

# Downtown Chicago

# MAST

The newly constructed Northwestern University Memorial Hospital—described as one of the most modern and scientifically advanced health care facilities in the world—opened its doors in downtown Chicago on May 1. The massive \$750 million, five-year project was constructed 100 percent union and was completed on time and under budget.

**Chicago's new Northwestern University Memorial Hospital building was constructed 100 percent union.**  
(Photo: Robert Knapp, NMH Media Services)



Local 134 Business Manager Michael Fitzgerald (right) and Business Representative Lawrence J. Crawley (left) stop by the jobsite to thank stewards Larry Senters (second from left) and Derrick Fluegge (second from right) for a great job.

# Chicago Hospital is a Union

# MASTERWORK

In a city noted for its architecture, Chicago IBEW Local 134 members are proud to have played a major role in the construction of the architecturally distinctive 2-million-square-foot facility which comprises two monumental connecting towers. The 22-story Galter Outpatient Pavilion and the 17-story Feinberg Outpatient Pavilion are joined by an eight-floor base of diagnostic and therapeutic service areas and public spaces. Designed to accommodate technological advancements well into the next century, the new hospital consolidates services formerly located in 22 buildings across a six-block area.

Since ground was broken in 1994, an average of 250 members from Local 134 were at work at any given time, and at times as many as 400. Over the five-year construction period, more than 700 Local 134 members worked on the project. More than \$100 million was allotted for the electrical construction alone.

Demonstrating the IBEW commitment to excellence, "A" members, "C" members and manufacturing members all contributed to a highly skilled, cooperative and smoothly functioning operation. Local 134 job stewards Larry Senters and Derrick Fluegge were assisted by numerous additional stewards during the course of the project, and each of them worked diligently to protect the rights of IBEW members and promote on-the-job safety. With more than 575,000 work-hours of electrical craftsmanship, there was not one job-related fatality.

Four major electrical contractors participated on the project: Gurtz Electric

**The hospital operating room lights, pictured, and the steel I-Beams for supports, were 100 percent installed by Local 134 members.**

(Photo: Scott McDonald © Hedrick Blessing)



Co., Gibson Electric Company Inc., Continental Electric Construction and Sunstrand Electric Co. Gurtz Electric alone installed 5 million feet of conduit and over 30 million feet of wiring—enough to stretch from New York City to Los Angeles, back to New York and then to Chicago.

IBEW Manufacturing members can take great pride in the 63 Zenith 2-BTS-series automatic transfer/bypass isolation switches and the 20 Zenith 2-TS-series automatic transfer switches they built for the hospital project—manufacturing jobs kept here in the United States.

On the high-tech end, Sunstrand Electric employed 70 Local 134 members to install more than 3.5 million feet of Lucent Giga SPEED cable and 200,000 feet of multi-mode fiber optic cable. They also connected more than 24,000 nodes—and installed 3 Com network hardware in more than 100 communications closets.

All the wiring and installation work for the hospital project was done by Local 134 members. Chaz MacKenzie of Bell Labs called the Northwestern Hospital project "one of the best installation jobs I've seen and also one of the more difficult projects I've encountered."

Local 134 Business Manager Michael Fitzgerald attributed the readiness of Local 134 members to perform such a

wide range of high-tech jobs to their excellent training in the apprenticeship program and to continuing education. He also credited the participation of contractors and manufacturers in the apprenticeship program, noting that "Lucent Technologies, for example, has made substantial contributions of equipment to our apprenticeship school."

"Our 'C' members have been trained on [this] equipment and on the entire scope of communications technologies as well," Fitzgerald said. "Most important, our apprenticeship program enables our members to adapt and learn new methods quickly." He also commended the cooperation of the union contractors on the jobsite and added that "without the help of all our members, the stewards and Business Agent Larry Crawley, the job could never have been done as timely and effectively and with the full protection of our union rights." And he paid tribute to those who valued the skills and expertise of union members in the beginning, Gary Mecklenburg, the president of Northwestern Hospital, and the hospital Board of Directors.

Local 134 invites IBEW members visiting Chicago to stop by St. Clair and Erie, just a block east of Michigan Avenue—"The Magnificent Mile"—to see the great Northwestern Memorial Hospital, an all-union job and a masterwork. ■