

DECEASED



## Francis E. Clark

The IBEW is saddened to announce the death of International Representative Francis E. Clark on Sept. 6, 1999. Brother Clark was born on February 22, 1922, in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and initiated into Local 968, Parkersburg, on September 19, 1942. He served his local on the Examining Board, Executive Board, as vice president, president, financial secretary and finally as business manager before being assigned to the International staff Dec. 1, 1960. He also held office in the West Virginia State Electrical Workers Association.

Brother Clark served his country in the Navy during World War II, was a member of the Masons, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and active in the Democratic Party.

To his family and friends, the IBEW extends sincere sympathy.

## IBEW Supports Skills USA

In a world where skills are more important every day, the IBEW takes every opportunity to promote the twin goals of training and quality. The 1999 Skills USA-VICA competition was another such opportunity.

International Representative Robert Damiani was appointed by International President J.J. Barry to represent the IBEW as the labor co-chair of the Skills USA Championship. This competition is held each year by the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA), the national organization for education of students in trade, industrial, technical and health occupations. This year's 35th annual contest held in Kansas City, Missouri, last summer attracted some 3,800 participants competing in 68 different trade, technical and leadership fields.

Brother Damiani chaired the national technical committee for the residential wiring competition. Also serving on the committee were Frank Patton of D.F. Patton & Associates; retired IBEW International Representative Everett Lehmann; Brent Gagne; and A.J. Pearson, Director of the

National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. Residential wiring contestants were tested on their ability to perform conduit bending and the installation of wiring of various electrical devices, based on drawings and specifications sheets. The winners were selected based on work quality, accuracy of layout and installation and adherence to National Electrical Code and safety standards. Medals were awarded in the high school and post-secondary categories.

In a letter to President Barry praising Brother Damiani's participation in the program, Skills USA's Tim Lawrence wrote: "The involvement of the [IBEW] in Skills USA-VICA demonstrates your belief in vocational-technical education.... Without your support and service, it would be impossible for us to have such a quality program."



Winners of the 1999 Residential Wiring competition at the Skills USA-VICA championships were: (left to right in red jackets) in the high school category, silver medalist Ryan Feiler-Poethke of Cedarburg, Wisconsin; gold medalist Dustin Costello of Grand Junction, Iowa; bronze medalist Aaron Gingue of Waterford, Vermont; in the post-secondary category, silver medalist Kevin Hall of Tampa, Florida; gold medalist Greg Whittaker of Lansing, Michigan; and bronze medalist Michael Bennett of Churchville, Virginia. On the far left is Frank Patton of D.F. Patton & Associates and on the far right is IBEW International Representative Robert Damiani, who chaired the technical committee for the competition.