

The LINK

International Brotherhood of Electric Workers, Local Union No. 702

May, 2017



Never Rest

It seems as though there is always something worthwhile happening in several places across our Local. While it is difficult to have knowledge of EVERYTHING that affects our members in a positive or negative manner, we strive to be a resource for all of our members across all branches, classifications, and geographic locations.

This issue attempts to highlight some general areas of widespread interest to our members, while simultaneously focuses in on some specific individuals that need to be recognized for their service to this Local and the IBEW.

Inside, you will find exciting news on our new website and app for handheld devices. There are updates on organizing efforts, our pushback against Right To Work in Missouri, information on your right to refuse unsafe work assignments, along with resource information pertaining to workers compensation and also membership level benefits.

We hope you find the information herein helpful and informative. If you have any ideas for articles, please contact your Business Representative with details.

For the latest happenings in IBEW Local 702, you can always check out our website - www.ibew702.org, - or , like and follow us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @IBEWLOCAL702.

While the 2007 redesign of our website was a monumental improvement at the time, there was a growing recognition that we could do more, and needed to move in that direction.

As we incorporate more aspects of technology into our work, we do so with the intention and goal that it must improve the service we provide to the membership. That is the benchmark for all of our decisions.

*~ Steve Hughart,
Business Manager*



On Friday, April 7th, Staff Representatives of the Local, along with Apprenticeship Director Bill Yeager and other Trades Representatives, attended a press conference and Open House at the Methodist Children's Home in Mt. Vernon, IL.

(See story inside on page 6 for more details.)

In This Issue

- Business Manager (2)
- President (2)
- Did You Know (2)
- Unsafe Work Assignment (3)
- Jim Loughrie Retirement (4)
- Contract Negotiations (4)
- Membership Levels (4 -5)
- 702 Golf Outing (6)
- Solidarity Drawing (6)
- Electrifying Bolivia (6)
- New Website w/ App (7)
- Labor Humor (8)
- RENEW (8)
- Members Not to Blame (8)
- Workers Compensation (9)
- 702 Union Steward (9)
- Intl. Sec.-Treas. Retires (9)
- Missouri Right To Work (10)
- Union Hitch Hiker(10)
- 702 Bass Tourney (11)
- Retiree Club (11)

Business Manager's Message



We continue to push ahead with many needed changes to the Local. At the Union Hall over the winter, we repaired the leaking roof, upgraded an out-of-date heating and cooling system, and replaced the overhead projector that quit working. Since the Executive Board's approval back in January, we have been working on updating the Local's website, which will now includes a mobile app.

While we hope it will drastically improve the functionality and user-friendliness of our site, there were many obstacles that needed to be considered for a Local of our size and diversity. Our IT person, James Taylor, along with our new vendor — Web Connectivity — did a fantastic job to bring it all to fruition in a very short time frame.

Recently, we enjoyed the Annual Retiree's Luncheon on April 11th at the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mount Vernon, IL and followed that up with a great day on the water at Lake of Egypt for our 2nd Annual Bass Tournament, held on Saturday, April 15th.

As we look forward to the next few months, we are excited about the June 16th Golf Outing and hope you will consider joining us on that day for a great event that benefits The Poshard Foundation for Abused Children.

Our Sixth Annual Solidarity Drawing will occur as well, with tickets being made available at the Golf Outing, and being sold until all are gone. We will draw on Labor Day at the DuQuoin State Fair, so contact your Business Representative for tickets, or call the Union Hall at (618) 932-2102; you can pay by debit card, credit card, check, or cash.

Finally, I want to personally extend my appreciation to Brother Dennis Peterson, who has retired from this staff, effective April 29th. His faithfulness and service to this Local has set the standard by which we should all measure ourselves. Thank you Dennis for all you did, and we wish you the very best in all that you seek in your retirement!!!

From your President

Spring is here Brothers & sisters; I hope all has made it through the storms so far this year. Kudos to all members who braved the Southern Illinois storms to keep our power on.

I would also like give a big shout out to the men from Norris Electric and Tri County Electric who went to Bolivia to help Third World countries bring electricity to remote areas.

I would also like to give a shout out to the inside apprentices and instructors for all the work they donated at the Mt. Vernon United Methodist Children's Home.

Don't forget to attend our Union meetings on the first Friday of every month. At our Union meeting on May 5th, our RENEW committee will be selling ribs; come attend the Union meeting and pickup a slab of ribs!

Also keep checking out our IBEW 702 website, at ibew702.org; changes are coming.

Finally, we are putting forth our efforts to organize the men and women at the Prairie State Generating Company in Marissa, Illinois. If you, family, or friends know of anyone working there please notify the Union Hall or contact me.

Until next time Brothers & Sisters, stay Union Proud & Union Strong.

In Solidarity,
Jim Sanchez



DID YOU KNOW?

The **Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC)** is an independent agency of the United States government that was created by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to encourage the continuation and maintenance of voluntary private defined benefit pension plans, provide timely and uninterrupted payment of pension benefits, and keep pension insurance premiums at the lowest level necessary to carry out its operations. Subject to other statutory limitations, PBGC's insurance program pays pension benefits up to the maximum guaranteed benefit set by law to participants who retire at 65 (\$60,136 a year as of 2016). The benefits payable to insured retirees who start their benefits at ages other than 65 or elect survivor coverage are adjusted to be equivalent in value.



Unsafe Work Assignment?

Occasionally, from time to time, the Union Hall is asked “**when is it allowable and proper to refuse unsafe work?**” Our response is that it is always proper to refuse performing unsafe work, but there are certain legal criteria* that need to be met in specific situations that must be considered. Here are some things to keep in mind if you are evaluating the possible refusal of a job assignment because you believe it is unsafe: *(*nothing contained herein should be construed as legal advice)*

- Section 7 of the **National Labor Relations Act** (NLRA) permits employees to “engage in...concerted activities for the purpose of...mutual aid or protection.” The National Labor Relations Board [NLRB] has held that the right to walk off the job for unsafe working conditions can be a protected Section 7 right. However, the main limitation on this right is that the employees must exercise it in a collective fashion. For instance, employees who discuss the unsafe condition, present it to the employer, and then walk off the job are engaged in concerted activity.

However, if only one employee acts in response to the unsafe condition his actions will not be protected under Section 7. Under most circumstances, in order to act in a concerted manner you need more than one employee. One exception is where a single employee exercises a collectively-bargained right to refuse unsafe work. Under these circumstances, the single employee’s actions are deemed to be concerted. (Interboro doctrine).

- The **Labor Management Relations Act** of 1947, an amendment to the NLRA, affects those covered under a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Under the LMRA, Section 502 provides that: “***the quitting of labor by an employee or employees in good faith because of abnormally dangerous conditions for work at the place of employment of such employee or employees [shall not] be deemed a strike under this Act.***” What Section 502 basically does is to make an exception to a no strike clause for employees who walk off the job because of abnormally dangerous conditions. There are several requirements for LMRA section 502 to apply. The union “must present ‘***ascertainable, objective evidence that an abnormally dangerous condition for work exists.***’ ” *Airborne Freight Corp. v. Int’l Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 705*, 216 F. Supp. 2d 712 (N.D. Ill. 2002). An abnormally dangerous working condition has been defined as “one that presents ‘***some identifiable, presently existing threat to the employees safety.***’ ” So the bottom line is that not every unsafe condition is going to be covered by the Act.
- **OSHA** ~ The last source of law to consider is the Occupational Safety and Health Act or “OSHA.” OSHA was enacted in 1970 to regulate and prevent injuries across all industries. In reality, however, it does not have sufficient funding or staff to complete this broad task. OSHA consists of a “general duty clause” which requires employers to provide a safe workplace. There are also specific OSHA regulations relating to specific workplaces. However, it takes a long time to enact these regulations, mostly due to employer delay in the rulemaking process. In order to start an OSHA action, the employee or his or her union must file a complaint with OSHA. If the Secretary of Labor agrees that a violation occurred, it will file suit on the employee’s behalf. An individual or union is not permitted to file an OSHA action by themselves. There are misdemeanor criminal and civil fines (up to \$70k) for employers who violate OSHA. One of the OSHA regulations addresses the issue of the right to refuse unsafe work. Under the regulation, an employee may refuse work where he:
 1. ***has no reasonable alternative;***
 2. ***refuses in good faith to perform work;***
 3. ***that reasonably causes the apprehension of death or injury;***
 4. ***where there is insufficient time to eliminate the danger through normal enforcement channels; and***
 5. ***the employee, where possible, unsuccessfully asked the employer to correct the condition.***

If an employee is discriminated against by the employer because he refused to perform unsafe work, the **potential** remedies are reinstatement and back pay. Sometimes an employer may not fire or suspend an employee for refusing to perform unsafe work, but will instead simply dock him the pay for the time spent not working. Courts have not yet decided whether back pay is appropriate in this situation. In addition to an action for discrimination under OSHA, OSHA itself may also seek an injunction requiring an employer to stop employing people who are in imminent danger.

RETIREMENT OF JIM LOUGHRIE

IBEW Local 702 is proud to announce and recognize the retirement of Brother Jim Loughrie, who retired at the end of March this year. Brother Loughrie started his career at Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company (which became Vectren) on June 12, 1978, at the Warrick Power Plant. He moved to FB Culley Power Plant in 2001, which is where he retired from.

Jim has been an active steward for the last seventeen (17) years, and served on the negotiating committees in 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2016. He has served on the Evansville Unit Executive Committee since 2011, holding the positions of Vice Chairman and Chairman. *(Some claim that during his time as Chairman, Jim holds the unofficial record for the shortest Evansville Unit Union meeting!)*

When asked to reflect on his time in the industry and the IBEW, Brother Loughrie said he has been very fortunate to have worked with a lot of talented people over his career. From all of us here at IBEW Local 702, throughout all branches and geographic locations of our jurisdiction, we send best wishes for a long and happy retirement!!!



At the February 13th, 2017 Evansville Unit Meeting, from left to right: Evansville Unit Executive Board Member Bill Smith, Retiring Member Jim Loughrie, and Assistant Business Manager (and Evansville Unit Business Representative) Jamie Hatfield.

Contract Negotiations Updates!

In a Union the size of IBEW Local 702, with over 70 different properties represented, rarely will you be able to find us not in contract negotiations with some property or contractor. In an effort to keep our members updated on the status of some, most, or all of our negotiations, we will try to hit the highlights of the most recent statuses across all three (3) States.

At the City of Olney, we have a new three (3) year Agreement with wage increases of 3.25%, 3.25%, and 3.00%, with slight improvements to the Sick Leave benefit, and no concessions. At G5 TEK Illinois, LLC, we have a new Agreement that has an Evergreen clause and a 2.00% General Wage Increase (GWI).

For the Ameren Illinois properties, we have started negotiations there with the contract expiring on June 30th of this year.

At Mount Vernon Motor Shop, we are starting negotiations there, as well as at Wayne White Electric Cooperative, Wexford Health Sources, Inc., and also the City of Sikeston, MO for the Street & Park Department.



"The Artificial Intelligence engineers made the robots too intelligent. They're unionizing and want IBEW Local 702 to represent them."

Paul Kales
P.O. Box 179
Nantucket, MA 02554-0179
508-280-8761
pkales@comcast.net
#7266

Membership Levels: What Are the Differences?

Many members are not aware of what different levels of membership exist within the IBEW. Here is a quick summary of each level, and the options associated with them:

There are two types of IBEW membership: **A** and **BA**. **BA** membership constitutes the basic IBEW membership.

...continued on next page.

- A **BA** member enjoys all the rights and privileges afforded to any member of the IBEW, however, they do not participate in the pension or death benefit plans that are available to **A** members. **BA** members are typically our utility type members working for a permanent employer, and do not utilize the Union hall to be referred out to work.
- A membership level is mandatory for all members who receive work through the referral procedure of the Local Union, including Inside Wiremen, Tree Trimming, Meter Readers / Installers, and Line Construction members. They currently contribute **\$18.00** monthly toward the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF), in addition to the basic monthly International Office Per Capita and monthly working dues retained by the Local Union as described in the Bylaws.
- **BA** members working are always allowed to upgrade their membership level at any time, but it may be beneficial to review the rules of the PBF prior to doing so. Here is a brief summary of the eligibility rules and regulations surrounding the PBF (*some provisions shortened due to space requirements, but all information is available upon request*):

IBEW Constitution ~ Article XI

Sec. 1. Retirement Benefits. An “A” member who retires from the electrical industry after December 31, 2006, shall be entitled to benefits in accordance with the following rules as to eligibility;

(a) **Normal Pension.** An “A” member of the I.B.E.W. in continuous good standing with five (5) or more years immediately preceding his application, who has attained the age of sixty-five (65) years, shall receive pension benefits computed on the basis of four dollars and fifty cents (\$4.50) per month for each full year of such continuous “A” membership.

(b) **Optional Early Retirement Pension.** An “A” member of the I.B.E.W. in continuous good standing with twenty (20) or more years immediately preceding his application, who has attained the age of sixty-two (62) years, may elect to receive reduced pension benefits as long as he lives, computed on the basis of four dollars and fifty cents (\$4.50) per month for each full year of such continuous “A” membership, reduced by six and two-thirds percent (6 2/3%) for each year or part thereof the said “A” member was under the age of sixty-five (65) at the date of his retirement.

(c) **Optional Spouse's Benefit.** Each “A” member retired under Section 1(a), Section 1(b), or Section 2 may, in lieu of the payment of pensions as outlined above, elect to receive a reduced pension as long as he lives, with the provision that after his death one-half of such reduced pension shall continue to be paid to his spouse thereafter as long as such spouse survives him.

(d) **Lump Sum Payment and Less Frequent than Monthly Payment of Small Benefits.** If the amount of the monthly benefit to be paid under Section 1 (a), Section 1 (b), Section 1 (c) or Section 3 is \$30.00 or less, the member shall receive a lump sum payment which shall be actuarially equivalent to the amount of the pension otherwise payable.

Sec. 2. Disability Pension. An “A” member of the I.B.E.W. who is totally disabled on or after January 1, 2007, and who has continuous good standing of twenty (20) or more years immediately preceding his application shall receive disability pension benefits computed on the basis of four dollars and fifty cents (\$4.50) per month for each full year of such continuous “A” membership.

Sec. 3. Vesting. An “A” member who has completed twenty (20) or more years of “A” membership in continuous good standing and who ceases being engaged in the electrical industry prior to the attainment of age sixty-five (65) shall, if an application is filed and approved after December 31, 2006, obtain a vested right to pension benefits, but not disability pension benefits or death benefits. This vested right will entitle him to receive, commencing at age sixty-five (65), pension benefits computed on the basis of four dollars and fifty cents (\$4.50) per month for each full year of such continuous “A” membership, less four dollars and fifty cents (\$4.50) per month for each year or part thereof the said “A” member was under the age of sixty-five (65) at the date his application was received.

Sec. 4. Death Benefits. Upon the death of an “A” member on or after January 1, 2007, a death benefit shall be payable as follows:

(a) **Benefit Level.** Upon the death, on or after January 1, 2007, of a non-retired “A” member who then has at least six (6) months’ continuous and active good standing, the beneficiary to receive the death benefits payable under this paragraph shall be paid the sum of six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$6,250.00) if the said “A” member died from natural causes, or the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500.00) if the said “A” member died by accidental means. Upon the death from either natural causes or accidental means of an “A” member on or after January 1, 2007, who is retired under Section 1 or Section 2, the beneficiary to receive the death benefits shall be paid a sum computed by subtracting from six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$6,250.00) all pension benefits paid by the I.B.E.W. Pension Benefit Fund to the retired member. However, in no event shall the amount of the death benefit due as a result of the death of an “A” member retired under Section 1 or Section 2 be less than three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00), except as provided in Section 4(c).

(d) **“Accidental Death”.** Accidental death is defined as a death that resulted from bodily injury sustained on or off the job through violent external and accidental means and only if death occurs within ninety (90) days after the injury except that the following causes of death shall not be considered accidental death: (1) Disease or its treatment. (2) Hernia. (3) Medical or surgical treatment except where death results directly from a surgical operation made necessary solely by the accident and performed within ninety (90) days after the date of the accident. (4) War or any act of war, whether war is declared or not; insurrection or rebellion. (5) Suicide. (6) Abuse of illegal drugs.

IBEW Local 702 Members: You're Simply the Best!

(from page 1 photo and caption)

We would like to thank and recognize the following Inside Apprentice members who donated time and talent to the United Methodist Children's Home in Mt. Vernon, IL: Brant Bowdler, David Brainard, Garrett Brown, Andrew Crespi, Chris Doody, Joe Epplin, Brian Funk, Julio Garcia, Daniel James, Curtis Jenkins, Cody King, Cody Lee, Cody McGee, Lamonte Miner, Dustin Nehrkorn, Johnathon Schmitt, Chris Shelton, Jamie Simpson, Jeremy Smith, and Alec Waldron. Over 250 man-hours were volunteered by our members on this project as they helped remodel and renovate any needed electrical updates and upgrades to this facility that was in a very dilapidated state, possibly saving it from closing. On Friday, April 7th, at noon, they had a Press Conference and Open House, which the staff of the Local was proud to attend on behalf of the work of IBEW Local 702. Again, thank you to all who volunteered and worked on this project!!!

We would also like to give a big **702 SHOUT OUT!** to the following 1st year Inside Apprentices: Aaron Alcaraz, Keith Atchison, Sean Belcher, Brad Bozic, Josh Bradly, Tara Copeland, Tyler Ellis, Chris Ferguson, Bryan Galloway, Kristofor Johanson, William Lewis, Brad Milton, Jeff Pedigo, Kevin Phelps, and Elijah Pulley for their work at Rend Lake in rewiring a pavilion with President Jimmy Sanchez and Business Representative Tate Wright this past winter!

IBEW Local 702 Golf Outing

Reminder: The Local's annual golf outing will be on Friday, June 16th, 2017. These are six-person teams, and offers two different tee times; 7:30 a.m. for the early morning risers, and 1:00 p.m. for those that prefer to enjoy play in the afternoon. As usual, all of our proceeds will be donated to the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children. We hope you can join us and we look forward to seeing you there!





GOLF OUTING

Franklin County Country Club
West Frankfort, IL

Soft Spikes • Shoes must be worn at all times
No Tank Tops, Tube Tops or Swimwear



FRIDAY
June 16th
2017

Proceeds go to Poshard Foundation for Abused Children

702

Tee Times: 7:30 am and 1 pm
Registration: 6:30 am and 11 am

Entry Deadline: June 14th
Entry Fee: \$75.00/Golfer

Make check payable to:
IBEW, Local 702

No. <0001>

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

6th Annual 2017
I.B.E.W. Local 702 Solidarity Fund
1200 TICKETS AT \$100.⁰⁰

GRAND PRIZE - \$25,000 CASH (Taxes Shall Apply)
2nd PRIZE - \$10,000 CASH (Taxes Shall Apply)
3rd PRIZE - \$5,000 CASH (Taxes Shall Apply)
4th PRIZE - \$1,000 CASH (Not Taxed)
5th PRIZE - \$1,000 CASH (Not Taxed)
6th PRIZE - \$1,000 CASH (Not Taxed)
7th PRIZE - \$1,000 CASH (Not Taxed)
8th PRIZE - \$1,000 CASH (Not Taxed)

DRAWING TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2017
AT THE DUQUOIN LABOR DAY PICNIC AT 1:00 P.M.

No. <0001>

Support = Solidarity

On Friday, June 16th, we will begin ticket sales of our 6th Solidarity Drawing. All of the money raised from this effort goes to members in need and for promotion of the Local across all three (3) States of our jurisdiction.

Last year, we sold all of our tickets, and many at the DuQuoin Picnic were unable to purchase, so ~ **DON'T WAIT** ~ get ahold of your Rep, or call the hall at (618) 932-2102 to purchase (can be made over the phone with a credit or debit card, and we will get a picture of the ticket through email or text).

Electrifying Bolivia: 702 members light up the World!

After highlighting member Jared Kelly from SEMO Electric Cooperative in February's issue of The Link, for the volunteer work he did in Bolivia stringing new electric lines to underdeveloped parts of that country, we have learned of three additional members who have lent their expertise to the same effort. They are Billy Fields from Norris Electric Cooperative, along with Shannon Davis and Brannon Dasch from Tri-County Electric Cooperative, who all assisted the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Brother Davis offered this comment, "Most of the primary was through private areas in the mountains. The goals of this project, we were able to bring power to two (2) villages in the Samaipata surrounding area Lagas and LaNegra, where we were able to energize two (2) schools." The Local extends our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to these members for using their skills, time, and talents to help those around the World to obtain a better quality of life.

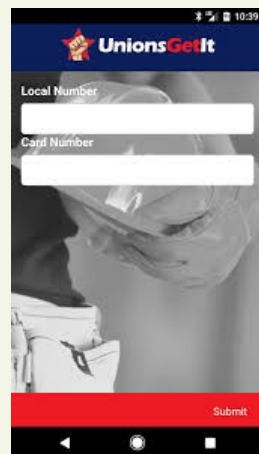
Local 702 Updates Website and Introduces new App!

We are hoping that, by the time this newsletter reaches you, the Local's updated website will be in service and almost fully functional. While our original update over ten (10) years ago was a huge step forward from what the existing site was, the Local Union Executive Board reviewed a presentation back in January of this year, and after being convinced that there were enough technological changes and opportunities that existed to make our website more user friendly, and the ability to coordinate it with a mobile app ~ a feature we believe more and more of our members are or will utilize moving forward ~ made the decision an easy one. The new site will have many features and pages that are open and viewable to the public, but there will additionally be sections that are password protected and only members with logins and passwords will be able to view them. Furthermore, members will have the ability to update their personal information right from their phone, as well as pay dues and bid on jobs (this feature may be delayed until Tate can meet with the Inside to go over any changes to the current procedure).

For those that are interested in the mobile app, you can search for it in the Apple Store or Google Play Store under the name "**UnionsGetIt**", and the logo should look like this:

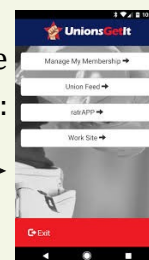
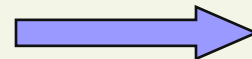


Once downloaded, there will be a login screen that comes up and looks like this:



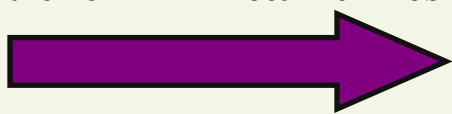
You should enter **702** for Local Union and then enter your **Card Number** in the designated space. After that, you will be asked for a **username** and **password**. The first time you login, it will be your **last name** and **card number**. After that, you will have the ability to change them.

Once logged in, you will see the following screen:



From here, you can navigate the site and all that it offers. We hope you find it a nice addition to the site and hopefully a good resource that you visit and use often!

A screenshot of the new IBEW Local 702 website homepage is shown here:



On the website, if this is your first time logging in using the box on the left hand side below the 702 logo, your **username** is your **last name** and your **password** is your **card number**. You will be free to change your personal login credentials after that.

There are many new features that we believe are an improvement over the old website, including the calendar page(s), photo gallery feature, member-protected secure document storage area, and numerous other items. We encourage you to check it out and become familiar with all that it has to offer!

Joint Communication from Ameren Illinois Company and IBEW System Council

IBEW Local 702 has new Lead Organizer for Prairie State Generating Company

On Tuesday, February 14th, IBEW Local 702 Business Manager Steve Hughart appointed the Local's President, James "Jimmy" Sanchez, to be the Lead Organizer for the Prairie State Generating Company (PSGC).

[More](#)

NEC SIGNIFICANT CHANGE CLASS

The NECA/IBEW 702 JATC will be having a 2017 National Electric Code Significant Change class. The dates are April 4th, April 6th, and April 11th, 2017, all starting at 5:30 p.m.

[More](#)

IBEW 702
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
172.87.16.72

106 N. Monroe Street
West Frankfort IL 62896

Labor Humor: And the Prize Goes to...

A big company offered \$50 for each money-saving idea submitted by its employees. The first prize went to the employee who suggested the award be cut to \$25!!!

—From *Workplace Jokes: Only SOME of Them Will*



702 RENEW

Bass Tournament

We appreciate all the participants who came out to fish this year's Bass Tournament. This event seems to be growing and we hope to be at full capacity in future years. A big thank you to all of our RENEW members that either cast a line in search of the Big Bass or who came out to help with the food and beverage. Even with the strong wind that was present, there were still a lot of good fish brought to the weigh in. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Upcoming Events!

The RENEW Committee has rib tickets for sale for a May 5th BBQ in West Frankfort at the Garage (located behind Sonic). Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased by calling Andrew O'Connor (618) 317-5378 or Kyle Seavers (618) 967-3536. We will also be raffling off a Yeti 45 cooler at the union meeting that night. Raffle tickets for the cooler are \$1.00 per ticket and can be purchased at the BBQ or at the Union Meeting.

Also, start thinking about putting your 5 man Trap Teams together! Planning is underway and we are currently looking at a late summer time frame. Any inquiries or questions can be made to Andrew O'Connor or Kyle Seavers (same numbers as above).

Friday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Union Hall is the next open RENEW Meeting. If you're a new or young member come check it out and be an active member of your Local!

For more Information about **702 RENEW**, please contact any of the following: Andrew O'Connor (618) 317-5378, Kyle Seavers (618) 967-3536, Logan Hall (618) 335-9504, Dustin Frankie (618) 925-0632, or visit our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ibew702renew/>

LABOR HUMOR:

Good Excuse

For thirty years, Johnson had arrived at work at 9 a.m. on the dot. He had never missed a day and was never late. So when 9 a.m. passed one day without Johnson's arrival, it caused a sensation. All work ceased, and the boss himself, looking at his watch and muttering, came out into the corridor.

Finally, precisely at 10 a.m., Johnson showed up, clothes dusty and torn, his face scratched and bruised, his glasses bent. He limped painfully to the time clock, punched in, and said, aware that all eyes were upon him, *"I tripped and rolled down two flights of stairs in the subway. Nearly killed myself."*

And the boss said, *"And rolling down two flights of stairs took you a whole hour?"*

—From *Workplace Jokes: Only SOME of Them Will Get You Fired!*

I AM AN IBEW LOCAL 702 UNION MEMBER

We LIVE HERE and PAY TAXES HERE!



We WORK HARD everyday
to support our Families

**We're NOT the PROBLEM
and we're NOT the ENEMY!**

IF YOU ARE JEALOUS OF OUR BENEFITS
FIGHT FOR YOUR OWN
AND NOT AGAINST OURS!

The RICH created this problem,
and they're pitting Middle Class Families
against each other.



**FIGHT BACK!
JOIN A UNION!**

WORKERS COMPENSATION GUIDANCE

Union membership is like a gym membership. If you don't show up and participate you don't get stronger.

#CSEA693
someecards
user card



As a member of IBEW Local 702, you have access to legal resources that specialize in the field of Workers Compensation across all three (3) States of our jurisdiction. Even though it would be our desire that no member ever requires the need of such, we do understand that sometimes accidents happen on the job, and you may have questions about

your rights under the law. There are occasions when employers are slow to take action, or you wonder if you are entitled to a second opinion. Regardless of the specific situation(s), because you are a member of the Local, the following firms have agreed to initially discuss your case with you, free of charge:

In **Illinois** ~ Jim Muelhausen & Larry Stefani; they can be reached at (312) 984-3560 or (800) 621-3476 (Ill only), email at Muelhausenstefani@hurtatworkplace.com, or access their website: <http://www.hurtatworkplace.com/>

In **Indiana** ~ Matthew M. Golitko with Golitko & Daly; he can be reached at (317) 566-9600 or toll free at (855) 841-work. He is also available through email: matt@indianaworkers.com or you can access their website by going to www.indianaworkers.com.

In **Missouri** ~ Dean Christianson with Schuchat, Cook, & Werner. Dean has worked solely in the field of workers' compensation law since 1983. He can be reached at 1 (314) 732-1127, by email at dlc@schuchatcw.com, or access the firm's website here: <http://www.schuchatcw.net>.

Please be advised that any of the attorneys you consult MAY contact the hall to verify your status as a member. Should you decide to retain one of these attorneys to handle your case, you will be responsible for any such fees and you should discuss that aspect of your case at the time such decision is made to have them represent you further.

International Secretary ~ Treasurer



Retiring Int. Sec.-Treas. "Sam" Chilia

On March 22nd, the IBEW announced the May 1st, 2017 retirement of International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore "Sam" Chilia. "We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sam for everything he has done for the IBEW," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "He has shown an untiring dedication to our common cause and we are a stronger union because of it. He is not only my partner, but my friend as well."

"I'm fortunate to stand in the shoes of some of the giants in IBEW history: former International Secretary-Treasurers Lindell Lee, Jon Walters, Jerry O'Connor, Ed Hill, Jack Moore and so many other outstanding brothers, back to our first International Secretary, J.T. Kelly, who once mortgaged off his furniture to keep this Brotherhood operating," Chilia said. "Every day, I have fresh appreciation for all they did to build and maintain a solid organization that has stood the test of time. All I can hope is that I played my part."

President Stephenson appointed Fourth District International Vice President Kenneth W. Cooper to fill the rest of Brother Chilia's term of office.

The IBEW Local 702 Union Steward

Who are these of lowly pay?
With haggard look and hair of grey?
They get no rest by day or night.
They're always wrong. They're never right.
They do not have a law degree.
But go to bat for you and me.
Though seldom have they been to college,
They must possess the widest knowledge,
Of labor grades and when to grieve,
Vacation pay and sickness leave,
Of overtime and who's to do it,
Of coffee time and who's to brew it,
The how and which and why and when,
And all the problems of women and men.
If, with forepersons they agree,
Then they're rats who've got the weakest knees.
If to the workers they try to cater,
They're branded as agitators.
Those who have to take this slop
Are called the Stewards of your shop.

Newly Appointed Int. Sec.-Treas. Cooper



Missouri: 2017 Battleground for Right To Work defeat in 2018

On February 6th, Missouri's new Governor signed legislation that enables Missouri to become a Right To Work State on August 28th of this year. However, the fate of such effective date, or the law taking effect at all, could be (hopefully is) in trouble. On that same February 6th, Mike Louis, President of the Missouri AFL-CIO, filed several Initiative Petitions and Referendums on the matter. The eventual result of those filings has been a Signature Petition effort to put the issue before Missouri voters next year. In late March, the MO Secretary of State's office approved language to be placed on the ballot, IF enough signatures are gathered in six (6) of the eight (8) U. S. Congressional Districts. In Southeast Missouri, the minimum number of signatures required to achieve compliance with this procedural issue is 15,444 ~ or 5% of the number of votes that were cast in the latest General Election. In order to ensure enough VALID signatures are obtained, we are setting our benchmark at 31,000 signatures, as it was learned in the 2011 effort in Ohio (when they overturned Senate Bill 5), some signatures will be thrown out due to incorrect information or improper submission.

At this point, it is simply a numbers game. The Labor Movement is not only expecting Union members to engage and support this effort, it is the **ONLY** way to beat back Right To Work here in Missouri. We need **EVERY** member to sign the petition, and to get all of their family and friends to do likewise.

If we obtain enough signatures before the August 28th effective date of the passed legislation, the new law can not and will not take effect, at least until the voters of Missouri have their say in 2018. The result of that election will determine the fate of Right To Work here in the State.

Petitions are readily available, and training for those gathering signatures will be hosted upon request. This is not a time to refrain from getting active. Your Local, the Labor Movement, and the futures of working families depend on all of us.

We know there are still many in our ranks that participated in the 1978 effort here in Missouri when Right To Work was defeated. For this generation of workers, this will be our moment in time. Let's be able to say we stood up in Solidarity and protected our way of life. For more information about this issue, or to get petitions and/or training, please contact Business Representative Mark Baker at (618) 559-6039 [call or text] or email at mbaker@ibew702.org.


THE UNION HITCH HIKER

It turns out the hitch hiker will let you buy the car, pay for gas, pay for insurance, pay for upkeep and even let you clean it up, all the hitch hiker has to do is put his thumb up for a free ride. And, if you should have the misfortune to have an accident, the hitch hiker will sue you.

The nonpaying employee covered by your Agreement is just like the hitch hiker. They want you to pay the dues for the Union to negotiate; they want you to represent them when the Company mistreats them; they want you to go to the Union meetings so you can learn better how to take care of them. And, when you have done all these things, they want to criticize you or even sue you; and they have never paid a dime on Union dues.


From this day forth, tell the hitch hiker to buy a car and join the Union. We need more DRIVERS, not hitch hikers!

SIGN EXACT TO ENACT 'RTW' REPEAL

This card can help  'RTW' in Missouri

- ✓ This card is addressed using your official REGISTERED voting name.
- ✓ Sign the upcoming Citizens Referendum Petition EXACTLY as you are registered.

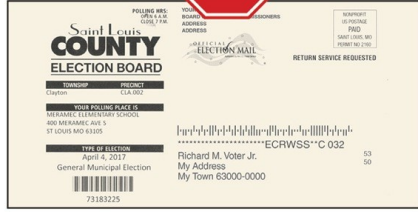
Richard M. Voter Jr.



Rich Voter
Rich Voter Jr.
Rick Voter
Rick Voter Jr.

**ANY PETITION SIGNATURE
NOT EXACTLY MATCHING YOUR VOTER
REGISTRATION WILL BE REJECTED**

SAVE this notice coming in the mail from your local election authority.



- ✓ Sign only one petition. Signing more than once will result in ALL of your signatures being rejected
- ✓ No notice? If you didn't receive an election notice, you are NOT REGISTERED. Please register. If you're not sure, register again. You can re-register as often as you like.
- ✓ Opportunities to register will be provided at upcoming union meetings, or you can do so online at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register>.

2nd Annual Bass Tournament a HIT!

The 2nd Annual IBEW Local 702 Bass Tournament, held on Saturday, April 15th, 2017 was a tremendous success. With 37 boats participating, you could hear the fish trembling in fear from the banks! Although the wind made conditions challenging at times, it was still a great day for a tournament. The RENEW Committee provided food and beverages for those in attendance.

The Tournament paid out over \$3,200 in winnings to six (6) places, and over \$1,450 to the 1st Place team. Congratulations to all of our winners, including the door prize and 50/50 drawing!

A HUGE thank you to all who came and fished or supported in some other fashion.

Here is a list of the winners:

- ⇒ ***Big Bass: John Connell***
- ⇒ ***First Place: Hayden Snyder & Darren Snyder***
- ⇒ ***Second Place: Mark Jelley & Neil McCord***
- ⇒ ***Third Place: Jordan McGuire & John Connell***
- ⇒ ***Fourth Place: Dustin Frankie & Jeremy Boatright***
- ⇒ ***Fifth Place: Tim Wiley & Keith Cloe***
- ⇒ ***Sixth Place: Ryan Adney & Patrick Purnell***



1st Place: Hayden Snyder (l) and Darren Snyder.



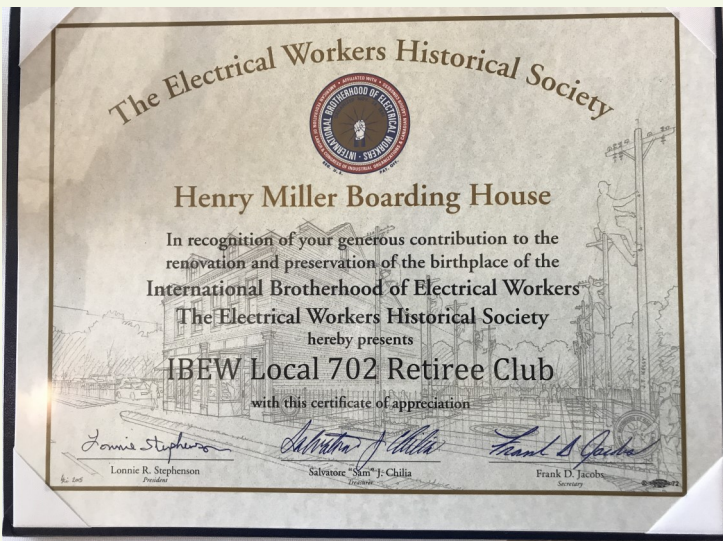
2nd Place: Mark Jelley (l) and Neil McCord.



3rd Place: Jordan McGuire (l) and John Connell (Big Bass)

2017 Retiree's Club Luncheon

Due to the Governor's inability to enact a balanced budget, the Local was forced to move the annual Retiree Luncheon from Rend Lake (it shut down earlier this year) to the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts. It is a beautiful facility in Mount Vernon, IL and many of the over 100 that attended commented on its appeal. The food was catered by Cindy's and was outstanding! Retiree Club President Gary King and Local 702 Business Manager Steve Hughart both welcomed the Retirees and invited everyone to attend the trip to St. Louis in May to visit the Henry Miller Museum and view the brick placed in the Retiree Club's honor.



IBEW Local 702

106 North Monroe

West Frankfort, IL 62896

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

IBEW Local 702 Retiree's Club Henry Miller Museum Trip

In May, the Local Union is sponsoring a bus trip to the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis for all Retirees and guests that wish to attend. We will be scheduling pickups in Marion, West Frankfort, and Mount Vernon, so if you can get to one of those places, and are interested in going, contact the Union Hall as soon as possible at (618) 932-2102 to get more information.

The Retiree Club meets on the first Thursday of every other month, and the next meeting will be on **Thursday, June 1st** at Golden Corral in Carbondale, at 11:30 a.m.

If you need more information, please feel free to contact Club President Gary King at: (618) 201-2610.

IBEW Local 702

106 North Monroe

West Frankfort, IL 62896

(618) 932-2102

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

ibew702@ibew702.org



IBEW Local 702 ~ Building a better future for working families!