

THE MAGAZINE OF IBEW LOCAL UNION 26  
SERVING MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, AND WASHINGTON, DC

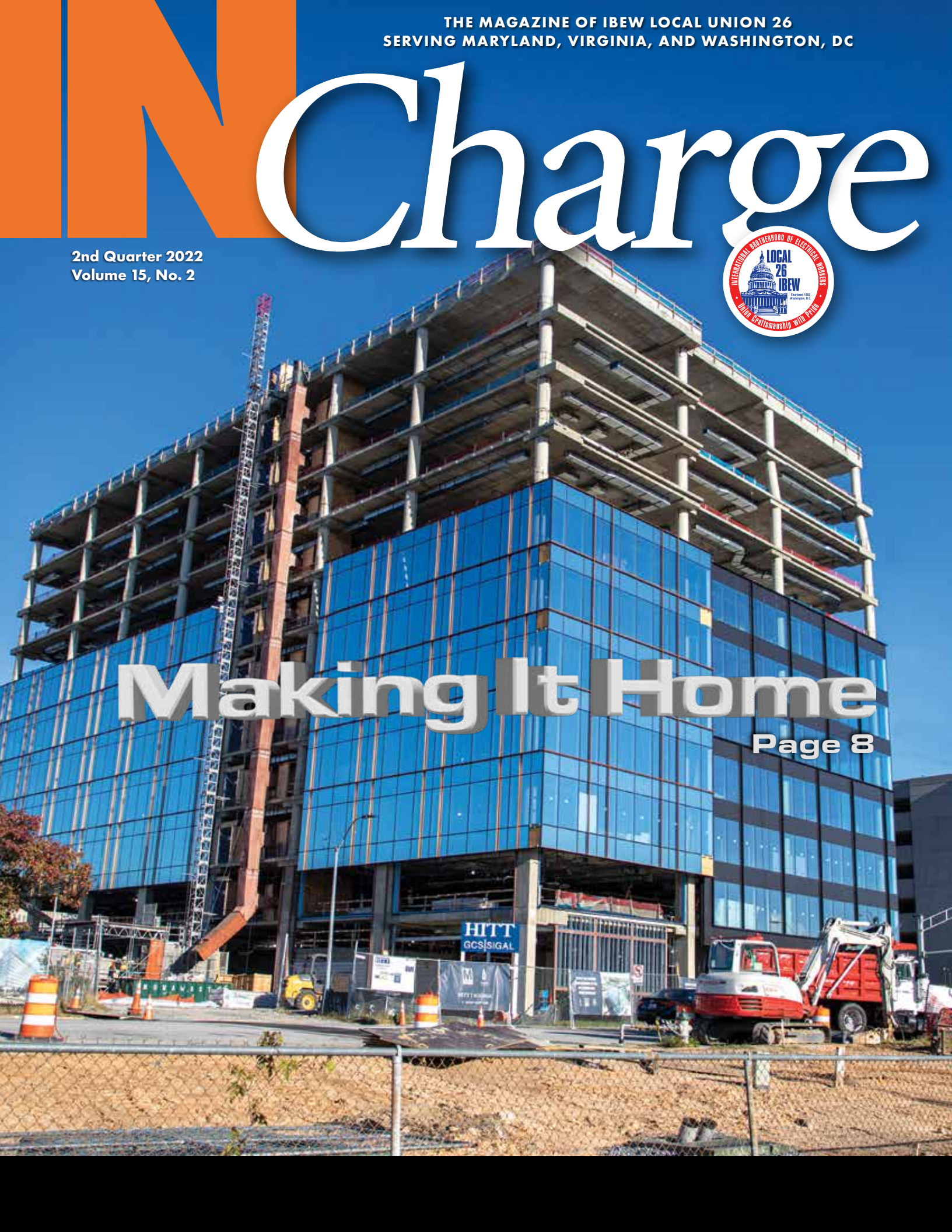
# NCharge



2nd Quarter 2022  
Volume 15, No. 2

## Making It Home

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## FEATURES

**ON THE COVER: PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:  
METRO'S NEW MARYLAND HEADQUARTERS IS EXPERTLY  
CRAFTED BY LOCAL 26 AND VARCOMAC.**



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# Opening a New Chapter in My Career



**George Hogan**  
Business Manager

**W**ell Brothers and Sisters, the time has come for me to bid you a fond farewell. I will be turning over the reins of business manager of Local 26 to Joe Dabbs. Yes, it is time for me to enjoy what I have long worked for in my time as a member of IBEW Local 26—RETIREMENT! What a beautiful word to be able to say and hopefully enjoy for a long time to come, God willing.

I started my career in our Local in September of 1972 as a young apprentice, wide eyed and looking for what I had heard about for most of my life. Growing up in a union household I had always been told about the union way of life and how it was the union that had given my dad a chance to provide for his family. And that he did, and quite well I must say. He was always up in the morning and off to work. That's probably where I acquired what my wife calls the bad habit of getting up early. But I used to enjoy seeing my dad at that time of the morning and having a few very good father-son moments (I do so miss those moments). It was always a learning moment for me when my dad would talk about what was happening on the jobs. I learned first-hand how the members of our Local would, for the most part, work on solving the problems that arose on the projects they were involved in on a day-to-day basis.

This was the start of my understanding of what the possibilities of a life in the electrical trade could be. And, I have always been proud to be a UNION ELECTRICIAN. We are the best trained workers in this country. We always keep our members up to speed on the latest advances in the electrical world through our JATC apprentice training and our continuing education classes that keep our members at the top of the trade. There are no others better than us in the electrical trade and I have seen that throughout my career.

At the start of my career at Local 26, I never would have believed I would have been involved in so many different projects. I was able to work at the Pentagon which might not seem to be that important, but my grandfather, George C. Hogan, whom I was named after, built the Pentagon from

the ground up. To me, that was exciting. I was also able to stand at the top of the Washington Monument (on the outside) which few people have done. I have been down in the depths of the United States Capitol Building in places that the public never gets to see and under the Jefferson Memorial where the whole under structure is exposed and it's like a large cave. Again, these are things that few people get to see in their everyday jobs. I was part of the crew that built the six-square-block Washington Convention Center. What a project that was, working with some great brothers and sisters from our Local and some of our surrounding sister locals.

But it's not just the jobs I worked on, it's also the brothers and sisters with whom I went through those experiences, that will always be my best memories of my time here in our Local. Some of those brothers and sisters I see from time to time and, unfortunately, some are no longer with us. What a shame to lose those friends who were party to a lot of good times on the job—the laughs, the jokes, the sharing of what was going on in our day-to-day lives. I miss them but I know that some day we will be together again to talk about old times and all the fun we had together while working with our Local 26 contractors.

To my younger brothers and sisters, I have to say that it is up to you to take an interest in being the next generation of leaders for our Local. This Local needs your energy and drive to bring forth new ideas to take us into the future of this ever-changing field. Get involved, step up and volunteer to help with all of the projects that we are currently doing. A lot of those projects are being taken on by our clubs, such as the Retired Members' Club, the Motorcycle Club, the Electrical Workers' Minority Coalition, and the Union Sportsmen's Alliance. We are always looking for our members to get involved with those who have been doing it for years and learn how our Local runs. You can mentor with brothers and sisters just like I did so many years ago. Participate in DAD's Day drives where we collect money at traffic lights to help support diabetes research. Volunteer, like I did, on the picnics with

setting up and tearing down each year. This was something that I was already familiar with since I had helped my father years before I had ever even become a member of this great local. I guess it was destiny pushing me towards what would become my future.

I have been an active member in our Local for close to 50 years and have had what I consider to be a wonderful life in my time in the local. I'm not going to tell you there weren't some ups and downs in that life, but overall it was one heck of a trip. I now look forward to hopefully a long retirement and enjoying what I have worked for all these years. I have quite a few plans which include taking some college courses at my local junior college near my home. I have always liked history and they have quite a few courses that I am interested in. I also plan to get back to my interest in woodworking and metalworking, and look forward to being able to build some projects for my house. There are so many things that I have had to put on the back burner because of my commitment to you all as your business manager and agent, but I knew from the start that this job would take a lot of energy and commitment on my part. The last six years have been particularly gratifying to me as I was able to talk with a lot of you younger members when I would visit your classrooms before your instructors would start the class. Just being able to talk with you and answer your many questions was most gratifying, and at the same time, enlightening. My other favorite part of the job was visiting jobsites and being able to talk with all my brothers and sisters. Those will be some of the memories that I will cherish for many years to come.

So, I guess again it is time for me to sign off in my last article as your business manager. I can't even begin to tell you what an honor it has been for me to represent you as your business manager and in the other elected positions that you have supported me in over the years. I won't say goodbye, as I hope to see you soon at one of our Local's events through the years to come. I hope all of you have the blessed life as I have had working in our Local. God Bless you all!

George



**Tom Myers**  
President

## What Does Labor Want?

Recently I was at the headquarters of the AFL-CIO in Washington, DC and I was admiring some of the murals that are on the walls. Now to be honest, I am not much of an art critic; I am more of a “hey that’s a nice picture” kind of guy and then I move on without another thought. This time however, there was a quote embedded in the mural at which I was looking. The quote was from Samuel Gompers. I can hear some of you now, “Tom, I remember that name; you taught us about him during the apprenticeship.” Yes, I did and I still reflect fondly on those days as an instructor, but I digress. Samuel Gompers was the first and longest serving president of the American Federation of Labor (the AFL, which later merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations known as CIO). Samuel was born in 1850 and died in 1924 and during his life he did some incredible things for the working-class people of the United States. If you want to learn more about him there are plenty of resources online; just look him up. Now, back to the main purpose of this train of thought. The quote I read was as follows:

*“What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful, and childhood more happy and bright.”*

I know, some of the references to manhood and womanhood are a little outdated, but that is not what hit me as I stood there in the house of labor (that’s their term, not mine, so let’s just go with it). What struck me was that in that quote there is no mention of money. **WHAT? WAIT.... Tom, of course labor wants money. That’s how we live; that is why we work...** I know; just hear me out. We earn our living building America. Our benefits are negotiated based upon hourly work, but that is just a trade. We trade our skills, knowledge and time for the only thing corporations have—money. But why do we work? Is it just for money? Of course not. We work for the things that the money we earn can provide—a home and family, security and opportunity for us and our children, and time to enjoy this short ride on planet earth...

Now, go back and read that quote.

*“We want more schoolhouses and less jails.”* As electricians we build both schools and jails, but which one will improve the future for our great nation?

*“More books and less arsenals.”* Our country is the single most powerful nation in the world when it comes to military strength. Our brave servicemen and women stand ready to defend our shores and our influence, anywhere at any time and they have my undying respect and thanks. We need a strong military and a well-educated population. Books provide everyone the opportunity to broaden their minds and

libraries and places of thought give each of us the ability to discern what is right and in our best interest because we can understand the rhetoric and vitriol that comes from extremists on both sides. With books (and the knowledge we get from them) we, as a people, can temper the use of our military might and perhaps avoid its use sometimes.

*“More learning and less vice.”*

Education (learning) gives everyone more opportunity. Learning gives us a voice that will be listened to, and the ability to develop and obtain our goals, whatever those goals may be. More money? Yep, learning can help provide that. More free time? Absolutely. An earlier retirement...? **WITHOUT A DOUBT.** Vice on the other hand is a thief. Vice steals time in the pursuit of the next thrill, the next pleasure.

Whatever your particular vice may be (we all have them), is it all-consuming? Does it take time away from your ability to participate in the things that can make your life better? I, for one, would much rather that all of us were free from debilitating vice.

*“More leisure and less greed.”* Anyone of you who has graced me with your presence in a classroom has heard the following from me: “Most of all, what the unions have done is give us time away from the grindstone, time to lift our heads away from work to see what is going on in the world and become involved.” Yes, that is my quote. Leisure time can be spent however you want,



## Extending a Heartfelt Thank You

**B**rothers and Sisters, I know it's been a while since I have written to you in the magazine, but I would like to thank everyone who participated in our latest elections. Thank you for giving me the chance to serve as your vice president again. Really, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will always try to do my best for the members and this Local.

I would also like to thank everyone for a great turnout with this year's fishing trip. Everything went great. Even though the weather didn't cooperate with us we still had a great time. I hope to see you on next year's trip.

Finally, it is with the utmost respect that I would like to bid a farewell to Business Manager George Hogan who has retired. A heartfelt thank you goes out to a man who has served our Local and our members for a lot of years. It has been a pleasure to serve under him and work with someone who has a lot of kindness and heartfelt compassion for our Local and our members.

even learning what the government is up to. Greed is a cancer. When is enough, enough? At some point the pursuit of acquisition is counterproductive. If a brother or sister is working towards a goal, I can understand 70-hour weeks. If there is a specific need that has to be filled, then, yes, work all you can. An apprentice who makes half of what a journeyman makes may need to work more hours. But, whatever the reason you are working, there is a cost to your quality of life if that is all you are doing. Remember, all work and no play... Well, you get it.

*"More justice and less revenge."*

Seriously, if I have to explain this one, we have bigger issues.

*"In fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful, and childhood more happy and bright."* At the end of the day, what Labor wants, is the freedom to live our lives, to enjoy our time, to become the very best versions of ourselves as individuals and a nation, WITHOUT having to bow our heads in shame because we have been left ignorant.

What Labor wants is the opportunity to not be shackled by the never-ending quest for more money just to provide for our families.

What Labor wants is for every person to be free from the corruption and injustices that have plagued mankind forever. To be clear, Labor has improved things immeasurably, and we are still

working toward a brighter future for EVERYONE.

What Labor wants is for every man, woman and child in this country and across the globe to be heard in the halls of power, and not silenced by corporate influence and greed.

You may have noticed that whenever I have used the word Labor in this article (rant... whatever), I capitalized it. Why, you may ask? I capitalized it because in most cases I am referring to the Labor movement, not the noun that means work. I am talking about the movement we all belong to and believe in. So, normally I end these things with a call to action hidden in a question and a reference back to the title. Here it is:

What is it that YOU want as a part of Labor, and what have you done to move it forward like old Sammy did?

Be safe!



**Joe Dabbs**  
Financial Secretary

# Per Capita Increases Announced

Summer is here and I hope everyone is enjoying time outside with family and friends. The IBEW International Convention was held this past May where amendments were submitted and passed that affect your per capita rate and International pension [Pension Benefit Fund/PBF].

International President Stephenson established a Finance Subcommittee to provide recommendations to him and the other International Officers on the finances of the IBEW and the PBF for the future protection and sustainability necessary to meet our goals of growing the IBEW and servicing our members.

The Finance Subcommittee recommended a \$2.00 increase in the per capita tax rate effective January 1, 2023; an additional \$1.00 effective July 1, 2024; and an additional \$1.00 effective January 1, 2025. Its recommendation is fully supported by all the

International Officers of the IBEW.

The monthly per capita rate for each member, including each member on a Participating Withdrawal Card, shall be as follows:

1/1/2023	7/1/2024	7/1/2025
\$22.00	\$23.00	\$24.00

The Finance Subcommittee recommended an increase in payments to the PBF (Pension Benefit Fund) of \$2.00 beginning January 1, 2023, and a second increase of \$2.00 beginning January 1, 2025. Each "A" member and each "A" member on a Participating Withdrawal Card shall pay monthly to the Pension Benefit Fund:

1/1/2023	1/1/2025
\$21.00	\$23.00

Additionally, the pension benefit for the PBF will be increased. Pension benefits earned before and through 2022 will be computed on the basis of \$4.50 per month for each full year of

such continuous "A" membership. Pension benefits earned in and after 2023 will be computed on the basis of \$5.50 per month for each full year of such continuous "A" membership.

We have a new challenge coin being awarded to those members who pay a full year's membership dues at once.



I would like to thank the membership for entrusting me with the incredible responsibility of being financial secretary and I look forward to serving the you as business manager. Please make sure you keep the Finance Office informed of your correct address, phone number, and email address. We hope to see everyone at one of the upcoming Local 26 events! Be safe, Brothers and Sisters.

## Pay Your Dues and Change Your Contact Information Online

To log in for the first time on the Local 26 website, [www.ibewlocal26.org](http://www.ibewlocal26.org), click on the "Member Login" link from any page (in red banner under main navigation) and log in using your last name as your username and your dues card number as your password. You must have all the information filled out correctly under the "Contact Info" tab in order to continue. Be sure to add your cellular carrier at the bottom of the "Contact Info" page. Click submit and go to your email for a confirmation link (be sure to check spam/junk/clutter folders if you do not see the email from us). The link will then prompt you back to the website to rename your username and password.

All of this can be done from the Local 26 app, called "Unions Get It," as well. The app can be downloaded for free from the Apple App store or Android store. After downloading the app you will be asked to enter your Local Union number (26) and your card number, as well as your username and password if you didn't already do so on the website. Visit the "Manage My Membership" section on the app to ensure that your information is correct. Your information on the app should appear exactly as it does in the Members' Only section of our Local 26 website. (Our Members' Only section and Local 26 app are interconnected so the information you enter on one will also appear on the other.)



**Mark Pontello**  
Organizer

# Recruiting Early Will Be Key to Bringing in Next Generation of Local 26

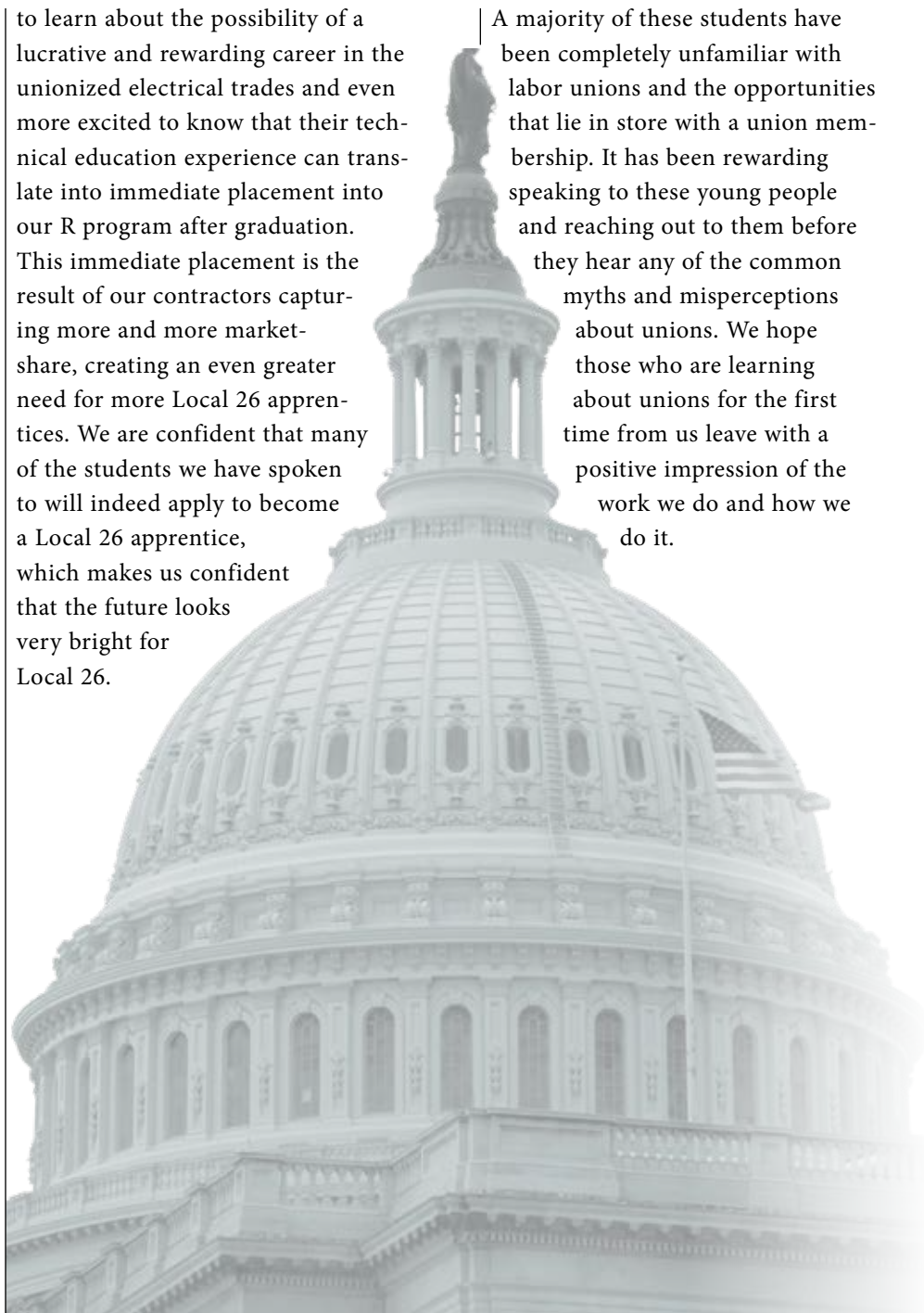
The Organizing Department continues to look at organizing from all angles to grow our membership and control an even greater percentage of the marketshare. Work in our area has been steady for some time now, and we are pleased that our Book 1 numbers have gone down. However, even though work has been available to our members, we are continuing to focus on our organizing efforts to ensure that work remains available to us into the foreseeable future.

To that end, we are starting to heavily focus our efforts on recruiting the next generation of skilled electricians by introducing Local 26 to students enrolled in technical education centers and in technical programs in traditional local area high schools. By pursuing these students, we are able to tap into an audience of young men and women who already have demonstrated an interest in the trades by virtue of their chosen course of study but who may not be familiar with the unionized electrical industry.

We have spent quite a bit of time visiting schools to educate these students on the IBEW and what a career as a union electrician has to offer. This affords us the opportunity to put a friendly and welcoming face to Local 26, answer any questions the students may have, and dispel any rumors or myths they may have heard about unions. The students have been excited

to learn about the possibility of a lucrative and rewarding career in the unionized electrical trades and even more excited to know that their technical education experience can translate into immediate placement into our R program after graduation. This immediate placement is the result of our contractors capturing more and more marketshare, creating an even greater need for more Local 26 apprentices. We are confident that many of the students we have spoken to will indeed apply to become a Local 26 apprentice, which makes us confident that the future looks very bright for Local 26.

A majority of these students have been completely unfamiliar with labor unions and the opportunities that lie in store with a union membership. It has been rewarding speaking to these young people and reaching out to them before they hear any of the common myths and misperceptions about unions. We hope those who are learning about unions for the first time from us leave with a positive impression of the work we do and how we do it.



# Making



**Vice President Rich Wilkinson and Foreman Chuck Jost**



**The crew from VarcoMac**



# It Home



From left, Business Agent Chris Brooks, Business Agent Cordelia Evans, Antonio Barbosa, Vice President of Field Operations/Superintendent David O'Donnell, Kenny Woodside, General Foreman Leo Cook, and Business Manager George Hogan

## *Metro's New Maryland Headquarters is Expertly Crafted by Local 26 and VarcoMac.*

Since 1976, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA” or “Metro”) has been busy taking its riders everywhere they need to be. Whether it’s tourists sightseeing in the nation’s capital or Washington, DC-area residents traveling to work and back home each day, Metro has earned its reputation for excellence. Metro truly sets the bar for mass transportation systems with its safety, efficiency, reliability, and ease. For Local 26, Metro, has also been a friend in the evolution and constant modernization of the hometown both are honored to call home, so when it was time for WMATA to build a physical home of its own, Local 26 members were proud to roll up their sleeves.





Shawna Edger



Front, from left: Paul Brunner and Business Agent Paul Henriques. Back, from left: Joshua Salmon, John Oliver, Javier Zelaya, and Antonio Barbosa



**Sam Kugler**



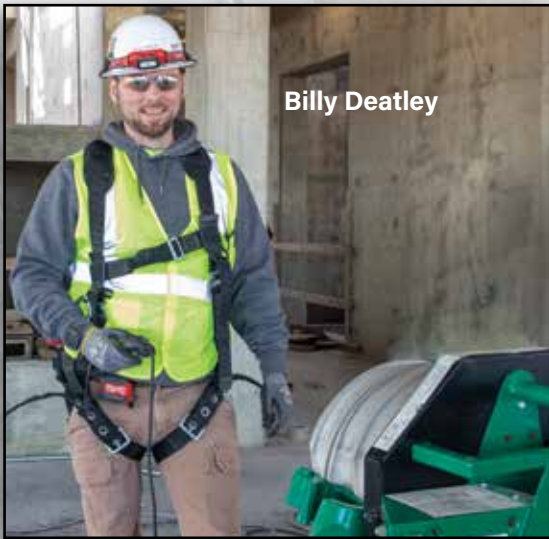
**Phil Howser**



**Rob Lowe**

In the fall of 2020, crews broke ground on a new administrative office for WMATA (“Metro MD Office Building”) located adjacent to the New Carrollton Metro station in Prince George’s County. This Metro station, in particular, is one of the busiest and most important in the Metro system with its on-site access to other travel systems such as Amtrak; MARC, the commuter train of the Maryland Transit Administration; Greyhound bus service; and, come 2023, the Purple Line light rail that will connect Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park, and New Carrollton. It is considered a travel gateway to the capital region and the northeast corridor. What was once a parking garage and undeveloped land, is now well underway to becoming a 2.3-million-square-foot mixed-use travel hub that will include a beautiful new Maryland home for WMATA. This new administrative building will join WMATA’s new headquarters building in Washington, DC and second administrative building, Metro VA Office Building, near the Eisenhower Avenue Metro station, in Alexandria, VA. The larger New Carrollton joint development site is being developed by Urban Atlantic as part of its joint development agreement with WMATA and will ultimately feature commercial, residential, and entertainment offerings in a walkable/bikeable community.

Local 26 members working for long-time signatory contractor VarcoMac have been on site at WMATA’s new Metro MD Office Building in New Carrollton since January 2021. The leadership on the job includes Superintendent Dave O’Donnell,



**Billy Deatley**



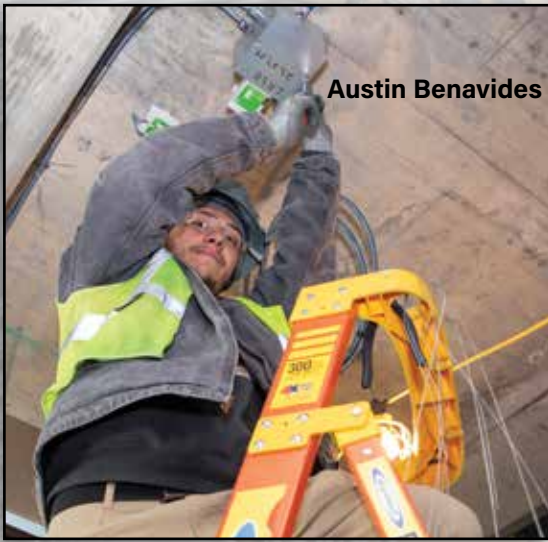
**Javier Zelaya**



**From left: Phil Howser, Kyle Flohr, Oscar Ventura, Sam Kugler, Pat Latham IV, and Shawna Edger**



**From left: Chris Brooks, Brandon Scott, Business Agent Tom Clark, John Legan, and James Huber**



**Austin Benavides**

General Foreman Leo Cook, Fire Alarm Foreman Chris Roper, and Sub-Foremen Tony Barbosa, Brian Sutton, Brian Smith, Jr., Kyle Flohr, and John Legan. At peak 55 Local 26 electricians were on the project, working a 4-10 schedule. This schedule has not only worked well for the crew, it has made the project more efficient. The project was projected to last 18 months, however VarcoMac and general contractor HITT are anticipating to be completed ahead of schedule.



**Chris Roper, Eric Macchio, and Balmore Rodriguez**

VarcoMac is a comprehensive electrical contractor that offers everything from design build services of entire hospital campuses to small scale general residential electrical work and everything in between.

Upon completion, the Metro MD Office Building will be a 325,000 square foot building. Local 26's work has included the installation of an electrical power distribution system with two generators and UPS system, the fire alarm system, the lighting and lighting control system, site lighting, and low voltage pathways for telecom, AV, and security. These systems featured two 3000A main switchboards, one 400Kw generator, one 750Kw gen-



**From left, James Hammond, Brian Smith, Jr., Business Manager George Hogan, Luis Palacios, Vice President Rich Wilkinson, and Business Agent Paul Henriques**



**Preston Williams**



**Ben Blanco**



**Dereck Jones**



**Donald Whalen**



**Brad Cissel, Vice President of Field Operations/Superintendent David O'Donnell, and Business Manager George Hogan**

erator, one 225kVA UPS system, two 3000A busway risers and a central plant. The Local 26 VarcoMac team was responsible for the core/shell and the tenant fit-out. About 85,000 hours are projected to go into completing the work.

After the construction is complete, VarcoMac will continue to partner with WMATA on their building by implementing a service program to service the special systems such as the generators, power systems and fire alarm systems and well as provide warranty and maintenance offerings.

VarcoMac's success is propelled by the partnership with the IBEW and the quality of craftsmanship that Local 26 brings to the table. The new Metro MD Office Building at New Carrollton has been another opportunity for Local 26 members to have a far-reaching impact on the entire Washington, DC region. The craftsmanship poured into this project will ensure that the new Metro MD Office Building will serve Metro well and ultimately serve the riding public well!

26



**Kneeling, from left: Preston Williams, Jason Lewis, Carl Palardy and John Pardoe. Standing, from left: Jim Lane, Brian Smith, Jr., General Foreman Leo Cook, Brian Sutton, Business Manager George Hogan, John Merchant, Vice President of Field Operations/Superintendent David O'Donnell, and Vice President Rich Wilkinson.**

# RMC Keeps Moving Along

The Retired Members' Club has been dealing with all the changes that the pandemic has made in our lives, whether good or bad. Please take a moment to reflect on 1,000,000 individuals we have lost, just in the United States, and their families and friends missing them.

We continue to have both in-person meetings at the Union Hall and members attending virtually through the technology of Zoom! We will continue to have combined meetings throughout 2022. Again, we are grateful to Local 26 for sharing the technology used for satellite meetings with the Retired Members' Club. It means a lot for isolated retired members.

The train trip to the Canadian Rockies was a success, however, not without some personal cost in terms of Covid.

We hope that things will begin to improve enough for a trip to the Panama Canal in 2023. For more information contact Brother Warner at 240-472-0438.

The Medical Equipment Program is ongoing with a shift in coordination. Through the pandemic it continues to help our members and their families. You may still contact Sister Flashman before purchasing items as we may already have what you need in our stock. Contact Sister Flashman at flashmanbissell@aol.com or by calling 301-325-5708.

We had a day of service on May 21st to gear up the electric beds before the new help arrives.

It is almost time for the Retired Members' Club Annual Raffle. You should begin to see tickets at the end of August. So put aside some funds to purchase tickets and ask friends to enter as well. The drawings will be held in November.

Stay safe, wear your face masks, and keep the 6' rule of separation, as we wait for better days in 2022!

## Show Us Your Local 26 Pride...



Local 26 travels well, from Maryland/Virginia/Washington, DC, all the way to the Colosseum in Rome, Italy! Next time you're traveling abroad, show your Local 26 pride by wearing our swag and snap a photo. Send your photo to [InCharge26@ibewlocal26.org](mailto:InCharge26@ibewlocal26.org) and include your name and where the picture was taken.





# Local 26 and NECA Proudly Host 2022 Graduation

**G**raduation is always a special event for our entire Local Union, especially for our apprenticeship program graduates and their families. For the past two years, the COVID pandemic prevented us from hosting our usual graduation ceremony but this year our graduation celebration returned in high style to honor over 200 Class of 2022 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) apprenticeship program graduates. On June 4, 2022, graduates, family members, Local Union officers, and special guests gathered at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, MD, for the 76th Annual JATC graduation.

A joint training venture of Local Union 26 and the Washington, DC, Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), the JATC is charged with training the next generation of union electrical work-

ers to not only serve Local 26's jurisdiction and beyond, but to proudly and expertly represent the unionized electrical trade of the entire IBEW. There is no doubt that the Class of 2022 will, indeed, carry on the proud tradition of excellence of Local 26 and the IBEW.

After a warm welcome from Apprenticeship Training Director Chris Cash, Local 26 Business Manager George Hogan and NECA President Greg Bayliff addressed the graduates and their families before they proceeded with the presentation of diplomas.

The graduates included 180 inside wireman graduates, seven telecom graduates, and 34 R-to-A upgrade graduates. The valedictorians were Jonathan Snodgrass (inside wireman), Christopher Poston (telecom), and

Jorge Silva Lama (R-to-A upgrade). The salutariorians were Geistautas Spogis (inside wireman), Tommy Leunkam, Jr. (telecom), and Austin Long (R-to-A upgrade). Four inside wireman graduates earned an average of 95% or higher over the course of their training—Jonathan Snodgrass, Geistautas Spogis, Jorge Melgarejo Ferruffino, and Michael Kopec. One R-to-A upgrade graduate earned a 95% or higher—Jorge Silva Lama. In addition to remarkable grade point averages 17 graduates achieved perfect attendance and 21 had just one deficiency.

The officers, members, and staff of Local 26 congratulate all of the graduates on their remarkable achievement! There is no doubt that this fine group of brothers and sisters has a promising and vibrant future ahead of them!



***Congratulations to the Class of 2022***





# Scholarship Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2022 IBEW Local 26 Scholarship winners. These young adults are role model students and dedicated members of their communities. They represent the very best of their generation and are a source of pride for our entire Local 26 membership. We wish these students the best of luck in their academic and professional pursuits and we can't wait to see what the future holds for them.



**Grace M. Guy**, the daughter of Brother Gary M. Guy

Grace Madison Guy is the daughter of Gary Guy, a 22-year member, and will attend Hood College this fall. She plans to study biology and nursing. She would like to ultimately become a nurse practitioner specializing in dermatology.

Grace is a 2022 graduate of Chopticon High School in Morganza, Maryland, where she was a class officer and three-sport athlete in lacrosse, swimming, and field hockey. She was an exemplary student as well completing five Advanced Placement courses. She also recently earned a certificate in health care from Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center in Leonardtown, Maryland. While earning her certificate, she became certified in CPR and first aid, was a member of SkillsUSA, earned membership in the National Technical Honor Society and became a certified medical assistant.

For three years, Grace has worked as an intern with Freedom Physical Therapy and a medical assistant with MD Dermatology. In both positions, she gained hands-on experience treating patients under the supervision of medical doctors and occupational therapists. Additionally, she has worked part-time at Rita's Italian Ice and Ledo's Pizza.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt thank you to IBEW Local Union 26 for this scholarship," noted Grace. "I appreciate it so much and thank you for the opportunity to further my education at Hood College. Thank you so much again!! I hope to make you all proud."



**Katherine M. Valencia**, the daughter of Brother Edmundo F. Valencia

Katherine Michelle Valencia, daughter of member Edmundo Valencia, is a 2022 graduate of James W. Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, VA. She will be attending Oregon State University in the fall. She intends to pursue a major in marine science.

At Robinson Secondary School Katherine was an honors student enrolled in numerous Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses and a member of the National Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the English Honor Society, and the German Honor Society. She was very involved in theater, specifically the Rambunctious Theater Company, serving as an actress, stage manager, lighting designer, assistant director, special effects designer, podcast editor, and usher over the last five years, and working on more than a dozen productions. She has also worked in film production as a screenwriter, editor, and score composer, even submitting her work into film festivals. Katherine's passion for performing arts went hand-in-hand with her membership in the International Thespian Society and the Music Appreciation Club.

Katherine was also a mentor in Robinson's Rams and Lambs program through the school's College and Career Center. She mentored an 11th grade student during her college application process to give them an inside view of how the process works to prepare them for their own application process.

Since 2019, Katherine has worked as a lifeguard and pool manager with Atlantic Pool Service in addition to working as a restaurant hostess, babysitter, and virtual math tutor.



**Savannah Holmes**, the daughter of Brother Shannon B. Holmes

Savannah Fayth Holmes is a 2022 graduate of Fresta Valley Christian School in Marshall, VA. She is the daughter of six-year member Shannon Holmes. Savannah will attend Bluefield University in the fall where she intends to pursue biology and pre-med. She plans to become a physician's assistant specializing in neonatology.

In high school, Savannah was an honors student who not only graduated with dual enrollment college credits, but also served as her school's valedictorian. She earned the Robert C. Buckley Meritorious Scholar designation for earning straight As her entire academic career and was a member of the National Honor Society and Phi Theta Kappa college honor society. Savannah earned college credits in four college courses through Lord Fairfax Community College.

Her high school activities included serving as secretary of National Honor Society; serving on the Student Council Association; and participating in Advanced Orchestra where she earned a Mozart Talent Award; Choir; and Drama Club. She also planned, organized, and implemented her school's cancer awareness week.

Outside of school, Savannah has volunteered and worked at the Warrenton Baptist Tiny Tots Care Center, at the Culpepper Sheriff's Office Soccer Camp, at Fauquier County General Services, and as a nanny for a local pastor's wife battling cancer.

"Thank you, Local 26, for providing me with an amazing opportunity to help further my academic career, and to my parents for always pushing me to seek these opportunities. Dad, you lead our family by example, and you show me every day not to take the simple moments in life for granted. Thank you for always supporting me."

# Congratulations to the following members who have retired:



**Wilber V. Villeda**, the son of Brother Wilber B. Villeda

**W**ilber Valentin Villeda, son of 15-year member Wilber B. Villeda, is a 2019 graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, MD. Wilber began his studies at the University of Maryland in spring of 2022 as an accounting and finance major. Wilber plans to become an accountant and eventually earn his CPA certification. He is a part of the University of Maryland's Scholars Program.

In high school, Wilber was an honors student, graduating as class valedictorian with a 4.52 GPA and 10 Advanced Placement courses. He was a member of the Science and Technology Program, a Maryland Merit Award recipient, an AP Scholar Award recipient, and a Prince George's County Public Schools' CEO Award recipient. He also participated in the dual enrollment program through Prince George's Community College to earn college credit while still in high school.

Since 2019, Wilber has worked at the Greenbelt Branch Library as a library page. In 2018, he worked as an administrative intern with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Carmen Turner Facility.

"I am greatly honored and I want to thank the IBEW for this scholarship," he noted. "The IBEW's support will help enable me to pursue my degree and once completed, be able to have an impact and give back to the community just like Local 26 has always done."

## January 2022

Jeffrey W. Russell  
Thomas R. Scott, Jr.  
Timothy S. Dittmar  
Brad A. Ernest  
John P. Houston  
Frederick E. Thompson  
Jerry Sanderson  
Michael D. Ponton

## February 2022

Donald R. Andrews  
Ralph E. Jackson  
Mark E. Borgeson  
Mark F. Ambrosini  
Charles W. Richter  
Robert A. Carter  
Leo A. Villarimo, Jr.  
Barry S. Murray  
Jeffrey M. Madera  
Gary L. Warner  
Bruce C. Lipscomb

## March 2022

Robert H. Drescher, Jr.  
Robert J. Lavinder, III  
James R. Long  
Cris S. Dougherty  
David C. Russell  
Steven B. Preston  
David W. Thomas  
Frederick G. Morgan  
James D. Elrod  
John K. Murray  
Frederick O. Collins  
Stephen L. Delaney  
Vernon Gales, Sr.  
David M. Gibson  
John I. Leslie, III  
Steve K. Walker  
James E. Godfrey  
Nelson E. Cordova  
Roger O. Zadik  
Roy A. Saunders  
Jeff L. Hicks

## April 2022

John De Bari

Donald T. Morgan, Jr.  
James S. Anderberg  
Stephen A. Barry  
Charles A. Jost, Sr.  
Robert N. Colomo, Jr.  
Richard D. Casey  
Michael A. Gibson  
Daniel L. Brokaw  
Paul J. Thomson  
John B. Williams

John C. Shymansky, III  
Derrick N. Watson  
Charles A. Carden, Jr.  
Thomas M. Dent  
Mohammad Amjad  
Paul D. Kemp  
Stephen L. Mayhew  
Tommy R. Garrett  
Dean E. Fleming  
Mark M. Johnson

## May 2022

William A. Martinez  
Michael P. Asman  
Kevin C. McGuire  
Patrick J. McCawley  
Thomas N. Kolstad  
Randall R. Vance  
Mary E. Barnes  
Robert E. Preston  
William C. Moore  
Carlos A. Garcia  
Garry Brooks

## June 2022

William E. Gatewood  
Patrick J. Reges  
Johnny G. Garrett  
Theodore Soto  
Richard D. Rice, Jr.  
Gregory H. Miller  
Steven T. Bennett  
Marco Penalzoza  
Steven D. Llewellyn, Sr.  
Daniel T. Jones  
Michael E. Long  
Walter W. Mansolillo

# EWMC Solidarity Gala Welcomed Back and Day of Service Events Continue On

The Electrical Workers' Minority Coalition (EWMC) enjoyed a wonderful afternoon together hosting the annual Minority Coalition Solidarity Gala on February 26, 2022. The gala was held at the Laurel Racetrack as a show of support for all of the racetrack workers who were hit hard during the Covid crisis. In attendance were EWMC members who were joined by many guest speakers, local politicians and members of IBEW Lineman's Local 70.

Joshua Cole, Virginia House delegate for District 28, spoke about solidarity, pointing out that the very definition of the word means standing together no matter what you have to face. McKayla Wilkes, candidate for Maryland's 5th District, also addressed the gala with high praise for unions, noting that unions are the reason wages are where they are today, even if they have further to go.

Guests also heard a unique perspective on solidarity from Pakastani-born civil rights lawyer Qasim Rashid, who is also an author,

activist and politician. Rashid told the attendees, "For us to move forward as a nation, as a community, as a people, solidarity has to exist. I'm confident if we continue down this path of working together with unions leading the way, our success isn't only probable; it's inevitable."

Service Employees International Union Vice President Valerie Long shared those same sentiments saying, "It's about all of us together from different races—Black, White, Latino, Asian. It's really important because we can't win alone."

Special recognition was given during the gala to Brother Ronald "Caveman" Canady who recently passed away. In addition to the final horserace of the day being named in his memory, so too was the EWMC Alliance award, which will forever be known as the Ronald "Caveman" Canady Award. This year the award was bestowed to the A. Philip Randolph Institute's President Clayola Brown. Upon her acceptance of the award she said, "The EWMC of the IBEW is something we

can never let fall apart, so keep on making good trouble, keep on talking about the union, keep on being proud of who you are, because we are proud of all of you in the IBEW, especially in the EWMC."

Other awards of the event included Friends of the EWMC Awards to Robert Smith and John Mahr.

In addition to hosting the gala, the EWMC has been busy continuing their community service work through the DC Housing Authority, replacing old light fixtures with LED fixtures in hallways and elevator lobbies, and working with the Capitol Food Bank. The EWMC has shifted its community service work to be quarterly days of service and remains as committed as ever to giving back to the communities that make up our Local 26 jurisdiction.

The Coalition also remains committed to camaraderie and fellowship and recently enjoyed an evening of pool at the Center Pocket Café and Billiards Room.



# Minority Coalition Black History Month Gala



# Minority Coalition Day of Service Events







# IBEW 26 FCU



## Welcome to our new line of services!

We have a lot in store for our members in 2022.

Check out our full list of services and open your account today!

### E-SERVICES & MOBILE

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- Mobile Banking with Mobile Banking Security
- Bill Pay
- PopMoney - Send money to others with your smartphone
- Account to (outside) Account Transfer
- Mobile Alerts
- Mobile Deposit Capture - Deposit checks into your checking account from your smartphone
- Blue Pay

### SAVINGS

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- College student checking - Special benefits for members ages 18-26 attending college
- Youth accounts

### VISA CARDS

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- Card Valet - Control when, where, and how your card can be used by turning it off and on
- EMV Credit and Debit Cards

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- Boat and RV loans
- New & used vehicle buying services
- 1st mortgages and HELOC loans

### OTHER SERVICES

- Debt Protection
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- CUNA Insurance products
- Direct Deposit and Payroll Deduction
- Pay IBEW Local 26 Union Dues
- FICO score review
- DocuSign - Sign loan documents securely through email
- Money orders, Wire Transfers
- CCCS - Credit counseling and financial solutions offering FREE financial guidance
- Credit Sense - Access and monitor your credit score and receive tips to improve it



[www.ibew26fcu.com](http://www.ibew26fcu.com)  
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# Sisters of 26 Growing Fast and Making an Impact

Sisters of 26 is our Local Union's newest club and the perfect home for all of Local 26's proud sister members. The club's first meeting was October 24, 2018 after some Local 26 sisters attended the 2018 IBEW Women's Conference and interest in such a club gained traction. In the beginning of 2020, the club received its charter and today Sister Marslinec Fisher is the club's president.

Although activities were halted due to Covid, prior to the pandemic, the club participated in a get-out-the-vote letter writing campaign, a feminine hygiene product drive for a local charity and a women's shelter, a Defend Our Pension postcard writing campaign, a tool drive in collaboration with the Retired Members Club, and a tradeswomen's fashion show. Sisters of 26 also participated in the Bowie Young Adult Job Fair,

placed third in a Union Sportsmen's Alliance sporting clay shoot, and designed t-shirts for their club. Club members were especially looking forward to participating in the 2020 IBEW Women's Conference to be held in Washington, DC, until the pandemic forced the conference to be cancelled.

Despite the disappointment of the cancelled IBEW Women's Conference, Sisters of 26 pushed through in keeping their club strong and relied heavily on Zoom meetings when in-person meetings were no longer possible. Now that pandemic restrictions are lifting and it has become safer to participate in in-person activities, Sisters of 26 is once again rolling up their sleeves and getting involved in our community and more activities within Local 26. At the end of last year, the club worked with the Electrical Workers Minority Coalition (EWMC) vol-

unteering at the Capital Area Food Bank and at United Communities Against Poverty during the holiday season, and helped canvas for Local 26-endorsed candidates. Club members once again had a table at the Bowie Young Adult Job Fair and in this year's Capital Shooting Tournament pulled off a first-place finish. The club also hosted a Solidarity Mixer for the Local's sisters and supporters. Sisters of 26 is especially looking forward to the IBEW Women's Conference which will be held in Washington, DC, this September—two years in the making.

Sisters of 26 is very excited to be able to move full steam ahead in growing their club and engaging with the membership and other chapters throughout the IBEW. Their mission of inclusivity and personal growth is a perfect fit with the ideals of Local 26!





# Special Mass Held in Honor of Fallen Workers

International Workers' Memorial Day, April 28th, is a day of remembrance for those workers killed or injured on the jobsite. This past April, in recognition of this day of remembrance, the Baltimore-DC Building Trades hosted a Catholic Mass at St. Camillus Catholic Church in Silver Spring, MD. The Mass was led by Father Brian Jordan, OFM, labor priest and pas-

tor of St. Camillus Church, as well as Cardinal Wilton Gregory, archbishop of Washington, DC, preaching and presiding. Speakers from IBEW Local 26 included Brother Juan Sotelo, Sister Christa Tichy, and Business Agent Tom Clark, along with other rank-and-file members from the other trades. The guest speakers honored and remembered those who lost their life

on the jobsite over the past year in the District, Maryland, and Virginia. A big thank you goes out to Brother Clark for organizing the event with Brother Tom Kileen from SMART Local 100 and to all the members and their families who attended, as well as the 150+ UA Local 602 members in attendance.



## LOCAL 26 MEMORIAM

### Members

- Retired Brother Peter K. Han
- Retired Brother Gordon J. Dodson
- Retired Brother Landon G. Arnn
- Retired Brother Ferdinand W. Mical
- Retired Brother Thomas P. Devito, Jr.
- Brother Merl L. Logan
- Retired Brother William P. Keller
- Retired Brother Jefferson W. Davis
- Retired Brother Robert L. Rice
- Brother Michael N. Hawkins
- Retired Brother Charles M. Mullen
- Retired Brother Ernest E. Wertz
- Brother Michael C. Miller
- Retired Brother John N. Wilson
- Retired Brother George J. Hellmuth
- Retired Brother Albert W. Combs
- Retired Brother Scott A. Bates
- Retired Brother Raul F. Barrientos
- Retired Brother Julius A. Pletz
- Retired Brother Ernest L. Jones, Jr.
- Retired Brother Ricky L. Fletcher
- Retired Brother Michael E. Novitski
- Retired Brother Samuel B. Sneed

### Members

- Retired Brother Julian W. Williams
- Retired Brother Ernest L. Curtin
- Retired Brother Melvin L. King, Jr.
- Retired Brother Ronald E. Tinsley
- Retired Brother Charlie Johanning
- Retired Brother Thomas P. Cave
- Retired Brother John H. Ebron
- Brother Leighton M. Crawford
- Retired Brother Irving Brodsky

### Family Members

- Retired Brother Michael B. Bibb's brother, John L. Bibb, Jr. (also father-in-law of OPEIU LU2 Sister Kim Bibb and grandfather of Brother Jake Wiseman)
- Sister Leah Huffman's stepfather, Emil (Bob) Ray Houck
- Retired Brother Harold Repass's mother, Ethel M. Jones
- Sister Elizabeth L. Bukowski's father, George S. Bukowski
- Brother Eric Pacheco's mother, Hilda Pacheco
- Brother Patrick O. Dunn's father, Richard A. Dunn, Sr.
- Brother John Kirscht's father, Eugene Kirscht

### Family Members

- Retired Brothers Robert Metler and James Metler's brother, Charles D. Metler (also son of deceased Retired Brother Raymond Boyd Metler, uncle of Brother Mark Metler and great-uncle of Brother Ryan Kroll)
- Brothers Tommy and Johnny Garrett's sister, Shirley Hall
- Brothers Jerome and Lawrence Little's mother, Dolores Little Davis
- Brother Timothy L. Johnson's mother, Emily Zaydell Johnson
- Brother Victor E. Griffin's father, James E. Griffin
- Retired Brother Kevin J. Shoemaker's son, Colton J. Shoemaker
- Brother James Rapczynski's mother, Joan Rapczynski
- Retired Brother Robert M. Kerns's wife, Norma Lee Kerns
- Retired Brother Jeffrey M. Gonzalez's wife, Pamela Gonzalez
- Brother James L. Griffith's stepfather, Leonard Sypolt (also grandfather of Brother Christopher W. Jett; great-grandfather of Brother Steven E. Davis, III)
- Retired Brother David J. Didion's wife, Connie Didion

**IBEW Local Union 26**

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# *Celebrating 130 Years*



*Happy 130th anniversary to our Local Union, Local 26! Established on May 11, 1892 with a small but proud group of electricians, today Local 26 stands at over 11,000 members strong and is the preeminent labor source for the finest tradespeople in the electrical industry. Thank you to the Brothers and Sisters who came before us and built the foundation on which Local 26 stands, and thank you to our current Brothers and Sisters who continue to build our outstanding reputation for excellence on jobsites all around Maryland, Virginia, and DC.*

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**Build it Right; Build it Union!**