.	12/22/22
22	Schneiderwind, W. J.	5/10/23	103	Donovan, P. R.	12/26/22	213	Meikle, H. P.	1/5/22	441	Walters, L. H.	12/3/22	804	Kennedy, L. F.	6/2/21	Pens. (I.O)	Moran, W. D.	3/24/23
24	Benjamin, T. S.	4/22/23	103	Farrell, W. T.	2/14/23	213	Ruud, R. L.	2/3/23	443	Avant, A. L.	2/9/21	852	Martinez, H.	4/16/23	Pens. (I.O)	Ousterman, E. E.	11/23/22
24	Robbins, R. A.	4/6/23	103	Manning, K. M.	11/1/22	213	Whittington, R. J.	4/18/23	453	Bergant, J. S.	2/3/23	861	Fisher, L. C.	3/25/23	Pens. (I.O)	Partain, D.	11/16/22
24	Shipley, F. D.	4/20/23	103	Murphy, D. J.	4/28/23	213	Zawislake, E. M.	9/2/22	456	Buckley, P. J.	5/24/23	876	Wilver, R. A.	3/16/23	Pens. (I.O)	Raucci,	



## Building Trades National Medical Screening Program (BTMed)

**Did you work construction on a Department of Energy (DOE) site?**

**You may be eligible for a free medical screening exam to test for health conditions that may be work related.**



*"The Building Trades National Medical Screening Program's concerns and diligence are appreciated for the future well-being of our members and retirees."*

Dennis Stoltz  
IBEW Local 68 (Rocky Flats)  
Former Business Manager

*"This program saved my life. If it hadn't been in place and I hadn't taken the initiative to participate, I wouldn't be here today. My advice to any worker is: Don't Wait."*

Guy Sands  
IBEW Local 575  
Former Portsmouth GDP Worker  
BTMed Participant



Photo Courtesy of DOE.

**TO ENROLL, CALL 1-800-866-9663 OR VISIT [www.btmed.org](http://www.btmed.org).**

BTMed is part of the Department of Energy's Former Worker Program and is administered by CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training, the health and safety research center of North America's Building Trades Unions, with support from state and local Building and Construction Trades Councils. Funding from the Department of Energy (DE-FC01-06EH06004).

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



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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:

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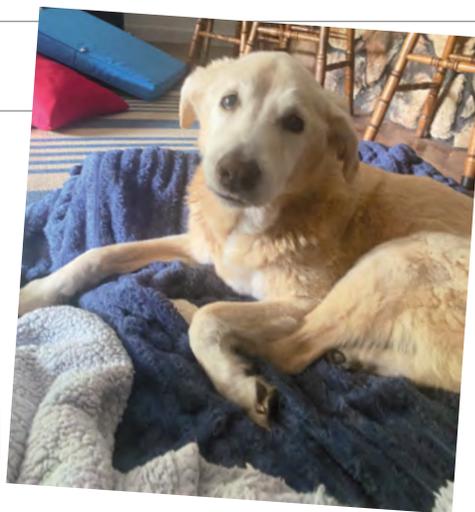
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## WHO WE ARE



# With Persistence and Love, St. Louis Members Step Up for Senior Dogs and Cats

**O**lder pets without homes have a lot of cards stacked against them, but thanks to a few St. Louis Local 1 members, they have one more place to go and a better chance at finding a forever home.

Local 1 member Steve Dintleman and Tracy Rumpf, the owner of Second Chance Ranch, have known each other since grade school. When she reached out to Dintleman for help with her senior pet rescue, he knew it would be time well spent.

"I've had dogs my whole life, and this is a great cause," said Dintleman, who works for signatory contractor Guarantee Electrical. "What Tracy does really goes above and beyond."

Started in 2021, Second Chance Ranch is an all-volunteer-run nonprofit that takes in older dogs and cats to either live out their days at the rescue or get adopted by a new family. Rumpf had rescued nearly 300 dogs as of late July, with about 80% being successfully adopted. The cats are a new endeavor that she just started.

"That's when they need us the most," Rumpf said in a video on the rescue's website about her elderly companions. "Just because a dog is a rescue, it doesn't mean that they're broken. It just means that a human let them down. And our goal is to make up for that."

When Rumpf decided to build an addition to the rescue, an old house that was donated, she reached out to her longtime friend for help with the electrical work. Knowing that Local 1 does a lot of volunteer jobs in the area, Dintleman initially approached Business Representative Chuck DeMoulin to see if the Electrical Connection could take it on.

The Electrical Connection is a partnership between Local 1 and the St. Louis Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association that donates electrical services to a wide range of charities and community organizations. Unfortunately, all its funding had been used for the year. But that didn't stop Dintleman.

"Steve wouldn't take no for an answer," DeMoulin said. "He was determined to keep pursuing it."

Thanks to an estimate that Local 1 member Tom Broderick of Authorized Electric did when they went to the Electrical Connection, Dintleman knew the job would cost about \$30,000 — an astronomical sum for a small organization that relies on donations.

"There was no way we had a budget for that," Rumpf said.

So Dintleman enlisted another old friend, Local 1 member Todd VanCardo, who owns Precision Electric.

"I have a hard time telling people no," said

**"They saved us tens of thousands of dollars. Not only that, but they were so willing to do whatever we needed. They were such a blessing."**

— Tracy Rumpf, Second Chance Ranch owner

VanCardo, who has dogs and a cat himself and has also known Rumpf for years. "My wife is a big animal lover, so she was excited about the job."

VanCardo got the permits while Dintleman tapped another signatory, Holt Electric, for a donation that covered the best part of the supplies.

"They saved us tens of thousands of dollars," Rumpf said. "Not only that, but they were so willing to do whatever we needed. They were such a blessing."

Dintleman and VanCardo, along with Dintleman's son, Josh, worked weekends and some weeknights from May until early July installing lights, receptacles, ceiling fans, heating and air conditioning in the 900-square-foot space.

"There wasn't much to it," VanCardo said. "But it made a big difference to the rescue."

With the new addition, the rescue was able to move the smaller dogs it was keeping upstairs to the downstairs area and let the bigger dogs have the new space. Since many of the volunteers themselves are also older, not having to take the stairs as much has been a big help, DeMoulin said.

"With the new addition, they can take in more dogs," Dintleman said. "Now, instead of being put down, more dogs and cats can be rescued and get their vet care, whatever they need."

For Dintleman, it was all straightforward.

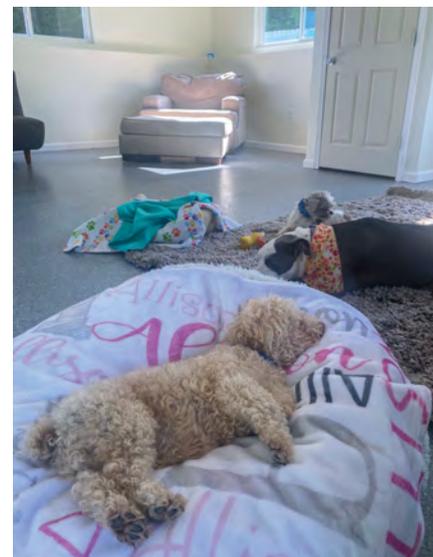
"It needed to be done, and I know how to do it," he said. "I was taught a gift, and if I can help someone, I will. I enjoy the work."

It's a sentiment shared by VanCardo.

"How much do you really need? With the IBEW, we have a good standard of living," he said. "If we can bring that quality of life to others, even dogs and cats, that's pretty satisfying."



Credit: St. Louis/Southern Illinois Labor Tribune



St. Louis Local 1 members Todd VanCardo, above left, and Steve Dintleman, third from left, along with Dintleman's son Josh, right, volunteered their skills to wire a new room at their longtime friend Tracy Rumpf's senior dog and cat rescue, Second Chance Ranch. Rumpf is pictured above with two of her rescued dogs.

DeMoulin noted that a lot of animal rescues like Second Chance Ranch are small operations, so people don't always know about them and the work they do.

"What's better than trying to help a cat or a dog?" said DeMoulin, who has two rescue pets with his wife. "Then that animal can go on and help someone else."

Rumpf said a lot of the people who adopt their dogs are seniors themselves who have lost a spouse or their own senior dog.

"They're lonely, but they don't want a puppy

with lots of energy, so a senior dog who wants love and has a lot of love to give is perfect," Rumpf said.

DeMoulin, Dintleman and VanCardo all said that giving back like this is par for the course in a tight-knit community like theirs.

"It's nice knowing people like this. We don't seem to have a lot of that these days," DeMoulin said. "It makes me very proud to be a part of the IBEW."

For more information on the rescue, go to [secondchanceranchstl.org](http://secondchanceranchstl.org). ■