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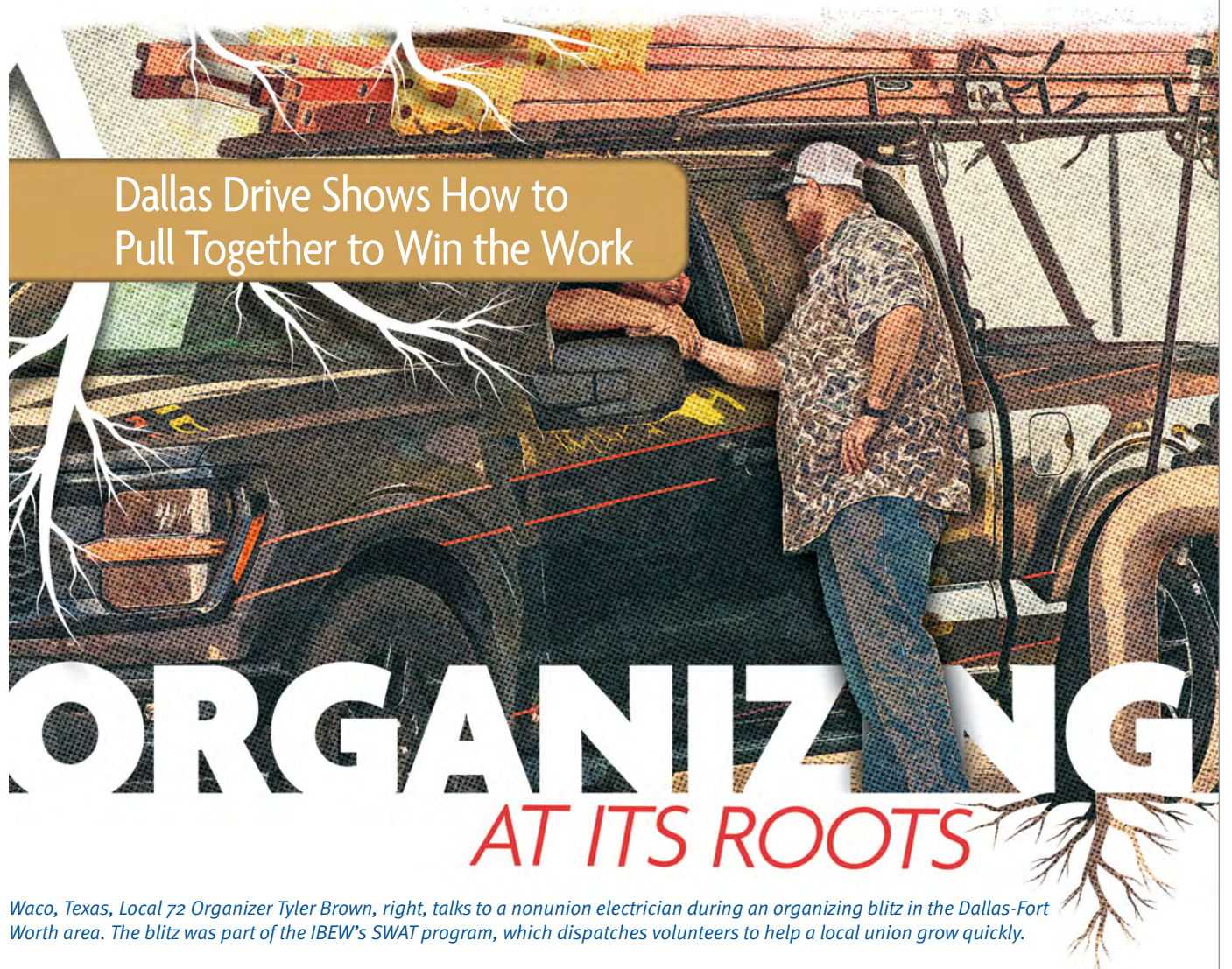
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Dallas Drive Shows How to Pull Together to Win the Work

# ORGANIZING AT ITS ROOTS

Waco, Texas, Local 72 Organizer Tyler Brown, right, talks to a nonunion electrician during an organizing blitz in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The blitz was part of the IBEW's SWAT program, which dispatches volunteers to help a local union grow quickly.

**THE IBEW'S 2026  
PHOTO CONTEST**  
Deadline: Oct. 31 • Details on pg. 7

**D**allas-Fort Worth Local 20 faces a challenge every day to meet the unprecedented demand for skilled electricians.

The Metroplex is one of the fastest-growing areas in the country, making it a magnet for new construction. Its jurisdiction is one of the hottest markets for data center construction. It must meet that demand while battling the historical anti-union headwinds in the Lone Star State.

An acute staffing crisis, however, provided a blueprint for local unions across the United States and Canada on how to quickly provide journeyman wiremen to signatory contractors — a challenge that International President Kenneth W. Cooper calls one of the biggest in the Brotherhood's 134-year history.

"Opportunities are coming at us faster than ever," Cooper said, "and we can't afford to miss them."

It isn't easy, but it can be done. A four-day organizing blitz and job fair held in Dallas to support Local 20 in late March and early April showed just that.

## SAFETY ON THE BALLOT

Cooper column, page 2

### A Call for Help

"The biggest struggle we face is overcoming the generations of misunderstanding and propaganda," Business Manager Price Warwick III said. "Most of the [nonunion] workers we talk to say things they don't even know if they are true or not, but it's what they've been told. It's just overcoming that and getting them to actually listen to you, and that makes a world of difference."

The IBEW has only about 11% market share in Local 20's jurisdiction — a number not uncommon in the anti-union South. Local 20 had about 200

open calls earlier this year, Warwick said.

That's challenging enough, but it got even worse. Signatory contractors told him they needed another 1,200 electrical workers during the next six months. Without that, companies that relied on the IBEW and other skilled trades would be forced to turn to nonunion workers and temporary agencies to meet the demand.

Despite Local 20's double-digit-percentage membership growth in recent years and the recent addition of a new signatory, Warwick knew he needed a lot of help. And fast.

So, he talked with Seventh District Organizing Coordinator Philip Lawhon and others about their options. Lawhon talked with district International Vice President Chris Wagner, and they reached out to the Construction Organizing Department at the International Office in Washington, D.C.

Enter SWAT — and no, not the hostage rescue team at your nearby police department.

'ORGANIZING AT ITS ROOTS' continued on page 4

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FROM THE OFFICERS

# Be a Safety Voter



**Kenneth W. Cooper**  
International President

**A**s we enter summer, heat safety is more important than ever, especially for construction workers, who make up one-third of all heat-related deaths.

From 2011 to 2020, over 33,890 U.S. workers suffered heat-related injuries or illnesses, and nearly 1,000 have died from extreme heat exposure since 1992.

And the danger keeps worsening each summer as temperatures continue to soar.

For the IBEW, safety is one of our founding values, and it remains just as important today. It is every IBEW member's responsibility to ensure that they and their co-workers go home to their families safe and sound every day.

That means following best practices and procedures around heat safety. I would also add that we should follow government workplace law. But the sad reality is that, at least on the federal level, we have no heat-related protections.

As we report in this issue of *The Electrical Worker*, under Joe Biden, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration introduced a rule to create a heat protection standard, but it never went into effect before he left office.

Not only has the current administration not shown any interest in moving it along, but it has also watered down existing heat-safety regulations, which puts more workers at risk of heat-related injury and death this summer.

There is some movement at the state level, but so far only seven states have heat-protection laws on the books.

America will be going to the polls this November, and the IBEW will be doing our part to educate members on the issues and ensure our voices are heard.

Some of you ask us: "Why is the IBEW involved in politics in the first place?"

It's simple.

The decisions made by those in power impact our jobs, our benefits and, in the case of safety laws, our lives.

When politicians in Florida and Texas pass laws preempting local municipalities from implementing heat safety regulations, it's a direct threat to our members' health and well-being.

As your international president, I couldn't care less about any politician's party affiliation or whether they're liberal or conservative.

What I care about is how they vote on issues like mandatory water breaks or more funding for safety inspectors, because that can save lives.

Blue-collar work was far more dangerous a century ago, especially in construction and the electrical industry.

It's safer today not just because unions give workers power to demand safe workplaces, but also because unions fought to pass legislation that created regulatory bodies like OSHA.

One of the best ways to ensure a safe workplace is to join a union. But without strong health and safety protections at the local, state and federal levels, too many workers will be lost each year to preventable accidents.

Keep that in mind when you're at the ballot box this November. ■

# Upstanders, not Bystanders

I'd bet that most of us were taught the Golden Rule when we were very young.

Whether we heard some version of the rule from our parents, our teachers or our religious leaders, we eventually learn that the notion that we should "treat others the way we want them to treat us" is what forms the very foundation of our society.

When we joined the IBEW, we learned organized labor's version of the Golden Rule: "An injury to one is an injury to all."

President Cooper and I take both rules extremely seriously, brothers and sisters. Make no mistake: We do not — we will not — tolerate behaviors that break them, especially when doing so makes someone in our ranks feel unsafe or unwanted.

In the January *Electrical Worker*, Coop and I told you about the IBEW's Bystander to Upstander program, and in this month's issue, you can get more details about it.

Presented by our Education Department and our Civic and Community Engagement Department, Bystander to Upstander teaches valuable, real-world strategies that all of us can use to intervene whenever we witness a co-worker or fellow member being treated unfairly.

Through interactive discussions and role-play scenarios, participants in the program learn how "just joking" is never an excuse for making a union sister or brother feel threatened, unequal or unsafe because of the way they look, dress, talk or act.

If you've ever wished you would've stepped in to stop someone from being bullied, touched inappropriately, pranked or ridiculed, I strongly encourage you to ask the leaders of your local and its affinity groups about making Bystander to Upstander training available to your membership.

Here's something else to think about: The IBEW simply can't afford to become known as a union of bystanders. We all must become upstanders for our union and our fellow members, because that's how we strengthen our solidarity. Being upstanders can lead us to further gains in membership, greater market share and better benefits at the bargaining table.

When you go through Bystander to Upstander, you'll hear these powerful words by Elie Wiesel, who was born in Romania, survived the Holocaust, and later went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize as an American citizen, an acclaimed writer and a political activist: "What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander."

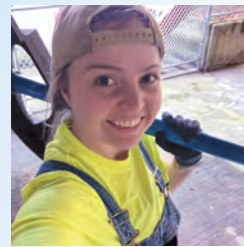
Brothers and sisters: We must strive never to be silent bystanders when we witness injustice of any kind. The principles of the IBEW demand that we all stand ready to serve as active upstanders. Thanks for doing your part. ■



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

# My IBEW STORY

**Robin Thomas**, apprentice wireman  
Salem, Ore., Local 280



“The IBEW found me at exactly the right time. I was a stay-at-home mom, ready for something more. I'd worked enough low-paying desk jobs to know I wanted a real career — something I could grow in and retire from. I was willing to work hard for it.

Growing up, I'd tag along with my dad on his handyman jobs. Sometimes I helped, sometimes I just watched — but I loved it. Being around the tools, working with my hands, feeling capable. That stuck with me.

While seeking out a career, electrical work stood out right away. It felt like something I could do for life. When I started researching, I found that the union accepted applications year-round — unlike nonunion. So I went for it. The only hiccup? My high school had shut down, and I had no official diploma record. At 30, I found myself studying for my GED — but honestly, that just confirmed that I was all in.

At an electrical job fair, I learned that the University of Oregon's Hayward Field needed material handlers. I signed the books at Local 280 as a material handler and followed up by dropping off my resume at EC Electric and OEG. Within three months, I was on the job.

Hayward Field felt like Disneyland for construction — huge, exciting, and full of opportunity. I interviewed dozens of electricians: "Do you like this work? Could I do this?" Every single one encouraged me.

Then COVID hit. I was furloughed in March 2020, right as things were lining up — GED done, recommendations in hand, waiting on my interview. When it finally happened, it was the best interview I'd ever had. I got ranked No. 1 in August ... but had to wait nearly a year to actually start because of the backlog. In July 2021, I finally became an apprentice.

By 2023, I was in service, working on great jobs and training for the Hood to Coast relay race. But something felt off. I was in marathon shape — or should've been — but everything felt harder. That led me back to my heart.

After some testing, I found out that the bicuspid aortic valve that I was born with was failing. Then things moved fast. A surgeon reviewed my case, and within a week, I was scheduled for open heart surgery.

That's when the IBEW really showed up for me.

People brought meals. They checked in. They passed the hat to help me out. I had a whole community behind me at a time when I couldn't even open a pill bottle on my own.

This career gave me more than a job — it gave me a future, a purpose, and a family that carried me when I needed it most.

And that's something I'll never forget. I am so thankful for my IBEW family.”

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

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

**THE METER**

46,000

Approximate number of lights installed by San Francisco Local 6 above the Bay Bridge as part of the Bay Lights art installation.

See "Local 6 Members Rise Hundreds of Feet to Light Up the Bay" on page 5.

# Critical Course Aims to Help Members Address Jobsite Harassment

**D**eclaring that intimidation and discrimination have no place in the IBEW, International President Kenneth W. Cooper and International Secretary-Treasurer Paul Noble emphasized the importance of Bystander to Upstander, a program designed to give members useful strategies for intervening to prevent on-the-job harassment and bullying.

“Every IBEW member — regardless of gender, color or creed — deserves a workplace that is safe, welcoming and free of harassment,” the two leaders wrote in a joint column for the January 2026 Electrical Worker. “And it is everyone’s responsibility to make that a reality.”

Safe and healthy workplaces happen when the union’s values and members’ behaviors align, said Education Director Amanda Pacheco, who is working with Civic and Community Engagement Director Jennifer Gray to develop Bystander to Upstander.

“What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander.”

— Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor, political activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner (1928-2016)

“I’ve met a lot of amazing people who are committed to the labor movement, their union and working people, and they continue to do that work every day,” Pacheco said. “Unfortunately, I’ve worked with some great union leaders and members who, for one reason or another, couldn’t stay in. A lot of times, it was because the movement wasn’t welcoming to them.”

Sometimes, such situations can escalate into tragedies, such as the murder last November of Amber Czech, a 20-year-old welder from Minnesota, in what authorities said was an act of targeted workplace violence.

The IBEW and several other AFL-CIO unions moved swiftly afterward to develop courses that go beyond traditional harassment training, said Pacheco, who noted that some of the training is related to a program used by First District IBEW members called “Be More Than a Bystander.”

“We need to help folks understand that it’s not okay to just ‘do no harm.’ We actually have to stand up when we see somebody being treated unfairly,” Gray said. “It might not be you today, but it could be you



tomorrow.”

The highly interactive, two-hour Bystander to Upstander course calls special attention to the IBEW’s oath of membership, which contains a promise to abide by the union’s constitution — a document that begins with the declaration that members will always refuse “to condone or tolerate dictatorship or oppression of any kind.”

IBEW members, then, are duty-bound to be more than bystanders when they witness pranks that seem harmless, discriminatory jokes and even physical assaults, Pacheco said. They need to be intervening upstanders.

Such behavior can turn into a safety issue, she added. “When people don’t feel safe, they’re not at the top of

their game,” Pacheco added. “Nobody wants to be on a line with somebody who’s not at their best.”

Going further, if the IBEW gains a reputation for not having the backs of its members, it could divide the Brotherhood and weaken the union’s organizing, bargaining and market share.

It takes courage and consistency to

become an upstander, Pacheco said, so course participants engage in role-playing to practice using the “Three Ds” — direct, distract or delegate — while intervening during uncomfortable jobsite situations.

“You don’t want to be that person who was there and saw something happen but didn’t do anything to help your union brother, sister or sibling,” she said.

Members of IBEW affinity groups such as the International Women’s Committee, RENEW/NextGen and the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus have taken part in the training, and Pacheco said she hopes more members will have the same opportunity.

Meanwhile, Cooper and Noble

encouraged the union’s district and local leaders to look for opportunities to bring Bystander to Upstander training to their members.

“When we look out for one another, challenge harassment and intimidation wherever they appear, support members who are struggling and ensure that every worker feels valued and protected, we build a union worthy of the people within it,” they said.

Bystander to Upstander, they said, reinforces the labor movement’s principle that an injury to one is an injury to all. “The IBEW built a culture of safety that expects every member to follow our standards and shows zero tolerance for anyone who does not.” ■

*During a recent meeting of the International Women’s Committee in Washington, Education Director Amanda Pacheco, at left, led participants through the union’s Bystander to Upstander course, a two-hour interactive training program for helping members learn ways of intervening to promote the IBEW’s core values wherever their brothers and sisters are gathered.*

## Answering Prayers in St. Louis

**A**lways stalwarts of their community, St. Louis Local 1 and its NECA contractors jumped in to help in a big way after a deadly tornado ravaged areas of north St. Louis in May 2025, leaving residents traumatized amid \$1 billion in wreckage.

Hailed as a first-of-its-kind recovery initiative, the IBEW/NECA Electrical Connection team launched Reconnect STL, donating hundreds of thousands of dollars while bringing together city officials, suppliers and various agencies to streamline the process of restoring power to homes and business.

This spring, the St. Louis Business Journal honored the project with an “Innovation in Philanthropy Award,” capturing the May 16, 2025, nightmare in the words of a homeowner who said: “I turned off my phone and began to pray.”

“Reconnect STL helped answer those prayers,” the Journal wrote, noting that “Fly-by-night contractors were exploiting vulnerable people. Others had lost important documents, and insurance providers denied claims, if they even had insurance. They needed professional help. The city couldn’t wait for federal aid to arrive. It had to act, and industry leaders answered the call.”

The IBEW/NECA Electrical Connection also won the award in 2024 for its work with Rebuilding Together St. Louis, a project now in its 23rd year that deploys volunteers en masse for a day to make free home repairs for seniors, veterans and people with disabilities. Photos are from the most recent repairs in April. ■



# ORGANIZING AT ITS ROOTS

## Dallas Drive Shows How to Pull Together to Win the Work

▼ Continued from page 1

### Bringing In New Workers Now

For the IBEW, it's an acronym for Strategic Winning Action Team, a program that has been used successfully during professional and industrial organizing campaigns.

Officers, organizers — from the International Office and the district and local levels — and members from across North America travel to a targeted site, where they knock on employees' doors and meet them outside their places of employment, urging them to join the IBEW.

It has played a key role in organizing wins at Atlanta Gas Light and BGE, but nothing on that large of a scale in construction.

There was no time to waste. With Cooper's blessing, Lawhon, Construction Organizing Director Adrian Saucedo and Local 20 officials went to work. Within three weeks, they devised and executed an organizing blitz that would bring 83 volunteers and organizers to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

It would culminate April 2 in a huge job fair with over 500 attendees, with representatives from the National Electrical Contractors Association and signatory contractors in attendance.

Nearly 100 wiremen and other electrical workers were hired that night, bringing them the security of higher union wages and better benefits. The IBEW, which has seen its most rapid growth in 60 years, continued to strengthen its position to garner even more work and negotiate better contracts for members.

The momentum continues. Local 20 added 440 new members in April, the most it has ever added in one month, Warwick said. Nearly every morning, someone who attended the job fair or heard from others is waiting in the parking lot, anxious to see if they can become part of the Brotherhood.

"It was an overwhelming success," said Lawhon, who has been an IBEW organizer for 25 years and is a member of Austin, Texas, Local 520. "We would not have been able to do this without the assistance from outside the district,



Seventh District Organizing Coordinator Philip Lawhon, above left, is joined by Milwaukee Tool rep Calvin Pearson; Jake Hopkins, executive director of NECA's North Texas chapter; and Paul Flynn, NECA's director of workforce development.

because the Metroplex is just so big with so much development there.

"We could probably do it again tomorrow and get the same results," he added.

### Making SWAT Work

There might be another SWAT operation in Dallas at some point, but the program is available to all construction local unions that need help growing fast. Once approved, the Brotherhood can quickly bring in an army of enthusiastic organizers.

Here is how it worked in Dallas:

President Cooper put out a call in mid-March to districts and locals to send members to help with the Dallas blitz later that month.

That's a quick turnaround, but IBEW members understood the importance and heeded the call. There were 83 volunteers from five districts. They included not only business managers and organizers but also rank-and-file members. There were even apprentices on hand, some identified by their own local as potential future leaders.

They traveled to Dallas, and most arrived March 29.



The following morning, they began knocking on doors and walking and leaf-letting on nonunion jobsites. Local 20 used public records to identify electrical workers within its jurisdiction, with special emphasis placed on reaching out to those holding a Texas state journeyman electrician license.

Organizers asked potential applicants if they had at least three years of experience on commercial projects to give contractors a talented pool of candidates at the job fair, Saucedo said.

The days of filling out an application via pen and paper are nearly extinct. Anyone interested could apply on their phone or other internet device. Organizers quickly verified their work hours through irs.gov so a qualified candidate can be loaded into the IBEW's Labor Power Express database and dispatched immediately.

The fair itself, which was held at Local 20's hall, drew nearly 500 applicants. They each wore a badge with their name and color code that identified whether they were at journeyman or supervisor status. Contractors had their own individual QR code that was scanned when they wanted to hire an attendee, with that information added to Labor Power Express. Two food trucks provided a meal to everyone attending.

Paul Flynn, NECA's director of workforce development and a former Peoria, Ill., Local 34 business manager, agreed that the competition among contractors was intense.

"The fact that people could walk out of there with a job referral helped make it such a success," he said. "When you can



IBEW members from across the United States fanned out across the Metroplex for the organizing blitz and job fair.



have a job fair and you can dispatch on the night of the job, it's game changing."

Being able to confirm an applicant's job history on the same night was crucial, Flynn said. That was possible due to a team of the volunteers on work verification duty walking each attendee through irs.gov.

"The contractors I've spoken to all said it was a success," Flynn said. "They'd like to do another one again in a month."

### Retention Is Vital

Making sure Local 20 and the IBEW retains those new members is key. Saucedo and Warwick both said organizers continue to reach out to them, seeing how they are adjusting to the job and if they are aware of all the benefits membership provides.

Those new members immediately see the increase in pay — often more than \$15 per hour — but sometimes don't grasp at first the quality of the health insurance or having access to a pension in retirement.

Another side benefit: Those IBEW members who traveled to Dallas from around the country got to sharpen their organizing skills. Many came from local unions with large market shares that have deep roots in their communities.

That's not the case in most of Texas.

"We got screamed at," said Saucedo, a Texas native and member of Houston Local 716. "We got cussed out. But that is a given when you are in the South.

"As organizers, we love that," he added. "It's motivating. Those guys from the high-density areas come down and say: 'This is a fight. This is organizing at its roots. This is awesome.'"

Volunteers noted the cultural differences. If you're from Ohio, knocking on doors with a union brother from Texas and another from Massachusetts is a bit of a culture shock.

But they loved it and look forward to doing it again.

"At the end of the day, our job is to talk to workers, no matter where they're at or where they're from, and have them join the IBEW," said Fourth District Organizing Coordinator Donny Rutledge, a member of Newark, Ohio, Local 1105 and a volunteer during the blitz.

"You talk to them, you're friendly with them, and you get personal with them," said Terry Short, an organizer for Toledo, Ohio, Local 8 who took part in the Dallas blitz. "You start talking to them about their wives, their families, where they come from, a little bit about their background.

"And then you find a way to take what we have and make it personal for them," he added. "That's how you really grab their attention."

Wagner praised every IBEW member who traveled to Dallas for the blitz, adding that it was the Brotherhood at its best.

"Organizing is our lifeblood, and to see so many brothers and sisters take time away from their families and home locals was inspiring," he said. "Their



Omar Almaguer, left, a Ventura, Calif., Local 952 executive board member, speaks to an applicant during the job fair.



Above: Fifth District Organizing Coordinator Ronnie Hickingbottom, left, talks with Canton, Ohio, Local 540 Membership Development Director Greg Bambenek during the blitz.

Left: Applicants checking in before the job fair at Local 20's hall.

work, along with our members in Dallas, made this a complete success. I thank everyone at the International Office and the district and local levels for that."

## The Time Is Now

Sauceda and others involved in this type of organizing know there remains resistance to it.

Most journeyman wiremen went through the Brotherhood's four- and five-year apprenticeship program, the best in the electrical industry. Many of those members still wonder why these new members are not required to do that.

Sauceda understands the question but notes that the IBEW and its local unions will lose bargaining power at the table, making it harder to protect those world-class benefits earned during the last 134 years, if they don't meet job calls today.

The situation in Dallas made that clear.

"It's our moment to organize hundreds of thousands of new members," Cooper said. "Our moment to rebuild market share bigger than ever. Our moment to secure our leadership in this industry for generations to come."

Bringing qualified workers into the Brotherhood is good for everyone, Saucedo said.

The new members get a chance at a better life. They can enhance their skills

with the support of their new brothers and sisters and world-class training.

Sauceda encourages business managers to be open with members on why it is being done. The IBEW's future is at stake. Even as membership continues to grow rapidly, the demand for skilled construction workers has only become more intense. Every step taken during a job blitz like the one in Dallas is to bring in workers who have proved they belong on a jobsite.

"As long as you're transparent with your members, they'll be behind you," he said.

"That work is going to go nonunion if we don't do everything in our power to fill those calls," Saucedo added. "We need to do everything we can to get those workers to be IBEW members, get them referrals and get them out there with our team."

Flynn said signatory contractors view it the same way. NECA President David Long, his boss, has called the problems in filling calls the biggest crisis faced by the unionized electrical construction industry. It must be answered with the urgency of programs like SWAT.

"Instead of calling it direct hire, I'd call it direct dispatch," Flynn said. "Go out and find who you want to hire and get them dispatched. The way the IBEW helped people verify their work hours [in Dallas] was a crucial step. You can have them dispatched the night of the event."

Business managers interested in having a SWAT program visit their local are encouraged to contact their district organizing coordinators.

Warwick, who saw it firsthand, highly recommends it.

"The support was invigorating," he said. "It was a relief because we knew we were going to have to have some help and it was just really, really moving. It reminds us there is solidarity in the Brotherhood. We stand together, we work together, and we get the job done." ■



# Local 6 Members Rise Hundreds of Feet to Light Up the Bay

Thirteen years ago, the Bay Area's second-most-famous bridge took the spotlight away from the Golden Gate Bridge.

The world's largest light sculpture was installed on its western span by members of San Francisco Local 6 in 2013, and — maybe for the first time since the two bridges opened in 1938 — the humbler, busier Bay Bridge shone brightest.

Local 6 members hung more than 25,000 LEDs from 300 support cables. Together, the lights created psychedelic wave of flows and patterns that could be seen for miles.

But the lights eventually went dark. Caltrans, the owner of the bridge, only permitted the project for two years, and new, more permanent lights followed. The flowing waves of glowing bulges and flickers danced on the Bay Bridge until 2023.

The uniquely corrosive environment of the San Francisco Bay's ceaseless sun, vibration from the gales above, rumbling cars and trucks below, and the salt-drenched mist slowly dimmed, decayed and then killed the Bay Lights after 10 years.

But some ideas aren't meant to stay dark.

After 18 months of fundraising, a new, bigger, brighter, sturdier Bay Lights was announced, this time with nearly double the lights — 46,000 instead of 25,000.

One thing that wouldn't change is who would do the work: Local 6.

"I'm from San Francisco. I was born in SF General, raised in Chinatown, and I live in the Outer Sunset [a neighborhood close to the beach], and this was the dopest job I've ever done," said journeyman Saepate Vasa, who has been a member of Local 6 since organizing in 2018. "We have the purest bragging

rights. How many Bay Bridges are there? One. I did that."

Each night, Vasa and a crew of at least eight other journeymen would wait while Caltrans closed the northernmost lane of the bridge's upper deck. Their shift started at 8:30 p.m. and ended at 4:30 a.m.

"We worked the graveyard," said journeyman Megan Dunlap, who topped out of the Local 6 apprenticeship in 2020.

Nothing could be left on the bridge, so they staged everything each night they worked. The Bay Bridge is a suspension bridge. Support cables hang down in groups of four, arranged in a square. The electricians worked from a platform that fit inside the four cables. Each night, ironworkers climbed to the top of the bridge and attached a winch and cable to the gracefully arcing main cable. Laborers attached the cable to the platform, and up they went each night.

"It was like a window washer's swing stage, but for one person," Dunlap said.

The first nights were demolition. They attached tens of thousands of clips, held on with three pre-installed industrial-strength zip ties, and finally they hung the unbroken strands of LED lights. The longest cables rise 240 feet above the road, almost 600 feet above the churning waters of the Bay. The shortest span is only two feet long.

"We took up a huge empty canvas bag for the demo and a huge full bag when we were hanging the lights," Dunlap said. "It was so heavy it took two people to lift it, and the whole platform tilted."

Both Vasa and Dunlap recalled the fear in the first days on the job.

"For the first two weeks, I questioned why I took the job. That's how afraid I was. I really hoped I wouldn't embarrass myself,"

San Francisco Local 6 members rebuilt the world's largest light sculpture, installing more than 45,000 LEDs to support cables on the Bay Bridge.

Dunlap said. Especially frightening for Dunlap was terminating the strands. For that, they skipped the platform, clipped in, and climbed over the wall at the edge of the road.

For Vasa, the cherry pickers they used on the shorter cables were somehow more nerve-racking than jumping over the side of the bridge.

"Way scarier," he said.

But after the first few nights, any fear fell away, and they were left with, in Dunlap's words, exhilaration.

"There was an adjustment period, and the work was repetitive, but the experience made the repetitiveness not even matter. We saw the moon every night, and the view was amazing. Once you are up in the top, you feel like you are in a different place. It wasn't ever quiet, but you were removed," she said.

For Vasa, as the height faded into the background, working graveyard took its toll. But like Dunlap, the reward was being someplace extraordinary.

"The craziest part is you get to a certain height, and you hear nothing. You can see your boy over on that cable, but not close enough to talk to, and the cars look so far away," Vasa said. "You have your work and the water and the city, and it's something few people will see in a place few people will ever go." Bay Lights relaunched March 20, a few weeks after Dunlap was laid off from the job. She's doing service work now on a project where she can always look up and see the bridge.

"I feel so privileged and grateful. It's hard to put into words," she said. "When I show people pictures, they say, 'This doesn't look real.' But I promise, this is real." ■

# Amid Record High Temperatures, Washington Leaves Workers Out to Dry

**W**ith temperatures soaring, heat safety should be top of mind for everyone who works outdoors. Just don't count on much guidance from Washington.

More people die each year from heat-related illness than all other natural disasters combined. And despite making up only 7% of the workforce, construction workers account for more than a third of all heat-related deaths. According to data from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, construction is one of the top three jobs with the most heat-related deaths.

It's not just construction workers. The need to protect all workers is becoming increasingly urgent. People performing a wide array of jobs face dangerous heat conditions, including those that are indoors, and it is only getting worse as each summer outpaces the previous one for hottest season on record. It's gotten so dangerously hot, in fact, that the National Weather Service created a heat risk chart ranking the probability of heat-related illness as it correlates to the heat index, among other factors.

As striking as the numbers are, no federal law requiring a heat-related protocol exists. The Biden administration's OSHA introduced a rule to create a heat protection standard, but the rulemaking process is notoriously slow, and time ran out. The current administration could continue the process, but it has thus far ignored the issue.

"It's almost better that OSHA, as it is right now, does not revisit the heat rule," Safety Director Mark MacNichol said. "They would almost certainly weaken it and take out worker protections."

President Donald Trump's OSHA took another heat-injury regulation from Biden's tenure and watered it down to make it more employer-friendly. In 2022, OSHA instituted the National Emphasis Program for heat. It was launched to increase on-site inspections of industries where workers are at high risk for heat exposure. It also set a goal to have each OSHA regional office increase inspections. The new version, released in April, eliminated that part and did not replace it with an alternative metric.

The new NEP also defanged the original with language that calls for "consultations" in lieu of inspections, prioritizing employers over employees.

"This new policy limits OSHA's ability to hold bosses accountable when they fail to protect workers from heat on the job," AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said. "It puts workers' lives in danger, plain and simple."

The Trump administration is markedly different from the Biden administration when it comes to regulation and worker protections, said Topeka, Kan., Local 304 Assistant Business Manager Gene Sicard.

"President Trump is very deregulation-oriented," said Sicard, who serves on OSHA's Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health. "Trump's administration is currently leaning towards employer protections with the potential costs of removing worker protections, whereas President Biden worked to increase them."

With little guidance from the federal level, states are stepping up and passing their own laws. Only seven states have regulations around heat safety, with varying language about who is covered, but close to 20 other states introduced bills in 2025 legislative sessions.

The Virginia Legislature passed a bill in March that directs the Health Codes Board and the Department of Labor to set standards that require safeguards like shade, water and rest; written heat illness prevention plans from each business; and heat training for workers and supervisors.

Some areas are seeing action at the local level, like Phoenix. The City Council unanimously passed a heat safety ordinance that requires employers with outdoor workers to have a heat safety plan on record.

Other states, however, are moving in the opposite direction. Florida and Texas both passed laws preempting local governments from passing their own laws on water breaks and other heat-related safety standards.

"Florida and Texas are two of the hottest states in the nation, and they're acting like it's not hot at all," MacNichol said.

For most workers, the only way to ensure that heat-related protections are available is to join a union. ■

## Heat-Related Illnesses and First Aid

Several heat-related illnesses can affect workers. Some of the symptoms are non-specific. This means that when a worker is performing physical labor in a warm environment, any unusual symptom can be a sign of overheating.

Heat-Related Illness	Symptoms and Signs
Heat stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Slurred speech</li> <li>• Unconsciousness</li> <li>• Seizures</li> <li>• Heavy sweating or hot, dry skin</li> <li>• Very high body temperature</li> <li>• Rapid heart rate</li> </ul>
Heat exhaustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• Thirst</li> <li>• Nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Dizziness or lightheadedness</li> <li>• Heavy sweating</li> <li>• Elevated body temperature or fast heart rate</li> </ul>
Heat cramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle spasms or pain</li> <li>• Usually in legs, arms, or trunk</li> </ul>
Heat syncope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fainting</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> </ul>
Heat rash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clusters of red bumps on skin</li> <li>• Often appears on neck, upper chest, and skin folds</li> </ul>
Rhabdomyolysis (muscle breakdown)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle pain</li> <li>• Dark urine or reduced urine output</li> <li>• Weakness</li> </ul>

Employers and workers should become familiar with the heat symptoms. When any of these symptoms is present, promptly provide first aid. Do not try to diagnose which illness is occurring. Diagnosis is often difficult because symptoms of multiple heat-related illnesses can occur together. Time is of the essence. These conditions can worsen quickly and result in fatalities.

**JOB-RELATED FACTORS THAT INCREASE RISK OF HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS AND DEATH** August 2022

- Machinery, power tools, and hot/molten materials can radiate additional heat.
- Working in direct sunlight can increase heat exposure (and the risk of skin cancer!).
- Physical exertion and heavy workloads generate heat in the body and cause fluids and electrolytes to be lost more quickly through sweat.
- Clothing and PPE can trap heat and reduce air flow, making it harder for the body to cool itself.
- Additional risk factors may include, but are not limited to: lack of acclimatization, working in enclosed spaces, and some medications, caffeine, or other individual factors.

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR CREW!**  
learn how at: [www.cpwr.com/heat](http://www.cpwr.com/heat)

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**EXTREME HEAT AND CONSTRUCTION FALLS** April 2021

- Construction workers account for more than 1 out of 3 of all work-related heat deaths.
- Heat exposure INCREASES RISK of traumatic injuries such as falls.
- YOUNGER AND OLDER (18-34) (>54) workers are most at risk.
- Extreme heat can affect balance, reduce awareness of danger, and slow your reaction time.

**What to do:**

- Provide water and easy access to toilets.
- Train workers to understand how heat stress affects their health and safety.
- Develop a heat awareness campaign that addresses fall injuries.
- Onsite, have everyone drink extra water to prevent the onset of heat stress.

Download and use the free OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool app

Join the Campaign to Stop Construction Falls!  
[www.stopconstructionfalls.com](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com)

Logos for OSHA, NIOSH, CPWR, and NORA.

#StandDown4Safety

As temperatures climb to extreme levels, workers and employers should know what signs to look for and how to help someone experiencing a heat-related illness. Resources can be found through organizations like CPWR and OSHA.

# W. Va. Members Help CSX Switch Some Locomotives From Diesel to Hydrogen

The only shop in the CSX railroad system where locomotives are being converted to use hydrogen fuel instead of diesel is in Huntington, W. Va., and highly trained IBEW electricians are playing a crucial role in ensuring that these conversions are completed thoroughly and safely.

"We're very fortunate for what we get to do here every day," said Huntington Local 549 President Chris Holley, a second-generation railroader who has worked with CSX for nearly 17 years.

Hydrogen offers locomotives an efficient, clean alternative to diesel. It's especially well-suited for locomotives servicing urban centers in CSX's operations area, which covers the eastern third of the United States.

Within Huntington's heavy-engine building and repair shop — an 11-acre indoor facility massive enough to hold almost 200 locomotives — nearly two dozen CSX workers represented by the IBEW and several other unions play key roles in the hydrogen conversion process, which commences when diesel engines "are flown with a 300-ton overhead crane into the high bay," Holley said.



Photo courtesy of CSX

IBEW electricians from Huntington, W.Va., Local 549, like Chance Brown, above, are part of a unique team of union workers at CSX who are stripping as many as seven diesel-fueled locomotives a year down to their frames and then using recycled and modernized components to rebuild them as hydrogen-powered engines.

"My dad was a clerk who retired after 38½ years of service," he said. "I've got a brother-in-law who was a machinist, and an ex-brother-in-law who's a current boilermaker here."

CSX unveiled its first hydrogen locomotive in 2024 as part of a collaboration with the Canadian Pacific Kansas City railroad, which, like CSX, also employs hundreds of workers represented by the IBEW. Hydrogen conversions for CSX began in Huntington the following year.

"Our craftsmen quickly figured out exactly how they were going to make [conversions] work here," Holley said. "They determined what needed to be done, and how."

IBEW workers remain involved throughout the conversion process, he said, as locomotives move through fueling, testing and finishing. Workers at the Huntington shop are expecting to convert six or seven locomotives a year for the foreseeable future.

"It really is a careful process. CSX put a lot of safety features into this project," Holley said. "Regardless of what type of fuel you use, you're always going to have some type of risk. The key thing is that you have to make sure you do proper maintenance on anything you run, to ensure the safety of it."

Fourth District International Vice President Austin Keyser, whose jurisdiction includes Local 359, noted that the hydrogen-powered units emit only water vapor.

"The IBEW has always been at the forefront of technological advancement," Keyser said. "This project is another example of that."

A fully converted hydrogen locomotive looks mostly like a traditional diesel version, Holley said, with a few distinctions.

"The painting scheme is completely different, a light blue, white and bright green with dark blue lettering," he said.

They also wind up being a bit taller.

"One thing that was kind of touch-and-go was when they first started building these things, it raised the height of the locomotive to where it was pretty close for them clearing the doors and getting out of the building," Holley said.

Although none of the newly converted locomotives had problems exiting to the yard's test tracks, he said that "one of the big running jokes was, 'We can just let the air out of the tires if we need to.'"

Local 549 members work on a lot of other things besides hydrogen conversions, Holley noted.

"We have a full electric shop, building generators and traction motors," he said. The nearly 90-member local also represents communication and roadside electricians, as well as workers at a CSX shop in nearby Russell, Ky.

In Huntington, IBEW electrical workers are also part of a CSX program to extend the lives of hundreds of other diesel locomotives by taking them almost completely apart and then rebuilding them with modernized cabs, frames and motors.

Innovation fueled by IBEW members helps railroads like CSX remain competitive, said Railroad System Council 6 General Chair Shannon Spotswood.

"It's exciting to see Huntington leading the way into the future with their hydrogen program, because I think there's a lot of potential going for it to develop into something big," said Spotswood, whose 28-local jurisdiction includes Local 549. "It keeps our members working, and it could help bring future workers into the IBEW."

Railroad Director Danielle Eckert agreed. "IBEW electricians remain crucial to railroad operations across North America," Eckert said. "As fuel-cell technology continues to evolve, our training and expertise can help railroads continue to evolve along with it." ■



## THE IBEW'S 2026 PHOTO CONTEST

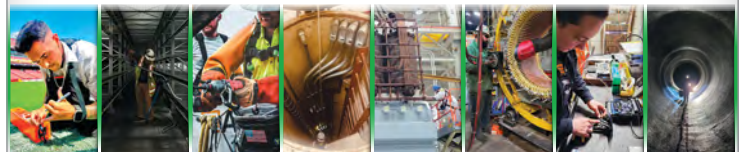
The IBEW Photo Contest has been The Electrical Worker's way to ride shotgun with brothers and sisters for a quarter of a century. Your pictures bring us closer together and are a showcase for the critical role members play in the life and work of North America.

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

- Top Prize: \$1,000**
- Second Place: \$750**
- Third Place: \$500**

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

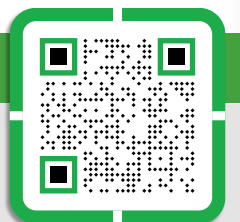
- Broadcasting
- Inside Construction
- Outside Construction
- Government
- Manufacturing
- Railroad
- Telecommunications
- Utility



**DEADLINE: OCT. 31**

See official rules and submission instructions at **IBEW.org/photocontest**.

Entries **MUST** be submitted **electronically** by Oct. 31 via the Photo Contest link on **IBEW.org**. Please contact the Media Department at **media@IBEW.org** or 202-728-6102 with additional questions.



“There’s over five miles of wire that runs through a locomotive. ... Our craftsmen quickly figured out exactly how they were going to make [conversions] work here.”

—Huntington, W.Va., Local 549 President Chris Holley

“They’re stripped down by each craft to the main frame, and then the rebuilding begins with boilermakers doing their modifications,” he said, alongside IBEW electricians who install upgraded hardware, software and wiring. “There’s over five miles of wire that runs through a locomotive.”

That kind of electrical work keeps Local 549 members busy throughout the weeks-long conversion process, working shoulder to shoulder — as they have for decades at the 71-acre rail yard — with their brothers and sisters in unions representing pipefitters, machinists, sheet metal workers, and anyone else who maintains locomotive components.

“Everybody here understands their role,” said Holley, who noted his personal experience with other railroad crafts.

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

## Frank Selke: Hockey Legend, Proud IBEW Member

**Frank Selke** won nine Stanley Cups during a storied career managing Canadian hockey teams. But he was equally proud of the IBEW card he carried for more than 50 years.

His legacy lives on in both worlds, honored in the National Hockey League with a trophy named for him and celebrated in the annals of Toronto Local 353 as a strategic business manager who shepherded the local through the early years of the Great Depression.

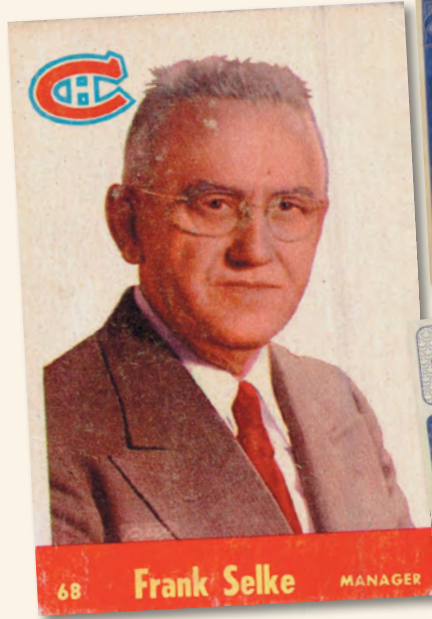
Born in what's now Kitchener, Ontario, in 1893, Selke was managing his hometown's hockey team by the time he was 13 years old. He moved on to coach in the Ontario Hockey League and, after serving in World War I, led a University of Toronto team to a national title in 1919.

Brother Selke joined Local 353 in November 1925 and took on the role of press secretary, extolling the growing local's many achievements in the pages of *The Electrical Worker*.

In February 1929, he wrote that the electrical trade "was booming" in Toronto and that "all members are contentedly employed," reporting on a three-year agreement that brought the wage rate to \$1.35 an hour in the third year. Meanwhile, he said, "the boys were knocking down \$1.10 an hour, with lots of overtime."

Selke beamed with IBEW pride in his press reports, as when he heralded two of Toronto's major projects in 1929. One was the Daily Star headquarters — a 100% union-built art deco palace considered one of Canada's finest buildings and later used as the model for Superman's Daily Planet. The other was the Royal York Hotel, which he called "the largest and finest hotel in the British Empire, and in the writer's humble opinion has few equals anywhere on earth."

"Not one iota of electrical work in this building was done by any but loyal



A Frank Selke NHL card alongside stock certificates for the Maple Leafs organization, which built a new arena in 1931. To win the contract, Local 353 and fellow trades agreed to take 20% of their pay in stock.

### All in Good Fun

Frank Selke was known for his sense of humor, which he employed at times in his missives to *The Electrical Worker*. The anniversary book cited his reports on some early 1929 festivities, noting that he "couldn't help but tweak the noses of his union brothers in the United States" about Prohibition, the 13-year stretch from 1920 to 1933 when the 18th Amendment outlawed alcohol.

Sharing the details of a social that Local 353 members attended at Hamilton, Ontario, Local 105, he wrote, "[S]uffice it to say that the working parts of the boys were 'well oiled' and everyone joined in with enough whoopee to make it a memorable evening for all." When Toronto members returned the favor and invited Local 105 to a social, they teasingly expressed regret that "the parched boys south of the border" couldn't join them.

members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers," he wrote. "Five tons of copper buss bar were used in the erection of the switchboard. One hundred and fifty miles of rigid conduit of various sizes were installed in the job. Three thousand four hundred outlets are situated in the structure, 1,300 of these being fixtures also installed by Class 'A' men of our local. One hundred and fifty thousand feet of telephone

wire and 6,000 feet of signal cable were used in the room to room connections and so on."

The projects fueled a feeling of optimism in early 1929, as the local's history-packed 100th-anniversary book noted in 2003. No one could have imagined the catastrophic stock market crash that would turn their worlds upside down that October.

At the time, Selke had been doing triple duty for more than a year. He was the publicity director for Maple Leaf Gardens, home of Toronto's hockey team, while also coaching a minor-league team.

Yet he continued on as Local 353's press secretary and then as business manager — a job he performed without pay from 1930 to 1932, when he launched his full-time hockey career.

Selke was determined to preserve members' morale even as jobs began to disappear, and he fervently believed in the power of the union to make their lives better, no matter how tough the times.

"All the good things we have ever received, boys, have come to us through the efforts of the local union," he said, "so don't let any individual, with an axe to grind or personal ends to meet, convince you that there are other and better ways of improving your economic position than through your local union."

But he also understood the despair as the hard months dragged on. "They tell me the boys here had a real hot meeting while I was away," Selke wrote in April 1931. "Veiled threats and what not floated through the air for several hours, with the result that everyone unloaded a lot of cantankerous matter off their chests, then finally decided we were all good fellows and surely the local is none the worse as a result of this more thorough understanding of ideals."

Not all work dried up. A Campbell's Soup plant was under construction, and a new arena for the Maple Leafs was on the drawing board. A deal was struck with the team's owner to use only union labor as long as the workers would take 20% of their pay in Maple Leafs stock. It appears to have paid off: In 1932, the team won the Stanley Cup.

"Proudly, our first office was through a small door, on the second floor, on the east side of the original Maple Leafs building," Local 353 Business Manager Lee Caprio said. "Under Frank's leadership as business manager, our local and other trades agreed to coordinated scheduling, standardized wage arrangements and shares. The inaugural game was played on November 12, 1931, only five months after construction began. We still have the shares displayed at our hall."

It was a shot in the arm for the local. In January 1931, Selke reported that 200 journeymen were out of work and another 200 were working less than half time. But, typical of him, he remained hopeful: "In spite of it all, we have lost only a few members and if we can weather the storm until the new jobs open, Local Union 353 will have emblazoned itself in such a manner that it will live a long time in Toronto's civic history."

The anniversary book noted that Selke fought for the local on multiple fronts, criticizing municipal, provincial and federal politicians, as well as the

corporate community, for having cold feet.

"As far as Selke was concerned, all that was required of these leaders was to provide plenty of work at good wages for the eight-hour-per-day boys and the rest would look after itself. With steady work, the working man would have the resources to embark on a spending spree that would not only improve his morale but would improve the economy as well."

Selke's career in hockey took him to remarkable heights, first leading the Maple Leafs to three Stanley Cups, then moving to the Montreal Canadiens in 1946 and winning another six. He is credited with creating a farm system for the NHL, proposing in 1946 that the league sponsor junior teams. He was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1960, and in 1978, the NHL began awarding the Frank J. Selke Trophy, which honors each year's best defensive forward.

Through it all, Brother Selke never gave up his Local 353 membership. When he was presented with his 50-year pin in 1975, according to the anniversary book, "he said he regarded his union card as one of his proudest possessions." ■



Local 353 took first prize in Toronto's Labor Day parade in 1927 for a float showing a room fully equipped with electrical devices and a radio loudspeaker. Marchers pictured include Selke, who helped design the float.



Toronto's building boom before the Great Depression included the Royal York Hotel, which Selke reported on with pride as Local 353's press secretary, saying "Not one iota of electrical work was done by any but loyal members of the [IBEW]."

Visit [ibew.org/our-history-museum](http://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).

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

## In Ontario, Meter Work Is IBEW Work

Thanks largely to innovative agreements negotiated by the IBEW Construction Council of Ontario, scores of members from multiple locals are working for a project by two of the province's largest utilities to upgrade electric meters for nearly 1.5 million residential and commercial customers.

"It's new work for us, and it's huge," said James Barry, executive secretary-treasurer of the CCO, which represents 11 locals covering nearly 19,000 IBEW members.

Over the past few years, meter maker Honeywell was selected as the upgrade contractor for Hydro One, the province's largest electricity provider, and for Toronto Hydro, that city's electric company.

But the road to securing meter work for IBEW members began a decade ago, when the CCO successfully argued before the Ontario Labour Relations Board that such installations belong with IBEW members.

"Because we won that board decision, Honeywell must use IBEW electricians to do these upgrades," said Barry, who also negotiated an amendment to the union's agreement with the company that introduced new linework classifications for residential and commercial meter installers.

"This is how we keep high-quality electrical work in IBEW members' hands, with fully protected journeyman standards, wages and benefits," Barry said. The upgrade projects are expected to be worth about \$1 billion by the time they're completed within the next few years, he added, generating well over \$150 million in wages for IBEW members.

The union's lead representative on the projects is Toronto Local 353 Treasurer Jeff Hussey, who noted that all 11 of the CCO locals cooperated in a decision to amend the collective agreement and help spread the IBEW work throughout Ontario.

"There's a province-wide effort to make sure we're successful," said Hussey, who tracks 52 commercial installers and 108 residential installers, from his home local plus Hamilton Local 105, Kingston Local 115, London Local 120, Sarnia Local 530, Ottawa Local 586, Kitchener Local 804 and Sudbury Local 1687.

"Thanks to the commitment of business managers across the province, we have members doing something we were never doing before, and we've kept nonunion workers away from this work," Hussey said.

While the level of oversight and coordination required is significant, he said, the effort has proved invaluable. He also credited the project's two stewards for keeping communication flowing and helping ensure issues are

addressed quickly in the field.

"There's a lot going on, but we've gotten past a lot of the speed bumps," Hussey said.

Residential meter replacements can be handled by individual workers, he said.

"It's basically: Knock on the door and say, 'Hi, I'm here to replace your meter, and your power's going to be off for about 10 minutes,'" Hussey said. The installer removes the old meter, checks incoming power levels, installs and tests the new meter, and moves on. If the timing is inconvenient, customers can reschedule.

"We've learned a lot," he said. "You have to be well versed in how to communicate with customers."

There are other hazards. "I think we're up to six dog bites," Hussey said.

Commercial installers deal with dangers, too, he said, although a typical commercial meter is designed to be

disconnected without shutting down a business's power.

Despite the challenges, installers province-wide have been replacing up to 9,000 meters in a typical week, Hussey said.

"Jeff's right out there in the field with our members. He's worked hard on this," Barry said. "This project demonstrates how the IBEW can creatively partner with employers on logistically challenging jobs while maintaining strong representation for our members."

First District International Vice President Russ Shewchuk applauded the Ontario business managers and CCO leadership for thinking outside the box to ensure that the work was performed by IBEW members.

"Having them coordinate on this is huge," Shewchuk said. "It demonstrates what can be accomplished when IBEW leaders work together." ■



Ontario's construction locals are cooperating on an agreement that keeps IBEW members on a multiyear project to upgrade 1.5 million residential and commercial electric meters across the province.

### 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).

## En Ontario, les compteurs sont gérés par la FIOE — point final

Grâce surtout à des conventions collectives novatrices conclues par le Conseil de la construction de l'Ontario de la FIOE, un grand nombre de membres provenant de multiples sections locales travaillent sur un projet mené par deux des plus grands services publics de la province. Ces projets visent à moderniser les compteurs électriques à plus de 1,5 million de clients résidentiels et de clients commerciaux.

« Ce travail est nouveau pour nous et c'est énorme », déclare James Barry, le secrétaire-trésorier exécutif du CCO qui représente 11 sections locales composées de près de 19 000 membres de la FIOE.

Au cours des dernières années, le fabricant de compteurs Honeywell a été choisi comme entrepreneur chargé des travaux de modernisation pour Hydro One, le plus grand fournisseur d'électricité de la province et pour Toronto Hydro, l'entreprise de distribution d'électricité de la ville.

Mais le chemin pour décrocher ce travail pour les membres de la FIOE a commencé il y a 10 ans, à l'époque où le CCO a plaidé avec succès devant la Commission des relations de travail de l'Ontario que ces installations relevaient des membres de la FIOE.

« Parce que nous avons gagné la décision de la Commission, Honeywell doit faire appel au service des électriciens de la FIOE pour effectuer ces mises à niveau », mentionne M. Barry. Il a aussi négocié une modification à la

convention collective conclue entre le syndicat et l'entreprise pour inclure de nouvelles classifications de montage de lignes pour les installatrices et les installateurs de compteurs du secteur résidentiel et du secteur commercial.

« C'est ainsi que nous gardons le travail électrique de haute qualité dans les mains des membres de la FIOE, y compris les normes applicables aux salaires et aux avantages sociaux garantis pour les compagnons et les compagnes », formule M. Barry. Il a indiqué que les coûts de modernisation s'élèveront à 1 milliard de dollars une fois les travaux terminés dans les prochaines années et qu'ils permettront de générer plus de 150 millions de dollars en salaires pour les membres de la FIOE.

La personne-ressource syndicale sur ces projets est le trésorier Jeff Hussey du local 353 à Toronto, qui indique que tous les 11 locaux du CCO ont contribué à la décision de modifier la convention collective et de répartir le travail de la FIOE dans l'ensemble de l'Ontario.

« Il a cet effort déployé à l'échelle de la province pour assurer notre succès », formule M. Hussey. Il chapeaute 52 installateurs dans le secteur commercial et 108 installateurs dans le secteur résidentiel depuis son local en plus du local 105 à Hamilton, du local 115 à Kingston, du local 120 à London, du local 530 à Sarnia, du local 586 à Ottawa, du local 804 à Kitchener et du local 1687 à Sudbury.

« Grâce à l'engagement des gérants

d'affaires dans la province, nos membres font maintenant des choses que nous ne faisons pas auparavant et nous avons réussi à exclure les travailleurs non syndiqués de ce travail », prononce M. Hussey.

Il mentionne que même si le niveau de supervision et de coordination requis est élevé, cet effort s'est avéré inestimable. Il félicite aussi les deux délégués syndicaux pour avoir maintenu une bonne communication et pour avoir assuré la prise en charge rapide des problèmes sur le terrain.

« Il se passe beaucoup de choses, mais nous avons surmonté une grande partie des difficultés », dit M. Hussey.

Le remplacement d'un compteur résidentiel peut être remplacé par n'importe quel travailleur, précise-t-il.

« Au fond : tu cognes à la porte et tu dis : "Bonjour, je suis ici pour remplacer votre compteur et vous allez être privés d'électricité pendant environ 10 minutes" », explique M. Hussey. L'installateur enlève l'ancien compteur, vérifie la puissance maximale d'électricité, installe le nouveau compteur et le teste et après il continue son chemin. Si l'horaire ne convient pas, les clients peuvent replanifier.

« Nous avons beaucoup appris », dit-il. « Vous devez savoir bien communiquer avec les clients. »

Il y a d'autres risques. « On compte déjà plusieurs cas », mentionne M. Hussey.

Il souligne que les installateurs du secteur commercial sont aussi confrontés à des dangers, même si un compteur commercial est généralement conçu pour être débranché sans interrompre les activités de l'entreprise.

Malgré les défis, les installateurs dans l'ensemble de la province remplacent jusqu'à 9 000 compteurs par semaine en temps normal, déclare M. Hussey.

« Jeff est sur le terrain avec nos membres. Il a travaillé fort sur cet effort », souligne M. Barry. « Ce projet illustre la capacité de la FIOE à s'associer de manière créative aux employeurs sur des projets à logistique complexe, tout en assurant une solide représentation pour nos membres. »

Le vice-président international du Premier District, Russ Shewchuk, félicite les gérants d'affaires et le leadership du CCO de sortir des sentiers battus pour s'assurer que ce travail est effectué par les membres de la FIOE.

« Le fait de les voir travailler de concert sur ce dossier c'est énorme », prononce M. Shewchuk. « Ça démontre ce qu'on peut accomplir lorsque les leaders de la FIOE travaillent ensemble. » ■

### 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

## Through Solidarity and Service, Local 3's Veterans Committee Welcomes Newcomers

If there's one contingent of workers who are uniquely qualified to work in the trades it's servicemembers, and New York Local 3 is making sure they feel at home in the IBEW.

"Local 3 has always supported the men and women in military service at home and abroad, and our Veterans Club plays a key part in upholding that support within our union and in our communities," said Business Manager Chris Erikson Jr. "We are proud of their work in supporting other veterans and making Local 3 a great union to join for all veterans when they finish their service."

The origins of Local 3's Veterans Committee date to 2018, when then-Senior Assistant Business Manager Raymond Melville, former Marine, began hosting informal meetings for Local 3 members who had served in the military. The following year, Melville met with journeymen and fellow Marines Greg Smith and Pat Glennon about starting up a formal veterans group. By 2021, they became an official Local 3 club, with Smith serving as president and Glennon as vice president.

"We felt that veterans deserved some representation within Local 3," Smith said. "We also wanted to give incoming veterans a place to meet and connect with other veterans."

Along with giving its veteran members a space to come together, the club has done community service projects like sending care packages to troops, Toys for Tots and volunteering their electrical skills to the Warrior Ranch, a veteran-focused nonprofit organization. Club members have also participated in Veterans Day and Labor Day parades and placed flags and wreaths at veterans' graves.

Local 3's veterans club became an official IBEW Veterans Committee in 2023. Smith said it counts about 70 active members and more than 200 total. Union-wide, there are about 100 chartered committees.

"Local 3 is a great example for other committees," said Mike Smith, international representative for veterans in the IBEW (no relation to Greg Smith). "They're very dedicated and organized, and their leadership is behind them 120%."



*New York Local 3 has long supported servicemembers through its Veterans Committee, providing a space for them to come together and share their experiences, as well as participate in community service projects.*

Most veterans already possess a lot of the skills and attributes that are necessary to succeed in the building trades and that employers are looking for, Greg Smith noted.

"Veterans tend to understand the importance of teamwork and leadership, and like everyone else, they want careers that provide benefits and good wages," he said. "They want a chance to take their training and experiences and apply them to challenging tasks that will complete the job."

In addition to the community service, the Veterans Committee provides a safe space for its members to get to know one another and talk about issues specific to military life.

"We're giving our members a chance to meet with other veterans, have some fun and bond with people who know the language of the military," Greg Smith said.

There's a lot that goes into running a successful Veterans Committee, Greg Smith said. "The Local 3 Veterans Committee is successful and meaningful because we get information out to our veterans, give back to our community and help guide the newer members through not only job-related issues but life challenges," he said.

The IBEW has a lot to offer its members and Greg and Mike Smith want to ensure that as many veterans as possible get to experience it all.

"Along with serving my country, choosing to join the IBEW has been one of the best decisions I ever made," Greg Smith said. "It's allowed me to make friends, acquire job skills and training, and provide me with better financial support than I could have possibly imagined. I feel blessed to be part of this union." ■



*Local 3 Veterans Committee members volunteering at Cypress Hills National Cemetery in Brooklyn on Memorial Day in 2024 to place American flags at the soldiers' gravesites.*

## IBEW Scholarship Recipient Excels as Wireman, Researcher

Onurkan Karabulut's dream was to work in medical research. The journey to achieve it has been an unlikely one, however.

It went through a Detroit Local 58 apprenticeship and a career as a journeyman wireman.

It's unusual. Yet it's also an example of the power of IBEW membership.



*Detroit Local 58 member Onurkan Karabulut plans to conduct research that will improve the lives of IBEW brothers and sisters.*

"The opportunity didn't present itself until after I was in the IBEW," said Karabulut, a 2025 recipient of the Founders Scholarship who now is working toward a biomedical science degree at the University of California San Diego.

"Through that, I was able to be financially secure and build a network of unity that I was missing in my life. I was lost after my mother's death. The IBEW saved me."

The scholarship, named in honor of the wiremen and linemen who founded the Brotherhood in 1891, has been awarded annually since 1966 to members who continue their studies in areas beneficial to IBEW members.

Karabulut plans to take part in medical research that will aid in the treatment of chronic illnesses and substance use disorder, two issues that are important to address for construction workers, including electrical workers. The scholarship is worth up to \$24,000 over an eight-year period.

"How amazing it must be to pick something up in your adult life and just charge after it like he does," said fellow

Local 58 member Mark Payton, who was Karabulut's journeyman during his apprenticeship. "He's always been diligent and impressive in every way."

Karabulut, a first-generation American whose father was from Turkey and mother from Albania, grew up in the Detroit suburbs. Just after high school, he moved to California and planned to attend college there.

Life, however, threw him a curveball in 2010. A family situation led him to return home, and his mother died a year later. His parents were divorced, and with two younger siblings, he became head of the household.

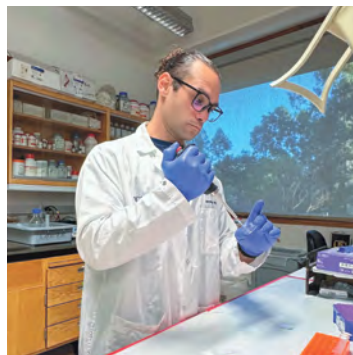
College had to wait. He worked odd jobs and was hired to organize materials in the shop of an electrical contractor — which just happened to be an IBEW signatory.

His supervisor offered advice that changed his life.

"This is not going to get you anywhere," he told him. "You should apply for a spot in the trades."

With that, Karabulut applied for a Local 58 apprenticeship and was accepted on his first attempt, becoming a member in April 2013.

"That's when I felt like it took a turn for the best," he said. "It provided structure and a living wage to support my brother and sister with."



"When I spoke to him, he was laser-focused," Payton said. "He was zeroed in. You ever been around someone that when you asked a question, you know they are really listening? He was like that."

Brian Mulligan, another Local 58 member, saw that same spirit when Mulligan was a foreman on a project to reopen a shuttered Ford transmission plant in Livonia, Mich., and Karabulut was assigned to work under him.

He called him "a ball of fire." "He was always active in the local," Mulligan said. "Not just on the jobsite learning, but he picked up on unionism early on and really took it to heart."

"He could listen and anticipate what people would need," Mulligan added. "He would ask questions on why things were done a certain way and he was always looking out for the older guys. That's something you don't often see from a young apprentice."

For instance, Karabulut and others on that job in Livonia worked without air conditioning and often without fans. Having plenty of water nearby was a necessity to avoid dangerous conditions.

Karabulut was the first to recognize when it was running low and tell his superiors and the first to throw a five-gallon cooler over his shoulder and transport it where it was needed, Mulligan said.

"It was his way of making sure people weren't dropping like flies," he said.

"I would hear similar stories from other guys in the crew about how he was doing things to make sure our basic needs were met."

Despite the positive experiences back home, Karabulut yearned to be a traveler when he topped out in 2018. Local 58 is usually at full employment, and traveling is an option many members pursue, including his mentor, Payton.

He joined him on a job in Fort Worth, Texas, then headed with him to California. Karabulut remembers earning good wages while working on the Grand Hyatt hotel at San Francisco International Airport, where San Mateo Local 617 has jurisdiction. He used the compensation to support his siblings back in Michigan and pay for his father's funeral in 2019.

Like Karabulut's mother, he died due to heart failure. That only reinforced their son's desire to work in research. He established legal residency in California and began taking classes at Berkeley City College in 2021 while continuing to work as a wireman. He later headed south to UC San Diego, where he's now a full-time student and on track to graduate in June 2027.

"Growing up, I lost family members to various diseases and witnessed it in friends as well," he said. "Those experiences took a toll on me emotionally and I saw the impact they had on others."

"I want to minimize that pain as much as I can by doing research and helping others, including my union brothers and sisters. I want them to live long and happy retirements."

"Having guaranteed pay periods was a big boost in confidence," he added. "I wasn't having to argue with the boss about wages and had the protection of the union and its entire community to support me."

Karabulut learned something else: He liked working with his hands, and he loved what Local 58 represented. Business Manager James Soosik remembers him "volunteering for everything we had." He completed a two-year labor studies program at Detroit's Wayne State University, which included courses on union history, effective leadership and communications, and employees' rights in the workplace.

Brad Ballard, a since-deceased Local 58 member, encouraged him to participate in the local's RENEW chapter, the IBEW initiative to get younger members more active in the union and community. He also was active in Local 58's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus group and the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO.

All the while, he was excelling on the job.

Mulligan said Karabulut's concern for others is evident in the way he treats his former foreman today.

A back injury forced Mulligan into early retirement. Karabulut always visits him at his home in northern Michigan when he is back in the state. His one-time apprentice doesn't work on a jobsite nearly as much as he once did, but Mulligan said he might do even bigger things for the Brotherhood in his new role.

"We've contributed to the making of such a good and intelligent person who might do so much for society," he said. "If he can assist with some medical breakthrough that will help people across the world, there's nothing better.

"He's not doing it for personal gain," Mulligan said. "He's not doing it to make a profit. He's doing it to further humanity."

For his part, Karabulut said he will always remain part of the IBEW. He loves being a wireman and appreciates all the union has given him. He sees himself returning to the field occasionally, even if his medical research career is a successful one.

He reminds himself that he isn't too far removed from when he had to return to the Detroit area. After his mother's death, he didn't have a car and sometimes got up at 3:30 a.m. to take a bus to work.

"It definitely made me humble and appreciate what I have and understand what other people are going through," he said. "I really took on what a union represents." ■

## Detroit Local's RENEW Shows Young Members They Can Lead

Like a lot of groups, Detroit Local 17's RENEW Committee was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Membership was down, and a sense of social lethargy was setting in. But thanks to members going above and beyond in their efforts to revive the IBEW young worker initiative, the committee — and the local — are experiencing a resurgence.

With more than half of Local 17's 4,600 members being 35 and younger, there's a lot of opportunity for engagement, said Tom Ford, assistant



*RENEW committee members at the 2025 Local 17 Lineman's Rodeo at the DTE Cherry Hill training center in Westland, Mich. Committee members helped with setup, handing out popcorn and snow cones, and cleanup.*

business manager and RENEW Committee mentor. They usually get about 20 members at every meeting, and that engagement extends to other areas of the local, he said.

"We have seen a real difference in our general membership meetings," said Ford, who was one of the members who led the revitalization of the RENEW committee. "More and more RENEW members are attending our events and want to get involved."

RENEW members aren't just attending events or just volunteering day of. They're stepping up and planning them, Ford said. Some of the events that they've planned or taken a significant leadership role in include installing a ramp at a disabled brother's home; hosting a blood drive; clearing a vacant lot for Catholic Charities to build affordable housing for veterans; and sponsoring Mosh for Mutts, a fundraiser for Detroit Dog Rescue.

At the dog rescue fundraiser, RENEW members helped raise money and collect dog food for area rescues. They also had a table at the event and talked to the people attending about the opportunities within the IBEW.

"It was a great event for community engagement," Ford said.

Part of the revitalization entailed Ford bringing in a core group of young members and helping them get involved. And at 39 years old, he showed them that there are leadership roles for everyone.

"The younger members can relate

to and feel comfortable communicating with someone who's closer to their age," Ford said. "Now they're starting to take on leadership roles themselves."

RENEW Recording Secretary Matt Dodd said he's been looking for something like RENEW for most of his adult life.

"I've long felt called to be involved in organizing, charitable work and contributing to something larger than myself for the benefit of the people around me," Dodd said.

Dodd noted that he'd been toying with the idea of joining RENEW for a while, but what really pushed him in the IBEW direction was the state of affairs in the world.

"We're living through an epidemic of loneliness, and the lack of real community often leads to apathy fueled by the disconnect between our highly connected digital lives and our lived reality," he said. "For me, RENEW felt like a practical way to help address those issues."

Being a RENEW member comes with a multitude of benefits, Dodd said. There's the community aspect — the ability to network and reach out, to name two. And it all comes together to provide a truly fulfilling sense of solidarity.

"The sense of being a part of something that's aimed toward the betterment of people in my area has been really gratifying," Dodd said. "I like being able to have an impact on the world in my own localized way."

Like Dodd, RENEW Chair Justin Sherman enjoys being able to make a difference in his community through his RENEW membership.

"Being a RENEW member brings me a lot of pride, and it has definitely made me more involved in Local 17," he said.

Like Sherman and Dodd, RENEW Co-Chair Steve Lenhardt appreciates how the committee allows him to help in the community while also getting more involved in Local 17.

"It feels good to help others," he said. "Being able to do it with people who share your values makes it even more rewarding."

Local 17's RENEW Committee is also collaborating with Detroit Local

58's counterpart on solidarity nights, when members from both locals get together for socializing, as well as sharing knowledge and opportunities to grow their respective groups.

"It's great to learn more about the way the other committees do things," Lenhardt said.

Ford and Dodd noted how RENEW committees and solidarity nights are opportunities for IBEW members to meet fellow members from different trades.

"We have RENEW members from a lot of different agreements that would normally only see each other at the events. Now they're working together as a team," Ford said.

For Lenhardt, being able to share the fruits of his labor with fellow members and their families is really gratifying.

"With all the hours we put in at work, it's great to be involved in the union and have our families with us for a lot of it," he said. "You miss a lot of family time with work, so being able to interact with Local 17 members and their families while also working together has been really rewarding. It's great to see the smiles on the kids' faces. Family is what it's all about." ■

## Local 1700 Keeps a New Orleans Tradition Rolling

For nearly 50 years, the members of New Orleans Local 1700 have kept their city's streetcars moving, providing safe and comfortable rides to millions of residents and tourists each year.

"We have tremendous craftsmen here who are able to maintain these cars," said Darius Hollins, who has served as Local 1700's business manager since 2019. "If anything is damaged, they're usually able to repair it or refurbish it."

Streetcars have served New Orleans since the 1835 opening of the St. Charles Line, considered the world's longest continuously operating line. Running today on the city's five fully electrified lines are scores of green-painted cars, in operation since

the 1920s, alongside dozens of newer, red-sided cars constructed around the turn of the 21st century.

Local 1700 was chartered in 1977. Since then, members have filled a variety of streetcar-specific roles, including machinists, welders, parts department staffers and overhead catenary lineworkers.

"Our members can even fabricate metal so cars can go right back out," said Hollins, who began his career with what's now known as the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority in 1996, working through the ranks to become a switchman.



*The "tremendous craftsmen" of New Orleans Local 1700, says Business Manager Darius Hollins, keep the city's historic street cars moving.*

Thanks to their IBEW training, Hollins said, Local 1700 members can quickly determine whether something needs repair or replacement, from gears, springs and arcing plates to gas-kets and pinions.

"Sometimes we bring back old members to teach the craft to our apprentices," he said.

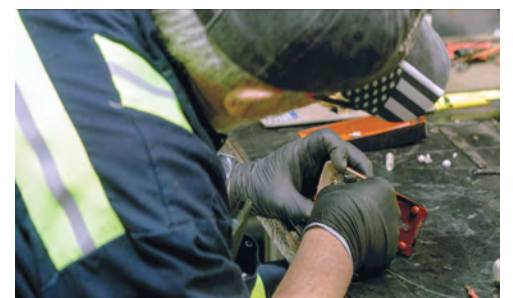
Members also can fix car doors, seats, fare boxes and wheels, and some occasionally make signs and decals.

For the nearly 135 members of Local 1700, working on New Orleans' streetcars is more than a job, he said.

"It means a lot that they're all able to give their families a decent living" thanks to membership in the IBEW, Hollins said. "This is something we're keeping going out of love and respect for the craft." ■



*IBEW training helps Local 1700 members fix broken streetcar parts — or fabricate their replacements — on site.*



*With more than half of Local 17's membership being 35 and younger, there's a lot of opportunity for member engagement, including leadership roles, said Tom Ford, assistant business manager and RENEW Committee mentor.*



# In Memoriam

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IBEW Hour Power



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Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Easterby, W. R.	3/5/26	58	Jennett, R. R.	2/23/26	303	Seniuk, J.	10/8/25	570	Smith, L. W.	3/10/26
1	Jacobs, J. O.	2/23/26	58	Jones, K. R.	2/14/26	306	Faulconer, S. D.	2/23/26	574	Schmidt, T. G.	3/13/26
1	Mackay, D. A.	2/3/26	58	Stoner, E. L.	12/27/25	307	Deremer, E. J.	3/28/26	574	Traynor, D. K.	1/30/26
1	Matt, J. G.	2/14/26	58	Walters, K. O.	3/15/26	325	McCree, G. J.	12/19/25	595	Schaffer, M. A.	6/16/25
3	Bannon, M. T.	12/27/25	66	Parker, W. L.	3/2/26	325	Redpath, R. H.	5/18/23	601	Terven, D. E.	2/4/26
3	Butler, B.	9/2/25	68	Jensen, D. K.	1/10/26	332	Bailey, J. E.	2/17/26	602	Bates, C. E.	1/31/26
3	Butler, E. F.	3/9/26	71	Mealey, W. D.	5/27/24	332	Quirke, J. H.	1/30/26	606	Monroe, R. L.	2/20/26
3	DeCristofaro, M. J.	1/30/26	76	Cook, J. A.	3/19/25	332	Smith, J. F.	1/10/26	611	Martinez, J. R.	2/23/26
3	DePalma, C. M.	2/5/26	77	Barr, J. P.	2/15/26	347	Lewis, J. D.	1/16/26	613	Harris, M. D.	2/10/26
3	Donohoe, A. J.	2/27/26	82	Haendel, D. E.	3/18/26	349	Browning, R. C.	3/1/26	613	Lawson, P. Y.	2/16/26
3	Esoff, J.	2/23/26	98	Compton, F. J.	12/14/25	349	Geimer, J. W.	11/28/25	613	Linsey, W. V.	3/2/26
3	Evans, J. P.	2/7/26	98	Detweiler, L. A.	2/6/26	349	Kennelly, J. P.	1/26/26	613	Smith, C. S.	2/23/26
3	Goodman, P. P.	2/12/26	98	Forte, J. R.	10/3/25	349	Suarez, R. A.	2/4/26	617	Howe, E. B.	12/13/25
3	Hennessy, P. J.	2/15/26	98	Mallon, T. J.	12/24/25	349	Young, R. E.	3/17/26	640	Jones, R. T.	11/30/25
3	Hildebrandt, D.	12/20/25	98	Pacitti, R. S.	2/12/26	351	Fagotti, L.	2/25/26	640	Wheeler, D. E.	2/25/26
3	Iaboni, P. P.	2/6/26	98	Prewitt, O.	12/19/25	351	Stocks, E. B.	1/28/26	640	Woodson, D. A.	2/4/26
3	LaVeglia, W.	2/14/26	98	Zaccagni, W.	2/16/26	351	Zalot, S. D.	1/13/25	654	Lynch, P.	10/13/25
3	Lopez, G. M.	2/25/26	100	Alexander, B. L.	1/16/26	353	Beato, G.	12/19/25	656	Ingram, L. R.	6/20/25
3	Magid, M. B.	11/9/25	102	Gaffney, M. E.	8/7/25	353	Bussmann, H. J.	3/27/26	659	O'Mara, M. J.	3/9/26
3	Mancusi, D.	1/6/26	102	Herring, W. G.	2/15/26	353	Colp, B.	12/2/25	666	Womack, J. O.	1/6/25
3	Manna, B.	2/17/26	102	Quimby, R. L.	1/17/26	353	Inkster, B. K.	12/31/25	667	Haynes, K.	7/6/25
3	Mauro, J. T.	3/16/26	103	Concessi, P. S.	2/19/26	353	Julien, L.	3/15/26	668	Boatman, M. J.	2/19/26
3	Novelli, R. A.	2/22/26	103	Daly, D. A.	1/18/26	353	Lalomia, D.	12/29/25	683	Kelly, D. R.	1/28/26
3	O'Neill, D. T.	2/12/26	103	Dwyer, R. J.	2/20/26	353	Lewis, J. P.	12/1/25	692	Baranek, E. J.	1/14/26
3	Saccone, L. M.	1/30/26	103	Manning, R. J.	3/13/26	353	McFaul, R.	2/8/26	692	Swan, S. J.	3/2/26
3	Sapanaro, W.	1/15/26	103	Silvestro, J. R.	2/12/26	353	Nowitski, C. N.	3/8/26	697	Webb, D. W.	3/9/26
3	Scheibe, R.	2/28/26	103	Trainor, B. G.	1/26/26	353	Oswald, R.	3/16/26	701	Czyz, G. E.	3/26/26
3	Sciacca, M. S.	1/2/26	104	Hill, J. S.	7/18/25	353	Purcell, A.	1/12/26	701	Grigus, R. J.	1/25/26
3	Sena, P. J.	3/11/26	105	Beier, H. D.	12/25/25	353	Smy, F. G.	1/9/26	701	Ryan, R. D.	11/24/25
3	Shay, J. T.	2/17/26	105	Cheeseman, B. D.	2/28/26	353	Wyllie, S. A.	2/13/26	702	Caudle, J.	1/6/26
3	Spieth, M. M.	1/8/26	110	Kispert, G. B.	2/24/26	354	Blaisdell, R. D.	2/20/26	714	Backhaus, R.	12/15/25
3	Turcio, F. M.	2/24/26	110	Savelkoul, J. C.	2/14/26	354	Poorman, E. L.	8/25/25	716	Cox, J. D.	7/17/24
3	Ugalde, D.	3/3/26	125	Barnes, E. W.	3/7/26	357	Barniske, J.	8/26/25	716	Franks, D. L.	12/28/25
3	Waffenschmidt, W. A.	12/24/25	125	Jensen, G. C.	3/14/26	357	Folkerts, R. H.	11/29/25	716	Garrett, L. O.	12/21/25
5	Butler, D. T.	1/9/26	125	Sparks, C. R.	10/17/25	357	Gonzales, A. A.	3/9/26	716	Holloway, R. J.	3/17/21
5	Corbin, J. I.	1/30/26	125	Sundet, C. L.	2/16/26	364	Berei, J. R.	2/8/26	716	Mewis, D. T.	2/8/26
5	Drobac, M.	5/12/24	126	Spangler, R. L.	2/14/26	369	Bowling, J. W.	3/6/26	721	Lackey, L. S.	2/7/26
6	Lewis, R.	2/19/26	126	Straw, M. R.	8/17/25	369	Evans, D. P.	3/1/26	767	Gilmore, M. J.	2/11/26
7	Mitchell, R. J.	3/2/26	129	Cassidy, T. J.	2/26/26	369	Heinen, R. D.	8/2/25	768	Gochis, P. D.	1/22/26
8	Boisselle, S. M.	1/5/26	130	Deeves, J. K.	1/18/26	369	Martin, B. G.	2/24/26	776	Easterling, D. W.	2/15/26
9	DeLago, J. F.	1/20/26	130	Keller, B. J.	2/10/26	369	Meichler, A. B.	3/12/26	804	Whitfield, T.	12/13/24
9	Houston, J. R.	1/25/26	130	Reine, T. E.	11/12/25	369	Withrow, J. D.	3/15/26	807	Stanley, R. L.	1/22/26
11	Centeno, J.	1/3/26	134	Dochterman, S. R.	12/7/25	375	Reiss, E. S.	12/24/25	816	Hartle, J. F.	2/16/26
11	Childs, R. L.	2/20/26	134	Girard, R. N.	2/5/26	388	Krause, E. H.	11/17/25	816	Loney, C. W.	1/7/26
11	Costa, F. A.	3/20/26	134	Klus, J. J.	11/22/25	400	Totaro, R. F.	1/24/26	876	Bishop, R. P.	2/9/26
11	Diaz, I.	12/27/25	134	McSwine, T. J.	11/5/25	401	Firebaugh, E.	3/14/26	903	Worthington, M. T.	3/10/26
11	Grandt, A. F.	11/13/24	134	Nogueira, J. W.	2/26/26	413	Hibbard, W. F.	2/10/26	915	Bentley, C. E.	2/14/26
11	Long, D. C.	4/1/25	134	Siroky, J. J.	2/23/26	424	Goodchild, R.	2/24/26	915	Culver, S. A.	9/25/25
11	Rabe, T.	11/13/25	136	Jenkins, J. M.	2/17/26	429	Ashby, J. L.	3/15/26	993	Rotzinger, R.	2/27/26
11	Yonce, W. V.	2/20/26	136	Jones, T.	2/15/26	429	Gourley, H. G.	3/2/26	1186	Sunada, H. H.	12/19/25
14	Smith, B. A.	2/21/26	136	Lurwig, R. F.	1/23/26	429	Mathis, G. D.	2/22/26	1245	Pierson, L. E.	2/26/26
17	AliAkbar, R.	5/12/25	136	Meaney, M. J.	2/15/26	429	Patterson, J. D.	12/28/25	1245	Stockton, J. L.	1/31/23
20	Estes, L. W.	12/27/25	136	Webb, W. L.	1/24/26	430	Larsen, L. P.	3/2/26	1289	Bourke, M.	2/5/26
20	Nickson, N.	2/18/26	145	Cullen, D. J.	12/26/25	441	Dalton, G. A.	12/2/25	1319	Lockhart, J. A.	3/23/26
20	Quintanilla, A.	2/8/26	150	Kauffman, J. W.	12/6/25	441	DeCleene, S. M.	10/11/25	1319	Romanowski, M. W.	2/16/26
21	Stachon, K. W.	1/4/26	158	Comins, R. W.	2/13/26	441	Guenther, C. R.	8/8/25	1377	Scheurman, F.	1/12/26
22	Meier, R. J.	2/18/26	159	Anderson, P. L.	1/30/26	443	Hunt, W. H.	11/17/25	1393	Young, R. D.	3/3/26
22	Slezak, J. R.	11/13/25	159	Palmer, D. E.	1/29/26	446	Chevalier, R. J.	1/26/26	1426	Halbakken, T.	2/28/26
24	Knott, R. O.	1/29/26	163	Miller, T. F.	2/22/26	453	Casey, M. J.	1/2/26	1687	Basaraba, R. L.	3/9/26
25	Aloia, C. J.	3/25/26	164	Rinaldi, J. J.	1/8/26	453	Wingo, D. R.	12/11/25	1687	Creasey, D. P.	2/21/26
25	Fisher, P. D.	2/22/26	175	May, T. R.	2/21/26	456	Broyles, R. J.	2/19/26	1687	Gerono, D.	3/12/25
25	Hall, R. A.	1/25/26	175	Smith, O. C.	12/26/25	465	Leatherman, J. C.	2/2/26	1687	Labelle, G. J.	2/21/26
25	Harvey, W. J.	11/24/25	176	Szczerba, W. T.	3/16/26	466	Hicks, T. D.	2/16/26	1852	Campbell, J. N.	1/1/26
25	Scalice, B. A.	12/9/25	177	Cook, J. A.	11/7/25	481	Vogel, G. E.	1/3/26	2085	Laba, A. M.	2/6/26
26	Rigsbee, G. R.	1/23/26	193	McMuri, H. W.	1/28/26	494	Busalacchi, S. J.	8/4/25	2150	Renaud, J.	2/26/26
26	Sharov, T. M.	12/31/25	212	Meier, J. W.	1/29/26	494	Elgin, H. G.	9/10/25	I.O. (5)	James, R. B.	2/24/26
34	Muller, C. W.	12/3/25	213	Petrvalsky, J. G.	10/8/25	494	Giammo, S. M.	3/1/26	I.O. (197)	Miller, D. W.	1/1/26
38	Fahl, L. J.	1/28/26	236	Grate, J. A.	11/10/25	494	Jones, D. R.	11/2/25	I.O. (654)	Sindoni, J. E.	1/19/26
41	Halter, R.	10/28/25	236	Singleton, C.	2/23/26	494	Wicklander, E. E.	12/22/25	Pens. (I.O)	Anderson, S. C.	1/26/26
41	Robak, D. J.	3/17/26	236	Zuend, D. A.	1/11/26	502	King, W. J.	3/13/26	Pens. (I.O)	Booth, B. M.	12/4/25
43	Ford, D. F.	2/19/26	238	Simpson, E. J.	1/2/26	505	Farthing, J.	2/18/26	Pens. (I.O)	Catledge, S. P.	10/20/24
43	Gallagher, R. J.	3/8/26	242	Christensen, B. A.	2/6/26	505	Townsend, L. M.	9/27/25	Pens. (I.O)	Friberg, W. H.	2/15/26
46	Carr, P. J.	3/18/26	245	Johnson, M. K.	2/15/26	508	Johnson, J. S.	1/21/26	Pens. (I.O)	Hardaway, H. W.	1/26/26
46	Krie, H. F.	2/9/23	246	Fisher, P. R.	1/20/26	527	Roehl, M. L.	3/4/26	Pens. (I.O)	Hicks, S.	1/10/26
46	Winchester, S. D.	11/6/25	252	Betz, J. E.	2/11/26	532	Stepper, J. E.	2/10/26	Pens. (I.O)	Kato, K. R.	3/1/26
48	Carey, L. C.	3/5/24	258	Pedersen, C. B.	11/25/25	540	Lewis, L. T.	2/19/26	Pens. (I.O)	Lich, V. A.	1/19/26
48	Shiflet, R. E.	2/25/26	271	Marshall, K. L.	3/1/26	551	Rush, T. G.	3/7/26	Pens. (I.O)	Sunda, R. P.	2/9/26
51	Burris, W. F.	8/2/24	280	Hadley, A. D.	5/29/25	558	Corsbie, J. M.	12/22/25			
53	Alder, D. E.	2/4/26	280	Ulloa, J.	3/8/26	558	Degraw, W. L.	2/23/26			
53	Licklider, J. C.	5/16/25	292	Lien, V. A.	3/2/26	558	Farris, J. A.	2/16/26			
57	DeLong, R. J.	2/14/26	292	Ryan, R. W.	2/5/26	558	Johnson, W. A.	7/29/25			
58	Butler, R. J.	3/5/26	295	Sanchez, A. A.	11/15/25	558	Vernon, R. D.	2/17/26			
58	Clauw, M. H.	3/5/26	302	Roberti, S. A.	12/21/25	569	Beamer, R. W.	12/12/25			
58	Dudek, D. T.	2/16/26	302	Suffin, D. L.	1/26/26	569	Hemingway, S. D.	1/16/26			

This list shows members for whom PBF death claims were approved in April 2026. ■

# TRANSITIONS

RETIRED

## David Gonzales



After holding a number of positions throughout his nearly half-century career, Seventh District International Representative

David Gonzales retired, effective June 1.

"I've been an IBEW member for 47 years. I figured it was time to go and let someone else take the reins," he said.

Brother Gonzales was initiated into Beaumont, Texas, Local 479 in 1980. The inside wireman was active in the local, serving on numerous committees, including the JATC and golf committees, and as a trustee on the pension, annuity, and health and welfare committees. Outside the local, he served on the executive board of the Sabine Area Central Labor Council and as secretary-treasurer of the Texas State Association of Electrical Workers.

In 1989, he was elected to Local 479's executive board, and in 2005 he was elected business manager, a position he held until 2012, when he was appointed international representative in the Seventh District, servicing inside locals in south and southeast Texas.

"As a representative, I enjoyed working with business managers and helping them reach their potential and to not let any obstacles get in their way," the Port Arthur native said.

Seventh District State Organizing Coordinator Chris Reeves has known Gonzales since he was a teenager. "Coming from a Southern household, he'll always be 'Mr. David' to me," he said.

As business manager, Gonzales led by being calm and firm, Reeves recalled. "He controlled his emotions exceptionally well. It was rare for him to raise his voice, but when he did, it carried weight," Reeves said. "He was deliberate

and thoughtful. Every word he spoke added value to the conversation."

When now-retired Seventh District International Vice President Jon Gardner hired Gonzales as an international representative, it was for his knowledge as well as his demeanor.

"I hired David because I needed a representative who understood the challenges in the petrochemical industry and recognized the need for changes in the local unions on the Gulf Coast to meet future challenges," Gardner said. "David, with his pleasant and cooperative personality, was the person who I believed could get the locals to adopt the changes needed to be more successful in the future."

Gonzales' experience extends to training he did on the Code of Excellence and the Foreman Development Series, the latter of which was created in the Seventh District and is now part of the IBEW's national training curriculum.

**"Our construction unions are now experiencing substantial gains in membership. David was and is an important part of that success."**

— Retired Seventh District International Vice President Jon Gardner

Ultimately, Gardner said, every local union in the Seventh District adopted the Code of Excellence and increased their focus on organizing.

"Our construction unions are now experiencing substantial gains in membership," Gardner said. "David was and is an important part of that success."

Gonzales' organizing talents also made an impact on Reeves. As a state organizing coordinator in southern Texas, he covers areas that overlap with the locals Gonzales serviced.

"He's been a valuable source of guidance and perspective," Reeves said. "He understands my passion for organizing and helped shape my approach by encouraging a broader, more international mindset, one that respects and supports the autonomy of the locals."

Gonzales said he'll always think fondly of the people he worked with.

"I'll miss throwing ideas back and forth and coming up with the best strategy for our members," he said. "And all the personal relationships I had with the business managers."

Gonzales said he's glad to have helped workers in the electrical industry get the wages, benefits and respect they deserve.

"Everybody in the electrical industry deserves to be an IBEW member so they'll be able to take care of themselves and their family and retire with dignity, like I did," he said.

Gardner noted that, in addition to all he's done for the IBEW, Gonzales is the quintessential family man.

"Any conversation with David will always include details about what his family is doing, especially his grandchildren," Gardner said.

Spending time with those grandchildren is high on the list of things Gonzales intends to do in retirement, along with playing golf and helping his wife with her garden.

On behalf of the officers, members and staff, we wish Brother Gonzales all the best in his well-deserved retirement. ■

RETIRED

## Jeff Henderson



Jeff Henderson, Fifth District international representative and one of the first international organizers hired by the

modern IBEW, retired May 1. Henderson was one of former International President Edwin D. Hill's first hires in his project to standardize composite crews and alternate classifications across the IBEW, originally called the Florida Initiative.

Henderson topped out of the Gainesville, Fla., Local 1205 apprenticeship in 1989, and quickly started running work.

"The owner took me under his wing, really showed me the ropes: estimating, bonding, running work. If I'd had any sense, I would have gone on the road and made real money, but I stayed and was never laid off," Henderson said with a laugh.

For a year, Henderson even ran his own shop, until a company he worked for stiffed him on a job and left him with "\$100 and a pickup truck."

That experience left Henderson with an invaluable understanding of a contractor's life, said fellow Fifth

District International Representative Matt Meadows.

"He was better than anyone at top-down organizing. When he talked to them, they knew he understood bid processes and how costs are calculated. He had their respect and their attentions," Meadows said.

Henderson said it was less about what he said than about listening.

"On the inside, mostly we show up and say, 'I'm the best there is,' and you get paid. We have no idea what that employer goes through," he said. "I understood what they are going through. Basically, I knew enough about labor and knew enough about contracting that I could make it all mesh."

After the collapse of his business, Henderson helped Business Manager Harold Higginbotham open an apprenticeship program in Tallahassee, working as a superintendent during the day and teaching at night.

The project was such a success that when Higginbotham was appointed international representative in 1999, Lanny Mathis — then the local's president and now business manager — approached Henderson about finishing the term.

It wasn't a simple call.

The IBEW, he saw, was in deep danger.

"I did an Excel worksheet with the age of the journeymen, how many apprentices we had, our market share, and what it would take to stay at the same level. You started doing the math, and it was eye-opening. There is no way we would have survived. We would not have survived," he said.

Locals everywhere had ways to help signatory contractors compete. But, Henderson said, too often the plans involved winning short-term victories that made long-term loss more likely.

"We all had 'bottom drawer' agreements, all across the South, agreements we didn't send to the IO for approval. We had 'commercial' and 'residential' journeymen, 'A' and 'B' insurance, 'A' and 'B' pension contributions, different wages," he said. "Some people called them VDV, some locals called them cable pullers, we called them groundmen. We'd always had composite crews, but it was composite at the journeyman level.

Soon after he ran for reelection for the first time in 2001, a new and powerful ally showed up in the fight to reverse the Brotherhood's decline: President Edwin D. Hill.

"When Ed found out about those bottom-drawer agreements, he knew something maybe other people had forgotten. Lying to other people is bad. When you start lying to yourself, that's when you get into the deep, deep trouble," Henderson said.

Henderson said Hill told the Florida business managers that there was going to be a mandatory meeting.

Hill, Henderson said, told the room they needed a plan to end bottom-drawer agreements and, most importantly, stop the erosion of market share.

"That was what Ed understood

better than anyone. The most important thing for the future of this union was and is market share," Henderson said.

Henderson was tasked with writing up the plan.

The result, which made the inside journeyman sacrosanct again and created the CE/CW classifications, became known as the Florida Initiative.

Henderson ran for and won reelection a second time in 2004, around the same time the Florida Initiative was getting off the ground. In 2006, Hill hired Henderson to become one of the first international organizers, along with Jeff Rose in Iowa and Dwayne Moore from California.

**"The most important thing for the future of this union was and is market share."**

— Fifth District International Representative Jeff Henderson

His first assignment was bringing the Florida Initiative to Georgia and then the rest of the South.

In 2010, Higginbotham retired as an international representative, and, once again, Henderson followed him.

For the next 16 years, Henderson was a service rep across the Southeast, working with local unions representing every classification in the Brotherhood.

The one job that was most difficult and most rewarding, he said, was chartering San Juan, Puerto Rico, Local 787 with fellow International Representative Lorraine Llauger and former Fifth District International Vice President Brian Thompson, who died in November.

"He was a good tool buddy. I miss him," Henderson said of Thompson.

Henderson said building the relationship with new members and a new employer brought him back to the earliest days as a top-down organizer. There were people on all sides who were pushing for confrontations with Luma, the newly formed utility in Puerto Rico. But Henderson said he carved out a productive relationship with the head of HR, and after some growing pains, Local 787 found a leadership core that will work hard for the membership.

"I'd never chartered a local before. I had to dig deep on everything I knew for that one," he said.

When he thinks about how many locals we have amalgamated, how many members we've lost, Henderson said, seeing the local sign its first contract and moving from strength to strength was a real high for him.

"It was probably 30% skill and 70% luck, but I think everything is good now," he said.

The officers and members of the IBEW express our gratitude to Brother Henderson for his dedicated service and wish him the best that retirement has to offer. ■

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# LOCAL LINES

## Local 16 Inside Wireman Graduates

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN — Congratulations to the following graduates of the 2025 four-year inside wireman program: Brody Berry, Jared Blum, Kody Bonham, Joshua Brown, Colt Casanova, Joseph Church, Hayden Cloe, Collin Cross, Kyle Dallmier, Seth Davenport, Kennedy Devine, Louis Gee, Bradley Golec, Nathan Hunter, Gracie Kaufman, Jacob Kelly, Kelvin Kerchief, Justin Kleemann, Kolby Lary, Landen Leinenbach, Brett McManus, Alan Milnor, Dylan Mobley, Jacob Morris, Jacob Napier, Tyler Phelps, Terrance Powers, Dale Roos, Brandon Schutte, Caden Staley, Billy Stevens, Lance Stuckey, William Teague, Griffin Tuley, Corbin Weisensteiner and Chase Zimmerman.

This year's John D. Brenner Memorial Award went to Gracie Kaufman, and the Outstanding Apprentice for 2025 is Joshua Brown. Recognition is also due Daniel Lacey and Dalton Lemond for completing the residential journeyman program.

In February, Local 16's RENEW team won a respectable second-place finish in the annual Battle of the Beans. March featured the Mud-Bug Festival and the Easter egg hunt, which were resounding successes. A retired brother and his wife stuffed thousands of eggs for the event. Brother Kaden Doerner also delighted everyone there by wearing the Easter Bunny costume. Thanks to everyone who made these activities possible!

*Donald P. Beavin, P.S.*

## Tradeswomen Training Others

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD — Greetings from Charm City! The women of Local 24 showed up in full force this year during Women's History Month, representing our union through volunteer work, mentorship, competition and community outreach across the region. Their efforts showed what it means to lead by example and open doors for the next generation of tradeswomen.

The month began with our Women's Committee volunteering at the Druid Hill Ice Bowl, helping raise money and collect food for the Maryland Food Bank. At Howard Community College, Kristina Humm and first-year apprentice Sara Bowers introduced high school students to careers in the trades, while Rachel Amspacher represented Local 24 at Northeast High School's Women's Career Day.

Mentorship continued later in the month when Janasha Marshall coached a team at the CTC Student Builder Olympics, earning a second-place finish. Several members also represented Local 24 at the Maryland Tradeswomen's Summit. To close out the month, first-year apprentice Kenyona Whitaker spoke at the Baltimore State of the City



*First-year Local 24 apprentice Kenyona Whitaker speaks at the Baltimore State of the City Address.*

address, sharing her journey into the apprenticeship and the pride she has found in our union.

Women's History Month is celebrated once a year, but the sisters of Local 24 continue to show up, step up and lead every day.

Live Better/Work Union.

*Mike McHale, B.M.*

## Summertime in the City

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC — Local 26 has been busy the last few months with conferences, seminars, graduation, rallies and events. The Spring Pension Seminar was held in April, and the Fall Pension Seminar is scheduled for October. The Financial Awareness Seminar was held in May, and another one is scheduled for November.

The 80th annual JATC graduation ceremony was held June 1. Congratulations to all the 2026 graduates, and keep up the good work!

The annual D.A.D.'s Day golf outing will be June 6, and this year we have more than 850 golfers participating in this worthy cause. Thank you to all of the volunteers, sponsors and golfers.

The family picnic will be in September at Kings Dominion. Stay tuned for additional details at [ibewlocal26.org](http://ibewlocal26.org) under the Events tab.

Best wishes to the following retirees: Chris Ashton, Christopher Bair, Stephan Blythe, Kevin Cassell, Damon Delaney, David Duma, Danny Ellis, Francis Fisher, William Flesher Jr., Leonard Granger, John Honigsberg, Douglas Leggat, David Maricle, Michel Money, Arnulfo Obando Sr., David Ransom, Keith Roger, George Rooker, Theresa Schultz and Randolph Wiggins Jr.

The following members have passed away since our last article: William Anderson, Roy Burgess, Martin Coen II, John Fancey, Bernard Hastings, John Landen, George Rigsbee, Fletcher Smith Jr., Keith Sutphin, Kenneth Thompson and Ivan Todorov.

*Christopher M. Cash, B.M.*

## Chilia Charitable Trust Scholarship Award Recipients

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH — The Salvatore (Sam) J. Chilia Charitable Trust Annual Scholarship was established in appreciation for an incredible IBEW career. Brother Chilia held positions as Local 38's business manager, on the International Executive Council, and as Fourth District international vice president and international secretary-treasurer before his retirement. The scholarship assists with costs of tuition, books and supplies for the Cleveland Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Center program.

In the mission statement for the trust scholarship, Brother Chilia noted:

"I have had the privilege of being a member of IBEW Local Union 38 since 1968. Throughout these years, I have personally experienced both prosperous and challenging times. Nevertheless, I have always been able to provide for my family, sustain a good living, feel the support of my brothers and sisters, and I now enjoy a comfortable retirement thanks to the IBEW collective bargaining agreements under which I worked.

For many years, I believed my success was due to luck, but I later realized that it was entirely due to my decision to join the IBEW at the age of 18. To capture and share more stories of how the IBEW has positively impacted our members' lives, and to present these narratives to potential members, the directors of the Chilia Charitable Trust have agreed to sponsor an annual scholarship award for selected graduating apprentices from the CEJATC apprenticeship programs."

The selection committee reviewed multiple submissions, and this year's scholarship award recipients are Brandon Gibbons (inside branch)



*Brandon Gibbons and Katelyn Gray accepting their Chilia Charitable Trust awards with Local 38 President Michael Muzic and Business Manager/Financial Secretary Dan Gallagher.*

and Katelyn Gray (VDV branch). Congratulations! To Sam Chilia, a grateful union thanks you.

*Dan Gallagher, B.M./F.S.*

## Building Participation Through ARC

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA — Our local is launching a new program, the Apprentice Reimbursement Challenge, aimed at strengthening member engagement.

ARC is designed to encourage apprentices to take an active role in their union by connecting participation with reimbursement for books and tuition, a meaningful value up to \$1,800.

To qualify, apprentices must:

- Remain in good standing.
- Meet apprenticeship requirements.
- Participate in union activities such as meetings, organizing efforts and approved events.
- Accumulate participation points throughout the year.

This program reflects a simple principle: The union is built through participation.

By reducing financial barriers while setting clear expectations for involvement, Local 46 is investing in the next generation of members, not just as workers but as active union participants.

As this program rolls out, it offers a model for strengthening engagement across the IBEW — starting early, building habits and reinforcing the responsibility we all share to support our union.

*Seamus Anglin, P.S.*

## Local 66 Hosts Member Appreciation Event at Texans Victory

L.U. 66 (o,t&u), HOUSTON, TX — Members of our local gathered for a memorable day of camaraderie and fellowship during a member appreciation event at a Houston Texans game.

The outing was sponsored by Local 66 to give members and their families an opportunity to spend time together outside the workplace and strengthen the bonds that help make the union strong. Prior to kickoff, attendees enjoyed a lively tailgate prepared by Local 66 member Robert Simons and his wife, Brandy Rendon. The gathering was filled with great

## 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.*



Members of Local 66 attend a member appreciation event at NRG Stadium for a Houston Texans game, celebrating fellowship and union solidarity.

food, conversation and excitement as members prepared for the game.

The day became even more memorable when the hometown Texans secured a victory, giving attendees another reason to celebrate. Throughout the afternoon, members shared stories, laughter, and the kind of fellowship that reflects the strong sense of brotherhood and sisterhood in the IBEW.

During the event, representatives from the Houston Texans organization presented Business Manager Ed Allen with a custom Texans jersey featuring the number 66. The jersey will be professionally framed and proudly displayed at the union hall.

Events like this highlight the importance of unity, fellowship and the strong community that defines Local 66.

*Kim Kaufmann, Comm. Dir.*

## Summer Happenings at Local 68

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO — Hello, brothers and sisters. At the time of this writing, we are in negotiations and will hopefully come to an agreement soon. When this issue is printed, we should have a new agreement. I want to thank everyone who has worked diligently on the negotiating committee to represent our membership.

In February, we had our annual WBF bowling tournament. I was not in attendance because it was my birthday and I spent it with family, but I heard there were many who participated and fun was had by all.

In July, there will be the annual Klays4Kids clay shoot, where we will have representation to help raise donations for Children's Hospital Colorado. Another event this summer will be our annual picnic in August, and I look forward to seeing everyone there. There are plenty of solidarity T-shirts and remodel challenge coins left. If you have not gotten either or both, come on down to the hall, pick them up and help show solidarity.

The Veterans' Committee is getting off to a good start, with meetings held every other month on the first Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Local 68. A huge thank you to Victoria Leavy for volunteering to be the chair of this committee.

As always, we have plenty of committees that members can get involved with — just give me a shout to get information. I hope everyone has a great summer!

*Debbie Tikka, Pres.*

## Celebrating 70 Years of Brotherhood

L.U. 104 (lctt, o, u & ptc), BOSTON, MA — We proudly recognize retiree Jack McDonough for receiving his 70-year service pin with the IBEW, presented to him by Business Manager Brian Murphy.

Jack represents the very best of our membership with his dedication, integrity and pride in the trade. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Jack's service to his country and to our union set the standard for what it means to lead. Since beginning his journey in 1956 and through his creation of McDonough Electric, he has stood as a model of IBEW excellence.

Through the years, Jack's leadership and impeccable linework have built not only a legacy but a family tradition, with three generations running McDonough Electric. (See accompanying photo.) These three generations have carried forward the values that define the IBEW.

Jack, you have set the bar for all of us. Your commitment, craftsmanship and character embody everything right about this Brotherhood.

Congratulations, Brother McDonough, and thank you for 70 years of service and pride in Local 104.

*Brian T. Murphy, B.M./F.S.*



From left, Ryan McDonough, Kevin McDonough, Jack McDonough and Local 104 Business Manager/Financial Secretary Brian Murphy.

## Local 120 Sparks Future Electricians Through Innovative Community Partnership

L.U. 120 (c, i & o), LONDON, ON — In February, our local used Skills Development Fund investments to deliver hands-on leadership training for 38 apprentices while providing meaningful trades exposure to 105 eighth-grade students from CSC Providence School Board.

This three-day pilot began with classroom instruction on the IBEW Code of Excellence, safety, youth communication and French vocabulary. At the close of Day 1, apprentices learned they would be paired one-on-one with students the next day with full responsibility for each student's safety, learning and experience, which created powerful accountability and full engagement.

Apprentices also mentored students through practical activities including circuit wiring, conduit bending, VR electrical scenarios, Vortex simulator use and safe operation of heavy equipment (telehandler, scissor lift and boom lift), using \$415,000

in provincial and federally funded infrastructure acquired between 2019 and 2024.

The results were exceptional, with 100% of the 38 apprentices completing the three-day program (classroom preparation through two days of active, high-responsibility mentorship). More than half of the apprentice group participated as first-time mentors and gained real leadership experience. Students (46% female, 60% visible minority) achieved zero safety incidents and reported life-changing insights. The \$35,000 program cost aligned with provincial goals in skilled trades recruitment, equity, Francophone inclusion, leadership development, safety culture and infrastructure return on investment.

CSC Providence praised the partnership for its professional delivery and impact. This successful pilot demonstrates the value of strategic community collaboration and existing training infrastructure.

*Brennan Hepburn, P.S.*

## Kansas City Port Authority Victory

L.U. 124 (ees, em, i, mar, rts, se, spa, t & ptc), KANSAS CITY, MO — Brothers and sisters, after a months-long fight with the Kansas City Port Authority, we secured prevailing wage requirements. For decades, the KC Port Authority remained the only port authority in Missouri to opt out of prevailing wage requirements, even as many of our region's largest projects moved through the port over the last 10 years.

On March 23, that changed. With the help of the mayor, the KC Port Board of Commissioners passed a resolution enacting a prevailing wage. This victory did not come easily.

While the Greater KC Building Trades led the charge, Local 124 provided the muscle. For weeks, our members stood at banners, made countless phone calls and showed up in force to public meetings. This consistent pressure from union tradesmen ensured that this resolution crossed the finish line.

I want to sincerely thank everyone involved. But we aren't stopping here. The Greater KC Building Trades is pushing for additional requirements to benefit the entire local workforce, both union and nonunion. With the

support of our elected officials in Kansas City, labor is fighting to mandate U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeship standards on taxpayer-funded projects. This will close the door on unscrupulous subcontractors who come to our city and undercut area standards.

Again, thank you to the membership development team and every member who gave their time to support this effort. Kansas City is a better place because of your dedication.

*Bo Moreno, B.M.*



Local 130 Business Manger Rodney Wallis with Patti Neal.

## Local 130 Hosts Fifth District Progress Meeting

L.U. 130 (i & ptc), NEW ORLEANS, LA — At the time of this writing, work is slow in the area, but we have some large projects that are out for bid including Charity Hospital, the Convention Center hotel and the new Port of New Orleans.

Local 130 was honored to host the Fifth District Progress Meeting, held Feb. 23-27. Thanks to all the locals who attended, and we hope everyone had a great time visiting New Orleans!

I would like to thank the members of Local 130's EWMC, RENEW, Women's and Veterans committees: Your willingness to step forward in service inspires others to get involved and make a difference. Your commitment to serving our communities and advocating for meaningful progress does not go unnoticed.

Congratulations to Patricia "Patti" Neal on her retirement! She ran Local 130's health and welfare office for the past 30 years. Her dedication to the membership will be sorely missed.

*Butch Naquin, R.S.*



Local 124 members stand strong in support of prevailing wage requirements with the Kansas City Port Authority.

# HAVE YOU MOVED?

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## LOCAL LINES



Gurtz Electric Local 134 members, from left: Adam Drozd, Josh Janeczko, Reginald Brown, Chase Johnson and Carlos Vasquez.

## New Residential Tower Enters Chicago Skyline

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL — The Chicago skyline will undergo a transformation this summer as the new residential tower at 400 N. Lake Shore Drive nears completion. This project, which replaced the abandoned Chicago Spire site, started in November 2023 and is expected to be completed during the summer 2027. Gurtz Electric and its associated subcontractors have employed more than 50 Local 134 electricians on this project since it broke ground. Josh Janeczko, general foreman for Gurtz Electric, estimates that by completion, the electricians will have logged more than 150,000 labor hours on this project.

The building's prime location, where the river meets the lake, is considered the last major undeveloped waterfront parcel in the city and is the tallest building under construction in Chicago.

The building is 72 stories high and includes 635 apartments. Each of the 635 apartments is equipped with all electric appliances. Local 134 looks forward to a Phase 2 building near this site, beginning after the first tower is completed.

Donald Finn, B.M./F.S.

## Welcoming New Apprentices and Honoring Class of 2026

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL — June marks a pivotal season for our apprentices as they advance through important milestones in our union. This year, we proudly welcome VDV and inside apprentices into Local 150. Their journey begins June 1, and it is our shared responsibility to guide, mentor and support them as they develop into skilled, engaged union sisters and brothers.

We would like to recognize and congratulate our graduating apprenticeship class of 2026! The VDV graduates are Kevin Dominguez, William Hayek, Nicholas Murphy and Misael Perez. Inside graduates are Kelsey Bergloff, Sam Blankenship, Jeremy Doll, Patrick Early, Dillon Falotico, Richard Gaylor III, Mohammed Hady, Adam Jagielo, Dillon Lech, Adam Rickert, Jack Robbins, Christian Soto and Ed Zegers. Their dedication and perseverance reflect the strength and future of our union. We wish them a safe and prosperous future with the IBEW and Local 150!

Save the following dates: Aug. 8 is the family picnic, Aug. 15 is the golf outing, Sept. 7 is the Labor Day Parade, and Dec. 2 is our Christmas meeting.

Call the hall (847-680-1504) to volunteer or participate. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Sisters and brothers, be safe and look out for one another!

Aaron M. Rendon, P.S./R.S.

## From Apprentices to Journeymen: Graduation Is Here

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA — Big congratulations are in order! We are proud to announce that five of our dedicated apprentices have officially completed their inside journeyman wireman apprenticeship and obtained their state certification. Please join Local 234 in celebrating: Joaquin Argueta, Cristian Gonzalez, Miguel Mexicano, Antonio "Silver" Navarrete and Andrew Vasconcellos.

These men have put in the hours and learned the trade, and they are ready to lead as our next cohort of electricians. A huge shout out to fifth-year instructor David Martinez, whose instruction has been vital in shaping this group into the skilled, knowledgeable journeymen they are today.

We'll be naming our outstanding apprentice at our graduation ceremony.

Andy Hartmann, Pres.



Local 234 graduates, from left: Cristian Gonzalez, Antonio "Silver" Navarrete, Miguel Mexicano, Joaquin Argueta and Andrew Vasconcellos.

## Local 340 Scholarship Winners

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA — Each year we hold a scholarship contest for sons, daughters, grandchildren and legal dependents of our local's members. Those who apply for this scholarship must be a senior in high school graduating at the end of the spring semester with the intent of attending a college, university or trade school in the U.S.

Applicants must submit letters of recommendation and an essay on why unions are good for America. This year our winners were Holly Bain and Elizabeth Campiz. We would like to take a moment to commend these ladies for their academic achievements, letters of recommendations and essay submissions. Both came highly recommended with exceptional praise from their advisers.

These young women showed a dedication to their schoolwork with high GPAs and commitment to their community, and we have high hopes for their futures. Congratulations, and we wish you both well in this next chapter of your lives.

Robert Ward, B.M./F.S.

## Local 364 Cruises Along in 2026

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL — In April, we completed another successful outage at the Byron Nuclear Facility, and many thanks go out to all our traveling brothers and sisters who did the work and took on the extra duties as stewards on this project.

Looking to the fall, Byron has another outage

that will be hiring in late summer. If anyone is interested, please check with the hall to get the details on when the hiring should begin.

Project Yukon is moving along with more than 200 wiremen and techs total, and this project has an anticipated completion date in the fourth quarter of 2027. As of this writing, we are expecting more hiring to be done due to hiring delays at the beginning of the project.

Our inside and VDV classifications had their topping-out cookout at our May union meeting. A great time was had by all, and we are very proud of these young journeymen and journeymen upon completing their apprenticeship.

There are several fun and exciting local events we will be reporting on in the next issue, so stay tuned.

Brad Williams, P.S.



The fastest of Local 540: Mitch Neisel, Jarrett Reardon and Alex Olesen.

## New Agreement Reached with ECAA

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, AB — Hello, brothers and sisters. We are pleased to inform you that the tentative collective bargaining agreement between our local and the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta has been successfully ratified by the membership.

The new agreement will be in effect from March 29, 2026, through April 30, 2029. This agreement reflects the outcome of extensive negotiations and provides stability for both our members and the industry. It includes updates to wages, benefits and working conditions that support the ongoing strength and sustainability of our trade.

Scott Crichton, P.S.

## Fast and Furious Fraternity

L.U. 540 (i), CANTON, OH — On Feb. 21, our local put on a race night for our members and their guests at the local go-kart track. Our champions of the evening were Mitch Neisel in first, Jarrett Reardon in second and Alex Olesen in third place.

The sounds of squealing tires, lighthearted taunts and laughs were underscored by the low hum of bonds being strengthened. There's something powerful that gathering members for an activity outside of work and monthly meetings provides. It offers the opportunity for us to see each other at our most relaxed, meet one another's families and get to know each other on a more personal level.

Our union is stronger when we know each other as more than electricians. We are men, women, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, people with interests and stories, and some of us are pretty stiff competition on the track.

Congratulations to the winners, thank you to all who came, see you at the next one!

Logan Hammer, P.S.

## Local 702 RENEW Committee Growing Strong

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL — Greetings, brothers and sisters. The RENEW committee hosted the annual breakfast for the retirees March 7. There was a great turnout, and everyone enjoyed the delicious food prepared and served by the RENEW members.

We had plenty of door prizes, including St. Louis Cardinals tickets won by Jo Ellen Perkins and Keith Neal. Fifty-dollar gift cards to Cracker Barrel were won by Michael Bowling, Rick Bickens and Lester Wolske. Fifty-dollar gift cards to Roadhouse were won by Ron Waldron, Gary Murphy and Brent Taylor. Steve Ackerman, David Butler, Kevin Burriss and Donnie Hayes won IBEW umbrellas. We are looking forward to next year!

In February, the RENEW committee entered a team in the Douglas K. Deaton Memorial Foundation Polar Plunge. This was an awesome event to raise money for local families battling cancer. Thank you to the RENEW committee members for all their involvement in the local and our communities.

Jamie Hatfield, A.B.M.



Members of Local 702 RENEW committee Polar Plunge team, from left: Jonathon Logwood, Owen Worlds, John Sims and Elliot Reyes.

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# RETIRES

## Retirees' Luncheon in Central Florida

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY/CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER — A retirees' luncheon was held in Hollywood, Fla., on March 5. The accompanying photo shows Michael Manfredi, chairman of the Central Florida retirees, along with Recording Secretary Vanessa James-Foxe, retired International Executive Council Chairman Chris Erikson Sr. and Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erikson Jr.

*Michael Manfredi, P.S.*



From left, retired IEC Chairman Chris Erikson Sr.; Michael Manfredi, chairman of the Local 3 Central Florida retirees; Recording Secretary Vanessa James-Foxe; and Local 3 Business Manager Chris Erikson Jr.

## Local 3 Retirees Set Sail

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY/NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER — Our retirees set sail with more than 50 members and friends set to do battle with the mighty sea. The day was warm, and the company was even better.

While we did catch fish, they were not the ones we were looking for, and the sea won this round. However, we all had a wonderful time and are already looking forward to beating the sea at our next outing.

*John Milligan, P.S.*

## We Built This City

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — Our local has helped build many buildings in Hartford since 1913, including Travelers Insurance, Hartford Insurance, Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance, Hartford Steam Boiler, Connecticut General Life Insurance (CIGNA), Hartford Civic Center, City Place, Gold Building, Convention Center, Connecticut Science Center, Hartford Marriott Downtown, Xerox

Building, Sheraton Hartford Hotel, Aetna Insurance, Garbage Recycling and Plant, and the Yard Goats (Dunkin' Park) baseball stadium, to name a few. I'm sure our retirees remember all these jobs.

We want to thank Business Agent Michael Nealy and his assistant, John Bowen, for the continued efforts on obtaining project labor agreements and other work for Local 35, such as the new PLA on the courthouse in Hartford.

New retirees, please join us at our next meeting June 10 at noon at the Knights of Columbus in Newington.

We hope everyone has a great summer!

*Kenneth White, P.S.*

## Local 53 Retiree Luncheon and Service Pin Awards

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 53, KANSAS CITY, MO — Greetings, brothers and sisters. I hope everyone is doing well. Our local hosted our spring luncheon, and we had a very good turnout. It was good to see a lot of old friends and a few new ones. The food was excellent, and everyone seemed to have a good time. A big thank you to all the local staff.

Service pins were presented after lunch. The following retirees received pins: Milton Scott and Richard Whitworth (50 years); Lawrence Abshier, Ronald Bond, Jack Burkhart, Oliver Luther, Jim Lynch, John McDermott, Bob Stuart and Sammy Waterman (55 years); and James Baker (60 years). Congratulations to all!

We will be holding our 39th annual crappie tournament/fish fry April 25. I will report on that in our next article. Our fall luncheon will be Oct. 2. We're looking forward to seeing everyone again. Stay safe and healthy.

I am sad to report that we lost some retirees since our last article: Shirley Adams, Dwight Alder, Walt Cruse, Joe Padilla, Jeano Rogers, Linda Sperry and Richard Vote. Rest in peace!

*Bob Stuart, Pres.*

## Local 58 Retirees Roll With Changes, Keep Active and Engaged

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI — Our retirees' group has been experiencing changes, with both of our luncheon venues going through some changes, too. Our west side restaurant,

Mama Mia's in Livonia, which is new to us, had an electrical fire, and we had to cancel our March luncheon. We are hopeful that it will be up and running by July 22, our next West Side luncheon.

Our east side restaurant, the Gazebo, is preparing to close by the end of this year, so we are on the lookout for a new venue. We have had some good information from members and are following those leads.

Keeping a viable and interesting agenda of events for our retirees is anything but an easy task. Our board works hard to keep our group active and engaged.

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

United we stand.

*Pat Nuznov, P.S.*



Local 105 retirees attended a tribute performance of the music of Billy Joel and Elton John.

## Spring Outings for Local 105 Retirees

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 105, HAMILTON, ON — We wish all our brothers and sisters a healthy and pleasant summer.

On March 25, we enjoyed a bus trip to the Windmill Country Market & Bakery and a tribute performance of the music of Billy Joel and Elton John at the Gathering Place in Caledonia with lunch included.

On April 14-17, we returned to lodging at the Cairn Croft Niagara Falls.

On April 19, we joined Local 105 for a years-of-service presentation breakfast at the Michelangelo Banquet Centre. So nice to see so many deserving members be recognized!

We returned to the Winona Vine Estates on May 3 for a dinner and dance. We were pleased to share this event with our brother/sister locals.

On May 21, we went on another bus trip to "touch, watch, eat and explore." This included a taste at Forty Creek, lunch at Betty's restaurant, a taste of quintessential Canadian treats at Maple Leaf Place, continuing to the Watering Can Nursery to see vibrant blooms and greenhouse charm, and concluding the day at the Magnotta Winery.

June 12 will be our annual barbecue to kick-off the summer!

On Sept. 16, we look forward to a bus trip to Kitchener to see a tribute performance of "The Roy Orbison Story," including a lunch.

Most importantly, please remember that all the events we enjoy, past and present, are made possible by our hard-working local members and executive board. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of you!

*Eden McLean, P.S.*

## Local 134 Celebrates St. Patrick's Day and Officer Elections

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Summer is creeping up on us. Here in Chicago, the weather is like a box of chocolates — you never know what you are going to get. Forrest Gump taught me that.

Our monthly meeting was March 11. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a delicious luncheon of corned beef and cabbage with all the trimmings and beautifully decorated, tasty desserts. There were many members in attendance who enjoyed this meal.

This meeting was also the biennial even-year election of officers and four executive members. Many have been reelected for another term. They have done an exceptional job keeping our retirees' organization excellent, from planning our field trips and outings to typing, editing and sending our monthly newsletters to our more than 700 retired members and finding guest speakers for our meetings that interest us all.

It has been an honor for me to work with these officers and executive board members: President Keith Berls; Vice President Hale Landes; Recording Secretary Alan Sindelar; Treasurer Bernie Martin; and executive board members Charles Chathas, Mario Coletta, John Cummins and John Jazo. Thank you and congratulations to all.

Have a fun, safe and healthy summer.

*Susan Kleczka, P.S.*



Local 134 executive board member Bob Pitlock swearing in the newly elected officers and board member at the March meeting.



Local 3 Nassau County retirees gathered for a day of fishing and brotherhood.

## RETIREES

## Local 257 Celebrates 100th Anniversary

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Our local celebrated 100 years of brotherhood March 21 at Capital Plaza and Convention Center. More than 580 members and guests attended the celebration, which included dinner, drinks, presentations and live music.

Business Manager Joel Vanderslice presided over the program, introducing Eleventh District International Vice President Mark Hager and International Representative John Fennesy. Donnie Bremmer followed with a presentation about the history of Local 257.

Local 257 was chartered Dec. 12, 1925, by O.E. Jennings as an inside local with 15 members. Two other locals were merged with Local 257. Moberly, Mo., Local 722, chartered in 1930, amalgamated with Columbia Local 795 in 1941. Then Local 795, which was chartered in 1938, was amalgamated with Local 257 in 1952.

The program continued by recognizing the

contractors of Local 257. After the program, guests enjoyed live music with dancing. It was a wonderful night celebrating brotherhood, and reminiscing with members and retirees ensued.

Condolences are sent to the families of four Local 257 members:

- Tony Chambers, 79, of New Bloomfield, passed Jan. 28. He was a journeyman electrician working at various sites.
- Lloyd Libbert, 68, of Freeburg, passed Feb. 20. He worked as an electrician for Meyer Electric and Jeffries Electric.
- Mark Trippensee, 76, of Jefferson City, passed March 12. He was a master electrician, owner of MPT Electric and an instructor for the IBEW apprenticeship program.
- Henry Lamm, 65, of Columbia, passed March 20. He dedicated 40 years as an electrician with Meyer Electric.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families during these difficult times.

*Connie Hamacher, P.S.*



*Local 479's Brother Vern King, ham radio call sign K5QDA.*

## Local 479 Mourns Brother Vern King

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 479, BEAUMONT, TX — Our local's retirees meet the first Tuesday of each month for lunch at the hall.

Christmas dinner was at the Schooner Restaurant for retirees and their spouses.

Local 479 lost Vern King on Feb. 23. He was a 58-year member and a ham radio operator, call sign K5QDA. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge #872.

*Lisa Mitchell, R.S.*

*Local 654 retirees in attendance at a recent breakfast gathering.*



## Local 654 Retirees Stay Connected in Brotherhood

RETIREES' CLUB OF L.U. 654, CHESTER, PA — Our local celebrated its 87th year by hosting a social at the union hall in late February. About two dozen retirees were in attendance at this fine gathering — yet another opportunity for our retirees to enjoy great food, entertainment and fond memories with fellow brothers and sisters.

An ongoing group of Local 654 retirees continues to meet for breakfast twice a month at a local restaurant. We welcome all Local 654 retirees at future breakfasts.

Retired Brother Bob Hart recently came up from his residence in Florida to visit family, so members of our retirees' group met with him for a luncheon. We had a great time sharing memories with Bob, who served on our trustees' committee for many years.

Retired brother and local contractor Bill Clinger just happened to walk into the restaurant that day, not knowing we would be there. He was surprised to see us all and ended up paying the entire bill for the luncheon! Hats off to you, Bill, and thank you from all of us retirees.

Finally, retired Brother Ed Martin graced us with his presence at a breakfast one morning. Ed was also visiting family here in Pennsylvania from his home in Florida. It was great to see Eddie, and what a fantastic memory he has after all these years.

*William Faulkner, P.S.*



*Local 257's retirees at 100th anniversary celebration in March.*

# Summary Annual Report for Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Pension Benefit Fund

This is a summary of the annual report for the INT'L BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS' PENSION BENEFIT FUND, (Employer Identification No. 53-0088380, Plan No. 001) For the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The annual report has been filed with the employee benefits security administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

### Basic financial statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust (benefits are provided in whole from trust funds). Plan expenses were \$208,611,979. These expenses included \$14,589,363 in administrative expenses and \$194,022,616 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 603,067 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$2,710,234,191 as of June 30, 2025 compared to \$2,518,069,884 as of July 1, 2024. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$192,164,307. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$400,776,286, including employee contributions of \$117,644,172, gains of \$66,932,223 from

the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$218,504,099 and other income of \$-2,304,208.

### Your rights to additional information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant's report;
2. Assets held for investment;
3. Transactions in excess of 5 percent of the plan assets; and
4. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of

The Plan Administrator

Paul A. Noble  
International Secretary-Treasurer  
900 7th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-4089  
99-1488546 (Employer Identification Number)  
(202) 728-6200

The charge to cover copying costs will be \$14 for the full report, or \$0 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and

accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan:

And at the following address:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Pension Benefit Fund  
900 7th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

And at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite N-1513, Washington, DC 20210.

### Paperwork reduction act statement

According to the paperwork reduction act of 1995 (pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid office of management and budget (OMB) control number. The department

notes that a federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average less than one minute per notice (approximately 3 hours and 11 minutes per plan). Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Attention: Departmental Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1301, Washington, DC 20210 or email [DOL\\_PRA\\_public@dol.gov](mailto:DOL_PRA_public@dol.gov) and reference the OMB control number 1210-0040.

OMB control number 1210-0040 (expired 03/31/2026)

Note: For small pension plans that are eligible for an audit waiver, see the department's regulation at 29 CFR 2520.104-46 for model language to be added to the summary annual report. ■

February 2026 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 February 2, 2026, in Naples, Florida. The members of the council in attendance were Chairman Calabro, Cosner, Antonellis, Hamilton, Cassidy, Finn, Cunningham, Chincio, and Griffith. 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.

### Retirement of International Vice President Brent E. Hall

International President Kenneth W. Cooper announced the intention of International Vice President Brent E. Hall to retire effective April 1, 2026. The IEC accepted with regret International Vice President Hall's resignation effective April 1, 2026, and extended best wishes to Brother Hall and his wife and family for a happy and healthy retirement. As is customary, the IEC authorized Brother Hall to keep his laptop computer, iPad and cell phone.

### Appointment of Tenth District International Vice President

In accordance with Article IV, Section 2, of the IBEW Constitution, the members of the International Executive Council unanimously approved International President Cooper's appointment of Tenth District International Representative, Curtis Sharpe, as International Vice President of the Tenth District, effective April 1, 2026, to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of Tenth District International Vice.

### Legal Defense

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

### Financial Reports

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

### Article XX and XXI Cases

There were no Article XX or XXI cases to report during the First quarter of 2026.

### Local Union Under International Office Supervision

There were no local unions under trusteeship to report during the First quarter of 2026.

### IBEW Consolidated Balance Sheet/Income Statement ending November 30, 2025

Reviewed and Filed

### IBEW Unity Fund Contributions ending November 30, 2025

Reviewed and Filed

### IBEW Pension Benefit Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Assets ending November 30, 2025

Reviewed and Filed

### Retirement of International Representative

Wyatt Earp, International Representative, IBEW Third District, Effective — January 1, 2026.

### Retirement of International Executive Council

Christopher Erikson, Chairman, International Executive Council, Effective — January 1, 2026.

### Retirement of International Office Employee

Nancy Marshall, Accounting Supervisor, International Office Employee, Effective — January 1, 2026.

### Retirement of District Secretary

Tracy Fleck, Secretary, IBEW First District, Effective — January 1, 2026.

### Retirement of Regional Organizing Coordinator

Stephen Rockafellow, Regional Organizing Coordinator, IBEW Third District, Effective — April 1, 2026.

This regular scheduled meeting was adjourned on February 6, 2026. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence on April 17, 2026, in Washington, DC.

### For the International Executive Council

Donald Finn, Secretary  
February 2026

*The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW pension fund. For a complete listing, consult [www.ibew.org/iec-meeting-minutes](http://www.ibew.org/iec-meeting-minutes).*



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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<b>Kenneth W. Cooper</b> International President	Fifth District <b>Donald B. Finn</b>	Fourth District <b>Austin Keyser</b>	Editor <b>Kenneth W. Cooper</b>
<b>Paul A. Noble</b> International Secretary-Treasurer	Sixth District <b>Mark H. Cunningham</b>	Fifth District <b>Glenn Brannen</b>	<b>Matt Spence</b>
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			<b>Alexis Betts</b>
			<b>Amy Rieger</b>
			<b>Cameron Hubbard</b>

### 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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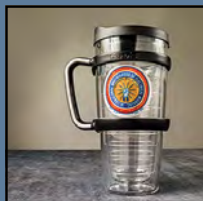
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## WHO WE ARE

# Local 1319 Linemen Carry Military Gear Through 26.2 Miles of Solidarity

**P**aul Kwiatkowski and six union brothers from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Local 1319 spent April 19 walking and running 26.2 miles in and near Boston.

Attached to each of their backs was a rucksack — which most of those seven military veterans had worn during their active service — with rucksacks weighing 25-30 pounds to meet the 15-pound dry ruck requirement.

They were sore and exhausted when they finished. But that didn't compare to the feelings of pride and accomplishment after completing the Tough Ruck, a marathon-length road race that honors veterans, current servicemembers and first responders while aiding the families of those killed or seriously injured in the line of duty.

"It was awesome," said Kwiatkowski, who serves on Local 1319's executive board. "I think there were tears in the eyes of a lot of people."

Local 1319 President Gary Telesk said his entire body was sore for a couple of days following the race.

Still, he couldn't stop smiling. "What a great experience," the Marine Corps veteran said.

The Tough Ruck moved to its current course in 2014 along the historic Battle Road Trail one year after the Boston Marathon bombing, during which servicemembers, first responders and others provided aid and comfort to victims near the race's finish line.

It is held the weekend before the legendary marathon — which is run on Patriots Day, the third Monday in April and a legal holiday in Massachusetts.

The length is the same, but there is one big difference.

Participants usually wear full military gear or the gear of a first responder, such as a firefighter. Local 1319, an outside and utility local, has plenty of veteran members, including Business Manager Chris Darrow.



**"To see the sheer determination in these guys to finish was incredible. I think the rest of the local appreciates how the guys trained and how it really put us on the map."**

— Local 1319 Business Manager  
Chris Darrow

*Above: Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Local 1319 members participating in this year's Tough Ruck were, from left, President Gary Telesk, executive board member Paul Kwiatkowski, Andy Solanick, Business Manager Chris Darrow, Zach Vaughn, Pete Neff and Andy Depew.*

He figured a good way to bring them together and build morale would be participating in Tough Ruck. It also would bring attention to the local's recently started Veterans Committee.

Darrow and the others trained on treadmills during the winter before moving outside in the month before the race and ramping up the intensity. Darrow said he would take part in a walk-run almost every night after leaving work.



*Above: Local 1319 members wore this shirt during the Tough Ruck. Left: Runners were required to carry rucks containing at least 25 pounds, similar to what many wore on active duty.*



*Thousands of entrants gathered near the Tough Ruck's start line just outside Boston on April 19.*

Not only did they all finish, but the seven Local 1319 members also raised \$11,337 for the Military Friends Foundation, Tough Ruck's official charity. The race raised nearly \$1.5 million overall, easily surpassing its goal of \$1 million.

"The bond between IBEW journeyman linemen is very tight," said Darrow, who served nine years in the U.S. Army.

"You put the lineman brotherhood with veteran status on top of that, it was an honor to be part of," he added. "To see the sheer determination in these guys to finish was incredible. I think the rest of the local appreciates how the guys trained and how it really put us on the map."

The other four Local 1319 members who finished the race were Andy Solanick, Zach Vaughn, Pete Neff, and Andy Depew. Solanick, Vaughn, and Depew served in the Marine Corps, and Neff served in the Army. All seven race participants are journeyman outside linemen.

"There was a lot of active-duty members taking part, and they were literally wearing full battle uniforms," Kwiatkowski said. "They just wouldn't quit."

"I was really impressed by that. It

was good to be reminded we have a lot of tough men and women serving in our military," he added.

The Tough Ruck starts at a school in Concord, Mass., near where the Revolutionary War began with the Battles of Lexington and Concord. This year's race was 251 years to the day since those battles, and participants ran two miles through Minute Man National Historical Park and across the historic North Bridge while the battle was being reenacted.

Some reenactors handed out water and food to participants later in the race while still wearing costumes from that period, mingling with spectators also handling out nutrients.

"That was amazing," Kwiatkowski said of the scene. "It was so motivating."

It ended at the Lexington Battle Green, now a public park and the site of the opening shots of the Lexington battle.

Much of the focus in Boston in the days leading up to the race is on the Marathon itself, and for good reason. It has been run annually since 1897 and is generally considered the most prestigious marathon in the world, outside of possibly the Olympic Games.

But the Tough Ruck is far from ignored. The Local 1319 members who took part left impressed by the thousands of people who showed up to cheer for them and other participants.

"It was great to see everyone, all the kids, all the people coming out to support veterans," Telesk said. "I can't wait to do it again."

He will get that chance. Darrow also plans to return, and he envisions it becoming an annual tradition for Local 1319. Even non-participants in the local got caught up in the fun, donating money and checking in with the seven who participated to see how they were doing in their training, he said.

It was an especially rewarding day for Telesk and Kwiatkowski. The two grew up together before serving in the Marines.

Not surprisingly, they've formed a tight bond. Kwiatkowski said he was especially moved to run beside Telesk, noting that the IBEW brother he calls his best friend had lost nearly 60 pounds during training.

"I'm so proud of him," he said.

"It wasn't even a competition for us in the local," Kwiatkowski added. "It created a stronger sense of solidarity. Chris just couldn't have been more proud that we were involved and that we all finished."

Darrow is hoping a few more Local 1319 members give the Tough Ruck a try next year. He realizes the grueling event may not be for everyone, but he encourages anyone remotely interested to sign up.

"For me personally, it's a matter of self-motivation and trying to achieve a goal and completing it," Darrow said. "For our local, it's more of our veterans getting together in solidarity and respecting our fallen brothers."

"There is so much work to keep us busy day in and day out. Even with that, it's good to get some veterans together and hang in solidarity." ■