

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## FROM THE OFFICERS

# Growing Power Everywhere



**Kenneth W. Cooper**  
International President

**F**rom its earliest days, the IBEW has committed to organize every sector of the electrical industry. Not just those workers who wired up buildings or strung lines, but also those who made the machinery and connected our communities using new technology made possible by electrification.

From Bell phone operators to workers who produce the transformers, motors and generators that revolutionized North America's economy, the IBEW has been proud to represent workers outside our construction and utility industries.

That's why manufacturing, telecommunication, broadcast, government and railroad have been so crucial to the strength of our union.

At the IBEW's membership peak in the 1970s, we had well over 1 million members, and that's because we weren't just strong in construction and utilities but in our other represented industries as well.

But we know what happened next.

Deregulation, offshoring and plain old union busting decimated middle-class jobs in these industries. Factories closed, railroads consolidated, and telecom companies shed their workforce. We lost members every year.

But for the first time in many years, we have had the chance to aggressively build back IBEW power in these industries.

Despite a recent slowdown in manufacturing due to aggressive tariffs imposed by the current administration, the future of North American factory work looks strong. This is spurred by the last administration's investments in clean energy, semiconductors and battery technology, all while companies look to secure their supply lines by reshoring production.

In telecommunications, the buildout of 5G networks and the continued drive to connect every community to broadband means a strong jobs outlook there, as well.

Despite openly hostile employers and threats from new technology like AI, our government, railroad and broadcast branches also have opportunities to grow. But like any opportunity, it's on us to seize it.

The challenges we face are stiff. Especially in the United States, it's all too easy for corporations to stall any effort to organize, regardless of what the law says. It will take tenacity and patience. But that's something the IBEW enjoys in spades.

Many of our professional and industrial locals lack the resources our construction locals have. But what they do have are boots on the ground, and that's the most powerful organizing resource, because when workers stand together, they win.

Last year, we took on one of the most anti-union companies and successfully organized a shop of Xfinity maintenance technicians in Massachusetts. And IBEW members helped organize over 200 Siemens factory workers in right-to-work Texas.

In broadcast, we've been successful organizing freelancers operating wireless transmission technology and working for the PGA Tour.

In other words, we can win if we're willing to work for it.

That's why the Membership Development Department is rolling out new initiatives to further boost professional and industrial organizing and ensure that every P&I local is getting the resources and support it needs to grow.

I've said many times that my goal as president is to reach 1 million members before the decade is out.

We won't reach that target without rebuilding our strength in these critical industries.

These branches will be high on the agenda at our convention this September. I look forward to meeting with P&I leaders in person as we chart a path to powering a bright future for every IBEW worker. ■

## A Choice for Every State

**M**y home state of Illinois recently made an important choice.

As we build out the power generation of the future, we can do it in a way that helps working people or we can do it the wrong way.

This January, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act because we don't have to make a choice between meeting the needs of a power-hungry economy and meeting the needs of working families.

The new law lifts the moratorium on new nuclear. It lowers the minimum threshold for power project PLAs from 5 megawatts to 3. It slams shut loopholes that allowed developers to pretend one project was two or three to get around labor protections. It streamlines siting and permitting and accelerated grid modernization. And it puts union workers at the heart of all of it.

You can read more about this law on page 6 of this issue.

For all of the victories this means for working families, electricity customers and grid reliability in Illinois, it didn't have to come down to this.

There was a national vision for energy in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. We didn't love all of it, but it was a comprehensive plan that put union labor at its heart. President Trump and the Republican Congress tore it up and didn't replace it.

I wish we didn't have to set national energy policy state by state, but choosing chaos by having no plan is just reckless.

We have built an exceptional relationship with the political leadership in Springfield. The executive and the Legislature listen to us and take our concerns and our proposals seriously. The results are there to see.

It isn't going to work out so well everywhere, though.

Texas so far is choosing the fastest and cheapest way to get more electrons on the grid. It is choosing renewables matched with batteries built by throngs of low-paid, ill-trained, disempowered nonunion workers.

It's a tragedy for them and a future Illinois was determined to avoid.

In both states, developers are building new power generation. In Illinois, working families will have the money to pay their utility bills.

Your state could choose to fill the federal void with pro-worker energy policy, too.

I am not suggesting that Illinois' specific solution will be right for your state. I am affirming that solutions with labor at the center are both possible and necessary. We can improve the reliability of the grid, increase generation and pay a wage that supports thriving communities.

And if you are not already, you should be waving that banner in your state. ■



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

## My IBEW STORY

**Corey Goldberg**, apprentice wireman  
Bakersfield, Calif., Local 428



“Growing up, my father was a tradesman (HVAC) who didn't want my brothers and me working that life, so he never taught us to use tools or even basic handyman skills.

After graduating high school, I attended Fresno State University and quickly realized college was not for me. I bounced around jobs until I settled into the medical field, where I worked for 12 years in multiple specialties, from a medical assistant in endocrinology and pediatrics to a manager of an urgent care clinic. I attempted to advance my career by completing a two-year program to become an ultrasound technician. Unfortunately, I completed that program right as COVID-19 hit.

I didn't know what the IBEW was until I talked to my brother-in-law, a journeyman wireman for Local 428. I decided I was much better suited to be an electrician.

When I applied to the IBEW apprenticeship, I was working as a medical assistant at a pediatric office where I'd been working for more than for 4 years. After a few months, I got an email saying: 'We're looking for unindentured apprentices to install batteries for a BESS project in Mojave with pay starting at \$21 an hour. Please apply ASAP for calls being filled Monday.'

I immediately called my wife because I was uneasy giving up a career for something that had no guarantee of being permanent. She said, 'At the end of the day, if it doesn't work out, you have experience in the medical field — you'll be able to find another job.' I returned from lunch, gave my resignation and started as an unindentured apprentice four days later. I became an indentured apprentice that October, and I have just completed my fourth year of apprenticeship.

The first project I worked on was for Mortenson out in Mojave at one of the biggest solar and battery storage projects in the country. I was there for a little more than two years, performing various tasks from battery install to underground and wire pulling. I had the opportunity to learn medium-voltage splicing, which is still one of the most interesting things I have learned throughout my apprenticeship.

The IBEW has benefited me and my family in so many ways. I was never involved in events like I am now. I run both softball teams for our local, attend every union meeting, contribute and volunteer anywhere I can. One of my favorite local events is our annual car show and barbecue competition. Even though our barbecue judges don't seem to have any tastebuds, it's a great time to bond with brothers and family alike. We have a tight-knit group that gets together with our families to celebrate holidays and events. We've grown so close that my 7-year-old and 4-year-old boys call one of my journeymen their 'Tio Rocky.' Creating life-long bonds for myself and my family has been amazing.

We're surrounded by so much political fighting and see so many negative stories on a daily basis. I want to show that the personal connections we make with one another outside of our jobs is one of the biggest positives about joining the IBEW.”

Share your story at [ibew.org/MyIBEWStory](https://ibew.org/MyIBEWStory)

**THE METER**

\$13.4 BILLION

The savings for Illinois energy customers over the next 20 years thanks to the recently signed Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act, according to the Illinois Power Agency.

See “Illinois Passes Model State Energy Reform” on page 6.

## THE 2025 IBEW PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

## FULL SPECTRUM



## FIRST PLACE (\$1,000)

Natalie Anaya | Los Angeles Local 11

An underground tunnel isn't an ideal place to take a photo, but first-place winner Natalie Anaya found the beauty in the darkness. "I think it was a mix of the perfect amount of lighting and a little bit of luck," the Los Angeles Local 11 journeyman wireman said. While this isn't her first time winning, it's still a humbling experience, she said. "I'm so grateful that my photo connected with people and was appreciated."

This photo features the underground scenery of Los Angeles' Metro system. For Anaya, it represents the work she's done on the subway for years. When she started in this spot, it was just dirt. Since then, the journeyman inside wireman has done everything from welding to pulling wire to putting up panels to installing devices. Using her iPhone's timer, Anaya's photo captures a "hard day's work in such a cool part of the jobsite." She added: "Few people worked in the actual tunnels. I was fortunate enough to be one of them."

A member since 2018, Anaya's advice to others is to take the time to document their journey. "Capture real-time experiences, successes and struggles. Then you can always look back and reflect on the progress." She also hopes that her photo underscores the hard work that women do — and do well — in an industry that hasn't always welcomed them. "When I see this picture, I see a woman who shows up every day knowing she belongs there. I see a woman with pride, proving that competence isn't gendered and that representation matters for the next generation. I see a woman who knows her worth, trusts her skills and doesn't let a male-dominated space define her limits."

**L**ast year broke another record for the number of submissions to the IBEW Photo Contest. But the quality and variety of images also set 2025 apart.

Sure, cameras on mobile phones are improving, but that doesn't explain the extraordinary number of beautiful, mysterious and compelling submissions.

The membership took to heart lessons from past winners. They moved in closer. They showed us the faces of brothers and sisters hard at work. These photos brought us to places we've never seen. We were taken a dozen miles out to sea and walked deep beneath Alaskan lakes. We were shrouded in steam and showered with sparks, in the clouds, underground, in the middle of the night and under the noon sun. We even cast reflections in the glow of the northern lights.

After 14 finalists were chosen by the Media Department, the images were put to a public vote. You selected Natalie Anaya from Los Angeles Local 11 for first place, giving her a \$1,000 prize. In second place, winning \$750, was David Pardo of Detroit Local 58. Minneapolis Local 160 member Nicole Curtis took third place and \$500.

In addition, one photo from each branch of IBEW work — broadcast, government, inside construction, manufacturing, outside construction, railroad, telecommunications and utility — was awarded a \$200 honorable mention prize.

Be on the lookout for the announcement of the 2026 IBEW Photo Contest this spring!

*Rules for entering the 2026 contest will be advertised in upcoming issues of The Electrical Worker, as well as on our website and social media.*

"I see a woman who knows her worth, trusts her skills and doesn't let a male-dominated space define her limits."

THE 2025 IBEW PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS *continued on page 4*

THE 2025 IBEW PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

# FULL SPECTRUM



## SECOND PLACE (\$750)

**David Pardo** | Detroit Local 58

David Pardo, a 40-year member of Detroit Local 58, was pleasantly surprised on winning second place, especially since it was his first time entering the contest. “It feels great. I’m grateful for even being considered,” he said. “I’m sure it will bring smiles to my local.”

Pardo captured what was a typical day for him and fellow member Larry Grassel, but not one that most people envision when they think about the work that journeymen wiremen do. “I think the average person thinks we only do switches and plugs. Or the often-asked-for ceiling fan,” Pardo said. “It’s surreal what we do. It’s also inherently dangerous. It’s not a job for everyone.”

“It’s surreal what we do. It’s also inherently dangerous. It’s not a job for everyone.”



## THIRD PLACE (\$500)

**Nicole Curtis** | Minneapolis Local 160

Nicole Curtis never gets tired of seeing the northern lights blaze across the night sky over Minnesota.

“It’s the blessing of a night shift and outside rounds,” said Curtis, a member of Minneapolis Local 160. Her submission to the 2025 IBEW Photo Contest featured her workplace of the past seven years, Xcel Energy’s Sherburne County Generating Station, against a dramatic aurora borealis backdrop.

The image, Curtis’ first-ever submission to the Photo Contest, placed third among vote-getters in the 2025 competition, earning her a \$500 prize.

“I’m very excited to hear it,” she said, noting that she was initially shocked to learn how well her submission performed.

“I thought I had a pretty good picture, and then I saw some of the others,” she said. “There were some amazing entries.”

On outside rounds last summer, Curtis was driving up a road to the facility’s holding pond.

“I saw the lights reflecting off the pond,” she said, “and I was like, ‘That’s actually really cool.’”

Curtis switched off her vehicle and quickly framed a shot that also captured a dazzling northern lights display.

“I can put my iPhone on night mode, so the shutter stays open longer, and it just grabs it,” she said.

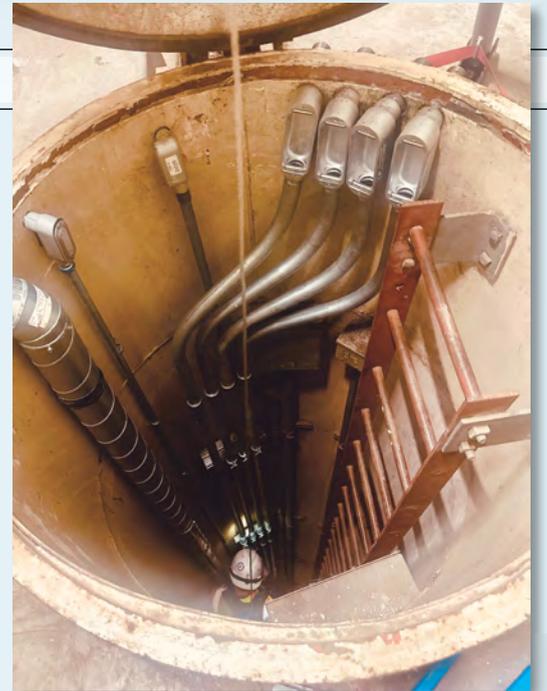
“I saw the lights reflecting off the pond, and I was like, ‘That’s actually really cool.’”

HONORABLE MENTIONS (\$200 EACH)



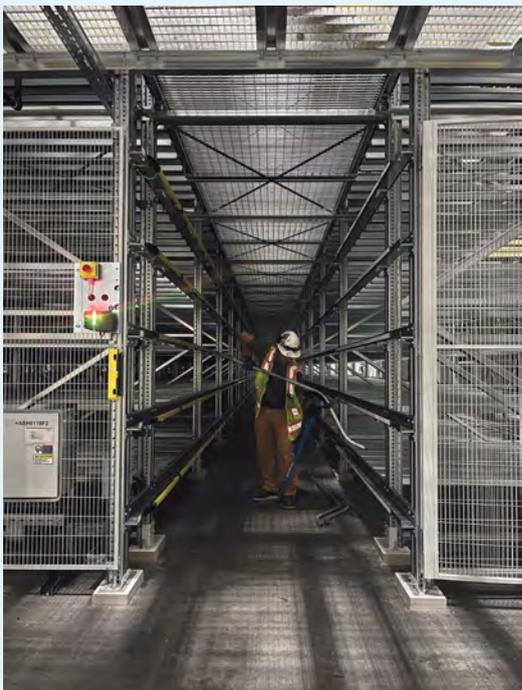
BROADCAST & RECORDING

**Donald Aros** | Washington, D.C., Local 1200



GOVERNMENT

**Amador Velazquez de la Cruz** | San Mateo, Calif., Local 617



INSIDE CONSTRUCTION

**Luis Barrera** | Dublin, Calif., Local 595



OUTSIDE CONSTRUCTION

**Hunter Richardson** | St. Louis Local 2



MANUFACTURING

**Armand Lee** | Milwaukee Local 2150



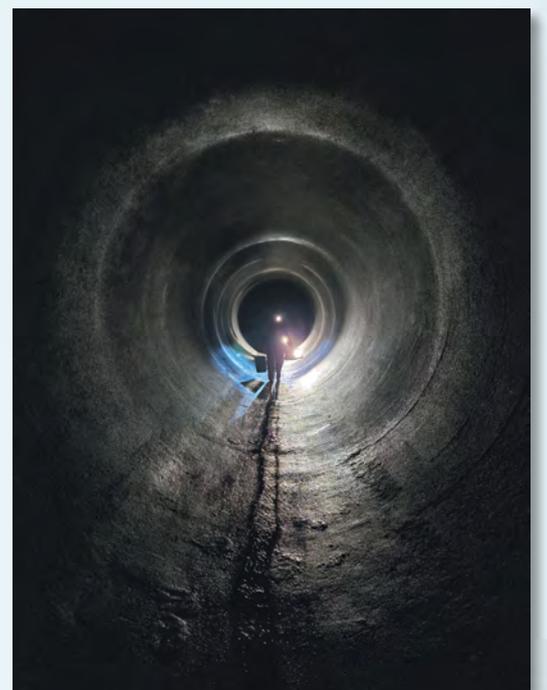
RAILROAD

**Joseph Stephens** | Altoona, Pa., Local 2273



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Silva McDermott** | Chicago Local 134



UTILITY

**Nathan Stewart** | Little Rock, Ark., Local 295

## How States Can Step Up

# Illinois Passes Labor-Friendly Energy Reform

**W**ith Sixth District International Vice President Michael Clemmons at his side, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker signed a landmark energy bill revoking the state's nuclear moratorium and expanding project labor agreements at the heart of renewable generation and storage.

The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act increases state support for renewables, storage and advanced grid technologies while increasing the number of projects that require project labor agreements.

"If the Inflation Reduction Act was still in place, we wouldn't have to be doing this. If there was an all-in approach and a labor-friendly government in D.C., we wouldn't have to do this. Not having any policy at the federal level makes it very difficult, but our job is to look out for our members and keep them working," Clemmons said. "It's crazy that we don't have policy continuity between states anymore, but this is a pretty good model for how states can find a deal that works for labor, consumers, utilities and clean energy types."

**"[The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act] is a pretty good model for how states can find a deal that works for labor, consumers, utilities and clean energy types."**

— Sixth District International Vice President Michael Clemmons

The CRGA is largely an update of the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, which has added 6.5 GW of renewable energy to the Illinois grid.

"We wanted to fix the problems in the original bill, but we also need to respond to a world with hyperscale data centers driving exponential load growth," Clemmons said.

Even though data centers are so far a small part of the state's load, consumer rates already went up 20% to 25% in 2025, and the power futures auction price in the PJM regional transmission organization for 2026 rose 73%.

Clemmons said the IBEW's highest priorities were strengthening labor protections and freeing the state to add to its largest-in-the-nation nuclear fleet.

"We lifted a moratorium on small modular reactors less than 300 megawatts last year, but now we can build the full-size 1,000-megawatt reactors as well," Clemmons said. "We have the largest nuclear construction, maintenance and operations workforce in the country in Illinois. We can do big things."

One of the "problems" fixed in the CRGA was the 5-MW lower limit on solar projects requiring a PLA. Developers were building projects on a contiguous lot using the same substation, but they were calling them "co-located" 4-MW projects.

"We eliminated that," Clemmons said.

While they were at it, they also reduced that 5-MW lower limit to 3 MW.



Sixth District International Vice President (behind Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, seated) was invited to the signing of the state's landmark energy bill which expands generation construction and improves labor standards.

One of the challenges of increasing renewable generation is the intermittency. The CRGA addresses that with 3 GW of four-hour battery storage added to the grid by 2030, all built under project labor agreements.

The IBEW won a significant victory in

transmission reform, as well, moving future decisions about siting out of the state Legislature and into the less partisan Illinois Commerce Commission.

The law also pushes forward with grid modernization programs that will create significant work for IBEW utility members. The CRGA

mandates the creation of "virtual power plants" that will harness the flexibility of smart thermostats, solar panels, small batteries and electric vehicles to shed load during peak demand, along with time-of-use pricing that will reward consumers who shift their power use to low-demand times with lower prices.

All of that flexibility requires a grid covered in sensors and "grid-enhancing technologies," or GETs, that will be installed and maintained by IBEW utility members.

"We pushed for the GETs because most of all new generation is renewable and distributed, scattered and intermittent. Yes, the grid upgrades are work for us, but it will also improve reliability and reduce rates," Clemmons said.

An Illinois Power Agency study found that the CRGA will save Illinois energy customers \$13.4 billion over the next two decades.

Clemmons said the Trump administration's revocation of the IRA is a disaster for IBEW members nationwide, even if they may not be feeling it yet. Production tax credits for new construction end this summer.

"Most of the pain from canceled projects will be postponed until after the midterm elections this year, but long-term planning meetings with developers have completely dried up. Everyone wants to get a shovel in the ground now before the federal tax credits end, but then what? A state-by-state plan is how we have to do it," he said. ■

## Local 1049 Shows Community Spirit, Then Saves the Day



**N**early 40 members of Long Island, N.Y., Local 1049 volunteered at a local food pantry Thanksgiving week, with large turnouts from the local branches of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus and the Women's Committee.

Volunteers sorted, packed and distributed nearly 200 Thanksgiving dinners for Pronto, a nonprofit serving central Long Island.

Later, the local came to the rescue.

Pronto had scheduled a dedication ceremony for a new mural at its building after the Thanksgiving volunteer event, but a tree came down in the garden. A Local 1049-represented tree trimming crew from National Grid swooped in, removed the trunk and branches, and left the garden ready for a party that went off without a hitch. ■

**Note:** For more, see the Local Lines entry on page 15.

# PROFILES IN POWER

Profiles in Power is an occasional series of articles highlighting IBEW members who serve their communities in public office and what they do with that power.



## Nebraska Member Brings Union Power to City Council

Labor involvement and political activism were core tenets of Danny Begley's childhood in Omaha, Neb. An early memory is helping his father — a union postal carrier — planting signs for candidates his local supported in yards around the city.

"At the time, you don't understand what you are doing," Begley said. "But you learn the importance of grassroots political organizing."

Today, Begley still represents the same neighborhood he grew up in. He joined Omaha Local 1483 in 1990 after being hired to be a meter reader for Omaha Public Power District, following his parents into the union movement. (His mother was a union-represented history teacher.) He remained active in politics, especially for candidates who supported working families.

active in Local 1483 — which represents public sector employees, most notably at OPPD — from the start and now serves as its vice president, all while continuing to hold a full-time job at the company as a claims representative.

The idea of being a candidate himself, however, wasn't given much consideration.

"I never thought I would run," he said. "I just kind of evolved into it."

It started to change in 2019, in an Omaha Menard's store. Begley was shopping when he got a call from former Local 1483 President CJ King and Mike McDonnell, the president of the Omaha Federation of Labor and then a member of Nebraska Legislature.

They asked Begley to apply for a vacant position on the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District board, which manages natural resources in a six-county area of southeast Nebraska.

"It's a taxing authority that makes decisions that affect our members," said King, now a retired international representative who serves as chairman of the Douglas County Democratic Party. "We wanted to have a good labor person on there, and we knew he would be that."

Begley agreed to do so. The board approved his appointment, and he ran unopposed and reelected by his constituents in 2020.

He didn't seriously consider a run for City Council until labor and union leaders across Omaha encouraged him to do so when his district seat came open in 2021.

They recognized not just his support for working people but also his deep roots in the community.

"Truthfully, I thought it was a little out of my league," Begley said. "It was a great and humble feeling having everyone in organized labor in my corner when I got in the race."

"All the connections I had made over years, helping other candidates, they knew I was a union guy from the House of Labor," he added. "It really energized me."

Omaha's City Council elections are nonpartisan, and the top two candidates from the primary advance to the general election.

Begley was elected to be the city's Third District council member with nearly 52% of the vote. Four years later, he was reelected with nearly 63%.

"Danny's family has public service in its blood," said Local 1483 President Mark Salerno, a longtime friend. "That's a good start. Being in the public sector, that is our lifeblood. We need political figures sympathetic to our interest. He's aware of that."



Omaha City Council President and Local 1483 Vice President Danny Begley (center) standing in solidarity with United Auto Worker members on strike at the John Deere Dubuque (Iowa) Works plant in 2021.



"I learned from my mom the importance of studying the history of unions and that you have to step up and engage."

— Danny Begley, Omaha, Neb., Local 143 vice president and Omaha City Council president

Now, he's supporting working families himself in a big way. Begley was elected to the Omaha City Council in 2021 and, after being reelected last year, serves as president of the seven-member council in Nebraska's largest city, with about 490,000 residents.

"Understanding the importance of politics and unions and understanding there are people out there who want to take away our collective bargaining rights, I felt a calling from what I learned," he said. "I learned from my mom the importance of studying the history of unions and that you have to step up and engage."

Engagement is something Begley has been doing for decades. He was

Begley worked closely with fellow council members on a downtown infrastructure plan that will bring public streetcar service to Omaha when finished. He's also worked closely in the battle to update the city's electrical code.

The state Legislature rolled the codes back to appeal to corporate interests, even though trade unions warned of safety risks. In response, the Omaha council moved to strengthen the city's own codes.

An ordinance to do so was vetoed by the previous mayor, but Begley reintroduced it after the election of new mayor John Ewing. The council approved it by a 4-3 vote and Ewing signed it into law.

That issue has sent Begley to speak in front of some potentially unfriendly organizations, such as the anti-union Metro Omaha Builders Association. Begley reminded the group that the IBEW was founded because of unsafe working conditions in the fledgling electrical industry in 1891. The commitment remains, and rolling back the codes was an attack on that.

"That was probably one of my proudest moments," he said. "I respectfully stood up for the safety and rights of workers and my constituents' families and reminded them the IBEW represents the safety of everyone because we set the standard in the industry."

As council president, he runs meetings and is responsible for appointing his six other colleagues to various committees.

"It's rewarding because the role of a council member is problem solving," he said. "It's conflict resolution. You're dealing with different entities of people with different views, different ideas, and you're working to find a solution that is good for the community."

What would he tell IBEW members



Begley and his brother, Jim, left, with fellow IBEW member and then-Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, now executive director of the National Hockey League Players' Association.

and retirees from across North America considering a run at elected office if they called for advice?

"I would love to take that call," he said. "The IBEW has promoted our members getting involved in politics at all the conferences and conventions I've attended since I've been active, whether it was under President (Edwin D.) Hill, President (Lonnie R.) Stephenson and now President (Kenneth W.) Cooper."

"I had that ingrained by Mom and Dad early, so I had a leg up. But I would tell them: 'You are a proud union member and, as our presidents have laid out, why not you? You represent the dignity of workers through collective bargaining. You understand how our forefathers made sacrifices to get what we have today. There is nothing more powerful for union people than having someone in office who lived it.'"

Begley proudly notes that he is not the first member of his family to serve as a public official.

In 1988, Mary Kay Begley, his mother, became the first woman ever elected to Omaha's Metropolitan Utilities District board. She was reelected every six years until her death in 2010 and was instrumental in establishing a fund to which customers could donate to aid friends and neighbors struggling to pay their utility bills.

Jim Begley, one of Danny's three brothers, now serves on that board and is director of the William Brennan Institute for Labor Studies at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

"My dad reminded us we had a roof over our head, dinner on the table and good health care because he was a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers," he said.

"We did not travel much, but he was able to take a Friday off sometimes and we would go to Kansas City for the weekend to catch some Royals games. I've been unbelievably blessed," he added. ■



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# St. Louis Member Who ‘Doesn’t Stop’ Earns IBEW Scholarship

**B**rittany Winston comes off as a confident IBEW sister who isn't going to let obstacles on the job intimidate her.

She laughs out loud when that description is mentioned, especially as it relates to her journey from a mailroom job at Ameren to a substation traveling operator for the company.

“Mentally, I would be intimidated all the time,” said Winston, a member of St. Louis Local 1439. “But you can't show that. You must be completely and fully engulfed in your work, especially in a high-voltage job like this.”

Winston looks to be on her way to being a leader in her union after receiving the Founders Scholarship, which is awarded annually through a competitive process to members working on an associate, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in an area of study that furthers the electrical industry. It is worth up to \$24,000 over an eight-year period.

In addition to her responsibilities at Ameren and Local 1439, Winston is working toward bachelor's and master's degrees in communications at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, which she hopes to use to raise more awareness about opportunities for women in the utility industry.

“She doesn't stop,” said Local 1439 Business Agent Eric Wilkinson, a close friend and mentor. “She wants to keep going. She's going to keep doing things for her betterment.”

In turn, Winston, 36, hopes she's serving as a role model and mentor herself. She's usually the only woman of color on the job when she reports to work in the physically demanding role of substation operator, which hasn't attracted many women in the past regardless of ethnic background.

She's also active in the St. Louis chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, which includes members of Locals 1, 1439 and 1455 and nearby Collinsville, Ill., Local 309.

“My biggest goal is to show women we can do this,” Winston said. “We can not only be mothers and daughters, but we can work and mend spaces.”

Count Local 1439 Business Manager Jeremy Pour among the impressed.

“Brittany is very self-motivated,” said Pour, who noted that only about 30 of Local 1439's more than 800 active members are women. “She wants to excel, she wants to make herself better, so she's not afraid of taking chances and getting what she wants.”

The fact she's gotten this far is a testament to that drive.

Winston attended community college briefly before landing the mailroom job in 2008 at Ameren, the St. Louis-based energy giant that provides power across most of Missouri and southern Illinois.

She joined St. Louis Local 1455, which represents clerical and office staff at the company. Her grandfather had been a longtime member of the



*St. Louis Local 1439 member Brittany Winston is a recipient of the IBEW's Founders Scholarship. Winston is a substation traveling operator for Ameren, where she uses an extender (bottom left) to work on hard-to-reach high-voltage equipment. She attends the University of Missouri-St. Louis.*



Winston remembers being assigned to a coal plant during the evaluation period for her job while taking AC/DC classes two nights a week. There were about 10 people in her class, and Winston was the only woman. When it ended, she was one of only two of the original 10 who had successfully completed it, she said.

“I wish I would have done it sooner,” Winston said. “It was a great move for my career and financially. It challenged and mentally stimulated me. I got to know different people and see a blue-collar side of work.”

“I was very surprised with myself,” she said. “When I stepped out and stopped limiting myself, I grasped onto the work pretty quickly. But I had a great group of people who helped and guided me. If I was thinking about something one way, they might encourage me to think about it another way.”

Serving as a substation traveling operator isn't as physically demanding as being a lineman, but it's not for the faint-hearted. Employees like Winston often use a pole that extends to 45 feet to safely disconnect and connect high-voltage equipment. They often are sent into dark underground locations to inspect switches.

Whether above or below ground, work areas sometimes are not easily accessible in areas with aging infrastructure. Safety is always a priority.

Substation operator is swing-shift work at Ameren and most utilities. Winston is thankful for internet classes that allow her to continue work toward her degrees at Missouri-St. Louis.

“It takes the right person to accept the demands of that job,” Pour said.

Winston was especially busy after a tornado struck north St. Louis and nearby areas last May. But even in normal times, she can travel from in and around St. Louis more than 100 miles into southeast Missouri, where Ameren also provides service.

“It's very stressful at times,” she said. “If my job is not done correctly or I am operating with the wrong piece of equipment, I can drop customers or prevent someone else from doing their jobs correctly.”

“But I love it,” she added. “Every day is something different.” Pour, a 25-year IBEW member and business manager since 2019, noted that Winston is the first Local 1439 member to win the Founders Scholarship.

“It's a big achievement for her and a big achievement for our local,” he said. “She is a trailblazer.”

Wilkinson, for one, believes Winston can become a leader in the IBEW if she chooses.

“She's a people person,” he said. “With the skills that she has, and wanting to know and learn even more, if she sticks with the IBEW, she can go anywhere.”

Winston attended the EWMC Conference in St. Louis in 2022 and was inspired by the stories she heard from IBEW sisters. She isn't ruling out pursuing a leadership role in the future.

But for now, her immediate goal is to buy a house for her and the woman she calls her hero and biggest supporter: her mother, Tracy Oary, who suffered a serious brain injury in 2018 but continues to progress and is now doing well.

She also wants to continue working with at-risk youth, including young people of color who have not been exposed to a career in the trades or the utility industry.

“The IBEW for me is essential because of what it says: brotherhood,” Winston said. “It's a group of people that has taken me and won't allow me to fail. Even when I feel weak, my groundmen and union lift me up. We're not going to let each other fail.”

The IBEW has awarded the Founders Scholarship annually since 1966. It is open to members from all branches who have been in good standing for four years or a charter member of a local union. It is for members only. Children, spouses and dependents are not eligible.

*More information is available at [ibew.org/foundersscholarship](http://ibew.org/foundersscholarship). A notice will be posted at [ibew.org](http://ibew.org) when applications are next open. ■*

# NORTH OF 49° | AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

## B.C. Local Earns Major Wage Wins for Shipyard Workers

**V**ictoria, British Columbia, Local 230 shipyard members have a lot to celebrate as they emerge from arbitration with a substantial pay raise, putting them on par with their East Coast counterparts.

“Local 230’s success highlights the value of strategic risk-taking in tough negotiations,” First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk said. “It’s a reminder that thinking outside the box and remaining persistent can deliver real results.”

It took nearly two years from the start of negotiations to receive the results of the arbitration. By the end, however, the members secured a 28% increase plus substantial retroactive pay.

“The arbitration came about when the bargaining went sideways,” Local 230 Business Manager Phil Venoit said, noting that other federal public sector unions were negotiating an increase of about 12% over four years. “That simply wasn’t enough for our craft trades workers who maintain the Canadian surface and sub-surface naval fleet on the Pacific.”

Roughly 200 Local 230 members fall under the agreement and belong to the Dockyard Trades and Labour Council, a contingent of mostly international unions that operates like Metal Trades Councils do in the United States.

Jon Gable, an electronics technician, serves as treasurer of the council and participated in the negotiations. He credits a tour of Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton, which is the West Coast counterpart to the East Coast’s FMF Cape Scott, for demonstrating the comparability between the two coasts.

“The employer and arbitration panel gained a lot of insight into what we do and how unique the work is,” Gable said of the tour.

The disparity in pay despite the similarity of the jobs came about in part because of different bargaining outcomes. Prior to bargaining, the union has to choose between binding arbitration and striking in the event of an impasse. The East Coast cohort had been successful with arbitration, whereas the West Coast had chosen striking. This time Local 230 members chose arbitration in the hope that, by demonstrating how the coasts are essentially mirror images of each other that the pay should also be equal.

While the majority of the bargaining process moved at a snail’s pace, the final days progressed quickly, said Jeremy Switzer, an electrical technician who also serves as a steward and Marine Sector chair.

“It was very fast-paced,” Switzer

said. “At one point, I realized that the discussions were building momentum. I looked over at Phil (Venoit) and (IBEW Delegate) Daniel Nelson, and thought: ‘Is this really happening? Are we really going to end up with this massive increase in our wages?’”

The need for arbitration this time had roots in previous bargaining rounds dating to 2012, Venoit said, when a negotiated 5.2% raise was rescinded through Progressive Conservative legislation just four months after the agreement was made.

“The resentment never really went away,” Venoit said. “It held thick in the minds of members who felt betrayed by their employer and the federal government, and dismissed in subsequent rounds of bargaining.”

The perseverance of Local 230 paid off. Not only did it receive the standard increases enjoyed by the balance of the federal civil service, but the arbitrator also noted the injustice that was

yanked away in 2012.

“The arbitrator saw the bias and disparity of basic pay equity between the East Coast and the West Coast workforce, who work on the same vessels and perform the same work with the same credentials,” Venoit said.

For Gable and Switzer, the process was a chance to positively affect their union siblings’ quality of life.

“It was exciting to be part of such an important agreement that really made a difference in the members’ livelihood,” Switzer said. “It was a massive win, and it brought me so much joy to be able to share it with my IBEW brothers and sisters.” ■



Local 230 shipyard members in British Columbia won a 28% pay raise and retroactive pay in arbitration.

### Share your IBEW news!

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

## Le local 230 gagne pour les chantiers navals en C.-B.

**À** l’issue de l’arbitrage, une augmentation salariale importante permet maintenant aux membres de la section locale 230 à Victoria en Colombie-Britannique de toucher une rémunération comparable à celle de leurs homologues de la côte Est.

« Le succès du local 230 met en évidence la valeur de la prise de risque stratégique lors des négociations difficiles », déclare le vice-président international, Russ Shewchuk. « Il s’agit d’un rappel que sortir des sentiers battus et persévérer peut donner de réels résultats. »

Il a fallu près de deux ans depuis le début des négociations pour avoir les résultats de l’arbitrage et vers la fin, les membres ont obtenu une augmentation de 28 % ainsi qu’une importante rémunération rétroactive.

« L’arbitrage a eu lieu après que les négociations ont dérapé », mentionne Phil Venoit, le gérant d’affaires du local 230. Il précise que les autres syndicats du secteur public fédéral négociaient une augmentation d’environ 12 % sur quatre ans. « Ce n’était tout simplement pas assez pour la main-d’œuvre spécialisée qui entretient la flotte navale canadienne de surface et sous-marine dans le Pacifique. »

Environ 200 membres du local 230 sont concernés par cette convention collective et appartiennent au Dockyard Trades and Labour Council, un regroupement composé principalement de syndicats internationaux qui fonctionne comme les Metal Trades Councils aux États-Unis.

Jon Gable, un technicien en électronique, occupe la fonction de trésorier du conseil et a participé aux négociations. Selon lui, la visite d’une installation de Maintenance de la Flotte Cap-Breton, l’équivalent sur la côte Ouest du IMF Cape Scott sur la côte Est, a démontré que les deux côtes sont comparables.

« L’employeur et le comité d’arbitrage ont beaucoup appris sur notre travail et de son caractère unique », mentionne M. Gable à propos de la visite.

« La disparité salariale malgré la similitude des emplois s’explique en partie par les différents résultats des négociations. Avant les négociations, le syndicat devait choisir entre l’arbitrage exécutoire et le recours à la grève en cas d’impasse. La cohorte de la côte Est a eu du succès en arbitrage, tandis que la côte Ouest avait choisi la grève. Cette fois-ci les membres du local 230 ont opté pour l’arbitrage en faisant valoir que, puisque les deux côtes se reflètent mutuellement, les salaires devraient être équivalents.

Malgré un processus de négociation qui avançait majoritairement en pas de tortue, les derniers jours ont filé à toute vitesse, formule Jeremy Switzer, un technicien en électronique qui occupe aussi les postes de délégué syndical et président de l’unité de la marine du local.

« Ça s’est déroulé à une vitesse fulgurante », prononce M. Switzer. « À un moment donné, j’ai réalisé que les discussions prenaient de l’ampleur. J’ai regardé Phil (Venoit) et Daniel Nelson (délégué syndical de la FIOE) et j’ai pensé : “Est-ce que c’est réel? Allons-nous réellement finir avec une augmentation salariale massive?” »

La nécessité d’un arbitrage cette fois-ci trouvait son origine dans les cycles de négociations précédents remontant à 2012, déclare M. Venoit, lorsqu’une augmentation de 5,2 % avait été annulée par une loi du Parti progressiste-conservateur quatre mois seulement après la signature de la convention collective.

« J’ai toujours cette rancœur », formule M. Venoit. « Ça l’a longtemps marqué les membres qui se sont sentis

trahis par leur employeur et le gouvernement fédéral et rejetés lors des cycles de négociations subséquentes. »

La persévérance du local 230 a porté ses fruits. Non seulement que le local bénéficie d’une augmentation standard accordée à l’ensemble de la fonction publique fédérale, mais l’arbitre a aussi reconnu l’injustice de 2012.

« L’arbitre a constaté l’inégalité et la disparité entre l’équité salariale de base des travailleurs de la côte Est et ceux de la côte Ouest, bien qu’ils travaillent sur les mêmes navires et accomplissent les mêmes tâches avec les mêmes qualifications », mentionne M. Venoit.

Pour M. Gable et M. Switzer, ce processus a été une occasion d’avoir un effet positif sur la qualité de vie de leurs collègues et confrères.

« C’était génial de faire partie d’une convention collective aussi importante qui a fait une grande différence dans la vie des membres », dit M. Switzer. « Il s’agit d’une victoire énorme et j’étais rempli de joie de pouvoir la partager avec mes collègues et mes confrères de la FIOE. » ■

### 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](mailto:Shaina_Hardie@ibew.org).

# CIRCUITS

## Local 1 Retirees Return to the Tools to Upgrade Historic Shrine

When a historic shrine in rural Missouri lost the funding it needed to cover electrical upgrades, IBEW volunteers from St. Louis Local 1's Retirees' Club eagerly stepped up to help.

"They helped prove that the drive to be of service in the IBEW doesn't end with retirement," said Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacobs.

The Black Madonna Shrine near Pacific, Mo., was built by Bronislaus Luszc, who was part of a delegation of Franciscan missionaries invited in 1927 by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis to establish and operate a nursing home.

Between 1937 and his death in 1960, Brother Bronislaus constructed an open-air pavilion chapel near the home, as well as several grottoes around the property dedicated to historic Christian figures.

"I've heard about the shrine my whole life," said Local 1 Retirees' Club President Matt Lampe. "He did it all himself. All these stone walls, shrines — everything. It's really cool."

Above the chapel's altar is the centerpiece of the shrine, a depiction of a centuries-old Polish icon of Mary. The icon is called "The Black Madonna" because its varnish has gradually darkened over the years, giving Mary's skin a deep chestnut color.

"People from all across the country, when they're coming through St. Louis, they make it a point to stop and visit the shrine," said project leader Jim Schario, a Local 1 retiree and active Catholic.

Although the shrine "is way off any highway," Lampe said, it rapidly became a center of religious devotion and a tourist attraction.

"When I was 11 or 12 years old, we went on one of our camporees out there," Schario said.

Last year, when Schario learned that the shrine needed some electrical work, the 71-year-old journeyman wireman, who retired in 2013 after nearly 40 years of active IBEW membership, spoke with Jacobs and Lampe about what Local 1 could do to help.

"They also wanted some lighting done so that they could have more evening events," Lampe said. "I think whatever funding they were getting got cut."

Jacobs was enthusiastic about the project, Schario said.

"Frank said that we probably couldn't ask anybody during the day to work on it," he recalled. "But he thought it'd be wonderful if retirees headed it up, and it just blossomed from there."

Schario, who spent the first half of his IBEW career working the tools before becoming a full-time instructor at the St. Louis Electrical Industry Training Center, eagerly tackled the project.

"I went out there several times, planning and organizing exactly who could do what," he said. "I forgot how enormous it was."

Local 1 signatory contractors Guarantee Electric and Liberty Electric donated supplies such as lamps and switches, as well as the use of scaffolds and ladders.

Then in August, Schario, Lampe and six other Retirees' Club members set out for the shrine and quickly got to work.

"We upgraded the alcove lighting in some of the grottoes, and we added all the receptacles that they needed," Schario said. "We went ahead and ran all the conduit for the new lights, and we also installed some really nice industrial ceiling fans."

The volunteers were thorough, Lampe said: "We added a few circuits, and we got them all hooked up with switches and everything."

Schario made sure every volunteer could participate safely.

"Some of these guys are near 80 years old, so you want them on the ground," he said. "They wanted to contribute wherever they could."

By the end of the day, every punchlist item had been completed.

"All these fellows that volunteered, they have a good heart and soul," Schario said. "They feel like they did something good."

Lampe, who retired in 2018 after 41 years of active IBEW membership, including 13 years as a Local 1 business representative, agreed.

"Some of the guys have been retired for a couple years, and some for eight or 10 years or more," he said. "We had a lot of good electricians out there. It was a good day, it was a fun day, and we helped them out immensely."

The Retirees' Club president also noted that Mike Scully, the shrine's director, was pleased.

"He said they might have some more stuff for us to do in the future," Lampe said. "We told him, 'Just give us a call, and we'll get back out here.'"

Lampe is proud of how Local 1's Retirees' Club remains so active.

"We get like 80 to 90 guys at our meetings every other month, and we're getting more and more as guys retire," he said. "I try to get speakers at every meeting that are relevant to us."

Lampe, the club's president for the past four years, makes it a point to invite Jacobs and other Local 1 leaders to speak at the meetings, along with experts on Social Security and health care, as well as representatives from other building trades unions. The club also arranges a host of activities, from parties and golf tournaments to baseball game bus trips.

"We've got some older guys that are very active still," Lampe said, "and the younger retirees, they all pitch in, too."

Schario believes staying active with the IBEW after retirement is important.

"Even around the country, when retirees can get together and volunteer, I think that's really a nice gesture," he said. ■

## Ohio Local Repurposes Department Store Into New Training Center

The heyday for malls has long been in the rearview mirror, with stores of all types shutting their doors, leaving millions of square feet empty. But one mall in central Ohio is getting a new life thanks to Newark Local 1105.

"This is exactly the kind of reimagining that malls were built for," Daryl Jones, Local 1105's special projects coordinator, said of the union's purchase of a vacant Sears store that used to be an anchor in the Indian Mound Mall. "Instead of a hollowed-out retail store, we're filling the space with careers, education and steady economic activity."



Local 1105 is giving new life to a near-vacant mall, and a major upgrade to its training program.

The demand for electrical workers is soaring across the U.S. and Canada. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of electricians is projected to grow 6% annually until 2032. Meanwhile, department stores like Sears have been closing brick-and-mortar stores as consumer tastes shift. But their offline footprint — at more than 90,000 square feet per store — is proving to be a near-perfect fit for training the next generation of electrical workers.

"The new space will let us train apprentices on a much larger scale than we can right now," said Corey Smith, manager for Hilscher-Clarke Electric, a NECA contractor. "With the extra room, we'll be able to bring more people through the program faster, helping them become journeymen sooner and giving our contractors the manpower they need for the large projects happening in the area."

Local 1105 had been looking for a new space to meet the increasing demand for a few years, but every time they found a space, they outgrew it before they could get the purchase under contract, Jones said.

"When Sears became available, it was the first building in the region large enough, open enough and structurally flexible enough to serve as a true state-of-the-art training facility," Jones said.

The list of what the JATC will be able to do in the 92,000-plus square feet of the Sears building that it can't in its current 14,000-square-foot facility is long. To name a few, the instructors will be able to run multiple classes and labs simultaneously without competing for space, the local can launch a community-based kindergarten-through-12th-grade electrical

career exploration center, and it can run large-scale safety trainings.

The JATC had 780 apprentices in 2025. With the new space, they'll be able to bring in 2,000, Jones said.

"Every month, we indenture new apprentices and distribute training assignments, and the following week we get calls from contractors asking for more apprentices," he said. "This expansion is a direct response to the needs of signatory contractors, community leaders and the statewide workforce."

The purchase doesn't just benefit the IBEW and NECA. It's a boost for the whole area, Smith said.

"It'll bring new energy to the mall with the foot traffic of our apprentices grabbing food or stopping into a store before training," he said. "Our apprentices come from all over the 1105 jurisdiction, and now they'll be getting oil changes, filling up their tanks and supporting local businesses while they're here."

The new training facility will sit in the middle of other revamped terrain as part of the city of Heath's downtown revitalization project.

"It's great to see such a large space that's been sitting empty for years get this kind of second life," Smith said. "The building is going to have a huge 1105 JATC sign on it, so everyone will know exactly what's happening there." ■

## Illinois Local Showcases Electrical Work Through Virtual Reality

There's no such thing as working from home if you're an electrician. But for students and job seekers near Rock Island, Ill., Local 145, there's a way to give them a taste of what electrical work is like without wearing a hardhat.

"Our goal is for students to get a realistic and hands-on sense of what it feels like to work as an electrician without the risks of a jobsite," Local 145 Business Manager Cory Bergfeld said about the virtual reality simulation the local offers at trade shows and other recruiting events. "We want them to see that electrical work is both technical and creative. Ideally, it sparks interest and encourages them to ask questions about joining Local 145."

The local's virtual reality training center was recently at the Building Futures Career Expo in Rock Island, one of the Quad Cities that span the Mississippi River in Illinois and Iowa. Over 1,600 students from more than 50 schools, as well as adult job seekers, attended. Hundreds of students rotated through Local 145's VR station throughout the day, Bergfeld said.

"The Local 145 virtual reality station stayed busy the entire day," he said. "Students were excited about the hands-on experience, and a lot of them said the VR training center was one of the most memorable parts of the expo."

The VR electrical training center consists of a headset-based simulation that places the user inside a realistic jobsite. Participants can handle tools, bend conduit, install components, troubleshoot wiring and safely explore some of the work that electricians perform every day.

The opportunity to explore electrical work brought in a variety of interested people, Local 145 Training Director Terry Van Hook said.

"I've noticed a common interest from all age groups. It's something new and exciting," Van Hook said. "It draws in students of all backgrounds, including those who have not considered the trade before."

The VR simulation offers a wide range of benefits, from safety to being able to introduce the trade to more people in a shorter time. And those participants take that experience home with them. People



Upgrades to the Black Madonna Shrine were installed by retired St. Louis Local 1 members (from left) Dave Cooper, Steve Pivinski, Larry Palazzolo, Ron Embry, Retirees' Club President Matt Lampe, Dan Kelly, Jim Schario and Bobby Muckler.

remember hands-on experiences far more than lectures or videos, Bergfeld noted.

“You will never truly mimic real electrical work, but seeing some of the environments, tools and parts that we work with is a good starter,” Van Hook said.

The VR simulation has yielded real-world results. Several students who attended last year’s expo applied to the apprenticeship program, Bergfeld said. A few have since been accepted and are working through the training pipeline.

“The expo is one of our strongest recruitment touchpoints,” Bergfeld said.

Construction of the VR trailer itself served as an outreach opportunity. Robert Phillips attended the Heavy Metal Summer Experience, a program designed to introduce students to various trades. He was one of 10 students chosen to build the VR training center.

“Monday morning, they walked us outside to this

empty trailer that was completely unfinished, I mean it was just bare studs. Throughout the course of the week, the other apprentices and I, with the help of a few experienced journeymen, transformed the trailer into a fully functional virtual reality center,” Phillips said.

The project also served as his introduction to the IBEW.

“That week left a very positive impression on me,” Phillips said. “I went from not being sure what I wanted to do for a career to, wow, an electrician’s apprenticeship would really fit me.” ■

*Rock Island, Ill., Local 145 uses virtual reality to show prospective members what it's like to be an electrician without the dangers of a jobsite. And it's yielding results with former career expo attendees applying to the local's apprenticeship.*



## 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	Gatter, L. H.	11/12/25	26	Hyatt, G. J.	1/13/25	134	Kubal, T.	12/9/25	292	Moore, M. J.	12/3/25	456	Kube, J. C.	12/9/25	712	Uhernik, J. E.	12/6/25
1	Malcom, R. P.	8/30/25	26	Puleo, R. T.	10/31/25	134	Levine, E. N.	12/4/25	292	Schmidt, R. H.	12/22/25	474	Gray, J. L.	10/25/25	716	Landrum, J. L.	11/12/25
1	Oberbeck, T. A.	11/21/25	34	DeLost, J. R.	10/30/25	134	Sebastian, M. J.	11/20/25	292	Spillane, M. S.	10/15/25	474	Zabrocki, J. R.	12/10/25	716	McIntosh, D. F.	11/24/25
1	Rodenroth, P. E.	12/20/24	34	Dietsch, E. L.	11/15/25	134	Streit, E. J.	12/8/25	292	Tanghe, R. J.	12/5/25	477	Correale, A. B.	6/11/25	716	Sumberlin, D. W.	11/30/25
1	Sadlo, J. R.	11/16/25	34	Lard, H. S.	11/27/25	134	Walczak, R. J.	10/25/25	292	Wood, M. D.	12/5/25	477	Land, D. R.	4/16/23	721	Counts, V. D.	12/8/25
1	Sweet, D. B.	11/26/25	34	Shelton, R. L.	11/9/25	134	Wiencek, C. J.	10/26/25	294	Johnson, E. C.	11/20/25	479	Kibodeaux, J. D.	9/27/25	725	Petit, G. L.	11/9/25
3	Anderson, C.	8/16/25	34	Stufflebeam, R. L.	6/8/24	136	Snipes, N. A.	12/6/25	295	Bell, R. E.	12/8/25	481	Fleenor, D. R.	12/7/25	728	Bogar, M.	6/27/25
3	Auguste, J. S.	12/24/25	35	Juliano, R. F.	1/1/26	143	Gifford, W. H.	10/30/25	295	McKinney, J. B.	11/22/25	488	Regan, L.	11/14/25	728	Cartwright, V. S.	11/12/25
3	Carberry, J. P.	12/15/25	38	Grahl, R. E.	11/23/25	146	Williams, I. D.	7/29/25	301	Johnstone, W. D.	10/9/25	508	Ware, M. E.	8/5/25	728	Herrera, C. A.	11/8/25
3	Cohen, M.	5/6/23	38	Masterson, K. P.	12/13/25	159	Feiner, K. J.	11/12/25	302	Erickson, C. A.	12/7/25	520	Cleveland, D. R.	10/14/25	728	Monaghan, P. W.	11/25/25
3	Cuocci, S. V.	12/9/25	44	Skoyen, T. J.	12/1/25	159	Kottke, M.	11/22/25	307	Herrell, R. W.	12/4/25	527	Poynor, R. J.	12/6/25	728	O'Donnell, J. A.	11/1/25
3	Devaney, P. J.	11/12/25	46	Cox, R. F.	12/12/24	163	Houston, M. L.	11/24/25	307	Parks, N. A.	11/13/25	530	Charman, R. K.	11/22/25	728	Scott, J. E.	11/24/25
3	DiFiore, A.	8/19/24	46	Plese, K. L.	12/13/25	164	Backman, R. H.	12/1/25	307	Swain, R. L.	5/9/23	531	Matuszak, F. J.	10/14/25	743	Conrad, C. D.	12/18/25
3	Dotsenko, V. V.	11/11/25	46	Rice, K. C.	11/8/25	164	Kazenmayer, C. A.	11/23/25	309	Hill, M. T.	7/1/25	532	Barker, K. R.	10/2/25	744	Fenerty, G. A.	9/22/25
3	Gasperek, J. M.	12/8/25	48	Dent, K. W.	11/9/25	164	Vitale, C. A.	12/4/25	309	Sprankle, L. D.	12/3/25	538	Risser, J. L.	11/20/25	760	Miller, C.	11/17/25
3	Gesualdi, R.	12/8/25	48	Jacobs, K. L.	12/11/25	175	Hale, M. D.	12/10/25	313	Cohee, R. M.	11/28/25	545	Brooks, K. R.	7/27/23	760	Tallent, T. N.	12/1/25
3	Joblon, R. J.	11/26/25	51	Ames, D. A.	12/4/25	175	Mathis, C. E.	11/10/25	329	Reddy, M. S.	11/2/25	557	Woods, R. F.	11/25/25	776	Carter, S.	12/1/25
3	Korner, G. J.	11/20/25	57	Powell, F. L.	10/17/25	176	Pearson, G. E.	12/21/25	332	Huff, S. L.	12/5/24	558	Austin, G. D.	12/9/25	876	Hoffman, J. E.	12/31/25
3	Kramer, J. A.	11/1/25	58	Aquin, W. P.	12/5/25	177	Anderson, R. R.	9/9/25	332	Nemanic, T. R.	10/31/25	558	Brown, R. C.	9/8/25	876	McCahan, G. L.	11/3/25
3	Lewin, A. G.	10/10/25	58	Baudino, J. C.	12/22/25	177	Black, W. J.	12/6/25	332	Shelton, N. P.	11/5/25	558	Lewis, J. D.	11/16/25	903	Hammons, L. M.	11/25/25
3	Manikakis, N.	12/14/25	58	Beauchemin, D. K.	12/12/25	177	Ducusin, A. D.	12/26/25	332	Smart, E. D.	11/28/25	558	Statom, J. T.	12/26/25	903	Reed, R. J.	10/14/25
3	Monteiro, R. A.	12/3/25	58	Kremer, P. A.	11/27/25	177	Newton, B. R.	8/31/25	332	Wilson, H. W.	11/29/25	567	Morin, S. D.	12/15/25	910	O'Brian, M. L.	11/19/25
3	Moran, J. E.	11/3/25	58	McCoy, J. C.	12/13/25	191	Claybrook, J. L.	12/22/24	340	Bain, G. D.	11/30/25	568	Brunet, F.	10/13/25	934	Haga, H. L.	12/4/25
3	Moran, J. L.	12/13/23	60	Soto, C.	10/11/25	212	Brinkman, R. H.	11/20/25	340	McDonald, J. R.	12/4/25	569	Cosgrove, E. P.	12/11/25	934	Ketron, J. C.	12/23/25
3	Qualters, F. T.	12/7/25	68	Aemmer, J. R.	11/22/25	212	Ortman-Tomlin, S. L.	12/20/25	342	Leonard, H. J.	10/30/25	569	Herold, J.	11/11/22	934	Wyatt, K. W.	11/11/25
3	Reicher, M.	9/8/25	70	Eubank, J. W.	10/30/25	212	Stinson, D.	12/13/25	349	Alonso, C. A.	1/31/22	569	Rodriguez, E.	11/26/25	948	Mark, G. L.	12/19/25
3	Rockford, J. J.	10/21/25	70	Whipple, R. E.	11/16/25	212	Cairns, G. A.	2/8/25	351	Brestle, M. G.	9/14/25	570	Gomez, E. Y.	11/8/25	949	Fennern, F. D.	11/5/25
3	Saldana, R.	9/13/23	77	Baker, E. A.	5/9/23	213	Schmidt, L. P.	2/11/25	351	Cassaday, D. R.	8/7/25	573	Flack, K. J.	8/23/25	972	Schenkel, G. D.	11/1/25
3	Santoro, S.	11/9/25	77	Samson, D. R.	11/28/25	213	Combs, A. R.	11/11/25	351	Duffy, M. E.	12/15/25	584	Freeman, J. A.	7/15/25	993	Hilscher, R.	12/12/25
3	Wilson, L. J.	11/13/25	84	Durden, T. R.	8/4/25	222	Oliveira, B. J.	11/14/25	353	Allen, G.	12/7/25	584	Horinek, D. G.	8/28/25	995	Aucoin, G. D.	12/20/25
3	Zamier, D.	11/18/25	86	Evans, C. L.	11/23/25	223	Savini, D.	12/17/25	353	Brunell, R.	11/13/23	584	Ree, C. R.	10/10/25	1141	Ferguson, B. J.	12/8/25
3	Zeidel, S.	11/9/25	86	Ruf, E. A.	10/7/25	223	Keosybounheuang, B. A.	9/4/25	353	Ellis, M.	3/25/25	595	Abreu, J. L.	9/20/25	1547	Cooley, M. A.	8/8/23
5	Dale, T. C.	10/4/25	86	Zapp, D. A.	11/23/25	226	Ngai, K.	1/6/25	353	Milligan, G. E.	7/19/24	595	Winters, R. A.	8/8/25	2286	York, B. J.	12/17/25
5	Pozycycki, J. J.	12/3/25	90	Gargano, T. J.	11/25/25	230	Fry, D. M.	4/11/25	353	Paladino, A.	12/27/25	596	May, F. G.	11/12/25	I.O. (3)	Kracht, E. G.	11/27/25
6	Almirol, D. L.	2/21/24	99	Nannini, K. J.	12/9/25	230	Mahon, T. D.	12/4/25	353	Reeve, F. C.	12/7/25	602	Mynear, C. L.	12/3/25	I.O. (5)	Heckman, L. E.	12/15/25
6	Malenk, E. M.	10/19/25	102	Cyphers, G. C.	6/25/25	231	Lowell, S. D.	9/28/25	353	Shearer, J. D.	12/31/25	602	Reid, P. E.	9/5/25	I.O. (5)	Stahlman, D. L.	9/11/25
6	Pham, L. X.	11/6/25	102	Lubeck, W. W.	9/16/25	231	Flores, R.	8/9/23	353	Van Schubert, A.	12/7/25	602	Weary JR, A. E.	9/12/25	I.O. (68)	Burke, J. A.	12/18/25
7	Kay, J. M.	11/13/25	105	Lampman, H. R.	11/3/25	245	Flores, R.	8/9/23	353	Young, D. M.	11/11/25	606	Bridges, W. F.	10/20/25	I.O. (134)	Boots, J. J.	8/11/25
8	DeBolt, D. R.	11/23/25	106	O'Connor, T. M.	11/8/25	252	Brady, C. W.	9/17/25	353	Burnett, D. W.	12/8/25	611	Lopez, S. J.	10/12/25	I.O. (134)	Vock, E. J.	10/27/25
8	Grimes, J. O.	12/14/25	110	Mills, M. L.	11/11/25	252	Chomiak, R.	12/3/25	357	Burke, D. R.	11/7/25	611	Moran, S. D.	11/19/25	I.O. (134)	Wesolowski, D. J.	11/18/25
9	Rutschman, R. E.	11/10/25	111	Shepherd, R. L.	5/24/23	254	Pust, S. D.	12/12/25	357	Newberry, H. C.	11/13/25	613	Jackson, R. R.	9/29/25	I.O. (569)	Conlin, T. J.	11/7/25
11	Duran, N.	10/11/25	112	English, C. L.	10/31/25	266	Eller, F. R.	10/25/25	364	Johnson, A. G.	9/29/25	617	Lee, A. E.	10/29/25	I.O. (1573)	Baran, G. A.	12/3/25
11	Huerta, T. A.	9/25/25	112	Neiman, P. D.	11/1/25	269	LaPrete, T. A.	11/17/25	369	Burgin, J. J.	11/4/22	640	Ridley, J. W.	3/10/25	I.O. (1749)	Moore, J. D.	11/3/25
11	Jacobson, G. J.	10/29/25	112	Reinhardt, N. E.	12/6/25	269	Peck, D. J.	12/20/25	369	Lambert, S. T.	12/5/25	648	Keenan, T.	11/25/25	Pens. (I.O)	Banks, R. E.	9/13/25
16	Seifert, D. L.	9/10/25	120	Baraniak, S.	12/4/25	271	Abasolo, A. J.	12/13/25	375	Krial, C. J.	8/9/25	648	Rhea, J.	12/27/25	Pens. (I.O)	Ely, E. L.	11/9/25
17	Hall, R. E.	12/16/25	124	Burasco, P. A.	10/30/25	275	Blease, J. K.	12/27/25	400	Helbig, E. M.	11/25/25	659	Baker, M.	12/2/25	Pens. (I.O.)	Floyd, R. L.	7/22/25
21	Kane, J. T.	8/27/24	124	Marroquin, I.	11/10/25	275	Roersma, K. G.	9/5/25	424	Hebert, D. S.	12/19/25	665	Dunlap, R. N.	12/11/25	Pens. (I.O)	Morgenroth, W. C.	3/6/25
22	Heller, W. J.	12/27/25	124	Vandevort, C. D.	9/21/25	275	Silvernail, D. B.	9/1/25	424	Liber, I. J.	4/7/25	665	Fabiano, C. G.	12/21/25	Pens. (I.O.)	Pendleton, B. T.	11/14/25
22	Sullivan, E. J.	11/22/25	126	Ressler, W. G.	11/15/25	275	Todd, A. J.	11/16/25	424	Parker, T.	7/9/25	666	Wendel, W. F.	12/26/25	Pens. (I.O)	Tanke, G. W.	11/19/25
24	Brittingham, F. M.	11/21/25	126	Rummel, R. C.	8/18/25	278	Hancock, J.	12/3/25	428	Rice, R.	12/10/25	668	Bickett, G.	8/7/25	Pens. (I.O)	Whitney, D. C.	10/27/25
24	Cisna, M. A.	11/17/25	130	Guidry, R. L.	12/16/25	278	Rabb, T. W.	12/15/25	428	Shugart, R. F.	11/16/25	676	Foster, J. R.	11/12/25	Pens. (I.O)	Yaeger, F.	10/11/25
25	Boyd, G. A.	11/7/25	130	Vincent, G. D.	12/13/25	292	Coleman, E. P.	2/20/23	429	Burke, P. W.	7/15/25	683	Zeiner, T. E.	11/21/25			
25	Haslbauer, L.	12/11/25	134	Benge, T. G.	11/28/25	292	Custer, K. G.	12/15/25	429	Carter, T. A.	11/8/25	684	Ruiz, C.	11/3/25			
25	Swartz, H. J.	12/12/25	134	Biermann, G. W.	11/14/25	292	Gustafson, D. D.	11/14/25	429	Morris, E. P.	12/1/25	701	Hoebbel, E. L.	11/2/23			
26	Durnbaugh, L. E.	11/7/25	134	Comeford, M. J.	9/3/25	292	Helland, S. J.	10/11/25	440	Weinbrenner, D. W.	12/8/25	701	Kruse, L.	12/7/25			
26	Friend, D. R.	7/23/25	134	Connors, W. J.	11/4/25	292	Jens, R. A.	12/31/22	441	Shiffer, H. A.	10/26/25	701	Svarz, R. J.	8/20/25			

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

## Stronger Together: An IBEW and Civil Rights Veteran's Lessons on Progress

What does it profit a man to be able to eat at an integrated lunch counter if he doesn't earn enough money to buy a hamburger and a cup of coffee?

— Martin Luther King Jr., March 1968

**Charlie Horhn's activism** took root in a segregated factory in Jackson, Miss., where "Colored" signs hung over the cafeteria, water fountains and restrooms Black workers were allowed to use. Even work areas were separated. Away from the plant's whites-only assembly line, Horhn and other Black men forged components of small kitchen appliances for meager wages and the occasional nickel-an-hour raise.

He'd arrived at Presto Manufacturing in 1955, the same year that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s roaring calls for civil rights were first recorded, sermons that became entwined with labor rights. Until the day he died in April 1968, assassinated after marching with striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn., King preached that economic and workplace justice were essential to achieving true freedom and quality.



Charlie Horhn's long career in civil rights, labor and politics began with his job at a Jackson, Miss., factory in the 1950s, where he organized and later led an IBEW local.

Horhn, now 91, embodied King's message. He marched for civil rights and doggedly registered Black voters, sharpening the organizing skills that would help persuade a majority of his 700 co-workers, Black and white alike, to join the IBEW.

"The labor movement saw how it could grow through the Civil Rights Movement, and the Civil Rights Movement saw how it could grow through labor," Horhn said.

He remembers well the hard-won campaign that created Jackson Local 2268: An election loss in 1966, a victory in 1967 and three years of company appeals all the way to the Supreme Court. Three tenuous years holding workers together under the IBEW banner until they finally sat down at the bargaining table in spring 1970.

"It was a new day," Horhn said. Within two months, Presto workers had a first contract with a 30-cent hourly raise; additional vacation days; and provisions on seniority, grievances, absences and more.

For Horhn, there would be many more triumphs ahead. The man who grew up on a farm in the Jim Crow South, who paid a \$2 poll tax to vote while white precinct workers mocked him, would rise to be a powerful agent of change on the battlefields of labor, civil rights and politics.

He started with Presto. Appointed chief organizer of the new union, he used his clout to advance a longtime goal: more and better opportunities for Black women, who were restricted to the plant's kitchen and daycare. Meanwhile, white women had jobs on the factory floor, some even joining men on the assembly line. "The company claimed Black women couldn't pass the aptitude test," Horhn said with disgust.

The 1964 Civil Rights Act made workplace discrimination illegal, but little had changed at Presto. Enforcement was lax. "Colored" and "Whites Only" signs came down, but a culture of segregation remained. Black men finally got tired of waiting. "We'd decided we were going to start integrating the bathrooms, water fountains and cafeteria ourselves," Horhn said. "One night on the midnight shift, a group of Black employees walked into a 'white' restroom. A group of white men chased them out with pipes."

No one was hurt. But tensions rose the next day when white workers marched out of the plant en masse in support of the racist mob. Trying to cool hostilities, the company formed a biracial committee, appointing Horhn and a white man as co-chairs. At the same time, Horhn was quietly engaged in another attempt at unity, the nascent organizing drive.

Horhn was proud of his sterling record at Presto, popular among his co-workers and respected by managers. As fervently as he would fight for the union, fear of losing his job kept him in the shadows at first. He found his courage when an IBEW international organizer explained that he was better protected out in the open. Otherwise, the company could fire him on phony grounds and lie about knowing he was a union supporter.

"The man said: 'Monday we're going to handbill the plant. I want you out there on the front line,'" Horhn recounted. "So I stood out there and handed out literature. Some of my co-workers thought I was crazy. They didn't want to come close." Spotting him, the plant manager later dispatched an assistant, Elmer, to ask Horhn what he wanted. He didn't mince words: "You tell him the greatest thing I want is a union."

Horhn wasn't finished. "I told Elmer that I'd continue to be a good employee," he said. "That was my record and I planned to keep it, but he could tell Mr. Halle that on my break times I'll be talking to employees about the union."

After the first election failed by three votes in 1966, organizers doubled down on their resolve. A year later, they won by a sizable margin, due in no small part to the Black women who'd been hired as a result of Horhn's efforts. For the next three years, union leaders hustled to keep the coalition united against company's attacks as Presto's fight to derail the victory played out in court.

With the union certified and contract achieved, Horhn's influence in the labor movement grew steadily. Between 1972 and 1974, he established Mississippi's first chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute advancing Black trade unionism and activism, became a founding member of the IBEW's Electrical Worker Minority Caucus, and began 20 years of service as Local 2268's president and business manager.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seen here at the Lincoln Memorial during his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963, made clear that labor rights were central to the Civil Rights Movement.

Understanding how politics and politicians could harm or help his members, and all workers and minorities, Horhn threw himself into campaigns for Black and pro-union candidates. His many successes include his eldest child, John Horhn, who served 32 years in the Mississippi Senate before being elected mayor of Jackson in 2025.

Politics became Horhn's full-time career in 1993 after he ran the campaign that sent Bennie Thompson to Congress and was appointed as his district director. Now in his 17th term, Thompson was only the second Black lawmaker elected to represent Mississippi since Reconstruction.

For 20 years, Horhn oversaw constituent services and other district business in 23 counties, retiring in 2014 at age 80. The outpouring of gratitude and affection included a joint resolution in the Mississippi Legislature that saluted his "20 years of achievement and enormous civic energy," and noted that the U.S. House "recognized Charlie as one of

America's most dedicated public servants."

A widower, Horhn still lives in Jackson, with family there and across the South. "Five children, seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and two great-greats," he said.

Speaking with *The Electrical Worker*, Horhn brought his story full circle, remembering the choice he made as he and other early supporters contemplated an organizing drive at Presto.

"I'd been contacted by IUE (furniture workers) and the IBEW," he said. "When I weighed the strength of the two unions, I found the IBEW was the strongest one for our workers and the products we made."

He's proud of his lifetime of service but stressed more than once that he doesn't like "to toot my own horn," giving credit instead to the forces that shaped him, including the IBEW.

"I was a boy from a country farm," Horhn said. "The union, they got me to be the man that I am. The union and the Civil Rights Movement." ■



After an IBEW defeat at his factory, Horhn joined the March Against Fear in 1966 as it neared Jackson, Miss. Though unseen in the photo, he is marching behind Dr. King, left, and activist James Meredith. "I felt empowered," he said, momentum that helped secure an IBEW win in 1967.

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

# LOCAL LINES

## Local 1 Has Volunteering Spirit

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

Winter was a busy season at the mothership. Our Women's Committee put a call in to the North Pole, and on Dec. 13, Santa paid a visit to Local 1's hall to spread cheer, have some doughnuts, help collect donations for Haven of Grace shelter, and visit with kids and parents. A week later, the Veterans Committee held a canned food drive for H.E.R.O.S. Care, which helps veterans in need.

Shop With a Cop was also in December, marking the 30th year of partnership between IBEW/NECA Electrical Connection and St. Francois County's first responders. School counselors were instrumental in selecting 500 children who needed a little extra help this holiday season. The children were given \$125 gift cards. Most of the kids bought for their families and not themselves. If they ran over by a smidge, their first-responder teammate stepped in to cover the difference. This event truly exemplifies the spirit of the season.

As we shake the chill of winter, remember that spirit of volunteering and carry it into the spring and throughout the rest of the year. Do good unto all, and be an example of solidarity and unity to each other and those who need it most.

*Kyle Hunter, P.S.*

## Local 15 Organizes Stitch Me LLC

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — We proudly welcome Stitch Me LLC employees to our local! Based

in Chicago, Stitch Me specializes in custom apparel and promotional items. On Oct. 1, Local 15 representatives, including Senior Assistant Business Managers Mike Freeman and Jim Collins and Business Representative Lisa Sims, presented highlights of a newly negotiated collective bargaining agreement, which the employees of Stitch Me unanimously ratified.

This milestone follows Stitch Me's voluntary recognition of Local 15 in July 2024 and a 45-day NLRB posting period. The agreement delivers guaranteed annual wage increases, bonuses, paid vacation, sick time, holidays and parental leave.

President Chris Riser said: "I would like to thank all involved in the negotiations. Your dedication to ensuring that labor is represented keeps the middle class alive!"

*Bradley Gritt, Bus. Rep.*

## Local 17 Capitalizes on Grant Funding

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — Our local has successfully sought out and obtained grant funding to support our members and their training.

At the end of 2024, Local 17 found out about a privately funded grant program that provides support for those obtaining their commercial driver's license, class A. We worked with the grant funder and its administrator, along with Classic Driving School, to adapt the program to the needs of Local 17 members.

The fast-track CDL program pays for four weeks of driving training at Classic. Additionally, successful participants are paid \$18/hour for attending the driving training and completing four hours of online coursework and are allowed 2.5 hours for taking and passing the driver's certification test. The total value is about \$7,000 per participant.

So far, 22 Local 17 members have successfully completed the program and secured their CDL-As with the air brake endorsement. Candidates must obtain their Michigan commercial temporary permit on their own and be a Local 17 member to be considered. The program is on hold as we await additional grant funding.

Furthermore, Local 17 line clearance tree trimming was fortunate to capitalize on the Michigan Registered Apprenticeship Map to Prosperity grant through the Workforce Development Institute. The grant provided 53 \$1,000 fuel gift cards for qualifying apprentices. Additionally, the grant included \$185,500 for the JATC to help cover administrative and training costs.

Combined, Local 17 obtained almost \$400,000 in grant funding in 2025!

*James Shaw, B.M.*



*Members of the Local 43 Veterans Committee at the Onondaga County Veterans Memorial Cemetery, where they laid wreaths during the holiday season.*

## Local 43 Honors Veterans During Holidays

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY — Our local's Veterans Committee members — John and Edmund Laplante, Eileen Mullen, Kevin Mullen, Haley Parker, Ryan Parker, Bill Towsley, Elliot Wright and David Wierowski — showed their dedication to our community by laying wreaths this year to honor our veterans at the Onondaga County Veterans Memorial Cemetery for the holidays. Thank you for honoring our veterans during the holiday season.

Thank you, brothers and sisters!

*Jeff Cassano, P.S.*

## Local 47 Is Strong, Growing, Alive

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA — Greetings, brothers and sisters. Under the leadership of Business Manager/Financial Secretary Colin Lavin, the strength of our local lies in our willingness to look out for one another. I can say with confidence that our brotherhood is strong, growing and very much alive.

- Southern California Edison — On Nov. 13, Arbitrator Ken Perea denied the reinstatement of terminated supervising warehouse clerk Manuel Guerrero.
- On Dec. 1, discharged Tehachapi E-Crew Foreman Erik Kross was reinstated to his former position and made whole for all lost wages, benefits and seniority by Arbitrator Catherine Harris.

Bargaining continues for senior specialist vegetation management. We won the National Labor Relations Board charge for production specialist. At the time of this writing, there is no agreement and the case is scheduled to go to trial this month.

- Bear Valley — Negotiations continue.
- City of Colton — Water/Wastewater — Negotiations continue.
- City of Anaheim — General/Professional Management Group and part-time utility workers — Negotiations continue.
- Trabuco Canyon Water District — Negotiations continue.
- Irvine Ranch Water District — Negotiations continue.
- City of Moreno Valley — Negotiations continue.
- City of Downey — Filing state charge for violations of meet and confer over classifications.
- City of Orange — Water & Public — Negotiations continue.

We're sad to report the deaths of retired city of Anaheim troubleshooter Ramon Castellon, Steve Edwards and Vladimir Lemus. Our condolences and prayers are with their loved ones.

Work safe and buy union!

*Mitch Smith, P.S.*

## When Seconds Counted, Local 71 Members Answered the Call

L.U. 71 (lctt,o&rtb), COLUMBUS, OH — Members of our local are known for their skill and professionalism on the job, but two recent events show how their impact reaches far beyond the jobsite. In separate emergencies, our members stepped in without hesitation to save lives of strangers in critical danger.



*From left, Local 71 members Randy Abel and Drew Peterson, Local 1393 member Don Thacker, and Local 71 member Mitch Swingle with their Valor Awards.*

## 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/submitting-local-lines](http://ibew.org/submitting-local-lines) or email [locallines@ibew.org](mailto:locallines@ibew.org).

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

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

## Trade Classifications

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

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



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LOCAL LINES

On Nov. 19, Local 71 operators Randy Abel and Drew Peterson, along with Indianapolis Local 1393 traveler Don Thacker, were working for JW Didado Electric in Springfield Township when they pulled an unconscious elderly driver from a burning vehicle following a serious crash. While two members used fire extinguishers from their trucks to control the flames, another cut through the airbags and seatbelt and carried the driver to safety.

In another incident Oct. 27, Local 71 journeyman lineman Mitch Swingle was working for Hydaker-Wheatlake in Waynesville when he witnessed a violent domestic incident involving an AR-15 rifle. He immediately rushed to help the shooting victims, applying a tourniquet and direct pressure to slow severe bleeding and providing care until first responders arrived.

The quick thinking and selfless actions of these members turned potential tragedies into stories of survival. All four members were honored with IBEW Valor Awards at the Dec. 16 union meeting for their courage and heroism.

“Everyone here at Local 71 is proud to hear stories like this, where our members go above and beyond in moments that truly matter,” said Business Manager Todd Kessler. “We are incredibly fortunate to represent such dedicated professionals and are truly blessed to have some of the very best members here in the heart of the Midwest.”

Local 71 thanks Brothers Abel, Peterson, Swingle and Thacker for their courage and service to the public, qualities they have always embodied.

James Roessner, R.S.



PGE retirees gather together to celebrate Local 125's 125th anniversary.

**PGE Retirees Gather to Celebrate 125 Years of Local 125**

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t,u&ptc), PORTLAND, OR — Our local celebrated its 125th anniversary in October. To mark this significant milestone, the executive board presented members with commemorative silver anniversary coins. In the accompanying picture, executive board President Larry Browning can be seen with fellow PGE retirees, having personally distributed the anniversary coins. Pictured with Browning are Paul Bender, Russ Dobson, Jim Dornfeld, Gary Hartman, Al Kasweter, Fred Kennedy, Mike Kruse, Rick Lincoln, Brian Miller, Don Ott, Steve Swanson and Jim Sweet.

Travis Eri, B.M.

special brand of Christmas cheer directly to the doorsteps of the membership and their families. An impressive fleet of bucket trucks, line trucks and our digital sign truck canvassed the neighborhoods of Mercer County, N.J., and Bucks County, Pa., bringing Santa out on his appointed rounds much to the delight of our members and their families. The Grinch even managed to make his presence known, but he was dutifully held in check by Santa and his helpers.

Back at the union hall, Santa took his seat on his throne and listened to every Christmas wish from our members' children. No child left empty-handed, as there were plenty of presents for all who made the trip.

As Santa left the hall for the North Pole, the membership gathered for Local 269's annual Christmas party with food, beverages, a gift for each attending member, and lots of laughter and good cheer. Once again, thanks to all for their hard work and dedication!

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

seeing our members with family and friends at this local event. And it was great to see representation from surrounding unions in Delaware joining together at this event to see and hear what Labor Day is all about.

David Rholetter, P.S.



Local 313 Brother Matt O'Neal with his son, Julian, at the Labor Day rally in Wilmington, Del.

**Local 317 Gives Huntington City Mission \$15,000 Donation**

L.U. 317 (i,o,rts,t,u&lctt), HUNTINGTON, WV — Our local, in partnership with the Huntington Labor-Management Cooperation Committee and signatory electrical contractors, recently presented a \$15,000 donation to the Huntington City Mission to support its services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Cabell County.

The donation will help fund essential programs at the mission, including emergency shelter, meals, recovery services and long-term assistance aimed at helping people regain stability and self-sufficiency. The Huntington City Mission serves hundreds of people each year and plays a critical role in addressing homelessness and poverty in the region.

“This donation reflects the values of our membership,” said Shane Wolfe, business manager of Local 317. “Our members believe in giving back to the communities where we live and work. This contribution would not be possible without the hard work of Local 317 members and our strong labor-management partnership with the National Electrical Contractors Association.”

The funds were made possible through cooperative efforts of labor and management to support community needs beyond the jobsite. Local 317 represents more than 1,700 electrical workers across southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky and remains committed to strengthening both the electrical industry and the communities it serves.

Shane Wolfe, B.M./F.S.



Local 103 on the big screen at Gillette Stadium.

**Local 103 Powers Gillette**

L.U. 103 (cs,i&ptc), BOSTON, MA — In January, the New England Patriots returned to where they belong, in the NFL playoffs! Behind that return is the same work ethic that defines the IBEW.

Over the past two years, hundreds of dedicated brothers and sisters from Local 103, alongside our partners at Murphy Electric and Industrial Control, have powered more than \$300 million in major upgrades and improvements to Gillette Stadium. From the transformation of the South End Zone to critical infrastructure enhancements throughout the facility, Local 103 electricians and technicians have delivered the skill, precision and pride that championship organizations are built on.

That work does not stop at the stadium gates. Members are also helping to bring the Patriots' new state-of-the-art training facility to life in spring 2026. This project will shape the next generation of players and performance.

The Patriots' return to the playoffs is a reminder that success, whether on the field or on the jobsite, comes from preparation, teamwork and relentless efforts. Here's hoping the grit, discipline and determination of our hardworking members rub off on the team and help fuel another deep playoff run.

Louis Antonellis, B.M./F.S.

**Local 223 and Mass Electric Solar Project in Westport**

L.U. 223 (em,govt&i), BROCKTON, MA — Our local has been working solar projects in southeastern Massachusetts for nearly 15 years. With the loss of 10-plus years of offshore wind work due to actions taken by the current administration in Washington, D.C., it's good to have dependable local contractors like Mass Electric Construction Co. continuing with available solar work in our area.

In the accompanying picture, Business Manager Steven Barry (center) and Business Agent/Organizer Jeff Plaisted (back right) stopped by a jobsite in Westport, Mass., to visit the crew and say happy holidays. Keep up the good work, brothers and sisters.

Jeff Plaisted, Bus. Rep.



The Grinch made an appearance at Local 269's Christmas festivities.

**Riding Out the Holidays**

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — The brothers and sisters of our local once again delivered their

**Local 313 at Labor Day Rally**

L.U. 313 (i&spa), WILMINGTON, DE — In September, our local participated in a Labor Day rally at Rodney Square in Wilmington. It's always a great time



Local 223 members at a solar project in Westport, Mass.



From left, Local 317 Business Manager Shane Wolfe; Tom Braley, president of Pritchard Electric Co.; and Mitch Webb, executive director of the Huntington City Mission.

## Future, Present and Past

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Google has partnered with the IBEW and NECA through the Electrical Training Alliance to invest \$10 million per year toward training 100,000 electricians and 30,000 new apprentices by 2030. These additional electrical workers are needed to build and maintain AI data centers, infrastructure, advanced manufacturing and clean energy sources. AI tools, such as Google's AI Essentials course, will be added to the curriculum to ensure that apprentices learn the skills necessary for this generation's new frontier.

This month, Local 343 is hosting the IBEW Sixth District Membership Development Conference in Rochester. Three-hundred-plus local business managers and international representatives will attend. Local 343 members are planned to be involved in the opening ceremonies each day with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem. The Sixth District includes the Great Lake States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana.

We remember our Local 343 brothers who died in 2025: Robert Bjerke, Marvin Dawson, Jeffrey Friese, Jerold Fulfs, John Huyber, Joseph Keyes, Matthew Maass, Gary Marti, David Peterson, Arthur "Chip" Squires and Steven Witt.

Keep Americans working. Buy Union Made, American Made.

Thomas Small, P.S.

## Informational Pickets Pay Off After Prolonged Negotiations

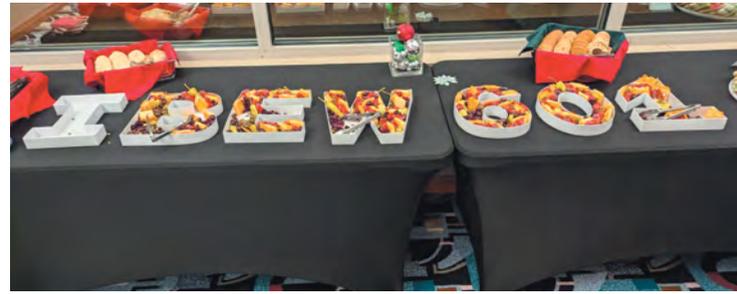
L.U. 483 (catv,lctt,o&u), TACOMA, WA — After more than a year of negotiations with the city of Tacoma's Customer and Field Services Unit and Human Resources Unit, our local has reached a tentative agreement for both bargaining units. This progress reflects the strength, persistence and solidarity of our members. After months of limited movement at the bargaining table, members collectively organized and participated in informational pickets to make their voices heard. This unified action played a critical role in advancing negotiations and securing settlements for both contracts.

Byron Allen, B.M.

## Local 601 Annual Holiday Gatherings

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL — Our local's members again gathered and enjoyed annual holiday gatherings, one in Champaign, the other in Streator. We step into 2026 with more motivation to grow our union bigger and better than ever before. Happy New Year, and remember to pay your dues!

Photos from the event can be seen at [Facebook.com/IBEW601RENEW](https://www.facebook.com/IBEW601RENEW).



An impressive Local 601 fruit tray enjoyed at the holiday gathering.

As of this writing, we have 43 on Book 1 and 24 on Book 2. We have slowed down a bit, with calls trickling in. Being added to the out-of-work lists requires you to sign in person or via fax/email from reciprocating locals.

Luther Baker, P.S.

## Unions and PLAs in San Mateo County

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA — Through the hard work of the San Mateo Building Trades and other trade partners, project labor agreements in San Mateo County are plentiful. PLAs, which have been used for generations, are collective bargaining agreements between building trades unions and private developers or public entities. These agreements enforce the importance and value of unionism and result in area standard wages and benefits, safe working conditions, and sustained investment in the local economy and union workforce.

Our county has many municipal and other local PLAs, including with the San Mateo County Community College District, the San Mateo Union High School District, SamTrans and San Francisco International Airport. Many more are in active negotiations.

Local 617 business representatives, the city of San Mateo planning commissioners and the San Mateo County Building Trades Council engage with city managers, boards of trustees and public works directors to advocate for PLAs to cover city-wide capital improvement programs such as city infrastructure.

PLAs ensure that all contractors are paying prevailing wage across trades, disputes are dealt with formally and workers are hired through union hall dispatch processes. This helps to even the playing field with nonunion work; prevents stoppages, strikes and general labor unrest; and improves work quality.

But the work of the union is never done. Keep up the fight — unions keep us strong.

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



IBEW members John Romero and James Archuleta at Local 611's family Christmas party.

## New Year, New Scale for Local 611

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Happy New Year! I hope 2026 is a great year for all of our brothers and sisters.

On Dec. 20 and 21, we had our annual adult Christmas party and family Christmas party. This year's family party was one of the best I have seen in years! The committee outdid themselves with lots of good food, great prizes and fun activities for the kids. If you didn't go, you missed a great event.

On Jan. 1, we received a \$2 raise, bringing our Zone 1 rate scale to \$42.30 per hour. There was a 20-cent increase to the insurance, which was split between the contractors and members, so our scale is now \$42.20 per hour.

We still have a lot of work in our jurisdiction. Los Alamos seems to always have calls coming in. They pay Zone 3 with a \$10-per-hour incentive. Facebook is always busy, and they have an incentive as well.

Just a reminder, this is an election year for our local. Be sure to fill out your ballots and get them mailed in as quickly as possible. It is also a midterm election year, so make sure you get to the polls and vote.

On behalf of Local 611, I would like to send condolences to the family and friends of Bryant Blacksheep, Donovan D. Crockett, Mahlon Haward, Lorenz A. Herrera, Santiago Lopez and Rudy Salazar.

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

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



After bad weather, Local 1049 members helped clear the Pronto garden of debris so that the mural dedication could go on.

## Local 1049 EWMC Day of Service and Holiday Volunteer Event

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY — On Nov. 21, members of our local's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus and Women's Committee, along with members of National Grid and its DEI council, as well as PSEG Long Island, volunteered at Pronto of Long Island. Pronto's mission is to feed the hungry, clothe the needy, welcome neighbors, and



Local 483: United we stand!

# IBEW MERCHANDISE



### ENGRAVED LOGO PENDANT \$20.00

Hand crafted German silver pendant featuring gold toned fist and lightning bolts. Each pendant is individually crafted by members of IBEW Local Union 401.

### PROUD TO BE AN IBEW ELECTRICIAN BUMPER STICKER \$1.00

3" x 11.5" weatherproof, ultra removable vinyl bumper sticker. "Proud to be an IBEW Electrician" with IBEW logo.

### IBEW SAFETY CHALLENGE COIN \$7.00

1.5" silver toned challenge coin featuring the international symbol for safety and first aid. Features full color Code of Excellence logo on the back.

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

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

LOCAL LINES

provide healing and hope to everyone who walks through its doors.

In the Bay Shore, Brentwood and Central Islip communities, Pronto feeds hundreds of families weekly with the help of donations and volunteers. Local 1049's EWMC members connected with Pronto through the United Way of Long Island and Development Director Donna Horoski and jumped at the opportunity to help make Thanksgiving special for our community.

Volunteers helped with sorting, packaging and distribution in the food pantry and warehouse, and organizing and sorting items donated for sale in Pronto's thrift shop. When high winds took down a neighboring tree, Local 1049 reached out to its craft outside division and arranged for a tree-trim crew to remove the trunk and debris.

The hard work and open hearts of our 38-member group made it happen for this Long Island community. It was a long day, with our members arriving at 8:30 a.m. and working until 3 p.m. without breaks, but the faces of the people we were helping made the time fly.

Our EWMC and Women's Committee also volunteered Dec. 6-7 with Angela's House for their holiday party in Hauppauge; on Dec. 13 at the Wreaths Across America event, laying wreaths on veterans' graves at the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale; and again with Pronto for the holiday toy drive Dec. 19. We also donated funds from our chapter and volunteered with the Kids Need More Holiday Cheer Bus on Dec. 21, where we distributed toys and sang carols to families with children who are very ill and may be celebrating their last Christmas.

It is our pleasure and honor to make a difference in our community.

*Anthony Scotto, R.S.*

### How Lucky Are We?

L.U. 1205 (em, govt, i, u & ptc), GAINESVILLE, FL — Happy St. Patrick's month to all who celebrate! As IBEW members, we know it isn't luck that secured us a comfortable living wage, pensions and benefits. These gains were earned through the hard work and sacrifices of our brothers and sisters who collectively bargained for the rights many take for granted today.

It's important to remember that this fight is ongoing. We must continue to carry the torch and spread the good word of the union way for future generations, especially as the working landscape evolves with new technologies.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be the year of the pole barn for Local 1205! Thanks to the dedication of our accomplished building committee leaders Carson Stanton and Brett Farrell, Local 1205 will be constructing a pole barn to provide a larger and safer outdoor event space.

After the back-to-back hurricanes last season, our gathering space hasn't been the same. It's satisfying to know that future brothers and sisters will be able to enjoy a Labor Day picnic at the hall — without the Florida sun driving everyone indoors early.

*Nick Mangoni, P.S.*



Local 1347 annually donates teddy bears for patients at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

### Local 1289 Supports Local Food Bank

L.U. 1289 (u), LAKEWOOD, NJ — Members of our local, which represents the workforce powering Jersey Central Power & Light's electric system; the electric departments at the town of South River and Madison borough; and the generating plants at Gilbert, Sayreville, Yards Creek and Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, recently collected \$1,717 in cash, online donations, gift cards and 251 pounds of non-perishable food for Fulfill NJ, a food bank serving Monmouth and Ocean counties. The effort was organized entirely by union members who wanted to give back to families facing food insecurity in their communities.

Our members take pride in powering this state, but we take just as much pride in taking care of our neighbors. We live here. Our kids go to school here. We shop here. When families in our communities need help, Local 1289 shows up. It's who we are. This could not have been accomplished without the help of all of our members and especially Assistant Business Manager Sandy D'Alessio, who coordinated it.

Fulfill NJ continues to see sustained demand across the region, and donations from groups like Local 1289 help ensure that the food bank can continue providing essential support to residents in need.

Local 1289 regularly participates in community-focused initiatives, reflecting its members' ongoing commitment to serving their neighbors across New Jersey.

*Jeffrey Munyan, B.M./Pres.*

### Teddy Bears for Every Child

L.U. 1347 (ees, em, u & ptc), CINCINNATI, OH — Our local proudly delivered another 250 teddy bears to Cincinnati Children's Hospital, marking our ninth consecutive year of this tradition. We are incredibly proud of our local for stepping up once again to ensure that every child receives a teddy bear for Christmas.

We are fortunate to have one of the best jobs in the world, and with that comes the responsibility to remember our members and their families who have loved ones in the hospital. To bring a little cheer and comfort during the holiday season, we remain committed to making sure that no child goes without.

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

### Local 1395 Brings Home the Hardware

L.U. 1395 (u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Members from the Tipmont Rural Electric Membership Cooperative unit of our local participated in the Indiana Electric Cooperatives Lineman Rodeo.

Each of Tipmont's two work locations formed a team for the event, which created a little added internal competition. At the end of the day, the teams walked away with a total of seven trophies



Members of Local 1395's Tipmont unit participating in the Indiana Electric Cooperatives Lineman Rodeo.

for team and individual events. Members of the teams were Bo Bouwkamp, Christian Guimond and Dusty Manns (Team 1) and Shafer Cox, Tristen Hoffman and Bobby Taylor (Team 2). Members Matt Lowe and Jason Phillips served as judges during the competition. Congratulations to our local champions!

*Brian Eggers, A.B.M.*

### Come On, Springtime!

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — I hope 2026 is treating you all well and that your weather is starting to get a little warmer. We are hoping for another prosperous year here in the jurisdiction of Local 1579.

We are transitioning back to a four-year apprenticeship from the five-year program that has been in place for quite some time. We would like to thank our Apprenticeship Committee and our instructors for playing a key role in making this happen. We'd also like to welcome James Smith to the Apprenticeship Committee, as I have appointed him with my pending retirement.

In addition to this transition, we will be having our classes at our own facility (see accompanying photo, left). We are very proud to have this training center and look forward to the quality journeyman wiremen who will

get their education there. As Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Our work situation is still booming. The prime contractors at the Savannah River site are holding their own, as well as Miller Electric at the data center in Graniteville, S.C., and both offer incentives on top of the normal scale.

Miller is also finishing a project at Augusta National. Our in-town shops are staying busy, and Plant Vogtle still has plenty of work along with shutdown work. We are hoping for the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility project at SRS to start hiring any time now.

We are very fortunate, but it has been a constant struggle to fill calls. I'm reaching out to all of my local brothers and sisters to help staff our work. We have open calls daily.

*Mike Greene, Pres.*



Local 1579's new JATC building will train a new generation of journeyman wiremen.

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IBEW SUPPORTS AND HONORS THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

CALLING ALL IBEW VETERANS

Get Your Free Challenge Coin Today

IBEW.org/veterans

# RETIREEES

## Fun in the Sun

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY/NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER — Our local's retirees' chapter hosted 130 members and spouses at the Nassau County retirees' picnic. We played many exciting games, including bocce ball, bean bag toss, horseshoes and egg toss. The delicious food for our picnic was served by Valley Catering.

The warm, sunny day went by fast when spent with good friends. The Brotherhood remains strong when we share good times together.

*John Milligan, P.S.*



Local 3/Nassau County Chapter Retirees' Club at a recent picnic.

## South Jersey Retirees Volunteer With Toys for Tots

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY/SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER — Along with the U.S. Marines, our retiree members volunteered in December with Toys for Tots in Neptune, N.J.

More than 75,000 toys were distributed to groups in central New Jersey.

Congratulations to Joe Vitale on his 80th birthday.

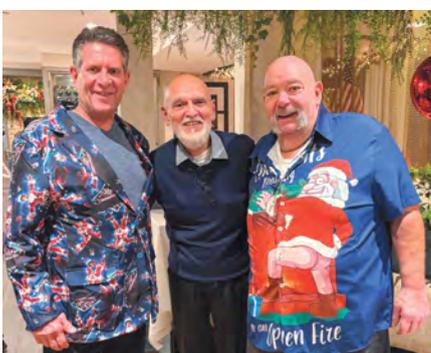
*Nancy Savarese, P.S.*



Local 3/South Jersey retirees' annual Christmas party at Ruocco's Restaurant in Manalapan, N.J.

## Eat, Drink and Be Merry

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY/WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER — Our local's retirees' chapter held its annual holiday party Dec. 9 with the goals



From left, Local 3/Westchester-Putnam Chapter retirees Frank Balbo, David Torres and Don Raffa in his winning attire.

of having a great time and finishing the year strong with fundraising for the chapter's favorite charity, the Fisher House Foundation. The Fisher House builds comfortable homes where military and veteran families can stay free while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are at military and VA medical centers around the world. The retirees' club events, including a golf outing and the four-day vacation at the Educational and Cultural Center in beautiful Long Island, play a huge part in our fundraising.

More than 60 members and spouses filled the large dining room for the four-hour party held at Ciao's Restaurant in Eastchester, N.Y. The deli-

icious five-course meal was served and drinks were flowing along with plenty of smiles, laughter and great stories. Business Representative Louis Sanchez made a heartfelt speech about keeping our union strong and staying vigilant in retirement.

Each year we hold a 50/50 raffle and an "ugly Christmas sweater" contest with the winners bringing home cash and wine gift baskets. This year's big raffle winner was member Lenny Diecidue. Treasurer Don Raffa won the sweater contest with his rendering of Santa roasting chestnuts on an open fire. Members had a great time and a great

year and look forward to 2026.

*Frank Balbo, Comm. Dir.*

## Do You Need a Living Trust?

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA — Our local's retirees' club will host a free presentation by an experienced probate attorney to explain the advantages

of a probate-avoiding living trust. William R. Moore, a UCLA and UC Davis Law graduate admitted to the California Bar in 1983, will answer your questions about wills, probate, living trusts and advance health directives.

Moore is not affiliated with the IBEW or Local 11, and his legal opinions and advice do not represent the legal opinions and advice of the union. Moore may be retained to prepare a basic living trust, a deed placing real estate in the trust and an advance health care directive for a flat fee of \$500.

A living trust can spare your heirs the expense, inconvenience and delay of probate and help with taxes.

Being a member of the Local 11 Retirees' Club or being retired are not requirements to attend.

RSVP will be required on or before April 1, and the presentation will be April 8 at the Electrical Training Institute.

If interested in attending or for additional information about the presentation, please

contact the Retirees' Club at [Retireesclubibew11@gmail.com](mailto:Retireesclubibew11@gmail.com).

*Al Etherton, Pres.*

## Local 35 Retirees Welcome Spring

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Our first-year apprentices started their second year and were sworn in at our November members' meeting. Retirees' Club President Dennis Machol and Kenneth White attended the meeting, joining to encourage them to continue with the union and help them understand the great benefits we have.

Our Christmas luncheon was a great time, and we enjoyed each other's company. Representatives from Labor First attended to explain their advocacy for us and our insurance plans.

Our first luncheon of the year will be March 11 at noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 171 Pascone Place in Newington. We hope to see you there!

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of David Popielarczyk. David was a friend of mine and will be missed dearly. He was a proud member of Local 35. He continued his career development, obtaining his E1 electrical license and becoming a contractor under ABC Electrical Contractor LLC. David was also an instructor for almost 10 years for our apprentices, and he taught continuing-education classes for Locals 35 and 42. He will be missed.

*Kenneth R. White, P.S.*

## New Year, New Happenings

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Well, 2025 is gone, and we will be well into 2026 by the time you read this. I think we can all agree that time could slow down just a little. I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

The Local 53 annual Christmas party was held Dec. 12 at the Ameristar Casino. I was not able to make it, but I understand there was a good turnout, good food and a lot of good stories shared.

The local will be hosting our spring retiree luncheon at the hall April 10. We hope everyone can make it. It is always good to see old friends and catch up. Oh, and there is always good food. We will also be presenting service pins.

April 25 will be the annual crappie tournament/fish fry. It will be at Truman State Park as usual. It would be nice to see some more retirees in attendance. Over the last few years, we haven't had much of a presence.

As always, I want to thank Ben and all of the staff at the local for putting these events on. I know it is a lot of work, and it is greatly appreciated.

If anyone is interested, there are still a few of us meeting for lunch every second Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. at the Grand River Grill in Urich, Mo. We would love to have you join us.

For all who are unable to attend functions and meetings, we want you to know that you are missed and not forgotten!

*Bob Stuart, Pres.*

## Local 58 Retirees Plan Service Pin Party

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI — Our annual pin party honoring members with service pins marking 50 to 75 years of membership will be

Saturday, April 25, at the local union hall. Honorees will be sent invitations this month.

Please RSVP in a timely manner and be sure to mark the date on your calendar. Honorees will be our guests with a catered lunch. Those being celebrated are welcome to bring guests at the cost of \$25 per person. This event is a great way to visit with fellow honorees and celebrate your time in the IBEW. All the details will be included in your invitation letter. If you don't receive an invite and you are entitled to one of these pins, please call the local union at 313-963-2130, extension 3013, for further information.

Midterm elections are this November. With all the chaos surrounding our elected officials and political appointees, this is a good time to get involved either in state or federal elections. Consider a PAC donation at [ibewgov.org/ibew-pac](http://ibewgov.org/ibew-pac) or mail your contribution to the IBEW PAC at 900 Seventh St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Continue to practice community engagement.

*Pat Nuznov, P.S.*

## Retirees Celebrate Local 105's 125th Anniversary

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ON — Our retirees' club was honored to receive an invitation to the local's 125th anniversary celebration. It was truly a wonderful commemoration. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Local 105 and Lucy Moretti and her team. Together they created unique centrepieces for the tables, a lamp featuring an old-fashioned light bulb they built with their own hands. Additionally, each attending member received a handsome cutting board designed with the Local 105 125th emblem and "Grounded in History, Powered by Members" stamped across the bottom. It was such an honor to be included in this memorable event!

Our 2026 plans are to have a breakfast at Michelangelo's in January and a Valentine's luncheon and dance in February. In March, we have an outing planned for "The Piano Man," a tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John. This outing includes a stop at the Windmill County Market and a lunch at the Gathering Place. In April, we'll go back to the Cairn Croft in Niagara. We're looking forward to a wine tour in the Niagara wine region in May. And, as always, we look forward to our annual barbecue luncheon in June.

New members have joined our executive board. Many thanks to our past members for all of their contributions. We truly appreciate all your dedicated hard work. We also send a big "welcome" to our new members and thank them also for taking time out of their personal lives to make our lives more fun!

We are so lucky and proud to be a part of the Local 105 Retirees' Club! Our sincere heartfelt thanks to all of you!

*Eden McLean, P.S.*



Happy 125th Anniversary, Local 105!

RETIREES

## Happy New Year From Local 134 Retirees

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Wishing all a Happy New Year, even though we are a quarter into the new year already. Hoping everyone is safe and starting the year in good health.

A monthly newsletter goes out to all Local 134 retired members, and this is a big job for the writers, editors, printers and mailers. I'd like to send out a big thank you to executive board members Mario Coletta, John Izzo and Bob Pitlock; President Hale Landes; Vice President Keith Berls; member Brian Cronin; and all other contributors. The newsletters keep us informed about upcoming meetings, events, guest speakers, special dates and times, and pricing when applicable.

In the monthly newsletter, there is an opening column titled "From the Podium." Because of what is happening across our country, a part of the November column, written by our Retirees' Club President Hale Landes, stays in my heart. I feel it should be read by all IBEW members, so I share Hale's words with you:

"Sisters and brothers, many of our members come from immigrant families and many more are friends with immigrants. These are trying times with these racist and fascist policies coming out of Washington, D.C. We are our brothers' keepers. We are our sisters' keepers. We must stand up for those who are being assaulted by our government actors. In this newsletter you will find some information from the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Please save it, print it, share it with all of your friends and family and ask them to share as well. Their website is [icirr.org](http://icirr.org). It is up to us, all of us, to do what we can to stop these attacks on immigrants. My grandparents survived the pogroms in Russia. I have family that escaped or survived Nazi Germany and sadly some who did not. Like many of you, my father and uncles fought against the Axis powers in World War II. They fought not just for America and Americans, but for all the people of the world to be free from fascism."

This was such a touching piece for me that I asked Hale's permission to share it here, and permission was granted.

Susan Kleczka, P.S.



Local 257 retirees at the annual Christmas party hosted by the local Dec. 9.

live music as we celebrate this milestone.

Petition signatures to stop the gerrymandered Missouri congressional map are being counted by the secretary of state's office. If 110,000 valid signatures are collected, meeting minimum thresholds in at least two-thirds of the state's congressional districts, the law is placed on hold until a referendum can be held at the next November election. Please stay informed, as your vote counts!

The retirees of Local 257 wish all a blessed and healthy 2026.

Connie Hamacher, P.S.



A Christmas light display surrounds the Local 654 union hall, bringing seasonal cheer to the community.

## Christmas Season at Local 654

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 654, CHESTER, PA — Looking back at the 2025 holiday season, we hope that our local's retirees and their families had a great time, with lasting memories. Our local membership decorated the trees and vegetation surrounding the outside of our union hall. The lighting is

always fantastic, and it brings many visitors from near and far to our parking lot area for a picturesque drive-through.

The Local 654 officers and membership gave our retirees another superb Christmas luncheon at the union hall. It's always a good time to see brothers and sisters we haven't seen in awhile. As usual, the food was fantastic and the fellowship was heartwarming.

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of retired members John V. Batt Jr., James J. Connors, Lawrence Metzger, John M. Papili Sr., Timothy C. Tart and Robert "Bob" S. Watson. Our sincere condolences go to their families and friends.

William Faulkner, P.S.



Local 134's retirees' holiday party in December had a good turnout and offered fun, mingling with friends and a delicious lunch.

## Holiday Giving

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Our retirees attended the annual Christmas party hosted by the local Dec. 9. Seventy-four members and guests were treated to a family-style luncheon. A raffle was held for scratch-offs and a poinsettia. Donations are collected annually for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Retirees collected \$1,000 this year to support St. Jude's mission of saving children and finding cures.

Save the date for the 100th anniversary celebration of Local 257. The celebration will be Saturday, March 21, at Capital Plaza and Convention Center in Jefferson City. Enjoy an evening of dinner, drinks and

unemployed brothers and sisters and their spouses who are in the area to come and join us. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Local 756 union hall in Port Orange, Fla.

Diane Gibbs, P.S.

## Local 915 East Retirees' Club Celebrates Brotherhood

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 915, TAMPA, FL/EAST CHAPTER — The Local 915 Retirees' Club's East Chapter met for our monthly luncheon and meeting. The East group meets on the third Monday of each month. We had a fantastic lunch of smoked brisket, mac and cheese, and slaw. The food was made by Brother Jim Miller, and what a great job he did with the food.

After lunch, we held our regular club meeting, discussing many of the current and future events. After the meeting, many of the brothers had quite a few stories and brotherhood to share, and a good time was had by all.

Barry Harber, R.S./P.S.



From left, Local 756 members William L. (Larry) Frohock, John W. Barrington, Robert R. Morgan and Wayne B. McCormick at the December pin ceremony.

## Happy New Year!

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 756, DAYTONA BEACH, FL — We hope you are all doing well. Even though it is already March when you read this, we want to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2026! We are still having low attendance at our meetings and would love to see more of you attend.

A pin ceremony was held in December, and we want to congratulate and thank everyone for their years of service to the union.

It has been quite a while since my last article, so it is with great sadness that we send our condolences and prayers to the families and friends for the passing of Brothers Richard C. Francis, Steven E. Gibbs, Arthur L. Hawes, Merle B. Johnson, David E. Lammers, Peter S. Parise, Terry F. Scholz, Richard T. Smith, Clyde L. Snell, Robert R. Tyre and Joel W. Vincent.

We would like to also invite any retired and

## Local 915 West Retirees' Club Celebrates Brotherhood

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 915, TAMPA, FL/WEST CHAPTER — The West Chapter of our Retirees' Club met for our monthly luncheon and meeting. The West group meets on the first Monday of each month. We discussed some business and had a lot of talk of days gone by and some current events. It's really nice to be able to spend this time each month with our fellow brothers. The oldest of our group are Al Vision (102) and Al Thomas (98).

James Neimeyer, Pres.



Local 915 Retirees' West Chapter meets on the first Monday of each month, a great time spent each month with the Brotherhood.



Local 915 Retirees' East Chapter meets on the third Monday of each month, with many stories and brotherhood to share.

August 2025 International Executive Council Meeting

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

The meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 am on August 27, 2025, in Chicago, Illinois. The members of the council in attendance were Chairman Erikson, Calabro, Finn, Hamilton, Cassidy, Cunningham, Griffith, and Calvey was in attendance via electronic/video conference. Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

### International President Cooper

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

### International Secretary-Treasurer Noble

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

### Legal Defense

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

### Financial Reports

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

### Retirement of International Executive Council Myles Calvey

The International President accepted the resignation of International Executive Council Secretary Myles Calvey, effective, August 27, 2025. The IEC agreed and wished him a Happy retirement.

### Appointment of IEC Second District

Due to the retirement of Myles Calvey, Louis J. Antonellis was appointed to the IEC on August 27, 2025.

### Appeals Filed with the International Executive Council

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 48 member Sean Ruehl, card number 7072092 and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Ruehl's appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 363 member Brother Anthony Caiafa, card number D563175 and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Caiafa's appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 1547 member John Cowles, card number D627675, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Cowles appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 265 member Carl Hess, card number D638073, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Hess appeal.

The International Executive Council has conducted a thorough review of the facts pertaining to an appeal from Local Union 575 member Dwight Shaw, card number A102321, and it is the decision of the IEC to deny Brother Shaw's appeal.

### Article XX and XXI Cases

The IBEW was involved in one case under Article XX and no cases under Article XXI.

### Local Union Under International Office Supervision

IBEW Local Union 1501, Baltimore, Maryland remains under trusteeship. The IEC authorized a six-month extension.

### IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/ Income Statement ending May 31, 2025

Reviewed and Filed

### IBEW Unity Fund Contributions ending May 31, 2025

Reviewed and Filed

### IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets ending May 31, 2025

Reviewed and Filed

### Retirements of Director and International Representatives

Alphonse Russo, Director, Railroad Department Effective — June 1, 2025

James Watson, International Representative, IBEW First District Effective — June 1, 2025

Julie Cosenza, International Representative, IBEW Third District Effective — July 1, 2025

Thomas Sink, International Representative, IBEW Sixth District Effective — July 1, 2025

Kevin Curran, International Representative, IO Telecommunications Department Effective — September 1, 2025

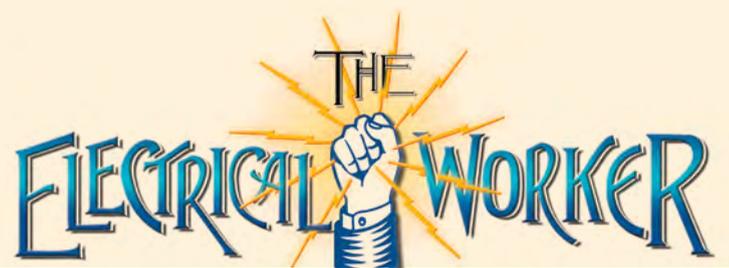
### International Office Employees

Kristen Bryer, Assistant Supervisor, IO Pension Department Effective — May 1, 2025

### For the International Executive Council

Donald Finn, Secretary December 2025

*The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org), clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "About Us" page. ■*



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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		Eleventh District Mark D. Hager	

### HOW TO REACH US

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

#### Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

Or send by email to: [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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## WHO WE ARE

# California Local's Motorcycle Club Leads 'Ride for Kids' Fundraiser



The 617 Journeymen Motorcycle Club of San Mateo, Calif., Local 617 collected more than \$53,000 in donations in support of last September's Northern California Ride for Kids, and club president Dan Pasini credits that figure to the generosity of IBEW members and signatory contractors across the Ninth District.

"This was way above and beyond what I ever imagined we would come up with," said Pasini, a retired Local 617 member who helped found the club in 2008.

The ride is an annual fundraiser for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, and Business Manager Scott Wein said that a large part of the club's fundraising success for the event can be ascribed to the club's "Buck a Member" initiative. Every summer since 2012, the Ninth District's 33 inside wireman locals — plus Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245, the 28,000-member utility local — have received a letter from the club asking each IBEW brother and sister to consider donating at least one dollar in support of the ride.

"Thanks to their ongoing years of sponsorship, our 617JMC has raised nearly a quarter-million dollars for the PBTF," Wein said.

In 1984, after learning that a neighbor's child had a brain tumor, motorcycle enthusiasts Mike and Dianne Traynor were inspired to sponsor rides to raise funds in support of research into the causes of pediatric tumors. Seven years later, the overwhelming success of dozens of rides across the U.S. led them to launch the PBTF.

"It's amazing that these two regular people got this whole nationwide network started," said Pasini, who has been riding motorcycles since the late 1970s.

He learned about the foundation in 1996, two years before his initiation into the IBEW. "I wandered into a motorcycle dealership in Daly City," he said, "and there was a flyer for one of their rides in Vallejo sitting there."

Pasini, who holds a master's degree in counseling, had spent 16 years teaching, coaching and



From left, 617 Journeyman Motorcycle Club's Scott Allen, President Dan Pasini and Treasurer/Quartermaster Dave Goodwin proudly display their official club jackets.



mentoring high school students. He later served as program director of the Pacific Youth Service Bureau.

With his eldest daughter permanently deafened by pneumococcal meningitis, he sought a steadier and better-paying job that would allow him to spend more time caring for her.

"At the high school, there were parents who worked in non-union construction, and a lot of them did major electrical work," he said. "I worked over some breaks with them, and that started getting me interested in it."

After topping out of Local 617's apprenticeship in 2002, Pasini quickly became a union activist and apprenticeship director, eventually serving as the local's vice president and then 15 years as president, until his retirement in 2022.

Involvement in Ride for Kids had waned somewhat during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pasini said. "But the last few years have been amazing," he said, noting that more than 100 riders — IBEW members and others — took part in the 2025 ride. "It's been like a rebirth of what it used to be."

That rebirth was also evident in the success of the "Buck a Member" campaign, which had generated an impressive \$27,000 in donations by the Wednesday before the Sept. 21 ride. Pasini recalled speaking about that with club treasurer and quartermaster Dave Goodwin.

"I said, 'Dave, what can we do to up this?'" Pasini

said. "I thought a nice round number like 30 grand would be great."

Goodwin suggested calling Catherine Lynch, owner of Local 617 signatory contractor Lynch Electric.

"When she heard about it, it energized her," said Goodwin, who has personally known members of the Lynch family for many years. "I knew she was a good person, and I just knew that would happen."

Lynch then got in touch with the leaders of the National Electrical Contractors Association's San Mateo chapter, as well as her contacts at fellow California-based signatories Morrow-Meadows and ASF Electric.

"Within a day and a half, Catherine got us \$6,000," Pasini said, half from the NECA chapter and half from her company and the others.

On the day of the event, riders looped for about 90 minutes around Fremont's hills along the east side of San Francisco Bay, beginning and ending on the campus of Ohlone College and escorted by seven California Highway Patrol volunteers.

"The weather was beautiful, perfect," Pasini said. "It was a little fogged over at the beginning, but it ended up being nice and sunny."

As he has in recent years, Pasini also served on the ride's task force. "That's the team that helps put it together," he said. "They line up volunteers to cover all the components of the daily events, from finding a place, getting food, and getting the CHP on board."

Three young PBTF beneficiaries also took part in the event, Pasini said, and they joined riders and volunteers

Members of San Mateo, Calif., Local 617's motorcycle club, 617 Journeyman, gathered under a tent set up for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's 2024 Ride for Kids. From left: Local 617 members Darryl Ryan (the club's secretary) and Scott Allen; Dan Pasini, retired Local 617 vice president and the club's president; retired Local 617 President Alan Sheehan; Local 617 members Lucas Weaver and Dave Goodwin (the club's treasurer/quartermaster); and associate club members Andrew Yee and Nancy Murphy.



A Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation beneficiary and his father pose after a Ride for Kids with 617 Journeyman Motorcycle Club President Dan Pasini.

at a post-ride lunch as well as a celebration of life.

"That's always a very moving event," he said. "Sometimes it involves family, and sometimes we'll get

medical personnel from UCSF, Stanford and others who are working with the kids locally to speak about what they're doing."

The club ended up bringing in \$53,152 in donations, Pasini said, thanks also to a boost from Local 617's executive board, which authorized a \$5,000 donation. Thousands more came from an Apple employee who traditionally has his contributions credited to one of the ride's fundraising groups.

"But it really had everything to do with the Ninth District's response and the NECA San Mateo chapter getting on board," said Pasini of the final tally.

The club president added that the Northern California ride's grand total of \$71,100 was more than \$6,000 above its goal, making it one of only two of the foundation's nine fundraisers in the U.S. last year that met or exceeded their fundraising targets.

"Our program has changed a lot in 42 years, and the fact that Dan's passion runs so deeply in what we do, that's been such a joy," said Alissa Karas, the PBTF's director of peer-to-peer fundraising. "He has really taken his experience and uses that as an opportunity to tell everyone about the incredible work that this organization does. He's a real champion and ambassador of our work."

The Ride for Kids is just one of the club's activities. "We've been out in the community for years," Pasini said, with club members taking part in such things as San Francisco Local 6's annual Toy Run, riding in parades and serving as flag line holders for honor flights, and working as safety escorts for bicyclists on ALS fundraising rides.

"At union meetings, when Dan gives a report, he always asks me, 'Is there anything else you can add?'" Goodwin said. "I always stand up and say, 'Just come out and ride. It's fun and everyone is welcome.'"

Wein noted that the club also leads the George Bastidas Memorial Run. Named for a young Local 617 journeyman wireman who died in a car crash in 2009, the ride raises money for IBEW members in need.

"I've always felt that if you're in a good enough place where you could help, you help," Goodwin added. "You never know when you might need to be a recipient of that help."

Pasini, who is already thinking about the PBTF's next planned Bay Area ride this fall, notes that there are more than 160,000 IBEW members in the Ninth District, which covers seven western states along with the U.S.'s Pacific island territories.

"If, God willing, every single local member gave, it could mean a six-digit donation," he said.

Wein said Local 617 is grateful to see what the club has built from its members' passion for motorcycle riding.

"Our local is extremely proud of our Journeymen Motorcycle Club and its advocacy, dedication and community service," Wein said. "Keep riding strong and know we are most grateful for all you do."

Ninth District International Vice President David Reaves said Pasini, the motorcycle club and Local 617 exemplify the best of the IBEW.

"With support from local unions across the Ninth District and our signatory partners," Reaves said, "their work shows how solidarity and generosity can make a real difference for children and families in need."

Learn more about the PBTF and Ride for Kids at [curethekids.org](http://curethekids.org).

