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IBEW News



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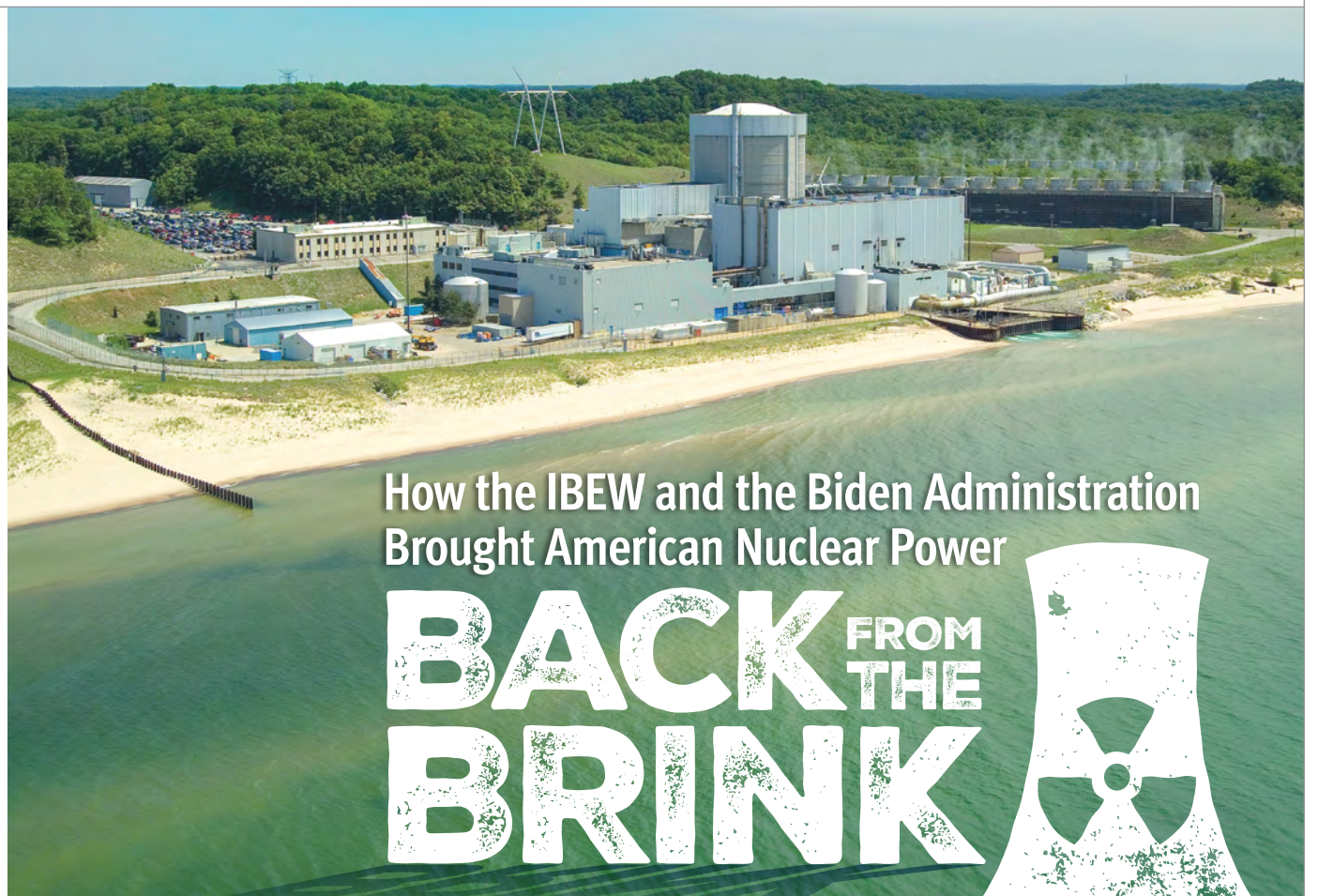
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THE IBEW'S 2024 PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline: Nov. 1 • Details on pg. 10

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How the IBEW and the Biden Administration Brought American Nuclear Power

BACK FROM THE BRINK



The Palisades Nuclear Generating Station in southwestern Michigan was shuttered in 2022 but is coming back online thanks to a \$1.5 billion loan guarantee under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The recommissioning is covered by a PLA with the IBEW.

For the first time in U.S. history, a nuclear power plant is going back online. The recommissioning of Palisades Nuclear Generating Station in Covert Township, Mich., is just one part of an extraordinary turnaround in the nuclear industry engineered by a unique collaboration among the White House, the IBEW and American industry.

Palisades was shuttered in 2022, but a \$1.5 billion loan guarantee, funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will allow it to come back in 24 months for less than one-tenth the cost of a new nuclear plant.

And the whole project — including the small modular reactors proposed for the same site — is covered by a project labor agreement with the IBEW.

“Recommissioning Palisades is going to bring back middle-class, union jobs that we thought were permanently gone from this part of the state,” said Sixth District International Vice President Mike Clemmons. “This was all made possible because we have the most important seat at the most important table in America today. When the nation’s industrial and environmental policy was signed into law by President Joe Biden, it was 100% pro-labor.”

MICHIGAN PLANT REBORN



Reopening Palisades will create or retain up to 600 permanent jobs next year and more than 1,000 temporary construction and maintenance jobs during the facility’s regularly scheduled refueling and maintenance periods every 18 to 24 months.

“For the first time in generations, America is serious about becoming a manufacturing powerhouse, but it also needs to cut carbon emissions. We’ve always said we need nuclear to do that. But before Biden, that wasn’t what was happening,” Clemmons said.

Palisades was the 13th nuclear reactor to close down in the last 10 years. Six more closures have been announced. The U.S. Department of Energy issued a report in 2022 warning that half of the remaining 92 reactors were at risk of closing.

Just two years after that report, there are

dozens of small modular reactors in the works, Diablo Canyon in California was rescued from closure, and Palisades — dark, defueled and in the process of permanent closure — already has dozens of IBEW members working to get the reactor back online.

The root of the turnaround is the extraordinary political work done by the IBEW to get job-saving, pro-union language into the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act signed by Biden.

The closure of Palisades threatened to devastate this corner of southwest Michigan, said Kalamazoo, Mich., Local 131 Business Manager Morris Applebey.

A report compiled by the University of Michigan’s Economic Growth Institute in 2023 found that Palisades’ closure led to \$250 million in economic losses just in Van Buren, Berrien and Cass counties.

“It was a disaster. At least 10% of the population of St. Joe, South Haven and Covert left,” he said. “Covert had to cut their school budget by 50%.”

Sadly, it was a continuation of the hollowing out of the American industrial center.

NUCLEAR POWER *continued on page 4*

FROM THE OFFICERS

Nuclear's Comeback



Kenneth W. Cooper
International President

Just a few years ago, the future of nuclear looked bleak. Plants were shutting down nationwide, and there was little will in Washington or state capitals to do anything to help save this crucial but struggling industry.

But looking at the energy landscape today, we can see how much things have turned around.

In 2024, nuclear plants are no longer closing. They are opening back up.

As you can read on the cover of this month's *Electrical Worker*, a shuttered nuclear power plant is going back online for the first time in history.

The recommissioning of the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station in Michigan is a breakthrough moment for the nuclear industry, which is in the midst of an incredible comeback. Earlier this year, Unit 4 of Plant Vogtle went online, the first new nuclear facility in a generation and the largest producer of clean energy in the nation.

We're also seeing the next generation of nuclear power — small modular reactors, which can be built in areas unsuitable for larger facilities — take the first steps to becoming a reality.

And we're not just building, staffing and refueling these plants. Now we're making the fuel, too. The Centrus facility in Ohio, employing Portsmouth Local 575 members, is producing the first advanced nuclear fuel in the U.S. right now.

The leadership of President Joe Biden and a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers on Capitol Hill and in the states committed to reviving and expanding the nuclear power industry have helped make all this possible.

Lawmakers in states like Illinois, New York and Michigan have adopted legislation that has not only saved their state's nuclear fleets but also provided money for expanding them.

On the federal level, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act have invested billions of dollars in securing America's nuclear power industry.

There is a growing consensus that the U.S. cannot meet its climate or economic goals without nuclear power. It is a reliable and efficient source of clean energy, and its continued operation and expansion are crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring energy security. It also provides stable, high-paying union jobs and contributes significantly to local economies.

Simply, nuclear power is the most efficient and reliable generator of carbon-free energy. Unlike other clean energy sources, nuclear energy is a baseload energy that keeps running regardless of weather.

Through the unwavering dedication of IBEW members in the nuclear industry, we've helped forge a new national commitment to this industry. This is why it is not just important, but it is our civic duty this November to vote and ensure the continued success of the nuclear industry.

Leaders like President Biden, who has made investing in good, union nuclear jobs a priority, play a crucial role in shaping the future of the nuclear power industry. Their support is essential for the industry's revival and expansion, and we need to do our part by supporting them through our votes.

Nuclear is back, but it is on us to keep it moving forward. ■

Thank a Lineman

How many times a day do we flip a switch, plug in our phones or turn the thermostat up or down? Even as proud members of the IBEW, we're power consumers like everyone else and every bit as capable of taking our effortless access for granted.

Lineman Appreciation Day on July 10 reminds us to stop and think about the IBEW brothers and sisters who make our lights, connections and comfort possible. And to thank them, profoundly.

In brutal heat and arctic cold, they forge ahead, doing one of North America's most dangerous jobs. They often go days or weeks or longer without seeing their families after a major storm, let alone getting a good night's sleep.

Sacrifice and risk have been part of our linemen's DNA for more than 130 years. In fact, their work was so deadly early on that as many as half of them lost their lives, including the IBEW's founding president, Henry Miller.

It happened July 10, 1896, after a storm in Washington, D.C. The *Electrical Worker* reported that Brother Miller, working for the Potomac Electric Light and Power Co., "came into contact with a high-tension wire carrying 2,200 volts and received a shock knocking him off the pole."

We've made enormous strides in safety since then, leading the fight for state and federal laws and advanced equipment and techniques. Our world-class training and the strong bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood are also huge factors: Our members look out for each other. And injury to one is an injury to all.

Still, the perils are very real and, as I told you last month, in some places they're getting worse, not better.

Two of the hottest states, Texas and Florida, now have Republican-imposed laws banning local governments from requiring employers to provide outdoor workers with water and cooling breaks. While our members are protected by their contracts, not all workers are so lucky.

One of our El Paso, Texas, members talks about the record-breaking heat in the Lineman Appreciation Day article on page 3, where you'll read stories from several linemen around the country.

To say they love their jobs is an understatement. It's a privilege for me to know so many of them, to hear about their challenges and triumphs, and see the joy on their faces as they tell one wild story after another.

They are simply the best-skilled, most dedicated lineworkers anywhere.

We are working with our friends in Congress to make Lineman Appreciation Day a national day of recognition. But no matter what happens politically, July 10 will always be our day to honor lineworkers.

So give them a wave or a shoutout. We've also got lots of social media posts you can share. Anything to show your appreciation — on July 10 or any other day of the year. ■



Paul A. Noble
International Secretary-Treasurer

My IBEW STORY

Aharon Segal, Journeyman wireman/organizer
Raleigh, N.C., Local 553



"I started out as a DJ and did that for quite a few years — radio and clubs. I also worked in agriculture logistics, driving produce trucks. One summer, I toured with one of my best friends, Jamil Rashad, an artist from Raleigh; we were opening for another artist, Lyrics Born, on the East Coast wing of his tour. Driving back home, Jamil was talking about going to Los Angeles, and he said I should consider going with him.

At the time, I had a young son at home, and I was waiting to see if I was going to be accepted into the IBEW apprenticeship. It was a crossroads moment, and I really wasn't sure what I was going to do.

I really wanted to be in a union, and I was thinking of trying to get with the Team-

sters because my grandfather was a Teamster in Miami, but I wasn't seeing a clear path to anything in particular.

I went to an informational session at the local public library led by Rebecca Axford, who at that time was the training director of the JATC. She went through all the details of what the apprenticeship offered and laid out all of the information with an impressive level of clarity.

That clarity continued once I was accepted into the IBEW apprenticeship. I worked for a variety of contractors — the ESCO Group out of Iowa; Laibe out of Local 8 in Toledo; and Sir Raleigh Electric, the largest domicile contractor in our jurisdiction. Because of this work and the IBEW, my family is covered by the best insurance I've ever had.

I was a journeyman wireman working for Brooks Berry Haynie when I was tapped to become an organizer. My time in the field had given me lots of insights into the lives of my fellow industrial workers and allowed me to make connections with journeymen from all over the United States.

Now, as an organizer with Local 553, the best part of my job is being able to share with other people what the Brotherhood has meant to my life and what it's allowed me to do, and to extend that opportunity to others.

Being able to show people that there's a way forward and that working hard can get them a different result, and telling them not to give up — that's a big part of why I have this job. It's the project of my life to share that truth with other people, and that is what's most important to me. This work is the way to live my values while simultaneously taking care of my family, and the fact that that's possible is really incredible."

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

ibew.org/MyIBEWStory

THE METER

34.1%

The total salary raise in the recently ratified contract covering the IBEW electrical workers at Amtrak.

Read more in "Historic Agreement Brings IBEW's Amtrak Employees Improved Wages, Incentives" on page 8.

Lineman Appreciation Day: Gratitude for an Often Thankless Job

More than a week after late-May storms and tornadoes toppled poles, ravaged high-voltage lines and left 70,000 Louisville Gas & Electric customers without power, the company's IBEW crews were still in the field at least 16 hours a day.

"We've barely slept and I haven't seen my son since Saturday, but we'll be here until the job is done. That's what we do," Brandon Combs of Louisville, Ky., Local 2100 said with pride on the 10th day of restoration.

Pop-up storms delayed progress, cranking up the humidity along with residents' tempers. But the linemen met every challenge — just like their brothers and sisters whenever and wherever Mother Nature wreaks havoc across North America.

Lineman Appreciation Day on July 10 is an opportunity for the rest of us to say thank you.

"Our linemen and linewomen make us proud every single day, whether it's the aftermath of a storm or routine maintenance," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. "Even with generations of safety improvements, they are still doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the world. And no one does it better. We all owe them a debt of gratitude."

The IBEW chose July 10 to salute its line workers in honor of the union's first president, Henry Miller, who died on that day in 1896.

Miller was working storm recovery in Washington, D.C., when he came in contact with a live wire and fell from a power pole. Only five years before, he'd helped found the IBEW, determined to give workers a voice in an industry with a mortality rate as high as 50% for linemen.

The IBEW and bipartisan allies in Congress have been pushing in recent years to make July 10 a national day of recognition for lineworkers. Members in California succeeded a decade ago, with passage of a 2014 resolution establishing July 10 as Lineman Appreciation Day.

Utility Director Donnie Colston, who spent decades as a Local 2100 lineman, said an official day of appreciation is about much more than a well-deserved pat on the back.

"Our linemen and linewomen make us proud every single day, whether it's the aftermath of a storm or routine maintenance. Even with generations of safety improvements, they are still doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the world. And no one does it better. We all owe them a debt of gratitude."

— International President Kenneth W. Cooper

"We want the public to understand that IBEW linemen are essential workers who risk their lives every day," he said. "They are responders, no different than police officers and firefighters. Think about any accident involving a power pole and live wires. Police and paramedics can't get near it until we do our jobs."

Linemen are famous for not complaining about their work, no matter how tough it gets. But like Colston, many of today's linemen wouldn't mind people knowing more about it.

"Being a lineman is a big part of our lives, and yet the general public doesn't understand how power gets to them, let alone who's out there



Above: Local 960 linemen at El Paso Electric change out a power pole during a record-breaking heat wave in West Texas in August 2023. Top right: PG&E lineman Matt Hawkins of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 replaces a downed wire after a snowstorm. Efforts by his local and Local 47 led California lawmakers to establish July 10 as Lineman Appreciation Day in 2014. At right: Johnstown, Pa., Local 459 lineman Jeremy Tarbay makes the most of maintenance work on a gorgeous day last October.

repairing it and what's necessary to do that," said Jeremy Tarbay, a lineman and business representative at Johnstown, Pa., Local 459.

Combs, chief shop steward for Local 2100 at LG&E, agreed. "People take for granted that they

can flip a switch and the light comes on, and when it's cold the heat comes on, or when it's hot, the air-conditioning starts up," he said. "When that doesn't happen, they get antsy."

Precious few people suffering in extreme heat stop to think about the physical toll on the men and women scrambling up and down power poles in long pants, rubber gear, and heavy belts and safety harnesses.

"We feel the heat, but it doesn't stop us. We kind of push that stuff to the back of our heads," said Rene Ortega, president of Local 960 in El Paso, Texas, where summer highs last year hit at least 110 degrees for five weeks

straight. "It does get to a point, though, where you basically feel like you're getting cooked."

Weather extremes are only one of many perils for lineworkers, as Ortega knows all too well. A few years ago, working maintenance on high-voltage lines, he suffered a serious flash burn.

"It felt like someone was putting an iron to the side of my face," he said, describing seeing "a big ball of light, like the sun's right in front of you. It felt like an eternity, but it was probably less than two seconds."

His second-degree burns healed, and he loves his job as much as ever. He takes particular joy in showing youngsters his bucket truck and equipment. "The kids see us climbing poles and they're intrigued, so we like to show them what we have and how it works."

Many adults, though, could use a nudge. "We're kind of the forgotten first responders," Ortega said. "To get that recognition, Lineman Appreciation Day, would be huge, and it would help people understand the services we provide, and not just in summertime."

Legislation or not, linemen have no end of stories about appreciative customers. It's just that the affection is often after the fact.

Take, for instance, the welcome that Combs and his crew got when they arrived at an isolated cluster of homes a few days after the Memorial Day weekend storms south of Louisville.

"There was a lot of damage, and the residents, three or four of them, came at us like a pack of wolves," he said. "We've been waiting four days! What's taken you so long?!"



Photo by John Storey, courtesy of Local 1245



The linemen listened with empathy, understanding their frustration — in fact, Combs' own power had been out for two days.

"You've got to let them talk first and not cut them off," Combs said. "When we finally were able to explain the process and how calls are prioritized, they started to calm down. And that's usually the way these things go. When you get things fixed, it's a full 180 — 'You're the best people in the world! Thank you so much! Are you thirsty?'"

On a mutual-aid trip to Florida after Hurricane Irma in 2017, a woman began raging at Tarbay's crew as soon as they pulled up in their FirstEnergy truck.

"You learn to have that personal touch," he said. "I told her: 'We're doing our best. We just got here from Pennsylvania, and we're going to be here until the job is done.'"

He explained the extra measure of care they had to take to adjust to another utility's systems and ensure everyone's safety, adding, "I've got to make sure I get home to my little kids, too."

Tarbay saw her face and body language shift instantly from adversary to ally. "She was a beekeeper, and in the end she brought us all jars of honey to take home," she said.

Colston, who spent decades in the field out of the Louisville local, chuckled at one of his stories — the memory of a customer who demanded to know where he'd been for all the days she'd been without power.

"I said, 'My wife wants to know that, too.'" ■

How the IBEW and the Biden Administration Brought American Nuclear Power

BACK FROM THE BRINK

Continued from page 1

“I’ve been around for 40 years, and it’s amazing how many factories closed and buildings got torn down since I started. All the steel plants closed. Paper mills closed. Checker Motors closed, and we lost two other auto plants,” Applebey said.

And it broke up families. One longtime Local 131 member’s son, a former apprentice who worked at Palisades, had to move his family to Arkansas to find work.

The IBEW’s Strength

Now, with the recommissioning, Applebey said, the son and his family have moved back to Michigan and what the closure tore apart has been repaired.

“Why do we work? To take care of our families, homes, neighborhoods, towns and all the people we love,” Applebey said. “Recommissioning Palisades matters because of what it means to this family and this community.”

And none of this, he said, would have happened without the strength of the IBEW and a commitment to political action.

“Now you have five to eight years of work because of our friends in D.C. and the governors working for us,” Applebey said. “That’s the advantage of people who are friendly to unions. When we called, they answered, invited us into the room and then fought for us.”

The first time a nuclear reactor shut down in the U.S. for economic reasons was Kewaunee in Wisconsin in 2013. Reactors had closed because of age and accidents before, but never had a nuclear power plant closed because the design of the power market made it uncompetitive.

Low gas prices, a carefree attitude to energy reliability and little cost for spewing billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the warming atmosphere left nuclear power at a profound disadvantage through the late Obama and Trump presidencies.

That changed in 2021 with the passage of Illinois’ Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, a law that then-International President Lonnie R. Stephenson, Clemmons and the Illinois IBEW were critically involved in.

“It set an example of how you marry carbon-free energy goals to strict labor standards,” Clemmons said.

CEJA not only saved the Byron, Dresden, LaSalle, Quad Cities and Clinton power stations in that state, but it also finally buried the argument that you can’t protect good jobs and the environment at the same time.

“We started bridging gaps and created a conversation in the environmental community. It changed minds,” Clemmons said.

New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Ohio followed suit, passing IBEW-supported legislation that is providing at least 18 nuclear power plants

their true value through zero-emission tax credits.

But no similar solution came out of the Republican-dominated Legislature in Michigan.

Palisades was shuttered in June 2022 and sold to Holtec International, a privately held company whose primary business had never existed until 10 years ago: managing the decommissioning of nuclear power plants.

“We had maybe 10 members out there on the decommissioning, but the PLA was with the carpenters and steelworkers,” Applebey said.

The Turnaround

And then something unprecedented happened.

“Almost immediately after they closed it, recommissioning talks started,” Applebey said.

Inside the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was the \$6 billion Civil Nuclear Credit to save the country’s at-risk nuclear power plants. The first recipient was Diablo Canyon in California.

Just weeks after buying Palisades, Holtec applied for CNC loan guarantees, but it was not a great fit because the plant was already closed, Clemmons said.

Even though there was no project labor agreement, the IBEW leapt into a demanding year of state and federal political action in 2023, said Sixth District

International Representative Joe Davis, the IBEW’s Michigan political director.

First, the Democrats regained control of the state House of Representatives, giving them the “trifecta” of statehouse, House and Senate for the first time in 40 years.

Then, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed bills targeting a 100% clean energy goal in Michigan by 2040. The bill included IBEW-supported language that included nuclear power as carbon-free energy generation. The budget also contained \$150 million to help restart Palisades.

“We had the benefit of a Democratic governor we were in communication with all the time. We could suggest policies and they’d listen. It was the IBEW who got nuclear in Whitmer’s plan,” Davis said. “And it was Lonnie [Stephenson] who made sure it was in Biden’s plan.”

Davis contrasts that with the Republican governors who served before Whitmer.

When the Palisades nuclear station closed, the three surrounding counties took a \$250 million hit and hundreds of high-paid union jobs disappeared. Now that it is reopening, people are moving home, reuniting families and breathing life back into this rural community.

“I’ve been an international representative since 2007. Before that, I was business manager of Local 352 in Lansing. We had no conversations with Governors Snyder or Engler. We weren’t at the table. We weren’t in the room; we weren’t even allowed in the building,” he said.

Holtec went back to the Department of Energy and applied for loan guarantees through a different program, the Clean Energy Financing Program, authorized and appropriated by Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act.

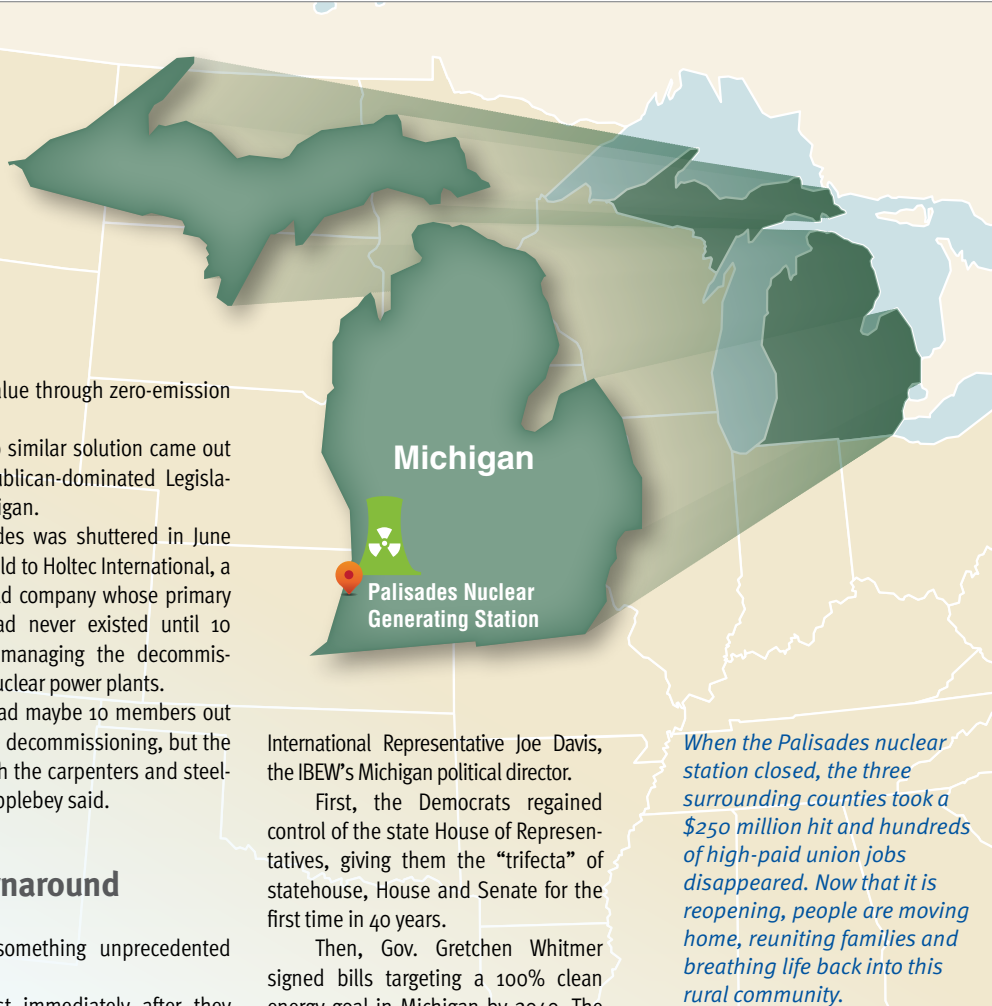
Clemmons said the IBEW reached out to Holtec once the loan application was submitted to help the company understand that the IBEW could be a critical partner in making the project successful — as long as an agreement with Local 131 was in place.

“Holtec never came to us. They went to the feds first. We realized and intervened. We said, ‘This won’t happen if we aren’t on board,’” Clemmons said. “We went to the Biden administration and said, ‘This is important to us,’ and they listened.”

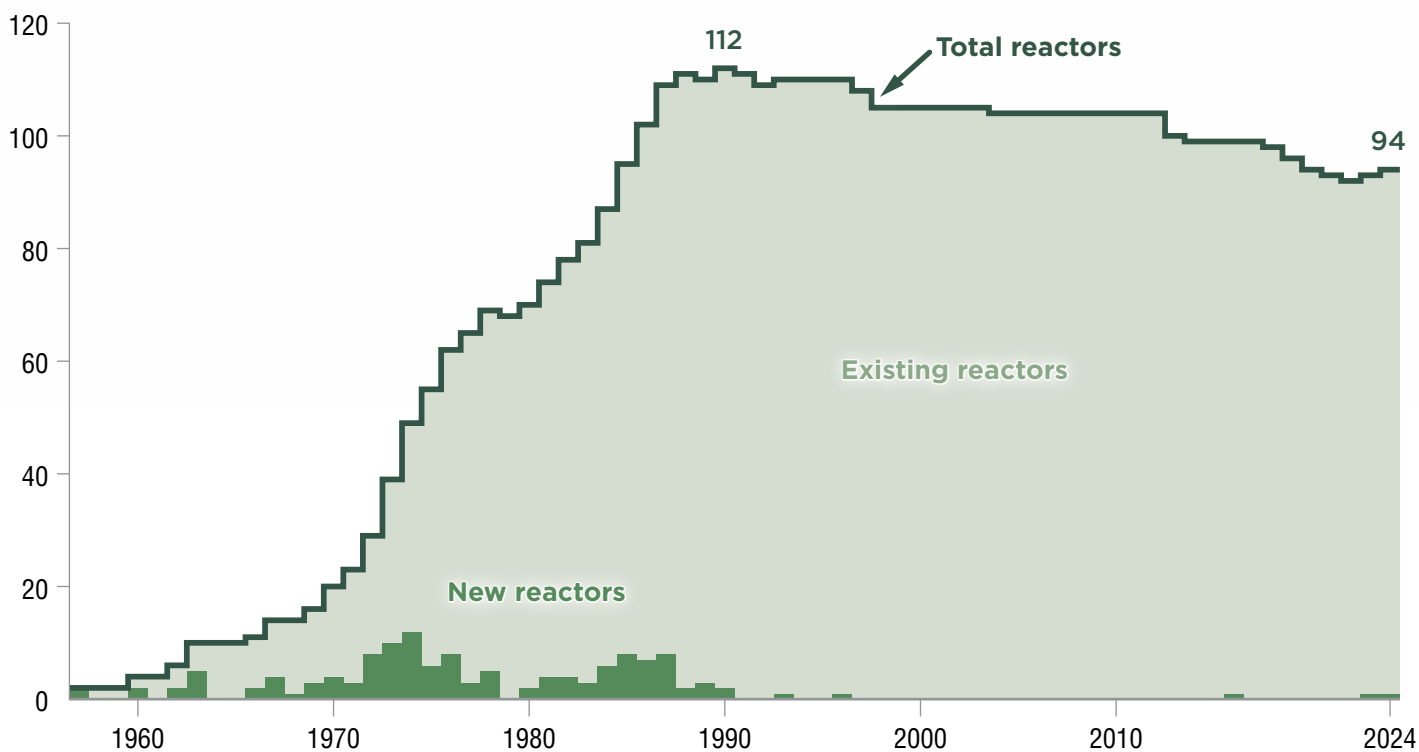
Holtec signed up with Local 131. While the ink was still drying, Applebey said, the full force of the IBEW got behind Holtec’s effort to secure the loan guarantee.

Clemmons said it is more evidence that the decades-long choice to either save union jobs or clean up the climate is over. Where policies make green jobs union jobs, everyone wins.

“You want a carbon-free country, the easiest way to do it is to make every new job a middle-class union job and mitigate the job losses,” he said. “People don’t give a [damn] about where their electricity comes from — nuclear, solar or wind. They care if they have a paycheck, if their Main Street survives, if they can afford to take their kid to the doctor. That’s how we get to zero carbon emissions.” ■



Reversing Nuclear’s Long Decline
Operational U.S. nuclear power reactors, by year



Source: International Atomic Energy Agency



New Federal Rules Will Increase Safety for Rail Workers

Thousands of railroad members will soon have the training they need to work safer thanks to two new rules from the Federal Railroad Administration developed with input from the IBEW.

The rules, announced May 20, will require freight railroads, Amtrak and commuter rail lines to develop certification and training programs for train dispatchers and signal employees.

“With these certifications, our members will now be provided the proper training and necessary skills to perform their work without utilizing other means of education, such as going to YouTube to expand their knowledge because of the lack of training that has been the case for years,” Railroad Department Director Al Russo said. “With these mandates, we can have a safer railroad system for our workers, customers and the community.”

After the rules take effect, in July, railroads will have to submit certification programs for FRA approval that will evaluate the knowledge, skills and safety records of four classes of workers: dispatchers, who allocate and assign track use and route trains, and signal employees, who install, repair and maintain signal systems that direct train movements, as well as locomotive and telecom workers who provide service and maintenance for positive train control and other signal systems. PTC is designed to prevent train-to-train collisions, over-speed derailments, incursions into established work zones and movements of trains through switches left in the wrong position.

The introduction of mandatory certifications and requirement of proper credentialing to work on PTC systems is a



significant milestone and provides an essential layer of protection to workers and customers. It ensures that only qualified individuals can perform these critical tasks, thereby safeguarding the integrity of the profession and the safety of the rail system. This is particularly important for members involved in locomotive maintenance, as they constitute a larger portion of the IBEW rail workforce than dispatchers or signal employees. The IBEW is particularly encouraged by the FRA’s acknowledgement that deploying these new technologies requires adequate training by qualified workers.

The certifications will also help ensure that dispatchers and signal employees periodically receive training on railroad safety and operating rules and practices, as well as on new systems and technology.

Unlike conductors and locomotive engineers, there were no federal regulations for dispatchers and signal employees mandating specific training requirements, safety and knowledge checks, and verification of safety records.



“These final rules address this gap in rail safety and will help ensure that certified dispatchers and signal employees are qualified and fit for duty,” the Department of Transportation said in a news release.

IBEW members, who work as dispatchers or signal employees, as well as in locomotive and telecom, must also pass qualification tests to prove their ability to safely perform their jobs.



Depending on each rail carrier’s certification program, as many as 8,000 members could potentially be covered by the rules, Russo said.

When the FRA released its proposal for both certifications in 2023, the IBEW filed public comments, making numerous recommendations for the FRA to consider, many of which were adopted in the final rules, Russo said.

The IBEW also advocated for

safety rules for dispatchers and signal employees in 2017 when it submitted a letter to the FRA regarding PTC.

“On behalf of our railroad members, who work hard every day to keep this economy running, we applaud the FRA for listening to working people when crafting these rules,” International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. “With these common-sense measures in place, dispatchers and signal employees can do their jobs better and safer, which benefits everyone from the worker to the consumer.”

Russo said all members who might be covered by these rules should familiarize themselves with them, which can be done at the QR codes below for dispatchers and signal employees. ■



California Members Build 'Next Horizon' of EV Work at Bakersfield Truck Stop



These electric vehicle charging stations in Bakersfield were installed by Local 428 members and will power trucks delivering goods all along the West Coast.

Bakersfield, Calif., Local 428 members have worked on much larger projects. But none illustrate the future of the transition to clean energy as clearly as an electric truck stop they completed this spring.

The first-of-its-kind station, which opened in May, is the fourth electric truck charging depot opened in California by WattEV, which specializes in building out the charging infrastructure for heavy-duty electric vehicles. But this is the first that combines solar power with a battery energy storage system, or BESS, giving the facility a reliable energy source that is not dependent on weather conditions.

WattEV has received \$109 million in federal grants during the last two years to help with the transition to clean energy, thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act signed into law by President Joe Biden.

"These really are the next horizon of EV charging work," said Ninth District International Representative Micah Mitrosky, who specializes in energy and clean transportation. "We're going to see chargers becoming more powerful and that can charge vehicles more quickly. This is going to create a lot more work for both the inside and outside branches."

Local 428 Business Manager Brian Holt said about 10 to 12 members worked on the project. The facility covers 119 acres, and WattEV officials say it is the largest solar truck stop in the world.

Trucks will receive a charge in less than 30 minutes that will allow them to travel at least 300 miles. The charging time is expected to get shorter and travel range to expand as the technology improves.

Local 428 landed the work because of a project labor agreement with other trades in the area. Holt noted that members often work on utility-grade solar projects, but not usually on one this small.

"We've done plenty of solar," Holt said. "We've done plenty of battery storage. We've done plenty of facilities. This time, it's all on one site at one time."

More is coming.

Bakersfield, a city of about 400,000, is a longtime hub for farming and oil production, and increasingly for manufacturing. Getting goods out to California and the rest of the world remains crucial, and



Bakersfield, Calif., Local 428 Business Manager Brian Holt, left, celebrates the opening of a fully EV-charging truck stop with NECA's Cody Brooks, center, and Anthony Ausbie, training director of the Kern County JATC.

now it's being done under the state's aggressive clean energy goals.

The new facility is near the junction of California state highways 99 and 58, a vital truck route to the San Joaquin Valley, one of the country's most productive agricultural areas. Besides Bakersfield, WattEV's other three California electric truck stops are in San Bernardino, Gardena and the Port of Long Beach, a major logistics port on the West Coast.

None have both the battery storage and solar component like the one in Bakersfield, however.

"I think there will be more of these," Holt said. "As community members, we're pleased to be part of the solution and helping the state meet its climate goals."

Billy Powell, a Ninth District international representative who services Local 428, credited the local for its long history of excellence working in all forms of energy. That expertise transferred to this project, he said.

"Constructing the first electric truck stop with a solar power microgrid and a battery storage system is a significant step forward in a sustainable infrastructure," Powell said. "It demonstrates their commitment to reducing carbon emissions."

"This multifaceted approach reflects a forward-thinking mindset, acknowledging the diverse energy needs of today and tomorrow while actively working toward solutions that benefit both the environment and communities we live in," he added.

Ninth District Vice President Dave Reaves praised the positive relationship Local 428 has with the signatory contractor.

"The IBEW is working collaboratively

with employers like WattEV to stay on the forefront of community energy needs and new technologies," Reaves said. "I applaud Local 428 for their innovative work on this groundbreaking electric truck charging depot that will lead to similar work and projects for our members across California and the country."

The Bakersfield facility consists of three 1.2-megawatt charging systems, along with 16 dual-cord and 15 single-cord combined charging systems of 360 and 240 kilowatts, respectively. It has 5-megawatt solar on site connected to the BESS.

Plus, there was plenty of room left for things at traditional truck stops, including places to eat and changing facilities.

The move to fully electric truck stops will create work opportunities for other branches besides construction, Mitrosky said. For instance, many utility members will be building out and ensuring a safe electrical grid as more demands are put on it.

"In order to get all these big electric truck stops onto the grid, there will need to be more investments in grid infrastructure," she said.

Plus, there's the organizing of employees performing maintenance and repairs on these new medium and heavy-duty electric trucks. Many IBEW members are building EV charging stations, and Mitrosky noted the Ninth District has a committee studying new training and apprenticeships for clean vehicle mechanics.

"It fits right in our wheelhouse," she said. "There's going to be a ton of mechanics who will have to have the electrical skills and training to safely do this work. We'd like to see this workforce become IBEW members." ■

NORTH OF 49°

IBEW Asks Feds to Honor Pledge, Save Jobs at Beloved Alberta Radio Station

CKUA has achieved iconic status in Alberta during nearly a century on the air. Founded in 1927, the Edmonton-based radio station has supplied listeners across the province with music and information difficult to find elsewhere.

Now, IBEW members employed there are asking for help as the station navigates through one of the worst financial crises in its history.

CKUA management announced in April that it needed to raise \$3 million by Sept. 30 or the station would be closed. A combination of the federal government not following through on a \$5 million pledge and a massive increase in vacancies in the downtown Edmonton office building owned by the station — and home to its main studio — following the COVID-19 pandemic led to the emergency.

An initial 10-day fundraising campaign in May raised \$1.8 million. That was an important first step, but plenty of work remains to meet the goal and put CKUA on solid financial footing going forward, said Glen Kautz, western business representative for Ottawa, Ontario, Local 2228, which has jurisdiction across the country.

"Because it is publicly funded, there's a pretty hard cap on how much

advertising they can run," Kautz said.

CKUA is not affiliated with the CBC, the Crown corporation that serves as Canada's national public broadcaster.

The IBEW has represented all non-management employees of the station since 1969, first under the auspices of Edmonton Local 348, until it was amalgamated into Local 2228 in 2011. The station has about 45 IBEW members.

Local 2228 is based in Ottawa but represents technologists and electricians who install and maintain equipment for weather and radio frequency in federal agencies throughout the country. It also represents broadcast employees at CKUA and a television station in Alberta.

Retired Local 348 Business Manager Mike Semeniuk, who is volunteering to help the station through its crisis, said its independence is what has endeared it to Albertans for decades.

Producers, directors and announcers do not have to follow the mandates of corporate bosses, allowing them to showcase musical acts and artists that might get overlooked by corporate media. The station plays everything from country to punk rock to classical music and provides a forum for other artists, such as writers and painters.

"That's the heart of the station," Semeniuk said. "That is why it's so close to the community. It is not corporate."

CKUA's record and music collection is considered one of the largest in Canada. Robert Goulet, who went on to win Grammy and Tony awards, worked as an announcer at the station in the 1950s. Other legendary Canadian performers who had their work highlighted by the station early in their careers include Tommy Banks, Bruce Cockburn and k.d. lang.

The station was originally owned by the University of Alberta and later run by the provincial government. It became fully independent and donor-supported in 1997.

The IBEW in Canada calls on Parliament to follow through on a pledge to support beloved radio station CKUA and help save about 45 members' jobs.



“All of those people who stepped up in May did so because the station is important to them,” said CKUA Technical Producer Mark Rodgers, who hosts a Saturday night music program and serves as Local 2228’s steward at the station. “The public has shown up. Now we’re pressing the federal government to do their part.”

Rodgers and others involved in the fight note that the provincial and local governments each provided \$5 million after the station built the Alberta Hotel Building in 2012 because the project preserved most of the original structure in downtown Edmonton.

The federal government pledged the same amount but has provided only about \$500,000 thus far, Kautz said. That’s why the IBEW in Canada is asking for friends and allies to contact their representatives in Parliament and urge them to follow through on the pledge of additional funding, which would ease many of CKUA’s financial issues and preserve the

jobs of IBEW members.

“The impressive response from listeners emphasizes the value of independent broadcasting and underscores the essential role IBEW broadcasting members play in enriching our larger community,” First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk said. “We urge the federal government to honour their initial financial commitment to CKUA and protect this historic station’s jobs and cultural contributions.”

Station management and Local 2228 leaders noted that the federal government has provided funding to private media companies, such as Rogers Communications and Bell Media, and to the CBC to help them through difficult times.

They hope it does the same for a community treasure like CKUA, which has seen about 10% audience growth in the last five years, management told the Calgary Herald.

“People do not work there to get



Ottawa Local 2228 member Tony King on the air at Edmonton radio station CKUA.

rich,” Local 2228 Business Manager Paul Cameron said. “They are there because it means something to them. They’re into music, arts and culture.”

People can donate and listen to the station at ckua.com. ■

Share your IBEW news!

IBEW Canada is seeking impactful stories from local unions and members. Please contact [Shaina Hardie](mailto:Shaina_Hardie@ibew.org) at Shaina_Hardie@ibew.org.

AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

La FIOE demande au fédéral de tenir leur promesse faite à CKUA

La station de radio CKUA en Alberta a acquis un statut emblématique en près d’un siècle d’existence. Fondée en 1927, la station de radio d’Edmonton a fourni à l’auditoire de toute la province de la musique et des informations qu’on ne trouve pas facilement ailleurs.

Les membres de la FIOE qui font partie du personnel demandent de l’aide maintenant, car la station de radio traverse la pire crise financière de son histoire.

La direction de CKUA a annoncé en avril qu’on a besoin de financement de 3 millions de dollars d’ici septembre est nécessaire sinon la station va fermer. Ce qui a mené à l’urgence est un mélange du gouvernement fédéral qui n’a pas respecté sa promesse de 5 millions de dollars et une augmentation considérable du nombre d’espaces de bureau vacants dans l’édifice du centre-ville d’Edmonton appartenant à la station, où se trouve la station, à la suite de pandémie de la COVID-19.

Une première collecte de fonds de 10 jours en mai a amassé 1,8 million de dollars. Il s’agissait d’une première étape importante, mais il reste beaucoup à faire pour atteindre l’objectif et rétablir la solidité financière de CKUA, mentionne Glen Kautz, l’agent d’affaires de l’Ouest pour la section locale 2228 à Ottawa, en Ontario, qui couvre l’ensemble du pays.

«Puisqu’elle est financée par des fonds publics, la quantité de publicité qu’elle peut diffuser est assez limitée», déclare M. Kautz.

CKUA n’est pas affilié à CBC, la société de l’État qui est le radiodiffuseur public national du Canada.

La FIOE représente tout le personnel non-cadre de la station depuis 1969; d’abord sous les auspices du local 348 jusqu’à sa fusion au local 2228 en 2011. La station compte environ 45 membres de la FIOE.

Le local 2228 est établi à Ottawa, mais représente des technologues et des électriciennes et des électriciens qui font l’installation et la maintenance d’équipements pour les équipements météo et ceux de la radiofréquence dans les organismes fédéraux à travers le pays. Le local représente aussi du personnel en communication à CKUA et à une station de télévision en Alberta.

Le gérant d’affaires retraité du local 348, Mike Semeniuk, qui offre bénévolement ses services pour sortir la station de la crise, fait part que la station a su se faire aimer par la population de l’Alberta grâce à son indépendance depuis des décennies.

La production, les personnes qui dirigent la station et les animatrices et les animateurs, n’ont pas à suivre les mandats donnés par les chefs d’entreprises, leur permettant ainsi de mettre en valeur des prestations musicales et des artistes qui peuvent ne pas être pris en compte par les grands médias. La station diffuse de tout, du style country jusqu’au style punk rock en passant par la musique classique et fournit une plateforme à d’autres artistes, comme les gens de lettres et de peintures.

«C’est le cœur de la station», prononce M. Semeniuk. «C’est pour cette raison qu’elle est si proche de la collectivité, elle n’est pas corporative.»

La collection de disques et de musique de CKUA est considérée l’une

des plus grandes au Canada. Robert Goulet, qui a remporté un Grammy et un Tony Awards, a travaillé comme présentateur dans les années 50. D’autres artistes canadiens légendaires qui ont vu leur travail mis en valeur par la station au début de leur carrière, sont : Tommy Banks, Bruce Cockburn et k.d. lang.

La station appartenait à l’origine à l’University of Alberta et par la suite dirigée par le gouvernement de la province. En 1997, elle est devenue entièrement indépendante et financée par les dons.

«Toutes ces personnes qui se sont mobilisées en mai le font parce que la station est importante pour elles», formule le réalisateur technique de CKUA, Mark Rodgers. Il anime un programme musical le samedi soir et agit à la station comme délégué syndical pour le local 2228. «Le public s’est présenté; nous faisons maintenant pression auprès du gouvernement fédéral pour qu’il fasse sa part.»

M. Rodgers souligne que les gouvernements provincial et local ont chacun versé 5 millions de dollars après que la station a construit le Alberta Hotel Building en 2012, car le projet a préservé en grande partie sa structure d’origine dans le centre-ville d’Edmonton.

Le gouvernement fédéral a promis le même montant, mais n’a versé que 500 000 \$ jusqu’à présent, mentionne M. Kautz. C’est pour cette raison que la FIOE demande à leur cercle amical et à leur allié d’exhorter leur représentant au Parlement à donner suite à leur promesse en matière de financement supplémentaire.

«La réaction impressionnante reçue de l’auditoire a prouvé la valeur de la

radiodiffusion indépendante et a attiré l’attention sur le rôle essentiel que jouent les membres de la FIOE de la radiodiffusion dans l’enrichissement de notre considérable collectivité», exprime le vice-président international du premier district, Russ Shewchuk. «Nous pressons le gouvernement fédéral à respecter son premier engagement financier fait à CKUA et de protéger les emplois historiques de la station et ses contributions culturelles.»

La direction de la station et les leaders du local 2228 font remarquer que le gouvernement fédéral a fourni du financement aux entreprises privées des secteurs des médias pour les aider dans les moments difficiles, telles que : Rogers Communications, Bell Media et CBC.

Ils souhaitent recevoir le même traitement pour le trésor communautaire comme CKUA, qui a connu une augmentation de 10 % de son auditoire au cours des cinq dernières années, mentionne la direction dans une entrevue accordée à Calgary Herald.

«Les gens ne travaillent pas pour devenir riches», énonce le gérant d’affaires Paul Cameron de la section locale 2228. «Ils sont là parce que la station a une signification pour eux. Ces personnes aiment la musique, les arts et la culture.»

Les gens peuvent faire un don et écouter la station à l’adresse suivante : ckua.com. ■

Racontez-nous vos nouvelles FIOE!

La FIOE cherche des histoires marquantes des sections locales et des membres. Veuillez communiquer avec [Shaina Hardie](mailto:Shaina_Hardie@ibew.org) à Shaina_Hardie@ibew.org.

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

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

YouTube

International President Kenneth W. Cooper returns to his hometown of Mansfield, Ohio, to tell his story and why towns like this are in line for a rebirth if President Joe Biden is reelected. For the video, visit [YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker](https://www.youtube.com/TheElectricalWorker).

Vimeo



The Code of Excellence shows employers why the Brotherhood is the right choice. See [Vimeo.com/IBEW](https://www.vimeo.com/IBEW).

HourPower

Congratulations to Huntington, W. Va., Local 317 member Daniel Cooper, the IBEW Hour Power Instructor of the Year. Check out his story at [IBEWHourPower.com](https://www.ibewhourpower.com).



ElectricTV

Local 153 and NECA



have a history of excellence on the Notre Dame campus, including an advanced research lab. Watch the video at [ElectricTV.net](https://www.electrictv.net).

POWER AT WORK

CONTRACT

‘Historic’ Agreement Brings IBEW’s Amtrak Employees Improved Wages, Incentives

Several hard-fought wins — including a remarkable 34.1% compounded salary increase over seven years — are among a host of benefits negotiated into the IBEW’s recently ratified agreement covering more than 1,200 electrical workers at Amtrak.

“This is a historic agreement. We have never accomplished anything like this before,” said Arthur J. Davidson, general chair of Railroad System Council 7, which oversees 14 passenger and freight railroad contracts.

compensation of an additional \$3 per hour for 500 certified positive train control, automatic train control and cab signal electrical workers.

Also benefiting from a \$3 skill differential are licensed radio maintainers and building system specialist technicians who handle Amtrak’s Bridge and Buildings infrastructure work as well as high-voltage power distribution systems.



The IBEW’s recently ratified agreement with Amtrak resulted in salary raises for the railroad’s electrical workers, like Washington, D.C., Local 362 members Antonio Dudley, above, and Christian Edderley and Daniel Lovell, left.



“We helped Amtrak understand how important wage boosts are for getting good, talented people to come and work for the railroad.”

— Railroad Director Al Russo

On top of the agreement’s significant salary boost, which will be paid out in annual increments, the IBEW’s negotiators gained skill differential

The IBEW’s railroad electricians operate differently from many of their brothers and sisters in the construction trades, Davidson noted.

“We do all railroad electrical maintenance and repair work,” he said, “which includes rolling stock equipment such as locomotives and coaches,

power distribution systems, communication systems and bridge and buildings work.”

Railroad Director Al Russo praised Davidson’s negotiating style and the resulting wins.

“Arthur did a great job — very skillful and very tactful,” said Russo,

who also took part in the negotiations. “It was like watching a championship boxing match.”

Bargaining for this agreement began before the term of the last one ended in 2022 and continued for nearly two years. Davidson noted that under

the federal Railway Labor Act, contracts for passenger and freight railroads remain in effect beyond their end dates until an amended, ratified agreement replaces them.

“The bargaining process under the Railway Labor Act can be very



A Milestone for Brightline

The IBEW was well represented in Las Vegas on April 22 as Brightline West broke ground on its 218-mile, fully electric rail line that aims to connect that city with Los Angeles via trains traveling up to 200 miles per hour — a first in the U.S. Thanks largely to lobbying by a coalition of unions including the IBEW, Brightline has committed to employing union construction workers on the project; seeking a union-focused project labor agreement with the general contractor; and granting the project’s workers full organizing, bargaining and dispute-resolution rights. Pictured, from left, are San Bernardino, Calif., Local 477 Business Manager Jason Eshelman; Railroad System Council 2 Vice Chair Rick Reynoso; Railroad Director Al Russo; and Local 477 President Mike Vasquez. Learn more about Brightline West in the February Electrical Worker’s cover story. ■



POWER AT WORK *continued*

difficult,” Davidson said. “For example, unions can’t just strike at the end of a contract term.”

There is the contract negotiation process, he said. Then, if necessary, comes federal mediation, possibly followed by the establishment of a Presidential Emergency Board if a union can convince the government that the parties in mediation reach an impasse. It’s a long, difficult process, he said, that might take years before a union could strike.

“Getting skill differential compensation into the agreement also took considerable effort,” Davidson said. “The technical nature of work our members perform, in view of our skills and the continuing increase in technology as applied to railroad equipment and infrastructure, justifies that we receive skill differentials.”

“We convinced Amtrak how important wage boosts are for getting good, talented people to come and work for the railroad,” Russo said. “If you don’t pay people enough money, no one’s going to come work for you and then you end up with service and maintenance issues where the infrastructure starts to fall apart.”

Amtrak ultimately agreed to many aspects of the IBEW’s proposal, Davidson said, and in March, he sent a tentative agreement to the membership for a ratification vote.

The agreement, which was overwhelmingly ratified a month later, runs through Dec. 31, 2028, and thereafter until it’s changed or modified in accordance with the Railway Labor Act.

The agreement contains language establishing a jointly administered apprenticeship program that benefits the IBEW’s electrical workers and Amtrak. It also provides a shift differential of 10%, as well as a provision granting a worker up to 10 weeks of paid leave following the birth or adoption of a newborn, along with other improvements to health and welfare benefits.

“What helped the bargaining process along was having a willing partner on the other side of the negotiating table,” Russo said, giving credit to Amtrak CEO Stephen Gardner.

“I am pleased that we can improve the quality of life for the members we represent with this outstanding agreement,” said Davidson, who has worked in the railroad industry for 51 years: 22 years as a railroad electrician with Harmon, New York, Local 1631 — 12 of those as president and financial secretary — and the last 29 years with System Council 7.

“I want to acknowledge the fine work of System Council Secretary-Treasurer Steve Corrado in negotiating this agreement and the support of Administrative Assistant Denise Ficchi,” he said. “Most of all, the council thanks our local union representatives and our membership for their input, assistance and solidarity in reaching this agreement.” ■



Wisconsin’s four largest investor-owned electric utilities have pledged to seek workers from the IBEW and other unions on construction of all utility-scale solar, wind and battery-storage projects “to the fullest extent possible.”

TOMORROW’S JOBS Wisconsin Utilities Pledge to Use IBEW, Other Unions for Renewable Projects

Hundreds of IBEW members in Wisconsin stand to benefit from an agreement with the state’s four largest investor-owned electrical utilities that prioritizes hiring union workers on renewable energy projects.

“The IBEW has already had good working relationships with these utilities over the years,” said Dean Miller, business manager of Stevens Point, Wisc., Local 388 and president of the IBEW Wisconsin State Conference. “The new agreement builds on those relationships and strengthens them.”

The utilities’ pledge covers workers who are represented by the IBEW, as well as workers from other unions. “We have a lot of experienced journeyman wiremen in the state,” Miller said. A dozen IBEW locals have jurisdiction over inside construction electrical work throughout Wisconsin.

The unions, with support from the Wisconsin Building Trades Council, had pressed Alliant Energy, Madison Gas and Electric, WEC Energy Group, and Xcel Energy to make the pledge — the first of its kind in the U.S., Miller said — to seek union workers on all of their utility-scale solar, wind and battery-storage projects “to the fullest extent possible.”

A crucial driver of this agreement, Miller noted, was the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. One of President Joe Biden’s signature pieces of legislation, the IRA includes tax credits worth up to 30% of the cost of large-scale renewable energy projects. These credits include special incentives for employers to hire union workers on the projects, as well as for ensuring that a portion of that work goes to registered apprentices.

IBEW members have long worked on construction and maintenance at many of Wisconsin’s coal- and gas-fired power plants, Miller said. But too often on renewable energy sites, jobs had been going to nonunion workers from out of state.

This new union-friendly pledge comes at a great time: According to the Climate Jobs National Resource Center, at least 95 renewable energy campuses



The Inflation Reduction Act helped drive the union-utility agreement in Wisconsin, leveraging big tax credits to help incentivize the hiring of union workers like these on large renewable energy projects.

in Wisconsin that are being built now are under review or are set to start soon. The utilities estimate that these facilities, once they’re all fully operational, will add to the state’s power grid at least 10 gigawatts of solar, 1.2 gigawatts of wind and 4 gigawatts of battery storage by 2030.

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission projects that nearly 19,000

electricians will be needed to build out these new clean energy developments.

The IBEW is more than ready, Miller said. “We’re doing well with open calls in Wisconsin,” he said, adding that organizing is “phenomenal.” A recent job fair in Madison, for example, yielded 120 apprenticeship applications.

Miller stressed that the Wisconsin agreement is not related to the IBEW’s

national pact with the Laborers and Operating Engineers unions. That tri-trade agreement, signed last October by International President Kenneth W. Cooper and the presidents of the other two unions, is designed to help smooth out working relationships with solar developers and contractors on the construction of utility-scale solar projects across most of the U.S.

Meanwhile, the potential benefits resulting from the Wisconsin agreement are expected to extend well beyond the unions and the investor-owned utilities. A study by the Midwest Economic Policy Institute and the University of Wisconsin estimated that a \$1 billion investment in renewable energy helps to locally generate about 2,700 jobs and \$1.63 billion in economic activity, with \$153 million in state and local tax revenue.

Miller said the Wisconsin union-utility pledge should help make utility-scale renewable energy projects more competitive and attractive for local workers. “We’re laying out a plan with the other unions to make this new agreement work for all of us,” he said. “Our members are pressing hard to get this work and keep it.” ■

HELP ELECT PRO-WORKER CANDIDATES

SCAN CODE



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

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

Support the IBEW PAC

www.ibew.org/ibewpac/contribute.org

Contributions can be made only by IBEW members who are U.S. citizens.



THE IBEW'S 2024 PHOTO CONTEST

The IBEW Photo Contest has been The Electrical Worker's way to ride shotgun with brothers and sisters for a quarter of a century. Your pictures bring us closer together and are a showcase for the critical role members play in the life and work of North America.

The hundreds of submissions we receive every year are a priceless contribution to our story: the story of working people that is too often ignored or, worse, hidden. But just because something is priceless doesn't mean a value can't be put on it.



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

Entries **MUST** be submitted **electronically** by Nov. 1 via the Photo Contest link on [IBEW.org](https://www.ibew.org). Please contact the Media Department at media@ibew.org or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.



Top Prize: \$1,000

Second Place: \$750

Third Place: \$500

A \$200 Honorable Mention will also be awarded for EACH BRANCH of the IBEW:

- ▶ Broadcasting
- ▶ Inside Construction
- ▶ Outside Construction
- ▶ Government
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Railroad
- ▶ Telecommunications
- ▶ Utility



CIRCUITS

Biden Administration Moves to Protect Workers Making Retirement Saving Decisions

Working people can rest easier when it comes to getting the best advice on retirement savings, thanks to a new rule from the Biden-Harris administration.

“People should be able to trust that when they get advice from a so-called expert, they’re getting real help, not getting ripped off,” President Joe Biden said at a news conference announcing the rule.

Finalized in April, the Department of Labor retirement security rule raises the bar for financial professionals who advise people on how to invest their retirement savings. The rule, which goes into effect Sept. 23, will require anyone offering retirement investment advice for a fee to qualify as an “investment advice fiduciary,” meaning they put the client’s interests above all else.

Prior to the new rule, other types of advisers could fly under the regulatory radar and, in some cases, offer recommendations that benefit their bottom line, regardless of the impact on their customers.

“With protections like these in place, we can invest with more confidence and save more of our hard-earned money, giving everyone more peace of mind for their future.”

— IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer Paul Noble

Under the new guidelines, investment advice providers must give “prudent, loyal, honest advice free from overcharges” and avoid suggestions that favor the providers’ interests at the retirement savers’ expense.

A recent analysis by the White House Council of Economic Advisers of fixed index annuities, a product typically offered by insurance companies for more risk-averse investors, estimated that conflicted advice could cost savers up to \$5 billion per year in that category alone.

“For too long, because of loopholes in the regulations, retirement savers have been misled by sales pitches disguised as advice,” said Monique Morrissey, a senior economist with the Economic Policy Institute, which supports the new standard. “This rule will help level the playing field for advisors that play fair and expand the market for transparent and competitively priced investments, including annuities. The winners from this rule will be retirement savers and companies selling better products.”

The current definition of a fiduciary was adopted almost 50 years ago, when individual retirement accounts were less common and 401(k) plans were nonexistent. At that time, most people relied on traditional pensions for their retirement income and didn’t necessarily require the help of an adviser.

In today’s much-changed financial world, individual plan participants and IRA owners, who may not be versed in investing, are expected to make these consequential and complex financial

decisions. As such, they are more likely to seek help from expert advisers, much like patients seeking a doctor’s advice.

“The investment landscape has changed, the retirement landscape has changed, and it is critical that our regulations are responsive to those changes so that workers can reach the secure retirement that they work for decades to finally achieve,” said Lisa M. Gomez, assistant labor secretary for employee benefits security.

The retirement rule is part of a larger effort by the Biden-Harris administration to crack down on unfair and illegal pricing by getting rid of exorbitant credit card late fees and other “junk fees” that can pop up anywhere from an internet bill to a ticket purchased for a live music show. According to the Council of Economic Advisers, these efforts are estimated to save consumers around \$20 billion annually.

“By making these fair-minded changes to the marketplace, President Biden and Vice President Harris are putting working families first,” said IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer Paul Noble, who oversees the union’s pension and other benefit plans. “With protections like these in place, we can invest with more confidence and save more of our hard-earned money, giving everyone more peace of mind for their future.” ■

Hawaii Members Exemplify ‘Ohana’ With Extraordinary Community Work

Honolulu Local 1260 members, in partnership with employer Hawaiian Electric, are going above and beyond when it comes to supporting their communities.

“We believe in the guiding principles of ‘ohana,’ meaning family, and ‘kuleana,’ meaning responsibility and accountability,” said Business Manager Leroy Chincio Jr., who also represents the Seventh District on the IBEW International Executive Council.

“We feel that it is our family that we’re helping.”

In its most recent United Way campaign, which encompassed Oahu, Maui and the “Big Island” of Hawaii, the utility raised \$372,000, including contributions from Local 1260 members and retirees. Approximately 1,200 members work for Hawaiian Electric, and 100% participated, said Assistant Business Manager Todd Mayeshiro. And the annual campaign, which this year had a theme of “pilina,” meaning to come together, is just one way they embody that spirit.

“We do a lot with Hawaiian Electric,” Mayeshiro said. “We’re one of the biggest contributors to the United Way. But we also give back in a number of other ways, from food banks to emergency-preparedness fairs to blood drives.”

According to Hawaiian Electric, employees across the state’s five largest islands volunteered 5,307 hours over 101 community events, donated 913 units of blood and plasma, and collected \$4,076 and 1,717 pounds of food for local food banks last year.

“We have a shared goal to support our employees and strengthen the communities in which they live and work,” Hawaiian Electric Senior Communications Specialist Kristen Okinaka said. “We value our relationship with IBEW 1260 and are grateful for our partnership.”

Another way Local 1260 members and retirees



Honolulu Local 1260 members give back to their communities in a number of ways throughout the year, including working with the AFL-CIO on food drives, as pictured above, and painting local schools, at right.



Local 1260 members helped raise over \$46,000 for the Hawaii Island United Way, part of a larger, state-wide effort that raised \$372,000 in total. Pictured: Hawaiian Electric President and CEO Shelee Kimura, left, Local 1260 Business Manager and IEC member Leroy Chincio Jr., and Aloha United Way President and CEO John Fink.

support their communities is through a cookbook of recipes from Hawaiian Electric employees. The most recent edition, named “Pilina,” brought in over \$24,000, Okinaka said.

“It’s a popular item,” Local 1260 Senior Assistant Business Manager Gayna Hashimoto said. “A lot of people give them as holiday gifts.”

The longstanding collaboration between Local 1260 and Hawaiian Electric includes a commitment to the IBEW Code of Excellence, which calls on employers and employees to embrace a set of values including safety, accountability and professionalism in everything they do.

“Our combined contributions to the communities we live and work in are a great example of the Code and how we can work together to achieve even greater goals,” Hashimoto said.

Those efforts have included helping victims of the wildfires that tore through Maui last year, killing more than 100 people and ravaging the historic town of Lahaina on the west coast and Kula farther inland. Employees held a golf tournament on Oahu that raised \$73,500 for the Aloha United Way Maui Fire Relief Fund, Okinaka said. A local fund was created for affected IBEW members, and it raised \$500,000.

Local 1260, which has jurisdiction that extends to Guam, has also given back to that island’s community through partnering with the Red Cross on relief efforts for victims of Typhoon Mawar, which hit

Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in 2023. Members have also supported efforts to provide meals for senior citizens and participated in an adopt-a-bus beautification project.

“We like to do all that we can to support those in need,” Chincio said. “It’s not just our jurisdiction that spans the Pacific Ocean, it’s our ohana, our family bonds, that reach beyond just our blood relations.” ■

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TRANSITIONS

RETIRED

Brian K. Thompson



Fifth District International Vice President Brian Thompson earns people's trust.

From doing steward work as a utility worker in Punta Gorda, Fla., Local 641 before he had finished probation to five years as Fifth District international vice president, when a job needed doing, Brother Thompson was always the one you knew wouldn't give up.

"I held every position in the IBEW except recording secretary, international president and international secretary-treasurer, and I got the shoulder tap for every job," he said. "I am extremely proud of that. And I never lost an election."

On July 1, Thompson finally took himself out of consideration for the next shoulder tap. After more than 40 years, Brother Thompson is retiring.

Thompson joined Local 641 when he had a young family and no benefits. Growing up, his uncle Steven Leffers was a telephone lineman at Fort Myers, Fla., Local 199, and Thompson saw what that union card did for him and his family. When he thought about applying to the IBEW in 1983, he went to the utility because the benefits were better.

Many people just starting a career with the primary goal of building a foundation for their family would keep their head down. That was not and never has been Thompson's way.

Even before his six-month probation was up and he was allowed to join the IBEW, he was an insistent voice for the other workers.

"I saw some things that weren't consistent with the contract, and my dad and grandfather had always told me as a young boy that you don't have

the right to complain unless you get involved," he said.

He was made a steward before the ink was dry on his membership card.

Within a year, he was asked to serve on the executive board of the local, then later as vice president and financial secretary.

By 1990, when he was asked to replace the business manager, who was moving into a new position at the utility.

Thompson worked with tools during the day as a power plant mechanic, certified welder and machinist. Then, at night, he started his second job as business manager.

"That was the hardest part. It was a part-time job, but it needed to be full time," he said.

Thompson again credits lessons learned from his father and grandfather for his success.

"From my dad, a navy man, I got attention to detail. I hear him in my head: 'Dress, right, left!' Details matter; he drilled that into me," he said. "And from my grandfather, I got the ability to talk the chrome off a bumper hitch."

FP&L was in a decade-long binge of layoffs. Between 1991, his first year as business manager, and 1999 — his first year as business manager of System Council 4, which represents all 11 locals with FP&L workers — more than 45% of FP&L's IBEW workforce was laid off.

"Being with a member who just got a pink slip was horrible, and I did it hundreds of times," Thompson said. "And when you couldn't help them, just being with them in one of the toughest moments in their lives was all you could do. "It was heartbreaking. I spent a lot of time asking the company, 'Why?'"

That experience toughened Thompson's view of management.

"We will work with employers, and that makes them think we are friends. They are all like that to a degree. They are not our friends. I know what the CEO across the table is making!" Thompson said. "I'll shake hands and make agreements that work best for our members,

but I wonder, 'How do you look at yourself in the mirror?'"

Thompson was business manager until 2005. In those years, FP&L expanded from a local utility to a 26-state behemoth swallowed up by its former subsidiary NextEra.

Thompson said the achievement he is most proud of is the implementation of the Code of Excellence, a program created by then-International President Edwin D. Hill that Thompson called "brilliant."

"We kept getting hammered by companies for the worst 10% of the people they hired and we had to represent. What Ed knew was that 90% of the people were doing their job with pride and wanted to be recognized as the true face of labor," he said. "Some people thought we were bowing to the company, but it had nothing to do with that. Finally, we were going on the offensive."

The first few classes were nerve-racking, he said. After years of layoffs and a nasty relationship with the company, how would the members hear a demand to raise our own standards?

"We were sweating bullets. To my surprise, early in the class, we heard cross-talk and the overwhelming majority was 'It's about time they started recognizing us,'" he said. "Our message to the ones causing problems was either straighten up or get the [expletive] out."

By 2005, Thompson was ready for a break from dealing with one company. Then-Fifth District International Vice President Jon Shantzen passed his name up to Hill to fill an international representative vacancy.

Thompson also took on the task of political chief for the district, leading the IBEW's effort to elect pro-worker candidates in the decidedly infertile ground of the Deep South. His biggest achievement as international representative, he said, was Barack Obama's two victories in Florida.

In 2019, Thompson was tapped again, this time to replace Joe Davis as Fifth District international vice president. He moved to Georgia and oversaw an operation that helped John Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock win both of Georgia's Senate seats.

His greatest pride as international vice president is signing the charters of two new locals, Atlanta Local 1997 and San Juan, Puerto Rico, Local 787. His greatest pride as a second-generation member is that his two nephews and his great nephew are now also members.

"Don't tell me the South can't organize. We are outperforming every closed-shop district," he said. "We are losing some high-profile elections on the first go-round, but I think the lesson is that we will never give up. By the second, third time, the workers are seeing through the companies' [lies] and realizing that they are the ones with the power."

The officers, staff and members thank Brother Thompson for his long service and wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement. ■

RETIRED

Charles W. Tippie



Charles W. Tippie, a Fourth District international representative whose top-notch negotiation skills honed over a

45-year IBEW career helped bring hundreds of working people into the union, retired May 1.

A lifelong Ohio resident, Brother Tippie joined Columbus Local 1466 in 1979, shortly after graduating from Tri-Valley High School in Dresden, when he was hired for the first of several positions for American Electric Power's Ohio unit.

He took to union membership quickly, serving his fellow members as a shop steward and as a Bureau of Workers' Compensation representative. By the mid-1980s, though, Tippie had grown dissatisfied with the direction he felt his local was headed.

"I decided I could either become an officer or just step back," he said.

Choosing the former, Tippie ran successfully for a spot on Local 1466's executive board in 1989. Six years later, he was elected recording secretary, a position he held until his election as business manager in 2007.

In 2012, International President Edwin D. Hill appointed Tippie as an international representative for the Fourth District.

Steve Crum, one of Tippie's fellow Fourth District international representatives, said that Tippie naturally became one of the district's "go-to guys" when it came to electrical utilities because of his years of experience with AEP.

"He's extremely knowledgeable about them," said Crum, who has known Tippie for about 15 years. "A real expert. We relied on Chuck quite a bit."

Tippie's skills and knowledge eventually helped him develop a knack for assisting newly organized bargaining units to successfully negotiate first contracts, Crum said.

"Chuck is a no-B.S. kind of guy. He tells you the way it is, and you know where you stand," Crum said. "Everybody respects that."

All those qualities proved quite beneficial when it came time for Tippie to help negotiate a first contract for workers at Baltimore Gas and Electric.

Four times over 20 years, the IBEW had unsuccessfully tried to organize BGE workers into the union. Success was at last achieved in March 2017 when, after a massive 18-month effort, a majority of the more than 1,400 BGE workers voted to join the IBEW and form Baltimore Local 410.

"That election victory was the biggest thing that happened in the district in years," Crum said. "But victory only matters when you get a contract."

It then took Tippie — partnered with then-Fourth District International

Representative Gina Cooper, who is now the district's international vice president — another two years of tireless work to hammer out a ratifiable collective bargaining agreement.

"Being part of the BGE negotiations team was one of my proudest moments," Tippie said.

Tippie carries that and many other fond IBEW memories into retirement. "I worked with a bunch of good business managers and local unions," he said. "It was just a real good time. I'm going to miss them."

"Chuck leaves a legacy of leadership," Cooper said. "He worked hard to ensure that the local unions he serviced understood their roles and provided them with the tools they needed for success. His dedication to the IBEW and the locals will continue to help for years to come."

At least for the near term, Tippie intends to stick close to his Ohio home and spend time with his wife, Mary Beth, and their two adult children.

"I plan on working around the house, do some yard work," he said. "I traveled for the last 12 years to locals all across the Fourth District. We'll travel later."

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

APPOINTED

Glenn Brannen



Glenn Brannen, whose long IBEW career includes more than 20 years as an international representative in the Deep

South, has been appointed the Fifth District's international vice president.

Brannen replaces Brian K. Thompson, who is retiring. The Fifth District includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana and Puerto Rico.

"The best way I can describe Glenn is that he's one of the most honest people I've ever met, and he's very, very analytical," said retired Shreveport, La., Local 194 Business Manager and Fifth District International Representative Herbert Prestidge, a mentor early in Brannen's career and still a close friend.

"He's what I call face to face," Prestidge added. "If you have a problem, he'll be talking to you and there will be nothing on his mind other than what he can do to help you with it."

Thompson said his successor "will do a phenomenal job." He added: "I can't wait to see him spread his wings and fly."

"I've known Glenn for more than 22 years," Thompson said. "He's a very close friend, but more importantly, he's well qualified for the position. He's very attention-oriented and detailed."

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Born and raised in Shreveport, Brother Brannen figured while growing up that he would pursue a career in the trades. He just wasn't sure which one.

His father was a union carpenter, but he knew several people who were either IBEW members or related to one, so he was familiar with the benefits of being a union electrician. Those people included his girlfriend at the time, Dianne, whose father was a Local 194 member, and her two brothers.

Thus, he ended up part of the Brotherhood. Brannen began his apprenticeship in 1981 and became a member of Local 194 the following year, topping out as a journeyman inside wireman in 1985.

By then, Prestidge was convinced that Brannen had the makings of a leader. Brannen was selected the top apprentice in his graduating class. He never missed a Local 194 meeting and usually was an active participant.

"It didn't take much for me to look at him and say, 'This guy is going places,'" Prestidge said.

Brannen said the variety of work he was able to do, along with the benefits of union membership, convinced him that he made the right decision.

"I really enjoyed the challenge of seeing a job going from a field to a completed facility," he said.

A leadership position within Local 194 was on the horizon. Brannen was elected to the executive board in 1990 and appointed business manager in 1993 after Prestidge left for the district office. He was reelected three times before accepting a Fifth District international representative position himself in 2002.

Prestidge noted that Local 194, which includes members in inside, outside and utility, doubled its membership when Brannen served as business manager. It also organized what had been a nonunion electrical co-op in the Shreveport area.

After joining the district office, Brannen originally was a service rep for locals in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, but his area has been Mississippi and Louisiana in recent years.

He often accompanied then-International Representative Jimmy Russ on visits to local unions during his first few months as he transitioned to the district office. Russ said it was striking how well prepared he was.

"We worked very well together," said Russ, now retired and living in Alabama. "He was smart and still is very smart. You couldn't tell he was new to the job."

Even though Brannen's background is in construction, he quickly learned how much he enjoyed working with locals from all the branches.

"The most interesting thing is seeing how other local unions do things and assisting in contract negotiations," he said. "I really enjoyed that, trying to get the best contract for the members. We had organized that pretty sizable electrical cooperative while I was business manager, so it was not new to me."

Brannen praised the work of

Thompson, who he served under for the last 5 1/2 years. He noted that construction is booming across the South, much of it spurred by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other legislation passed in recent years by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden.

"We have several megaprojects going up around the district," Brannen said. "We want to make sure our

construction and then our [professional and industrial] locals can take advantage of that. I'm also looking forward to working with our locals on the other side of the district, in Georgia and Florida, which I haven't dealt with as much, and seeing what their needs are."

Brannen and Dianne are still together. They've been married for 40 years, and she's had a long career as an

oncology nurse. They still live in Shreveport near his 99-year-old mother, Lola. Dianne's two brothers became brothers-in-law and are Local 194 members themselves.

"We were born here, grew up here and made our friends here," he said. "It's home for us."

Among those friends is Prestidge, who is thrilled to see a former star

apprentice ascend in the IBEW.

"I really am proud of him," Prestidge said. "He really does respect people and their opinions. The members in the Fifth District will see that when they have a problem, he will do the best thing for them in that moment."

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

GROUNDING IN HISTORY

A Moment of Division That Gave Way to a Century of Unity

From 1908 to 1912, two organizations claimed to be the legitimate IBEW.

One side was led by Frank McNulty, an inside wireman who was elected grand president in 1903. The secessionist faction was led by James Reid, a district vice president who convened a special convention in 1908 to remove McNulty from office and install himself in his place. His deputy was James Murphy, and the affair came to be known as the "Reid-Murphy split."

When neither group recognized the legitimacy of the other, the unity of the IBEW was cast into a four-year struggle marked by confusion and animosity before unity and brotherhood eventually reigned.

The IBEW Museum at the International Office in Washington, D.C., has many artifacts that document this tumultuous period. These include convention photos, executive correspondence and court documents. Two of the primary sources have been The Electrical Worker and the Convention Proceedings of 1908 and 1911, as they provide direct insight into the mindset of McNulty and his staff during the split.

However, they tell only half the story. The secessionists held their own conventions in 1908 and 1911 (producing proceedings from each) and published their own Electrical Worker from 1909 to 1912. Copies of these documents have been held in the IBEW archive for over a century, but they have rarely seen the light of day. Starting this month, they are being digitally scanned to preserve this trove of history.

This project will allow researchers and staff to delve deeper into this divisive yet formative period in IBEW history. Once the documents are text-searchable, it will make cross-referencing easier than ever. For instance, in March 1910, an arbitration committee was formed by the American Federation of Labor to try to broker peace between the two IBEW factions. The official Electrical Worker published a summary of the committee's report, but the Reid version contains the report in full.

Similarly, both versions contain letters sent to their factions' respective leaders by Samuel Gompers, founder of the AFL, in May 1911 as the arbitration was facing collapse. While the letters to McNulty have been carefully cataloged, Gompers' letters to Reid so far have not. Digitization will help the IBEW fill gaps in the historical narrative by revealing more shared references like these. The entire project should be complete by the end of the year.

In some ways, the Reid-Murphy split was a result of organizational growing pains for the IBEW. The union was only 17 years old, and the electrical industry was expanding faster than most experts thought, forcing many branches to compete with one another.



Pages from the alternative Electrical Worker, published by the breakaway Reid-Murphy faction in 1909-1912, are being digitized for preservation at the IBEW Museum in Washington, D.C.

An end to the struggle came through court action. In 1912, a lawsuit was filed against Reid, and his 1908 convention was ruled illegitimate. Reid appealed the case to the Ohio Supreme Court in 1913, but it produced the same result. McNulty immediately published a peace accord, inviting all members and locals to rejoin with no repercussions.

By the start of 1914, more than 100 locals ultimately returned and the IBEW was once again a single union of hearts and minds. ■

Visit nbew-ibewmuseum.org for more on how to support the IBEW's preservation of its history. Have an idea for this feature? Send it to Curtis_Bateman@ibew.org.

LOCAL LINES

Happy Independence Day From Local 1

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st,ws&ptc), ST. LOUIS, MO — This spring, I attended the IBEW's Safety Conference, where the importance of mental health support was discussed, specifically the underfunding of this important health care need in our industry. Insurance is a challenging issue for any local, and we should do more to focus on this part of our health care.

One of the stats that jumped out at me was the 619% increase since 2011 in workplace unintentional overdose deaths. Overdose deaths were equivalent to 9.6% of all reported worker deaths in 2022, according to research from the National Safety Council. The construction industry has one of the highest rates of suicide compared to other industries. In 2016, the rate of suicide in the construction and extraction industries was 49.4 per 100,000. That is five times as large as the rate for fatal work-related injuries in the construction industry, which was 9.5 per 100,000 in 2018.

OSHA's website ([osha.gov/workplace-stress](https://www.osha.gov/workplace-stress)) features links to useful information and training materials to assist you in processing stress effectively. Mental health is as important as physical health. Be there for one another.

Best wishes for a great summer!

Kyle Hunter, P.S.

Local 15 and Illinois Political Update

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — ComEd resubmitted their rate case to the Illinois Commerce Commission in March. The approval of the ComEd rate increase is important to Local 15 and its members. This would allow members working for ComEd to get back to strengthening the electrical grid instead of maintaining what exists.

Local 15 supports the following:

- H.B. 562, which would require the ICC to factor in job impacts when making rate case decisions. This is not a factor in the ICC's current decision-making process.
- H.B. 5234, which would give the "right of first refusal" to the local utility (ComEd) to build new transmission lines as ordered by regional transmission organizations. This ensures that out-of-state companies and nonunion workers aren't building transmission lines in Illinois.
- H.B. 5243, which would allow for construction of battery storage on retired fossil-fuel plant property. This would maintain some jobs after the retirement of the fossil-fueled stations.

Local 15 has also been involved in supporting a construction permit to upgrade the bypass basin



Local 43 members showing their union pride at the Syracuse, N.Y., St. Patrick's Day Parade.

at Powerton Generating Station. Without this permit, Powerton would have to cease operations in October.

We will continue our efforts with the Illinois EPA to get a permit issued by July.

John Richards, Bus. Rep.

Buffalo Bills Stadium Update

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY — At the time of this writing, our local has three contractors working on the new stadium, with a few electrical packages still out for bid. Our members have been working on the new home of the Buffalo Bills for just over a year. We have more than 60 electricians on site, and that number could double by year's end.

More than 50,000 feet of underground conduit has been installed at the stadium, including a bank of 54 stretching over 500 feet. The conduits feed the new primary substation, the auxiliary building for the television networks and multiple electric rooms around the lower level.

The steel for more than half of the 100 level is up, which made way for under-slab conduit, temporary power and lighting. The Ironworkers have begun assembling the suite level, which will certainly lead to more labor requests.

We have been fortunate to have more than 100 travelers here to help us fill our calls on a variety of jobs in our jurisdiction. Any brothers and sisters looking to work on this historic project should make their way to Buffalo to sign the book.

Matthew M. Gaiser, A.B.M.

Local 43 Attends St. Patrick's Day Parade

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — Our local members and their families showed their union pride while enjoying the Syracuse and Utica St. Patrick's Day parades!

We would like to thank everyone for coming out and celebrating this annual event.

Jeff Cassano, P.S.

Local 47 Maintains Stance

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters. It seems that much of the local's anticipated work is on hold, stuck in permitting or with employers at odds about getting work out to the field. In addition, we continue to defend our jurisdiction from the other trade unions who constantly attack our employers, which creates a difficult relationship among the trades. This fight makes us all look bad to customers and legislators.

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

- Southern California Edison: For production specialists, we continue to work through issues after bargaining; real-time operators bargaining continues; and the demotion of e-crew foreman Ray Delgado is set for arbitration July 17.
- City of Riverside: Bargaining continues.
- City of Anaheim: We are still meeting for the general contract on issues not resolved in bargaining.
- City of Banning: We have scheduled bargaining meetings on medical insurance for the utility general contracts.

In upcoming events, we'll have the Local 47 golf tournament July 19 and our family picnic Sept. 21.

We're sad to report the deaths of Tommy Blankenship, Ramon Rodriguez and Johnny Santos. Our condolences and prayers are with their loved ones.

Work safe and buy union.

Mitch Smith, P.S.

Termination Arbitration Awarded to Local 51 Member

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — In 2023, a member was disciplined by a utility company for a preventable vehicular accident. The discipline included a 10-day suspension and a last-chance agreement, which the member refused to sign. This resulted in his termination. The arbitrator ruled that the company had not met its burden of proof that the penalty of discharge was appropriate under the circumstances. The grievant was reinstated to his position at the utility, made whole, and given a 10-day suspension and two-year probation.

Election Day is Nov. 5. Registered voters may cast a ballot early without having to provide a reason for wanting to vote early. This ballot is cast in person at the office of the election authority or at an early voting center. Early voting in Illinois begins Sept. 26.

Before casting your vote, research the candidates and select those who unequivocally support union labor, not those who don't support workers' rights to organize, bargain collectively or strike.

Happy Independence Day to you and your family! Attend your monthly union meeting, and always be safe.

Karlene Knisley, Bus. Rep.

Local 103's Busy Spring

L.U. 103 (cs,i&ptc), BOSTON, MA — It's been a busy couple of months.

In March, Business Manager/Financial Secretary Lou Antonellis had the incredible honor of representing Local 103 at President Joe Biden's State of the Union address. Brother Antonellis was the personal guest of Sen. Ed Markey in recognition of the work of the IBEW and Local 103 to lead the way in the clean energy market.

St. Patrick's Day started with over 125 members and their guests attending Union Night with the Dropkick Murphys. On March 17, 100 members and their families marched in South Boston's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. All had a great weekend.

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

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

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

Trade Classifications

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

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



Local 103 marches in the 2024 South Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Local 103 is upgrading the power infrastructure here at our main campus. A new 13.8-kilovolt line is being brought in to support over 50 new EV charging stations that are starting installation.

Jim Fleming, P.S.

New Journeymen in Kalamazoo

L.U. 131 (i,rtb,rts,se&spa), KALAMAZOO, MI — Congratulations to 14 new inside journeymen: Caitlin Arnold, Eric Blakeslee, James Brush, Kyle Carter, Darius Dlugoss, Ryan Eklund, Mason Glerum, Toby Jones, Noah Leinaar, Matthew Linsley, Patrick Lipari-Jordan, Jacob McPherson, Justin Wrobel and Andrew Yezic.

The work outlook remains steady in Kalamazoo. Palisades nuclear plant is beginning to hire for the recommissioning. You can read more about this project and nuclear's resurgence in this month's cover article. The Gun Lake hotel and aquadome are moving, along with over 60 members working on the project.

We recently have lost several retirees: Charles Edwards, Brian Ellis, Philip Frenthway, Donald Geipel, Patrick Klocke (former business manager), Mitchell VanKruiningen III, William Nederhoed, David Nyman, Michael Olmstead, Mark Sears and Dale Smith. All of these journeymen have taught me something that helped me succeed. Thank you, and all will be missed.

The local's annual picnic is July 27 at River Oaks Park in Galesburg, Mich. Call the union hall (269-382-1762) for details. I hope to see you there!

Morris A. Applebey, B.M.

Local 141 Ratifies New Contract

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Work remains a bit slow in our jurisdiction, with 27 members on Book 1.

Local 141 is happy to announce that we have ratified a new three-year inside contract. Our negotiating committee did a great job in getting our membership a contract that provides a great standard of

living and improves conditions on the jobsite. As of this writing, the committee is working on contracts for our teledata members and those working in signatory motor repair shops in our jurisdiction.

Local 141's social committee is entering its busy season as it plans our annual summer picnic and golf scramble, as well as early planning for our holiday seasonal events.

Have a fun and safe summer!

Kurt "Bug" Reed, P.S.

Local 237's Newest Journeymen

L.U. 237 (i&r), NIAGARA FALLS, NY — With the arrival of summer comes another graduating class of fifth-year apprentices. Local 237 would like to congratulate our newest journeymen and recognize them for their accomplishments: Matthew Bishara, Anthony Clark, Jordan Deuel, Erik Domin, Mark Kinney, Karl Kirsch, Terry Mandaville, Nicholas Mazerbo and Brian Mendel. Mendel was given the Top Apprentice Award, and the Perfect Attendance Award went to Kinney. We wish you all safe and successful futures!

Brandon Lum, P.S.

Big Changes at Local 245

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH — We hope everyone is enjoying the summer and quality time with friends and family.

Local 245 has had some pretty big changes these last six months. After years working outside construction as a journeyman lineman, Ken Kurtz transitioned smoothly to his role as the assistant business manager in March 2018. In December 2023, Ken decided to enjoy retirement with his loving wife, Debbie, and their dogs. Local 245 will truly miss Ken, and we recognize the lives he has impacted.

Rick Russeau was appointed assistant business manager after 20 years working as an outside journeyman lineman. He was also appointed chairman of the executive board. Brother Rick has already been an asset to the union hall.

Ed Hardy, a substation journeyman from Toledo Edison, has been appointed to a new role as assistant business manager.

In April, Shane Bauman, business manager at Local 245, was appointed as a Fourth District international representative for the IBEW. Shane will be missed at the union hall and has left some pretty big shoes to fill. Former Assistant Business Manager Justin Cappelletty was appointed to fill the vacancy of business manager, and Justin has filled the role well. We congratulate these brothers and wish them luck in all their new endeavors.

Local 245 is pleased to report that after a two-year fight, the members employed at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station collectively received over \$2 million deposited into their 401(k) accounts April 29 due to a successful arbitration award. Local 245 remains busy preparing for several negotiations this summer and fall.

A positive attitude is contagious, so don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier.

Brian Gendaszek, P.S.



Local 245 instrument techs load tool carts to be used for work in the containment building at Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station during their refueling outage in March.

Leading the Way

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — The parade season honoring St. Patrick's Day was once again in full swing with our local members marching in three parades in three consecutive weeks. The festivities kicked off in Mount Holly, N.J., on March 2. Despite the inclement weather, our brothers and sisters turned out for the hardy souls who gathered to watch.

The following week, Hamilton, N.J., hosted its annual event. Our own Wayne DeAngelo served his first year as chairman of the parade committee, and the local made sure that representation was not lacking. Although the weather was far from ideal, the spirit and camaraderie of the Brotherhood carried the day.

The grand finale of the season was the Bucks County Parade in Levittown, Pa. Business Manager Steve Aldrich represented Local 269 as the parade grand marshal.

Members turned out in an impressive show of (work)force to demonstrate what a unified and energized organization looks like. Congratulations, Steve, and thanks to everyone who put the hard work into making these events a worthy "circle the date" on the calendar every year.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

Local 309 Plans for Training Facility

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL — In an historic move, the local is set to purchase an adjacent building and property that will become our outside training facility. The new training center will include crane simulators, TransBankers and a pole yard for additional hands-on training.

Two contracts were renewed earlier in the year. Clinton County Electric Cooperative clerical settled a four-year agreement with a 16% raise. Hopcroft Electric settled a one-year agreement with a 4.5% raise.

At the spring Illinois state conference, Michael Carrigan and Doug Scott from the Illinois Commerce Commission explained the ICC's decision-making process as it relates to the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. Pointed questions were raised about the high unemployment that resulted from those decisions and the loss of an entire year to upgrade the grid for the future energy needs of CEJA.

Many locals then marched to the Illinois Capitol to lobby for a bill that requires the ICC to factor in job impacts for future decisions and to support the "right of first refusal" bill that protects Illinois businesses and outside construction workers from out-of-state companies.

Carlos Perez, A.B.M.

Why June?

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Typically, our collective bargaining agreement expires or renews in June. The first contract between Local 343 and NECA took effect June 1, 1980, 14 months after the local received its charter in 1979. Brothers Lloyd Hagemann and Lowell Reedstrom signed the agreement.

The 1980 contract included an age ratio: "On any job requiring six (6) or more Journeymen, every fifth (5) Journeyman employee shall be forty years of age or over if available" (Section 3:14). The age ratio did not allow eligible members to jump the book for job calls. This section remained in our agreement, with some changes, for 25 years. The apprentice-to-journeyman ratio, in 1980, was one apprentice to three journeymen, and today the ratio is two apprentices to one journeyman. Depending on the job cost (over or under \$75,000), and which county or portion of a county the job was located, there are six journeyman pay rates. There are nine wage rates for apprentices.

Understanding the contract is each member's responsibility. If you have questions, ask your steward. No steward? Call your business representative.

Support American workers — Buy Made in USA.

Thomas Small, P.S.



Local 131's new journeymen in Kalamazoo, Mich.



Local 269 Business Manager and Parade Grand Marshal Steve Aldrich (center, holding the shillelagh) poses with the marchers before the Bucks County, Pa., St. Patrick's Day Parade.

LOCAL LINES

Local 347 Celebrates Spring Service

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA — Our local has been busy this spring with events. The pin party was a reminder of the brothers we've worked with previously and recognition of those following in their footsteps. It was truly a celebration of brotherhood, fidelity and talent. The party was followed two weeks later by an Easter egg hunt, which was so much fun.

Here are our updates:

- The negotiating team produced an agreement that was ratified in late April.
- Upcoming events include the local picnic June 8 and the local's golf outing July 13.
- There will also be opportunities to get involved with preparations for our Labor Day celebration.

We encourage our membership to vote for candidates who are supportive of organized labor.

"What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful, and childhood more happy and bright." — Samuel Gompers

Have a spectacular Independence Day!

Mike Schweiger, P.S.



From left, Phil Johnson and Wayne Jones receive recognition for 65 years of membership in Local 347 from President Rick Chumbley (center).

Local 357 Wins Softball Tournament

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV — On March 24, the Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions hosted its second semiannual working families softball tournament. It was a fantastic day filled with (mostly) friendly softball matches, showcasing the camaraderie and spirit of unity among the trades.

Local 357 sponsored two teams: Brendan Muffoletto coached the Shock Hazards, and Steve Kirker coached the High Voltage team. In total, 21 softball teams from various local trades participated. However, Local 357's Shock Hazards smashed the competition and won the championship!

At the April general meeting, we presented the trophy and gave both teams some membership appreciation! Well done!

Julie-Ann Peeples, P.S.



Local 357 softball teams Shock Hazards and High Voltage played against other building trades in a friendly battle for the championship.

Local 449 Commemorates Members

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa,u&mt), POCATELLO, ID — Our local sadly commemorates the following members who have passed away: Bob Chandler (December 2023), James Kondel (December 2023), Richard D. Long (February) and Gary J. Tripplett (January).

Local 449 wishes the following members a wonderful retirement: Marty Coburn, Terry Jensen, Mark Reed and Lynn Shearer (all retired in April), and Garland Smith (January).

Brandie Weaver, Bus. Rep.

Local 481 Eyes Increase in Membership

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Brothers and sisters, whether through our sports leagues, improvement classes, affinity groups or sponsorship events, there are many opportunities for members to be active and participate. The members of Local 481 have been extremely involved in all events and continue to help us tell our story.

A special thanks to those club presidents and committee members who give their time and talents to ensure that the events run smoothly. It is truly appreciated by the members, and we look forward to what the rest of the year has in store. The time is now for us to increase our membership, and with your help, the IBEW will continue to grow and be a leader in the union construction industry.

As has always been said, the local is only as strong as our members. When we make participation a priority outside of our work in the industry, the community sees it and understands what we do and supports us along the way.

Blake Andrews, Treas.



Local 483 shop steward Level 2 training was a huge success.

Shop Steward Level 2 Training for the Win!

L.U. 483 (catv,lctt,o&u), TACOMA, WA — Thank you to all our local members who attended our recent Shop Steward Level 2 training. This class offers more in-depth training, including how to navigate through a collective bargaining agreement and determine whether an issue is a grievance.

Learning how to distinguish the noise from the issue is an important part of Level 2.

We are very pleased with the continued interest we have received from our members in shop steward training, resulting in internal organizing gains for Local 483.

Byron Allen, B.M./F.S.



Local 601's Bob "I Built the Hall With My Bare Hands" Withers graces the local with his expertise.

The Man, The Myth, The Legend of Local 601

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — "Does anyone here not know who I am?" Bob Withers has done it once again. Herding cats has nothing on herding our first-years to cook steaks for a steak stag, but leave it to Mr. Worldwide to do it every year. Manning the grill, toasting the buns, frying the fries — he does it all, and every year the entirety of Local 601 comes with slaving mouths ready to feast on perfectly cooked steaks. Every first-year never forgets their awe of the legend.

Enshrined in them is their first brush with brotherhood in long careers as Local 601 electricians. We thank Bob "I Have Literally Taught Everyone Here" Withers and his fleet of first-years

once again for putting on a spectacular steak stag.

Luther Baker, P.S.

Local 611 Ratifies Inside Agreement

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — On April 13, the membership voted to ratify our inside agreement, a three-year contract effective June 1 through May 31, 2027.

Each January, we will receive \$2 in the check and 35 cents in our annuity. The apprentice percentages will change, and beginning in the second year, third-period apprentices will go full plan on our health and welfare. Thanks to the negotiating committee for all your hard work and dedication during the negotiations, and to all the members who showed up to vote.

The hall will begin Code of Excellence, Robert's Rules of Order, COMET and steward training classes soon. If you are interested in any of these courses, call the hall (505-343-0611).

As of May, work is still steady. Some of the contractors at Facebook have stopped the incen-

tive, but Intel is still going strong.

On behalf of the local, I would like to extend condolences to the family and friends of Tommy D. Akins, Martin Armstrong, Clarence Baca, Thomas Dematine, Larry Jones, Lane Silversmith, Doyle G. Rush, Wayne J. Lauden, Jordan Lujan, Ricardo Martinez, Teddy Dean Priest, Prentiss Putman, Raymond Romereau, Walter "Tommy" Thompson, Eugene Walker and Richard Yazzie Jr.

Don't forget to attend your local union meetings and support COPE.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



Brother Richard Sandoval, former local 611 president, is presented with an award for his years of dedication to the local.

Local 617 Political Action

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA — With the election just around the corner in November, this is a significant political year for all working-class people, and our local is ready for the fight. Thank you to all who cast, and will continue to cast, ballots and vote #UnionStrong. Local 617 will continue to strongly endorse candidates and policies that support putting our members to work with union wages and benefits, which is always the priority.

Our Local 617 registrar, officers and delegates have been dedicated to meeting and working with our local labor council; local and state building trades; the California State Association of Electrical Workers; and elected officials and representatives in Sacramento, San Mateo County, and Washington, D.C., to make sure our members' voices are heard.

Our focus continues on a wide range of issues, including safety in the workplace, green and sustainable jobs, clean energy, infrastructure jobs, labor laws, training, and housing.

Local 617 officers and staff were honored to attend the IBEW Construction and Maintenance and North American Building Trades Unions conferences in April in D.C., and we rallied with our brothers and sisters as President Joe Biden delivered remarks. Four more years, Joe!

Scott Wein, B.M./F.S.

Two Local 625 Members Receive Life Saving Awards

L.U. 625 (c,ees,em,i,it,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NS — The work picture is good in Halifax, with some 30 tower cranes putting up mostly residential buildings. Hospital work is picking up, as well. We hit 1 million hours in 2023 and are reaching for more

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this year. Outside areas are spotty, with some members looking for travel calls.

We presented the IBEW Life Saving Award to two members in December: Mike Amero, for saving his sister-in-law from a cardiac event, and Brett Tetanish, for saving a fellow firefighter during the floods. We're proud of all of our members who volunteer as firefighters and search and rescue, and with the reserves.

Our Training Centre is busy with classes including 35-week pre-apprentice, nine-week Level 2, 12 JATC and five safety courses, along with various courses in development. We are one of the few, if not the only, IBEW Training Centre in Canada delivering both the Core program and four theory levels for the complete electrician apprenticeship program.

Ten members received 50-year pins in December: Blair Henry, Seward Farrell, Lee Little, Rob Martin, Leo McAssey, Leigh Moase, Wayne Murdock, Fred Ross, John Sutton and Joe Trainor.

Our NextGen Committee collected and donated 1,268 pairs of new winter socks for the homeless. The Women's Committee is calling for new members and planning future projects. I am starting a retirement committee. One activity could be to visit our members who are in hospital, rehab and long-term care. If interested, please contact me. Our Retirees' Club could contribute to The Electrical Worker, as well.

Tom Griffiths, B.M./F.S.



Local 625 Business Manager Tom Griffiths presents retired Brother Ray MacDonal his 55-year pin and certificate.

Local 725's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

L.U. 725 (i,rts&spa), TERRE HAUTE, IN — On March 30, our local held its annual Easter egg hunt.

It was a bright, beautiful day with large turnout. Before the big hunt took place, lunch and soft drinks were provided to all family members. The Easter Bunny was in attendance to greet the children and pose for pictures.

Before the hunt began, the children were separated into groups of 3 and under, 4-6 and 7-10 years old.

Each egg was filled with candy or prizes. There were special eggs with prize tickets that were redeemed for large Easter baskets overflowing with prizes. Each age group also had a golden egg. The three lucky kids who found the golden eggs went



The 3-and-under age group prepares for the Local 725 Easter egg hunt.



Local 915's Brother Alfred Thomas celebrates his 98th birthday.

home with brand-new 16-foot trampolines.

Dickson Hunley, P.S.

Local 915 Walks to Defeat ALS

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL — Business Manager Randall King is pleased to report that the long-term work picture for our local continues to be strong. The Tampa Bay area has several large hospitals, two sports stadiums and the Historic Gas Plant District redevelopment, all of which are slated to begin work in the next 12 months.

The annual service pin presentation was held at our general membership meeting April 12. Brother Alfred Thomas was unable to attend, but he was recognized for his 70 years of service to the local and the IBEW. On April 14, Brother Thomas celebrated his 98th birthday.

On April 20, Local 915 hosted our annual bass fishing tournament on the lake at the union hall. Once again, Brother Leon Ward did an amazing job putting the event together. More than a dozen fishermen of all ages participated, and a good time was had by all.

The Walk to Defeat ALS was held April 27. Several members of Local 915, including President Jon Fielder, came out to support Brother Robert Ray in his fight with ALS. Brother Ray continues to beat the odds, and we will do all we can to support him.

Brian Nathan, A.B.M.



Local 1347 staff is hitting the phones with political information for members.

Local 1347 Gets Out the Vote

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,u&ptc), CINCINNATI, OH — Our local's staff is hitting the phones with political information for our members, stressing the importance of voting for the pro-labor candidates. The 2024 election is one of the most important opportunities to secure our future. Brother Don Scott Smith and office coordinator Miranda Florence are leading the charge for Local 1347.

National and

local offices are all up for election, so we are doing our part to make sure our members know the pro-labor candidates. Keep up the fight, and don't let up.

Go IBEW! We are solid and strong!

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

Congratulations, 2024 Fifth-Year Wiremen!

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t,u,lctt&ptc), ANCHORAGE, AK — Congratulations to the 2024 class of fifth-year wiremen at the Tom Cashen Electrical Training Facility! Thanks to everyone for the great turnout. Pictured in the photo below, from left, are Business Representative J.C. Casquejo; Susanna Mishler, instructor; Melissa Caress, training director; Business Manager Doug Tansy; Assistant Business Manager Ryan Andrew; James Garrison, Keegan Wampler, Tom Flora, Cole Phillips, Nathan Machacek, Hannah Wilson, Eric Ruaro, Wyatt Allen and Logan Shaul-Jensen (students); Business Rep. George McGuan; Ryan Newbury and Antonio Kensingler (students); Hiram Pendergrass, instructor; Larry Bell, NECA chapter manager; and Endeavor Electric's Elliott Marlow.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

Happy Independence Day From Local 1579

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — Hello, brothers and sisters. I hope everyone is doing well. The summer

months have crept in along with the Southern heat. I'm encouraging everybody to stay diligent and hydrate and please keep an eye out for older members of your family and the Brotherhood. This weather can sneak up on you in a hurry.

The work situation in Augusta is the same as reported in my last article. The Savannah River Site and Plant Vogtle are still employing a decent number of members as we play the waiting game on some of the other projects.

Business Manager J.R. Richardson is constantly meeting with contractors, owners and City Council members on the data centers and other work in the jurisdiction. His hard work will come to fruition soon. It's just a matter of time.

I want to wish everyone a very happy Independence Day though, by the time you get this, it will most likely have passed. Enjoy yourself, be good to one another, and please be careful during your festivities.

"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

Mike Greene, Pres.

Many Events for Local 1701

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY — Greetings from our local! The apprenticeship program's school year came to a close, and JATC Director Jason Sharp, along with Business Agent Ryan Hayden, gave addresses at a reception for the 2024 class of journeymen. The class of 2024 is Aaron Allen, Chase Capps, Collin Carpenter, Ian O'Brien, Jonathan Poynter, Tristan Roby and Billy Stearsman.

The graduating class completed the fifth-year requirements of craft certification, passed the test for their Kentucky JW license, and received diplomas for associate degrees in electrical technology and their IBEW journeyman's tickets. Others at the podium who recognized the class were Andy Daniel, Curits Frederic, Mike Williams and Cory Willis. Congratulations to the graduates and their families for their support.

R.D. Morris was awarded at the second annual Battle of the Beans chili competition with Evansville, Ind., Local 16. The funds raised went to both locals.

Rick Thurman, P.S.



Congratulations to the 2024 fifth-year wireman class of Local 1547.



Local 1701 congratulates its journeyman class of 2024: Ian O'Brien, Jonathan Poynter, Collin Carpenter, Chase Capps, Tristan Roby, Aaron Allen and Billy Stearsman.

In Memoriam continued

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
716	Tomlin, J. R.	5/8/24	1186	Diaz, J. L.	3/26/24	I.O. (6)	Carbonaro, S. J.	3/27/24
721	Guinn, S. M.	4/14/24	1186	Miura, R. K.	9/1/21	I.O. (110)	Reinhardt, L. E.	5/6/24
725	Burnell, G. L.	3/9/24	1186	Yagi, A.	1/4/24	I.O. (134)	Ferraz, E. S.	3/1/24
725	Hockman, J. D.	12/27/23	1245	Glady, L. D.	3/28/24	I.O. (134)	Figora, R. B.	3/10/24
728	Crosby, E. J.	4/1/24	1245	Hibbard, T. L.	10/7/23	I.O. (134)	Kelly, R. F.	12/26/23
728	Dawkins, J. B.	4/6/24	1245	Sparks, W.	2/22/24	I.O. (134)	Kohn, H.	3/17/24
728	Diaz, A.	3/3/24	1249	Brill, F. J.	2/20/22	I.O. (134)	Robinson, D. D.	4/9/24
728	Milam, T. B.	11/30/23	1249	Jackson, M. E.	4/14/24	I.O. (134)	Walther, T. R.	4/10/24
743	Dalida, N. A.	4/30/24	1289	Bonneau, D. L.	9/8/23	I.O. (136)	Stricklin, F. A.	4/18/24
756	Bailie, A. W.	6/18/23	1319	Plourde, F. J.	3/27/24	I.O. (358)	Fraze, L. A.	4/26/24
756	Wright, W. H.	4/19/24	1377	Bohley, F. B.	3/11/24	I.O. (441)	Swantz, D. E.	10/3/21
760	Clevenger, A. E.	3/29/24	1391	Cole, C. R.	3/1/24	I.O. (760)	Black, L. M.	4/17/24
760	Davis, J. L.	2/13/24	1393	Padgett, R.	3/6/24	I.O. (852)	Moore, J. B.	3/26/24
768	Baker, M. F.	1/2/24	1426	Wedin, M.	4/28/24	I.O. (1211)	McLeod, K. D.	1/9/24
768	Foster, J. R.	2/27/24	1525	Bruggman, J. M.	3/6/24	I.O. (2085)	Wazny, G.	4/4/24
769	Schroeder, N. C.	5/25/21	1547	Clark, C. C.	4/19/24	Pens. (I.O)	Cabe, R. G.	3/14/24
773	Dick, W. R.	3/29/24	1547	Cyril, P. J.	3/25/24	Pens. (I.O)	Carlsen, R. D.	3/27/24
890	Carlson, S. J.	1/10/24	1547	Newman, C. W.	1/27/24	Pens. (I.O)	Cole, G. M.	4/9/24
906	Clark, M. D.	12/21/23	1555	LeBlanc, H.	1/6/24	Pens. (I.O)	Cove, G. B.	4/3/24
910	Love, D. L.	2/13/24	1579	Ashmore, T. G.	3/10/24	Pens. (I.O)	Griseto, R. N.	4/9/24
934	Watson, L. G.	4/11/24	1579	Richardson, J. R.	4/14/24	Pens. (I.O)	Hunter, J. R.	10/1/23
948	Osmon, M. D.	2/24/24	1687	Rahn, M. J.	3/1/24	Pens. (I.O)	Kapchinske, A. J.	7/16/21
952	Moriwaki, T.	8/16/21	1701	Cook, J. S.	4/1/24	Pens. (I.O)	Kraus, B. E.	2/27/24
953	Heisz, D. E.	8/24/23	1701	Pruitt, W. B.	4/23/24	Pens. (I.O)	Lunardi, J. I.	12/12/23
953	Meyer, K. D.	2/19/24	2085	Simpson, M. B.	5/5/24	Pens. (I.O)	Schafer, D. H.	4/8/24
1003	Woykin, C.	4/21/24	2085	Sinclair, E. R.	5/1/24	Pens. (I.O)	Yoder, M. S.	3/22/24
1055	Hobbs, D. J.	4/25/24	2166	Lynch, G. A.	4/21/24			
1141	Aguilar, P. P.	3/18/24	2286	Calcote, E.	2/3/24			
1141	Lewis, W. F.	12/15/23	2330	Duffy, J. F.	4/4/24			
1141	Pelzer, L. D.	2/29/24	2330	Hoyles, A. C.	3/11/24			
1141	Rickets, J. B.	2/5/23	I.O. (5)	Pudis, R. J.	4/18/24			

This list shows members for whom PBF death claims were approved in May 2024. ■



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	Fourth District	Third District	THE ELECTRICAL WORKER
William W. Riley	Dennis C. Affinati	Kenneth W. Cooper	Editor
Kenneth W. Cooper International President	Donald B. Finn	Gina P. Cooper	Kenneth W. Cooper
Paul A. Noble International Secretary-Treasurer	Mark H. Cunningham	Glenn Brannen	Matt Spence
INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	Leroy J. Chincio	Michael Clemmons	Tim Lawson
Chairman	Tom N. Griffiths	Christian J. Wagner	Alex Hogan
Christopher Erikson	INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS	Jerry Bellah	Curtis D. Bateman
First District	Joseph P. Calabro	Russell N. Shewchuk	Erin Sutherland
Second District	Myles J. Calvey	Michael P. Monahan	Asifa Haniff
Third District	William Hamilton	Mark D. Hager	Ben Temchine
			Sean Bartel
			Colin Kelly
			Rix Oakland
			Colleen Crinion
			Michael Pointer
			Janelle Hartman
			Joe Conway
			Emily Welsh
			Mike Palm
			Javier Pierrend

December 2023 International Executive Council Meeting

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

The meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Erikson on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, in Washington, D.C. Other members of the council in attendance were Calvey, Calabro, Cunningham, Shirer, Chincio, Finn, Council member Riley was excused.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

International President Cooper

International President Kenneth W. Cooper met with the members of the International Executive Council to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the brotherhood.

International Secretary-Treasurer Noble

International Secretary-Treasurer Paul A. Noble presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund, the Unity Fund, and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood — both in Canada and in the United States.

Legal Defense

General Counsel reporting on legal activity and bills, and payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined, and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1 of the IBEW Constitution.

Financial Reports

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

Article XX and XXI Cases

There were no Article XX or XXI cases to report during the fourth quarter of 2023.

Local Union Under International Office Supervision

There are two locals under trusteeship, Local Union 2330, St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, and Local Union 1501, Baltimore Maryland. The IEC authorized a six-month continuation of these trusteeships at its August 30, 2023 meeting. No action by the IEC is necessary at this time.

IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement ending September 30, 2023

Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Unity Fund Contributions ending September 30, 2023

Reviewed and Filed

IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets ending September 30, 2023

Reviewed and Filed

Retirement of International Representatives

Brian Murdoch, International Representative, First District
Effective — October 1, 2023

Retirement of International Office Employees

Kimberly Westerholm, Office Employee, Fourth District
Effective — September 15, 2023

Michael George, Office Employee, I/O Information Technology & Research
Effective — November 1, 2023

Wayne Brown, Office Employee, electrical training ALLIANCE
Effective — January 1, 2024

Terrence Coleman, Office Employee, electrical training ALLIANCE
Effective — January 1, 2024

For the International Executive Council

Myles J. Calvey, Secretary
December 2023

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

HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

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

Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

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WHO WE ARE

For Apprentice of the Year, a ‘Touching’ Letter Starts a New Tradition of Solidarity

The 2024 IBEW Hour Power Apprentice of the Year Award doesn't typically go to a second-year apprentice. But Kayla Cordaro, a York, Pa., Local 229 member, already has proven herself to be a top-tier student, and now she has the chance to bring a new tradition to next year's winner.

"She embodies everything that we look for in an apprentice. Her potential is through the roof," said Phil Lamison, Local 229's training director. "All of the blood, sweat and tears are paying off, and she deserves everything that this award has to offer. I cannot wait to see where she goes in her career."

While Cordaro has quickly taken to the electrical trade, it's not what she initially saw herself doing after high school. Like a lot of students, she was planning to go to college. But when a shop teacher told her about a pre-apprenticeship, she applied and was accepted.

"It really sparked my interest," Cordaro said. "That's when I realized I had a passion for it. The idea behind electricity really interests me."

Cordaro isn't just excelling in the apprenticeship. She's also an active member of the union, volunteering and attending Labor Day events and getting involved with a women's group run by a local contractor. She also plans to visit Philadelphia Local 98 to meet with representatives from its women's groups.

"It's good for women to have a space to come together and share their experiences," she said. "And I'm happy to do whatever I can to build bridges and help get the word out about what the IBEW is doing."

Despite her multiple talents and proven acumen, Cordaro said she was surprised when Lamison called to tell her that she'd won Apprentice of the Year.

"I was actually laid off when I found out," she said. "It's all been a little overwhelming, but mostly it's been awesome."

For Lamison, who nominated Cordaro, it was an easy decision. The nomination process included an essay on why she'd be a good candidate, followed by a phone interview. It wasn't difficult to make the case that she should win, he said.

"She is an exceptional apprentice, as well as a success story from our pre-apprenticeship," Lamison said. "The first time I met her, she was still in high school and came to interview for our apprenticeship, which is six people in a room firing questions at the



"The letter was an amazing surprise. ... I definitely want to continue the tradition. It meant a lot to get it, and I want to do that for the next person."

— Kayla Cordaro, a York, Pa., Local 229 member who received a letter from the 2023 Apprentice of the Year, Local 24 member Jack Powell

help grow Local 24."

That pride in being an IBEW member was imbued in the letter. For Cordaro, it was another example of the solidarity she's experienced since joining the union.

"Even though the IBEW is so big, there's an amazing community there to help each other out," she said. "It's nice to know that everyone has someone in their back pocket."

In addition to offering Cordaro advice and congratulations, Powell urged her to write a letter of her own to next year's winner, which Cordaro said she plans to do.

"I definitely want to continue the tradition," she said. "It meant a lot to get it, and I want to do that for the next person."

That sense of camaraderie, along with a strong skill set, is what makes Cordaro stand out, said Local 229 Business Manager Tom Henchey.

"I remember when I first met her. I knew then and there that she'd be fantastic," Henchey said. "She's very self-motivated and not easily deterred. The sky's the limit with her."

Cordaro's success has also helped shine a light on Local 229.

"We are a small local, and to get recognized nationally is a huge honor," Lamison said. "We always try to do our best and work hard, and to know that we are appreciated like this means the world to us."

Now that the filming is over, Cordaro is back to focusing on her apprenticeship. As for the letter, she's still thinking about what she'll say.

"It's early, but I'll probably share my experience and wish them luck, and let them know that the film crew will put you at ease and make a great product, which is a cool summary of you to have," she said. "And I'll encourage them to stay open to all the possibilities out there."

Cordaro has been exceeding expectations in her apprenticeship, earning her the 2024 IBEW Hour Power Apprentice of the Year award, something that's not typically given to someone who's only in their second year. "She embodies everything that we look for in an apprentice," said Phil Lamison, Local 229's training director. "Her potential is through the roof."

know that it's an achievement they should be proud of."

Cordaro got the letter at the Construction and Maintenance Conference in Washington, D.C., in April, where she also received a plaque and gave a speech. It was a welcome salve to a nerve-wracking day.

"The letter was an amazing surprise," Cordaro said. "I thought it was really touching."

Like Cordaro, Powell has been active in his local and currently works as an organizer.

"Organizing is my passion. I love talking to people and telling them about the benefits of a union. It's cool how life-changing it is," said the former oyster shucker. "I want to do all I can to



applicants. I've seen a lot of people crumble from nerves in the process. She is still the best interview I have seen. From that point, she has exceeded all expectations and continues to do so."

Still, that sense of shock and being overwhelmed isn't unique to Cordaro. It's a sentiment that Baltimore Local 24 member Jack Powell can relate to, as well. As the 2023 Apprentice of the Year winner, he knows what it feels like to be honored for something he never expected to get special

recognition for. So in an effort to quell the future winner's nerves and give them an idea of what it's like to be filmed by Hour Power, which produces videos to highlight IBEW membership for the public, Powell penned a letter for the next recipient.

"It was a very cool experience, but it was also a lot," he said of winning. "With the letter, I wanted to give the next person some insight into what it's like. I also wanted to congratulate them for all their hard work and let them

To see the video of Cordaro, as well as previous winners, scan the QR code below (ibewhourpower.com). To nominate someone for the 2025 award, go to ibewhourpower.com/awards. ■

