

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**2**  
Court reporters win  
TXU sale yields gains for IBEW

**3**  
War hero honored  
Court setback for  
government workers

**4**  
IBEW to Comcast: Play fair

**5**  
Organizing Wire

**6**  
Circuits  
New feature: North of 49°

**7**  
Transitions

**8**  
Local Lines

**14**  
Editorials

Letters  
What Do You Think?

Who We Are

**16**  
Spotlight on Safety

## Grassroots Political Mobilization Program Goes Full Time

**B**rian Baker is used to early starts. He was only 10 years old when he first helped his father put up signs for political candidates in Lorain, Ohio. Today, the journeyman inside wireman and former business manager of IBEW Local 129 is national director of the IBEW's new grassroots program to get the jump on electing more labor-friendly candidates and a new president in 2008. The effort builds upon the success of the IBEW and the labor movement in 2006.

Early action is the key. With presidential primary elections being pushed forward on the calendar and many states holding early voting by absentee ballot, the first aim is to increase the number of registered voters within IBEW locals, among families of members and the greater labor community.

"I'm hopeful that, by starting now, our grassroots program will educate, register and mobilize our members to make a lasting change for working families in 2008," says IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "The 2006 elections resulted in many positive changes for us, but we have seen every day that we need to elect a president who won't veto legislation that is important to workers. But if we do, we need a Congress that has the numbers to override a veto."

The 2008 plan is based upon a chain of coordination from the International Office to the rank and file and back. (See adjacent flow chart). The appointment of registrars by each local union to sign-up new voters is at the heart of the effort. An improved state-by-

state plan to get members to vote by mail or absentee ballot can avoid the missed opportunities of the last election cycle.

"This plan isn't about issuing orders from the International Office. It's about our entire organization coming together to quickly learn what works and to make a good program even better," says Baker. Many IBEW members already hold local political offices, for instance. "We want more members to start right now to run for office or to win endorsements for others who are on our side," says Baker.

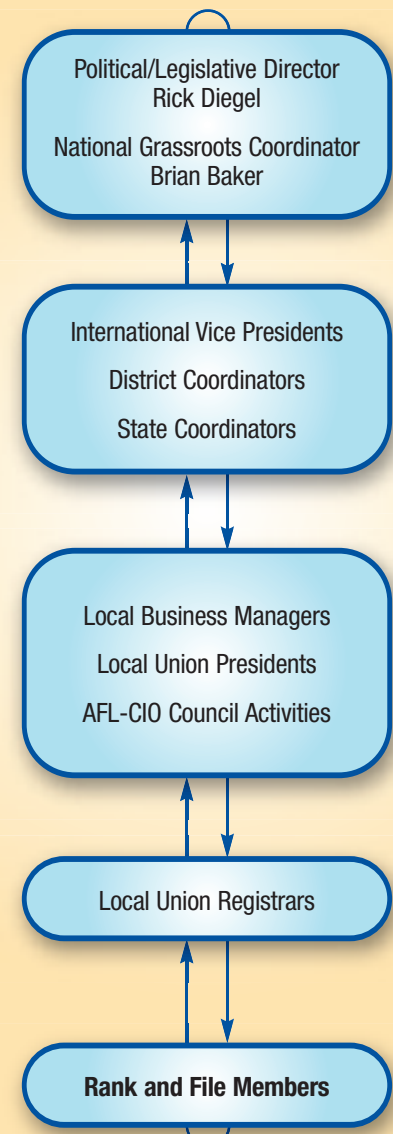
The program aims to increase communication via e-mail with younger members and to get them to vote by absentee ballots, while engaging retired members by speaking to issues high on their agenda. Everyone will be asked to get at least five more family members or neighbors registered and informed on the issues. Local unions who do not currently contribute to IBEW's PAC fund will be asked to participate in the program.

As the former president of the Lorain County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, Baker knows how difficult it can be to get different affiliates to work together. But he also knows from labor's success in Ohio in 2006 how rewarding it can be. As more IBEW members volunteer to help the electoral efforts of central labor councils, the Brotherhood's political clout will grow. The IBEW's influence will also spread when more members volunteer to help political party organizations and run as delegates to state party central committees.

"Our grassroots campaign is about building political power from the bottom up to help every branch of our union," said International Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters. "When the votes are tallied, we want every candidate, whatever his or her party, to know the IBEW counts in the decisions that they make." ■



### IBEW Grassroots Political Program



## Chicago Court Reporters Win First Contract

**A**fter a 16-year struggle to form a union and harsh negotiations which nearly triggered a strike, more than 200 Illinois court reporters overwhelmingly ratified their first contract in late February. The settlement, achieved with the support of a federal mediator, balanced the scales of justice between the court reporters and judges in Cook County who had maneuvered for years to deny them victory using a full arsenal of legal and illegal roadblocks. (See "Illinois Court Reporters Close to Winning Fight for Representation," *IBEW Journal*, July, 2006).

"We hope that the new contract will save our profession from the administrators who would destroy it," says Renia Boykin, a 12-year court reporter and one of the leaders of the organizing drive, which was initiated by Chicago, Local 1220 after a failed attempt by the Teamsters. Jurisdiction over the court reporters was turned over to Chicago Local 134 in 2005.

Boykin says that lack of respect from some in the judicial system administrators, pay issues and the absence of a grievance process have kept trained court reporters from applying for permanent jobs. The shortage of employees has resulted in members of the bargaining unit being forced to work long hours at the courthouses, then late into the night at home typing transcripts.

The contract settlement, ratified 119 to 19, raises wages of all employees by more than 11 percent and includes longevity increases of up to \$8,000 per year for the most senior members of the bargaining unit. Fees for typed transcripts were also increased, boosting pay by up to \$30,000 for some reporters. The agreement includes compensation time for reporters who work over 35 hours in a week. Many have symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome, a hand injury resulting from repetitive use.

After 24 tough bargaining sessions, the parties were closing in on the one-year mark



Court reporters in Cook County, Ill., who waged a 16-year struggle to organize their bargaining unit, ratify their first contract negotiated by Chicago Local 134.

since the court reporter bargaining unit voted 146 to 19 for IBEW representation in 2006. "The court's attorney was obviously under orders to stall the negotiations, hoping they could frustrate reporters into decertifying the union," says Rich Murphy, Local 134

business agent. Two federal mediators were brought in and did a fine job, he says.

Despite the February settlement, administrators are refusing to implement language that would provide for one hour of compensation time for reporters who are

forced to work through their lunch. "This is a respect issue," says Boykin, who says that sometimes reporters have been forced to sit in court while judges eat lunch because they were never told that they could take a break.

"I can't say enough about the courage of our court reporters," says Murphy. "From their first day of organizing—with the full-support of Local 1220—they refused to bow down to powerful people in black robes who went to unbelievable lengths to thwart their basic rights."

IBEW political lobbying was a critical factor in the court reporters' victory. Between 2003 and 2005, the Brotherhood and its allies successfully pushed the Illinois state legislature to pass two laws giving court reporters the same rights to organize as the rest of the state's employees and transferring their supervision from the state's Supreme Court to various county circuit courts.

Approximately 300 unorganized Illinois court reporters will benefit from the economic gains achieved in Cook County. Local 134 members are reaching out to encourage them to organize and win a grievance procedure and other union protections. ■

## IBEW Builds on Success at TXU

**H**aving traveled the road from victory to apparent defeat and back, IBEW members at TXU are seeking to build a stronger union at the largest utility in Texas.

After workers at TXU won a December organizing victory, they were hopeful that they could defeat their employer's plan to outsource work. (See "IBEW Takes on Subcontracting at Texas Utility and Wins 254-218," *IBEW Journal*, Jan.-Feb. 2007). Before negotiations began,

however, TXU workers were hit by a corporate earthquake. In February, TXU and an investor group led by private equity firms Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts and Co. and Texas Pacific Group, announced a deal to buy the utility for \$45 billion, the largest private buyout in U.S. corporate history.

Once again, IBEW activism, from the work site to the board room, saved the day. The eventual termination of the outsourcing plan was only the first of several landmark agreements between the union and the new owners. TXU's commitment not to reduce staff has led several unorganized classifications of TXU workers to approach the IBEW about representation. An active campaign is in the works.

TXU had plans to outsource all of the highly skilled transmission and distribution work, compromising the safety and reliability of electric service to thousands of customers in North Texas, says Seventh District International Representative George Crawford. The union actively fought the outsourcing plan before the Texas Public Utility Commission.

After the takeover announcement, IBEW leaders and representatives of TXU's prospective owners met to lay the groundwork for resolving the outsourcing issue and other conflicts. Later, the IBEW asked the

AFL-CIO to contact equity firm representatives involved in the buyout and emphasize the importance of reaching a broad understanding between the parties. The prospective owners agreed to terminate the outsourcing venture upon closing of the buyout. The IBEW agreed to support the deal before the public utility commission.

The pact was just the start of "building and maintaining a productive relationship with the new owners that is based on honesty, openness and trust," says Crawford.

Other agreements reached with the new ownership group provide for: no staff reductions in any TXU business, a commitment to bargain in good faith with newly-organized IBEW members and the investment of billions of dollars expanding former TXU divisions Oncor and Luminant Energy, to support job growth and economic development in Texas. They agreed to quarterly meetings with the IBEW. Members of Dallas Local 69 will now enjoy parity with other IBEW employees at Oncor.

"This agreement illustrates the importance of political and economic forces being applied away from the bargaining table to settle complex issues in labor negotiations. It is a great victory for the IBEW and TXU workers," says Jon Gardner, Seventh District International Vice President. ■

COMING IN  
THE SUMMER ISSUE  
OF THE

IBEW JOURNAL

- Skilled Labor Shortage?
- Taking on Global Warming
- NECA/IBEW Family Health Care Plan update
- Utility Branch IBEW Sister Leads Arizona AFL-CIO
- IBEW and NECA Sponsor Rising NASCAR Star
- Pipe Bending Training: Staying Ahead of the Curve

## Minneapolis Local Honors War Hero

Apprentice students at the Minneapolis Local 292 training center found out June 6 that there is more to life than learning a trade and doing it well. The local dedicated its training center to longtime member Charles W. “Chuck” Lindberg, the last surviving member of the original U.S. flag-raising at Iwo Jima.

“When you walk into the building, you see a hero’s name up there,” said Local 292 Business Manager Steve Claypatch, who emphasized Lindberg’s selflessness and courage. “Leadership is completely different from textbook content.”

*“In my 40 years as a Minnesota electrician, the IBEW has always been fair and dependable, and we always got the job done right.”*

— Charles “Chuck” W. Lindberg



Minneapolis Local 292 dedicated its training center to member Charles Lindberg, a World War II veteran and Iwo Jima survivor.

Lindberg, 87, was atop Mount Suribachi during the World War II battle that memorialized Iwo Jima for the image of Marines struggling to hoist the flag. But Lindberg, a 40-year IBEW member, was part of the flag-raising that came four hours earlier, before Joe Rosenthal arrived to capture the iconic

Pulitzer Prize-winning photo. Lindberg is the last surviving member of that group.

The ceremony to officially rename the center the Charles “Chuck” W. Lindberg JATC 292 Electrical Training Center was attended by local leaders, members and state and local dignitaries. Lindberg and his wife Vi were also

on hand for the event, which also featured an F-16 flyover and a color guard presentation.

“I am proud to be a member of the IBEW,” Lindberg said at the ceremony. “In my 40 years as a Minnesota electrician, the IBEW has always been fair and dependable, and we always got the job done right.” ■

## Defense Department Unions Fight Court Setback on Anti-Union Rules

In early May, the hopes of civilian workers at the Department of Defense, including 12,000 IBEW members, were raised when the House Armed Services Committee voted to restore their collective bargaining and disciplinary appeal rights which had been stripped by the Bush administration’s National Security Personnel System.

The support from Congress was yet another victory in a campaign by the United DoD Workers Coalition, a 36-union bloc, to stop union busting at the department. The group and other unions representing workers at the Department of Homeland Security had already won three separate court decisions holding that the administration overstepped the authority granted them by Congress in revising personnel policies in both departments.

Only two weeks after Congress acted, however, a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia reversed lower court decisions and upheld sections of the NSPS.

Government unions are intensifying their campaign to defend collective bargaining. The new personnel system is the “creation of former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and much like his tenure at the Pentagon, it has been a complete failure,” said a press release from the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers. Unions have 45 days to decide whether to challenge the Court of Appeals decision.

“Federal sector unions will not give up defending our collective bargaining rights through political lobbying and court action,” says IBEW Government Employees Department Director Chico McGill. “We owe it to ourselves and the rest of organized labor to stop union busting before more harmful precedent seeps down on workers in the private sector.” The coalition is paying close attention to discussions in the Senate, where the Armed Services Appropriations Committee is considering the same issues that were voted on in the House. ■

## MAC Moves Forward

Locals of the six building trade unions that make up the Mechanical Allied Crafts alliance have had a busy spring, building new local MAC councils and preparing new bylaws to be adopted by the MAC. Across North America, MAC councils—which are made up by the business managers of each of the local member unions—have been meeting over the last few months to elect council officers, create dues structures and draft by-laws.

“Councils have been popping up all around the country,” said MAC Executive Director Thomas Panconi. (See “Mechanical Crafts Form New Alliance,” April 2006, *IBEW Journal*.) “We now have at least one in each state and province throughout most of the U.S. and Canada. In some states we have more.”

MAC was founded in March of 2006 in order to improve market share and customer satisfaction in addition to building stronger relations between the six member unions: the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters, the Iron Workers, the Insulators, the Sheet Metal Workers, the Elevator Constructors, and the IBEW. “We want to partner with contractors to produce good quality work with union labor,” Panconi said.

“MAC gives us the opportunity to work closely with people who have the same shared interest as us and want to work together towards the same goals,” said Seventh District International Representative Steven Speer.

In New England, Second District International Representative Brian Maher helped organize two regional MAC meetings this spring. MAC councils were formed for each state in the region and a closer working relationship between the member unions—both on the worksite and in the state capitol—were formed. “We have the member unions together on the same page on issues that are of concern to all of us, like licensing laws and prevailing wage rates,” Maher said.

At MAC’s national committee meeting on June 11, a final set of by-laws was reviewed which after being approved by each international president will be sent out to all MAC local councils for approval.

“The movement in the field has been good. I’d say that over 85 percent of our local unions have been pretty well on their way to creating local councils that will make MAC more of a reality on the ground,” said Panconi. “We’re still moving forward.” ■

## Union Members Call for Fair Play and Corporate Reform at Comcast

**N**early 50 IBEW and CWA members and their supporters called on Comcast to reform its corporate governance and end unfair pay practices at the company's annual shareholders meeting in Philadelphia on May 23.

Union members called on Comcast to give shareholders a say in how much executives are paid by instituting a "one share, one vote system." Currently Comcast CEO Brian Roberts has an automatic one-third voting bloc—despite only holding three percent of shares—effectively blocking the democratic rights of most shareholders. Last year Roberts's pay package totaled over \$27.8 million, 900 times that of an average Comcast employee.

The IBEW and CWA also called for an end to the practice of paying union members less than nonunion employees in an attempt to drive out the union. Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21 member and Comcast employee Jose Hill makes seven dollars less an hour for the same work. "I find myself fighting for my family the way I fought in Iraq," said Hill, an Army veteran, to the local press.

The IBEW and CWA represent over 1,400 Comcast employees. Philadelphia Local 98; Sheffield, Ala., Local 558; Bethlehem, Pa., Local 1600; and East Windsor, N.J., Local 827 also represent workers at Comcast.

While Local 21 members were confronting Roberts in Philadelphia, back in Chicago the local was holding negotiations for the approximately 100 members working at the company's West Cortland facility. Their current contract—won after a difficult five-year struggle—was set to expire on May 31 and the local was fighting to eliminate the unfair wage differentials between union and nonunion employees. Nonunion employees start out making three dollars more per hour than Local 21 members. "We can make more per hour at McDonalds and get some free food too," one Local 21 member said. The membership voted overwhelmingly to give the local strike authority at its May 30 meeting after the company refused to discuss the union's wage demands.

Local 21 also filed a complaint with the Chicago Cable Commission, arguing that the company's bias against union members constitutes a violation of the city's cable ordinance which prohibits pay discrimination.

Bargaining resumed on June 5, but the local says that no agreement can be reached until Comcast agrees to the principle of equal pay for equal work said Local 21 Business Representative Dave Webster. ■



IBEW and CWA members rally at Comcast's shareholder meeting in Philadelphia.

## Congressional Subcommittee Acts to Improve Railroad Safety

**A**fter years of indifference to the complaints of railroad workers and passengers, a House subcommittee has approved a bill to improve safety and worker protections on the nation's railroads.

The May action by the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials would nearly double the number of railroad inspectors, increase employer fines for safety violations and require more automated train control systems, which could put more railroad electricians to work. The bill would also impose fines on employers who retaliate against whistleblowers filing safety complaints.

"It's about time our leaders in Washington spend some time looking out for the safety of the American public and railroad workers instead of just protecting the profits of the big carriers," said IBEW Railroad Department Bill Bohne. The IBEW represents approximately 11,000 railroad electricians.

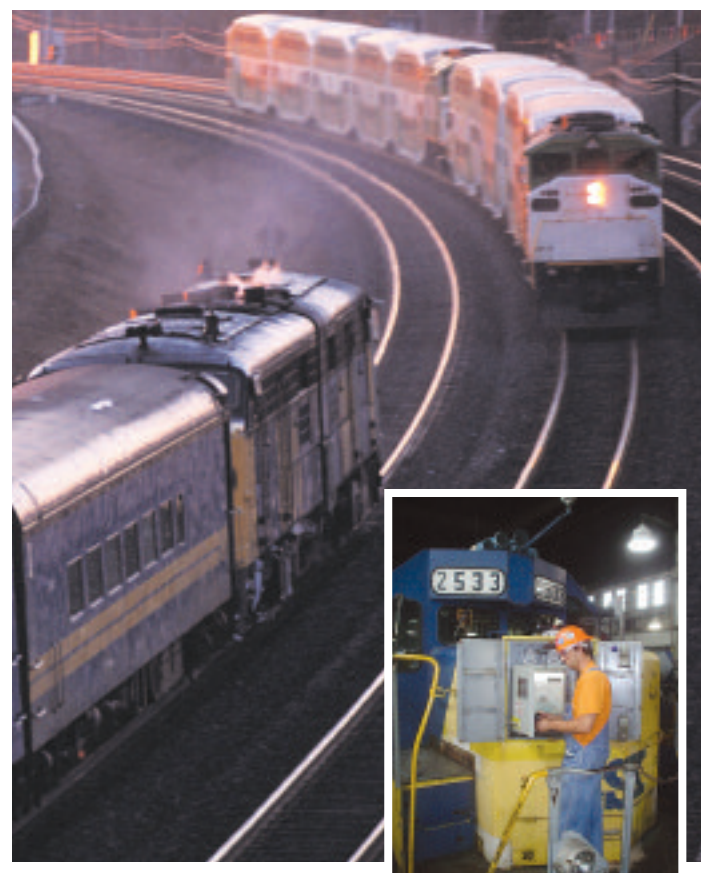
Under the bill, the amount of time that railroad workers are allowed to work would be reduced. While not directly affecting IBEW members, other railroad unions say that fatigue has caused accidents as rail carriers fail to hire adequate replacements for retiring workers and demand that engineers work excessive hours.

In 2004, two trains collided in Macedonia, Texas, releasing chlorine gas.

Three people died and 30 suffered respiratory injuries. The National Transportation Safety Board's accident report described a work schedule where 11 of the engineer's previous work days were 14-hour days, with one 22-hour day.

The rail safety bill has a long road ahead before passage. Rep. James L. Oberstar (D-Minn.), chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, has given Republicans more time to negotiate the details of the subcommittee's measure in return for their voice vote in favor of the bill.

The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, vows to keep the pressure on until meaningful railroad safety legislation is signed into law. ■



Proposed legislation would protect workers like Cleveland Local 912 member Gary Murphy, a CSX employee.

## Organizing Wire

### Nebraska Municipal Workers Vote IBEW

In a unanimous vote, 21 workers at a municipal wastewater treatment plant voted to be represented by Grand Island, Neb., Local 1597 in early June. The mail-in balloting was conducted by the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations.

The new bargaining unit members, who cover responsibilities from accounting to operations and maintenance, asked the IBEW for representation. They are the last group of eligible workers in the city to organize. Local 1597 has represented the city's utility workers for many years. The Fraternal Order of Police, the firefighters and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees represent other units.

"Because of the productive bargaining relationship between Local 1597's utility unit and the city, we didn't face strong opposition to our organizing drive," says Eleventh District International Representative David Feller.

Public worker organizing in Nebraska is governed by unique procedures. The state's Commission of Industrial Relations sets wages and benefits of public employees by conducting surveys of workers on comparable jobs in other municipalities across the nation. The surveys, paid for the requesting party, union or management, often cost \$10,000 or more. While Feller expects smooth negotiations on a first contract for the water treatment plant unit, the IBEW is prepared to meet any obstacles along the way.

With support from the International Office, several local unions in Nebraska have pooled monies to pay for any funds to establish public worker pay and benefits. The effective use of these monies, says Feller, is responsible for the IBEW organizing 19 public bargaining units in Nebraska.

### Big Sky Country is Now IBEW Country

Montana has always been home to big skies and beautiful scenery, but now it is also home to 126 new members thanks to the hard work of the Montana IBEW and International Lead Organizer Bob Brock.

"There are tons of employees outside of construction who want to go IBEW," says Helena Local 233 Director of Organizing Keith Allen. "Having a lead organizer like Brock to take the reigns on this has been vital."

In the fall, three Montana locals—Billings Local 532, Helena Local 206 and Kalispell Local 768—worked together to sign up former IBEW telecommunication members. The workers had lost their collective bargaining rights when their jobs were transferred from Rocky Mountain Contractors Inc.

to Continental Line Builders Inc., a nonunion "alter-ego" company set up by MDU Resources Group, a North Dakota based corporation that also owns Rocky Mountain. The three locals not only won back collective bargaining rights for over 70 CLB employees but won a monetary settlement from the company when it chose to settle unfair labor practices charges filed by IBEW.

A grassroots volunteer organizing committee made the difference in winning a NLRB-supervised election at Mid-Rivers Telephone in December. Using phone banks and the help of members, Local 206 was successful in organizing the 30 professional workers who were dispersed across eastern Montana. In late April, they successfully negotiated their first contract. The campaign was also coupled with a strong internal membership drive among the already organized technicians at Mid-River, picking up another 20 members.

In Libby, the eight employees at Frontier Telephone, a mix of technicians and clerical workers, voted unanimously in a NLRB supervised election to join Local 768 after seeing their benefits cut year after year.

Local 206 organized more new members when it signed up a dozen cell phone sales representatives at Qwest Communications.

As reported last month, employees at Intralot, a private contractor that installs and maintains lottery machines for the state, voted 6 to 2 in favor of joining Helena Local 233 in March, while employees of the City of Troy's Public Works Department signed up with Local 768 in February.

"There were a lot of targets, but when you have these large geographic locals, they just didn't have the resources to organize, which is why the regional organizing council has been so great," Brock said.

### Organizing Thrives in Ninth District

IBEW construction locals are working hard to build market share in the areas where population is expanding and new homes, buildings, schools and hospitals are needed. Here is a summary of recent organizing success in some growth areas of the Brotherhood's Ninth District. For a more detailed report of these successes and more, check [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).

#### Sacramento, Calif., Local 340

New schools and buildings are flourishing in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range east of Sacramento, Calif. Without a nearby signatory contractor, Local 340 was missing out on new growth. Help is now on the way since the owner of All Action Electric toured the local's training center and decided that the IBEW was his ticket to success. Over 17 journeymen and appren-

tor with Dublin, Calif., Local 595, who was working nonunion in Local 302's jurisdiction.

Jentek Integrated Systems, a sound and communications firm signed with Local 340 in May. Jentek currently employs three IBEW members and two installers hired from the local's out of work list, installing fire alarms and security systems. IBEW member Dave Ellison, founder of Ellison Electric, signed with the local and now has three journeymen and two apprentices assigned to small commercial and public works jobs.

Roadway Electric Works Inc., a signatory of Modesto, Calif., Local 684, working nonunion in Local 340's jurisdiction, signed in March.

Efficient Energy Concepts is a three-man shop in Chico, Calif. Local 340 Assistant Business Manager Dwight Evans worked with owner Rob Peters for three or four years leading to Peters signing letters of assent to Local 340's inside agreement. Two new journeymen and one apprentice have been initiated to help grow the company's public work projects in the northern part of the local's jurisdiction.

#### Martinez, Calif., Local 302

Daryl Bowers, a nonunion electrician who was organized into Local 302 in 2000, opened up Bowers Electric in 2005. Bowers soon grew tired of hunting for manpower for his commercial and custom residential clients by advertising in the daily newspaper. Bowers signed with the IBEW in early March. With a journeyman and an apprentice now working steady, he's hoping to grow.

The Martinez local also signed InterMountain Electric, a signatory contrac-

tor with Dublin, Calif., Local 595, who was working nonunion in Local 302's jurisdiction.

#### Las Vegas, Nev., Local 357

FAST Systems Inc., a six-employee commercial fire alarm system contractor, signed Local 357's inside construction and sound/communications agreements in March.

TM Electric, started by a former project manager at Siemens, became a signatory employer and signed Local 357's inside construction agreement in February.

#### Santa Barbara, Calif., Local 413

Central Coast Environmental Controls, a small, family-owned Lompoc, Calif. company, had a 30-year history of working alongside IBEW journeymen and apprentices.

With technology changing, the time had come for Central Coast to sign with the IBEW. That was the message that David Poorbaugh, an IBEW general foreman at Santa Maria Electric, brought to his friends who owned Central Coast. On March 1, Central Coast became the local's latest signatory contractor.

Advanced Cable Systems, a nine-year-old nonunion company, worked with IBEW signatory contractors Imperial Electric and Smith Electric on many projects. After winning a lucrative contract to upgrade the communications system a hospital in Santa Barbara, turnover of employees became a problem. The company's owners called the Local 413 hall and asked for a meeting. They signed the local's inside agreement and, a short time later, asked the local to dispatch three electricians. ■

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## Circuits

### Verizon's New England Sale Spells Trouble for FairPoint

Over 200 IBEW and CWA members and supporters rallied in early June on the shore of Lake Champlain in Burlington, Vt. to stop Verizon's sale of its landlines in the state to FairPoint Communications.

In Maine, the IBEW has sponsored radio spots asking citizens to support a bill in the state legislature which requires the state to subject sales of public utilities to greater scrutiny. The measure was defeated in June, but sponsors are working on a modified version.

The rally and the radio spots step up the high-profile campaign by the IBEW to prevent Verizon from abandoning consumers in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine in favor of a company that could, according to recent reports, be headed for rough financial waters. (See "IBEW and CWA Challenge Verizon's Sell-Off in New England," *The Electrical Worker*, May 2007.)

Verizon has the financial prowess to invest in new high-speed Internet services to consumers and businesses. But the northern New England states and Verizon workers could suffer if FairPoint runs short on cash. Financial analysts at Morgan Stanley conclude that is already happening, leaving FairPoint coming up short for its shareholders, with or without the sale. Verizon, meanwhile, avoids up to \$700 million in taxes by exploiting a little known part of the tax code to cover the sale.

One week after the rally, the Vermont Department of Public Service, which must approve the sale, held a hearing to assess the Verizon transaction's impact on customers. Christopher Campbell, head of the telecommunications unit of the department, said, "The company [FairPoint] will need to do more in our opinion in order to demonstrate that the transaction is in the best interest of Vermonters." The "awareness has been raised and there is a lot of doubt about the deal" in the state, says Mike Spillane, business manager, Montpelier, Vt., Local 2326.

The Maine law would have required the state's public utilities commission to approve any merger, consolidation, reorganization or sale involving public utilities with over \$50,000,000 in revenues only if the proposal will advance the economic development and information access goals of the state, result in economic benefits to ratepayers and be consistent with the interests of investors.

The bill was defeated because it would have retroactively covered the FairPoint deal, said Bob Erickson, Telecommunications department New England coordinator. "If the deal goes through, it may cause the legislature to pass a tougher measure in the future," he said.

### "My Skills" Web Site Connects Broadcast Workers to Jobs

The broadcast industry is expanding. Cable is offering more news coverage. Sports that rarely made it to prime time, like volleyball, are now on the tube. Viewers are demanding more camera angles and replay footage during professional sporting events. With all of this activity, TV outlets, including IBEW signatory contractors like Fox Sports, still need technical and utility personnel—sometimes at the last minute and nearby—to cover a football game in Cincinnati or a NASCAR race in Texas.

"We need to be able to assist our signatory contractors like CBS, Fox Sports and any of the hundreds of local stations that may need our help. And by becoming a proven resource to these employers, we will have better success making inroads to unorganized employers," IBEW Broadcasting Department Director Peter Homes said.

To help fill spots and increase the union's viability in the broadcast industry, the Broadcasting Department has launched a new Web site, entitled "My Skills." The easy-to-navigate site, found at [www.ibew.org/myskills](http://www.ibew.org/myskills) is open to union members and unorganized workers.

The site is designed to give workers in the broadcast branch and others a chance to list their job skills and previous employers in a kind of digital resume while establishing a database of workers. Signing up is quick and easy. Broadcast workers are invited to provide feedback on the site and to change their information as their skills grow.

"Knowing the broadcasting skill sets available in cities and towns across the country is the best way to ensure that our members (and those that may become our members) will have the best opportunities for employment going forward," Homes said.

### St. Joseph's Day Breakfast Honors Helmets to Hardhats Program

The Helmets to Hardhats program—which helps returning veterans find work in the building and construction trades—was honored on May 9 at the 10th Annual St. Joseph's Day Breakfast sponsored by the Faith and Politics Institute.

On hand to honor the program included Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), Rep. Jerry Costello (D-Ill.), Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.), AFL-CIO Executive Vice-President Linda Chavez Thompson and Building and Construction Trades



Attendees at the 10th Annual St. Joseph's Day Breakfast: Pictured from left, Edward Sullivan, President of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO; Barbara Easterling, Secretary Treasurer, Communication Workers of America; Darrell Roberts, CEO of Helmets to Hardhats; Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio); Specialist Rocco Chidoni, Sheet Metal Workers Local 19; Sergeant Martin Helms, Akron, Ohio, Local 306; Jim Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Larry Thompson, President of Thompson Electric; Deborah Brown, U.S. Army Chaplain; Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio); Nihal Balci, Associate of the Rumi Forum; and Rev. Cletus Kiley, President of the Faith and Politics Institute.

Department, AFL-CIO, President Edward Sullivan.

Among those honored as representatives of the Helmets to Hardhats program included Akron, Ohio, Local 306 member Sgt. Martin Helms. Helms, who serves in the U.S. Army Reserves, signed up to be an apprentice with the IBEW after hearing about the Helmets to Hardhats program when his active service was up. "I got a memo from the army about it," Helms said. "I worked as a nonunion electrician and as a reservist I needed the protection offered by the union."

Also honored was Spc. Rocco Chidoni, an apprentice with the Sheet Metal Workers and Larry Thompson, owner of Thompson Electric in Akron—a signatory company that is committed to the Helmets to Hardhats program. ■

## North of 49°



### New Training Initiative Promotes Uniform Standards

Nascent cooperation at the highest level of the Canadian electrical contracting industry and the IBEW could soon mean a set of national standards for all wiremen and outside linemen.

The National Electrical Trade Council (NETCO) is a new partnership between the IBEW First District and the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association. Its first order of business is to unify training standards, which vary among Canada's 10 provinces and three territories.

"We're hoping to create an NJATC for Canada," said First District Vice President Phil Flemming, referring to the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, which develops and standardizes training for members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the National Electrical Contractors Association in the United States. Flemming serves NETCO president.

NETCO Treasurer Eryl Roberts, who is executive secretary of the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association, said the provinces already have a standard—the Red Seal certification—for inside wiremen. But NETCO will help prevent a splintering of the trade. "There are a lot of special interest groups that would love to carve out pieces of the trade and break it down into skill sets to get away from having to hire a full trained electrician to do the work," he said. "We're not going to stand for that. We support a broadly based and well trained journeyman classification."

Today, Roberts said, 60 to 70 percent of electricians have the Red Seal certification. "If you pass your journeyman exam in Ontario, that is recognized across the country," Roberts said. "One of our major concerns is that various jurisdictions will start to head off in their own direction and break down national standards."

## Transitions

NETCO has been slowly forming over the past 10 years, the first suggestion coming as a recommendation of labour-management representatives in a national labour market study. Delegates to a 2004 symposium co-sponsored by the IBEW and the Canadian contractors' association reinforced the need for more information sharing and collaboration of training resources.

"NETCO enriches the industry-funded labour-management training partnerships that exist in the electrical industry at provincial and local levels by providing national coordination and support," Flemming said.

Just as they are in the United States, joint apprenticeship committees are the foundation of apprentice training. But in Canada, training directors often rely on materials and resources from the NJATC, whose services are not as available in Canada. NETCO seeks to serve as a national clearinghouse for training as well as a forum for labour-management discussions. ■

## Au nord du 49e parallèle

### Une nouvelle initiative afin de promouvoir l'uniformisation des normes nationales

Grâce à une collaboration naissante au niveau le plus élevé de l'industrie canadienne des entrepreneurs en électricité et la FIOE, des normes nationales seront bientôt élaborées pour tous les électriciens et les monteurs de lignes.

Le Conseil national des métiers de l'industrie électrique (CNMIÉ) a donc été créé suite à un partenariat entre la FIOE—Premier District et l'Association canadienne des entrepreneurs électriciens. Son mandat principal est d'unifier et promouvoir des normes nationales sur l'apprentissage et la formation, lesquelles varient dans les dix provinces et les trois territoires.

« Nous espérons pouvoir créer un Comité conjoint national sur l'apprentissage qui serait l'équivalent du NJATC » déclarait le Vice-président du Premier District, Phil Flemming en référant au National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee aux États-Unis lequel Comité élabore les normes sur l'apprentissage et la formation pour les membres de la Fraternité internationale des ouvriers en électricité et pour l'Association nationale des entrepreneurs électriciens aux É.-U.

Le Secrétaire exécutif de l'Association canadienne des entrepreneurs électriciens, M. Eryl Roberts, qui agit comme Trésorier du CNMIÉ, soulignait que les provinces ont déjà la certification interprovinciale Sceau rouge pour les électriciens. La tâche du CNMIÉ consistera à prévenir que le métier de l'électricité soit fragmenté en plusieurs secteurs. « Plusieurs groupes d'intérêt voudraient s'emparer de certains secteurs du métier et avoir des normes basées sur les compétences requises pour chaque secteur ce qui leur permettrait de ne pas avoir à embaucher un électricien qualifié, chose que nous n'accepterons pas. Nous n'apportons notre appui qu'à une classification de compagnon ayant reçu une formation adéquate et qui est globalement étendue » ajouta-t-il.

Soixante à soixante-dix pour cent des électriciens sont actuellement détenteurs de la certification interprovinciale Sceau rouge. Comme le mentionnait M. Roberts, l'examen passé en Ontario est reconnu partout au pays; certaines juridictions vont sûrement tenter de contourner les normes nationales à leur avantage et cela nous inquiète beaucoup.

C'est dans une étude nationale du marché de l'emploi parue il y a plus de dix ans que la première suggestion de créer un CNMIÉ avait été amenée, sur une recommandation d'intervenants syndicaux-patronaux. Puis en 2004, les délégués assistant à un Symposium commandité par la FIOE et l'Association canadienne des entrepreneurs électriciens ont insisté sur le besoin de plus d'échange d'information et de collaboration pour l'élaboration de ressources d'apprentissage.

Selon M. Flemming, l'apport d'une coordination nationale et d'une assistance offerte par le CNMIÉ, enrichira les partenariats patronaux-syndicaux financés par l'industrie à l'échelle locale et provinciale.

Les comités conjoints sur l'apprentissage tels qu'ils sont aux États-Unis, représentent la base des activités de l'industrie électrique en ce qui a trait à l'apprentissage. Au Canada, les directeurs de l'apprentissage doivent s'appuyer sur les ressources pédagogiques et les possibilités de formation offertes par le *National Joint Apprenticeship Trades Committee* des É.-U., car de tels services ne sont pas encore disponibles. Le CNMIÉ tentera donc de devenir un centre d'information national sur l'apprentissage et la formation ainsi qu'une tribune pour les discussions patronales-syndicales. ■

### Deceased

#### Kenneth R. Edwards



The IBEW regrets to announce the death of Kenneth R. Edwards. Brother Edwards died May 18 at his home in Rockville, Md., at the age of 75.

An expert in the area of apprenticeships, employment testing, and technological changes in the electrical and electronic industries, Edwards was a member of the Brotherhood for over 40 years and served as director of what was then the Research and Technical Services Department at the International Office for six years.

Receiving his bachelor's degree in psychology, Edwards was initiated into Albuquerque, N.M., Local 611 in 1959. He went on to serve his local as recording secretary, on the executive board and as chairman of the apprenticeship committee.

Before joining the IBEW, Edwards worked as an engineering designer at Northrup Aircraft, Inc., in California, revising drawings of modifications made to missiles and chase aircraft.

Edwards's passion for developing training and apprenticeship programs began as an adult educator in the Albuquerque public schools where he taught electronics and industrial safety.

Appointed an International Representative by International President Gordon Freeman in 1968, Edwards assisted in developing standardized trainings and assessments for the electric utility industry. He would become director of the Technical Services Department before his appointment in 1994 as director of the newly created Research and Technical Services Department.

Edwards's expertise led him to work as an educational consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Brother Edwards also served as a guest lecturer at various universities and educational centers, including Ohio State University, Notre Dame University and the University of Maryland. He also published over a dozen papers and articles in different journals.

In addition to his service with the IBEW, Edwards also assisted the Polish trade union Solidarnosc develop its own training and apprenticeship program after the Iron Curtain fell.

Brother Edwards leaves behind his wife of 48 years, Maria; four children; and three grandchildren.

The IBEW extends its deepest sympathy to Brother Edwards's family and friends.

### Deceased

#### Richard Willaert



Retired International Representative Richard Willaert of the former International Office Agreement Approval Department, died on May 10 in Davenport, Iowa. A native of Moline, Ill., Brother

Willaert was initiated into Rock Island, Ill., Local 145 in 1948 and completed his inside wireman apprenticeship. He was 81 years old.

Willaert served on several Local 145 committees, including health and welfare and pensions and apprenticeship and training before being elected assistant business manager in 1962. He became business manager in 1967.

"Dick Willaert was always straightforward with the members about their work habits. That sometimes wasn't easy back in the days when the books were full and we carried 200 travelers," says Kurt Donnelly, Local 145 president. "He was a very smart and competent business manager."

A vice president of the Tri City Building Trades Council, Willaert attended the AFL-CIO Labor Studies Center and took leadership classes at the University of Illinois and the University of Iowa. He was chairman of the Illinois State Construction Conference.

A Navy veteran of the South Pacific in World War II, Brother Willaert was appointed International Representative in 1977 by International President Charles Pillard. He served in the Agreement Approval Department of the International Office before retiring in 1991.

After moving to Washington, D.C., Willaert enjoyed and supported the museums of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Geographic. He was an avid sports fan and participant and took pride in his rose gardens.

Brother Willaert is survived by three children, Mary Kay Hasson, Mich.; Kathy Nicholson and Richard Willaert and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His wife, Bette Jane, preceded him in death in 1997.

The officers and members of the IBEW extend our deepest condolences to Brother Willaert's family. ■

### Get Connected

If you would like to receive your *Electrical Worker* via e-mail instead of in your mailbox, contact us at [publications@ibew.org](mailto:publications@ibew.org). Give us your name, IBEW local union number, card number and e-mail address and we will send you the link to access *The Electrical Worker* electronically.

# Local Lines

## Informational Pickets

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—In late March, Local 1 launched a massive informational picket campaign to educate St. Louis metro area consumers about current business practices of Best Buy Corp. Best Buy recently had begun construction on a new retail location in Wentzville, a suburb of St. Louis. The electrical contractor paid its employees wages and benefits below area standards. Despite Local 1 attempts to resolve this issue, Best Buy has continued to use the original contractor.

To inform the public that Best Buy is paying substandard wages and benefits for electricians in the St. Louis area, on March 24 our local commenced pickets at all 10 metropolitan area Best

Buy stores. From open to close, every Saturday and Sunday, 100 Local 1 members picketed outside every area store.

Wages that are put back into the economy benefit everyone. We continue to hope Best Buy will understand that by using Local 1 members, they will get the “best buy” in town.

We mourn the deaths of: Herbert Story, William Wobbe, Frank Southard, Ronald Moon, Lester Schisler, Richard Flotron, George Ashwell, James Buffington, Mabel Seda, Glennon Schulte, Gerald Lux, Melvin Sutton, Paul Sculin, William Handley, John Bruce Jr., Richard Fitzgerald and Donald Einsporn.

*Matt Gober, P.S*



Local 1 members distribute informational flyers at a Best Buy store in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

## Trade Classifications

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



Mural on display at the Local 9 union hall.

## Tip of the Hat

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL—The annual “Old Timers” party was held April 13. Over 1,000 members turned out to honor recent retirees and to enjoy a corned beef and cabbage dinner. Many old friends were reunited and many old lineman tales were told.

Please visit the union hall to see a beautiful mural, “A Day in the Life of Local 9,” done by Bro. Gary Pierson. The mural depicts all aspects of the Local 9 jurisdiction. It is an 8' x 10' acrylic on canvas. A tip of the Local 9 hard hat to Bro. Pierson.

Make sure to attend the upcoming Local 9 Night at the Races, the golf outing and our annual picnic. Information on these events is available at the Local 9 Web site [www.ibew9.org](http://www.ibew9.org). Many other resources are also available at the Web site such as downloadable insurance claim forms and general information about Local 9 services.

Best of luck to Diane Bronis, who is retiring after 25 years of service in our union office. Thanks for a job well-done, Diane, and enjoy all your travels around the world!

*John Conroy, Pres.*

## Membership On the Rise

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—The union wishes IBEW members and their families a happy Fourth of July holiday. The Local 17 work picture remains steady. The union has been in negotiations for the line clearance tree trimming agreement and at this writing a tentative agreement has been reached. In addition, membership is on the rise at Local 17. As of January 2007 we have obligated 38 new members.

On the political front, Local 17 representatives have been busy with legislative matters in Lansing. The Michigan Legislature is currently looking to change our customer choice legislation (electric deregulation); as it stands now the business model is not sustainable. We are working with Protect Michigan, a group formed by local unions

during the 1990s as an attempt to influence legislation to re-regulate Michigan's electric utilities.

With sadness we report the deaths of: Bros. Lester Anderson, Raymond Bitner, William C. Catalfo, Barton R. Clinard, Gerald L. Fane, Brandon P. Faulkner, Joseph M. Fowler, Patrick Gallow, William F. Harriman, Philip Jensen, John Lambert, Joseph LaFriniere, Leo J. Lapointe, Ronald Lehl, Fred C. Maurer, Leo Parker, Warren Penney, Jerome Purves, Russell Schuyler, Jeffrey H. Smith, Jesse Eugene Suiter, James R. Varney and Floyd Walker Jr.

*James Beaubien, P.S.*

## Mobilizing for Jobs

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Over 500 telecom workers converged on the Illinois State Capitol in May to gain support for House Bill 1500. Members from every corner of Illinois and northwest Indiana traveled to Springfield to lobby legislators to pass H.B. 1500, the Cable and Video Competition Law of 2007.

H.B. 1500 would allow telecom companies to get a statewide video franchise agreement rather than having to negotiate separately with each town. A dozen other states have passed similar legislation, and AT&T and other providers responded by adding hundreds of new jobs. H.B. 1500 creates the right environment for job growth in the Illinois telecommunications industry, and will create a level playing field between unionized employers like AT&T and the viciously anti-union, low-road predatory employers like Comcast.

The IBEW, including Local 21, the Illinois AFL-CIO and the Chicago Federation of Labor, support passage of this legislation because it will create good union jobs that support Illinois families.

Negotiations for a second contract are under way for 100 members working at Comcast in Chicago. Local 21 has two other bargaining units at Comcast and preparations are under way to build our union stronger there as well!

*Thomas Hopper, P.S.*



IBEW Local 21 stewards and activists lobby for cable and video law.

## Honor Bestowed

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Distinguished honor was bestowed on Bro. William “Bill” Simms of IBEW Local 37. Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Int. Sec.-Treas. Jon F. Walters, during a visit to the Point Lepreau nuclear generating plant, presented Bro. Simms with his 30-year service pin.

Bro. Simms is a dedicated IBEW member, having served previously in former IBEW Locals 1733 and 2309, which were amalgamated into Local 37. Bro. Simms has served as an industrial mechanic in various capacities for many years and is currently a member of the Win Team at the Point Lepreau generating plant.

Pres. Hill and Sec. Treas. Walters enjoyed a plant tour while at the station and met several brothers and sisters during working hours. Honor was once again bestowed on Local 37 by having Pres. Hill and Int. Sec.-Treas. Walters attend the union meeting of Local 37, held that same afternoon at the Maces Bay Seniors Hall.

*Douglas Wallace, P.S.*



Local 37 member William Simms (center) receives service pin presented by IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill (right) and Int. Sec.-Treas. Jon F. Walters.

## Dominic Rivara Retires



Local 51 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Dominic Rivara announced his retirement.

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Dominic Rivara, business manager/ financial secretary, announced his retirement effective July 28, 2007. Bro. Rivara was initiated into the local in 1964. He joined the Local 51 staff in 1975, where he also served as president, business representative and assistant

business manager. Bro. Rivara served as business manager since 1995. Local 51 congratulations Dominic on his retirement and wishes him good health and happiness.

Negotiations are continuing for Local 51 members employed by AmerenCilco, AmerenIP and the University of Illinois. Members employed by Dynege Midwest Generation, J. F. Electric (meter reading) and Frontier Communications recently ratified their respective bargaining agreements.

Our work scene for our power and line clearance members continues to be good while teledata work remains slow. Check out the Jobs Board at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org) for our manpower needs.

Congratulations to the following members who completed their apprenticeships and advanced to journeyman lineman status: Adam Claussen, Chris Crafton, Calvin DeBoer, Gerry Lee, Matt Parsons and Jason Smith.



Attending Local 53 service award presentation, from left: IBEW 11<sup>th</sup> District Int. Rep. James F. Lynch, retired IEC member Lyle Keith Query, retired Bro. Bill James, and Bus. Mgr. Bobby Steward. Bros. Lynch, Query and James are former Local 53 business managers.

Work safe, give 8 hours' work for 8 hours' pay and attend your union meetings. This is where it all begins.

*Dan Pridemore, B.R./P.S.*

## Tribute for Service

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—We wish to honor three of our past business managers. Two of these gentlemen, Bro. Bill James and Bro. Keith Query, former IEC member, received service pins at the regular union meeting on April 18. Bill James was awarded his 65-year pin and Keith Query his 50-year pin. We thank and congratulate these brothers for a job well-done. Their contributions to Local 53 are many and are greatly appreciated.

We also congratulate former Bus. Mgr. James Lynch, who was appointed IBEW International Representative assigned to the Eleventh District office, effective March 7. We wish him all the best and thank him for his years of service to Local 53. Bro. Lynch has made countless contributions to Local 53 and its members. We wish him well in his new post.

Local 53 welcomes newly appointed Bus. Mgr. Bob Stuart. Congratulations and best wishes, Bro. Stuart. We also wish to acknowledge new Bus. Rep. Brett Stone. Our future is in good hands.

Congratulations to all retired members who received service pins at the retirees luncheon on May 3.

*Duane Pearce, P.S.*

## All About Our Members

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA—Members ... it's all about our members, past, present and future.

Past Members: We pay tribute to departed brothers and sisters for their service to our local.

Present Members: Our present members came through a rough and windy season. Hundreds of thousands of people throughout our jurisdiction lost power last winter and our members worked long hours to restore electricity.

Thanks to the members for their hard work. At this writing we were looking forward to the third annual Andrew York Rodeo on June 23 in Wenatchee, WA. Local 77 members were scheduled to compete in this lineman's rodeo.

Future Members: A huge “way to go” for Organizer Chris Martin. He has organized several new members. To name just a few, these include: the City of Seattle construction and maintenance equipment operators, M & L Construction, and the City of Sumas. With the continued support of all our members, we can move our local toward growth with proactive organizing.

Our current work outlook is great and we still need journeyman linemen.

*David Wheeler, P.S.*

## Great Safety Record

L.U. 83 (u), BINGHAMTON, NY—How about those Westover brothers and sisters! The members at AES Westover have worked over 500,000 man-hours without a lost time accident! That's over four years! In addition to the 500,000 hours, 95,545 hours were logged in July and August of last year—over 95,000 hours in a two-month time frame.

On June 28, 2006, the Susquehanna River flooded and dumped about 4 million gallons of water in New York. At the peak of the restoration efforts, the work force reached 300 people. The plant came back on line just after Labor Day. Congratulations, Westover. Keep up the safe work practices.

*Don S. Tuttle, P.S.*

## 'Boston Shines'

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—The 25th annual Brotherhood Basketball and Hockey Game was held on the campus of U. Mass, Boston. The journeyman hockey game saw the apprentices win an exciting double-overtime game, 5-4. MVP was apprentice goalie Bill O'Neil. The journeyman - apprentice basketball game saw the journeymen prevail 103-90. MVP was journeyman Jeff Howard. The kids enjoyed their own hockey game and basketball shoot-outs.

On Sat., April 28, Mayor Tom Menino once again spearheaded “Boston Shines,” an annual citywide community cleanup effort to help keep Boston a beautiful place. A longtime friend of



IBEW Local 103 members volunteer for the “Boston Shines” community service event.



Local 145 members employed with Acme Sign Company. A new three-year contract with Acme recently was ratified.

labor and Local 103, Mayor Menino's consistent advocacy on our behalf has made the city of Boston, where so many of our members live, a true bedrock for organized labor. Special thanks to our members who participated.

The annual AFL-CIO scholarship award presentation was held May 2 at Local 103. This year's Local 103 scholarship winners are as follows: James Smart (son of Michael and Ann Smart), Daniel Lord (son of Michael and Eileen Lord), Lauren Eng (daughter of Paul and Patricia Eng), and Kelly Keegan (daughter of Lawrence and Debra Keegan).

*Bill Molineaux, P.S.*

## Tragic Loss of Life



IBEW Local 125 mourns apprentice lineman Brent Larwick.

L.U. 125 (lctt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR—On April 30, 2007, Local 125 members mourned the tragic loss of Brent Larwick, a 22-year old 5th step apprentice lineman. Brent received a fatal electrical shock while working for Potelco in Bremerton, WA. All of us who work in the electrical industry were reminded of how vitally important it is to observe safe work rules on the job.

The family, along with Local 125, has established the Brent Larwick Memorial Fund, which will be donated by the family to the Oregon Emanuel Burn Center in Brent's name. No amount of support will bring Brent's smiling face back to our trade. However, all must be reminded to maintain awareness on the job. Performing work properly with the use of all safe work practices and personal protective equipment may prevent the loss of another life in the future. Donations can be sent to Brent Larwick Memorial Fund, IBEW Local 125, 17200 N.E. Sacramento Street, Portland, OR 97230.

*Travis Eri, B.M.*

## Optimistic for Future

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL—Summer will be in full swing at the time of this reading. Spring was strong with a 190-man outage at our local nuclear plant. We thank all the brothers and sisters who helped staff this work. The work outlook is good for 2007. We have a few projects on the books that have not yet started (due to delays) but remain optimistic for the future.

Our condolences to those family members who have lost loved ones this year.

Congratulations to members who recently retired! Thank you for your many years of service to our local and this industry.

Our local JATC added on to its existing apprenticeship training facility. The 3,000 square foot addition will provide additional training opportunities for members.

Inside contract negotiations have opened again this year for a wage package. We thank all members who worked on that committee.

We look forward to the local union's regular summer activities including our golf outing and union picnic!

*Alan Anderson, P.S.*

## 911 Unit Success

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—The 911 Unit of Local 193 won a long-fought battle with city officials on a new contract. Pay increases of 30 percent to 65 percent were achieved in order to retain professional members in these demanding jobs. Step raises were initiated to raise the pay levels to those of county deputies and firemen. Long-term retention of our 911 personnel is an improvement for our county and its bargaining unit members. Nine new 911 employees began training classes in May.

CWLP negotiations start soon, as areas are electing negotiating teams and formulating proposals.

Inside wiremen held a ratification vote May 9 and the inside agreement was ratified. Local 193 tree trimmers realized a 4 percent wage increase in a new contract, the highest in the region.

Bob Brandon was named CWLP employee of the year. Bob was recognized for his outstanding work during the "Twin Tornadoes" that devastated Springfield in March.

The Inside Branch is starting 12 apprentices as of this writing.

Please pause to remember George Colvin, Irvin Todd Jr., William Ascher, and Mark McLaughlin, brothers who passed away recently.

*Don Hudson, P.S.*



Local 193 journeyman wireman Neil Hervey ties down 5-inch pipe at the new Dallman 4 power station in Springfield, IL.

## New Journeymen

L.U. 231 (i,rtb,spa&u), SIOUX CITY, IA—Congratulations to recent apprenticeship graduates, who have now attained journeyman wireman status: Kyle Davis, Josh Grimsley, Nathan Hall, Aaron Hoelker, David Hoelsing, Jeremy McPherson, Tyler Postello, Leathen Richards, Nick Rol, Jeff Schmidt, Matt Sorensen, Jesse Steeg, Kurt Thompson and Jason Ward.

At this writing the inside electricians are in negotiations. Hopefully, by the time you read this an acceptable contract will have been reached. On the union's negotiating committee are: Michael Rich, David Schulte, Thomas Zeman and Bus. Mgr. James Kavanaugh.

Local 231 wishes Alfred J. Patocka a happy retirement. Al joined the IBEW in 1971 and worked as a journeyman wireman for local contractors as well as jobs on the road. He retired Feb. 28, 2007.



Local 231 Negotiation Committee, from left: Michael Rich, Thomas Zeman, David Schulte and Bus. Mgr. James Kavanaugh.

Our condolences to the families of retired Bros. Thomas Corrigan and Richard Moses, both of whom recently passed away. Bro. Corrigan joined the IBEW in 1950 and retired as a journeyman wireman in 1988. He passed away Feb. 21, 2007, at age 81.

Bro. Moses joined the IBEW in 1951 and retired as a journeyman wireman in 1988. He passed away March 7, 2007 at age 80.

*Debby Spencer, P.S.*

## Summer Work Arrives

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—Summer is here and so is the work. Our outside construction work is good presently. We still have a need for linemen. On the TV scene: Negotiations with WGTE TV 30 are under way. Contract negotiations for City of Rossford firefighters and EMTs are ongoing as of press time.

As for the utility sector, the average age of workers continues to get younger as new people enter the field through FirstEnergy's work force replenishment program. We will enter negotiations with FirstEnergy in the fall.

On behalf of Local 245 officers, members and staff, we thank recently retired Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Paul J. Witte, as well as retired Int. Reps. Charles Graft and Nicholas Greco, for their service to the local over the years. We wish them a long and enjoyable retirement.

Work safe and go home the same way you came to work.

*Ray Zychowicz, P.S.*

## Members Step Up

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—Members donned their green IBEW 269 shirts and their best "Irish spirits" as they proudly represented our union in the St. Patrick's Day parade sponsored by the Bucks County, PA, central labor council, AFL-CIO.

Congratulations to Asst. Bus. Mgr. Wayne DeAngelo on his nomination as Democratic candidate for the New Jersey General Assembly from the 14th District. The general election is Nov. 6, 2007. Bro. DeAngelo's hard work and abilities have long been appreciated by our Local 269 members, and as assemblyman he will serve New Jersey's 14th district well.



IBEW Local 269 members and their families gather for St. Patrick's Day parade.

In the rank and file, Bro. Bruce Prendergast is running for the Bristol Township School Board and Bro. Dave Rivella is running for the Morrisville Council. Good luck to our brothers as they work to make a positive impact in our communities.

May 8 saw many members roll up their sleeves to donate blood for the Community Blood Council of New Jersey. Each member received a free T-shirt commemorating the day as well as food, a movie and raffled prizes. Thanks to all for giving the gift of life for someone in need.

*D.B. Proctor, P.S.*

## Commitment to Excellence

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—Our office remodel is completed and we intend to break ground on our addition to our training center. Thanks to the membership's support in funding these projects, we continue to be progressive in displaying our image in our community as well as our commitment to excellence.

The work picture for our inside and outside branches continues to improve. We are employing traveling members in both branches. An ethanol plant, a casino project, and some big-box store developments brightened our work picture.

For members employed by Ameren Illinois subsidiaries, the situation remains tenuous. The Illinois Legislature threatens a rate freeze due to spiraling electricity costs under a deregulated market. Ameren argues that if it can't pass on the price it pays to unregulated generators to supply power, it will bankrupt the distribution and transmission subsidiaries causing mass layoffs for IBEW members. We strive to influence our legislators to find a solution that benefits all. The situation is compounded by the fact that Ameren/IBEW contracts expire July 1, 2007, with many issues to bargain.

Despite major challenges, Local 309 continues to prosper through the hard work and dedication of our officers and members. We have much to be thankful for.

*Jim Berger, B.M.*

## Organizing Progress



Local 349 Bro. Hilder "Hildy" Brand displays award.

committee did a great job keeping everybody happy. At this writing, contract negotiations were scheduled to start around May. Here's hoping for a good outcome for workers.

L.U. 349 (em,i,mps,rtb,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—Our local's Easter egg party for kids was held at PBA park. Lots of kids came out and enjoyed the fun. Pres. David Karcher and his entertainment

The local mourns the recent loss of two members. Jim Fox, a third-generation union electrician, lost a battle to diabetes. Jim was a volunteer for the Metro Zoo and other charities. For six years he taught children with spinal cord injuries how to sail.

Jack Garrett, lost a long battle with cancer. Jack was from a three-generation IBEW family. He served Local 349 as recording secretary and entertainment committee member. Jack also was a Little League football coach.

On a happier note, pictured here is Hilder "Hildy" Brand with his Union Man Award for many years of cooking hot dogs for union meetings and picnics. Thanks, Hildy.

Let's not forget our troops overseas. We hope they come home safe.

Naples/Ft. Myers is growing. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mike Nagle and his organizers have their hands full. They have organized five companies and 53 CW/CEs. Their memberships have just about doubled.

Remember to support your local union. Attend union meetings. Help out in the local; make it make strong. Work safe!

*Frank Auberry, E-Brd./P.S.*

## Union Contracting Course

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Las Vegas is aggressively working to recapture a higher percentage of the electrical work in our area. One of our strategies is to grow new contractors from within our ranks.

Our JATC and our E-Board, with the membership's approval, sponsored a course promoting union contracting, in hopes of getting more small shops to bid some of the smaller jobs that our big contractors do not bid. The first class was held in August 2005.

On May 4, 2007, the second contracting course was held. (See photo, page 11.) The three-day class provides instruction about starting a business and becoming a union contractor. Pro Union Consulting Inc. Pres. Matt Kolbinsky and Organizing Consultant James P. Cole were inspirational in their presentation. Also speaking were Bank of Nevada senior Vice Pres. Chris Schlaffman, attorney James W. Clafin, certified accountant Dennis K. Mesevy, automatic data processing expert Michael Taff, NECA Chapter Mgr. F. Ross Farr, Local 357 Bus.Mgr./Fin. Sec. David R. Jones, and Business Development Dir. Al D. Davis. Local 357 thanks the speakers and the 40 members who attended. We wish all involved luck starting their new adventure. Let's get all our work back.

*Timothy W. Bolton, P.S.*

## Carolina Initiative

LOCAL 379 (i,o&rtb), CHARLOTTE, NC—The Carolina Initiative is under way. Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and staff kicked off the initiative at our union hall in March. The IBEW committed a coordinator and lead organizer, who will work with existing local organizers to get the program started. More field organizers will be added. The initiative will target the construction industry in the Carolinas. Existing union contractors and any others coming into our area are expected to go after the work, using tools such as the Small Works Agreement. We need to provide these contractors with skilled manpower. This is a great opportunity for the Carolinas to regain union market share!



Local 357 members attend a union contracting course.

Our local recently held its election of officers; at this writing result were not yet available. Newly elected officers begin their terms in July.

The Charlotte JATC graduation ceremony for 29 graduates is July 20. This will help with skilled manpower needs. Congratulations, graduates!

The Carolinas are a great place to live and work, so if anyone wishes to relocate and join the union growth taking place please contact Local 379 or any of the other Carolina locals. This will be an exciting time for the local and the Carolinas.

*Bob Krebs, B.M.*

## Lifesaving Award

L.U. 387 (em,lc&t&u), PHOENIX, AZ—Bus. Mgr. Bob DeSpain and Pres. Sam Hoover presented the IBEW Lifesaving Award to Bro. Mike Barrett for his heroic response in saving the life of a resident in Parker, AZ. Congratulations, Mike, on receiving this honor.

At this writing, elections were taking place for Local 387 officers. Ballots were mailed in May and the vote count was scheduled for June. This article went to press before results were available.

Also at press time we were looking forward to the local picnic scheduled for May 19. All were invited. Thanks to the apprentices for their hard work making picnic preparations.

*Sam Hoover, P.S.*



Local 387 member Mike Barrett (standing, second from left) receives the IBEW Lifesaving Award presented by Bus. Mgr. Bob DeSpain (second from right) and Pres. Sam Hoover (right). Mike's father, Chuck Barrett (left), retired assistant business manager extends congratulations.

## Steward Training Session

L.U. 459 (ees,em,so,govt&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Local 459 held its annual steward training April 26 in Clearfield, PA. We had a good response from our stewards. Even though we have stewards from the 28 different companies we represent, all deal with similar issues.

Bus. Mgr. Don Hoak welcomed the group and noted a need to improve some of the ways we deal with the membership. The process by which

we deal with grievances was the major topic of concern. There is a lot of good dialog between the stewards and Local 459 leadership. Also emphasized was how important it is that stewards very actively welcome new members onto our properties and spend time explaining where and how members' wages and benefits came about. Two attorneys presented valuable information about labor law and worker compensation.

Bro. Hoak thanked the stewards for all their work and noted that Local 459 runs well because we have good stewards throughout the local. Special thanks to Bro. Robert Ashbaugh for organizing the event.

*Kenneth L. Richards, Pres.*

## Lynn Johnson Mourned

L.U. 499 (u), DES MOINES, IA—On March 25 Lynn Johnson, business manager/financial secretary, passed away following a short illness. Lynn was appointed assistant business manager in 1982 and became business manager in 1990.

During his funeral so many family, friends and Local 499 members attended that people had to stand outside. For the drive to the cemetery there was a line of cars, line trucks and gas trucks with their strobe lights flashing as far as you could see. Some of our linemen had placed two bucket trucks at the entrance to the cemetery with the booms forming an arch and our IBEW Local 499 banner hung between them where the funeral procession passed underneath. Lynn's family was overwhelmed by the sight.

After the burial a luncheon was held at our union hall. Many IBEW members worked non-stop to make the luncheon a huge success. They included: Sisters Sandy Opstvedt and Fran Brownell from Local 55; Bros. Mike Kriegermeier and Mike Johnson from Local 109; Betty Brimm-Hunter, lobbyist for the IBEW State Conference; and Local 499 members JoAnn McKibben, Tonya Flinn, John Dunlap and George Fong. Local 499 will deeply miss Bro. Johnson.

*Don Krause, B.M.*



In tribute to late Local 499 Bus. Mgr. Lynn Johnson, line trucks and gas trucks join the funeral procession.



IBEW Local 569's "Christmas in April" crew.

## Service Pin Award

L.U. 547 (rr), GALESBURG, IL—In May the IBEW issued a certificate and service pin for 55-years of membership to Earl Fitch of Osceola, IA. Local 547 is proud to have Bro. Fitch as a member and we congratulate him on his tremendous accomplishment.

Earl joined the CB&Q Railroad Telegraph Department in 1952. He worked in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Missouri covering a territory from Chicago to Denver and Burlington, IA, to St. Louis, MO. He retired from the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1989 after 37 years of service. Earl and his wife of 60 years, Elva, have enjoyed 18 years of retirement. They have four children, nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

*Paul D. Miller, F.S.*



Local 547 member Earl Fitch (front row, left), now retired, participated some years ago in a lineman's pole top rescue class. Pictured at a class session are, from left, front row, Fitch, Dick Ross, Norbert Bentley and Larry Haskins; back row, Dave Shride, Mike Seastedt, Frank Sumner and Jim Rollen.

## Jobs Break Late

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Michigan weather has been unusual in recent months. A warm January was followed by some cold weeks. As of late April, a cold spring and the zero-degree days continued to make heating costs high and jobs break late. In late March calls for a semiconductor substrate manufacturer upgrade job started putting hands to work, and in April school upgrade jobs were moving forward.

Finally after being part of the Michigan Health plan for some years, the body decided by ballot vote to modify the Saginaw Electrical Workers plan, which has been overhead intensive, to be a check-off funded plan that will still include jury duty and disability funding and also add a supplemental unemployment fund. There has been a nearly decade-long dialogue creating this fund and with lack of change in unemployment compensation the need is evident.

Look for another picnic to be scheduled soon and enjoy the summer.

*John E. Clemens, P.S.*

## Community Service

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—Asst. Bus. Mgr. Johnny Simpson led 150 energetic Local 569 members in this year's "Christmas in April" effort. The members split into several groups and worked on nine homes in the San Diego County area in dire need of our members' electrical expertise. Our members carried out such tasks as replacing switches, receptacles, light fixtures and troubleshooting faulty wiring. The families receiving the free services were extremely thankful for the time our members gave to ensure their homes were free from electrical faults and to assure them a safe home. One elderly homeowner was tremendously pleased to have her kitchen counter reconfigured to allow her to access her sink from her wheelchair. Our members will continue to support this worthy effort to help people in our community. Many thanks to Dynalectric, Southland, Neal, and Baker Electric for the use of their service vehicles.

*Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.*

## Lawrence University Project

L.U. 577 (em&i), APPLETON, WI—It has been several years since we last were awarded work at Lawrence University in Appleton. With some encouragement by a local union general contractor, our IBEW employers were replaced at this facility by a nonunion competitor.

Early March saw the release of bid documents to construct a new student center at the university. Two IBEW and two nonunion electrical contractors submitted bids for the design/build project. After all interviews were completed, Excellence Electric, a local union employer, was awarded the project. The customer's decision was not influenced by a low bid but based on a fair price, a reputation for high quality installations and completing projects on time with a skilled IBEW work force.

The Appleton/Oshkosh Joint Apprenticeship Committee recently recommended apprentices for inside journeyman wiremen status. Congratulations to: Nathan Beck, Craig Bennin,



An IBEW Local 557 display at a Homebuilders Show features a photovoltaic system. From left, Bus. Mgr. Bob Orr and apprentices Rich Matevia and Jason Combs.

Eric Hietpas, Cody Johnson, Jason Johnson, James Kraft, Daniel Raspotnik, Robert School, Michael Schroeder, Joseph Thiel, Ryan Wendt and David Zerbe.

One of the changes to the recently negotiated voice-data-video agreement was the inclusion of the annual safety training language. All Local 577 members are encouraged to attend these classes. The August newsletter will contain the fall semester courses.

*Greg Breaker, B.M.*



Local 577 apprentice Dan Raspotnik (second from left) is named 2007 Apprentice of the Year. From left, Apprenticeship Instructor Terry Johnson, Raspotnik, JATC Sec. Mike Balthazor of Excellence Electric, and Nick LaRoche, Klein Tool representative.

## Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Congratulations to Local 611's newest journeyman wiremen. We commend the following for successfully completing the inside wireman apprenticeship program in 2007: Nick Chavez, Curtis Scott, Justin Kunz, Miguel Angel Gallegos, Keith Quintana, David Hennessey, Jorge Luis Reyes, Ramsey Triana, Calvin Pedro, Jamie Anderson, Stephanie Amijo, Timothy Beebe, Patrick Cota, Chris Esquibel, Ray Montoya and Alexandra Uentillie. Jorge Luis Reyes was selected as outstanding apprentice of the year. Congratulations to all.

The UNM Children's Hospital project has started to wind down with only about 20 to 30 wiremen left on the job. The job had 1.5 million hours for crafts people with only one recordable lost-day accident, not bad for a job of that size. Great job, guys.

As of this writing the local is trying to pick up part of the \$1 billion tool re-install at Intel. The project is at Intel's Fab 11x.

Local 611 sends condolences to the families of the following members who passed away recently: Charles J. Stein, Elmer J. Bone, Glenn Rigg, James E. Douthit, Fred Gallagher, Walter Pilnock, Oscar D. Roberts and Johnnie M. Holmes.

*Darrell J. Blair, P.S.*



Some of the Local 611 inside wireman recent graduates.

## Hershey Plant Closing

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Hershey Company is closing the Moirs plant in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. More than 600 employees will lose their jobs by the end of 2007. The workers include six IBEW Local 625 members, 42 Teamsters members, and 550 Bakery, Confectionery & Tobacco Workers members. Some of the plant's production will be moved to Mexico. Hershey is also closing its Smith Falls, Ontario, plant (400 workers) and its Oakdale, California, plant (575 workers). Twenty percent of Hershey production in North America reportedly will move to Mexico. Maybe free trade deals should be renamed "Job Export Deals."

Congratulations to Bro. Tim Peitzche for achieving journeyman status. Congratulations to Ronald Peitzche, Tim's dad, on his retirement. Also retiring this May are Bros. Ron Fitzgerald and Bob Gogan.

I reported in the March-April issue that our new collective agreement contained an increase in vacation and holiday pay to 12 percent. After a grievance and unsuccessful arbitration, our V + H pay was restored to 8-, 9-, and 10 percent.

Raffle tickets for a 2007 Harley Davidson are available at the union hall. A total of 625 tickets will be sold for \$100 each. The draw is Aug. 16, 2007; proceeds go toward our 100th anniversary celebration.

*Tom Griffiths, Pres.*

## New Skybus Terminal

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—We have had an opportunity to work on some interesting projects lately. Royal Electric installed a terminal for the new start-up airline, Skybus, which has Columbus as its main hub. The project put about 40 IBEW 683 members to work over most of the winter. This was a very unique project in that it was a fast-track, design-build project.

Approximately 200 Local 683 members with The Superior Group and Royal Electric installed the electrical and fire alarm systems on a large data center called Project Buckeye. Over 132 miles of conduit were installed underground alone.

We had the opportunity to host the IBEW Fourth District Progress Meeting in June.

*Barry Hughes, VP/P.S.*



IBEW Local 683 members helped new start-up airline Skybus successfully get off the ground in Columbus, OH.

## Windsor Project

L.U. 773 (as,em,i,mo&o), WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA—Work remains fairly strong, with projects including the new Daimler Chrysler paint shop and retooling of the body shop. Other projects include Casino Windsor with Mid South Electric and Black and McDonald at the Casino powerhouse. Windsor is finally getting a new Hockey Arena Sports Complex, where the Windsor Spitfires will play, and the IBEW and Vollmer and Associates are on the job. We are waiting for an official announcement on the Ford Powerhouse Co-Gen and the new paint shop at Navistar in Chatham.

The 13 construction locals in the Province of Ontario are now working under a new three-year collective agreement, with a wage increase of \$3.80 over three years.

At press time, the local is in the midst of election of officers. We thank the current officers for a job well-done, and have best wishes for the officers elected to lead Local 773.

Our night school program JATC had a large graduating class and these apprentices are now eligible to write for their certificate of qualification for electrician's license. Best of luck to all. Journeyman and apprentice training classes are ongoing. The local thanks the trainers for all their hard work throughout the year.

*David Spencer, P.S.*

## Leadership Transition

L.U. 965 (em,govt&u), MADISON, WI—Effective March 1, 2007, Local 965 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Shawn Reents was appointed by Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill as an International Representative assigned to the Membership Development Department.

The Local 965 Executive Board appointed then-Asst. Bus. Mgr. Tony Bartels to fill the vacated business manager's post for the remainder of the unexpired term. Bro. Reents, in his letter of resignation, wrote: "Tony has been aggressively involved in our labor movement. ... As a chief steward of the general office, Executive Board member, president, and assistant business manager since 1999, he has served our sisters and brothers well. ..." Tony "knows our contracts, the labor laws" and will lead the local well, Bro. Reents added.

The local thanks to Bro. Reents for his leadership through difficult times and wishes him success in his new position.

At this writing, the local had just reached a tentative agreement with its largest employer, Alliant Energy—Wisconsin Power & Light. At press time, a ratification vote was under way.

*Kurt A. Roberts, P.S.*

## Appointments Announced

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o&u), LONG ISLAND, NY—There have been several leadership changes at Local 1049, due to retirements, as reported in June. Newly appointed Bus. Mgr. Bob Shand started his career as an apprentice lineman for the Long Island Lighting Company in 1973. He transferred to substation maintenance in 1974 and became a working foreman. He was appointed to the business staff in 1990 and in 2004 was appointed assistant business manager.

Bus. Mgr. Shand announced the new business staff. Newly appointed Asst. Bus. Mgr. Joe Herbert, a 27-year member, served as business representative for nine years. Pat Guidice and Ellen Redmond will continue in their roles as business representative and director of External

Affairs, respectively. Bob Podlaski will continue as an organizer and business representative. The newest business representatives are Pierce Brennan and Bob Porfert.

Ed Conklin was appointed president; Mike Whalen, vice president; and Ron Bauer, Executive Board member.

After 36 years of dedicated service Executive Board member Robert Schellhorn retired. A proud Vietnam veteran, Bob will continue to be an active, dedicated member. Bob's replacement on the Executive Board is Kevin Quinn.

The new officers and staff bring a tremendous mix of experience and talent. We all look forward to facing future challenges.

*Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.*

## Annual Picnic a Success



Local 1191 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Rian McMahon (seated, left) applauds as Retiree Coordinator Eddie Browder (white shirt) presents gold watches to retiring Bros. Harry Thomas (second from right) and Steve Rogers (right).

L.U. 1191 (u), WEST PALM BEACH, FL—Our annual picnic was again a success with plenty of food and beverages for all. Retiring Bros. Steve Rogers and Harry Thomas, both 37-year members, received a gold watch and pin from our local. Retiree Coordinator Eddie Browder made the presentation.

Local 1191 congratulates all members who have retired this year: Ronnie Hardin (BYO), Mike Trexler (OKO), Steve Rogers (WPD), Ronnie King (WPD) and Alvin Glass (GLO). "Paint Your Heart Out 2007," a Palm Beach County community service project, was held in April. Some 44 volunteers assisted a needy family with work on their yard, prepared their house for painting and painted the house over two weekends. Thanks to all the volunteers!

The 2007 storm season is again upon us. Preparations should be complete at home and at work. Hopefully we will have an uneventful season, but we must be prepared. See you at our next union meeting. Visit our Web site [www.ibewlu1191.org](http://www.ibewlu1191.org).

*Harry Thomas, P.S.*

## New Business Manager

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY—The local welcomes William C. Boire as our new business manager. Bill has served as local president and was an assistant business manager for the past seven years.

Bro. Boire was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Bro. John Bishko, who retired Feb. 28, 2007, after serving 11 years as business manager. John has been an IBEW member for 39 years. Thanks again, John, for all your hard work and dedication to make the local successful as it is today.

The Local 1249 work picture is very busy. We have several wind projects starting up, as well as transmission, distribution, and signal and lighting work.

Qualified personnel looking for work, please contact the union hall. Also, our tree chapter is nearing full employment.

*Jay Matthews, P.S.*

## Local Mourns Loss

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Local 1307 was deeply saddened by the passing on March 9 of Pres. Wanda Adkins. Sister Adkins served on the E-Board from 1976 to November 2006, when she was elected president. Wanda first began work for Delmarva Power in 1969 in Salisbury. Her leadership will be missed.

On March 23, Bro. Bruce McCabe was tragically killed in an auto accident. Bruce was a lead lineman for Delmarva Power in Millsboro District. He first began work at Delmarva Power in 1982 at Indian River power plant. Bruce completed his apprenticeship and became a journeyman lineman in 1988.

Tragedy struck again on March 28 with the death of Bro. John Bishop in a motorcycle accident. John started with Choptank Electrical Co-op in 1985 as an apprentice tree trimmer. He completed the apprentice lineman program and advanced to chief lineman. He was a regional account representative in Denton when he retired on March 2, just 22 days before his death.

These three will be deeply missed. Our condolences go out to their families.

*E.D. Sparks, P.S.*



Local 1307 late Pres. Wanda Adkins, shown here at a recent meeting, presents retiring E-Board member and former Vice Pres. John Genga a plaque of appreciation.

## Key Span

L.U. 1381 (uow), HICKSVILLE, NY—The NYS Public Service Commission has not, as of this writing, made a ruling on the National Grid takeover of KeySpan. The PSC is continuing its settlement talks with the proposed new company and interested parties. Concerns regarding service reliability, as well as ratepayer savings, are voiced at these hearings. Our local continues to be an active party in all meetings. Additionally, National Grid and KeySpan have announced a new seven-year agreement with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) to operate the electricity transmission and distribution system on Long Island. This agreement between National Grid/KeySpan and LIPA offers additional security and stability to the union work force. This agreement is also an important step for the approval of the merger between National Grid and KeySpan, targeted for completion in mid-2007.

On April 11, 2007, Local 1381 held nominations for our upcoming election of officers. Bus. Mgr. Donald J. Daley Jr., along with all incumbent officers and Executive Board members, accepted nominations. Each position has been entirely unopposed, a strong sign of support from our members. The local leadership will continue efforts to strengthen our local. Congratulations to all.

*Catherine Malinowski, P.S.*

## Solidarity in St. Louis

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—We held our second Joint Union Solidarity meeting while negotiations continued, as of this writing, with the nine unions on Ameren property. Thomas Paine in 1775 wrote a pamphlet, "Common Sense," to galvanize the 13 colonies toward freedom and independence from tyranny. Paine stated: "Tis not in numbers but in unity that our great strength lies, yet our present numbers are sufficient to repel those arrayed against us." Solidarity is synonymous with unity. Unity coupled with truth can never be overcome and will always be a sure foundation. As a shop steward, I speak to all brothers and sisters, and we must be above reproach in our life, our shop and our union.

*Ken Carroll, P.S.*

## Appointed to Labor Post

L.U. 1505 (em), WALTHAM, MA—Local 1505 Bus. Mgr. George Noel was appointed by Gov. Duval Patrick as director of the Massachusetts Department of Labor. Although we are saddened by Bus. Mgr. Noel's departure, his appointment is a tremendous opportunity for our local union, the IBEW and the labor movement in Massachusetts.

"I am pleased that George Noel accepted this critical post at a critical time in Massachusetts," said Gov. Deval Patrick. "George demonstrated solid leadership as a member of our Labor and Workforce Development working group. I know he will ... help move Massachusetts forward."

Massachusetts AFL-CIO Pres. Robert Haynes said, "George Noel is a great choice. As labor director, George will bring ... a commitment to ensuring fairness for employees and employers alike. As a labor leader, he understands the needs, concerns and fights of working families."

Bus. Mgr. Noel's appointment underscores the importance of IBEW COPE. Elections have consequences. When labor candidates win, we have a voice. Gov. Patrick demonstrated his commitment to working people with his choice of Bus. Mgr. Noel.

Bro. Noel served as Massachusetts AFL-CIO vice president and executive vice president of the Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council. He remains an active dues paying member of our union. We wish him well.

*Betty LaPointe, P.S.*

## News from Anchorage

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—Chris Tuck, journeyman wireman, was recently elected to a three-year term on the Anchorage School Board. Bro. Tuck was elected to the seat vacated by IBEW Local 1547 general counsel Jake Metcalfe, who served two terms on the board.

Unit 103 office secretary Linda Gwyther retired after nine years of service to Local 1547. "Sister Gwyther met every task with humor and enthusiasm—and she will be missed," said Bus. Mgr. Larry Bell.

Local 1739 members enjoy a well-deserved "Pizza Thursday" lunch break, organized by Bro. Tom "Buzzy" Caldwell (standing left, wearing cap).



Bro. John Alexander recently passed away. Bro. Alexander was business rep from 1976-78. He is a former commissioner for the state of Alaska Department of Labor.

Local 1547 will host our first Alaska Lineman's Rodeo in June 2008. This event will showcase the skills and abilities of the line profession. The theme of the 2008 event is "Hooking up the Northern Lights" and will be held at the Tom Cashen Electrical Training Facility. Locals interested in participating should contact Line Rep. Tom Nealeigh at (907) 777-7244.

*Melinda Taylor, P.S.*

## Update on Projects

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—The Examining Board gave the journeyman wireman exam recently to fifth-year apprentices. Chmn. Larry Boswell reports all passed. Congratulations to our new journeymen.

Our JATC is very busy this year. We've had several continuing education classes for state licensing, OSHA 10, passport training for the powerhouses, and an instrumentation class. More classes are scheduled. Contact the hall for more details.

Bus. Mgr. Gary Osborne reported at our April union meeting that the Cash Creek powerhouse located in Henderson County secured funding to start construction and hopes to start moving dirt in late 2007. We expect the new Owensboro Mercy Health System Hospital to begin construction by 2008. We have a PLA in place for Cash Creek and Bro. Osborne is working to secure a PLA for the hospital project.

On the political front, we are pleased that no legislation was passed to harm organized labor in the 2007 Kentucky General Assembly. However, our right-to-work and prevailing wage opponents committed to returning in 2008.

In sadness we report the passing of retired members Louis Hawes, Ron Lynch and Jack King. May they rest in peace.

*Tim Blandford, Pres.*

## Work Progressing

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—2007 still promises to be a good year for our local. It certainly will be appreciated by those members who spent so long on the out-of-work list.

Our local is pleased to be taking part in the struggle to produce alternative fuels. W.S. Nicholls has employed our members to work on construction of an ethanol producing plant in Collingwood.

Work is progressing on the Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital. Patience is a necessity in the painstaking efforts to modernize the existing sections of the hospital without disrupting the staff and services still being provided. The discovery of asbestos, so popular before its dangers were known, often slows or stops work in areas until its safe removal and disposal. Tracing and disconnecting circuits when their origins,

records and routing has long been forgotten can be challenging and time consuming. When men care and desire to do a good job in reasonable time for their employer it gets frustrating when progress is slow. We are proud of our members as they persevere in often-trying circumstances.

A special thanks to Bro. Tom "Buzzy" Caldwell for organizing "Pizza Thursdays" complete with butter tarts. Thursday is a good day, frustrations or not.

*Bill Carson, P.S.*

## Job Fair Award

L.U. 1749 (u), NEW JOHNSONVILLE, TN—Bus. Mgr./Pres. Jeff Rosentreter accepted an award on behalf of our local for our support of the recent job fair held at the union hall. IBEW Tenth District, Local 1749 /TVA /CEFA sponsored this event to look for some new talent in this area. This is the type of activity we as a union need to support for the good of all!

Support your local and come to the meetings. Your job depends on it. With all the changes proposed by the Bush-appointed TVA board and all the cost-cutting measures being suggested by board chairman Tom Kilgore, it's important that you call your senators and congressmen and ask them to vote against the McConnell/Bunting bill to privatize TVA. The nine-member TVA board met on March 30 and reportedly only two of the nine opposed this bill. You can find the e-mail or mailing address for your congressional representatives on the IBEW Web site [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org); click on the COPE/Political link.

Register and vote for working family friendly candidates

*Mark J. DeJuliis, E. Brd./P.S.*



Local 1749 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Jeffrey Rosentreter (second from left) displays job fair award. From left, Bro. Raul Hernandez, retired fitter from Cumberland CEFA; Rosentreter; Sister Wavine Isaac from Memphis CEFA; and Local 1749 E-Board Chmn. George Potter.

## Jobs and Growth

L.U. 2323 (t), CRANSTON, RI—Local 2323 celebrated the second-year anniversary of the Fiber Solution Center in Providence. This work center started with 20 members and has increased to over 250 IBEW members. Local 2323 continues to grow with new jobs. And, with Verizon beginning to offer cable TV in Rhode Island in June, prospects for increased membership are high.

Bus. Mgr. William McGowan was reappointed by the governor of Rhode Island, and confirmed by the Rhode Island Senate, to serve on the Human Resource Investment Council and Governor's Workforce Board. Millions of dollars in federal and state job-training programs are distributed through these boards.

Bus. Mgr. McGowan was also re-elected as



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, along with the *IBEW Journal* magazine, now published quarterly, now constitute the official publications of the IBEW and seek to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Edwin D. Hill  
International President

Jon F. Walters  
International Secretary-Treasurer

**INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Chairman  
Robert W. Pierson

First District  
Joseph P. Calabro

Second District  
Myles J. Calvey

Third District  
John R. Clarke

Fourth District  
Jackie E. Goodwin

Fifth District  
Stephen Schoemehl

Sixth District  
Gregory A. Lucero

Seventh District  
Patrick Lavin

Eighth District  
Rick Dowling

**INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

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Second District  
Frank J. Carroll

Third District  
Donald C. Siegel

Fourth District  
Salvatore J. Chilia

Fifth District  
Joe S. Davis

Sixth District  
Joseph F. Lohman

Seventh District  
Jonathan B. Gardner

Eighth District  
Ted C. Jensen

Ninth District  
Michael S. Mowrey

Tenth District  
Robert P. Klein

Eleventh District  
Lindell K. Lee

**THE ELECTRICAL WORKER**

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**HOW TO REACH US**

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

**Send letters to:**

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## Pushing Forward



**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

In my travels speaking to IBEW members, employers and others, I'm encouraged by the many good things that are happening throughout the Canada and the United States.

We are seeing organizing efforts taking place throughout the Brotherhood. Some campaigns are high profile, telling the community that we are in there fighting. In other cases, we are cooperating closely with our employers and customers to improve the industries we represent and build a solid base for the future. There are also many stories of locals negotiating contracts and representing workers in ways that improve the lives of our members. The Code of Excellence is part of the cultural change that is transforming this union.

While we are working so hard to improve the quality of life for working families, others are plotting our demise. As we went to press, the U.S. Senate was considering two major

pieces of legislation that could have a serious impact on our future: the Employee Free Choice Act and immigration reform.

The debate over the Free Choice Act, which would require recognition of a union when a majority of representation cards are signed and mandate arbitration in negotiations for a first contract, shows just how little the media and the public know about the cause of labor. The many editorials repeating right-wing talking points on secret ballot elections betray a total ignorance of the thousands of cases of outrageous union busting that have taken place in recent decades. We still have a long way to go before America is ready for progressive, realistic labor reform.

The immigration bill's guest worker program is a more serious, immediate threat. It seeks to ensure a steady supply of easily exploitable migrant workers to take construction, service and industrial jobs at substandard wages, benefits and safety standards. While the Senate bill would still have to go to the House of Representatives, we do not want to see the guest worker concept get any kind of momentum or acceptance.

We are living in times that do not allow us the luxury of resting on past accomplishments. We must keep pushing forward.

## Grassroots Means Just That

The squeaky hinge gets the oil... If you don't get involved, don't complain." There are dozens of ways to express the need for members to not only vote, but to participate in the political process as the 2008 presidential election comes closer.

But saying it doesn't make it happen. We lead exceedingly busy lives. More and more members and their spouses are taking second jobs, working overtime or going back to school to get by. Books have been written about how civic involvement is suffering under the pressures of this grinding cycle.

Then there are those who could participate but don't, saying that there are no candidates worth their time, even suggesting that our union give up on politics.

Having been disappointed by my share of candidates over the years, I understand their frustration. But the IBEW will never surrender to defeatism. That would dishonor the courage, resolve and hard work of members who have won ordinances, laws and regulations to protect our jobs and working conditions. To say nothing about thousands of others who have played a role in actually selecting good candidates to run, or who have served in public offices themselves.

So what do we do? In a word, we organize. We create opportunities for all of our members to participate. We inspire our members who are disillusioned to make a difference. As members and retirees reach out to more co-workers and neighbors, we will maximize the IBEW's existing strength.

Our program is far from being fully developed. It will only work with your support. Let us know what you think. Help shape the IBEW's future and join the fight to make sure that our democracy works not just for the wealthy and powerful, but for the rest of us.



**Jon F. Walters**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

## Letters to the Editor

### Good going!

I really like your new format and newspaper publication. It was very attractive, had interesting articles, and generated a sense of strength with the style, color and placement of the logo. I look forward to your next issue. Good job!

*Jan Deutchman  
Spouse of Local 1999 member, Mankato, Minn.*

### Follow the Money

In reply to Brother Bill Miner's letter in the May issue of The Electrical Worker asking "if we allow our jobs to go overseas, who will finance our national debt?" It's already happening: China, a country that imprisons and tortures labor activists, forces abortions and poisons many thousands of citizens yearly with largely unchecked industrial pollution already owns over one TRILLION dollars of our debt. If we allow things to continue, our grandchildren will work for Chinese-owned companies and have only memories of what unions and a decent life for workers once were. We all need to work to wake up our government NOW!

*Fred J. Geiger  
Local 234 member, Santa Cruz, Calif.*

### Politicians and plebes

A bill allowing 200,000 or 600,000 undocumented workers to stay in the United States is simply a number to politicians, a number that might as well be their bank statement. The decisions he makes (other than voting himself a raise or a three-month vacation) will never affect his own life directly, which contradicts the idea of representative democracy. This standard of democracy is almost as ridiculous as believing that 11 million illegal immigrants will simply leave because the state tells them to.

One might find working class Americans have more in common with immigrant workers (legal, illegal, undocumented) than our supposed elected officials or the police that enforce their laws. Immigrants are going to remember whose side American workers will take, and eventually there will be consequences.

*Jonny Tsagakis  
Local 6 member, San Francisco*

## What Do You Think?

Every month we will be asking a different question and inviting reader responses. Please e-mail your response to the following question to [publications@ibew.org](mailto:publications@ibew.org).

**What are you doing to improve safety in your workplace?**

These are some of the first responses to last month's question:

**How would you get your fellow union members more involved in their local union?**  
For more responses, check [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org):

I would prove to them that their voice matters! I would "draft" a small percentage of them to answer everything that I could get away with, when should we do this..., how should we do that..., etc. We have a rather large local with over 4,000 members so, in our case, I would send out a postcard to 100 of our members, all names drawn out of a hat, asking them the question that we needed to answer, and I would do whatever the majority of the responses said

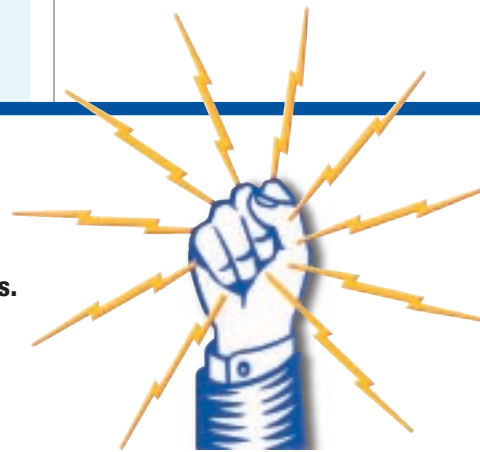
we should do and credit them, by name—all 100, for their joint decision.

If we were to do that, maybe we would end up spending more time working together trying to solve our problems instead of complaining about how somebody else is doing it.

*Bob Sogla  
Local 292 member, Minneapolis, Minn.*

To get members more involved the union brass should come out to job sites and see how the men work and ask questions.

*Michael Bertodatti  
Local 589 member, Jamaica, New York*



Travel to union meetings in large areas is very expensive with respect to the price of fuel and time. Many members are tired after working hard all day and have already spent \$100-\$200 a week (or more) in fuel costs driving to work sites, increasing the financial burden and members' fatigue. I would suggest that union meetings be televised via the Internet.

All that is needed is the software that could be made available upon log-in via download thru high speed links.

Let's demonstrate our knowledge of BOTH the "electronic element" AND "economic element" of our business by proudly demonstrating it ourselves. Informed people make better decisions.

*Paul Giordano  
Local 236 member, Albany, New York*

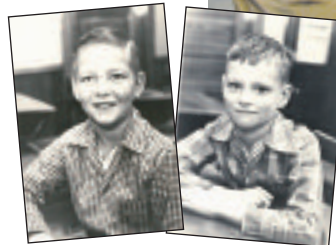
## Who We Are

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to [publications@ibew.org](mailto:publications@ibew.org).

### Two of a Kind

Mark Twain said that familiarity breeds contempt. That may be true in some cases, but in the case of Tom Dahlstrom and Dick Scoville, their uniquely matching experiences have only brought them closer. The pair started out as the only students in their grade at a one-room schoolhouse in a tiny North Dakota town and just completed 40 years of service at Minnesota's IBEW-organized Cooperative Light and Power.

"We were here before half of our co-workers were born," says Scoville, a lineman foreman and member of Duluth, Minn., Local 31. He says that his bond with Dahlstrom, the company's operations manager who started out in the union ranks, only demonstrates the healthy relationship between the parties, where one contract was settled in 45 minutes.



Tom Dahlstrom (left), Cooperative Light and Power operations manager, and Dick Scoville, lineman foreman, a member of Duluth, Minn., Local 31, celebrate 40 years of service and lifetime friendship.

The rural electric cooperative's annual report featured a story entitled "Two Lives, Same Line," to commemorate the friends' milestone of service at the utility which maintains more than 700 miles of power lines near the shores of Lake Superior.

"You read a lot about people retiring in our industry and the need for replacements, but I don't know how you'll ever replace the knowledge that those two men have," says Chris Brelie, CLP's member services manager.

Dahlstrom and Scoville grew up on farms five miles from each other in Grandin, N.D. After completing eighth grade in a 13-student, one-room schoolhouse, they went to high school in neighboring Hendrum, Minn., graduating in 1963. Today, they live with their families, still only two blocks apart.

Tom enrolled in the auto mechanics program at Wahpeton State School of Science. Dick joined him at Wahpeton the next year. Dick enlisted in the National Guard. Tom joined him two years later. Tom got a job after graduation with Henning Construction and began learning outside line construction. The following year Dick was hired at Henning.

In 1967, Tom answered an ad in the local newspaper for a lineman at CLP. He was invited to an interview. Since it was a long drive, he asked Dick to drive along for company. CLP planned to hire two linemen. There was another interview scheduled, but the candidate didn't show up. Dick was invited to interview and both were hired and began working on the same date in 1967.

After a lifetime of living in each other's shoes, Scoville, 61, expects to keep working after Dahlstrom retires. "No problem with that," he says, "I love my job." Bobby Kasper, Local 31's business manager is happy to have Scoville around. "Dick's a stalwart," says Kasper. "He's a very faithful member who attends all meetings and I'm grateful that he and Tom have set a good tone for their co-workers." ■

## Local Lines

*continued from page 13*

chairman of the R.I. Board of Examination and Licensing Telecommunication System contractors, technicians and installers.

Pres. Kevin Desmond continues to promote IBEW COPE. Local 2323's support of U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D), who co-sponsored the Employee Free Choice Act, shows the value of union members' political participation.

Vice Pres./Organizer Craig Duffy was unbowed by a tough organizing campaign at Cox, which resulted in four NLRB charges against Cox. Craig continues to vigorously pursue numerous organizing campaigns in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

*Craig Duffy, V.P.*

## Utility Workshop

SYSTEM COUNCIL U-7, JOHNSON CITY, NY—System Council U-7 hosted the Third District Utility Workshop April 18-20 in Corning, NY.

Council delegates included: Local 966 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Brian Beakman, Local 966 Vice Pres. Michael Lutz, Local 249 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Mark Valerio, Local 249 Vice Pres. Larry Townley, Local 1143 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Scott Fiacco, Local 83 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dan Addy, and Local 83 Vice Pres. Gary Bonker. They were gracious hosts to the many Third District representatives. Local 83 Pres. Dan Addy chaired the meetings in Local 320 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Frank Maher's absence and many topics were covered. Thanks to Douglas Russell, financial advisor, for his attendance and help at the workshop. Special thanks also to Int. Rep. Mike Flanagan and Local 2199 Bus. Mgr./Pres. William McMahon for their help at the workshop and Utility Labor Council meetings. Best wishes to Local 29 Bus. Mgr. Tim Moran on his retirement.

*Don S. Tuttel, P.S.*



System Council U-7 Pres. Danny Addy (right) and SCU-7 Vice Pres. Gary Bonker (second from left) congratulate Local 29 Bro. Tim Moran (second from right) on his retirement. Joining the retirement celebration, at right, is Mrs. Tim Moran.

### Schooldaze?

Check out all the **educational savings** and **benefits** available to union families.

[www.UnionPlus.org/Education](http://www.UnionPlus.org/Education)

## Spotlight on Safety



# SUMMER IS HERE

*And so are the health risks that come with it*

Experts say there is a lot people can do to minimize the risks of health problems related to summertime activities, so remember these.

### SUNBURN

- Limit exposure time and use sunscreen

### INSECT BITES

- Use repellents with DEET
- Check for ticks and seek medical attention if necessary

### BEE STINGS

- Don't leave food or drinks outside uncovered
- Remove stinger if stung
- Watch for allergic reactions

### HEAT ILLNESS

- Drink plenty of water and other fluids
- Limit time outside if possible

### FIREWORKS AND GRILL

- Let the professionals handle the fireworks
- Beware of propane leaks
- Treat burns quickly and seek medical attention if necessary

### POISON IVY AND POISON OAK

- Identify plants and avoid if possible
- Remember "leaflets of three, beware of me"
- Wash affected area immediately with cool water and treat if necessary