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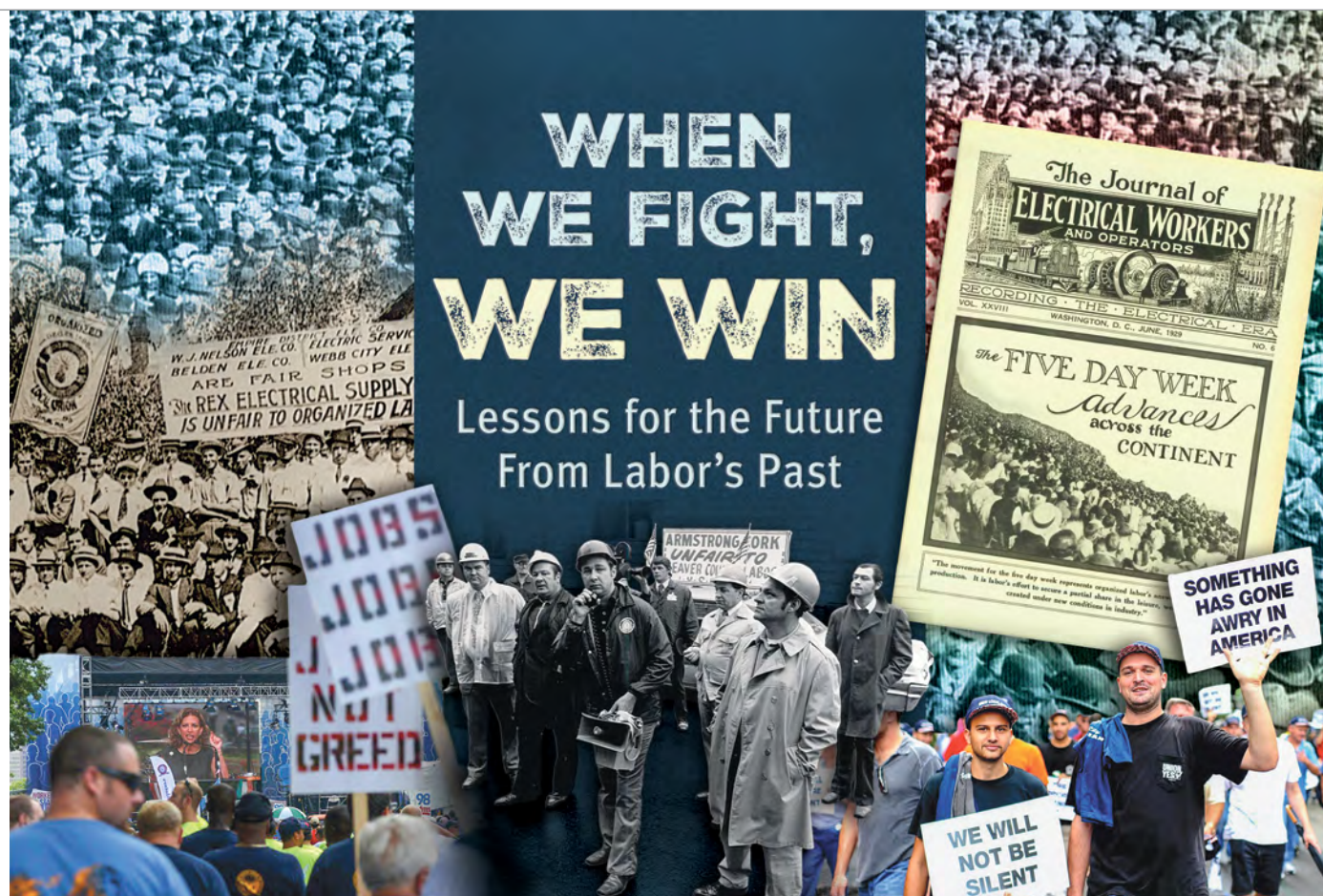
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WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN

Lessons for the Future From Labor's Past

THE APPRENTICES in Erin Sullivan's "Principles of Trade Unionism" class start out like most young workers in the 21st century. Or like most workers of any age today: They know little about the history of unions and why it matters.

Who fills out a timecard and wonders why there's an eight-hour day instead of 10 or 12 or 14? Why the work week is 40 hours instead of 50 or 60 with no overtime pay? Why they're not breathing toxic fumes on the job or trapped behind locked doors?

Men and women generations ago fought for fair hours, fair wages and early safety rules in the most literal sense, putting themselves in danger to make their voices heard.

Rallies, marches and strikes that began peacefully turned violent when union-busting thugs, baton-wielding police and armed militias showed up. Protesters were thrown in jail, beaten and maimed, shot and killed.

"Erin's class really opened my eyes," said first-year apprentice John Tomsen of New York Local 3, which mandates that apprentices take the introductory course while earning an associate degree.

"Everything that we take for granted had to be earned," Tomsen said. "People risked their lives for what we have today. They died for this movement."

ON THE OFFENSE

See editorial, page 2

The brutality carried out with impunity against workers in the 1800s and early 1900s is in the past. But the fight isn't, as Sullivan, a Local 3 journeywoman, emphasizes to her students.

"We may have a 40-hour week and we may not have children working in mills, but we really haven't progressed since the National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935," she said. "There are some places we never got and some places where we achieved things that we're now seeing be rolled back."

The outcry against the NLRA began immediately. Business leaders turned to the courts and Congress and in 1947 won passage of the infamous Taft-Hartley Act, ushering in state "right-to-work" laws and other restrictions on labor. Since then, aside from the rare pro-union hiccup, legislative and judicial assaults have battered workers' rights.

"There's a reason that unionization in the United States fell from one-third of all workers to just 10%, and it's not because they don't want unions," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. "The polls consistently show that most

workers would join a union if given the chance. But powerful people bankrolled by billionaires and corporations are once again taking that choice away from them."

A dramatic shift between 2021 and 2024 brought White House policy repairs, worker-friendly appointments to labor boards and other progress toward revitalizing unions and rebuilding the middle class. Petitions for union elections skyrocketed at the National Labor Relations Board, as did unfair labor practice claims against law-breaking employers, a sign that workers believed they'd get a fair shake.

Today, favorable policies are being rescinded, rule-making boards have been stacked against unions, and staff has been slashed at agencies responsible for workers' rights and safety. Among other rollbacks, some 60 Occupational Health and Safety Administration rules — adequate lighting at construction sites, for instance — are on the verge of elimination. (See story on page 10.)

Labor's past, as the movement's leaders and historians know all too well, is never fully in the rearview mirror.

"It's why I tell my students it's important for them to show up and fight," Sullivan said. "I tell them, 'This is your struggle now.'"

LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE *continued on page 4*

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FROM THE OFFICERS

Record-Breaking Year



Kenneth W. Cooper
International President

Throughout my IBEW career, I have held many titles — steward, business manager, vice president, international president. But no matter what my role, I have always remained first and foremost an organizer.

Because organizing is everything to the IBEW. It is the source of our power to fight for higher wages, better benefits and more opportunities for working people.

Bringing together workers from across North America to demand a better life is what we are all about. And it is the job of every IBEW member who cares about our future to make organizing their No. 1 priority.

More and more IBEW leaders have embraced this mission at every level of our great Brotherhood. Because of that, we have seen consistent growth year after year for the last decade.

At last month's Membership Development conference, I made an announcement I'm proud to share with all of you.

In the past 12 months, we broke records, bringing in more than 24,000 new members — more than we have in any single year in the last half-century.

After decades of playing defense, focusing on holding on to what we have, the IBEW is now on the offense, organizing new members and signing up new employers at a rate we've not seen since the 1970s.

And we owe so much of that to all our leaders in the field. My predecessors and I have invested a significant amount of time and resources into developing new organizing tools and programs that would help IBEW members address the challenges of the 21st century.

But as crucial as all this is, the IBEW can't organize out of the International Office. All organizing is local. That is how Henry Miller forged the IBEW more than 125 years ago, and it is how we are rebuilding our power today.

The real credit for this record-breaking year belongs to all the IBEW members who stepped up and led our transformation into an organizing union, where our primary goal is always growth.

You heeded the call, and I thank you.

But now I ask you to get ready to double down because we have our work cut out for us. There is a tidal wave of electrical work sweeping the United States and Canada, and we need to be ready to fill every call and sign up every worker in the industry.

If your local has not made organizing its top priority, now is the time to start. As I mentioned, the IO has the tools, training and resources locals need to develop an organizing plan.

However, it's up to you to take the first step, so get involved. Volunteer to talk to nonunion workers about all the good things the IBEW has to offer. Find out what you can do help your local's organizing program.

The choices we make today will decide the future of the IBEW and the labor movement for generations to come. So, let's commit to continuing to break records and make history. ■

A Labor Day Challenge

Every year when Labor Day rolls around, I look forward to the pictures and videos of our members marching through towns large and small, all those proud ambassadors in IBEW gear smiling and waving behind our banners.

We have reason to be especially proud this year, with the news that we gained more than 24,000 new brothers and sisters between last summer and this one — an organizing surge not seen since the 1970s.

We'd love to break the record again next year. Power in numbers means more political clout, more leverage in bargaining, and more gold-standard IBEW workers to fill jobs and increase our market share.

But we can't do it in a vacuum. We have to be aware of outside factors that affect our jobs and growth. And we have to fight back with the same solidarity and determination as our brothers and sisters long before us.

As you'll read in this month's cover story, our IBEW and labor movement ancestors literally risked their lives for the rights and protections we take for granted today. Every day, we're bargaining for the bread-and-butter issues — raises, benefits, job classifications, workplace safety and so on. But we tend to assume the bedrock principles that gave us a collective voice and prioritized our health and safety are secure.

We can't make those assumptions anymore. Political attacks on our rights, safety and jobs are escalating like we've never seen before. Which says a lot, given that the business lobby has had its swords out since the ink was drying on the 1935 National Labor Relations Act.

This year, the White House has killed pro-worker policies, decimated agencies created to uphold our rights and put anti-union officials in charge of labor boards. Federal workers, including IBEW members, have been fired in mass without cause or recourse, while a court ruling has freed the government to unilaterally end CBAs for the remaining federal workforce.

Assaults on the Occupational Health and Safety Administration have shut down 11 state offices, fired investigators, ended research, banned rule-making and put dozens of existing rules on the chopping block.

Meanwhile, thousands of trade union jobs in clean energy and infrastructure are disappearing as the government freezes funding and cancels projects.

It's a lot to take in, I know. But it's not insurmountable. Remember that our predecessors had no foundation to stand on. They started from scratch, and look what they accomplished.

By taking a page from their playbook and standing in solidarity as a union and a movement, we have the power to surmount today's obstacles.

This Labor Day, I challenge you to commit yourselves to upholding the bedrock principles our movement was founded on and to stand up to assaults on our fundamental rights as workers. Together, we can fight back and win. ■



Paul A. Noble
International Secretary-Treasurer

My IBEW STORY

Jessi Webster, journeyman wireman, foreman
Salt Lake City Local 354



“In 2016, I was bartending, and I had a couple of regulars who would come in for lunch. I always had their orders ready as they walked in the door. One of them asked me if I'd ever thought of doing something else. Her name was Jen Bingman, and she turned out to be an instructor at the JATC.

She said, 'With your attention to detail and your memory, I think you would make a great electrician.' She told me what the IBEW was

about. I checked it out that Monday, and I've been in ever since.

My first work was building a medical research facility. That project was a lot of smaller conduit, which is good because it was a great place to start, just getting to know the field. I moved from there to a semiconductor plant, building the fab areas where the tools manufacture microchips, among other projects in the facility.

The majority of my career has been working data centers. That work involves a lot of big conduit and wires, not typical for what you might picture women to be assigned.

When I got to my first data center job, I was assigned work on the smaller stuff, and I told my superintendent, 'I want to do underground.' He asked why, and I said, 'Because I've never done it.' He was like, 'It's going to go all winter, and it's going to be hard.' And I said, 'I don't care, I want it.'

So we went out and worked all winter, and we did a great job. I believe that was the turning point, where I earned the respect of my fellow workers. That respect never really leaves you. It goes with you from job to job within the local.

I made the decision early on that I was going to put everything I had into this. When I graduated from my apprenticeship, I was honored as Outstanding Graduate, which is top of your class, highest score, highest ranking with your company. It was another turning point for me. When you win that award (called "golden lineman"), you go to Michigan with the top apprentices from all JATCs around the country. That's when you realize how vast the IBEW really is.

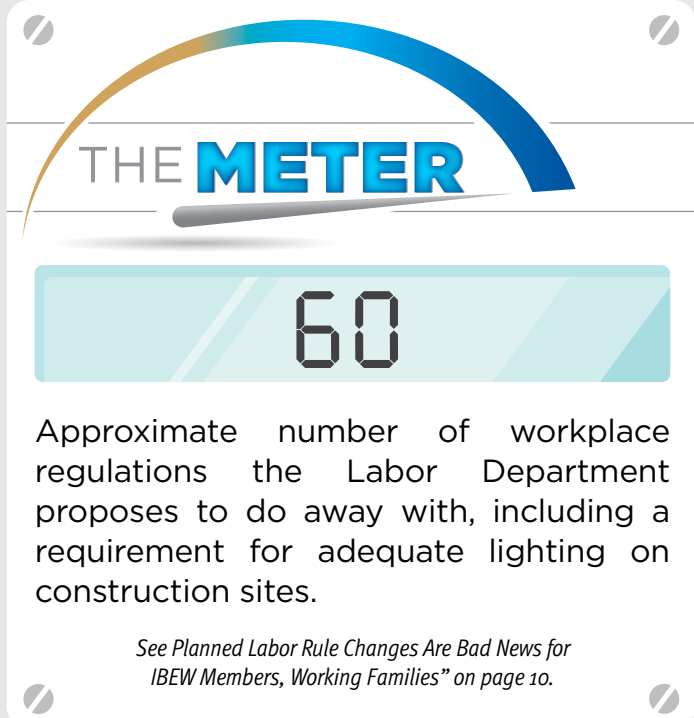
I worked my way up to a leadership role with the company I'm now working for. A position opened up for a foreman for power and distribution, and they asked me if I was interested. I jumped on it.

Then another opportunity opened up at that same company, where I was asked to go to Texas to run a job, working out of Local 1015. I talked to my husband, who I met in the trade, so he's very understanding and knows the climb. I went to Texas for seven months and excelled in that position, and when I came back, I remained general foreman for the company.

Our family doesn't worry about finances, and we don't worry about our future. I got into the IBEW when I found out I was going to be a grandma for the first time. Just another one of those turning points. The IBEW brings pride to our family.”

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



How Rank-and-File IBEW Members Sealed a Successful Deal With CBS

When the IBEW negotiated double-digit raises in its new contract with CBS, it was another victory for an uncommon bargaining strategy that puts working men and women at the table with their bosses.

Fifty rank-and-file members of the union sat across from the managers they work with every day to hash out details of a contract for 4,300 union technicians, camera operators, editors and broadcast specialists.

For New York Local 1212's Phil Doyle, it all makes perfect sense, even if the process would strike those in most of the IBEW's other branches as odd.

"Rank and file have always talked to bosses," said Doyle, a technician and news and station committee negotiator who also serves as vice president of his local. "If it was two lawyers talking in a room about workplace issues they weren't directly involved in, that would be strange, right?"

For decades, the CBS-IBEW contract has been directly negotiated by a team of working men and women selected by the business managers of Local 1212; Washington, D.C., Local 1200; Hollywood, Calif., Local 45; and Chicago Local 1220.

Those business managers, along with Broadcast Director Robert Prunn and international representative Neil Ambrosio, organize the strategy and then guide and advise each committee as they progress through the proposals. When some proposals aren't resolved in committees, Prunn and Ambrosio are ready to step in.

"We all go in with a plan, and in real time we can give them information, data, fact-check what management is saying and help them avoid traps," Prunn said.

In May, the two parties agreed to another three-year contract, just as they have since 1939. The proposal was approved by more than 90% of the membership.

Crafting an agreement meant facing the thorniest problems in a rapidly evolving industry.

The headline was the unprecedented pay raises. Most numbers covered by the contract will see 13% higher wages over the next three years, while traveling sports freelancers will also receive a 14.75% increase in travel-day pay.

"While wages have been flat and more jobs outsourced at other major networks and many streamers have been aggressively anti-union, CBS and the IBEW are showing that a partnership built on rewarding exceptional talent can be profitable for everyone," said International President Kenneth W. Cooper.

This year, negotiations were split between three subcommittees: news and stations, sports, and CBS operations and engineering. The units include the people behind sports and news programs broadcast by CBS, but they are almost never on screen.

"There is a saying, 'the magic of television.' The magic is us," said Dan Hamm, a technical director at CBS for 25 years and president of New York Local 1212.

This spring, Hamm was the chair of the engineering and operations subcommittee. It was his fifth contract negotiation.

When he started on the negotiating team, he thought it would be like in the movies.

"In my head, I thought it's zero sum. The more I was involved, the more I learned it isn't that cut-and-dry. A lot of times they are trying to abide by the contract, but communication breaks down," he said. "When you talk frankly with the senior management,



A group portrait taken after successful negotiations between the IBEW and CBS, largely conducted by rank-and-file workers and their direct managers. The IBEW members are the behind-the-scenes workforce for CBS operations and engineering, news, and sports.

you start to see they are trying to solve problems and then it becomes, 'We have a problem, both of us have this problem. It's our problem.'"

For the first few negotiations, Hamm just listened and took notes. Three years ago, he said, he was finished learning.

"It's an honor, but it's heavy," he said.

In his day job, Hamm sits in what is called the Sports Palace, the beating heart of the broadcast center in Manhattan.

"It's chaos," he said. "I prevent that chaos from hitting the air."

Technical director Jared Leong, a Local 45 member and Hamm's committee co-chair, put it this way: "In my world, you protect air. At all costs, no outages. We call it 'Five nines uptime: 99.999% uptime.' With how expensive our ads and shows are, even a second of black could mean millions of dollars."

Hamm said part of the chaos he has to protect the viewers from is in the television industry itself.

It used to be that you watched shows on TV and movies in the theater and broadcast news made money. If you wanted to watch "Seinfeld," you tuned in Thursday night.

Now everything is available everywhere, all the time, made by anyone.

While CBS once competed with just ABC and NBC, today it competes with every viral visual storyteller in the world.

The only reliable way to rise out of the infinite froth is to be extraordinary, said news and stations committee co-chair Matt Tureck, a video editing supervisor and member of Washington, D.C., Local 1200.

"Union members contribute to ratings very directly. We are excellent photographers, excellent editors, maintenance engineers. Camera operators see things that producers don't. Audio engineers see and hear things the reporter doesn't. The better we are, the better we can support producers and correspondents," he said. "The better we do, the better the ratings."

Tureck has been in broadcast journalism for nearly 30 years, and over time he felt that some of his concerns were forgotten in negotiations. He didn't complain. Three years ago, he saw an opportunity to get involved and took it.

"The little things affecting us at work that no one would or could possibly know about, they needed to know about," Tureck said. "That's what drew me to the negotiating committee. Hopefully I could be of use."

And nearly all of those "little things" weren't about salary.

"What is a producer allowed to do? Who can shoot with an iPhone? What about a little consumer camera — can someone outside the unit shoot it without an IBEW technician around?" he said. "As a union, we want to keep what we have always done."

For example, managers wanted to reduce the size of crews that were sent on assignment. New technology means everything is smaller, they argued.

Tureck said the easy thing to do would have been to see this as just one more attempt to squeeze workers. But, he said, the managers had earned the benefit of the doubt.

"We thought, 'Maybe they don't understand the scope,'" he said.

One of the newest members of the

negotiating committee, Local 1212 member Kenton Young, had his truck with all his gear in it. During a break, they brought all of it into the negotiating room: GoPros, drones, mini cameras and the live-view backpacks that send out signals instead of satellite trucks. As technology has evolved, everything is smaller, lighter, and more portable, they said. But look at it all.

"It wasn't a stunt, something you do to look clever. It was honest. This is what you want me to carry alone in a hurricane," Tureck said. "Many of the managers are very experienced. They understand a lot, but some things you have to see for yourself."

In the end, crew sizes were left unchanged in the final agreement.

When both sides are committed, difficult conversations are not only possible but can foster relationships that prevent challenges from becoming bigger problems, said Bill Mastorakis, the sports committee chair and a member of Local 1212.

Sports is in a different place than news. CBS pays billions of dollars each year for rights to the NFL, college football and basketball, and the PGA. In a world where many can stream and fast-forward through ads, live sports are some of the most valuable destinations for advertisers.

Mastorakis is a technical director. He is responsible for getting everything the event's director wants on air.

"I'm like the senior enlisted. I am not an officer, I make sure all the things that run on electricity that make a show successful are in place," he said.

The relationships built in the no-second-chances world of live sports are carried into the negotiating room.

"They had four people all actively involved in day-to-day operations of CBS Sports, including the executive VP. Four people representing more than \$3 billion of rights and operations, and us," he said, highlighting the uniqueness of the bargaining session.

Sports is where the IBEW has the most thoughtful, reasonable and best relationships at CBS, Prunn said. And that translated into real success at the bargaining table: higher travel pay, more jobs, protected jurisdiction, even new classifications.

It doesn't mean there wasn't friction, but Mastorakis said the parties always used that friction to move forward.

"It gets rid of the us-and-them attitude about it," he said. "That's how things should be done."

Pruhn said he expects this working relationship to continue with CBS' new parent company, Skydance.

"When members are this involved in negotiations, they become deeply invested in the outcome — and in the company's success," Prunn said. "That pride shows up on the job every day. With Skydance's leadership team bringing fresh energy and resources, and George Cheeks staying on to run CBS, we're enthusiastic about moving forward together."

Hamm said he wished other people could have the experience he's had — sitting as an equal at a table with his boss and his boss's boss and working together for a common purpose — that perhaps there's a lesson to be learned from the uniqueness of a negotiation process that's worked in the broadcast industry for decades.

"We can still talk to another human being. We did it for small things in our contract, maybe, but there is a level of respect I have for them, and they have for me, that we can apply to a lot of other things in this country," he said. ■

WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN

Continued from page 1

EARLY IBEW members were most likely to encounter violence and face arrests when marching and picketing in solidarity with other unions.

On their own, electricians fighting for change weren't met with the same level of force as other worker groups. But they weren't immune from harm.

"We are sorry to announce to the readers of the Electrical Worker that there has been blood spilled over the strike in San Antonio, Texas."

That was the opening line of a December 1900 report from the press secretary of Local 60 at the San Antonio Telephone & Telegraph Co., during a time of worker uprisings at Bell companies nationally.

San Antonio linemen were striking for \$3 a day and eight-hour shifts. Contractors backed them, as did a businessmen's club that "took the matter up, investigated and decided our demands reasonable and concluded to do without their phones until the strike is settled."

The Bell System dug in, pledging to spend \$100,000 to crush the strike and replacing workers with scabs. "These rats know they sacrifice every bit of manhood when they take another man's job during a strike" was on the tepid side of the union's rejoinders.

On Thanksgiving Day 1900, a scab and known local menace named C.R. Smith pulled a gun and wounded at least two strikers, hitting one near the spine. Smith reportedly taunted the workers — asking how they liked being out of a job — then fired his revolver when they gave chase.

An April 1901 update on the man shot in the back read: "Bro. Blanton has moved to Austin. We all hope he is getting along well. Just think of it, brothers, the life of a good man blasted forever by a paid assassin of the Southwestern."

Shockingly, the Bell System posted Smith's bond. "They got him out of jail and put him to work here in Little Rock," Local 126, then based in Arkansas, wrote in February 1901.

That would be unimaginable today, Cooper said.

"No employer would bail out an attacker, give him a new job and risk being liable for more workers being hurt or killed," he said. "As tough as things can get when we're fighting for a fair contract, we're able to exercise our rights in relative safety. Our brothers and sisters a century ago had no such guarantees."

After dragging on for months, the strike was only minimally successful, like many job actions before union rights were affirmed by the NLRA and enforced by the NLRB.

But it was decades of workers' persistence and courage that made those reforms possible, the cumulative impact of solidarity on a massive scale.

NEW YORK CITY is one of the cradle of America's labor movement, the site of early and epic worker protests, the home of famous agitators, and the birthplace of Labor Day.

But uprisings took place coast to coast, from the famous "Bread and Roses" textile strike in Lawrence, Mass., in 1912, to the mostly peaceful Seattle General Strike of 1919. IBEW members were among the participants in what is believed to be the nation's first general strike.

In Haledon, N.J., just outside New York City, Pietro and Mario Botto opened their home to workers leading the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913. On Sundays, fiery labor leaders on the balcony rallied as many as 20,000 strikers and allies who fanned out for blocks.

The Botto House, furnished to show how the family lived, opened as the American Labor Museum in 1982. It was designated a national landmark a year later, one that gets special care from the IBEW in New Jersey, particularly East Windsor Local 827, Paterson Local 102 and Cranbury Local 94.

"We are totally indebted to the IBEW," said Angelica Santomauro, the museum's director since 1992. "They have been a major contributor from the onset, both financially and with labor."

With educational and cultural events dedicated to telling the story of the labor movement through all unions past and present, the museum is the only one of its kind in the United States.

"We've been called 'labor's schoolhouse,'" Santomauro said. "It's really all about education. We're not a dead museum where you walk through, look at artifacts and leave."

Formerly a New Jersey schoolteacher, Santomauro created a curriculum for her middle schoolers around labor history and solidarity. Under her watch, they formed the "6th, 7th and 8th-Grade Student Union" and negotiated a contract with teachers and administrators, drawing coverage from The New York Times and TV stations.

Tom Kelly, a Local 827 business agent and president of the Passaic County Central Labor Council, is among IBEW leaders and members who marvel at Santomauro's devotion and creativity.

"The labor movement could not have a better steward of our history," Kelly said. "Angelica's been doing this a long time, and she hasn't lost any of her vigor."

Kelly holds steward trainings at the museum, brings apprentices on tour and is at the ready to help with repairs. As many times as he's heard Santomauro and education director Evelyn Hershey give tours, it never gets old.

"They don't give room-to-room tours, they give wall-to-wall tours — heck,

nail-to-nail tours," he said. "They are so knowledgeable and passionate about it. It moves me every time."

He has a special fondness for the grainy black-and-white photos of thousands of ordinary people standing in solidarity during the silk strike.

"They weren't united by race or religion or even language," Kelly said. "The only uniting factor was the cause of working people."

FOR MANY visitors, the 130-year-old Botto House is their first exposure to labor history. For some IBEW members, it's a bonus of volunteering their electrical and handyman skills.

Micheal Dasaro, a newly minted journeyman at Local 102, said working among the exhibits made an impression.



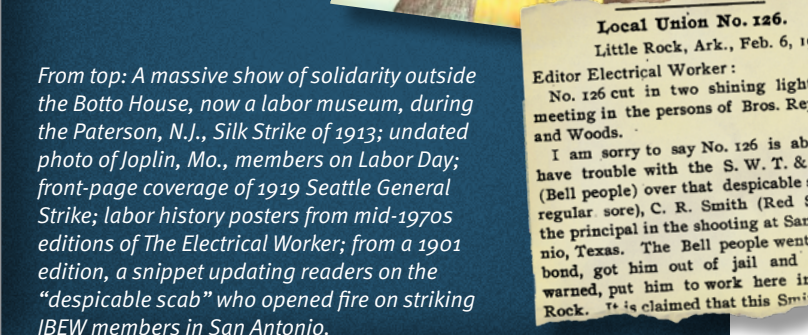
"I didn't know about labor history and all the other unions that were involved, the Teamsters, the Operating Engineers, food industry workers, stagehands," he said. "You see them at the Botto House and you realize that all of our unions played a part to make America what it is."

Dasaro was recruited to help by Mark Battagliese, a Local 102 business representative who is being honored this fall as the Botto House's volunteer of the year for his lighting and maintenance work.

Battagliese vaguely recalls a trip to the museum as an apprentice. But he said he's absorbed more while helping out over the past year, connecting dots he hadn't before.

"I didn't grow up knowing about the silk factories here," he said. "They were just run-down buildings. We'd drive past and my mother or grandparents might say, 'That's where your great aunt worked sewing suits.' The Botto House reminded me of that. I think that's what it does, gets you closer to the past and gives you a better understanding."

Dasaro also realized he was awash in his own community's labor history. "It's really eye-opening to see how much happened near me. It's so close to home. I had no idea."



From top: A massive show of solidarity outside the Botto House, now a labor museum, during the Paterson, N.J., Silk Strike of 1913; undated photo of Joplin, Mo., members on Labor Day; front-page coverage of 1919 Seattle General Strike; labor history posters from mid-1970s editions of *The Electrical Worker*; from a 1901 edition, a snippet updating readers on the "despicable scab" who opened fire on striking IBEW members in San Antonio.

HT. WE WIN

Lessons for the Future From Labor's Past

He encourages his IBEW brothers and sisters to learn more, too.

"We're in a time where we have a very good living wage, very good benefit packages," Dasaro said. "We need to learn what it took to get here, because it took a lot and there's still more we can do."

WIL DEJESUS didn't know what to expect when he enrolled in Erin Sullivan's class in spring 2025.

"The first day of class, she had one person pick up a table. Then she had three or four more people go help, and the table went up a little bit easier," he said.

"Eventually, the whole class was helping. You realized that everyone just needed one hand, that no one was killing themselves. It really showed the message of being in a union, being there for your brothers and sisters."

"The only uniting factor was the cause of working people."

— Tom Kelly, Local 827 business agent, on worker solidarity during the 1913 silk strike.

Dejesus graduated from college expecting to work in the medical field, but a lab job left him wanting more. Then his mother, a Javits Center employee, heard about Local 3 apprenticeships from some of the convention center's electricians.

Like his classmate John Tomsen, Dejesus was unaware of the ways that long-ago worker solidarity affected his daily life.

"Like it's always been an eight-hour day," he said. "I just thought it was more of a norm, a cultural thing. I never thought about how it was established."

To the surprise of both young men, Sullivan wasn't just their instructor at the Harry Van Arsdale School of Labor Studies, a unit of Empire State College named for Local 3's business manager from 1933 to 1968. She also turned out to be the foreman at their ongoing first job, refurbishing a hospital in the Bronx.

"It's a unique experience to have a teacher who works in the field," Dejesus said. "It made me very receptive to everything. I knew I had to listen and take it all in."

As did Tomsen. "I feel really lucky to have my teacher also be someone who's on the job with me every day," he said, noting that excuses for late homework are out. "You can't really complain that you're tired or too busy."

Sullivan, who's taught the class since 2013, has a 10-page syllabus that includes projects and papers. But her primary mission is demonstrating the power of connection and unity. Sharing and listening are key.

Her students reflect Local 3's long commitment to diversity, from gender, race and ethnicity to the disparity of being raised in the projects or relative wealth.

"There's something real to each side," she said. "You'll have a woman who grew up in generational poverty and we have to acknowledge that. But you'll also have a kid who grew up in the suburbs and went to private school. We can't marginalize him because he had privilege."

Sullivan, who's taught the course since 2013, recalled worrying about one student's attitude when a Middle Eastern classmate told his family's story of immigrating to America.

"He says, 'Things were going really great and then 9/11 happened. People would get up on the train and walk away from me and say terrible things,'" she said. "And this kid, who I thought I was going to freak out, went up to him and gave him a bro hug and said, 'Thanks for sharing that.'"

Among field trips, her spring semester students attend the annual memorial mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral for fallen construction workers.

"We had to wear our hard hats," Dejesus said. "And I remember this one moment when the priest was talking and I just got goosebumps. Like a random moment, that feeling that we're all here for one purpose. That's it's bigger than just us, all the trades being here together for each other."

EVERY STUDENT of Sullivan's does a presentation on a U.S. labor leader. Dejesus' was the most contemporary, profiling AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, an IBEW sister out of Portland, Ore., Local 125.

Tomsen was surprised to be assigned Martin Luther King Jr. "I thought he was mostly a civil rights leader," he said. "I had no idea how much he did for the labor movement."

Through his research, he learned that King believed the movements went hand in hand and that good, union jobs were the path out of poverty for minorities and all Americans.

"One quote from him really stuck with me," Tomsen said. "What good is having the right to sit at a lunch counter if you can't afford to buy a hamburger?"

It shook him to learn that King was in Memphis, Tenn., to support striking sanitation workers when he was killed on April 4, 1968. "They were severely underpaid and working in unsafe conditions, and he was fighting that. And he was murdered."

Tomsen saw that today's safeguards on the job are directly connected to courage like King's and the countless tragedies that took workers' lives. "If there's something off at a worksite, we

can talk to a shop steward or call the DOB (Department of Buildings) to report it," he said. "That didn't used to be the case."

But his presentation and others' made him realize how much is still on the table. "All these things that labor leaders were fighting for, so many of them are still a struggle — like right-to-work," Tomsen said, referring to the anti-union laws that allow workers to benefit from representation without paying their fair share.

"That was an issue in 1968, and it's still an issue today in so many states around the country," he said. "The fight never really ends."

LEST ANYONE doubt there's a live wire between labor's past and present, Local 827's Kelly has a story to tell about the legacy of one of the two workers killed during the Paterson silk strike.

While the IBEW and Verizon enjoy a good relationship today, tensions were high in 2016 when 40,000 IBEW and Communications Workers of America members struck the telecom giant.

One day, a member alerted Kelly and one of his chief stewards, Andy Newman, that he'd seen a Verizon sales tent being set up outside a card shop a few miles from Paterson. They knew such promotional tie-ins can benefit small businesses, but this was war.

"We called on everyone to converge on the shop and shut the event down," Kelly said. "After a few calls, we had 100 union members with picket signs on their way."

Meanwhile, a friend of theirs with a business near the shop offered to call its owner and explain the situation.

"He called us back a few minutes later, baffled by what just happened," Kelly said. "When he told his friend Frank, the owner, about the Verizon strike, Frank started yelling at the Verizon salespeople and told them to get off his property."

Kelly and Newman were stunned. "The next day we called the owner. We told him we knew it was a big deal for his shop to have the Verizon event and we were curious why he did what he did."

"First he apologized, saying he had no idea we were on strike. Then he told us that his great-grandfather Valentino Modestino was shot and killed on the picket line during the silk strike of 1913. He died while holding his — Frank's — grandmother in his arms."

"Frank told us, 'As soon as I heard 'strike,' I threw them out. It was a done deal.'"

On Kelly's next visit to the Botto House, Santomauro confirmed the story with yellowed newspaper clips.

"It was one of those moments where everything came full circle," he said. ■



Courtesy of New York City Central Labor Council



Top: Local 827 members outside Botto House for Labor Day parade. Middle photos: Priests at NYC's St. Patrick's Cathedral honor fallen workers at a May memorial mass attended by Local 3 apprentices learning labor history in a class taught by journeywoman Erin Sullivan (front center). Bottom: Classmates and feature subjects John Tomsen, left, and Wil Dejesus at their first job site.

New Lineworker Training Center Coming to Tennessee

Hundreds of IBEW utility and outside construction apprentices will soon count Tennessee as a destination for learning, as work is soon expected to begin on a new Southeastern Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training facility just east of Nashville.

"It made sense for the IBEW and our contractors to have another school where we could train our members," said Tenth District International Vice President Brent Hall, whose jurisdiction covers Tennessee, Arkansas and the Carolinas.

SELCAT has one of the largest training programs of its kind in the IBEW, with nearly 900 apprentices from the union's Fifth and Tenth districts receiving training at the original campus in Newnan, Ga., along with scores more at a second location near Florida's Lake Okechobee and at a satellite facility in Puerto Rico. Other large centers in the eastern U.S. include ALBAT in Medway, Ohio, and NEAT in Douglassville, Pa.

"It was just time to build another SELCAT," said Hall, who was appointed a SELCAT committee advisory member when he became a Tenth District international representative in 2002. After he was made a committee trustee five years ago, he quickly stepped up his lobbying for another facility.

SELCAT's governing partners — the IBEW, the Electrical Training Alliance and the National Electrical Contractors Association — approved Hall's proposal and selected a 40-acre parcel near Lebanon in Wilson County for construction. "It's somewhat rural, but it's easy to get to," Hall said.

"We looked at the map, and we saw that Lebanon was in the middle of the Tenth District's jurisdiction," said SELCAT Executive Director Danial Haddad. "What we're trying to accomplish is not to inundate any particular SELCAT location and also make training more convenient for IBEW members who are working in these areas," such as for Middle Tennessee Electric Cooperative, the state's largest co-op, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, whose coverage area extends into six bordering states.

"Danny has grown our training programs incredibly, and he sees that our work just keeps picking up," Hall said. "He's a forward-thinking visionary."

Initial plans for the facility in Lebanon include an indoor training yard, classrooms, dormitories and offices. There is plenty of space to handle future expansion, something Hall believes will be needed.

"We've been organizing very heavily," he said. "Over the past six years, we've brought in over 2,200 linemen just in our four states."

Electrical careers with the IBEW are attractive in part because of the union's quality apprenticeships, which are funded by contributions from utility and outside construction employers based on the number of hours that IBEW members

are on the job. "The more hours that are worked by our people, the bigger our training programs grow," Hall said.

Training also is why the IBEW's utility and outside construction members remain in such high demand to keep North America's aging electrical infrastructure connected and functioning.

"Just fixing what we've got now is a lot of work for us," said Hall, who's encouraged by what he sees as growing interest among young people in the electrical trades.

"It's great to hear kids say: 'I don't want to go to college. I like being outside. I like a challenge,'" he said.

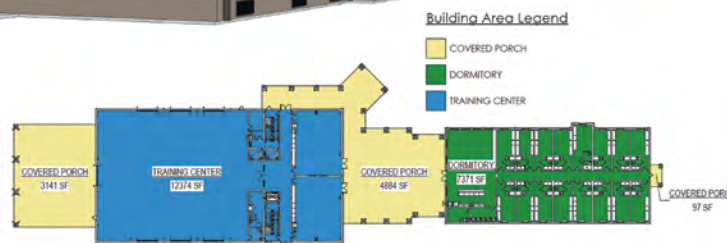
It doesn't hurt that graduating IBEW apprentices emerge from their training with no college debt, Hall said. "Since their first day, they've been getting a paycheck plus health care and retirement benefits," he said. "They

On 40 acres near Nashville, SELCAT's new facility will open next year with an indoor training yard, classrooms and dormitories, with plenty of room for expansion.

can easily make enough money to buy a house and raise a family."

The SELCAT project in Tennessee received approval from the local planning commission, a crucial milestone supported by Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto.

"He used to be a high school teacher and coach," said Hall, who has known Hutto for years. "He's pretty excited about SELCAT and the educational opportunities it will bring."



Hutto said the new facility will be great for the area. "It's about improving people by making them smarter and better and safer," he said.

Now that the planning commission has given the project a green light, Haddad expects construction to begin shortly.

"We're just trying to finish through the bureaucratic stuff, and we're still working on things like engineering, sew-

er and sources of water," he said.

Hall hopes to cut the ribbon on the campus's grand opening sometime next fall. Meanwhile, he and his staff have been in discussions with the TVA, MTEC and others about training partnership opportunities at the Lebanon facility.

"It's been my dream for us to have a SELCAT campus in the Tenth District," Hall said. "This is a dream come true." ■

TVA Privatization Push Could Jeopardize 10,000 IBEW Jobs

The IBEW is alarmed by reports the Trump administration is looking to privatize the Tennessee Valley Authority and is calling on members of Congress and officials throughout the Deep South to resist such a move.

"The TVA is the primary reason the Deep South became the economic force it is today, and IBEW members have been there every step of the way," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. "It's an American success story that required skilled, union labor. We will fight tooth and nail attempts to turn it into a for-profit corporation whose only concern is ultra-rich shareholders."

About 10,000 IBEW members are employed by the authority, which provides low-cost electrical service to more than 10,000,000 customers in seven states throughout the Deep South.

"When you are doing everything right, why are people attacking you unless there's some kind of political angle?" Tenth District International Vice President Brent E. Hall said.

"We try to keep politics out of the TVA," Hall added. "Our job is to generate electricity and keep the lights on."

Citing sources, The Atlantic reported in mid-July that President Trump pressured the TVA to scrap a planned gas-fired plant near Nashville, Tenn., after country music star John Rich complained about it being too close to his home. Rich said in a post on X that he spoke to Trump about the matter.

The administration followed that up with telling the TVA board — now with only three members instead of its usual nine — to fire CEO Don Moul or they risked being replaced, The Atlantic reported. Trump already has fired three members appointed by former President Joe Biden, although retired Tenth District International Vice President Robert "Bobby" Klein remains a member.

So far, the board has declined to do so, noting it had no cause and that Moul has followed the Trump administration's instructions of "unleashing American energy and achieving American energy dominance."

The Atlantic reported the board is concerned Trump is using the dispute involving Rich to advance privatization of the TVA. Soon after, he nominated four new members. All require Senate approvals.

Congress and the executive branch have rarely interfered with the board



The Tennessee Valley Authority's Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant. The Trump administration is reportedly looking to privatize the TVA, which would imperil thousands of IBEW-member jobs.

because of its unique setup and because it had little reason to do so. TVA is owned by the federal government but receives no federal funding and is run more like a for-profit company.

TVA was founded in 1933 at the height of the Great Depression because investor-owned utilities refused to invest in what was then the poorest section of the country.

IBEW members have been employed by the TVA from the beginning. They would play a key role in the building of the TVA's proposed small nuclear reactor in Oak Ridge, Tenn., which is awaiting federal approval.

TVA customers also pay some of the cheapest electric rates in the country, which would be threatened if taken over by a massive corporation.

"You bring in a new board and a new CEO and we wouldn't know what the relationships would be like the next day," Hall said. "Would they value the IBEW? Are they going to be committed to the communities they serve or to Wall Street?"

In addition to electrification, the TVA brought modern navigation and flood control, especially on the Tennessee River and its tributaries, to the region. It also has preserved about 485,000 acres for public recreation. A 2021 study by the investment bank Lazard found that it had met or exceeded all its investment goals since 2014.

"IBEW members have been serving TVA, and TVA has been serving its customers and communities for nearly a century," Cooper said. "Even the suggestion of this administration meddling with its successful formula should have members of Congress shouting from the rooftops. Now is the time to speak out, not after changes are announced."

IBEW members and retirees, especially those in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia, should reach out to their members of Congress and the U.S. Senate via the Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121. Tell them "Hands off the TVA" and ask them specifically if they support privatization efforts.

They also can visit bit.ly/HandsOffTheTVA to send a letter to their member of Congress.

Members of the Senate's Environment & Public Works Committee, which has oversight of the TVA, should also receive particular attention from IBEW members. A list of the committee's members can be found at www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/members. A vote on Trump's four nominees to the TVA board is expected to be held around the end of September. ■

NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

In B.C., a Negative Sign Becomes a Positive Tool

An IBEW organizer is a little more famous, and construction workers in Kamloops, British Columbia, are a little more aware of the benefits of a union, thanks to a lighthearted social media campaign that started when a nonunion contractor put the local union organizer's photo on a poster banning him from the job site.

In response, members of Kamloops Local 993 flipped the script and created a social media campaign to spread awareness about the benefits of IBEW membership.

Local 993 organizer Brian Andrews has been trying to start conversations about the IBEW with electrical workers at City Gardens, described as Kamloops' largest-ever residential construction project.

"Brian's been visiting that job site quite often since it began, and they've been not too receptive to him coming," Business Manager Jim Bicknell said.

Someone on the project made that clear over one weekend in June, attaching to the site's chain-link fence a banner that bore Andrews's picture next to the message, "Attention: Not permitted on site."

That was a highly unusual move, Bicknell said. "Posters might say, 'No union reps on site,' or something like that, but not with a picture of a union rep," he said, noting that a similar banner on a site in Prince George, featuring Andrews's photo, was installed out of public view.

The appearance of the Kamloops banner was short-lived, Andrews said. "It was up on Saturday afternoon and they took it down by Monday," he said. "But by then, it had started to hit the local media."

Curious onlookers uploaded their pictures of the banner to social media sites, trying to find out why Andrews was being singled out. A post on Reddit's r/Kamloops page, for example, received more than 1,500 upvotes and over 500 comments that were largely supportive of Andrews, Local 993 and the IBEW. Soon, the posts began attracting the attention of local news media outlets.

After taking the banner down, the contractor apologized to Andrews and told him that it would not happen again.

"The workers at City Gardens are members of this community," Andrews wrote in accepting the apology. "When they are paid fair, industry-standard wages, they are in a stronger position to support their families and reinvest in local businesses, which benefits the entire community."

That might have been the end of the story had Local 993 dispatcher Darryl Schmidt not seen an opportunity to make a tongue-in-cheek social media campaign out of it.

"Darryl said we should turn it around on the contractor," Bicknell said.

Soon after, a poster was created bearing the banner's wording, but in place of Andrews's face was a cutout where members could put their own face while posing for photo booth-style pictures suitable for uploading to Instagram, Bluesky and others.

The campaign has been a success. "I think it's actually bringing people in the door," said Andrews, who noted that since it started, he and fellow organizer James Olsen have seen a notable uptick in inquiries about joining the IBEW.

"It's garnered us a lot of media and social media attention," added Bicknell, adding that new photos of members of the thousand-strong local continue to be posted regularly.

The episode also helped inspire attendees of the organizing blitz that preceded this summer's IBEW Canada Membership Development Conference

in Moncton, New Brunswick.

"We had a really good opening with Brian's picture being posted," said Dustin Brecht, a former First District lead organizer in western Canada. "It showed everyone the lengths that some employers will go to try to stop us in our tracks."

When organizers approach workers on nonunion job sites, he said, it lets them know that there are union people who are willing to go to bat for them.

"The company was trying to belittle [Brian], intimidate him, silence him," said Brecht, who is now an international representative in the Education Department. "Not only did it not scare anybody, it got quite a good reaction for us."

First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk applauded Local 993's creative response, especially their use of social media.

"Capitalizing on trending topics



Kamloops, British Columbia, Local 993 members made a humorous — and effective — organizing and social media campaign out of a nonunion contractor's sign that forbade project access to organizer Brian Andrews.

like this can help locals bring positive attention to the IBEW," he said. "It's one more organizing tool that sends a message to all working people: that we're with them in the fight for fairness on the job." ■

Share your IBEW news!

IBEW Canada is seeking impactful stories from local unions and members. Please contact Shaina Hardie at Shaina_Hardie@ibew.org.

En C.-B., un signe négatif devient un outil positif

Un organisateur syndical de la FIOE est un peu plus célèbre et les travailleuses et travailleurs à Kamloops en Colombie-Britannique connaissent un peu mieux les avantages de faire partie d'un syndicat grâce à une campagne légère sur les médias sociaux qui a commencé lorsqu'un entrepreneur non syndiqué a affiché la photo d'un organisateur syndical pour lui interdire l'accès au chantier.

Les membres du local 993 à Kamloops ont donc renversé la situation et ont créé une campagne sur les médias sociaux pour répandre les avantages de faire partie de la FIOE.

L'organisateur syndical du local 993, Brian Andrews, cherchait à entamer une conversation sur la FIOE avec la main-d'œuvre électrique à City Gardens, décrit comme le plus grand projet jamais mis sur pied de construction résidentiel à Kamloops.

« Brian visitait souvent le chantier depuis son début et ils ne se sont pas montrés très ouverts à sa venue », déclare le gérant d'affaires Jim Bicknell.

Quelqu'un affecté au projet l'a clairement exprimé au cours d'une fin de semaine en juin en accrochant à la clôture une affiche à laquelle était inscrit un message sur la photo de M. Andrews : « Attention, pas permis sur le chantier. »

C'était une drôle de réaction, formule M. Bicknell. « L'affiche pourrait dire "Pas de représentant syndical sur les lieux" ou quelque chose comme ça, mais pas une photo d'un représentant

syndical », dit-il, en mentionnant qu'une affiche similaire sur un chantier à Prince Georges affichait la photo de M. Andrews hors de la vue du public. »

L'apparition de l'affiche a été de courte durée, exprime M. Andrews. « Elle était affichée le samedi en après-midi et ils l'ont enlevé le lundi », dit-il. « Mais rendu là, l'affaire avait déjà commencé à faire la une des médias locaux. »

Des personnes curieuses ont publié leurs photos de l'affiche sur les médias sociaux, elles se demandaient pourquoi M. Andrews était montré du doigt. Une publication sur la page de r/Kamloops de Reddit, par exemple, a reçu 1 500 votes positifs et plus de 500 commentaires qui étaient largement favorables envers M. Andrews, le local 993 et la FIOE. Aussitôt, les publications ont commencé à attirer l'attention des médias locaux.

Après avoir retiré l'affiche, l'entrepreneur s'est excusé à M. Andrews et lui a dit que cela ne se reproduirait plus.

« Les travailleurs à City Gardens sont des membres de cette communauté », a écrit M. Andrews en acceptant les excuses. « Quand la main-d'œuvre reçoit un salaire équitable, gagnent un salaire conforme aux normes de l'industrie, elle est dans une meilleure position pour soutenir leurs familles et pour réinvestir dans les entreprises locales, ce qui profite à l'ensemble de la communauté. »

Cette histoire aurait pu s'arrêter là si le répartiteur du local 993 Darryl

Schmidt n'avait pas vu l'occasion de lancer une campagne avec un brin d'ironie sur les médias sociaux.

« Et si on inversait les rôles », dit Darryl », formule M. Bicknell.

Peu de temps après, une affiche a été créée avec le slogan de l'affiche du début, mais au lieu du visage de M. Andrews, il y avait une installation photo avec un emplacement pour le visage, façon photomaton, idéale pour Instagram, Bluesky et autre.

La campagne a été une réussite. « Je pense que ça attire réellement les gens », mentionne M. Andrews, qui souligne depuis le début de cette histoire, lui et son collègue organisateur syndical, James Olsen, ont constaté une hausse notable de demande d'information pour rejoindre la FIOE.

« Nous avons bénéficié d'une forte visibilité dans les médias et sur les médias sociaux », ajoute M. Bicknell, en précisant que de nouvelles photos des membres de la section locale forte de mille personnes continuent d'être publiées régulièrement.

Cet événement a été une source d'inspiration pour les personnes ayant pris part à la Conférence canadienne sur la croissance de l'affiliation syndicale de la FIOE tenue cet été à Moncton au Nouveau-Brunswick.

Racontez-nous vos nouvelles FIOE!

La FIOE cherche des histoires marquantes des sections locales et des membres. Veuillez communiquer avec Shaina Hardie à Shaina_Hardie@ibew.org.

CIRCUITS

Union Sportsmen's Alliance Keeps Retired Minn. Business Manager Active

Former Minneapolis Local 292 Business Manager Pete Lindahl has stayed happily active with the IBEW since his retirement in 2019, thanks largely to the union's longstanding partnership with the Union Sportsmen's Alliance.

"It's easy to do things like that when you really like what you do," said Lindahl, a longtime USA member and lifelong outdoorsman.

The IBEW was one of the first labor organizations to join the union-based alliance after it was formed in 2007. Since then, USA, now with 350,000 members in the U.S. and Canada, has engaged with countless union men and women and their families on a variety of nature conservation activities that foster members' connections with their communities — and with each other.

"Most IBEW members are outdoors-type people," said Lindahl, who joined the IBEW in 1987. "They're gun owners and hunters. They fish and do other things like that. They get it."

Lindahl was first elected business manager in 2014 after working the tools for more than two decades and later serving the local as a business agent. Throughout his successive terms as business manager, he supported Local 292 members' participation in USA-themed events, along with raffles that benefited both the organization and a local food distribution charity. Lindahl also expanded his interest in other alliance-sponsored activities during that time, taking part in events such as sporting clay shoots.

"Minnesota has [the alliance's] largest attended shoot," he noted, with members of Local 292 joining dozens of their brothers and sisters from other IBEW locals and other trades. "Probably close to 300 shooters go to it. It's a ton of fun, it's a good way to show the value of the USA, and it helps get more members to other events."

In retirement, Lindahl has remained an active helper and participant in the alliance's activities, including chairing some of its fundraising conservation dinners.

"Four or five dinners can raise a lot of money," he said, noting that funds help prove to community officials the alliance's seriousness when it proposes things like recreational renovations.



Although he retired as Minneapolis Local 292 business manager in 2019, Pete Lindahl, center, has remained active in the organized building trades through his ongoing leadership on a variety of Union Sportsmen's Alliance projects.

"The USA's projects allow for the different trades to build relationships," Lindahl said. "For example, if there's an old fishing pier that's very popular but it needs to be replaced and they don't have money in the budget to do that, we can donate the materials, and our time as craftsmen, to build it."

Signatory contractors often contribute the use of their equipment, too, he said.

"We'll get a lot of miles out of a project like that because we became partners more with our employers," Lindahl said, "and we let the public know that we're here and we're a value to this community."

"It's such a fulfilling feeling when you're a part of it, that you help make it happen," he said.

When Local 292 hosted a recent conservation dinner at its union hall, Business Manager Jeff Heimerl said, event chairman Lindahl was right there to help.

"It was such a good time," Heimerl said. "Pete participates in any [alliance] event that comes around. He's always sending folks to them."

USA Event Coordinator Eric Bakken also appreciates Lindahl's passion and reliability. "If it's folding tablecloths, taking out the trash, helping at registration — whatever it is, he doesn't care," Bakken said in an article posted to unionsportsmen.org. "And his relationships are so strong that even years after retiring, he can still make one call

and fill a room."

After Lindahl retired, he worked for companies that helped him forge new friendships with members of the IBEW and other unions across the western half of the U.S. One of those companies was Humana, a national partner with the alliance.

"Humana allowed me to go to all kinds of USA events," he said. "I probably have done 13 or 14 events every year for the last four years."

Recently, Lindahl opened his own agency, Northstar Health Solutions, to continue helping members of the IBEW and other trade unions with their health care issues. "Now I can do things the way I want to and put retirees first," he said.

Lindahl also spends as much of his spare time outdoors as he can.

"In the fall, my go-to is upland bird hunting and deer hunting," he said. Often joining him are his daughter, Lauren; his son, Jack, a third-year apprentice with Local 292; and their dog, Zetta.

Union Sportsmen's Alliance CEO Walt Ingram said his organization provides IBEW members many ways like these to unplug, go outdoors, and bond with family and friends.

"Just like union leaders need to educate their members about how to pass on their work of unionism, we also need to be wise stewards of our land and resources and teach people how to connect in the outdoors and pass on that heritage to their families," Ingram said on a recent episode of "The Line: Leadership to Membership," the IBEW's official podcast.

International President Kenneth W. Cooper agreed. "It's so important to the IBEW that we're always connected to our communities in every way," he said on the podcast, which can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and YouTube. "But the most important piece of all the outdoor things we do is that camaraderie that we have and the relationships — and the fun."

Lifetime membership in the

Union Sportsmen's Alliance is free for IBEW members. Visit unionsportsmen.org to learn more. ■

N.Y. Local Partners With Utility on Call Center Training Program

New York State Electric and Gas customers in upstate New York will soon be treated to an improved customer service experience thanks to a collaboration between Johnson City, N.Y., Local 10 and the utility company.

"This program will ensure that each representative is equipped to assist the customer with the necessary skills during the call and not transfer or delay the process because they haven't been properly trained on how to handle it," Local 10 Business Manager Roman Cefali said. "It encourages trust and confidence for that customer to call just one time versus several."

The pilot program, which began in January, was created through a collaboration with NYSEG and Local 10 call center members. The company, which provides power to over 1 million customers covering roughly 40% of upstate New York, had been getting a high number of customer complaints about their call center experience, citing the amount of time they were on hold or how many times they were transferred.

"Ensuring satisfaction among our customers is one of NYSEG's highest priorities," said Patricia Nilsen, president and CEO of the utility. "Customers, reasonably so, are frustrated having to repeat the same information multiple times to different people. This new training program will reduce the number of transfers, among other goals, so that customers can get their questions answered quicker and easier."

The program consists of two three-month phases. The first provides classroom education on topics including billing, move-ins and move-outs,

and credit and collections. It also integrates on-the-job training with support from trainers, supervisors and experienced staff.

In the second phase, trainees graduate to the call center floor for supervised "nesting," where they are shown how to handle a variety of calls without the need to transfer the customer. Instead, they work with their supervisors and training group to find solutions, thereby building up confidence and competence.

At the end of their six months, the representatives receive an appraisal, and if it's satisfactory, a wage increase. At the 12-month mark and upon passing, they'll receive another wage increase and will be considered fully qualified. Monthly reviews with trainers, management and Local 10 are also scheduled to address any concerns and tweak the process as appropriate.

The pilot training, in addition to improving the skills of the representatives, takes less time to complete than the customary 18-month onboarding.

"In addition to saving time, the pilot provides them with information to pursue other areas of the company sooner, should they want to," Cefali said.

Just over 50 employees have entered the program, which recently brought in its third cohort.

Local 10 has been involved in other programs at different areas of the utility, but this is the first for its call center members, Cefali said. In total, the local represents approximately 1,600 members in various roles including lineworker, gas, field personnel, energy control center, utility construction and maintenance, system protection and control, and customer service.

"This collaboration reflects the strength of our unity with NYSEG and our combined support for the betterment of our members," Cefali said. ■

Detroit Local Rewires and Revitalizes Community Museum

Hamtramck, Mich., is surrounded almost entirely by Detroit but has its own rich history, and thanks to volunteers from Detroit Local 58, it now has new lighting to showcase its storied past.

"Hamtramck has a resilient, community-focused spirit," Local 58 Business Manager James Soosik said. "A lot of our electricians working on the project had personal ties to the city and were proud to contribute."

The project began in 2017 when a member of the Hamtramck Historical Museum board approached Local 58 to see if it could upgrade the 100-year-old building's electrical system. Local 58's Community Service Committee added the museum to its list of projects.

Local 58 retiree Norm Jaworski was one of the members who worked at the museum and could remember when the spot was a department store and barber college.



Junie and Zetta, the Lindahl family's Munsterlanders, rode with the retired business manager on USA hunts.



Volunteers with Detroit Local 58's Community Service Committee are working on an electrical systems upgrade on the century-old building that houses the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

"It was a little bit of home for me," said Jaworski, who attended high school in Hamtramck. "High school is when you really start growing up. You remember that time in your life."

Jaworski was one of about 10 members who worked on the project over the past eight years, with a notable uptick in 2018 when Local 58 hosted the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus conference and the museum was included in the caucus' Day of Service.

Due to the age and poor condition of the original wiring, it was all removed, Soosik said, along with about 90% of the original raceways. Everything was replaced, and all the lighting was converted to LED.

"It worked out well, given limited panel capacity and lack of funding for a full distribution upgrade," Soosik said.



Installing energy-efficient LED lighting greatly reduced the aging building's electrical demands.

The switch to LED also made the building more efficient.

"We did LED everywhere," said Jaworski, who served as project lead. "It brought down the electrical load by roughly 80%."

Their work included installing lighting, branch circuits and receptacles. They installed one-by-four LED strip lights all around the lower level and second floor. The first floor was illuminated using lighting that required over 100 track heads and several hundred feet of track. Caniff Electric, a Hamtramck-based electrical supply

house, assisted with lighting design and provided the fixtures.

The workers needed to be particularly careful around the historical aspects that the museum wanted to keep as a way to preserve the building's history.

"The museum wanted to keep everything as natural as possible," Jaworski said.

Some of the museum's historical items include old ballot boxes, records from City Hall, census info and a high school uniform that Jaworski remembers from his days in school. It also has a genuine bootleg still from the days of prohibition when, according to the museum, Hamtramck was known as the "Wild West of the Middle West." None of that was surprising to Jaworski.

"I remember working on a friend's house in Hamtramck and we found a secret room for making liquor," he said. "Things like that were all around."

The city, which is just 2 square miles in size, used to be home to a large Polish population that moved there for work in a nearby Dodge plant. Today, most of the Polish community has moved out to the suburbs. With so much change, it's important to have a place that keeps the city's history alive, and it feels good to contribute to that, Jaworski said.

"Now they don't have to worry. They've got nice lighting," he said. "Because of all the work we did, they're able to open their doors and visitors can see the history of Hamtramck."

Visitors will also see Jaworski himself, or rather his likeness, in a mural. He and other Local 58 members sat for an artist who created a mural depicting scenes of workers, as well as one of the early settlers. Jaworski likes to take his grandchildren there to see it.

"Now they can tell their friends that they have a grandpa in the museum," he said.

Jaworski and Soosik said volunteering on projects like this is part of how Local 58 contributes to its community. Through the local's Volunteer Committee, members have donated their time and skills to Habitat for Humanity, women's shelters, veterans' projects, churches and more.

On every second and fourth

Sunday, members get together to prepare meals and gather toiletries and clothing, then head over to Cass Park, a half-mile from the hall, to serve community members in need.

"These projects underscore our commitment to southeast Michigan and highlight the responsibilities we carry as tradespeople," Soosik said. "Volunteer efforts like this demonstrate how our members give back, inspire newer generations, and reinforce that our work goes beyond personal or financial benefit — it strengthens the very communities we live and work in." ■

Mass. Legislature Considering Bill to Allow Staff to Join IBEW

The Massachusetts Legislature is finally considering a bill to allow its staff to vote on joining a union after a six-year IBEW organizing campaign.

The bill will soon be considered in the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. If signed into law, the bill would amend a 50-year-old law allowing judicial and executive branch staff to organize, giving the same right to legislative staff.

This is not the first time the IBEW-backed bill has been proposed in the Democratic-dominated Legislature — the party holds 88% of the state Senate and 84% of the House — but it has never been passed.

"They don't need to pass this bill. House and Senate leadership could voluntarily recognize the staff union today if they wanted to. That they haven't shows me that there is a real misunderstanding about what it means to stand with unions," Second District International Representative Steve Smith said. "Our message to the state party is simple: You want our support, you want our resources, then get your house in order because there is nothing more important to labor right now than the right for a worker to organize."

Smith and Boston Local 2222 President & Assistant Business Manager Kevin Holland have been working with the volunteer organizing committee

since a handful of the 700 staffers approached them in 2019. In those early days, Smith said, he was surprised they weren't already in a union.

"This is Massachusetts. Of course they're in a union. I was shocked," he said. "You didn't need to talk to them long to see they could use one."

Ravi Simon wasn't one of the original staffers to approach the IBEW, but he has been a consistent and outspoken member of the volunteer organizing committee for years. He is a legislative aide for the state representative from his hometown.

"It's a great job. My boss is pushing legislation I believe in. I do a lot of constituent services. These are my neighbors and people I know," he said.

What isn't great is the pay, starting at \$40,000 a year. Working conditions were also a problem. There have been a series of sexual harassment allegations. It all added up to an atmosphere that was not welcoming for many.

"There are very few people who have kids. It just doesn't pay well enough. Unless you come from money or you have a high-earning spouse, most people who do this are one to four years out of college and they don't plan on staying," he said.

The result is astronomical turnover, Holland said, and a legislative staff that is less likely to be drawn from a working class or union background. A union negotiating better wages and working conditions could also return working family concerns to top of the state's priorities.

"[Everyone] talks a great game, but not many pro-labor bills are being passed," he said.

The challenge for the IBEW is that the opposition to allowing staffers a union vote is as quiet as it is fierce, Second District International Vice President Michael Monahan said. At times, he has even been urged by politicians in the state to drop the campaign.

"They whisper, 'Don't forget about all the other legislation you want from the state,' like prevailing wages, PLAs, wages, and telecommunications licensure," Monahan said. "What they are overlooking is that the right to organize is sacred. Everything else follows behind the right to actually join a union. We aren't afraid to say you can't be a supporter of labor and support denying workers the right to organize."

If the legislation passes out of the joint committee, it would still need to pass both chambers before moving to the governor's desk.

Or, Monahan said, they could voluntarily allow the staffers to vote up or down.

"Wage theft, PLAs, prevailing wage and the basic right to organize are in the same family. They aren't competing values, and we shouldn't be told to choose between them," Monahan said. "We are not walking away from the 700 people who want to get up off their knees because they deserve it and we agreed to help. And remember, behind them are millions of American workers wanting to know who is looking out for them." ■



Volunteer organizing committee leader Ravi Simon called on the state's Democratic supermajority to allow him and his fellow state legislative aides an organizing vote.

POWER AT WORK

OUTSIDE CONSTRUCTION

Code of Excellence Helps IBEW Members in Oregon Quickly Smooth Project

Ninth District leaders and members of Medford, Ore., Local 659 are crediting teamwork for helping them quickly implement the IBEW's Code of Excellence on a major outside construction project for Pacific Power.

To get ready for the project, "the company had ramped up really fast, with a lot of IBEW travelers from all over the country," explained Local 659 Assistant Business Manager Logan Fry.

"These members came in already knowing that they need to be at their best all the time," he said, but as the project got rolling, workers and managers still encountered some hurdles. "That kind of thing can happen when you quickly put together a workforce that has never worked together," Fry said.

This rapid implementation of the Code of Excellence was in response to a request from signatory contractor 1884 Line Co., which wanted to improve on-the-job communications and reinforce the IBEW's best practices.

"We've worked together really well" with 1884 Line, said Local 659 Business Manager Nick Carpenter, who noted that some of the company's leaders are former IBEW members. "We have a good and understanding working relationship."

Company leaders also were familiar with the IBEW's Code of Excellence, a program created in 2008 by International President Edwin D. Hill to help instill the union's SPARQ values — safety, professionalism, accountability, relationships and quality — among members and managers alike.

"They invited us to come put on Code classes for them," said Carpenter, who contacted State Organizing Coordinator Kail Zuschlag.

"I've taught a lot of Code of Excellence classes," Zuschlag said, including for some of Local 659's inside construction members. "That's not something I think an organizer normally does, but I've always tied the Code of Excellence into organizing."

Zuschlag turned to Education Department International Representative Tracy Prezeau and Ninth District International Representative Marcie Obremski for help in putting together a unique Code class.



"At the time, we didn't have current materials to do that for outside construction," Prezeau said.

Carpenter said 1884 Line wanted to get Code training done as quickly as possible. "We had only about six weeks to prepare," he said.

Carpenter tasked Fry to work with Prezeau, Zuschlag and Obremski to craft the program, which pulled in the relevant components of existing Code training for members who work in inside construction and utility.

"Tracy had an older presentation that she had done at a different outside construction local," Zuschlag said. "I volunteered to rebuild it using a lot of the content and text of what she had already done, and we also updated some photos."

Zuschlag and Fry then prepped for instructing three days' worth of classes at 1884 Line's facilities.

"We really just went in and talked with people," Fry said — apprentices, journeyman linemen, groundmen, operators and managers in groups of 30 to 35. "We did six classes, two classes a day."

Prezeau said open discussion is a key part of Code of Excellence training. "It really gives an opportunity for both sides to be heard," she said, "which is really the magic of the program."

Zuschlag prefers conversation over presentation, too. "I purposely try to blow up these classes a little, getting people riled up and talking," he said. "We process what they're trying to say and then turn it into action."

After the training, Carpenter noticed an almost immediate improvement in the workplace culture. "One of the biggest benefits was opening up that dialogue," he said.

"We got everybody realizing that they were all trying to do the right thing," Zuschlag said. "Now they wanted to team up to figure out how to do better together."

Members of Medford, Ore., Local 659 teamed with Ninth District staffers to quickly develop a Code of Excellence curriculum for outside construction members working with 1884 Line Co.

Fry added that Code training helped members better understand the role of shop stewards, noting that members' interactions with the IBEW have since improved.

"The Code of Excellence is our commitment that no matter where our members come from, they bring safety, skill, and solidarity to the project," said Ninth District International Vice President David E. Reaves Jr. "What Local 659 accomplished shows how the Ninth District leads — by working together, solving problems and setting industry standards."

Carpenter noted with pride that Fry only began working for the local office in January.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Planned Labor Rule Changes Are Bad News for IBEW Members, Working Families

Proposed changes by the Labor Department would make jobsites less safe for IBEW members working in construction and mining, plus make it harder to be compensated if they are injured on the job.

The proposals were announced in mid-July. Trump administration officials maintained that they remove burdensome regulations for private industry, but they damage the department's commitment to protect employees at their workplace. A final ruling is expected later this year.

"Safety is a core element of IBEW membership, and we will fight back against anything that threatens that, which these proposals clearly do," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said.

"While not unexpected, it's another sad reminder of how little this administration respects working families and that it intends to roll back decades of progress under both Democratic and Republican administrations when it comes to safety on the job," Cooper added.

Safety Director Mark MacNichol said the proposals underscore the importance of members following their own safety training and looking out for their union brothers and sisters at work.

"IBEW members have worked in dangerous conditions since our founding and continue to do so in all sectors," MacNichol said. "I can assure them we will fight these ridiculous proposals, but at the end of the day, it's up to all of us to perform our work safely on the job. This administration has no intention in helping us do so."

The proposed changes include:

- The Occupational Health and Safety Administration would be allowed to rescind a requirement for employers to provide adequate lighting on a construction site.

"There have been many fatalities where workers fall through a hole in the floor, where there's not adequate lighting," Rebecca Reindel, the AFL-CIO's occupational safety and health director, told the Associated Press. "It's a very obvious thing that employers should address, but unfortunately, it's one of those things where we need a standard, and it's violated all the time."



The Labor Department is considering a list of proposals that would roll back decades of progress for workers and all American workers.

- OSHA's power to enforce its "general duty" clause, which allows it to punish employers for not having a plan to combat unsafe working conditions, would be virtually eliminated.
- The Mine Safety and Health Administration would no longer require mine operators to submit plans for preventing proper ventilation and roof collapses.
- More than a dozen proposals would seriously curtail OSHA's ability to protect workers against dangerous substances on the job.

"People are at very great risk of dying on the job already," Reindel told the AP. "This is something that is only going to make the problem worse."

Trump administration officials maintained that they remove burdensome regulations for private industry, but they damage the department's commitment to protect employees at their workplace. A final ruling is expected later this year.

"The battle is not over, and it's more important than ever to give workers the protections on the job."

In all, the proposals would roll back decades of progress with more than 100 rules that protect minimum wage workers and farm workers. A final ruling is expected later this year.



In just three days, State Organizing Coordinator Kail Zuschlag, pictured, and Local 659 Assistant Business Manager Logan Fry trained 300 workers and managers.

TRANSITIONS

DECEASED

Carl Lansden



Retired Tenth District International Vice President Carl Lansden, whose dedication to labor was rooted in his father's death in a coal-mining

accident, died on June 20. He was 91.

Brother Lansden was born in Harlan County, Ky., the site of showdowns between United Mine Workers members fighting for a better life and coal company barons.

His father was killed in those mines when Carl was 3½ years old and his mother pregnant with the couple's eighth child. The accident came a few years after the elder Lansden lost his right hand in another coal-mining incident, but the family's financial status and lack of social safety net forced him to return to work.

"One thing he could remember about his dad was driving on those winding country roads and instead of grabbing the steering wheel with his good hand, he always used his hook [prosthetic]," said Carl Hugh Lansden, Lansden's son. "That always stuck with him."

Not long after his father's death, Lansden's mother, Bertha, moved with her children to Knoxville, Tenn., where most of her family was living. She worked for a time in a sweatshop while raising her children in a dirt-floor house before later opening her own successful restaurant in downtown Knoxville, Carl Hugh said.

"She was a such a special person," he said.

The toughness and tenacity of both parents rubbed off on Lansden.

He took part in boxing during a brief stint in the Marine Corps before being discharged after he was found to be too young to serve, his son said. He later served in the Navy during the Korean War before returning home and being hired as a pump operator by the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1954.

One year later, he was named the assistant unit operator at the TVA's John Sevier plant, and Lansden became a member of Knoxville Local 365 in 1956.

He quickly got involved in his home local. Lansden served in various roles for Local 365, including president and assistant business manager, from 1956-1976, all while continuing his career at the TVA.

He was brought on to the Twelfth District staff as an international representative in 1976. He was appointed Twelfth District vice president in 1989 and was reelected three times. The jurisdiction was changed to the Tenth District during his tenure and covers Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Lansden had duties across all sectors of the Brotherhood but was particularly well regarded in two areas.

First, he was especially effective in representing interests in arbitration cases. Although he never graduated, he studied law in night-school classes at the University of Tennessee for several years. His

son said he took pride in beating company lawyers from prestigious law schools during those hearings.

Second, he had a deep understanding of the TVA, a major employer of IBEW members in the South since its founding in 1933.

Retired Tenth District International Representative James Springfield said Lansden made sure the IBEW's importance was respected by TVA management while other building trades employed there fought among each other. Contract negotiations with the TVA were often tense, but there was respect on both sides.

"He went in with an iron fist. ... But he was always good at the political side of things," Springfield said. "We've had good relations with the TVA and its board of directors and he maintained that, but he didn't do it at the membership's expense. He came in when we needed someone like that."

The IBEW's strong ties with the TVA continue today. Robert "Bobby" Klein, who succeeded Lansden as Tenth District international vice president and served in the role until his own retirement in 2015, now serves on the TVA board.

"He was a mentor to me and helped me get the opportunities I had in the IBEW," Klein said. "He was a good man, a good labor leader and very knowledgeable."

Current Tenth District International Vice President Brent Hall was brought on staff by Lansden as an international representative in 2002. He was Lansden's last hire before his retirement the following year.

Hall said Lansden reminded him of his own father. Both were union leaders. Hall's father was a vice president in the Amalgamated Transit Union. Both were often quiet and could be tough on those close to them.

"If there was ever anyone that I've seen find their calling, it was my father."

— Carl Hugh Lansden,
Brother Lansden's son

But they always rewarded those same people for a job well done.

"He could be the kindest person in the world or your own worst enemy," Hall said. "He was hard-nosed. When he walked into a room, everyone knew who was coming in."

Indeed, Hall and others remembered then-Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen going out of his way to greet Lansden at any event the two attended.

"There could be a crowd of 300 or 400 people," Springfield said. "He would walk right over and the first person he would shake hands with was Carl Lansden."

In retirement, Brother Lansden ran for a seat in the Tennessee Senate and invested in real estate. He also was a member of the Freemasons. His wife, Barbara, died in 2013.

Carl Hugh said his father found the

perfect career for him as a labor and IBEW leader.

"If there was ever anyone that I've seen find their calling, it was my father," he said. "He found his true calling and took it to the highest levels."

The officers and staff extend their condolences to Brother Lansden's family and friends during this difficult time and remember him for his many years of service. ■

DECEASED

David Johnson



David Johnson, a retired Sixth District international representative who was known for his wealth of knowledge and teaching skills, died July 4. He was 77.

"He was a good guy. We had a lot of laughs together," retired Sixth District International Representative Jim Dahlberg said. "I'm going to miss him."

A Michigan native, Johnson was initiated into Imlay City, Mich., Local 1410, which amalgamated with Mason Local 1106 in 1970. An installer and repairman for General Telephone, which later became GTE, Johnson held numerous positions in his local, including president in 1974.

He was assistant business manager from 1975 to 1979 and business manager from 1979 to 1983, when he was appointed to serve as an international representative by International President Charles Pillard.

In that capacity, Johnson serviced telephone, cable television, radio, broadcasting and manufacturing locals throughout the district.

"He could instruct across all branches of the Brotherhood," said retired Sixth District International Representative Mike Daugherty, who worked with Johnson on trainings and service representative assignments. "He had a lot of knowledge and life experience and could convey that to the members. He was a real people person."

Sixth District International Representative Bruce Getts met Johnson in 1995 when he was a member of Fort Wayne, Ind., Local 723. He remembers his mentor as a "kind and humble servant" who never missed an opportunity to impart some wisdom.

"Every contact was a teaching moment with Dave," Getts said. "And his favorite teaching technique was to challenge."

Getts recalled working with Johnson in 1997 when Getts was a business representative on his first arbitration case. The local was originally going to use a lawyer, but Johnson offered his services instead. He worked closely with Getts, helping him prepare, then encouraged him to take the lead.

"He told me: 'You know more about this than I do. You can ask the questions. I'll be here if you need me,'" Getts said. "We went on to win that case in a big way, winning back work that had been taken from

Local 723's jurisdiction and a substantial financial settlement for our members."

Getts now works in the position Johnson held as the Sixth District servicing representative for telecommunications and serves as a staff member for the annual Sixth District Arbitration Institute at the University of Illinois.

"I'd like to believe that I am carrying on his legacy," Getts said.

A Vietnam veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart, Johnson held multiple positions with the Michigan chapter of the AFL-CIO early in his career, including as a trustee, executive council member and executive board member. He was later elected chairman of the Antrim County Democratic Party. Johnson also served as a volunteer firefighter.

"He was a fine example of our union," Daugherty said. "He was a gentleman and always willing to help."

Johnson will be remembered as a great member who was respected by the workers and a strong leader who the locals looked up to, Dahlberg said.

"Our members are such a pool of talent, and Dave was the cream at the top," he said.

Johnson will also be remembered for his devotion to the IBEW, Daugherty said.

"Every contact was a teaching moment with Dave. And his favorite teaching technique was to challenge."

— Sixth District International
Representative Bruce Getts

"He had the skills to be a vice president," he said. "He was a class act."

Johnson was an avid outdoorsman who loved fly fishing, hunting and golf. He was the proud father of two sons, Dave and Chris, with his wife, Isabel. He was also loved by his grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and a great-grandchild.

On behalf of the officers, staff and members, the IBEW extends its deepest condolences to Brother Johnson's family and friends, with eternal gratitude for his decades of service to the union and to the cause of working people. ■

t's Start

"Logan did awesome, right into the fire," said the business manager, adding that Fry had help from Johnny Walker, a fellow assistant business manager and organizer.

Zuschlag praised his teammates for quickly putting together a class that met managers' timeline and everyone's needs. "Logan came in with a lot of great energy," he said. "Marcie is top-notch, and Tracy is an amazing instructor."

Prezeau thanked Logan and Zuschlag for going "a long way to personally make the training happen."

Meanwhile, the local has been talking with 1884 Line about conducting Code classes annually, as a refresher and for new hires, Carpenter said.

"Code training not only benefits our members, but it also reinforces our commitment to excellence in every project we undertake," he said. ■



make jobsites less safe for IBEW ss.

as nominated former UPS and Amazon Keeling to be OSHA administrator. Keel-employers have fought against proposals working in excessive heat additional pro-

job.

tle for safety on the job is an ongoing one, important than ever now," Cooper said.

the Labor Department proposes to do away in 60 workplace regulations. They include um-wage requirements for home health and eliminating most protections for migrant

d total of 25 involved changing OSHA regula-

d make working conditions less safe. ■

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In Memoriam

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Breer, D. H.	5/8/25	44	Atkins, S. G.	5/22/25	113	Dempsey, S.	3/14/25	258	Soroka, W. M.	1/15/24	474	Huffman, L. B.	5/24/25	756	Tyre, R. R.	6/24/25
1	Burroughs, G. C.	5/31/25	44	Dahlen, D. R.	3/31/25	120	Fewster, T. J.	5/13/25	258	Uphill, H. W.	12/23/24	479	Kibbe, C. P.	5/22/25	760	Stanton, C. T.	4/17/25
1	Carter, J. A.	11/17/24	44	Pedersen, W. E.	5/2/25	124	Forlow, D. D.	4/17/25	265	Bender, P. J.	3/5/25	479	Massey, C. R.	9/30/24	760	Washington, R. L.	12/13/24
1	Conley, R. R.	6/17/25	46	Mata, E.	4/20/25	124	Phillips, J. G.	6/16/25	269	Johnson, C. C.	4/19/25	479	McDuffie, R.	6/3/25	804	Vettor, R. L.	11/20/24
1	Cooley, J. P.	5/21/25	46	Tooker, J. R.	6/16/25	125	Myers, J. E.	5/17/25	269	Little, D. S.	3/20/25	480	Reynolds, W. N.	5/29/25	812	Buck, R. F.	1/12/23
1	Vonklemen, A.	4/22/25	46	Wagster, D. D.	5/8/25	125	Picker, G. E.	5/23/25	271	Rodriguez, G.	5/23/25	481	Allison, J. W.	5/28/25	816	Hendrickson, K. L.	6/4/25
1	Whitney, L. E.	6/9/25	47	Bueno, M. L.	12/20/23	126	Johnson, D. C.	4/30/25	280	Beyer, A. M.	12/12/24	481	Breeden, R. G.	2/16/24	861	Smith, G. M.	4/15/25
1	Wright, D. E.	5/19/25	47	Eccles, J. M.	1/31/25	126	Meyers, J. L.	6/10/25	280	Patrick, T. L.	5/20/25	481	Hoover, J. P.	5/21/25	873	Bowman, C.	4/16/25
3	Borodin, R. P.	2/15/25	47	Peterson, R. T.	5/21/25	126	Nicholas, M. M.	5/13/25	292	Bechtold, G. L.	6/20/25	481	Priola, J. L.	6/7/24	876	DeVree, R. N.	3/27/25
3	Demarco, M. A.	4/16/25	48	Atlas, M. K.	4/20/25	126	Park, L. E.	4/18/25	292	Berdahl, S. J.	7/9/24	481	Shelor, B. J.	4/30/25	890	Marshall, M. L.	6/27/25
3	Gelchie, K. J.	6/3/25	48	Blanchard, D. D.	5/12/25	129	Wright, M. F.	5/17/25	292	Dills, S. D.	6/26/24	488	Bennett, G. G.	6/7/25	903	Adams, R. E.	5/12/25
3	Gollogly, N. F.	6/1/25	48	Cole, R. A.	6/8/25	130	Ziegler, G. C.	5/30/25	292	Nelson, J. I.	5/3/25	494	Gaglione, A.	5/25/25	906	Frizzo, J. A.	1/2/23
3	Hubbard, B.	11/11/23	48	Lee, A. G.	6/9/25	134	Adams, R. L.	5/19/25	292	Tessmer, R. G.	4/30/25	494	Hansen, L. R.	7/3/25	915	Barrow, B. J.	9/23/24
3	Keegan, J. C.	4/19/25	48	Loar, R. C.	4/1/25	134	Blaha, W. E.	4/21/25	295	Gates, D. A.	6/23/25	494	Krummel, T. J.	5/1/25	915	Hudson, H. B.	6/7/25
3	Mack, V.	4/14/25	51	West, D. M.	10/20/24	134	Brousil, K. E.	4/20/25	301	Kelley, J. T.	4/8/25	494	Santi, R.	6/20/25	915	Hunter, R. C.	5/26/25
3	McHugh, J. J.	7/3/25	55	Berry, D. J.	5/12/25	134	Chaput, J. F.	5/4/25	302	Canaday, J. E.	5/5/25	494	Zernia, D.	4/16/25	915	Perry, R. H.	6/23/25
3	McLoughlin, J. J.	9/24/24	57	Bronson, D.	7/9/24	134	Douse, T. A.	6/23/25	302	Cincera, N. J.	5/16/25	495	Bullock, T. N.	6/6/25	915	Scaglione, C. E.	5/30/25
3	Migliardi, J. J.	6/10/25	57	Kunze, W. L.	6/20/25	134	Farago, B. R.	7/1/25	302	Devlín, F. E.	5/18/25	499	Wendland, G. G.	5/29/25	934	Drinnon, C. A.	5/13/25
3	Miniero, V. J.	4/26/25	57	Palmer, D. K.	3/31/25	134	Fimbianti, A.	5/27/25	303	Smith, S. L.	5/28/25	518	Tipton, M.	4/21/25	934	Fair, R. L.	6/5/25
3	Outerbridge, R. D.	6/8/25	58	Brancik, G. M.	5/27/25	134	Harris, M. H.	12/19/24	305	Blessing, B. G.	6/21/25	518	White, C. L.	2/25/25	993	Galloway, W.	11/12/24
3	Peterec Tolino, J. L.	4/5/25	58	Chrzanowski, R. R.	6/18/25	134	Hlebek, J. J.	4/29/25	305	Witte, J. A.	4/23/25	520	Douglas, E. J.	3/25/25	995	McGrew, T. J.	3/4/25
3	Rizza, R. J.	7/6/25	58	Coates, J. R.	5/26/25	134	McNamara, J. T.	5/15/25	306	Junkin, R. C.	5/10/25	520	Freeman, D. M.	3/23/25	995	Parent, R. D.	6/30/25
3	Slominsky, A. J.	5/24/25	58	Degroot, J. L.	9/13/23	134	Miller, R. J.	3/10/25	306	Kleinatland, J. W.	5/29/25	527	Lala, J.	6/29/25	1002	Moore, S. W.	3/1/25
3	Toneske, R. P.	3/23/25	58	Doherty, W. P.	6/4/25	134	O'Hehir, P. T.	5/5/25	306	Young, M. J.	5/14/25	527	Marullo, J.	6/6/25	1105	Stoneburner, R. E.	5/23/25
3	Vargas, F. C.	5/22/25	58	Eastcott, G. J.	5/30/25	134	Perillo, L.	5/23/25	309	Pough, J. E.	4/8/25	527	Treude, R. R.	5/27/25	1186	Nishimiya, G. K.	4/24/25
3	Weber, M.	6/15/25	58	Jones, E. R.	6/11/25	134	Piper, R. E.	5/14/25	313	Lloyd, H. C.	6/9/25	532	Brown, M. T.	6/12/25	1186	Peros, M.	4/27/25
3	Wendelken, K. H.	12/19/24	58	Marentette, C. D.	4/27/25	134	Reif, M. L.	3/6/25	325	Hover, R. J.	6/9/25	540	Williams, H. D.	5/3/25	1316	Slaton, C. M.	3/5/25
5	Rovito, F. P.	1/10/25	58	Mc Closkey, D. G.	4/15/25	134	Robak, R. E.	3/28/25	329	Gibson, J. L.	5/28/25	545	Kafer, K. G.	5/26/25	1426	Colligan, P. D.	6/22/25
6	Elbing, J. C.	4/6/25	66	Bowden, B. L.	3/19/25	134	Shaw, J. F.	2/22/25	332	Buckmaster, J.	6/3/25	551	Engel, A. R.	5/27/25	1516	Cagle, K. P.	5/11/25
6	Hu, X.	5/9/25	66	Cernuch, M. K.	4/10/25	134	Venturelli, B. V.	5/5/25	332	Cipolla, J. L.	2/5/25	558	Hogan, Q. E.	5/17/25	1525	Tvrs, G. J.	6/19/23
6	Lowrey, R. E.	5/11/25	66	Chandler, D. L.	6/20/25	134	Zindrick, T. R.	5/23/25	332	Kotyza, V.	8/8/23	569	Klein, H. D.	5/24/25	1547	Dickson, A. A.	4/13/25
6	McDermott, K. M.	4/30/25	66	Mulick, R. J.	3/14/25	136	Arnold, J. S.	5/4/25	332	Malkon, J.	5/1/25	573	Jones, C. D.	5/17/25	1547	Lammie, J. R.	12/2/24
8	Cook, D. I.	6/29/25	66	Anderson, D. O.	5/7/25	143	Crim, E. J.	5/3/25	349	Alcover, E.	6/13/25	577	Etka, R. V.	6/3/25	1547	Longfellow, D. R.	5/20/25
8	Kerstetter, L. J.	4/25/25	68	Arellano, K. A.	5/3/25	143	Reall, K. F.	5/25/25	349	Benavidez, P. A.	5/6/24	577	Sterr, M. L.	3/21/25	1547	Miller, J. D.	3/15/25
8	LeBlanc, G.	6/12/25	68	Nelson, D. F.	12/16/24	145	McMahill, L. G.	6/14/25	349	McDowell, L.	5/19/25	595	Magoon, R. W.	4/11/25	1579	Sharpton, W. B.	6/22/25
8	Thomas, T. L.	5/24/25	68	Sundquist, L. K.	5/21/25	146	Lankow, T.	5/22/25	351	Harmon, P.	12/11/24	595	Nordeen, R. C.	5/19/25	1629	Brazier, J. C.	2/28/25
8	Wilbarger, D. O.	5/21/25	76	Cook, J. A.	3/19/25	150	Anderson, J. T.	5/8/25	353	Bayer, C. J.	3/24/25	595	Ogata, T. S.	12/1/24	1768	Johnson, J. H.	8/19/24
9	Brauneis, C. R.	5/22/25	76	Harris, G. V.	11/8/24	153	Ingle, R. E.	6/9/25	353	Cox, F.	4/16/25	595	Sanchez, F. A.	5/26/25	1925	Snyder, J. H.	6/2/25
11	Bellini, J. N.	5/5/25	76	McFarland, W. H.	2/17/25	153	Mandich, D. J.	5/29/25	353	Donnelly, E. P.	1/21/25	595	Wylie, T. R.	3/11/24	1925	Story, W. W.	5/31/25
11	Bleifus, R. L.	12/31/24	76	Roehr, J. H.	5/4/25	158	Madsen, R. L.	2/19/25	353	Ingram, G. W.	5/18/25	601	Cutler, R. S.	5/31/25	1959	Keller, J. M.	5/24/25
11	Finesilver, D. B.	4/2/25	76	Sliva, R. L.	2/3/25	158	Patza, B. R.	6/1/25	353	Knightly, M. J.	6/17/25	602	Morris, D. V.	6/12/25	2067	Taylor, A. J.	6/3/25
11	Hamele, J. W.	6/4/24	76	Cyr, R.	3/20/19	163	Answini, A.	5/23/25	353	Macleod, J. A.	4/21/25	602	Perkins, J. L.	5/31/25	2085	Horn, K. R.	7/3/25
11	Martinez, T. L.	5/3/25	77	Horn, W. J.	4/1/25	163	Capristo, J. C.	7/11/24	353	Majeski, W. E.	4/21/25	606	Linger, A. B.	5/8/25	2150	Sedlacek, J. D.	6/20/25
11	Tarrant, J. D.	3/8/25	77	Leaf, B. R.	6/4/25	163	Race, D. E.	5/22/25	353	Polak, S.	5/15/25	611	Davis, N. C.	5/31/25	I.O. (120)	Powers, R. F.	5/15/25
11	Thigpen, P. D.	4/2/25	77	Mitchell, R. G.	2/11/25	164	Grana, G. J.	6/7/25	353	Rimar, J. J.	5/14/25	611	Walker, J. L.	2/13/25	I.O. (134)	Madigan, J. M.	1/30/25
16	Epley, R. E.	7/5/25	77	Morris, F. T.	4/20/25	164	Miller, B.	6/8/25	354	Cannon, D. G.	5/25/25	613	Anderson, S. E.	3/11/25	I.O. (134)	Whitley, J. B.	5/21/25
16	Geiser, J. J.	5/15/25	77	Smith, C. O.	5/30/25	164	Stango, V.	5/23/25	354	Johnson, D. C.	6/16/25	613	Chastine, H. D.	6/20/25	I.O. (160)	Wilkens, G. V.	6/6/25
17	Guilder, W. J.	4/21/23	77	Welch, J. B.	3/31/25	164	Stepanian, J. J.	4/30/25	354	Morgan, R. B.	4/27/25	613	Fuller, D. J.	6/11/25	I.O. (760)	Gourley, K. A.	6/13/25
17	Pelletier, A. A.	6/29/25	82	Maxwell, A. W.	6/12/25	164	Zhilinsky, I.	3/17/25	357	Reitz, R. A.	3/6/25	613	Stephens, K. M.	6/11/25	I.O. (1377)	Maichrye, D. J.	5/2/25
20	Day, H. D.	4/14/24	86	Collins, J. B.	6/13/25	175	Boyd, H. G.	6/25/25	357	Ylinen, C. D.	1/26/25	613	Weaver, C. F.	5/26/25	I.O. (2085)	Korolyk, B. W.	2/11/25
20	McPheron, E.	3/12/25	86	Whaley, C. A.	7/21/24	175	Hines, A. M.	6/8/25	363	Cantiello, G.	3/20/25	639	Vance, J. E.	5/31/25	Pens. (I.O)	Apfel, R. D.	5/22/25
20	Randolph, T. W.	4/10/25	90	Gilbride, H. T.	1/21/25	175	Paul, T. J.	5/16/25	364	Wood, T. H.	5/30/25	640	Borchert, W. B.	6/16/25	Pens. (I.O)	Capra, L. A.	5/29/25
20	Thompson, G. A.	4/29/25	95	Meister, E. J.	5/18/25	176	Beverly, G. J.	5/29/25	365	Lansden, C.	6/20/25	640	Dooling, M. H.	6/16/25	Pens. (I.O)	Dee, W. R.	5/15/25
24	Bestland, H. L.	3/31/25	97	Deal, H. M.	10/15/24	176	Leet, T. M.	6/19/25	369	Bary, P. J.	4/28/25	640	Silverman, B.	6/9/25	Pens. (I.O)	Desmond, D. E.	4/24/25
24	Channels, B. L.	5/16/25	98	DeSanto, T. J.	4/29/25	176	Magruder, R. E.	4/13/25	369	Connell, J. D.	7/23/24	648	Deaton, J. T.	5/5/25	Pens. (I.O)	Doyle, M. P.	3/28/25
24	Robinson, G. C.	12/26/24	102	Baker, E. J.	11/25/24	177	Carter, F. W.	5/15/25	369	Jenkins, W. D.	5/9/25	665	Baker, H. E.	11/26/23	Pens. (I.O)	Fuchs, H. R.	5/13/25
25	Caravella, S.	5/7/25	102	Bennett, E. H.	3/30/24	177	Crews, F. H.	6/16/25	369	Matthews, J. E.	6/7/25	665	McLellan, D. L.	5/28/25	Pens. (I.O)	Garcia, P.	5/18/25
25	Germana, J.	5/19/25	102	Jarvis, R. D.	4/26/25	177	Hunter, M. O.	6/24/25	369	Schweickhardt, W. L.	5/9/25	666	Brenzie, P. A.	3/24/25	Pens. (I.O)	Gerlach, F. E.	2/25/25
25	Gramer, J.	8/8/24	102	Kraemer, R. E.	5/27/25	180	Parker, E. C.	5/20/25	387	Barrett, C. W.	4/18/25	676	Fowler, J. E.	5/25/25	Pens. (I.O)	Holcomb, B. J.	2/23/25
25	Noonan, R. A.	6/9/25	103	Barry, R. J.	4/29/25	193	Campbell, G. M.	5/6/25	396	Collinsworth, J.	5/5/25	676	Watts, A. D.	11/22/20	Pens. (I.O)	James, W. L.	1/13/24
26	Buhler, P. H.	5/12/25	103	Bertone, W. P.	6/2/25	212	Gillaspie, J. R.	5/12/25	405	Jones, R. M.	10/8/24	681	Neel, R. W.	4/30/25	Pens. (I.O)	Kennedy, L. C.	6/5/25
26	Gordon, F. B.	5/24/25	103	Connor, T. P.	6/14/25	212	Handley, D. J.	5/11/24	413	Myhre, R. D.	4/30/25	682	Hardy, T. A.	5/24/25	Pens. (I.O)	Miller, P. L.	1/30/25
26	Justice, L. E.	4/7/25	103	Dillon, P. A.	1/25/25	213	Seip, J. M.	5/30/25	424	Kammermayer, J. W.	5/12/25	683	Williams, T. E.	6/17/25	Pens. (I.O)	Roy, R. A.	4/24/19
26	Lasley, J. W.	5/3/25	103	Doran, R. M.	6/27/25	222	Dennis, E. J.	8/31/24	424	Malone, M. P.	6/17/25	697	Benjamin, R. J.	1/29/25	Pens. (I.O)	Scott, P.	4/3/25
26	O'Donnell, C. D.	6/23/25	103	Grigaitis, W. F.	3/16/25	222	Freeman, F. D.	6/15/25	424	Wozniak, J.	6/3/25	697	Hiatt, J. P.	3/20/25	Pens. (I.O)	Smith, W. R.	4/21/25
26	Porter, D. R.	5/16/25	103	Taylor, J. M.	3/22/25	234	Patten, E. C.	10/14/22	424	Mangold, D. L.	5/9/25						

LOCAL LINES

Hello, September

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st,ws&ptc), ST. LOUIS, MO — Greetings, brethren, and happy Labor Day.

At our local, early summer was filled with focused, tough contract negotiations. It took a few extra innings, but we ratified a good contract. We also had the honor of hosting the 80th annual IBEW bowling tournament at the famous Tropicana Lanes, with 296 bowlers from all parts of North America participating. It was two days of fun and fellowship hosted by the mother ship.

Additionally, September is the time when the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus has its annual meet-and-greet at the Henry Miller Museum. It also is the kickoff to the EWMC's Coats for the Kids drive. This year's meeting is Sept. 17, 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. They follow that up with a bourbon-cigar pairing fundraiser at Florissant Golf Course on Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. On Nov. 11, they will have a fundraiser and winery tour at 9 a.m. in beautiful downtown Augusta, Mo., at one of many wineries on the winding Weinstrasse. Mark your calendars accordingly. For more information, contact GreaterSTL.EWMC@gmail.com.

Be active, get involved, and support your local union wherever you can. Organized labor is under attack like never before, and we must stand united. I hope that the midterm elections can stop the naked aggression that is underway.

God bless America. God bless the labor movement.

Kyle Hunter, P.S.

Chris Riser Reelected as President/Business Manager

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — The membership of the local has spoken, reelecting President/Business Manager Chris Riser to a new three-year term. The election results stand as a strong endorsement of President Riser's leadership, dedication and vision for the future of Local 15. President Riser began as president/business manager in 2023 and has held multiple positions within Local 15 since 2007.

"Moving forward, I want to keep our members informed and involved. It's extremely important for us to be united. I look forward to continuing to make Local 15 stronger than ever before," Brother Riser commented.

Local 15 will continue to stand for labor, which contributes so much to ensure the success of Illinois energy.

Bradley Gritt, Bus. Rep.



From left, Local 17's Jacob Johns, Abdon Espinosa, Hanna Shader, Luke Hudson, Dillon Rose and Dominick Gutierrez.

LCTT Tree Jamboree

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — For years, our local has spearheaded efforts to promote the value of IBEW apprenticeships for line-clearance tree trimmers. In 2009, Local 17 established one of the first Department of Labor-registered LCTT apprenticeship programs within the IBEW. Boot camps and apprentice classes are conducted at our state-of-the-art training center.

On June 21, Local 17 held our annual Tree Jamboree at our training center, where we hosted more than 400 members and their families. Despite inclement weather all week, this climbing competition gave our members the opportunity to showcase their skills in five events: work climb, belayed speed climb, ascent event, throwline and aerial rescue. Rain or shine, Local 17 members know how to make any event a great time!

The competition is split between a men's journeyman division, a men's apprentice division and a women's division. The winners in each division will proudly represent Local 17 at the Michigan Tree Climbing Championship in September at Emerson Park in Midland, where we look to capture the Corporate Cup for the fifth year in a row.

Congratulations to the following members, many of whom are pictured in the photo above: men's journeyman division winners Abdon Espinosa (first), Luke Hudson (second), Dillon Rose (third) and Dominick Gutierrez (fourth); men's apprentice division winners Jacob Johns (first), Steven Ursic (second) and Martin Tovar (third); and women's division winner Hanna Shader (first).

James M. Shaw, B.M.

Local 43 Congratulates Class of 2025

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — Congratulations to our fifth-year apprentices who have successfully completed our apprenticeship program!

Thanks to our collaboration with Mohawk Valley Community College, the apprentices also earned an associate degree in occupational studies in electrical service technician/electrical maintenance. They proudly walked the stage at Memorial Auditorium in Utica on May 16 to receive their well-deserved diplomas.

Local 43's class of 2025 graduates are Christine Aviza, Trevor

Backer, Cameron Beckley, Ryan Belewich, Brent Bishop, Jonathan Brittan, Ryan Chappell, Ryan Chrostowski, Andrew Clemons Jr., Joquawn Dixon, William Dygert, Demetrius Elthorp, Daniel Etz, Kyle Grover, Quinton Hacket, Jacob Hanley, Jeric Hodge, Donald Horton, Alexander Howland, Justin Kush, Anthony Malysa, Jeffrey Mento, Desmond Moultriez, Christian Rivera, James Salamone, Stephen Sawyer, Cory Smith, Evan Smith, Justin Sutcliffe, Anthony Vadala, Harrison Warner, Benjamin Way and Christopher Welling.

Jeff Cassano, P.S.

Local 47 Mourns Rodney Thomas Peterson

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters. It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Rodney Thomas Peterson, former assistant business manager of our local, who passed away May 21. Rodney dedicated more than 50 years of unwavering service to the union, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Colleen Peterson; his children, Kristi Detrick, Ryan Peterson and Sara Sizelove; and his cherished grand-

son, Jackson Rohrback.

Rodney will be remembered not only for his lifelong commitment to the labor movement but also for his sharp humor and undeniable presence. His impact on the Brotherhood and his legacy within Local 47 will never be forgotten.

Mitch Smith, P.S.



With deep sadness, Local 47 announces the passing of former Assistant Business Manager Rodney Thomas Peterson.

Local 51 Election and Scholarship Golf Outing

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Our annual scholarship golf outing in June was a success, and we awarded 12 college scholarships. Congratulations to our scholarship winners Erin Brown, Blane Canada, Jaden Corley, Chelsee Hill, Garrett King, Brock Naile, Kyler Parks, Allison Sarginson, Alison Turner, Jane Turner, Kolby Weiss and Whitney Yoder.

The tournament's first-place team consisted of Bob Baker, Mark Clemens, Mark Danenberger and Cody Schroeder. We appreciate the support of the sponsors for their generosity.

Local 51's election was also in June. Congratulations to the following officers: Business Manager/Financial Secretary Bobby Wedell, President Brad Wheeler, Vice President Colton Beams and Recording Secretary Stacey Heckman.

Line work continues to be very slow in the jurisdiction, and this trend is expected to continue through 2025. Line-clearance tree trimming remains steady.

Karlene Knisley, Bus. Rep.



Congratulations to Local 43's class of 2025!

Submitting Local Lines Articles

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

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

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

Trade Classifications

(as) Alarm & Signal	(et) Electronic Technicians	(mps) Motion Picture Studios	(rts) Radio-Television Service
(ars) Atomic Research Service	(fm) Fixture Manufacturing	(nst) Nuclear Service Technicians	(so) Service Occupations
(bo) Bridge Operators	(govt) Government	(o) Outside	(s) Shopmen
(cs) Cable Splicers	(i) Inside	(p) Powerhouse	(se) Sign Erector
(catv) Cable Television	(it) Instrument Technicians	(pet) Professional, Engineers & Technicians	(spa) Sound & Public Address
(c) Communications	(lctt) Line Clearance Tree Trimming	(ptc) Professional, Technical & Clerical	(st) Sound Technicians
(cr) Cranemen	(lpt) Lightning Protection Technicians	(rr) Railroad	(t) Telephone
(ees) Electrical Equipment Service	(mt) Maintenance	(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 LINES



Local 71 Brothers Josh Malone, Calvin Martin, Pablo Tepesano and Jordan Perdue teeing off.

Local 71 Hosts Annual Golf Outing

L.U. 71 (lctt,o,t&rtb), COLUMBUS, OH — Under blue skies and in perfect summer weather, members and guests gathered for the local union's annual golf outing at Snow Hill Country Club. The event, a four-man scramble, brought together dozens of teams for a day of camaraderie, competition and union pride.

The scenic course at Snow Hill offered a challenging but enjoyable layout with long drives, tricky greens and plenty of memorable moments. Teams teed off in the morning with their carts loaded with Local 71 golf-themed gifts while everyone shared stories and laughs as they showed off their skills and worked their way through the 18-hole course.

Business Manager Todd Kessler said, "It's a great way to bring the membership together, connect with retirees and enjoy some well-earned time off the jobsite."

Following the round, participants gathered for a catered banquet and awards ceremony, where the top three teams were recognized and other prizes were handed out.

Recording Secretary James Roessner said: "Plans are already in motion for next year's event, with the possibility of expanding to other locations throughout the state if the demand is there. Our local is always open to suggestions on how to improve our events, and we really appreciate the participation and feedback from the members. We hope to make each year bigger and better than the last."

The outing proved to be another highlight of Local 71's summer activities, reminding everyone that strong unions are built not just on the job, but on relationships forged off the clock as well.

James Roessner, R.S.

Local 103 Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

L.U. 103 (cs,i&ptc), BOSTON, MA — Local 103 hosted over 1,000 apprentices this week in a major event commemorating National Apprenticeship Week. The celebration featured Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, who joined Business Manager Lou Antonellis to honor the value and impact of apprenticeship programs in building the workforce of the future.

The event highlighted the crucial role of skilled-trade apprenticeships in developing a strong, inclusive labor force while offering a pathway to long-term, good-paying careers. Local 103's commitment to training and workforce development was on full display, as apprentices from across the region gathered to mark their achievements and look ahead to future opportunities in the electrical and telecom industries.

On May 13, Mayor Michelle Wu signed a historic project labor agreement with Boston public schools. This agreement ensures that all new

construction, renovations and maintenance work across more than 120 schools and administration buildings will be carried out by skilled union labor. The newly signed PLA will also offer Boston public school students pathways to the building trade apprenticeship programs.

Jim Fleming, R.S.

Changes to Local 131

L.U. 131 (i,rtb,rts,se&spa), KALAMAZOO, MI — The work outlook remains steady in Kalamazoo. The Palisades nuclear plant is progressing toward startup and plans for completion by December.

Fifteen fifth-year students have completed their apprenticeship: Cameron S. Clemons, Trevor J. Davis, Peter V. Deutsch, Aaron M. Fenwick, Seth L. Holewa, Dalton M. Hufford, Justin A. Kellermeier, Tyler M. Klinger, Tanner J. Novak, Tyler J. Pawlawski, Ryan G. Pharr, Timothy R. Piippo, Austin M. Powell, Timothy J. Terpstra and Nick S. Voss. Congratulations to all the new journeymen. Now they can show everyone how smart they are.

Several members of the fifth-year apprentice class organized a local golf outing, and they raised more than \$8,000 for Mattawan Wildpaks, which provides weekend food packages for students in need. You make me proud to be part of a union.

The Local 131 picnic was July 26 at River Oak



Local 141's newest journeyman wiremen: from left, Jonny Jacobsen, Kylor Basich, William Garamella, Max Mendelson, Brenden Duncan, Kyle Reilly, Cameron Ross and Nolan Kirchner. (Not pictured: Jackson Palkovic.)

Park in Galesburg. The barbecue was wonderful, the tales were tall, and the brotherhood was endless. See you there next year.

As I reach my retirement date, I would like to thank President Leroy Crabtree, Vice President Randy Williams and Treasurer Scott Benson for their years of service to this local. Thank you to the executive board, who gave sound advice to me, including Terry Clark, Jon Current, Colin Foote, Tim Haydon, Nick Lemmerhart and Adam Mitzel. Thank you to my office staff, Christine, Jon and Ryan, for the support. Thank you to my wife, Karen, for the encouragement and patience. More than 40 years in the IBEW — what a great career. Thanks to all the members.

Morris Applebey, B.M./F.S.

Local 141 Celebrates Newest Journeyman Wiremen

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV — Hello, brothers and sisters. Work has improved in our local, with 35 members on Book 1 and calls occasionally making it to Book 2.

The Wheeling JATC held a completion dinner in May at Waterfront Hall. Congratulations to Local 141's newest journeyman wiremen: Kylor Basich, Brenden Duncan, William Garamella, Jonny Jacobsen, Nolan Kirchner, Max Mendelson, Jackson Palkovic, Kyle Reilly and Cameron Ross. May these brothers have a long and fulfilling career in the IBEW!

On June 14, a devastating flash flood hit the Elm Grove portion of Wheeling, along with the nearby communities of Triadelphia and Valley Grove. As of this writing, there have been eight fatalities and one resident still missing. The flood hit our union hall, but thankfully the building only suffered minor damage. Unfortunately, two of our Local 141 members' homes suffered very heavy damage, and they lost nearly all of their personal belongings. There has been a great outpouring of help from our membership, both monetarily and in donating time to help these members put their homes and lives back together.

Local 141 sadly reports the passing of retired member Myles B. Witchey. He will be dearly missed.

Kurt "Bug" Reed, P.S.



Local 131's new journeymen of 2025.

IBEW MERCHANDISE



UNION ASSEMBLED CHALLENGE COIN \$8.50

1.5" coin features the iconic IBEW Union Assembled Label on one side and the full IBEW logo on the other. Each coin is individually numbered.

CANVAS TOTE BAG \$9.50

Green canvas tote bag with gray handles, IBEW logo and initials - base 14" x 8" - height 14.5".

UNION MADE CHALLENGE COIN \$8.50

1.5" coin features the iconic IBEW Union Made Label on one side and the full IBEW logo on the other. Each coin is individually numbered, making it a unique and collectible keepsake.

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

www.ibewmerchandise.com

The IBEW Electricians: A Powerful Crew

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA —

Oh, the spark that they bring, the pride they will show,
The IBEW workers who make the lights glow!
From sunrise to sunset, in heat, cold or rain,
They work through it all, through the joy and the strain.

With tools in their hands and steel in their hearts,
They wire the world — each plays a part!
In the deep of the night or the bright morning sun,
They make sure the current is flowing and fun!
From solar to wind, from data to steel,
They build with great skill — each task is ideal!
Up high on a tower, or deep underground,
Their work is the pulse, the heartbeat, the sound.
In plants, dams and big factories' halls,
They're the ones who keep power behind all the walls.

With voltages high, from 24 volts low,
To lightning bolts shocking, they make sure they glow!
Oh, the heat and the cold and the wet and the wind,
No matter the weather, they'll never rescind.
From snow-covered ground to the driest of sand,
They're out there together, with tools in their hands.

On solar farm fields or in high-rise big towns,
They install every panel, no job's too profound!
With generators humming, switchgear in place,
They bring the electricity all over the space.
With pride in the union, and pride in their task,
They answer the call, they don't need to ask.
In factories, mills or the smallest of sites,
They power the world, day or night!
They wire up servers, they light up the streets,
They bring warmth in winter, cool
in the summer heat.
Through storms and through stress,
through the longest of days,
They never back down, they'll always amaze.
They work hard, they're skilled, and
they know what's right,
They keep the world buzzing,
from morning to night.
So here's to the crew that gets power to you,
The IBEW electricians, proud and true!
From volts to the bolts, from currents that roar,
They'll fix up the grid, and they'll always do more.
With a nod and a wink, and a high-voltage cheer,
They'll light up the future, year after year!

— Brad Dudley

Randy Curry, B.M.

New Graduates, New Representation

L.U. 237 (i), NIAGARA FALLS, NY — Our local would like to wish a well-deserved congratulations to our 2025 graduating class of inside journeyman wiremen: Jamasen Johnson, Landon Leadingfox, Dylan Lewis, Adam Markel, Connor "Sweet Connie" Prenatt, Nathan Rampado, Devon Strasburg and Dean Swanson. Top Apprentice was awarded to Devon Strasburg. We wish you much success and prosperity!

January saw a vote in favor of organizing and joining the IBEW for representation to seek better wages and working conditions. Seventy-eight people working for Reworld, a waste-to-power facility in Niagara Falls, are now represented by Local 237. We'd like to recognize Brother Andrew Reed, who shared with a worker how union representation could help them and got them in touch with organizer Nick Coyle. This is a huge win for the workers of the facility, their families and all involved who believe in supporting the working class.

Local 237 would like to give a special thanks to Brother Travis Runyan from Local 725 for his kindness and generosity. Travis, who owns and operates TR Tailored Blades, donated a custom knife and belt clip for a raffle for our Sick Committee, which benefits members who are out of work due to illness or injury. His actions are a great reminder of the many strengths of brotherhood and union membership.

Brandon Lum, P.S.



Local 237 welcomes its newest members.

Local 269 Elections and New Journeymen

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — After a quiet April, May brought a flurry of activity to the local. Work has been good, and the outlook for the immediate future is bright. The good mood of the members was reflected in our elections for Local 269 officers. All current officers ran unopposed and were summarily elected to another term. Congratulations to all, and thanks for your hard work and dedication.

Next on the agenda was the annual retirees' dinner. As usual, it proved to be one of the best nights of the year, with plenty of good cheer and libations to carry the night along. Retirees were awarded service pins and watches and were given their proper due by all in attendance. Another great night, thanks to the hard work of all involved.

Last, but not least, the fifth-year apprentices took their tests to become journeymen and -women. The testing class consisted of five individuals and the class A journeyman apprenticeship counted 21 eager students. Judging from the consistently high scores of both classes, Local 269 should be in good hands for the foreseeable future.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

Summer Fun and Future Work

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — At the summer picnic last month, the popular cornhole tournament returned with the RENEW Committee in charge. Three sets of union-made, USA-made boards went to the winners. The boards featured custom artwork designed by the more talented RENEW members. Another new twist came from our principal rep, Geoff Stamp. Building on his successful gift-card giveaway at a recent banquet, he kept the crowd cool with free ice cream treats.

The next apprenticeship class is fast approaching. With more hands-on labs, material is always needed. Mike Beckman, a representative from Allen-Bradley/Leviton, annually donates switches, receptacles, keyless fixtures, load centers, stranded and solid wire, and a variety of other products to the JATC. Now, the Mankato training center will receive an EV charger at no cost, compliments of Mr. Beckman.

Brother Jeff Fields, compliance officer, was invited to join a state-level citizen advisory task force on a possible battery energy storage system near Albert Lea. The duties of the task force are to research, examine and make recommendations on the proposed construction of the facility and its connection to the grid. Having IBEW representation at the entry level of such a project could be a significant boon for the local.

Stop Supporting China — Buy Made in USA.

Tom Small, P.S.



Local 349's graduating apprenticeship class organized a charitable run/walk in partnership with Shake-a-Leg Miami.

Apprentices Giving Back

L.U. 349 (em,es,i,mps,rtb,rts,spa,u&ptc), MIAMI, FL — On June 7, our local's graduating apprenticeship class organized a charitable run/walk in partnership with Shake-a-Leg Miami, a local nonprofit that helps people with disabilities through water-based activities.

Led by fifth-year apprentice James Bowers, the class of 2025 presented their plan during the May regular meeting and received full support from the membership. The event was part of a local initiative encouraging apprentices to give back before completing their program.

Held on a hot South Florida day, the event drew strong participation from apprentices, members and the public. It was a successful outing that reflected the spirit of unity and service that defines Local 349.

More than just a fundraiser, the run/walk showed how future journeymen are already leading with purpose and giving back to their community.

As they enter the next stage of their careers, these apprentices carry forward the values of the IBEW: skill, leadership and commitment to service.

Kris Beckford, Pres.

Local 449 Members Honored for Service

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa,u&mt), POCATELLO, ID — Brothers and sisters, I hope everyone had a great summer.

I would like to recognize the members who received service pins for 50 or more years of service to the IBEW at our annual local picnic: Douglas K. Frugoli, Clarence E. Hammond, Carl G. Haney, Blair M. Nash, Kevin E. Norby, Philip O. Oakes and Thomas E. Stears (50 years), and Charles V. Harada, Leonard W. Higley, Ted C. Jensen, Clifford D. Osborne and Ronald L. Parsons (55 years). Congratulations to all!

In memoriam, we remember Brothers Rick Chase, Ben Erickson, Charles Featherston, Leonard Howell, Richard Long, Michael McKay and Gary

J. Tripplett. They will be truly missed. Our heartfelt condolences go out to their family and friends.

Clay Hirning, B.M.

Local 481's John Payne Memorial Golf Outing

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Brothers and sisters, our retirees held their second annual John Payne memorial golf outing in July. It was a great day filled with lots of laughs, memories, stories, a few refreshments, and one or two good shots.

Thirty-two golfers participated in the event this year. It was a great way to get together to remember Brother Payne and honor all the work he did for Local 481.

Thank you to those golfers who came out! If you are a retiree and missed it, make sure to get your name on the list next year. A special thank you goes out to Dave Colclazier, Bob Denny and the rest of your team for putting on such a great event.

A lot of work goes into coordinating an outing, and it is truly appreciated. John would be proud to see his legacy carried on. We look forward to seeing you all continue this event for many years to come.

Blake Andrews, Bus. Rep.

Making a Difference in Our Community

L.U. 483 (catv,lctt,o&u), TACOMA, WA — What began as a humble effort 15 years ago has become a jaw-dropping act of generosity. Local 483 first joined the Pierce County Central Labor Council's annual peanut butter drive in 2009, contributing a respectable 259 jars to support the Emergency Food Network. This year, we collected an incredible 9,483 jars of peanut butter!

Led by Business Manager Byron Allen, this year's drive brought in enough peanut butter to fill seven pallets, which were delivered directly to the Emergency Food Network. These donations will



Local 481 retiree participants at the John Payne memorial outing.

LOCAL LINES



Local 483's big peanut butter haul, which this year collected seven pallets of product!

stock shelves at local Pierce County food banks and provide a critical lunch option for children in the summer, when school meals are unavailable.

"This effort is about more than just numbers," Allen said. "It's about making sure no child goes hungry this summer. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who contributed — this was a true team effort."

With each jar representing a step toward a well-fed community, Local 483 has turned peanut butter into a powerful symbol of solidarity, compassion and commitment to local families.

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

Transitions at Local 601

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — It is with great sadness but immense pride that we



Jarrett Clem, former business manager of Local 601.

announce that Business Manager Jarrett Clem has resigned and accepted a position with the International Office. Jarrett has worked in the office as an organizer for two years and as business manager for seven years. As of May 1, International Workers' Day, he now fulfills the role of renewable energy government affairs coordinator for the Sixth District, a role previously held by Government Affairs Director Dean Warsh.

Jarrett now steps into a role to fight for more than just Local 601. He now fights for every local in the Sixth District and beyond. The influence he had on Local 601 will never be forgotten. He was known as a charismatic business manager with a focus on being especially in touch with the membership. He has steered us through thick and thin, highs and lows, and he now leaves the future for us to shape. We wish Brother Clem the best of luck!

Assistant Business Manager/Organizer Brian Andersen was appointed business manager by the executive board and will continue to fill that role now that he won the position in our recent election. Brian has chosen Jordan Mueller, a prominent member of the RENEW Committee, to become our new assistant business manager/organizer.

Our new officers were sworn in July 1.

Known as 6/01 Day, June 1 is the first day of being journeymen for our newest graduates of the apprenticeship program. We congratulate them all for completing this rite of passage.

Local 601 also took its annual canoe trip up

north at Ayers Landing. We had a great turnout and hope to do it again next year. For pictures, visit photos.app.goo.gl/RyEgHtK6mFUcxCcVA

The local is still busy with work and events. We have 23 members on Book 1 and 19 on Book 2.

Luther Baker, P.S.



From left, Local 611's Darrell J. Blair, Kenny Ortiz, Business Manager Alfonso "Fonze" Martinez, Ray Cantrell, Jason "Hippie" Bowers, Joaquin Garcia and Rudy Duerson.

Tie Dye, Social Security Seminar, New Sign for Local 611

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,rtb,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — In June, we held our fifth annual tie dye event at the hall. Each year it gets bigger and bigger, and this year's event had a large turnout with a dunk tank and a jumper for the kids. A big shoutout to all of the committee members and volunteers.

In July, the hall hosted a Social Security seminar, which featured speakers from a mortgage company and a realty company; a representative from our investment portfolio; and Brad Yablonsky, a financial adviser who explained how to maximize your Social Security benefits. The seminar was for members and their spouses, though I was surprised that only a handful of people showed up. It was very informative.

There is still a lot of work in our jurisdiction. Intel is now running a night shift, and Facebook will be paying an incentive through the end of August. SunZia still has about eight months of work left.

The hall recently installed a new IBEW sign next to the flagpole. The sign was produced by Zeon Signs, and they did a great job. It was wired by Rudy Duerson.

On behalf of Local 611, I extend condolences to the family and friends of Noel Davis and Kenneth Hall Jr.

Don't forget to attend your local and unit meetings.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA — This has been a momentous and significant year for our local — a turning of the page, you could say — as many of our leaders and big players are retiring from the trade. The time has come to pass the torch to the next generation.

A huge thank you to Glenn Arvin, Matthew Davey, Joe Fitzgerald, Mark Henry, Dave Mauro, Dominic Nolan and Alan Sheehan, who have nearly 275 years of combined active service to the local and the IBEW. They excel at one or more of the significant roles that shaped the policies of our local and the experiences of our membership: business manager, president, executive board member, JATC training director, health and wellness and pension trustees, membership development, business representative and, above all, journeyman inside wireman.

We thank them for the ways their knowledge, proactive attitudes, work ethic and skill-powered progress, positive change, and growth for the local and our community. We will continue to build on this foundation of experience and integrity to keep

our local moving forward in solidarity.

I am also grateful to be reelected business manager and continuing the fight for Local 617 and the labor movement. It has been an honor and a privilege serving the membership and their families, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity. Much has been accomplished thanks to the unmatched support of my staff, past officers and all of the members. And there is much more to come!

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

DeadBreak: Proven Leadership in Underground Utility Work

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,u&ptc), CINCINNATI, OH — With more than 20 years of hands-on experience, DeadBreak is a trusted leader in cable splicing, underground utility installation, department builds, emergency response and complex underground projects.

Local 1347's leadership has held key roles on both the utility and contractor sides, giving us a unique, field-tested perspective. We've built our careers from the ground up, bringing practical expertise, reliability and mentorship to every job.

Proud to stand with the IBEW, DeadBreak is committed to delivering quality work that meets



Partners with Local 1347, DeadBreak offers proven leadership in underground utility work. From left, Mark Savage, Business Manager Andrew Kirk and Josh Adams.

the highest standards of the trade. Check it out at DeadBreak.us.

Andrew Kirk, B.M./F.S.

'Patience and Perseverance'

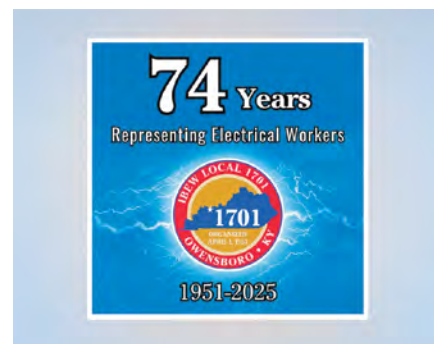
L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — The work picture in Augusta continues to be steady. Miller Electric is busy between the data center in Graniteville, S.C., and the new project at the Augusta National Golf Course. Our in-town shops are holding their own with work around the jurisdiction.

Plant Vogtle is back in outage mode, and between the four units, it maintains a steady workforce. The Savannah River Site's main contractors are also staying busy and having occasional calls. Unfortunately, the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility at SRS has yet to begin, but we are being told that it is a go. When it starts, we will definitely have our hands full.

We are in negotiations with our Georgia NECA contractors on our in-town agreement, so by the time you read this, hopefully we will have come to terms on an agreement that will be beneficial to both sides.

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." — John Quincy Adams

Mike Greene, Pres.



Local 1701 recently celebrated its 74th anniversary.

74 Years and Much to Celebrate at Local 1701

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY — Many events have taken place with our local, beginning with organizer Andy Daniel and business agent Ryan Hayden. Their efforts over the past 18 months have led to organizing 50 of Kenergy's linemen into the IBEW. Congratulations to all.

At the end of the JATC school year, we celebrated 14 new journeymen. JATC Director Jason Sharp organized the gathering at the Pearl Club restaurant, and the new journeymen were awarded IBEW watches and tools supplied by Milwaukee Tool and Southwire.

Our local is celebrating its 74th year! Local 1701 received its charter in April 1951. International President Daniel W. Tracy signed our charter to become a local with 26 members' names placed on the charter.

Our local retiree members have again worked on electrical requirements and setup of the annual ROMP Bluegrass Festival with this year's headliner, Wynonna Judd, and more than 20 other artists performing.

Rick Thurman, P.S.

RETIREEES



Local 3/North Jersey Chapter retirees at the Long Island Education Center in July.

Local 3 North Jersey Retirees Meet in Long Island

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY/NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER — Greetings from your brothers and sisters at Local 3! Our North New Jersey Chapter of the IBEW Retirees' Association had a great time at the Long Island Education Center in July. We wish you a happy, healthy Labor Day.

James Rella, R.S.

Local 11 Retirees' 50th Anniversary Luncheon

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA — The local's Retirees' Club celebrated its 50th anniversary June 11 with a luncheon at the main office in Pasadena, where about 100 members were in attendance.

Business Manager Robert Corona stopped by before the luncheon to wish us well. We were also blessed to have four of our past business managers, from 1984 through 2023 (see below), attending the luncheon, and they each spoke about their time in office and their pride in serving Local 11 as business manager, saying it was the highlight of their careers.

Our guest speaker was Mark Meyer of the Ninth District, who informed us of the IBEW's efforts to increase awareness with the younger generations that the IBEW is a great career path. He said the IBEW advertises at NFL games, and it is projected that we'll need a lot of new members in the coming years to fill the demand for skilled electricians.

Al Etherton, Pres.



From left, Local 11's past Business Managers Joel Barton (2018-2023) Brian Benefield (1994-1997), Floyd "Skip" Henke (1984-1991) and Marvin Kropke (1997-2018) at a recent Retirees' Club luncheon.

Community, Care and a Long Road Ahead

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — As we approach the fall season, the Retired Members' Club reunited after our usual summer break. Our last meeting was in May, and we resume regular meetings in September to reconnect with friends and plan ahead.

Before the summer slowdown, April brought a special highlight: the annual awards luncheon honoring our retirees.

More than 60 members attended, including one remarkable brother celebrating 65 years of membership. It was a meaningful afternoon of reflection, recognition and camaraderie, a reminder of the strength and history of our local.

Over the summer, Local 26 hosted its annual picnics in Maryland and Virginia. RMC members once again enjoyed the thoughtful provisions made for our older members, ensuring that everyone could relax and take part comfortably.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for our annual raffle. As always, the proceeds will help fund the purchase of medical equipment and supplies, which we make available free to members, their families and even neighbors in need.

Meanwhile, we're waiting on a truly functional National Labor Relations Board. If the "big beautiful bill" is any sign of progress, we've got a long wait ahead.

Michael A. Acree, P.S.

Local 35 Honors Members with 50+ Years

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Our local would like to give thanks to George Brooks and Robert Dynak, who took part in an Honor Flight in Washington, D.C.



Local 35 salutes George Brooks and Robert Dynak, who took part in an Honor Flight in Washington, D.C.

Thank you for all of your service.

We acknowledged the following members who have been with us for the past 55-plus years of service: Edward Adamczyk, Alfred Arico, John Benoit, Leroy Bywater, Brian Canny, Patrick Coughlin, John Dennerley, Albert Fedash, Charles Francione, Russell Molitoris, Richard Neville, Charles Rose, Vincent Sadosky and Richard Wowak (55 years); John Baracchi (60 years); and Paul Brenneman and Joseph Grassi (70 years).

Congratulations to all of you!

We would like to congratulate the HEJATC apprentice class of 2025, who graduated May 22.

Dennis Machol and I attended the graduation ceremony and spoke about the fact that we are a brotherhood and should take care of each other throughout our careers, and emphasized the importance of safety on jobsites. We also stressed that this isn't just a job — it's a career to be proud of!

We have seen a few new faces at our meetings, which has been great, and we hope more members will join us for upcoming meetings.

We also hope to see everyone at our annual outing. It will be Sept. 27 in Colchester. Please call the office to get tickets. It is a great day to spend with brothers and sisters from our local, and raffle prizes are always a favorite. You will enjoy great food and conversations.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Labor Day. Be safe.

Kenneth White, P.S.

Local 53 Past and Upcoming Events

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Well, here we are more than halfway through the year already. Time could slow down just a little! I hope everyone is staying cool and hydrated in the heat.

Local 53 hosted its spring luncheon April 11. We had a great turnout with good food and fellowship. The following members received service pins this year: Dwight Alder, Richard Jones, Aaron Mabon and Tom Westfall (50 years); Irvin Blackard, Micheal Costigan, William Ferguson, James Gedminas, Edgar Skaggs and Richard Vote (55 years); James Anderson, Ronald Catron, Gary Hanna, Dorsey Jackson, James Love and Phillip Sperry (60 years); and Robert Miller (70 years). Congratulations to all!

At the luncheon, I announced that Secretary Duane Pearce was resigning due to some health issues. I want to thank him personally for being my partner in running the Retirees' Club for the past nine years. Duane was very committed to the club as well as the local. We will miss you at the luncheons, my friend.

Local 53 held the 37th annual crappie



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IBEW Hour Power



ElectricTV

RETIREEES

tournament May 3. As usual, it was a huge success with a great turnout and a lot of participation from our younger members. Our retiree attendance has been on the decline for this event over the last few years. It would be nice to see more retirees showing up next year. Even if you don't fish, show up for the fish fry. You will have a great time! A big thank you to all of the staff at the union hall, as I know these events take a lot of work.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events: The fall luncheon will be Oct. 3 at the hall, and the Local 53 Christmas party will be Dec. 12 at the Ameristar.

It is with sadness that I report that we lost another retiree, John Licklider. Rest in peace, brother.

Bob Stuart, Pres.

Working Together to See a Way Forward

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI — In Michigan, the new majority of Republications in the state House are once again proposing "right-to-work" and prevailing wage rollbacks. Plans are in the works to have an assembly of our retirees' group members do a day trip this fall to Lansing to discuss the downside to this legislation with our representatives. As retirees, we have the time to lobby for all workers in Michigan. This isn't a time to go backward when it comes to the economic health of Michigan workers.

Our annual August picnic was a success. Attendance was good, and the food and camaraderie made for a great time. The park in Livonia where we have had our picnic for years experienced weather damage, taking down the pavilion where we held this event. Because of this storm damage, we held the picnic indoors at our local union hall. With the intense heat that we experienced this summer, the cool interior of the hall was welcome, and a good time was had by all! We hope to have another venue in place by the 2026 picnic season.

Pat Nuznov, P.S.

Local 134's Awards Luncheon and Theater Outing

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Greetings to all IBEW members and staff. Here in the Chicago area, it's been a long, hot, humid summer. I'm hoping the fall will soon bring cooler temperatures.

At our June 11 luncheon, we honored members for 50 to 70 years of service. Local 134



Local 134 retirees in attendance at the June 11 luncheon honoring members for their years of service.



From left, Local 257 retirees John Leslie; Dan Lindenbusch, Steve Jonas, Kenny Schulte, Ron Burkett, Mark Gilmor, Jim Winemiller, Greg Baquet, Don Bremmer, Sam Binkley, Don Stradford, Rick Stokes, Bill Jurgensmeyer, Larry Jones and Jim Breid.

President Timothy Fitzgibbons joined us, shaking hands and passing out honoree pins.

This year's recipients are Ardell W. Brown, Robert Ciukows, Thomas J. Connelly, Lawrence E. Gasser, Michael LaBaron, John J. Lake, Robert M. Najewski, Michael M. Valin, Patrick J. Vaughan, Robert B. Vujanovic, Robert A. Welko and Steven R. Wolski (50 years); Edward J. Bacher, John J. Bimmerle, Gary T. Bird, Harry E. Dohman, John M. Fahey, William M. Fatz, Robert J. Fitzgerald, Daniel E. Gillespie, Paul S. Hamb, John J. Hanley, Russell E. Hengels, Edward J. Howells, Lawrence P. Kaspar, James E. Martin, Martin J. Moylan, James C. Rhogues, Richard C. Rioux and Arthur F. Wenner (55 years); Nick J. Alex, John M. Armstrong, Ronald C. Gibson, Richard C. Leonatti, Theodore O. Malo, Charles J. Meyer, Daniel G. Meyer and Edward J. Schmidt (60 years); James J. Fliris, Steven C. Lindskoog, Kenneth C. Miller and James F. Popp; and Jerome F. Koch (70 years). Congratulations to all our honorees.

On June 26, a group of 42 retiree members went to Drury Lane Theater for a delicious luncheon and to see the play "Always ... Patsy Cline," featuring the hits of the late singer, which made for a very fun day.

Stay safe and well.

Susan Kleczka, P.S.

20th Year Judging Skills USA

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — For 20 years, our local's retirees have served as electrical judges for Skills USA competitions, this year held April 11 at State Technical College. Rick Stokes, the organizer, shared that "what started as a five-year plan for judging grew into 20 years."

A special thanks is extended to Rick for his dedication in organizing the electrical judges for this important career development event. Thanks, also, to the Local 257 judges: Greg Baquet, Sam Binkley, Jim Breid, Don Bruemmer, Ron Burkett, Mark Gilmor, Larry Jones, Bill Jurgensmeyer, John Leslie, Dan Lindenbusch, Steve Jones, Kenny Schulte, Rick Stokes, Don Stradford and Jim Winemiller. First-place winners will move on to the national Skills USA Championship in Atlanta.

Condolences are sent to the family of Ted Haverich, who passed June 18. Brother Haverich was a member of the IBEW since 1978. He helped construct Callaway Nuclear Plant, Brady Commons and the MOHELA building, to name a few. He retired after 30 years of service.

Condolences are also sent to the family of Mark Hooibrink, who passed away June 29. As a journeyman electrician, he worked his whole career for Meyer Electric and retired in 2019. In 1998, Mark and his wife, Laura, renovated Claysville's historic general store and created a family restaurant. Local 257's Retirees' Club held luncheon meetings at the restaurant, and we will remember the many excellent meals cooked and served by Mark and his family.

Connie Hamacher, P.S.

Local 488 Memorial Luncheon and Service Pins

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 488, BRIDGEPORT, CT — In May, our local held its annual retirees' memorial luncheon, where we paid tribute to those who came before us and remembered those who passed away in the past year.

We extended our deepest gratitude and congratulations to our retired members, who were honored with service pins in recognition of their many years of dedication to the IBEW. These members have not only contributed countless hours of



Local 488 held a memorial and pin awards luncheon for retirees in May.

skilled labor but also upheld the values of solidarity, craftsmanship and integrity that define our union. Their hard work has powered our communities, trained future generations and helped build the strong foundation on which the IBEW continues to stand.

Attendees receiving service awards were Robert Astle, Leo Buetel, Michael Conley and Kevin Rice (50 years); Raymond Dolyak, Edwin Hickey, Robert McLevy Jr. and Edward Strell (55 years); Owen Mehle (60 years); Stephen Pannozzo (65 years); and John Surace (70 years).

Jerome White, R.S.

Summer Traditions at Local 654

RETIREEES' CLUB OF L.U. 654, CHESTER, PA — As I write about the retired members of our local, I'm sure many retirees and their families are enjoying their honored summertime traditions.

On May 31, many of our local brothers and their families attended the IBEW 654 Day at the Park, as the Philadelphia Phillies hosted the Milwaukee Brewers at Citizens Bank Park. We all wore Phillies T-shirts provided by our hall. Several retirees were in attendance, and it was great to see the younger members of our local there with their loved ones. Being there among our local members made the event very worthwhile and truly memorable.

On June 11, the officers and members of Local 654 put on the annual retirees' summer luncheon for our retired brothers. This was another fantastic afternoon filled with fine food and lasting friendships.

Bill Faulkner, P.S.



Local 654 retiree Mike Greskoff and his wife, Dayna, attended IBEW 654 Day at the Park on May 31.

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

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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:
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Or send by email to: media@ibew.org

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THE IBEW'S 2025 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.
Entries MUST be submitted electronically by Oct. 31 via the Photo Contest link on 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



DEADLINE: OCT. 31



DISTRICT 9: AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA

WHO WE ARE

‘Phenomenal’ Women Pipe Tappers Win Second National Title

On either side of a pressurized water pipe, the women known as Grit City Grind rapidly cranked and tapped and flared and tightened with the muscled arms of athletes, delivering all the tension and thrills of a buzzer-beater ballgame.

In two minutes and 19 seconds — officially 2:29.47 with minor penalties — the Washington state trio from Tacoma Water and Local 483 had connected a water service line, besting their six pipe-tapping competitors at an industry conference in Denver in June and taking the women’s national title for the second straight year.

“At first, we were exhausted and just trying to catch our breath while the judges checked our work, so it took a minute to realize that we met our goal — to win two years in a row,” Jessa Messer said. “Next year, we’re going for a three-peat.”

Their track record at the annual American Water Works Association conference bodes well: In their first year as teammates in 2023, Messer, Sarah Degidio and Sami Pielak took second place, and now they are two-time champions.

Between their physical work in the field for Tacoma Water and intense training on their own time, the women have only gotten stronger, swifter and more strategic.

Or as Pielak summed it up, with levity: “We’re kind of all-around badassess.”

Mike McCaffrey called the women “phenomenal,” and he ought to know: He coached the Tacoma Water men’s pipe tapping this year after 20 years of competing, which included a national title in 2009.

“No other men’s or women’s teams in the Pacific Northwest section have ever won twice,” McCaffrey said, getting choked up as he described watching the women learn and hone their craft. “It’s the same thing we do in the field, but to watch them do it on a timer on a carpet in front of a crowd, I’m just so proud of them.”

IBEW leaders and management at Tacoma Water feel the same way.

“I was ecstatic but not surprised,” Local 483 Business Manager Byron Allen said. “I know how much they have each other’s backs and how hard they train. They sacrifice a lot of personal time to excel as much as they have.”

Tacoma Public Utilities Director Jackie Flowers said seeing the women in action “just makes you go wow!”

“It’s fantastic to watch people who are at that level of proficiency in their craft,” Flowers said. “The team is like a well-oiled machine. Everyone has a job to do, and they do it with such skill and precision.”

The team said Flowers has been



Competition photos courtesy of AWWA



Top right: Champion pipe tappers and Tacoma, Wash., Local 483 members (from left) Sarah Degidio, Sami Pielak and Jessa Messer, along with coach Brandon Corey, representing Tacoma Water at the 2025 American Water Works Association conference. The team won the women’s national title for the second straight year, installing a water service line in less than two and a half minutes.



“At first, we were exhausted and just trying to catch our breath while the judges checked our work, so it took a minute to realize that we met our goal — to win two years in a row.”

— Team member Jessa Messer, Tacoma Local 483

one of their biggest fans. “She’s always cheering us on,” Messer said. “We’re grateful to her and the TPU board for their support and making it possible for us to participate in the competitions.”

The Grit City Grind — a nod to Tacoma’s unofficial nickname as more hard-scrabble than neighboring Seattle — scored 28 seconds ahead of its nearest competitor, the Alamo City Tappers from San Antonio, who came in at 2:57.75.

Crouched down, gauging the team’s every move, coach Brandon Corey was confident of another victory, mindful of errors that result in penalty seconds being added to the stopwatch time.

“I knew immediately it was a winning run,” said Corey, a water service supervisor who worked with, and was impressed by, all three women during their two-year apprenticeships.

“I paid enough attention to know that we had no safety violations,” he said. “I knew the curb stop was threaded far enough in and that the curb stop was low enough to the ground. I immediately began inspecting for leaks and noticed that there was nothing spraying. So I was doing the math in my head and knew that even if we had a couple

of drips, we’d win.”

Pipe tapping is a major part of Messer and Pielak’s day jobs as water service workers, which involves pipe and meter installation, maintenance and repairs.

“It varies day to day, but we get calls to go out and troubleshoot issues that customers or contractors are having,” Messer said. “It’s usually a matter of the water being out, or a contractor could have hit something and broke a pipe and there’s water flying, those kind of emergency calls.”

Degidio got pipe tapping experience while an apprentice before specializing in fire hydrants. “There are over 14,000 hydrants in our system,” she said. “We do maintenance and service, and if they get hit by a car, we’re the ones who go out and repair them.”

The women train for months leading up the regional and national competitions — typically two or three nights a week for about 90 minutes after work, a commitment that requires juggling childcare schedules. Not only are they all mothers, but Pielak was six months pregnant when the team won the 2024 title.

This year was Corey’s first with the

team, after the women’s previous coach moved to a job out of state. Newly a supervisor — the highest position at Tacoma Water in the bargaining unit — Corey had been a popular lead worker and was the women’s unanimous choice.

“He’s a phenomenal lead. He’s fair, he’s efficient, he’s knowledgeable. He’s everyone’s favorite to work with,” Messer said, the teammates laughing as Pielak added, “But we wondered, ‘Can he handle us?’”

Corey wasn’t daunted. “This is a male-dominated field and the fact that they’ve fit into it says a lot about their personalities and attitudes,” he said. “They put a lot of heart into what they do, so when they asked, I didn’t really hesitate.”

As driven as they are to win, the women said one of the best parts of going to the national competition is getting to know their opponents, who face similar challenges in what have been traditionally male careers.

“The camaraderie is amazing,” Degidio said. “We’ve been going to the national competition for three years — we went to Toronto and Anaheim and now Denver — and we’ve been building a rela-

tionship with these other women.”

“Everyone is just so encouraging and supportive, even though you’re competing against them for a pretty big title,” Messer said. “You all have the same feelings of nervousness and excitement.”

While the team is sponsored by Tacoma Water, the women said their union’s support has also been invaluable.

“I really want to give a shout-out to our local,” said Pielak, a past member of Local 483’s bargaining committee. “Three years ago, after COVID, they really helped us get the ball rolling again, and they’ve been a big part of our success.”

Allen, himself a journeyman lineman, said many people don’t realize that water workers are part of the IBEW.

“When people hear ‘IBEW,’ all they think about is electricity,” he said. “But our water workers take extreme pride in what they do.

“Something one of them said years ago really drove it home for me: A person can live without electricity. But you can’t live without water. And when that clean, drinkable water comes out of your tap, you have workers like our members to thank for it.” ■