

# The IBEW SPARQ

A quarterly newsletter highlighting IBEW values

Vol. 2 | Issue 1 | Winter 2018

## Accountability: Putting the "A" in SPARQ

Excellence doesn't just happen. It's realized when we hold ourselves and one another accountable for how we show up on the job and in our communities. Whatever the situation, IBEW members do the right thing, because that's who we are.

Members at Exelon in Illinois, New York and the Mid-Atlantic helped a key partner exceed its objectives.

From February to May, nine nuclear refueling outages at Exelon facilities were completed safely. Six finished ahead of schedule and three achieved their best-ever scheduled performance, according to Exelon Nuclear Chief Operating Officer David Rhoades.

"With the IBEW as one of our key labor partners, Exelon will continue

uation and make things right. That's accountability. Because IBEW members are accountable to our employers and signatory contractors, those who work with us know we're the right choice for the job. But we can do even better by exceeding expectations.

We're also accountable to each other and our communities.

In Houston, members who were suffering after Hurricane Harvey helped others whose neighborhoods had been under water for days. So did other members along the Texas and Louisiana coasts.

"I was really touched and just holding back tears when they came out," said Houston Local 716 member and Agreement Approval Department Director Denise Johnson, whose home had standing water inside it for 10 days. "They rallied around us and helped pull everything out of the house. They helped us tear out the walls. It put smiles on everyone's faces, even though it was a sad, dire situation."

We're part of a brotherhood that extends across the United States and Canada. When a sister or brother needs help, we'll be there for them—just as they will be there for you.

That's accountability. Keep reading to learn more about why it is so important and why it's a Code of Excellence value.



Houston members went door-to-door helping sisters and brothers feeling the impact of Hurricane Harvey.

Each of them demonstrated one of the core values of the IBEW's Code of Excellence: accountability.

Accountability is a willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions. It sets us apart from our competitors.

to invest confidently in our nuclear facilities since we can depend on your well-trained and safe labor force to provide the supplemental resources needed to meet our maintenance and modification objectives," Rhoades wrote to International President Lonnie R. Stephenson.

When things don't always go as planned, our members own the sit-



What does SPARQ mean to you? Have an idea for the newsletter? Email [theSPARQ@ibew.org](mailto:theSPARQ@ibew.org)



## Taking Responsibility as Public Servants

At many workplaces, employees are accountable to their company's owners or shareholders. They put in a hard day's work to help the company succeed and generate profit. But in government, we serve everyone.

The shareholders in our line of work—the ultimate bosses—are the citizens whose tax dollars pay our salaries. We're public servants, and we take pride in that.

But we're not just accountable to the taxpayers of our towns, counties, states or nations. We're accountable to our sisters and brothers working alongside us. IBEW members lead by example, looking out for one another, taking responsibility for the quality of our work and understanding that our actions have consequences for those around us. We're mentors, teaching our co-workers what we've learned and always being open to learning something new ourselves.

For some members of our branch, accountability in our work can literally be the difference between life and death.

At our shipyard maintenance depots and construction yards, IBEW sisters and brothers know that the quality of their work has real-world consequences for sailors and officers who count on the ships and submarines they service to perform as expected when called upon.

It's a sobering thought that the lives of a 134-man nuclear submarine crew could be dependent on whether we've done our jobs correctly. But that's what we signed up for, and that's why we hold ourselves to extraordinarily high standards.

Whether maintaining submarines or the infrastructure and systems that allow government to run effectively, each of us is accountable to ourselves, our co-workers and our fellow citizens, and we should take a moment to remind ourselves of that responsibility each day. Our demonstration of commitment and everyday accountability is why IBEW members are the best and why we stand by our Code of Excellence.



## SPARQ GOES LOCAL

### Success Stories



Have a Code of Excellence success story?  
Send it to [theSPARQ@ibew.org](mailto:theSPARQ@ibew.org)



At the Zumbotel lighting plant in Highland, N.Y., members of New City Local 363 have increased on-time delivery from 70% to 98% in just 18 months by following the Code of Excellence.