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IBEW News

NEW SECTION

POWER AT WORK

'Solidarity Is a Verb'

Pittsburgh Local Stands With Striking Newspaper Workers 3

EV Jobs Surge in N.C.

Massive Toyota Expansion Spurs Organizing Push 6

L.A. Local Invests in Women

'The Proof Is in the Numbers' 7

Making Organizing Easier

New Plan for Linemen 9

In This Issue

Editorials 2

My IBEW Story 2

Who We Are 8

North of 49° 10

In Memoriam 11

Power at Work 3, 12

Transitions 13

Circuits 14

Local Lines 16

DITARO 964 Miles to Nome
An Alaska Wireman's Union-Powered
Journey to the Finish Line

Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 member Wally Robinson started the 2024 Iditarod with a smile even though he had less than six weeks' notice after a friend planning to run the race was injured. The journeyman inside wireman finished a remarkable 11th.

hen Wally Robinson saw a dog sled team in full flight for the first time, he was 14.

No moment except his marriage and the birth of his children charted the direction of his life more than standing next to his father, Walter, on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, mouth open and eyes opened.

Walter, an inside wireman at Marquette, Mich., Local 906, brought Robinson to the race because he'd helped light it. A tragedy the year before left a racer dead after he strayed far off course on a frozen lake. The contractor where Walter worked stepped up to pay some journeymen to make the trail more visible.

Robinson was just tagging along with his father, who wanted to see what he had built in use. It was also a good excuse for some ice fishing. Make a day of it.

Robinson made a life of it.

The connection between the people on the sleds and the graceful, strong, determined animals was like nothing he had ever seen before.

He read everything he could about mushing, and soon he was tying up the family coonhounds to some cheap plastic sleds. He ground through the bottoms of three sleds that winter.



That's when the Upper Peninsula started feeling too far south.

"As soon as I could, I knew I was going to Alaska," Robinson said.

As soon as he could was after high school in 1999.

A quarter-century from that day, the Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 inside wireman ran his second Iditarod, the longest dog sled race in the world.

With nearly 1,000 miles of snow, mountains, ice and tundra, the Iditarod is the only dog sled race most people outside Alaska have heard of.

Just a month and a half before he stood at the start, he had no idea he was going to be there. In late January, Josh McNeal, a friend and neighbor, tore a muscle in his shoulder more than a year into his training. Would Robinson want to step in? The kid who mushed coonhounds and moved 4,000 miles to race was still inside the journeyman.

But it had been 23 years since he last ran the Iditarod, back before family, before starting in the trade. Robinson has been a familiar presence at many races since, but most of the time he was there as coach, chauffeur and dog handler for his kids, Emily and Stanley, both exceptional mushers. For more than a decade, Robinson was the inside business representative in the Fairbanks office of Local 1547, a more-than-fulltime job.

But two years ago, he left the office and went back to the tools, and he has had more time with his family, more time in the backcountry and more time with his kennel of 30 racing dogs. He knew his trade, and he'd given back a great deal to the union that made this life possible. So he said yes.

And then he did something extraordinary.

He didn't just show up. He didn't just finish. He nearly broke into the top 10 and beat his old time by more than three days.

And proudly sewn on his sled was the IBEW bug with its fist and lighting bolts.

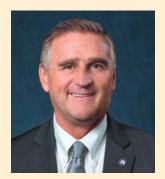
"I say all the time, our dog team runs on union power," he said.

IDITAROD continued on page 4

NONPROFIT OF US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO 10 LONG PRARIET

FROM THE OFFICERS

Bringing Jobs Back Home



Kenneth W. Cooper International President

'm sure you know all too well that this is an election year here in the U.S. For a lot of you, that means it's time to tune out, to change the channel to baseball or to walk out the door and head for the nearest fishing spot. And I can't blame you for wanting to do that.

Politics can be ugly and cynical, and sometimes it seems like it's worse now than it's ever been. Believe me, I get it.

But here's the thing: The work of our government — who's in charge and what type of people they put first — is too important to the things that matter most for us and our families to tune it out and walk away.

I know each of you decides who to vote for based on a lot of things, but as a leader in the IBEW, I'm here to talk to you about how you put food on the table and come home safely to your families at the end of the day.

I recently went home to Mansfield, Ohio. When I was coming up there as a child and later as a journeyman wireman and young business manager, Mansfield was a manufacturing powerhouse.

Early in my career, I worked in factories so big you could put a coffee shop inside one of the elevators. Today those factories are in ruins, and the good, middle-class jobs they brought to my hometown left decades ago.

There's blame for that on both sides of the political aisle. It started during the Reagan era and it kept right on going through Democratic and Republican administrations until there was almost nothing left.

But that's about to change, and the IBEW is poised to be a huge part of rebuilding an America that makes things again. See the video at the QR code for how we are reviving these places.

Of course, our manufacturing members have been doing this all along, but they've done so knowing that their numbers were shrinking and they were only one hedge fund takeover away from being next on the chopping block.

Because of legislation like the CHIPS and Science Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, and the strong Buy American and labor provisions

included in them, manufacturing in the United States is ready to take off. Manufacturing construction spending has nearly doubled since the CHIPS Act was

signed by President Biden more than a year and a half ago. Our construction members are building these new plants, and we'll be adding new manufacturing members to work in them once they open.

One of the biggest is just down the road from Mansfield, outside Columbus. Intel has already committed \$20 billion, which could rise to \$100 billion, on one of the world's most advanced semiconductor plants. Thousands of IBEW members will work on just this one job.

Trillions of dollars are pouring into our economy because of bills championed by President Biden, and they all have enforceable labor standards attached to them that make this union work. IBEW members will spend entire careers working on jobs funded by these three bills, and that's no exaggeration.

So, we have a choice this November. We can listen to the divisive, nasty rhetoric being put out there by folks who don't give a damn about working people, or we can back the team that brought jobs to our members and put food on our tables.

If you tune out the noise, this is an easy decision. I hope you'll watch the video linked here and think long and hard about what's best for the IBEW and for your paycheck.

Partnerships That Work

rganized labor is enjoying a moment, with higher levels of public support for unions than we have seen in more than 50 years. A big reason is the increasing awareness of all the good things labor does for workers, like boosting wages and fighting for

However, an often-ignored benefit of unions is better and stronger labor-management relations.

Contrary to what critics say, strong unions have often gone hand-in-hand with positive workplace relationships.

The IBEW has 133 years of experience proving it. Since our founding, we have prioritized effective labor-management partnerships, from increasing productivity to promoting safety.

As you can read in this issue of The Electrical Worker, some of these relationships, like the one between Saint John, New Brunswick, Local 1524 and Saint John Energy, go back decades.



WATCH THE VIDEO

Paul A. Noble International Secretary-Treasurer

And on page 14, you can read about the recognition two of our utility locals received for their partnerships with management at the recent Labor and Management Public Affairs Committee meeting in Washington, D.C.

As we continue to grow and organize, our message to workers and owners alike is that the IBEW builds better relationships between employees and employers.

That message is being heard not only on worksites and in corporate boardrooms but also in the White House. In early March, President Biden issued an executive order calling on federal agencies to work with unions, including the IBEW, to promote increased labor-management cooperation.

As long as employers are willing to treat our members with respect, cooperation — not confrontation — is what

Whether you are an inside wireman, a telecom splicer, a lineman, a broadcast professional or any other classification, every member of this union is dedicated to their craft and getting the job done. But we can't make that happen unless management is on board, working with us every step of the way.

That is why the IBEW is so committed to building vibrant labor-management partnerships, and as we continue to grow in the years to come, I am confident we will see even more examples of IBEW members and management working together for the benefit of all.

IBEW STORY

John Clyne, line mechanic Meriden, Conn., Local 457



661've been a utility lineman for roughly 37 years. I was hired by Eversource Energy as a line mechanic in 2003, though back then it was Connecticut Light and Power. Before that, I worked for another utility in New York and was represented by another union. I much prefer being a member of the IBEW.

My previous employer was nothing less than cruel to me for 16 years, and I left because I wasn't happy anymore. With the IBEW, it's about individuals working together and protecting each other. I have a closer bond with more of my co-workers now than I had before. There's also a better

rapport with management, where we try to work issues out before they escalate.

Previously, I was a construction lineman. In Connecticut, I had to learn the job all over again. It was like going from wearing one hat to four hats. I do a lot more: repairs, working with customers, troubleshooting, setting transformers. The work is always varied, and it keeps the job interesting. It's also good for morale.

What most of my co-workers don't know about me is that I'm a person with autism. For those who are unfamiliar, autism is a developmental disorder that affects a person's ability to learn and communicate with others. It's something I was born with, even though I wasn't diagnosed until 18 years ago. I also have other disabilities like dyslexia. I attend support groups for both of these conditions, and the people there are in awe of what I do for a living. They think I'm like Superman for having the success that I do.

Last year, I was tapped to be a trainer and mentor for our new apprentices. I was delighted to be asked. I like meeting new people, and I've always gotten along with our apprentices. I graduated dead last in my class at the previous place. I was also hazed. I always said that if I ever got the chance to mentor new apprentices that I would treat them better. We all break each other's stones, but there's no hazing. We treat them like human beings, and I let them know that I'm always available if they need anything.

I'm no stranger to being held back, but I've got the support of my wife, who I've been married to for 26 years. I've also started to tell a few co-workers about my disabilities, and they've all been supportive and encouraged me to speak out and share my story. You don't make it to my level of success without a few bumps and bruises along the way, but I've got the best job in the world and now I can help others get to where I'm at.

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.



35%

The increase in union election petitions filed with the National Labor Relations Board in the first six months of fiscal 2024 (through March 31) versus the same period a year earlier. Much of the increase was driven by the NLRB's Cemex decision in August 2023, which cracks down on employers' union-busting tactics.

POWER AT WORK

'Solidarity Is a Verb'

Pittsburgh Local Rallies to Side of **Striking Newspaper Workers**

ntil he attended his first labor council meeting in February, Pittsburgh Local 29 lineman Jordan Layhew didn't know about the long strike against his city's newspaper or how badly its workers were hurting.

Shaken to hear a veteran Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reporter's grim update on their shrinking strike fund, Layhew sprang into action.

"They have been through so much," Layhew said of the NewsGuild-Communications Workers of America members who walked out in October 2022 over health care, wages and audacious attacks on their contract. "I really felt for them."

A chief steward, Layhew rallied his co-workers at Duquesne Light Co., passing the bucket for donations and leading nearly 20 members to join the picket line after a shift in early March.

For the weary strikers, whose walkout is the second-longest in NewsGuild history, it was a big booster shot of morale.

"It's very easy to get to a point where you feel so isolated and alone, like nobody cares, and then you have a day like that," said reporter Andrew Goldstein, NewsGuild-CWA unit chair at the Post-Gazette. "It was a special feeling for every one of us.

"Truth is, this strike would have failed without groups like Local 29," he said. "It's a different industry, very different type of work, but it goes to show what people say, that Pittsburgh is a union town."

About half of the IBEW contingent came from the local's budding RENEW chapter for younger members, which Layhew, 25, spearheaded and now chairs. "I think we're up to 108 members," he said. "I can't take credit. My business manager, Josh Ewing, and all of our leadership support our group so much, anything we need."

Layhew approached Ewing and others after the Allegheny/Fayette Central Labor Council meeting, where he was sworn in as a delegate repre-

"We were spitballing about what we could do



Pittsburgh Local 29 members joined their city's long-striking newspaper workers on the picket line in March, providing a shot of morale and more than \$1,100 in donations to help the NewsGuild-CWA unit continue its battle against the unionbusting owners of the Post-Gazette.

for the strikers," he said, "I thought, 'What better thing than to have these young guys come down and see what a strike looks like?' They'd never seen one, and I hadn't either."

But they'd come close. On the picket line, Layhew told Guild members that his own unit voted to authorize a strike before ratifying a new contract last October.

"We weren't in the position you're in, but we felt like we were getting close to that point, to a strike," he said, as reported by the Guild's strike website, Pittsburgh Union Progress. "When we heard you'd been out 17 months — that's mind-blowing that you guys are still putting up a fight."

Goldstein and veteran reporter Ed Blazina, the local's first vice president, pulled no punches about the economic and emotional toll on members. But they also stressed their unshakable resolve against a punitive new generation of management at the family-owned newspaper and its union-busting lawyers.

"We are not going to roll over," said Blazina, whose report to the labor council inspired Layhew. "There's a reasonable cost for doing business, and they have to be willing to pay that."

Since the early 2000s, the Guild officers said, the company has clawed back roughly \$100 million in concessions from the union and the four smaller bargaining units on the production and delivery side that are also on strike.

Blazina said the Guild was willing to negotiate givebacks at first, understanding that the Pulitzer Prize-winning Post-Gazette, like newspapers nationwide, was struggling financially. But the bloodletting never stopped, he said, and Guild members haven't had a raise since 2007. Now, "they're paying scabs more than they were willing to pay us."

In 2020, three years after the last contract expired, the company imposed conditions, further slashing wages and benefits, forcing a more costly health care plan onto workers and even killing the 40-hour week — meaning "you might work 33 hours one week and 12 the next." Blazina said.

The animus wasn't limited to the bargaining table. In a 2019 incident documented by outside media, one of the paper's owners came into the newsroom late at night, saw a union sign and flew into a rage in front of his young daughter. Angrily, he told her not to associate with the "working class."

"Exactly what happened," Goldstein said. "I was there.'

An administrative law judge issued a scorching decision against the paper in 2023 on multiple violations of federal labor law. Confident of winning again, the Guild is anxiously waiting for the National Labor Relations Board to act on the company's appeal.

Meanwhile, contributions to the union's dwindling strike fund continue to be a lifeline for members, helping cover rent, medical emergencies, car repairs, broken appliances and other necessities.

As Layhew arrived at the March labor council meeting, he crossed the room to hand Goldstein an envelope stuffed with cash - \$1,161 donated by his fellow linemen and other Local 29 brothers and sisters.

Ewing, who observed the moment and later heard a grateful Goldstein speak from the floor, said he "couldn't have been more proud."

"He got emotional thanking Jordan and Local 29. It was quite a scene, the kind of thing you love to see," he said, heaping praise on Layhew, a third-generation IBEW member whose father, Richard, is business manager of Pittsburgh Local 1919.

"We've donated to the strikers a few times, but this event was 100% Jordan," Ewing said. "He has been phenomenal as a young leader. You couldn't ask for anyone better."

The feeling is mutual. "My dad pointed me in this direction," Layhew said. "It was the greatest decision I've ever made. Not just to be a lineman but to be part of the IBEW. It's fantastic. I couldn't picture myself doing anything else."

Layhew said he's been overwhelmed by thank-yous from Guild members — at the meeting, on the picket line and afterward at a pub where the Local 29 group treated strikers to drinks and eats. "I told them: 'We're here for you. We need to stick together."

Blazina heralded the "amazing support" from the labor movement at large and Local 29 specifically, summing up his appreciation as only a writer might:

"Lots of times, people treat solidarity as a noun," he said. "Solidarity is a verb. Solidarity is doing something. And, wow, did these guys rally to the cause."

Donations to the striking NewsGuild-CWA members can be made at unionprogress.com/

POWER AT WORK continued on page 12



Jordan Layhew, chief steward of his unit at Duquesne Light Co., led Local 29's efforts in March to help striking workers at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "When we heard you'd been out 17 months — that's mind blowing that you guys are still putting up a fight," he told NewsGuild-CWA members as he and a group of colleagues joined the picket line after a Monday shift.

AREA OF DETAIL STATI W ALASKA

THE RACE START:

Anchorage to Skwentna

The race begins the first Saturday of March in Anchorage. Mushers run a short stretch along the Alaskan Highway carrying a passenger. The true race begins the next day at Willow Lake. "Once you leave Willow, there are no roads," Wally Robinson said. Temperatures tend to be, relatively speaking, higher at the start of the race and Robinson said mushers often choose to run through the night.

THE FOOTHILLS:

Skwentna to Rainy Pass

The Alaska Range is home to Denali, the tallest mountain in North America at over 20,310 feet. The trail on either side of Rainy Pass is highly technical, with lots of switchbacks with 15- to 20-foot falls to the side. When, like this year, there is a lot of snow and temperatures are relatively mild, the mushers aren't the only ones using the trail. "In high snow years, moose like walking on the packed trail. When a team of dogs comes running around a switchback, the moose think 'wolves,'" Robinson said. Between Skwentna and Finger Lake, a moose charged 2024 winner Dallas Seavey and his team. Seavey shot and killed the moose but one of his dogs was severely injured. Seavey was penalized two hours for violating the race rules requiring moose to be fully gutted. "I ran the moose over and smashed into a tree," Robinson said. "It was like a massive speed bump."

THE BURN:

Rainy Pass to Nikolai

After the foothills of the Range, racers head down into the true Alaskan backcountry. This portion of the race is home to one of the strangest parts of the entire trail: the Burn. "It's 20 miles of bare earth," Robinson said. "The dogs get a kick out of it because they pull faster over it."

ROAD TO THE YUKON RIVER:

Nikolai to Ruby

Robinson said this is the section where hard decisions get made. Most mushers want to take the mandatory 24-hour break before Ruby. Teams regularly pass each other here, on the trail but also in the checkpoints. Everyone is on their own schedule, balancing the plan they made before the race with how the dogs are doing, how they are doing and how the trail is this time.

964 Miles to Nome:

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V Continued from page 1

Coming to Alaska

Robinson comes from an IBEW family. His grandfather George was the first, a member of Coopersville, Mich., Local 275. Walter was president of Local 906, and uncles George II and Ben were business managers of Local 275. The IBEW is also home to a handful of his cousins.

But Robinson didn't join the IBEW when he first came to Alaska in 1999.

He went for his dream and lived it.

"It's an apprenticeship being a handler, and I spent two years learning at a pro Iditarod kennel," he said.



When he isn't racing through 50-below weather 800 miles from the nearest road, Robinson is a maintenance mechanic at Clear Space Force Station just outside of his home in Nenana.

The kennel raised Alaskan huskies, the world's greatest sled dogs.

The best of them can run 100 miles a day at about 12 miles per hour, day after day, thriving between 15 degrees above and 20 below.

In 2001, Robinson got a shot to run the Iditarod with yearlings, younger dogs running the long race for the first time. These were dogs he knew from when they were born. The goal isn't to challenge for the podium, it's to find the dogs who one day will.

"With young dogs, you run a much more

conservative race," he said.

Some of his major sponsors and supporters were the locals back home in Michigan.

"I had [an IBEW] bug on my sled all the way to Nome," he said.

But even for the most successful mushers, life in Alaska is too expensive to survive on winnings alone. In 2002, he applied for and was accepted into the Local 1547 apprenticeship. He topped out in 2007 and went to work.

He married Alissa and became a father, first to Emily and then Stanley.

Soon, Robinson was asked to come into the office.

"The dream was to be a professional musher, but you need a career to support you," he said. "My dad and uncles

taught me you give back to the local. I am grateful I did and learned a lot."

And Robinson was all in, said Ninth District International Vice President Dave Reaves, former business manager of Local 1547 and Robinson's boss.

"He jumped in feet first in the office, but also the evenings, the weekends, the labor walks, helping candidates get elected in every office at every level in Fairbanks," Reaves said. "The Fairbanks office made a huge difference for working people, getting allies elected, changing policies, getting PLAs on major projects."

But Reaves knew it came at a very high price.
"Having to do that pulled him away from the outside activities he came to Alaska to do. It

pulled him away from his family, as much as he involved them in the work," he said. "He understood what giving back to the union is. He was raised to know it, and every IBEW member in Alaska benefited from his work."

Back to the Iditarod

About four years ago, Robinson daughter, Emily, got into racing, and he moved back into that world, but as a coach and trainer.

"We have sled dogs, but I backed off racing," he said.

Until this year.

At the end of January, about a month before the Iditarod start date, McNeal was injured during the Kuskokwim 300 race.

"I just happened to hit a tussock right as we were cruising along, and just kind of jerked my shoulder," he told the Alaska Daily News. "The next thing I knew, I couldn't lift up my arm."

By the beginning of February, a few weeks before the start, it was

clear that racing was impossible. He called Robinson and asked if he wanted to take the reins.

"He said, 'It would be a bummer for the dogs to just sit around," Robinson said.

Robinson had time off from his job on the maintenance team at Clear Space Force Station. But he was closer to 50 than 40, and it had been nearly a quarter-century since he ran the race.

It was no light decision to make.

The word "sled" probably isn't very helpful if you want to picture what a musher does during a race like the Iditarod.

Instead of riding a sled, picture the Iditarod as running nine marathons in about 10 days, on snow and in wind chills that frequently drop below minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

"It's hard to put a number on it, but I'd guess 20% to 25% of the time we are running," he said. "We are helping."

When you aren't running, you're kicking the sled along like a skateboard or pushing with ski poles.

"You time your runs to maximize the benefit to the dogs," he said.

The dogs get maximum benefit when they don't have to pull the musher uphill. When the trail is running uphill, you are running uphill.

To get in this kind of physical condition takes more than a few weeks.

Robinson ran a half marathon in the fall of 2023 and liked it so much that he signed up for a

IBEW bug, this one sewn on by his wife, Alissa.



An Alaska Wireman's Union-Powered Journey to the Finish Line



sauna and had been training for months.

But being fit is the beginning.

The Iditarod throws you tests no treadmill can prepare you for: wildlife, cold, isolation, injury.

But the greatest challenge could be exhaustion. There are only three required rests during the race. Somewhere, anywhere, there is a full 24-hour stop. Somewhere along the 150 miles of the Yukon River, you have to take the first eight-hour break. The only compulsory eight-hour rest is at the White Mountain checkpoint, 77 miles from the finish.

Every other rest is optional, taking time off when other racers are moving. Robinson said that ideally, he sticks to a 10-hour cycle: six hours of running — "snacking" the dogs twice along the trail — and four hours of rest.

But even rest from the race is grueling.





Robinson's daughter, Emily, is a junior mushing legend. She's won the Junior Iditarod all three years she has been eligible. In the 2024 Knik 200, she beat a field of 38 adult mushers that including three Iditarod champions.

"It's a break from the trail, not from work," Robinson said.

The dogs are unhooked. Straw is laid out for them to lie on. They curl up, tails protecting their noses and feet, and sleep.

"I send out massage oil to the checkpoints for their feet. I go through wrists and shoulders. Then I organize all the gear. Set up snacks for the trail," Robinson said.

The musher boils enough water to defrost the dog food - a mix of salmon, beaver andmoose meat. Gloves come off to remove the booties; every dog wears a set of four, each custom fitted. They come off at the start of the break, and new ones go on before they leave. No matter the weather, they are all taken off and put back on bare-handed. Only after the dogs are cared for does the musher get some food.

"I have a bunch of vacuum-sealed bags of moose lasagna and moose spaghetti," Robinson said.

"On a four-hour rest, I am lucky to get 45 to 60 minutes of sleep," he said. "The rest is taking care of the dogs."

The last challenge is the money.

Running the Iditarod costs about \$20,000, and unless you finish way up in the standings, you don't fund it with prize money.

Clothing is technical, durable and expensive. Sleds are handmade, and some racers bring two, with a lighter one for the final stretch along the coast where the snow is wetter. Booties can't be reused, and at \$2 each, a team of 16 dogs uses \$1,000 in booties. And then there's the food. Robinson said he spends \$25,000 a year on his kennel just for food.

"The cost is kind of ridiculous," he said. But with each of these challenges, Robinson could say yes.

His journeyman ticket gave him the money and the safety net of retirement and health coverage that keep his Iditarod dream alive.

Anchorage

START

And just like in 2001, he was supported by his brothers and sisters in the IBEW and across the wider labor community. Again, he carried the IBEW bug on his sled. Local 1547 came through with welcome resources, as did a Teamsters local back in Michigan, Alaska Laborers Local 942 and the Fairbanks Central Labor Council.

They remembered all the years of work he'd done for labor in Alaska, and they showed up for him.

"Alissa sewed it on. We also had the bug on the trucks and campers. It means a lot to me," he said.

IDITAROD continued on page 6

Robinson not only won the most improved musher award (he climbed 29 spots since 2001), but he was also awarded the humanitarian award for the most competitive racer who finished with the healthiest dogs.

THE YUKON: **Ruby to Kaltag**

Robinson said the real race starts here. The trail runs for 150 miles on the Yukon River, dotted with small, mostly Native villages, supplied by barge in the summer but almost completely isolated in the long winter except from the air. "We have a lot of IBEW members from these small towns on the Yukon: Ruby, Galena and Kaltag, mostly Native Alaskans," Robinson said.

THE PORTAGE ROAD

Kaltag to Shaktoolik

The race leaves the Yukon at Kaltag and turns toward the coast on a section of the Iditarod trail known as the Portage Road. This is an ancient trail connecting the coastal Native communities to the inland people for centuries before it became part of the freight trail European settlers used to bring fur and gold to the coast. Trees thin out, and temperatures drop. By the time the mushers hit the coast at Unalakleet this year, the temperature had fallen to 55 below.

THE NORTON SOUND: Shaktoolik to White Mountain

The trail here runs either near or over the Norton Sound. The most exposed part of the trip is over the sea ice between Shaktoolik and Koyuk. The dogs run over huge plates of ice that tumble over one another as the ocean underneath heaves. This year, Robinson ran the sea ice at night. "It's a little spooky if you are not from that area, and not many people are," he said. By this point, Robinson was so exhausted that he started having involuntary micro-naps. "I would come to, but it's just seconds at a time," he said. "I was hallucinating a lot there. Talking to myself and having conversations with people who aren't there."

THE BLOWHOLE: Golovin to Nome

White Mountain is only 77 miles from the finish line at Nome, but every musher has to take an eight-hour break here. At this point, Robinson knew he was going to finish 11th, barring disaster.

But there is always a chance disaster will find you on the Iditarod, and the final miles host another section of trail competing for the most difficult and dangerous section of the entire

> race: the Blowhole. "It can be pretty windy," Robinson said with typical understatement. In this year, it was. "One musher who had run 20 times said it was the worst they had seen," Robinson said. Even when the musher

can't find the trail, though, often the dogs can. "They can feel the trail, the hard-packed snow, and there are scratch marks and smells that are clear to them," he said.

964 Miles to Nome

An Alaska Wireman's Union-Powered Journey to the Finish Line

V Continued from page 5

The Robinsons Are Not Done

When he left the starting line, Robinson had a mixed crew. He brought three of his own dogs — Urchin, Vickie and Lake — he knew and could rely on, with the other 13 McNeal's dogs.

"My goal was to finish 20th," he said.

This was a reasonable expectation, better than any substitute named so late had ever done. It turned out to be far too modest.

He finished in 11th place in nine days, 23 hours and 22 minutes, a time that would have won the race between 1973 and 1994. If he had finished this fast in first race in 2001, he would have placed second.

He also won the award for most improved and the Leonard Seppala Humanitarian Award, given to the musher who ended the race with the healthiest pack of dogs, according to race veterinarians. This award is about respect for craft, honoring your dogs and protecting your pack.

He finished in 11th place in 9 days, 23 hours and 22 minutes.

This is an award a union lifer can feel in their bones. No job is a good job unless everyone comes home the same as they left.

"When I look at that, I am super proud," he said. "To finish 11th is frickin' awesome. No one expected it, especially me. But when I start thinking ... I am super competitive. I definitely screwed up, and the screw-ups were my fault."

But for a competitor like Robinson,

it was awfully hard to look at the five-hour gap to a top 10 finish or 15 hours to get into the top three and wonder about what he could have done better, including getting only a few hours of sleep on his 24-hour break.

By the time he got to Unalakleet, he said, he was a wreck. He was in eighth place. He allowed himself a short rest at the checkpoint, but all the bedrooms were taken. Another musher, Pete Kaiser, had one of the bedrooms but let Robinson in as long as Kaiser could keep charging his phone. Robinson's phone was almost dead, but he set an alarm and told himself, "Even if the phone dies, I'll stay no later than Pete coming in to unplug his phone in half an hour."

He woke up six hours later, in 11th place.

The Seppala Award came with a prize: free entry into another running of the Iditarod, an open invitation to run it again. He's young enough to do it. He has experience to build on. Is he already thinking about next year?

No.

The youngest you can run the Iditarod is 18, and his 16-year-old daughter, Emily, is a phenom in junior mushing. She's won the Junior Iditarod all three years she's run it. If she wins next year, she'll be the first win all four years a junior musher is eligible to run.

This year, she was one of only two juniors invited to run the Knik 200. The other 40 teams were mushing veterans, including two past Iditarod champions.

Emily Robinson beat them all.

"It's kind of a big deal," her father said.

Eleven-year-old Stanley, meanwhile, placed second in the Willow Jr. 100-miler. He lost by 12 minutes. To Emily.

A woman hasn't won the Iditarod since Susan Butcher won it for a fourth time in 1990.

"You'll see a Robinson again," he said. "It just probably won't be me." ■



Robinson, daughter Emily, son Stanley and his father Walt, a member of Marquette, Mich., Local 906, at the starting line.



Greensboro, N.C., Local 342 needs hundreds of new members to construct and maintain five massive Toyota EV battery facilities near the two pictured.

'Never Give Up': Toyota Expansion Has N.C. Local Going All Out to Organize

he leaders of Greensboro, N.C., Local 342 are suiting up for what could be 10-fold membership growth in the coming years, now that Toyota has announced a plan to nearly quadruple its battery manufacturing footprint in the state's Piedmont Triad area.

"We're doing all we can to organize," said Alvin Warwick, business manager of the local, which in recent years has averaged 100 to 150 members.

In 2021, Toyota announced its first investment in facilities to develop and manufacture lithium ion batteries for the company's all-electric, plug-in hybrid electric and hybrid gas-electric vehicles, promising to bring more than 1,700 jobs to the rural community of Liberty, about a half-hour south of Greensboro.

Whether any of those jobs would be union jobs was in question. While Toyota's assembly line workers in the U.S. are not unionized, Warwick — also president of North Carolina's Construction and Building Trades Council — noted that the company had negotiated a project labor agreement with union building trades workers at its plant near Huntsville, Alabama.

The question was soon answered. "They decided to come to North Carolina and try building here without a PLA," Warwick said.

The first two Toyota buildings at the Liberty site were built nonunion, although Local 342 electricians managed to carve out some contract power equipment work there.

Then last fall, Toyota announced another investment: this time, \$8 billion more to construct five additional plants.

Soon afterward, Toyota signed an agreement to work with IBEW signatory contractor Slifco Electric to perform work on the expansion. It wasn't a PLA, but it was positive news.

"They're proud to be a good IBEW contractor," Warwick said. "They work well with us."

Toyota estimates that this buildup plan will raise its workforce needs to more than 5,100. Nearly 1,100 of those will be journeyman wiremen, Warwick said, with 800 urgently needed by August.

"Slifco came here and greased the wheels. We got the calls filled to where [Toyota] saw we could man the project," Warwick said. "We have 350 to 400 people on the project now. It's ever-growing."

Local 342 continues to add members and fill calls on the project, which is running six 10-hour shifts, Monday through Saturday, Warwick said. While a PLA would be preferable, the local's electricians have access to solid hourly rates with daily incentive pay and access to good health, pension and vacation benefits.

Completing work on the Toyota buildout will require an additional 800 to 1,000 electricians over the next 10 years, Warwick said, and hundreds more IBEW members could be needed for ongoing maintenance work. Work for each building is bid separately.

"Local people are getting these jobs," Warwick said. "It sets this local on a path for growth. We're certain to grow for an extended period."

It also grows Local 342's need for organizers, who could face a few challenges, he said. For one thing: "The people we're organizing haven't been interested in the bigger jobs."

Local 342, though, has a "never give up" attitude, Warwick said: "It just takes a little while moving people."

Also, North Carolina is a so-called right-to-work state, which means workers covered by a union can refuse to pay their fair share toward the costs of representation and

contract negotiations while enjoying the benefits. That complicates organizing for everyone, said Warwick, who estimates that there are hundreds of nonunion electricians within the local's jurisdiction.

"There's an opportunity for them to learn what it should be like on a construction job," he said. "There's nothing better than hearing someone on a jobsite say, 'I didn't know it could be like this."

The potential to get work on the Toyota project also has understandably sparked growing interest in apprenticeships, he said, noting that the Carolinas Electrical Area Wide JATC has almost 100 apprentices enrolled.

"There's enough work to graduate every one of them," said Warwick, who believes that enrollment figure could double by the end of the year. "Everyone's looking for apprenticeships, and we keep feeding the beast."

Warwick praised Tenth District International Vice President Brent Hall and State Organizing Coordinator Matt Ruff for their support. "When everything tightened up, they rolled up their sleeves and made sure they could be available when we needed them," Warwick said.

The business manager also noted how the work outlook is booming in the Triad, from multibillion-dollar investments not only in electrical vehicle manufacturing but also in the production of microchips and steel. Naturally, the IBEW wants to capture as much of that as possible, along with future work on the grid, electric vehicle charging stations and the next wave of data center work.

"There's a lot of work going on in this growing area," he said. "We're slowly but surely taking that workforce. We want to control the market."

"I know that

interested in

the trades. It

different kind

to ensure they feel welcome."

– Anthy Hadjimarkos, Electrical

Training Institute special

projects assistant

just takes a

of approach

women are

'A Different Kind of Approach': L.A. Local Invests in Recruiting, Retaining Women

ith a near unprecedented amount of work on the horizon, Los Angeles Local 11 is leaving no stone unturned in expanding its efforts to recruit and retain more women members.

"I know that women are interested in the trades. It just takes a different kind of approach to ensure they feel welcome," said Anthy Hadjimarkos, special projects assistant with the Electrical Training Institute. "The proof is in the numbers."

Hadjimarkos chairs the ETI Mentorship Program Offering Women Extra Resources, or EMPOWER. Its mission is to "recruit, retain and support female apprentices and journey-level workers in our local." Attendance at the program's monthly meetings, which are geared toward engaging pre-apprentices, has gone from about three to five attendees to more than 50 since she took over as chairwoman in 2022.

With a background as an inside wirewoman, then full-time instructor, she has a wealth of experience to offer.

"It gives me the understanding of what it feels like to have boots in the field, what it takes mentally to survive in this industry and what we give to be members," said Hadjimarkos, a 17-year member of Local 11.

Knowing that members are coming in after a hard day's work, Hadjimarkos pours a lot of energy into creating a welcoming space and offering useful information, as well as high-value raffle prizes and a dinner that includes vegetarian options.

"I am genuinely excited to run the meetings," she said. "I have been to so many workshops and classes where you can sense that the host or instructor is just getting through the material and isn't enjoying it. I don't want to waste anyone's time. Everyone there sees me at a peak level of energy."

Much of the content is designed for IBEW sisters, like having guest speakers on personal protective equipment specifically designed for women. But Hadjimarkos stresses the meetings are open to men as well, with some even bringing their daughters.

"We need men — they are a key element of recruiting and retaining," she said. "We need their support."

Hadjimarkos' work with EMPOW-ER is complemented by Local 11's Solidarity Committee, which recently received its official IBEW Women's Committee charter and has a newly elected executive committee. Last year, they raised enough money to send more than 30 women to the Tradeswomen Build Nations conference in Washington, D.C., said Director of Women Recruitment and Support Diana Limon, who oversees the Committee.

Limon, a 29-year member and the first woman to receive the Outstanding Apprentice Award in 2000, assumed the newly created director's role in



More than 70 Los Angeles Local 11 sisters attended a Women's Luncheon in March, held at the Electrical Training Institute.

2023, in part because of the expected increase in work stemming from Biden administration legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Local 11 also has a goal of getting to 10% of its membership identifying as women. Nationally, about 3%-4% of construction tradespeople are women.

Fortunately for Local 11, it's long been active in the community and can count on its women members to show up at events and help with recruitment.

"It's important for women and girls to see people who look like them and who are visible in leadership," said Limon, who also assists Local 11 with complying with job requirements on public projects. "Then women know they can move up too."

Limon said one recruitment tool that's been particularly successful is the construction wireman program. It's a good way for women to get in the door: While getting into an apprenticeship can take months, the CW program gets them working faster.

"They usually love the work once they're in," Limon said. "It's less pay at first, but mostly it's a huge advantage. And it increases their credibility."

Local 11's commitment to recruiting women includes a revamping of the apprentice application process that removes the interview component and makes it more merit-based.

"It takes out the unconscious bias," Business Manager Robert Corona said. "It gives everyone an equal opportunity based on experience level."

Corona also noted that the local is not just looking to recruit more women but to retain them as well.

"It's a big issue," he said. "We're always asking what we can do to help



Local 11 sisters and pre-apprentices are encouraged to attend monthly EMPOWER meetings, hosted by ETI Special Projects Assistant Anthy Hadjimarkos. The meetings often have about 50 attendees and provide a wealth of information as well as meals.

them stay."

Part of that work is going through the local's list of delinquent members and contacting them to see what's going on and how the local can help. Local 11 leadership also is considering providing child care, both for union meetings and for when women members are on the job. Part of that child care assistance comes from California's Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship, or ERiCA, grant that aims to create career pathways for women, nonbinary and underserved populations.

"We want to retain the women we're able to get, and child care is a crucial part of that," Corona said. "We're also looking at getting union-represented child care workers."

ERiCA also offers support to EMPOWER.

"It's a gamechanger for the ETI," Hadjimarkos said. "I regularly have discussions with the regional outreach coordinator where I get to share ideas for women's outreach with training directors from other locals."

Hadjimarkos said the grant is funding the creation of a new

workshop called Future Artisans of Bending that will focus on improving conduit bending skills.

"We like to give our members additional support and expertise to make sure they have the skills they need to excel in the field," she said.

Limon said that Local 11 has built relationships with several organizations, like 2nd Call, which works with at-risk members of the community, including those returning from incarceration, and Habitat for Humanity's Women Build Project, which encourages women from all backgrounds to participate in home building.

Local 11 also participates in Women in Construction Week and held its first luncheon for the occasion this year, with more than 70 women attending. Its No. 1 recruiting ground, though, is Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles. WINTER is a free pre-apprenticeship program that focuses exclusively on getting more women into the unionized construction trades.

"We believe in what they're doing to graduate pre-apprentices who have a good idea about what it takes to become a great apprentice and the drive to do so," said Hadjimarkos, who added that the local's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus chapter has worked with WIN-TER by donating several hand benders.

Limon and Hadjimarkos both stressed the importance of having buyin from leadership in creating the success that the local has achieved, including having a number of women on staff.

"Our organizational culture has shifted," Hadjimarkos said. "People are more open to listening to those who are different from them because they're mirroring the inclusive example set by our leaders."

Limon said there remain cultural stereotypes that need to be dealt with but added that they don't tend to run as deep as they used to. And by addressing issues like proper-fitting PPE, accessible bathrooms and child care, women are feeling increasingly more welcome.

"It used to be like an exclusive club. Now, you can walk into our apprenticeship on any given day and it looks like L.A.," Limon said. ■



Pro-Worker State of the Union a Thrill for IBEW Guests

nside the U.S. House chamber, gazing down at the president and hundreds of the nation's most powerful people while surrounded by fascinating guests in the gallery for the State of the Union address, Teila Allmond thought about the words of a colleague.

"She told me that I would have a hard time describing it, that you have to see it and feel it to understand what she was trying to verbalize," said Allmond, who recruits and trains Philadelphia Local 98 apprentices. "I'm still trying to process what I experienced. It was amazing."

Allmond and two other IBEW guests $\,$

Manual and the other beautiful and the other beautiful

Making the rounds in the Capitol before the speech, Boston Local 103 Business Manager Lou Antonellis, left, and his host, Sen. Ed Markey, pause at the statue of Massachusetts Founding Father Samuel Adams.

cheered over and over as President Joe Biden delivered a pro-worker, pro-union speech that hailed historic job numbers and the construction and manufacturing boom happening under his watch.

"I thought he did a phenomenal job," said Las Vegas Local 357 journeywoman Melenie Zavala, who was invited by Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto. "He spoke his mind — 'We're here to make change, and this is what we've accomplished and this is where we're going' — and he was able to back it all up with numbers and facts."

Even for Boston Local 103 Business Manager Lou Antonellis, who has met

> with his share of powerbrokers in fighting for IBEW members, it was a "once-in-a-lifetime experience."

> "It was a powerful speech that aligned with President Biden's promise to be the most pro-union president we've ever had," he said. "I was honored to represent the hard-working members of Local 103."

> Biden frequently namechecks the IBEW in his travels around the country, but hearing him do so in front of a global audience was a special thrill for the guests.

> It happened as he cited the tens of thousands of clean energy jobs that his policies are creating, "like the IBEW workers building and installing 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations."

> "I had my IBEW pin on my jacket, and President Biden then mentions the work of the IBEW," Allmond said with awe. "It was a proud moment."

> Each of the 535 members of Congress is allowed to bring one guest to the speech, often someone whose work or activism reflects the lawmaker's goals.

Pennsylvania Rep. Mary



Left: Each member of Congress is allowed one guest at the State of the Union speech. Pennsylvania Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, at left, invited Philadelphia Local 98 apprentice recruiter and trainer Teila Allmond. The congresswoman used the opportunity to tout Allmond's success with Rosie's Girls, a program that introduces high-school girls to the electric trade.

Below: Las Vegas Local 357 journeylevel wirewoman Melenie Zavala with her SOTU host, Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto.

Gay Scanlon invited Allmond, impressed by her success running Rosie's Girls, a nineweek Local 98/NECA program that introduces high school students to the electrical trade. Nine young women completed the program's second class last December.

"Women, especially women of color, have historically been underrepresented in the industries where the jobs are being created," Scanlon said when she chose her guest. "That's why I'm so proud Teila Allmond will join me at this year's State of the Union. Through her work with Rosie's Girls, Teila is leading the way to create and expand pathways for women in the skilled trades."

Allmond laughed recalling her emphatic "yes" when Scanlon's staff called with the invitation about two weeks beforehand. "I thought it was adorable, like very respectful for them to say, 'Hey, would you like to attend?"" she said.

In Zavala, the IBEW's 2022 apprentice of the year, Cortez Masto saw a young woman representative of Nevada's growth and progress as hundreds of millions of dollars a year pour into the state from the \$1 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Biden's other signature pieces of legislation.

"Over the past four years, we've delivered historic investments for clean energy and infrastructure in Nevada, and this is





just the beginning," the senator said by way of introducing her guest to the media.

Now a journeywoman, Zavala's worksites have ranged from Las Vegas resorts to solar developments. "It's always changing and engaging, and you're constantly being challenged," she told the Las Vegas Sun. "It gets you to think, physically move, and it's a way to be part of something that's going to be there long after I'm gone."

Antonellis and his host, Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey, made the most of the festive hours before the speech, meeting with other members of their state's congressional delegation and doing interviews with Boston TV and radio stations.

"Senator Markey couldn't have been more gracious," Antonellis said. "He touted the work of the IBEW at every opportunity and spoke at length about how environmental justice and worker justice can be achieved together through President Biden's historic legislation."

Local 103 members "have supercharged the Commonwealth's green jobs revolution," Markey said in a statement after the speech. "The solar panels on our roofs, cost-effective and energy-efficient housing, and new electric vehicle charging infrastructure — that's what Local 103 and union workers are building in Massachusetts and all across this country, as President Biden told us tonight."

Allmond marveled at the lawmakers

and celebrities she met on her afternoon tour of Capitol offices, including House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, rapper Fat Joe and AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, an IBEW sister out of Portland, Ore., Local 125.

"I told her about the work we're doing with Rosie's Girls," Allmond said. "She was ecstatic about it."

Later, in her center gallery seat, she found herself next to actor Bradley Whitford of "The West Wing," a 40-year SAG-AFTRA member who rallied with unions and personally lobbied members of Congress during an Obama-era attempt to pass the Employee Free Choice Act.

Their seats had a clear view of a section of Democratic congresswomen whose white outfits honored the hardwon battle for women's voting rights a century ago. "I was noticing all the white jackets and how many women were on that floor and what a beautiful change that was," Allmond said.

The IBEW trio said the energy and passion inside the packed chamber was intense, in spite of stony-faced silence from GOP lawmakers who refused to clap for skyrocketing job numbers, record-low unemployment, rising wages and other objectively good news for workers.

"The support for President Biden's message was overwhelming," Antonellis said. "It felt like the whole room was with him with all the cheering and positivity, even if half the room sat still."

Standing ovations were more rule than exception. "I couldn't count the number of times I stood up and clapped every time a powerful point was being made," Allmond said. "It was pretty much every time I sat down."

The IBEW and other building-trades guests were especially charged as Biden talked about projects that will create good union jobs far into the future, such as "modernizing our roads and bridges, ports and airports, public transit systems [and] providing affordable high-speed internet for every American, no matter where you live — urban, suburban or rural communities in red states and blue states."

He directed some good-natured ribbing at the sullen section of the audience, noting how eagerly his GOP opponents take credit for local projects — even though just 13 Republicans in the House and 19 in the Senate supported the law that funds them.

"I noticed some of you who've strongly voted against it are there cheering on that money coming in," Biden said with a smile. "And I like it. I'm with you. I'm with you."

International President Kenneth W. Cooper said Biden's speech "reiterated his commitment to working people and building an economy that works for everyone."

"President Biden's first term has seen historic investments in our infrastructure and energy grid," Cooper said. "Not to mention the rebirth of domestic high-tech manufacturing that's taking 'Buy American' from a mere slogan to reality.

"America is on the right track, and staying there over the next four years is the only way we continue to create jobs, put more money in workers' pockets and truly rebuild our middle class."

IBEW Streamlines Path to Journey Ticket for Nonunion Linemen



The IBEW created the construction linemen classification to organize new members, put them to work and set them on the path to a journeyman ticket.

ecoming a member of the IBEW just got faster, more transparent and easier for nonunion outside linemen.

Under a new plan, all newly organized linemen with at least 5,000 hours of work experience but not enough to become a journeyman outright will become members on Day One and be given a new classification: construction linemen.

They will be put to work, their skills will be assessed, and they will be given a custom path to a journeyman's ticket, a path they will need to complete in their home jurisdiction.

It will apply across the U.S. and replaces the hodgepodge of local and district policies that could make organizing harder.

"The growth in this sector is basically vertical. If we don't modernize our organizing processes, we will lose ground," said Director of Outside Construction Tiler Eaton. "Creating a classification for all non-journeyman linemen organized into the IBEW and a plan to bring them to our standard is critical to raising wages and increasing our market share."

The hall can assign work to newly minted construction linemen as soon as they join the IBEW and their skills are assessed by existing members. They will continue to work in their home local exclusively until they complete the program unless work dries up. Then the construction linemen can travel to other jurisdictions, but only with the hall's approval and then only to specific open calls. If they go, their training plan goes with them, so the new local knows what they still need to learn.

"You have two years of experience? Great, we send you out and make a blue-print to get you the journeyman card. And if I have no work for you, I can call another local and we can send the plan and the local can execute the plan," Eaton said.

It is absolutely necessary to increase market share and staff for the future, he said.

"Now, when we bring in a lineman, we get them to sign a membership card day one, assign them as a construction linemen while journeymen assess their skills on the job, and then we make an individual training plan to bring them to journey status," Eaton continued.

The days of every district and sometimes even every local having a jerry-built workaround for putting nonunion linemen to work are over, said International President Kenneth W. Cooper.

"Most locals have a classification that isn't journeyman or apprentice. This puts an end to the confusion," Cooper said. "Form one local to the next, it was a time suck to figure out what a journeyman tech was or how a substation lineman was different from a transmission lineman."

The new program also puts an end to "white ticketing," where a lineman works under an IBEW contract but isn't a full member, a limbo status that could go on for months or even years.

"Not only is there no such thing as a white ticket in our Constitution, but it left the new brothers and sisters as second-class members denied the full benefits of membership — including some forms of insurance — and denied the IBEW of their full loyalty and their dues," Cooper said.

Cooper signed the agreement with National Electrical Contractors Association President David Long and has directed every outside local to include it in their standard contract language as soon as possible.

Under the new program, whenever a nonunion lineman comes into the hall, unless they are clearly qualified for a journey ticket, they will go out to work with an IBEW journeyman as either a step one or step two construction lineman, depending on their experience.

After a 90-day, 500-hour evaluation period, the construction lineman will meet with the JATC and draw up a personal training plan, their path to a journeyman ticket, with the specific classes, training modules, hours and experience they need.

Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean, who oversees one of the largest outside units in the country, welcomes the program.

"It is absolutely necessary to increase market share and staff for the future," he said. "This will pull linemen in."

The details of the new program were written by the Outside Taskforce made up of representatives from outside locals in all 10 U.S. districts.

The taskforce met three times between November 2022 and April 2023 after it was reconvened by International President Lonnie Stephenson.

"This has been talked about for years. Now we actually have a blueprint for locals that will make organizing easier, manning jobs will be easier for our contractors, and getting journeyman status will be easier and fairer for new," Eaton said.

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1

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

In New Brunswick, Sense of Trust Powers an 8-Decade Relationship

strong partnership has helped sustain the working relationship between Saint John, New Brunswick, Local 1524 and the city's power company, Saint John Energy, for almost 80 years. And if the successful recent contract negotiations are any indication, that connection remains rock-solid.

"Working with Saint John Energy is a very trusting experience," said Local 1524 Business Manager Colin Waugh. "Even though we're support, we've always worked with the utility as a team."

Local 1524's power line, power system and meter technicians account for nearly a quarter of the city-owned utility's 100 workers, said Waugh, a seven-year member who became business manager last fall. He is the son, great-grandson and nephew of IBEW journeyman linemen who also worked for the power distribution company.

Notably, a large portion of the utility's management team has IBEW backgrounds, key reasons the labor-management relationship works as well as it does, in negotiations and on the job.

One such Local 1524 journeyman lineman who moved into management is Ryan Shonaman, who joined the IBEW 23 years ago and now oversees Saint John Energy's line crews as executive director of operations.

"I worked with Colin's dad," said Shonaman, who has known Waugh since the business manager's youth, "and Colin's uncle was a really good mentor. It's a fantastic company to work for."

Shonaman's father was a journey-man lineman, too, who retired as a Saint John Energy vice president. Following his father into line work made sense, and not just because it can be a solid, steady career. "You're getting to do things you liked to do as a kid," such as climbing up poles and working with trucks, he said with a laugh.

Saint John Energy was formed in 1922 as the Power Commission of the City of Saint John. Local 1524, though, wouldn't be organized until 24 years later, partly because, as Shonaman learned, "we as a company did not recognize Dominion Day as a paid holiday." (The July 1 holiday is now called Canada Day.)

"A group of people was being treated unfairly," Shonaman said. "A classic reason to form a union."

Rebranded as Saint John Energy in 1997, the city-owned utility maintains a grid that distributes electricity to more than 36,000 residential and commercial customers. It purchases 85% of its power from NB Power, whose workers are represented by Fredericton Local 37, and it boasts some of the highest reliability records and lowest utility rates in Canada.

More recently, that collaborative energy helped keep negotiations for the latest collective bargaining agreement in January to three days, Shonaman said. Also assisting with those talks was First District International Representative Ross Galbraith, a former Local 37 business manager who now works with all the locals in Canada's Atlantic provinces, plus a session facilitator from the provincial government, who was impressed by the parties' congeniality.

"She said, 'You guys are working so well together," Shonaman said. "It was a collaborative, respectful process. I chalk that up to the level of trust we have with each other."

Another thing that has helped sustain that trust, Waugh said, is that Local 1524's leaders meet regularly with the utility's management team.

"We don't let small things become big things," Shonaman added. "We work through them."

Waugh said he has been working with IBEW organizers on ways to grow the local's membership and strengthen ties with Saint John Energy. The growth potential is there: The utility recently brought online a 10-turbine, 42-megawatt wind farm and is planning for a two-way power grid that can handle customers' generation of electricity via windmills and solar panels.

"Local 1524 is a great example of how, by building trust and bargaining with integrity, labor and management can work as partners for each other's benefit and growth — for decades,



even," said First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk. "When they do that, productive and motivated union workers gain access to good jobs, safe workplaces, and pay that accurately reflects their worth."

Saint John, New Brunswick, Local 1524 Vice President Nick Wilson, left, and Business Manager Colin Waugh, third from right, joined representatives from Saint John Energy recently after signing their latest bargaining agreement.

Un partenariat de huit décennies fondé sur la confiance

n solide partenariat depuis 80 ans a permis de tisser une relation de travail durable entre la section locale 1524 à Saint John au Nouveau-Brunswick et l'entreprise de distribution électrique de la ville, Saint John Power; et si l'on juge par les récentes négociations pleinement réussies de la convention collective, ce lien continue d'être extrêmement solide.

« Travailler avec Saint John Energy est une grande expérience de confiance », déclare le gérant d'affaires du local 1524, Colin Waugh. « Même si nous sommes des soutiens, c'était toujours une question d'équipe avec le service public. »

Les techniciennes et techniciens de système électrique, les techniciens de compteurs et les monteuses et monteurs de lignes représentent près d'un 1/4 des 100 travailleuses et travailleurs de l'entreprise des services publics de la ville, mentionne M. Waugh; un membre depuis 7 ans qui est devenu gérant d'affaires à l'automne dernier. Il est le fils, l'arrière-petit-fils et le neveu de monteurs de lignes de la FIOE, qui ont eux aussi travaillé pour l'entreprise de distribution électrique.

Une grande partie de l'équipe de la direction du service public possède une grande expérience avec la FIOE, notamment, les raisons pour lesquelles la relation entre l'administration et le syndicat fonctionne si bien, autant en négociations que sur le lieu de travail.

L'une de ces personnes est le monteur de lignes du local 1524, Ryan Shonaman qui a accédé à un poste de direction. Il a adhéré à la FIOE il y a 23 ans et maintenant à titre de directeur exécutif des opérations, il supervise l'équipe de monteurs de ligne de Saint John Energy.

« J'ai travaillé avec le père de Colin », formule Shonaman, qui connait M. Waugh depuis la jeunesse du gérant d'affaires, « et l'oncle de Colin était un excellent mentor. L'entreprise est un excellent employeur. »

Le père de Shonaman était monteur de lignes également; il a pris sa retraite de vice-président à Saint John Energy. Il a jugé bon de suivre les traces de son père, et non parce qu'il s'agit d'une carrière bien établie et stable. « Vous avez la possibilité de faire des choses que vous aimiez quand vous étiez enfant, comme grimper des poteaux et travailler avec des camions », qu'il mentionne en riant.

Saint John Energy a été établi en 1922 comme le Power Commission of the City de Saint John. Bien que le local 1524 en revanche, n'a été syndiqué que 24 ans plus tard, en partie parce que M. Shonaman a appris que « nous, en tant qu'entreprise, nous n'avons pas reconnu la Fête de Dominion comme un jour férié payé. » (Qu'on appelle maintenant le 1er juillet, la Fête du Canada.)

« Un groupe de personne qui était traité injustement », prononce

Shonaman, un grand classique pour former un syndicat. »

Renommé Saint John Energy en 1997, le service public de la ville de taille relativement modeste maintient le réseau qui distribue l'électricité — 85 % de l'électricité nécessaire est acheté de Énergie NB Power, dont les travailleurs sont représentés par la section locale 37 à Frédéricton; plus de 36 000 de la clientèle du secteur résidentiel et du secteur commercial est servie par eux. Il s'agit également l'une des meilleures performances en matière de fiabilité et parmi les taux les plus bas au Canada.

Plus récemment, cette collaboration électrique a aidé à garder les négociations pour la dernière convention collective à trois jours en janvier, mentionne M. Shonaman. Le représentant international du premier district, Ross Galbraith a aussi participé à ces négociations. M. Galbraith a été le gérant d'affaires du local 37 et travaille maintenant avec toutes les sections locales des provinces de l'Atlantique du Canada; et l'une des facilitatrices de séances du gouvernement provincial mentionne qu'elle était impressionnée par l'amabilité des parties.

« "Vous travaillez si bien ensemble", dit-elle », formule Shonaman. « C'était un processus collaboratif et respectueux, et je les attribue à ce lien de confiance que nous avons les uns envers les autres. » Ce qui a aidé aussi à conserver cette confiance, dit M. Waugh, est que les leaders du local 1524 et l'équipe de direction de l'entreprise se rencontrent régulièrement.

« Nous ne faisons pas de tempête dans un verre d'eau, » ajoute M. Shonaman. « Nous trouvons des solutions. »

M. Waugh dit qu'il cherche des moyens pour augmenter le nombre des membres du local à l'aide des organisateurs syndicaux de la FIOE ainsi que de renforcer les liens avec Saint John Energy. Le potentiel de croissance est là : l'entreprise a récemment mis en marche un parc éolien de 10 turbines d'une puissance de 42 mégawatts et planifie un réseau d'un flux d'énergie bidirectionnel qui peut gérer la production d'électricité des clients au moyen d'éolienne et de panneaux solaires.

« Le local 1524 est un excellent exemple qui nous montre qu'instaurer un climat de confiance et de négocier avec intégrité, le syndicat et la direction peuvent travailler en partenariat dans leur intérêt réciproque et peuvent contribuer à la croissance de l'autre, pendant même des décennies », déclare le vice-président international du premier district, Russ Shewchuk. « Cette réussite permet aux travailleuses et travailleurs productifs et motivés d'avoir accès à des emplois de qualité, à des milieux de travail sécuritaire et à un salaire qui correspond exactement à leur propre valeur. » 🛮

-In Memoriam ———

Loc	al Surname Date of Death	Local Surname Date of Dea	th Local Surname Date of Death	Local Surname Date of Death	Local Surname Date of Death	Local Surname Date of Death
1	Barry, J. T. 12/30/23	38 Olsieski, L. R. 2/20/	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	303 Andrew, A. D. 1/19/24	529 Moyer, R. J. 1/6/24	861 Martin, L. L. 4/2/23
1	Bertani, R. E. 2/14/24 Collier, W. H. 1/20/24	38 Sharp, A. J. 2/3/ 38 Spina, A. G. 1/20/		303 Collee, E. A. 12/31/23 303 Malowany, J. A. 12/31/23	545 Morris, D. T. 2/8/24 551 Rocha, D. R. 7/5/23	890 Love, D. D. 1/23/24 903 Joris, F. L. 1/28/23
1	Collier, W. H. 1/20/24 Kuhlmann, R. E. 1/20/24	38 Spina, A. G. 1/20/ 38 Strauss, W. J. 2/14/		303 Malowany, J. A. 12/31/23 304 Amos, T. M. 12/26/23	551 Rocha, D. R. 7/5/23 551 Walker, J. K. 12/26/23	906 Baker, G. G. 1/12/24
1	Lewis, T. F. 1/24/24	41 Bauerlein, E. J. 2/3/	24 115 Rogers, J. T. 1/1/24	304 Dodds, C. W. 1/28/24	553 Espinoza, L. 1/12/24	910 Sabin, D. J. 2/17/24
1	Moll, T. F. 12/20/23 Murphy, D. G. 5/24/23	42 Belanger, M. J. 12/15/ 42 Jaconski, S. C. 1/16/	The state of the s	304 Larue, J. H. 1/28/24 307 Knode, T. N. 1/20/24	557 Oldeck, L. J. 2/12/24 558 Barnes, S. 2/13/24	915 Culver, R. L. 2/3/24 915 Lewis, D. A. 2/16/24
1	Murphy, D. G. 5/24/23 Murphy, K. M. 2/3/24	43 Butler, W. H. 12/31/	-	309 Wester, J. J. 1/20/24	558 Blackstock, J. A. 2/21/24	934 Van Bremen, J. A. 8/28/21
1	Ripper, A. J. 12/22/23	43 Deuel, J. T. 2/23/	24 125 Woods, W. N. 4/3/21	317 Back, L. E. 12/4/23	558 Darby, M. K. 1/30/24	952 Sveiven, J. R. 1/23/24
1	Tominia, T. J. 2/24/24	43 Eusepi, W. F. 12/13/	· ·	317 DeHart, D. A. 1/19/24	558 Eddy, C. G. 12/27/23	952 Trout, C. E. 1/16/24
1	Velasco, B. 2/5/24 Wilson, R. G. 12/11/23	43 Smith, M. P. 1/19/ 44 Munk, S. J. 1/22/		332 Glasere, L. A. 7/16/21 332 Polichnowski, M. A 12/8/23	558 Kennedy, B. J. 10/27/23 567 Lord, J. N. 10/22/23	1105 McConnell, R. L. 9/17/23 1141 Colvin, W. F. 1/5/24
2	Barr, G. G. 1/20/24	46 Albano, D. J. 8/25/	23 129 Doyle, R. J. 1/18/24	340 Barker, A. L. 12/27/23	567 Murphy, K. 2/1/24	1186 Kaoihana, W. H. 5/3/21
3	Acevedo, E. 1/31/24	46 Belford, J. M. 12/17/		340 Oliver, J. A. 12/9/23	568 Dube, B. 9/30/23	1205 Hancock, R. L. 1/19/24
3	Berardi, J. 1/29/24 Cofield, L. D. 10/31/23	46 Landin, E. J. 1/18/ 46 Wells, P. R. 1/7/	•	343 Brown, M. F. 12/20/23 343 Johnson, E. G. 6/6/23	568 Lemieux, D. 9/18/23 569 Valenti, R. J. 11/24/23	1205 Phillips, R. F. 1/27/24 1245 Bartl, T. J. 2/3/21
3	Collazo, P. 12/27/23	47 Becerra, L. J. 1/31/	24 131 Ellis, B. P. 10/12/23	349 Beaulieu, H. N. 1/22/24	573 Rife, H. F. 1/13/24	1245 Hayes, E. J. 12/8/23
3	Cuozzo, A. M. 1/30/24 Eller, P. J. 7/30/23	48 Barbier, E. A. 1/12/ 48 Greif, B. A. 12/30/		351 Demarco, R. H. 2/5/24 353 Dick, G. F. 4/20/23	576 Jordan, S. D. 10/8/23 584 Plumlee, R. O. 2/5/24	1249 Fredenburg, G. W. 12/1/20 1249 Hamel, J. C. 1/31/24
3	Geosits, E. 12/15/23	48 Keegan, T. 1/11/		353 Dick, G. F. 4/20/23 353 Dietz, F. W. 2/6/24	586 Desrochers, G. 1/28/24	1250 Ronfeldt, C. E. 1/5/24
3	Goldfarb, M. 1/3/24	51 Walden, W. E. 11/27/	23 134 Guiffre, J. V. 12/1/23	353 Dochuk, R. J. 12/13/23	586 Dudek, J. 2/20/24	1316 Boyt, D. K. 1/5/24
3	Griffiths, G. J. 1/30/24 Grivas, C. 1/12/23	57 Edwards, J. T. 3/2/ 57 Smith, J. M. 1/28/		353 Frisch, G. J. 1/30/24 353 Gottfried, J. 12/29/22	586 Szymanski, J. V. 9/10/23 595 Alexander, B. 1/6/24	1319 Olenick, T. 2/11/24 1426 Brackin, J. P. 12/22/23
3	Heffron, S. J. 6/8/23	58 Hill, R. H. 9/29/		353 Hewitt, B. A. 9/26/23	595 Kent, K. A. 2/17/21	1516 Bailey, B. H. 11/21/23
3	Jarvis, A. A. 2/12/24	58 Hubbs, R. W. 1/24/	24 134 Kaspars, J. 2/6/24	353 Hughes, K. R. 2/17/24	595 Lockwood, J. D. 12/9/23	1547 Greinier, T. R. 2/28/23
3	Kaye, L. 12/28/23 Leone, J. V. 8/16/23	58 Lamee, V. B. 1/2/ 58 Landa, F. A. 2/10/		353 Latchford, P. L. 1/18/24 353 Menifee, D. E. 12/18/23	601 Phelps, W. R. 1/27/24 602 Chapman, C. C. 1/6/24	1547 Johnson, P. W. 8/20/21 1547 Sinclair, J. D. 11/14/23
3	Mullins, M. D. 2/6/24	58 Maki, E. 1/10/		353 Radomil, E. 12/9/22	605 Coleman, D. F. 12/11/23	1579 Hammond, F. B. 12/2/23
3	Nelson, R. C. 2/18/24	58 Quinn, G. P. 2/1/	24 134 Schippel, E. F. 2/4/24	353 Shore, S. K. 2/21/24	611 Armstrong, M. 12/31/23	1579 Padgett, G. H. 2/14/24
3	Ostrom, R. F. 1/26/24 Oyarvide, W. F. 1/29/24	58 Vitiello, S. D. 1/17/ 60 Cacia, J. L. 9/29/		353 Somerville, J. A. 2/5/24 353 Stevens, M. A. 1/29/24	611 Jaramillo, M. J. 9/14/23 611 Putman, P. D. 1/11/24	1579 Stevens, J. M. 2/7/24 1579 Walden, G. V. 2/1/24
3	Proeschel, F. J. 2/10/24	68 Bernhardt, D. B. 6/22/		357 Arreola Cadena, C. 10/27/21	611 Santistevan, P. A. 8/22/22	1687 Gamble, K. R. 2/16/24
3	Quintana, C. 9/1/21	68 Coulter, E. J. 1/7/	24 141 Antlake, J. M. 1/13/24	357 Coleman, T. M. 2/3/24	611 Thompson, W. G. 1/10/24	1687 Somes, W. 12/16/22
3	Schroeder, E. C. 1/19/24	68 Henry, R. A. 7/17/		357 Hogan, T. J. 10/4/23 357 Poole, R. S. 5/18/22	611 Walker, E. W. 1/3/24 611 White, W. E. 12/5/23	2085 Yackoboski, D. 1/18/24
3	Schwartz, J. 2/28/24 Stankiewicz, R. 1/30/24	68 House, R. W. 12/3/ 68 Phelps, J. R. 12/9/		357 Poole, R. S. 5/18/22 357 Rendle, S. E. 12/23/23	611 White, W. E. 12/5/23 613 Babbs, J. 2/14/21	2330 Butt, D. K. 11/5/21 2330 Costello, W. J. 6/24/23
3	Steinberg, C. 2/1/24	68 Schlieker, J. M. 1/18/	24 153 Minne, J. A. 12/10/23	357 Terry, D. D. 1/20/24	613 Chapman, G. M. 1/1/24	2330 King, K. M. 11/15/23
3 5	Steinberg, P. 1/9/24 Fry, H. E. 2/3/24	68 Stanard, L. M. 12/20/3		363 Metzler, C. F. 1/23/23 363 Michalczyk, P. M. 6/15/23	613 Cox, J. L. 2/18/24	2359 Cox, J. L. 1/13/24
5	Fry, H. E. 2/3/24 Mentzell, W. J. 7/8/23	68 Weiss, D. C. 1/21/ 71 O'Grady, F. C. 2/16/		364 Eggum, J. E. 9/5/23	613 Daniel, C. R. 1/30/24 625 Cameron, P. K. 10/17/23	I.O. (134) Bracher, A. J. 1/11/24 I.O. (134) Houston, J. P. 1/16/24
5	Seigh, T. M. 1/10/24	71 Overmyer, N. B. 2/3/	24 164 Verga, V. J. 1/21/24	391 Brewer, J. G. 12/25/23	625 Sawler, N. D. 1/25/24	I.O. (134) Raczko, W. Z. 1/22/24
6	Coyle, B. C. 6/12/23 Griffin, D. S. 1/24/24	72 Seals, D. R. 12/18/ 73 Carveth, N. W. 1/19/	· ·	413 Maulhardt, S. B. 2/4/24 415 Miller, M. J. 12/7/23	640 Croxton, A. M. 1/21/24 640 Genovese, P. M. 1/19/24	I.O. (134) Reese, T. P. 1/18/24
6	Mullins, J. 12/29/23	77 Andrews, W. L. 12/14/		424 Kelly, R. S. 2/8/24	640 Hnatiuk, T. 10/22/23	I.O. (222) Williams, J. L. 1/23/24 I.O. (292) Draisey, D. 2/2/24
9	Schaaf, K. M. 2/13/24	77 Kincheloe, R. P. 1/4/	24 175 Huskey, K. L. 1/6/24	424 Maik, J. D. 12/9/23	649 Schulz, D. J. 4/30/21	I.O. (325) Ely, G. H. 2/2/24
11 11	Anson, M. F. 1/16/24 Giron, B. A. 1/21/24	77 Terwilliger, R. L. 7/4/3 80 Motley, S. L. 10/30/3		424 Quilty, J. A. 12/5/23 424 Strong, K. C. 12/5/23	654 Martin, E. F. 10/18/23 666 Nash, P. D. 2/16/24	I.O. (342) Brimmer, J. A. 1/27/24 I.O. (391) Stone, E. L. 12/9/23
11	Hamilton, S. P. 1/11/24	80 Phillips, R. D. 9/5/		429 Elam, A. M. 2/3/24	673 Herbert, R. L. 1/14/24	I.O. (424) Au, E. N. 12/1/23
11	Heaps, D. 2/3/17	86 Spears, J. R. 4/29/	23 176 Wold, G. D. 2/12/24	429 Hines, D. M. 1/22/24	683 Pflaumer, G. L. 5/26/21	I.O. (577) Jensen, R. L. 1/16/24
11	Holguin, R. R. 11/18/23 Parlopino, J. J. 12/15/23	86 Steves, R. H. 2/9/ 86 Vara, E. 4/21/		429 Nelson, J. E. 3/1/24 430 Slama, M. J. 8/25/23	683 Polen, L. R. 2/6/24 683 Roshon, E. S. 8/13/23	I.O. (1347) O'Leary, T. J. 1/15/24 Pens. (I.O) Bartley, P. F. 1/11/24
11	Saenz, R. 12/26/23	90 Maule, D. P. 6/22/		440 Holguin, A. A. 12/30/23	684 Kuehn, P. G. 1/6/24	Pens. (I.O) Boone, A. L. 11/14/23
11	Shaw, E. E. 10/5/23	96 Ashe, J. P. 12/20/		441 Flood, R. D. 9/4/21	684 Williams, G. M. 12/28/23	Pens. (I.O) Burkel, W. C. 11/12/23
11 16	Short, T. M. 2/4/24 Smith, N. P. 12/27/23	97 Echevarria, H. I. 1/6/ 98 Foy, F. X. 1/29/		446 Vickers, J. T. 7/6/23 449 Triplett, G. J. 1/29/24	692 Howell, L. F. 10/19/21 701 Hoff, D. R. 1/1/24	Pens. (I.O) Campbell, T. F. 11/8/23 Pens. (I.O) Davis, J. I. 1/12/24
17	Bigelow, R. H. 11/1/23	98 Henry, J. P. 7/28/		449 Young, L. R. 1/2/16	701 Jung, T. A. 2/3/24	Pens. (I.O) Davis, M. R. 12/26/23
18	Alyea, S. A. 1/20/24	98 Kaut, R. B. 2/22/		453 Hembree, M. W. 1/23/24	701 Murphy, D. W. 11/26/23	Pens. (I.O) Dolson, C. W. 11/2/23
18 20	Fisher, L. E. 4/13/23 Bryan, B. J. 11/19/23	98 Kowal, M. 1/7/ 98 Lange, W. J. 1/22/		456 Curran, F. D. 10/27/23 466 Smith, J. L. 1/16/24	701 Petersen, C. M. 1/19/24 714 Kadrmas, E. 9/3/23	Pens. (I.O) Falbo, A. C. 1/30/24 Pens. (I.O) Funderburk, J. E.
20	Fitzgerald, F. N. 1/31/24	98 O'Donnell, C. J. 12/28/	23 213 Kirchhoff, H. P. 1/14/23	474 Menne, C. 1/8/24	716 Atteberry, H. R. 12/22/23	12/12/23
20	Mitchell, M. J. 12/10/23	98 Tingle, H. E. 11/3/		474 Montgomery, R. E.12/27/23	716 Bornsheuer, J. L. 12/26/23	Pens. (I.O) Knoblock, D. L. 1/13/24
20	Perez, J. J. 1/6/24 Welch, G. W. 11/24/23	99 Derr, D. A. 1/6/ 99 Pelosi, J. L. 1/19/		474 Wilbourn, E. E. 9/1/23 477 Sauer, D. C. 1/29/24	716 Brunson, A. K. 1/14/24 716 Noack, T. B. 2/19/24	Pens. (I.O) Mattison, G. A. 1/24/24 Pens. (I.O) Nardi, B. 10/24/21
22	Reeve, M. D. 1/22/24	100 Mull, J. E. 5/12/	23 230 Kowalyshen, R. L. 9/2/23	480 Walters, W. D. 1/19/24	716 Roberts, R. A. 10/27/23	Pens. (I.O) Nastansky, M. B.
25	Hickey, M. F. 1/31/24	102 Gallagher, E. J. 1/30/		481 Bittle, D. A. 1/23/24	716 Shoemaker, K. M. 1/17/24	2/19/23
25 25	Johnson, C. J. 2/3/24 Scott, D. F. 12/9/23	102 Maietta, F. 1/30/ 102 Mory, F. A. 1/21/	· ·	481 Collins, D. G. 1/21/24 481 Hamm, R. G. 1/15/24	716 Steele, S. S. 2/5/24 716 Youngblood, T. R. 2/3/24	Pens. (I.O) Otrambo, D. E.12/11/23 Pens. (I.O) Robinson, R. 12/15/23
26	Darling, R. I. 1/13/24	102 Nilsen, G. H. 1/12/	24 236 Draper, R. J. 1/12/24	481 Snavely, D. A. 2/3/24	725 Preston, J. E. 1/18/24	Pens. (I.O) Sherrer, B. 12/8/23
26	Hemmer, D. C. 11/8/23	102 Saoud, P. C. 8/1/		481 Sommers, J. E. 1/21/24	728 Grover, M. B. 2/13/24	Pens. (I.O) Speed, F. H. 12/4/23
26 26	Henderson, L. A. 1/7/24 Khong, S. T. 2/3/24	102 Stragella, J. F. 2/1/ 103 Fortin, D. E. 2/1/		488 Leavitt, L. E. 8/20/23 494 Krueger, J. W. 1/27/24	728 Ordonez, R. A. 2/16/24 743 Derr, H. J. 2/16/24	Pens. (I.O) Voltolina, L. R. 8/3/21 Pens. (I.O) Watts, R. T. 12/30/23
26	Long, M. S. 10/29/23	103 Gorman, P. F. 1/21/	24 265 Hanneman, D. L. 2/26/24	494 Lubecki, D. J. 12/25/23	756 Bailie, A. W. 6/18/23	Pens. (I.O) Wilson, R. S. 1/25/24
26	Orrison, A. S. 9/13/23	103 lannelli, J. J. 2/4/		494 Morrison, W. S. 1/10/24	760 MacBean, R. A. 1/3/24	Pens. (I.O.) Wright, G. B. 2/23/24
26 26	Talcott, F. R. 1/31/24 Weyant, K. L. 11/22/23	103 Mader, L. R. 1/10/ 103 Pupa, R. F. 8/23/		494 Semotan, R. 1/28/24 494 Switon, C. R. 12/24/23	760 Troutman, I. K. 1/30/24 769 Reeder, R. D. 3/9/22	Pens. (I.O.) Zerjav, V. V. 11/12/23 Pens. (I.O) Zoller, J. I. 9/9/23
31	Busse, H. J. 7/4/21	103 Sawyer, E. A. 2/11/	24 292 Frazier, D. N. 1/10/24	494 Zakrzewski, R. E.11/20/23	804 Bricker, R. 7/2/23	
35 38	Gustamachio, D. 10/23/23 Adler, F. E. 2/12/24	105 Williams, K. M. 2/14/ 110 Heckes, D. L. 1/29/	· ·	508 Alfonso, C. S. 12/28/23 508 Bacon, P. M. 2/12/24	804 Harms, H. A. 12/14/22 816 Calhoun, J. W. 2/1/24	This list shows members for
38	Clark, R. J. 2/15/24	110 Meckes, D. L. 1/29/ 110 Milbrandt, R. T. 2/9/		508 Bethune, R. E. 8/20/22	816 Loftus, D. G. 12/28/23	whom PBF death claims were
38	Miozzi, R. C. 1/21/24	110 Stoppel, W. C. 1/18/	24 302 Williams, W. L. 12/27/23	529 Ackerman, F. F. 10/11/23	816 Starks, G. A. 2/2/24	approved in March 2024. ■

POWER AT WORK continued from page 3

After IBEW Day of Action, **California Establishes Utility Workers Appreciation Day**

Utility locals in California supercharged a Day of Action at the state Capitol in March, giving lawmakers and the public a look at the skills, equipment and demands of their essential, high-risk jobs.

The next day, the Assembly voted to establish an annual Utility Workers Appreciation Day, culminating a long-term effort for that recognition.

"We work in an incredibly dangerous industry, and we want to make people aware of that and all that our members do," Vacaville Local 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean said. "Our members play a pivotal role in our state's story of economic success — but more often than not, their hard work goes unseen."

Dean noted that a large number of Local 1245 members were considered essential when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. They're also first responders whose work is often necessary for other first responders to do theirs.

"Oftentimes, we're at the scenes of accidents before the police and fire departments are," said Diamond Bar Local 47 Business Manager Colin Lavin, whose members also participated in the Day of Action on March 13. "Most of the time, our members are the ones calling the emergency services, in addition to making the area safe for the police and firefighters to conduct their business."

More than a dozen Local 47 members joined hundreds of other IBEW members who showcased their skills to state legislators, staffers, utility executives and members of the public.

"I know what it's like to work, day in and day out, through storms ... having those long periods of time when you don't get to go home, and you're working in the worst weather, and all kinds of difficult terrain," said IBEW Ninth District International Vice President Dave Reaves, who previously worked as a journeyman lineman in Alaska, told the crowd at the rally. "You all know your utility systems better than anybody; you know how to safely and efficiently restore power after any climate or emergency event. It takes years of specialized training to work in our utility classifications. ... You are truly the



power and gas professionals in this trade."

The first-of-its-kind event was part of a larger push spearheaded by Local 1245 to educate the public about the highly skilled, essential and often dangerous work done by utility workers across the state.

Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 members attended an Assembly vote that

established March 14 as an annual Utility Workers Appreciation Day.

"At best, utility workers are overlooked and taken for granted. At worst, they are harassed and even attacked just for doing their jobs," Dean said. "It's time for our state to acknowledge, lift up and recognize the contributions and sacrifices that our members make each and every day."

The event was hosted by the Coalition of California Utility Employees, which comprises all the IBEW utility locals in the Golden State, including Los Angeles Local 18 and San Diego Local 465.

During the day, legislators and members of the public were treated to demonstrations of some of the equipment used by utility workers, like switchgears, and some got to ride in bucket trucks.

'They loved it. It was a really big hit all around," said Dean, who also said the Day of Action is planned to be an annual event. "It's not something most people get to see."

Dean and Lavin said it's important for the public, and decision-makers in Sacramento, to know just how much time and dedication goes into linework, from the four to five years of an apprenticeship, followed by more years honing their craft in all kinds of weather and under just about any type of circumstance.

"We're here to show that this isn't just your basic kind of job that any sort of person can walk up and do," said Local 1245 member Justin Henson, who offered close-up demonstrations of the work he does as a PG&E distribution line technician. "It demands and requires a high-intensity level of training, through apprenticeship programs as well as the constant on the-job training to stay up on the growing technology of today."

The Day of Action was followed the next day by a unanimous vote of the Assembly to designate March 14 as Utility Workers Appreciation Day. The Local 1245 members in attendance were given a standing ovation for their hard work, and Dean was honored on the floor for his commitment and advocacy on behalf of the state's utility workers.

"We're here to say thank you. Thank you for working around the clock and in hazardous

conditions to ensure that we all have access to safe and reliable energy. Thank you for this steadfast commitment that you demonstrate in your work. Thank you for risking your lives and for leaving your families sometimes for days or weeks at a time to help restore power to your neighbors," Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, who introduced the resolution, said at the Day of Action. "We cannot keep California working without you. You have one of the toughest jobs out there, and you are deserving of our recognition and our appreciation today, tomorrow, and each and every day."

As California and the rest of the country move toward a greener and more electrified future, the work of IBEW utility workers will only become more vital. As such, it's important for the public to recognize the highly trained and dedicated workers who maintain the electrical grid.

"It's important to have a day of appreciation considering everything that our members do," Lavin said. "The behind-the-scenes maintenance and construction of our electrical systems that the utilities maintain is a 24-hour business. Our members sacrifice their lives, sometimes time with their families, missing birthdays and holidays, so that we can all enjoy and rely on electricity."

Added Dean: "These workers aren't just essential. They're exceptional. This work is incredibly demanding and requires an exceptional level of skill, training, dedication and attention to detail. ... We will continue to work on behalf of our members to ensure they get the respect and recognition they deserve."

BEW MERCHAND







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New England Broadcast Local Enforces Wage Law for R.I. Members

Boston Local 1228 members employed by Rhode Island broadcast outlets are receiving back pay after the local became aware of a state law regarding overtime wages.

The law requires workers to receive overtime pay when they work on Sundays and state holidays. Local 1228 is fighting to secure pay for all its Rhode Island bargaining units that have yet to receive it.

"His diligence has brought wage corrections for every broadcast station in Rhode Island."

– Boston Local 1228 Business Manager Fletcher Fischer on steward Andy Gannon

Andy Gannon, a shop steward and a technician for Rhode Island PBS, brought it to the attention of Business Manager Fletcher Fischer during contract negotiations with the employer. Local 1228 brought it to the attention of station management, which agreed to comply with the law. It has been paying back wages covering the last three years to all current and former employees affected by the law.

Some industries are exempt from the statute. Broadcasting is not one of them.

"The law is the law," said Fischer, who has been business manager and financial secretary since 2011.

"This is a clear example of a vigilant shop steward," Fischer said. "His diligence has brought wage corrections for every broadcast station in Rhode Island, whether they are union or nonunion."

The battle to ensure that the broadcast technicians were paid according to the law got significant media attention in New England. The Boston Globe reported on it, and a nonunion television station that reported on the "Sunday law" was forced to provide back pay to its workers.

Fischer said management at WJAR, an NBC affiliate in Providence where Local 1228 provides representation, was reluctant to provide back pay and looked for loopholes in the law. It ultimately payed up after the local threatened legal action.

Local 1228 represents about 600 broadcast technicians and camera operators at television stations and broadcast sports and entertainment crewing companies throughout New England.

Fischer said the back pay has come at a crucial time for many members. Much like newspapers, local broadcast outlets have been roiled by layoffs and budget cuts in recent years, forcing many experienced professionals from the industry. Wages have been growing at a lower rate than when local television stations were a virtual cash cow.

"A lot of turnover came during the pandemic." Fischer said. "A lot of people decided broadcast station work was not for them. There's a high level of stress, and many didn't think it was worth it."



Boston Local 1228 members, seen here on the job as technicians, at left, and camera operators, are receiving back pay for working Sundays and holidays that had been withheld.



TRANSITIONS

DECEASED

Donald J. Sabin



Donald J. Sabin, who served as assistant to the international president for 23 years, died in his hometown of Tupper Lake, N.Y., on Feb. 17. He was 93.

Brother Sabin held his position from 1969 until his retirement in 1992. He served under International President Charles H. Pillard during the first 17 years and then under J.J. "Jack" Barry, Pillard's successor.

He returned to upstate New York in retirement and split his time between there and Port Charlotte, Fla.

"He was knowledgeable, and he knew our Constitution from cover to cover," said retired Political Director Rick Diegel, who first met Sabin when Diegel moved to Washington to work as an inter-

"He was spot on with

all the advice he

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intelligent guy and

Retired Political Director Rick Diegel on

former Assistant to the International

President Donald J. Sabin

made. He was a very

didn't mince words."

national representative in 1983. "He was spot on with all the advice he gave and in all the comments he ever made. He was a very intelligent guy and didn't mince words."

Sabin was born in Tupper Lake, a village of about 3,000 residents in northeast New York, not far from the Vermont and Canadian borders. He served in the U.S. Marines Corps during the Korean War and, in 1956, followed his father into the Brotherhood. He joined Saranac Lake, N.Y., Local 373, where he completed his apprenticeship and became a journeyman wireman. (Local 373 was amalgamated into Local 781, which was later amalgamated into Watertown, N.Y., Local 910.)

He quickly became active in the local and served eight years as business manager before moving to the international staff in 1969.

Diegel said Sabin had a strong personality and didn't hold back on opinions. That could be intimidating to some, he said.

But the payoff was worth it for those who spent time with him and broke through that veneer, Diegel said.

Sabin often handled disputes involving local unions and elections, making sure the proper regulations were followed while also maintaining good relationships with business managers and other local officials.

"I always looked at him as our in-house lawyer," Diegel said. "That's how good he was."

Retired Eleventh District Vice President William Eads first met Sabin in 1974, when Eads was the business manager at Kansas City Local 1613.

At the time, Local 1613 was on strike

against Kansas City Power & Light, just as the city was about to host the International Convention. Sabin brought the matter to Pillard's attention and helped ensure that delegates and other attendees protested outside the utility's headquarters, a Kansas City landmark and once the tallest building west of the Mississippi River.

"We had a full city block of people surround that skyscraper, and they were four people deep," Eads said. "We did it again every morning of that convention."

Those demonstrations were a boost for Local 1613 members, who eventually agreed to a fair contract, Eads said, calling Sabin "a guy that always got the job done."

Sabin was active in the community, whether it was back home in Tupper Lake or in the

He served on the Tupper Lake School Board and as a volunteer firefighter. He lived in Bowie, Md., while working at the IO and was a grand knight for the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal order of Roman Catholic men. He led a procession to St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington during Pope John Paul II's visit to the city in October 1979.

While he had a deep religious faith, he was not afraid to challenge authority, Diegel said. Sabin once told him about a priest at his home parish who suggested during Mass that Catholics shouldn't vote for the candidates Sabin supported.

That enraged Sabin — not just because he disagreed but because the priest brought up partisan politics at the altar and Sabin was an active volunteer in the church. He spoke up during the service, and he and the priest continued talking afterward, leading to a heated discussion in front of other parishioners.

"I think he told me it was an out-of-body experience," Diegel said with a laugh.

Brother Sabin also coached youth hockey, was active with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and worked with groups that advanced the rights of the disabled. He was a longtime member of the Board of Visitors at Sunmount, a New York state-run center for developmentally disabled people that is a major employer in Tupper Lake. The board serves as watchdog for the safety of patients and employees at the facility.

He is survived by Marlene, his wife of 71 years; daughters Lynn, Katherine and Diane; sons John and Paul; and nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Another son, Michael, died

The officers and staff send their condolences to Brother Sabin's family and loved ones during this difficult time and thank him for his service.

CIRCUITS

Los Angeles Local 18 Program Expands Career Opportunities in Civil Service

For more than a decade, Los Angeles Local 18 has provided area residents with a much-needed path to civil service jobs with the city's Department of Water and Power, and a ticket to the middle class.

"I didn't want to start a program that didn't end with a job," said former Local 18 Business Manager Brian D'Arcy, the program's founder. "And that's what we did. It's been a great journey."

Since 2011, Local 18 has been partnering with the LADWP on the Utility Pre-Craft Trainee program. Participants take part in six-month rotations where they're trained in an array of jobs, from meter reader to water service worker to electrical mechanic.

They're paid while they learn. All they need to qualify is a driver's license and Los Angeles County residency.

"This program says that Local 18 cares about equity and inclusion for all," said Senior Assistant Business Manager Shawn McCloud, who oversees the program. "It provides another pipeline to the middle class with good, union jobs."



Since 2011, Los Angeles Local 18 has been partnering with the city's Department of Water and Power on the Utility Pre-Craft Trainee program. All participants need is a driver's license and L.A. County residency. And they're paid while they learn.

D'Arcy wanted to address two main issues when he started the program: Los Angeles schools not preparing students for careers at the utility and most LADWP workers not being from the city.

"People were given a lot of education in our program that they weren't

getting anywhere else," he said. "A lot of job skills aren't taught anymore. Students were graduating high school without any real-world experience."

It's been popular from the start. D'Arcy said there was a line out the door on the first day just to sign the books and start the process. Hundreds of people who took part in the program have been hired by the department, Business Manager Gus Corona said.

"It's been an excellent program," Corona said. "As long as you're willing to try hard, you can get a life-changing job. You're only limited by your ambition."

Alicia Dickerson had to wait two years after she applied before being accepted, a common occurrence due to the program's popularity. But, like most participants, it was worth the wait, she said.

"Before, I was going from job to job to try and provide for my family," said Dickerson, who's currently working as a building repairer. "I can truly testify that it's helped me gain a career with DWP."

John Pickering heard about the program from a former co-worker. He had worked as a solar panel installer but wasn't a union member, which limited the ability to advance his career.

"If you're not union, when you're on a job and it ends, that's it," said Pickering, who now works in electrical repair. "It was devastating as a temporary employee. I had no certificate or anything to take with me."

Like Dickerson, it took Pickering a long time to get into the program, but it was worth it.

"There's so much opportunity once you get in," he said. "The diversity of work is astronomical."

When Manuel Hernandez took part in a rotation in substation maintenance, he knew he'd found the job that he wanted to turn into a career.

"It was something I was really interested in, and I knew it would be a steppingstone for the rest of my life," said Hernandez, who's now a journeyman electrical mechanic.

Since its inception, the program

has expanded to offer more job classifications, including clerical work. It also has an expanded staff that offers tutoring and training on how to prepare for job interviews.

It's a testament to the good working relationship between Local 18 and the LADWP, Corona said.

"Local 18's partnership is invaluable to the UPCT program and the department," said John Smith, the city department's director of fleet and aviation services. "Combining their community engagement and knowledge of our workforce makes them the ideal partner."



The program has helped hundreds of people get jobs, like Alainna Rawles, who works as a custodial services assistant.

McCloud noted that Local 18's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus chapter is also a partner, promoting the program during its community outreach, and even bringing some UPCT trainees and alumni to the EWMC's annual conference.

Corona and Smith said the program is helping LADWP address an

incoming wave of retirements by providing the department with employees who are committed and more likely to stay in the job for the entirety of their career.

"When it first started, it was like a revolving door. There's a lot less turnover now," Corona said. "The department sees the program as an investment where it gets loyal, trained employees who will likely stick around for the next 30 years."

That loyalty also extends to the union, Corona and D'Arcy said.

"Local 18 gets better union members because they know the union was the one fighting for them," D'Arcy said.

The best part of the program, Corona said, is seeing the trainees succeed and earn their way into the department, and by extension the middle class.

"We get a lot of single moms who never dreamed they could be in the trades. They really surprise themselves," he said. "It's great to see them, and everyone else, get so much pride out of their work."

Labor-Management Group Honors 2 Locals for Saving Utility Jobs

The members of two IBEW locals were honored in March for their tireless efforts to fend off potentially job-killing government takeovers of the utilities where they work.

Representatives from Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 and El Paso, Texas, Local 960 — and their employers — were presented the Edwin D. Hill Award at the 17th annual National Labor and Management Public Affairs Committee conference in Washington, D.C. The award was named for the IBEW international president who formed LAMPAC with the Edison Electrical Institute in 2007. Hill's goal was to help strengthen relations between the union and the investor-owned electrical utilities that EEI represents.

Last fall, members of Local 1837 help led a statewide fight against Ballot Question 3, a referendum that proposed allowing the state government to buy Central Maine Power and Versant Power, a purchase that would have jeopardized the state's grid and hundreds of IBEW jobs.

"Our main things were to protect our members and protect the ratepayers," said Local 1837 Business Manager Anthony Sapienza. "We realized our interests were aligned with the companies'."

To be successful, Sapienza said, the IBEW needed to help educate voters about the dangerous uncertainties of such a takeover. "Fortunately, we have a very dedicated crew in Maine," he said.

"In our operations, we had to be flawless," said Central Maine Power President and CEO Joe Purington. "That's where the IBEW has helped."

"It was like an organizing campaign on steroids," said Local 1837 Assistant Business Manager Renee Gilman, who accepted the award for the local.



Participants, like custodian Ryne Hellmann, do six-month rotations where they're trained in an array of jobs from meter reader to electrical mechanic.



Referendum advocates kept saying the government takeover would be a great way to "stick it to the man," she said, but they had no data to back it up.

"You have to talk to people with the facts," Sapienza said. "Show people that there's a very broad coalition, that it's not often that labor is aligned with companies and businesses like this."

Second District International Representatives Ed Starr and Joe Casey worked on the campaign, plus members from other IBEW locals that work in Maine, such as Portland Local 567, Augusta Locals 1253 and 2327, and Boston Local 104.

The work paid off: Nearly 70% of voters on Nov. 7 cast ballots against the takeover. "Two years before, [passage] was a forgone conclusion," Purington said. "But customers saw our unity."

Also in 2023, but more than 2,000 miles away in western Texas, the members of El Paso Local 960 were working to defeat Proposition K, a ballot measure that could have led to a city takeover of the power company, risking the jobs of more than 400 IBEW members.

"With something like this, you have to put it at the forefront of your agenda," said Local 960 Business Manager Eddie Trevizo. "Getting political is essential. It's one of the cornerstones of labor."

Labor and management came together against Proposition K for the benefit of both groups, he said. "Working alongside the company makes you more powerful," he said. "We may still be filing grievances, but today, let's come together and have a unified voice."

Connecting with the community also was crucial in their fight, he said. "If you're not out there supporting it, people don't know you exist," Trevizo said, adding that Local 960 members were prominently presented in advertising against the measure.

"These men and women are proof that labor and management can and must work together to ensure reliable power and to protect good union jobs," said IBEW International President Kenneth W. Cooper. "Working with their

employers, they show how our union and the energy industry can forge powerful legislative partnerships."

El Paso Electric President and CEO Kelly Tomblin praised Trevizo's "authenticity" in helping get Proposition K rejected by nearly 82% of those who voted.

"We all looked up to him," she said. (You can read more about the Local 960 campaign in the August 2023 edition of The Electrical Worker.)

Also honored with a Hill Award at the March 4 meeting was former EEI president and CEO Tom Kuhn, who retired at the end of 2023 after more than 30 years with the association. Additionally, Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto, a Democrat from Nevada, and Kevin Cramer, a Republican from North Dakota, received the John D. Dingell Award for co-sponsoring a resolution that passed the Senate in 2023 expressing support for designating July 10 as Journeyman Lineworkers Recognition Day. The resolution marks the date in 1896 that Henry Miller, the first president of the IBEW, died after he was injured on the job.

The Dingell Award is named for the long-serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Michigan who was a steadfast advocate in Congress for organized labor. His widow, Rep. Debbie Dingell, who has held what was her husband's office since his retirement in 2014, presented the award.

The awards presentation wrapped up a day filled with panel discussions featuring IBEW leaders and industry experts on topics ranging from clean energy generation and small modular nuclear reactors to grid resilience and workforce safety.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, speaking to the gathering, said that 14.8 million "good-paying, family-sustaining" jobs have been created since President Joe Biden took office in 2021 thanks to the most pro-union presidential agenda in U.S. history.

"It's working," she said. "You'll be able to tell your kids and grandkids that you were there when this massive transformation happened — you were putting us into this clean-energy future."



California Local **Partners With Utility** on 'Boot Camp' for **Aspiring Apprentices**

When Dariyn Choates found out about the Lineworker Scholarship Program run by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245, he knew it was a chance to get closer to his goal of becoming a lineworker.

"When I got the email from SMUD, I decided, 'Let me challenge myself.' And that's what I did. I busted my butt," said Choates, who had previously worked for SMUD as a solar installer.

Choates was one of nearly 30 graduates from the program's inaugural class and the keynote speaker at a graduation ceremony in March. A former college football player, he's no stranger to physically demanding work, or working as part of a team.

"I like jobs where I can be active," he said. "I like having a tough job to complete."



across the industry. Above, Dariyn Choates receives his certificate of

completion at a graduation ceremony held in March.

Despite his aptitude for teamwork and physical challenges, Choates said that having football on his resume wasn't opening any doors to the good-paying career he was looking for. The Lineworker Scholarship Program was his opportunity to change that.

"Before, it was hard to compete. I'm a lot more confident now," Choates said.

Choates and his classmates spent every Saturday and Sunday for a month learning foundational training in pole-climbing techniques, proper tool usage, safety protocols, equipment installation on wood poles and ground work. With an emphasis on hands-on learning and real-world experience, the participants graduated with a competitive edge for linework apprenticeship programs. They also got classroom instruction and help with interview preparation, as well as a stipend and a certificate of completion.

"The amount I learned was incredible," Choates said, adding that he was impressed by how knowledgeable all the lineworker trainers were. "They made a lot of people want to be lineworkers."

The program, which Local 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean describes

as a boot camp, came about when he and SMUD CEO Paul Lau got together to look at ways of expanding the number of opportunities available for getting into the trade.

"Everybody is phenomenally excited about the opportunity," Dean said, noting that while a lot of participants want to be lineworkers, the program prepares people for jobs across the industry. "Training without employment is useless."

While most of this graduating class will be able to get jobs with SMUD, Dean said the goal is to eventually make it a statewide program that would be paid for by California workforce funding. The inaugural class was funded jointly by Local 1245 and SMUD.

"This was the proof of concept,"

For Choates, his objective is to get hired this year as a lineworker, and he's already been in talks with SMUD and another electrical company.

"One of my favorite things is that there's so much more to learn," he said. "I also like the aspect of helping people and how lineworkers are first responders. To be able to do all that as your career, while also making a good wage, that's the end goal."



Pictured with National LAMPAC's Edwin D. Hill Award are, from left, Edison Electric Institute Chair Pedro Pizarro; International President Kenneth W. Cooper; Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 Assistant Business Manager Renee Gilman; Central Maine Power CEO Joe Purlington; El Paso Electric CEO Kelly Tomblin; EEI CEO Dan Brouillette; and El Paso, Texas, Local 960 Business Manager Eddie Trevizo.

LOCAL LINES

Just Say No to Term Limits

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st, ws&ptc), ST. LOUIS, MO — By the time this article reaches you, Missouri's Legislature will have considered bills that would reduce unemployment benefits to eight weeks; allow each county to vote on becoming a right-to-work (for less) county; and greatly increase the threshold of our state's initiative petition process, making it harder (if not impossible) for voters to have a voice in the legislative process.

In 2018, with the assistance of the rank-and-file membership of every union in the state, organized labor was successful in getting enough signatures during the initiative process to force a statewide vote on the unpopular right-to-work law passed in 2017. I remember when my state used to have 26 weeks of unemployment. I shudder to think about making a dollar stretch if unemployment assistance is slashed to eight weeks.

How could this happen? One reason is that our state voted in term limits for state House and Senate members, and we are now stuck with lob-byist-controlled drones. Any elected member showing a willingness to work with the opposition or find compromise and common ground is cut off from monetary support, stripped of committee assignments and demonized in the primary, leaving only elected members who parrot the lobbyists' wishes to the detriment of their citizens.

If your state is talking about or trying to enact term limits, my recommendation is to just say no! This way, each time you vote in primaries or general elections, you can make the incumbents' terms limited by choosing one of the other candidates.

Kyle Hunter, P.S.

Local 7 Apprentices' Last Class

L.U. 7 (i), SPRINGFIELD, MA — Our local's graduating fifth-year apprentices recently attended their

last class at their JATC in Springfield. We wish all of these graduates bright, brilliant futures in the electrical industry!

Blair Gimma, P.S.



Happy 30th anniversary to Local 15!

Local 15 Celebrates 30 Years

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — System Council U-25 was faced with the monumental task in the fall of 1993 of consolidating Locals 1359, 1361, 1366, 1367, 1399, 1427, 1441, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1469, 1479, 1515, 1530, 1539, 1540 and 1557 into the new Local 15.

New leadership was put in place by the International Office and the Sixth District to start looking for a new local office, interviewing for new business representative jobs and creating new bylaws, all the while keeping the operations of 17 locals up and running. Setting May 1 as the inauguration date for Local 15, each of the locals started to identify processes that would be needed for the new local.

Under the directive of International President J.J. Barry, these 17 local unions were amalgamated on May 1, 1994, and Local 15 was established.

Happy anniversary to the hard-working brothers and sisters of Local 15!

John Richards, Bus. Rep.



Local 7's graduating fifth-year apprentices attend their last class at the JATC in Springfield, Mass.



Local 41's hockey team competed in a building trades charity tournament in January.

Michigan's Right-to-Work Repeal Leads to Membership Gains

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — Michigan's right-to-work repeal became effective Feb. 13, and it had an immediately positive impact on our local and its membership.

Our collective bargaining agreement with Traffic Management Inc. was established in 2016, after Michigan's right-to-work laws were implemented. Local 17 represents about 140 traffic controllers at TMI, only half of whom were union members.

Directly because of the right-to-work repeal, we successfully negotiated with TMI to sign a memorandum of understanding that added a union security clause to the collective bargaining agreement. This new contract language requires all TMI traffic-control employees to join the union to be employed. The repeal of right-to-work and the subsequent implementation of a union shop has allowed us to gain 70 new Local 17 members at TMI.

We have assisted Local 876 in organizing workers at TMI locations in its jurisdiction, which should allow them to add 70 to 80 new members. As a result, these workers will enjoy improved wages, benefits and working conditions.

The bottom line? Political successes can lead to real workplace gains for our members!

James Shaw, B.M.

What's New at Local 41

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY - Our local had its first women's meeting Feb. 27 at our meeting hall. We met up to begin our celebration of Women in Construction Week.

Everyone in attendance received one of our new Rosie the Riveter-themed shirts. We had a great mix from new members to 20-year seasoned

veterans. As the conversation began, so did the planning for future meetings and group outings. We are very much looking forward to what the future holds for the sisters of Local 41.

Local 41's hockey team competed in an eightteam building-trades charity tournament in January. Our team played hard and narrowly lost the semifinal to finish in third place. We were excited to welcome some new members to the group this season as we hope to put a fall team together.

This year, the money raised by the tournament was donated to Save the Michaels of the World, Inc. Save the Michaels is an organization started by Local 41 Brother Avi Israel after he tragically lost his son at the age of 20. Their mission is to raise awareness of abuse and misuse of prescription and other drugs. If you or a loved one are in need of help, please reach out to **savethemichaels.org**.

Matthew M. Gaiser, A.B.M.



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

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

Trade Classifications (mps) Motion Picture Studios (as) Alarm & Signal Electronic Technicians Radio-Television Service (ars) Atomic Research Service (nst) Nuclear Service Technicians Service Occupations (fm) Fixture Manufacturing Bridge Operators (govt) Government Outside Shopmen Powerhouse Sign Erector (cs) Cable Splicers (i) Inside (se) (spa) Sound & Public Address (catv) Cable Television **Instrument Technicians** (pet) Professional, Engineers & Technicians Sound Technicians Communications (Ictt) Line Clearance Tree Trimming (st) Lightning Protection Technicians (ptc) Professional, Technical & Cranemen Telephone (ees) Electrical Equipment Service (mt) Maintenance Transportation Manufacturing **Electrical Inspection** (mo) Maintenance & Operation Utility (rr) Railroad (u) Electrical Manufacturing Radio-Television Broadcasting (mow) Manufacturing Office Workers (rtb) (uow) Utility Office Workers Electric Signs (rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing Warehouse and Supply (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 members and family helped the community by cleaning up wreaths at the Onondaga County **Veterans** Memorial Cemetery.

Local 43 Veterans Committee

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — Our local's Veterans Committee members and family volunteered to lay wreaths this year to honor our veterans. Additionally, these volunteers helped the community by cleaning up wreaths at the Onondaga County Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Thank you for honoring our veterans during the holiday season.

Thank you, brothers and sisters!

Jeff Cassano, P.S.

Local 47 Brightline West Update

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA -Greetings, brothers and sisters. Business Manager/ Financial Secretary Colin Lavin updated the local on the Brightline West high-speed rail project. The line will run from Las Vegas to Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., in the center median of the I-15 freeway. It is scheduled to take 15 to 18 months, and it will put 200 brothers and sisters to work.

The following updates round out Local 47's bargaining news:

- · Southern California Edison: Two days of bargaining to establish a contract with newly certified real time operators took place Jan. 29-30. A new agreement was ratified by 69% for production specialists.
- City of Riverside: Bargaining to begin April 15 for new contract for the wastewater management group.
- City of Anaheim: Meeting for the general contract and the part-time customer service contract for follow-up proposals not finalized in the contract.
- City of Long Beach: Membership development for the city.

Local 47's upcoming events are the family picnic May 4 and the Stewards & Safety Conference June 6-8. We hope to see you there.

We're sad to report the deaths of Jose Barajas, Michael Bueno, Hugh Chandler, Vincent Fanty, Jesus Guzman, Manuel Lopez, Allen Roberts, Thomas Thilges and Harold Wilson. Our condolences and prayers are with their loved ones.

Work safe and buy union!

Mitch Smith, P.S.

Illinois Push for ROFR Legislation

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Due to unprecedented actions taken by the Illinois Commerce Commission in December, construction work in the jurisdiction has come to a stop. Approximately 80% of ongoing and upcoming projects have been delayed or canceled. Members are seeking employment in other states and from inside locals that need manpower. The local is appreciative of the inside locals that have offered to help.

The IBEW in Illinois continues to push for the passage of "right of first refusal" legislation. This would allow the local utilities and the IBEW to continue building much-needed transmission lines. The local will continue to engage legislators, the governor's office and the ICC to try to correct the issues.

Brother David Loveless raced last summer in the Racer X Senior Motocross Series, which was held in Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. Out of 50 racers per class, Dave finished fourth in 45+B and seventh in 50+B classes. He still races with his son, David, and his wife, Kathy, is the pit crew. Dave stated, "There is nothing like going into the first turn with 40 other bikes chasing you." Congratulations!

We would like to welcome IFP Land Services to Local 51. These line-clearance tree trimmers voted to unionize, and we are proud to now call them our brothers and sisters.

Karlene Knisley, Bus. Rep.



Local 51's David Loveless raced (and placed) in the Racer X Senior Motocross Series last summer. Congratulations!

Good Work Forecast

L.U. 55 (lctt,o,u&c), DES MOINES, IA — Hello, brothers and sisters. We recently negotiated a new contract for our construction members. Many other units are finishing up as of this writing.

We are so blessed to have had one of the warmest winters on record. We had our Christmas party in December with more than 150 people attending. There were lots of prizes and face painting for the kids. Thanks to everyone who put it together. We had some great food and talked a lot to members we hadn't seen for a while. It seems like time flies by so fast.

We have a great group of officers, as well as a great group of retirees who arrive for breakfast each month. We salute them for all their hard work making our union what it is today. We meet at Perkins Restaurant on East Euclid Avenue the first Monday of each month at 9 a.m., and everyone is welcome.

Myron Green, P.S.



Local 103 retirees on their annual trip to Naples, Fla.

Winter Fun in the Sun

L.U. 103 (cs,i&ptc), BOSTON, MA — Our local headed to Naples, Fla., in February to enjoy the 10th annual retirees' winter luncheon at the Naples Grande Beach Resort. Sixty retirees met up for a friendly, yet competitive, round of golf, and 250 retired members and guests enjoyed the luncheon as they caught up with old friends and tool partners. Business Manager Lou Antonellis updated the retirees on what Local 103 was up to back home.

Local 103 is proud to announce a new partnership with the 17-time NBA champion Boston Celtics. As part of this partnership, the Local 103 journeymen's and apprentices' basketball teams played a game on the hallowed parquet floor at TD Garden.

At every home game, Local 103 sponsors the Heroes Among Us Award, which is given to local people who have made exceptional contributions to our community.

James Fleming, P.S.

IBEW Strong, Tools and Trades Expo Make a Busy Spring

L.U. 131 (l,rtb,rts,se&spa), KALAMAZOO, MI — The work outlook is steady in Kalamazoo, with several projects that should start this summer. The Palisades nuclear plant is beginning to hire for recommissioning. The local sponsored a tools and trades expo, and several contractors, venders, building trades locals, high schools and tech centers participated. Thank you to Jon Current and Ryan Lewis for all your hard work on this project.

An IBEW Strong class was presented by Lisa Page and Joe Davis in February, with good information and great insights. Now we need to start accepting change and work toward a new IBEW.

Negotiations are continuing, and committee members Terry Clark, Leroy Crabtree, Jon Current, Tim Haydon and myself are working hard to get the best contract that serves the membership. The committee has shown creativity in its problem-solving during the negotiating process.

Our local website, ibew131.com, has a new tab dedicated to retirees, and I encourage those who are retired to check it out -

there's a lot of good information just for you. The local picnic is scheduled for July 27, and I

hope to see you there.

Morris A. Applebey, B.M.

Local 141 Celebrates New Journeyman Wiremen

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Work has slowed a bit in our jurisdiction, with 33 members on Book 1 as of this writing.

The Wheeling JATC held a completion dinner for our newest journeyman wiremen in January at the Wheeling Island Hotel-Casino-Racetrack. Brothers Derek Borsos, Cole Crow, Kevin Johnson, Jordan Mehlman, Jason Reed, Tyler Robinson and losh Sabinski received their completion certificates and enjoyed an evening of great food, terrific guest speakers and brotherhood. May they each have a very successful career in the IBEW!

The political scene is ramping up, and Local 141 is proud to announce that President Dave Cantrell and executive board member Cody Cumpston have filed to run for the West Virginia House of Delegates in two separate districts of the northern panhandle. There's no doubt that, if elected, these brothers will fight tirelessly for the working people of West Virginia. The local wishes them both the best of luck with their campaigns!

Local 141 is deeply saddened to report the passing of John M. Antlake, Joseph H. Bauduin, Paul Kartman Sr., Robert A. Kubovicz, retired Local 141 secretary Lynn McKee and Edwin A. Timberlake. Notably, Brother Kubovicz was the owner of signatory contractor United Electric of Wheeling, served on the contractor's side of the apprenticeship committee and was a member of Local 141 since 1974. All will be greatly missed.

Kurt "Bug" Reed, P.S.



Local 141's newest journeyman linemen, first row from left: Josh Sabinski, Cole Crow, Tyler Robinson, Derek Borsos; back row, from left: Kevin Johnson, Jordan Mehlman, Jason Reed and JATC Director Mark Dunfee.

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

Congratulations, **New Officers and Members**

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH - In November, our local held its election, and we congratulate those elected and reelected as officers.

Local 245 hopes everyone is ready for spring and the warmer weather ahead. We also hope everyone who attended our annual Toledo Walleye family night had a great time and enjoyed the blowout win.

Local 245 is pleased to report that our newly organized members at the city of Bryan's Street Department have ratified their first collective bargaining agreement. Welcome to the IBEW and the protection and benefits of an IBEW contract!

We are also pleased to report that Local 245 was successful in securing an arbitration award for our members at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. That award will put millions of dollars into our members' 401(k) accounts owed to them per the collective bargaining agreement.

Outside construction is slow in our

Local 245 would like to stress the importance of following all safety rules and policies so that you and your brothers and sisters can go home safely every day.

Brian Gendaszek, R.S.

Many Benefits of ROFR

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — Our outside construction group has experienced over 70% unemployment on Ameren Illinois property since January due to an unfavorable Illinois Commerce Commission decision. The ICC rejected proposed rate hikes and grid plans from both Ameren Illinois and Commonwealth Edison. resulting in mass unemployment for linemen across the state.

To better comply with the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, the state needs a revised proposal to meet decarbonization requirements while ensuring that electric rates remain affordable for low-income communities. As Illinois is the least profitable state in the country for a utility company, it is uncertain what an acceptable return on equity will be. Negotiations are ongoing.

The IBEW in Illinois is advocating a new proposal that would grant a permanent "right of first refusal," or ROFR. This measure would give incumbent utilities the option of controlling transmission line projects before other companies can bid on them. ROFR allows for construction to begin sooner and would ensure that projects are competitively bid with local contractors and union workers. All affected locals are coordinating their efforts to convince the governor of the many benefits of the measure.

Carlos S. Perez, A.B.M.

Our Founding, Our Future

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Last month, our local reached a milestone of 45 years as an IBEW-chartered local union.

Local 343 has grown in membership and influence over the years. The hall moved from a rented office in a shopping mall in Le Sueur to a retrofitted Quonset hut in Rochester, Minn., and, in 2006, to the current location.

Where were you in 1979? If you answered, "Working with the tools as an electrician," you should be retired by now. In the mid-1970s, the tool list consisted of a knife, a 6-foot wooden rule, a pencil, two pairs of channel locks, five screwdrivers, a hammer, a center punch, a hacksaw frame, side cutters, diagonal pliers, a small level, a plumb bob and a small square.



Local 483 members showed their union colors and solidarity at their employee appreciation barbecue.

Labor unions will continue to change with the times. One thing is constant: Union membership delivers dignity on the job and a higher standard of living at home.

The Sparky Fishing Opener on the Mississippi River will be June 8, with food, prizes and stories of "the one that got away." Check ibewlocal343.org

Invest in America, Buy Made In USA.

Tom Small, P.S.

Local 357's Bowling for Brotherhood

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV — On March 2, our local held its 13th annual Bowling for Brotherhood charity to benefit the Brotherhood Welfare Fund and Safe House. This event was founded by Business Manager Richie Work and has continued through the efforts of Brotherhood Welfare Committee Chairman Dan McDow, who has been the champion of this event for three years in a row. More than 100 brothers, sisters, friends and family members shared in this day of fun and competition.

Brother Matthew Baeza won the adult top score Business Managers' Award (209), the No-Tap High Score (262) and the Chairman's High Series Championship (3-game series total score 609). All the top score winners (of both the adult and youth divisions) won cash prizes. Matthew also received a custom-made tool pouch crafted by Brother Mike Trousdale.

We received donations to our Dusty Tool Drive for apprentices in need and raffled off numerous prizes for the adults and kids in attendance. It was another fantastic Local 357 event helping others and fostering brotherhood.

Julie-Ann Peeples, P.S.



Dan McDow, left, chairman of the Local 357 Brotherhood Welfare Committee, with Bowling for Brotherhood champion Matthew Baeza.

Solidarity Serves Local 483 Members

L.U. 483 (catv,lctt,o&u), TACOMA, WA — Our local's Tacoma Water members showed their union colors and solidarity at their employee appreciation barbecue. At the time, they were engaged in prolonged contract negotiations that were not favorable. Rather than refusing to attend the employer-sponsored event, our members came in their Local 483 T-shirts and showed their solidarity. The contract was settled soon after.

Union solidarity is continuing to grow in our ranks! Way to go!

Rianne Cornelison, P.S.



Members from Local 601 joined those from Locals 34 and 176 for a brotherhood night.

Local 601's **Brotherhood Night**

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — Our brothers in the northern jurisdiction held a brotherhood night for all those working in the area. We'd like to thank members from Locals 34 and 176 for being present to celebrate with us. A big thanks to Brother Andy Svoboda for putting on the event.

Luther Baker, P.S.

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,u&ptc), CINCINNATI, OH - A positive result of our organizing drive in 2023 was the addition of Lake Forest Financial Advisors to our local. Lake Forest is a member of the Principal Financial Group, a pro-union company that has for years provided valuable advice and service to Local 1347 and its members. Now, as IBEW brothers and sisters, they are expanding their commitment to serve

said: "Our mentor program has developed a partnership with advisors Keith and Art. Through them, Lake Forest Financial has been able to better educate our younger apprentices about financial responsibility. I believe, with this education, we can give our apprentices a better start earlier in their career. I am grateful to have met Keith and Art - I am better able to help our younger members."

Outside Line Construction/ **NECA Agreement**

L.U. 659 (c,catv,em,i,lctt,o,st,t&u), MEDFORD, OR -Alongside Locals 77, 125 and 483, our local negotiated with its outside line NECA chapter. The negotiating committees' combined efforts have achieved a contract that is beneficial to our members' wages and benefits package:

- Wage increases: 6% in 2024, 5% in 2025, 5% in 2026, 6.5% in 2027 and 6.5% in 2028 (total 29%).
- NEAP contributions for JL, foreman, GF and operator/URD operator: 25 cents in 2024, 75 cents in 2025, 85 cents in 2026, \$1.50 in 2027 and \$1.65 in 2028 (total \$5).
- NEAP contributions for apprentice lineman and below: 25 cents for each year (total \$1.25).
- HRA increase: Starting in 2025, 10 cents for the remainder of the contract (total 40 cents). • LINECO increases will be covered through the
- term of the agreement.

For the term of the agreement, our journeyman linemen will be making \$80.25 in wages, a \$19.15 hourly NEAP contribution and \$1.40 an hour into their HRA, with the total cost of LINECO covered by the employer.

James Davidson, A.B.M.

Local 915 Women's Committee Chartered

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL — Business Manager Randall King is pleased to report that work continues to pick up in the Tampa Bay area. With two stadiums breaking ground over the next year, there will be opportunities for our northern brothers and sisters to head south and enjoy the Florida sunshine.

> Local 915 held its annual Christmas party Dec. 9. More than 250 members and their families were hosted at the hall. Donations of unwrapped gifts were accepted on behalf of local charities. Santa made an appearance, and a good time was had by all.

> The sisters of the Local 915 Women's Committee were pre-

sented with their official charter by Brother King at our January meeting. Sisters Tabitha Hunter and Christine Handley have done an exemplary job in building on the foundation laid by Sister Theresa King. We look forward to seeing all the great work the Local 915 Women's Committee has planned.

The first annual Local 915 chili cook-off was held Feb. 3. This event was put on by Brothers Andrew Rodriguez and Tyler Crawford. Brother Brian Nathan took home the first-place trophy, a cast-iron skillet with the Local 915 bug engraved on the bottom.

Brian Nathan, A.B.M.

Lake Forest Offers Valuable Service to Locals

throughout Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Local 82 Assistant Business Agent David Bruce



As the result of Local 1347's organizing drive in 2023, Lake Forest Financial Advisors was added to the local.

This group of union professional financial advisers works hard to understand the financial challenges of our brotherhood and our locals. Be sure to reach out (www.lffadvisors.com) to see how they can help your local.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

Local 1547 Lobbies Alaska Legislature

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t,u,lctt&ptc), ANCHORAGE, AK — Apprentices Antonio Diaz and Ivan Malloy joined retirees Zack Coss, Steve Davis and Gene White in lobbying the Alaska Legislature at the Alaska AFL-CIO Legislative Fly-In. The team lobbied legislators on apprenticeship utilization, federal infrastructure money and local hires.

Melinda Taylor, Comm. Dir.



Local 1547 retirees and apprentices lobbied Alaska legislators on apprenticeship utilization, federal infrastructure money and local hires at the Alaska AFL-CIO Legislative Fly-In.

Local 1579 Graduations and Elections

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA - Hello, brothers and sisters. By the time you receive this issue, we will have another graduating class of apprentices ready to take on the industry. To those graduates, let me be among the first to congratulate you on completing your arduous journey. It's now up to you to choose your path in our diverse field. I urge you all to participate in our continuing-education classes, which we offer free. I also encourage you to stay active in your local, as you are our future.

The work situation in Augusta is holding its own, and hopefully the construction will soon pick up at the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility. There are several data centers soon to break ground in our area. Business Manager J.R. Richardson continues to reach out to contractors, both in and out of our area, to bid on this work. We hope his diligence will soon come to fruition, as a general contractor has asked to address the Augusta Building Trades concerning at least one of these projects.

I recently attended registrar training with International Representatives G. William Salters and John Zapfel, which was very educational and supplied us with tools to help us elect labor-friendly legislators at both national and local levels. This is a very important election for labor, and your vote is essential in our chances to maintain our existence as the driving force of the middle class. Get involved, and vote.

"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." - John F. Kennedy

Mike Greene, Pres.

Local 1701 Blessed With Opportunities

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY — Last December, the local held its years-of-service recognition ceremony,

with members receiving their service pins. Brother Dick Elder received a certificate recognizing 70 years of service. Recent retirees received USA-made clocks.

The JATC Committee has hired Brother Jason Sharp to be the full-time apprentice training director. Brother Sharp's office is set up at the training facility. Additionally, Brother Shad Chappel has been brought in to oversee the training labs at the facility. The JATC welcomes two new instructors, Brothers Chris Bartlett and Kevin Merimee, and Brother Jeff Barr is the apprentice craft certification administrator.

Retired Brother Allen Nall coordinates the monthly retirement lunch, and it typically serves 40 members and their spouses with a variety of meals.

Brother Joe Ballard leads the continuing education for required hours to maintain state licenses. All members are encouraged to work toward their state JW and master's licenses.

Our local is blessed with many opportunities in our jurisdiction, with members working with a number of contractors on a variety of commercial and industrial projects.

Rick Thurman, P.S.

Local 2359's David McChesney Retires

L.U. 2359 (u), CIRCLEVILLE, OH - Our local announces the retirement of Business Manager/President David McChesney as of January. David's leadership guided the local through tough and good times, and he will be remembered fondly for the service he provided during his tenure of nearly 13 years.

Brother McChesney's union career began in 1981 as a shop steward, and he transitioned to financial secretary in 1992. He continued at that position until 2011, when he took over as business manager/president following the retirement of the previous president. During that time, Dave also served on the board of the Ohio State Conference of the IBEW.

David has stated that, in addition to his service as business manager/president, his biggest union honor was serving as sergeant at arms at the 40th IBEW International Convention in Chicago.

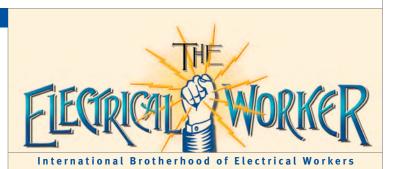
Our sincere thanks and congratulations to David McChesney. We wish him and his wife, Kathy, a lengthy and enjoyable retirement!

David is succeeded by 16-year member Justin Waugh, who was sworn in as the new business manager/president of Local 2359. Congratulations to Brother Waugh! May he continue the successful legacy left by David for many years to come.

Lonnie Roberts, P.S.



Local 2359's former Business Manager/President David McChesney celebrates his retirement.



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

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