

Local 26 Celebrates Its 77th Graduating Apprenticeship Class

Apprenticeship graduation day is one of the most special days for Local 26 because it not only honors the hard work of so many talented new electricians, in the true spirit of trade unionism. It also welcomes in the next generation of members who will continue to build on the proud history of our Union, ensuring its strength and success for decades and centuries to come. The 2023 JATC graduation, held on June 3rd, was the 77th graduation ceremony for the Washington, DC, Joint Electrical Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) which represents the Washington, DC, Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and IBEW Local 26. The graduation ceremony took place at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, MD.

With proud families, friends, and Local 26 officers in attendance, JATC Director Bill Murphy welcomed everyone to the graduation ceremony. Business Manager Joe Dabbs and NECA Chairman JATC/JATTF Joe Daley each offered their praise for the graduating class and then it was time for the presentation of diplomas.

The inside wireman class was 206 strong with Shane Weinberg earning the honor of inside wireman valedictorian and Amber Becker earning the honor of inside wireman salutatorian. Three students graduated from the telecom program with Daniel Griffith, Jr. as valedictorian and Che'Maiah Francis as salutatorian. Sixty-nine students were R to A upgrade graduates with Ryan Quinney earn-

ing valedictorian and Adolfo Padilla-Porcel earning salutatorian.

Inside wireman graduate Shane Weinberg and R to A upgrade graduate Ryan Quinney each earned a 95% average or above throughout the apprenticeship. Earning at least a 90% average or above were 21 inside wireman graduates, two telecommunications graduates, and two R to A upgrade graduates. Class attendance was equally as impressive with 17 inside wireman graduates with perfect attendance and four R to A upgrade graduates with perfect attendance. An additional 17 inside wireman graduates and an additional four R to A upgrade graduates had only one deficiency in their attendance.

Each of the graduates received a 2023 code book from the JATC; a tape measure from Milwaukee Tools; a baseball cap, nail apron, and carabiner from Capital Electric; and a 5-in-1 screwdriver from Klein Tools. Apprentice Appeals Board representative 5th year Sergio Luna Gomez received \$300 from the IBEW 26 Federal Credit Union and 4th year Glenn Patterson received \$200, also from IBEW 26 Federal Credit Union. All perfect attendance graduates received a \$100 gift card from the JATC and those with one deficiency received a \$50 gift card from the JATC.

Inside Wireman Valedictorian Shane Weinberg received a \$500 gift card from the JATC, lineman's pliers from Klein Tools, a 12M fuel ¼" impact driver kit from Milwaukee, a Milwaukee Tool backpack, and a Capital Electric book bag. Inside Wireman

Salutatorian Amber Becker received a \$100 gift card from the JATC, a Klein Tools 600 amp clamp-on meter, a Milwaukee Tool pocket level, and a Capital Electric bookbag. Telecommunications Valedictorian Daniel Griffith received a \$500 gift card from the JATC, lineman's pliers from Klein Tools, Milwaukee Tool backpack, an Ideal TightSight clamp-on meter, and a Capital Electric book bag. Telecommunications Salutatorian Che'Maiah Francis received a \$100 gift card from the JATC, a Klein Tools 600 amp clamp-on meter, an Ideal test, tone, trace kit, and a Capital Electric book bag. R to A Upgrade Valedictorian Ryan Quinney received a \$500 gift card from the JATC, lineman's pliers from Klein Tools, a 12 M fuel ¼" impact driver kit from Milwaukee, a Milwaukee Tool backpack, and a Capital Electric book bag. R to A Upgrade Salutatorian Adolfo Padilla-Porcel received a \$100 gift card from the JATC, a Klein Tools 600 amp clamp-on meter, a Capital Electric bookbag, and Milwaukee deep well impact sockets.

Despite the gifts all the graduates received and the paper diploma in hand, the intangible things they received—pride in a job well done, a sense of satisfaction, and the excitement of looking ahead at a bright future—are what mean the most to this next generation of talented Local 26 electricians. Congratulations to all of the fine graduates and their supportive families! The brothers and sisters of Local 26 wish you much success in your career with the IBEW.











Financial Awareness Seminar Designed to Empower Our Younger Members



Earning a great salary and excellent benefits is one thing, but knowing how to budget that great salary and understanding the benefits you receive is quite another. The great reward that comes with our electrical training and the strength of a union behind us is our wage and benefit package. The risk that comes with this for our younger members is earning a great wage and benefit package at such an early stage in life when they may not be equipped to responsibly handle the wages and benefits before them. This is why it is not only important for our members to be well educated in the electrical trade but also well educated in life skills of budgeting and planning for, hopefully, decades of life ahead.

On May 6th at the Lanham Union Hall and on July 21st at the Roanoke Union Hall, Local 26 held a financial awareness seminar geared specifically towards our younger members. The seminar was led by President Tom Myers, Financial Secretary Chris Cash, and Recording Secretary Rich Murphy with input from the staff of our Benefits Office. The seminar helped members understand how to budget their income so they may be prepared for life changes that may lie ahead as well as potential periods of lay off, which are inevitable in a cyclical industry like the construction trades.

Attendees learned how overtime works and how the hours they work can affect their benefits and eligibility. A detailed dis-

cussion about our benefit plans was also included in the program so that members could learn how the financial decisions they make today may affect their retirement plans and lifestyle down the road. The health plan was fully discussed so our younger members could learn about *all* of the partners we have working with us to ensure the good health of our members and their dependents.

It is Local 26's goal to not only get our members off to a good start professionally in our trade, but to also start them off on the right foot personally and financially as they begin what we hope is a long, long IBEW career.



FINANCIALLY AWARE UNION STRONG



Fun, Solidarity, and Dollars Against Diabetes Were the Big Golf Outing Winners

It was sunshine, blue skies, long drives, and a few mulligans that marked the 2023 Local 26 DAD's Day Golf Outing, oh, and certainly, a few funny stories too!

The tournament, held June 5th, sold out quickly as the golf outing has become one of Local 26's most popular events. This year four-somes took to five beautiful courses—Shenandoah Valley Golf Club in Front Royal, VA; Bristow Manor Golf Club in Bristow, VA;

Renditions Golf Course in Davidsonville, MD; Walden Country Club in Crofton, MD; and Whiskey Creek Golf Club in Ijamsville, MD. Banquets were held in the afternoon at each of the five locations. Not only were prizes awarded for first, second, and third place; closest to the pin; longest drive; and door prizes, more than few good stories were told and laughs had.

In total, over 700 members and guests, which included retirees, friends, and contrac-

tors, enjoyed the day on the links. Thanks to our sponsors and the tremendous support of our membership, \$30,000 was raised to benefit Dollars Against Diabetes, better known as DAD's Day. A huge thank you goes out to all of the officers and staff who work tirelessly to make this massive effort a reality each year and to all of our members and sponsors who support this good cause through their participation and donations.

Shenandoah Valley Golf Club, VA



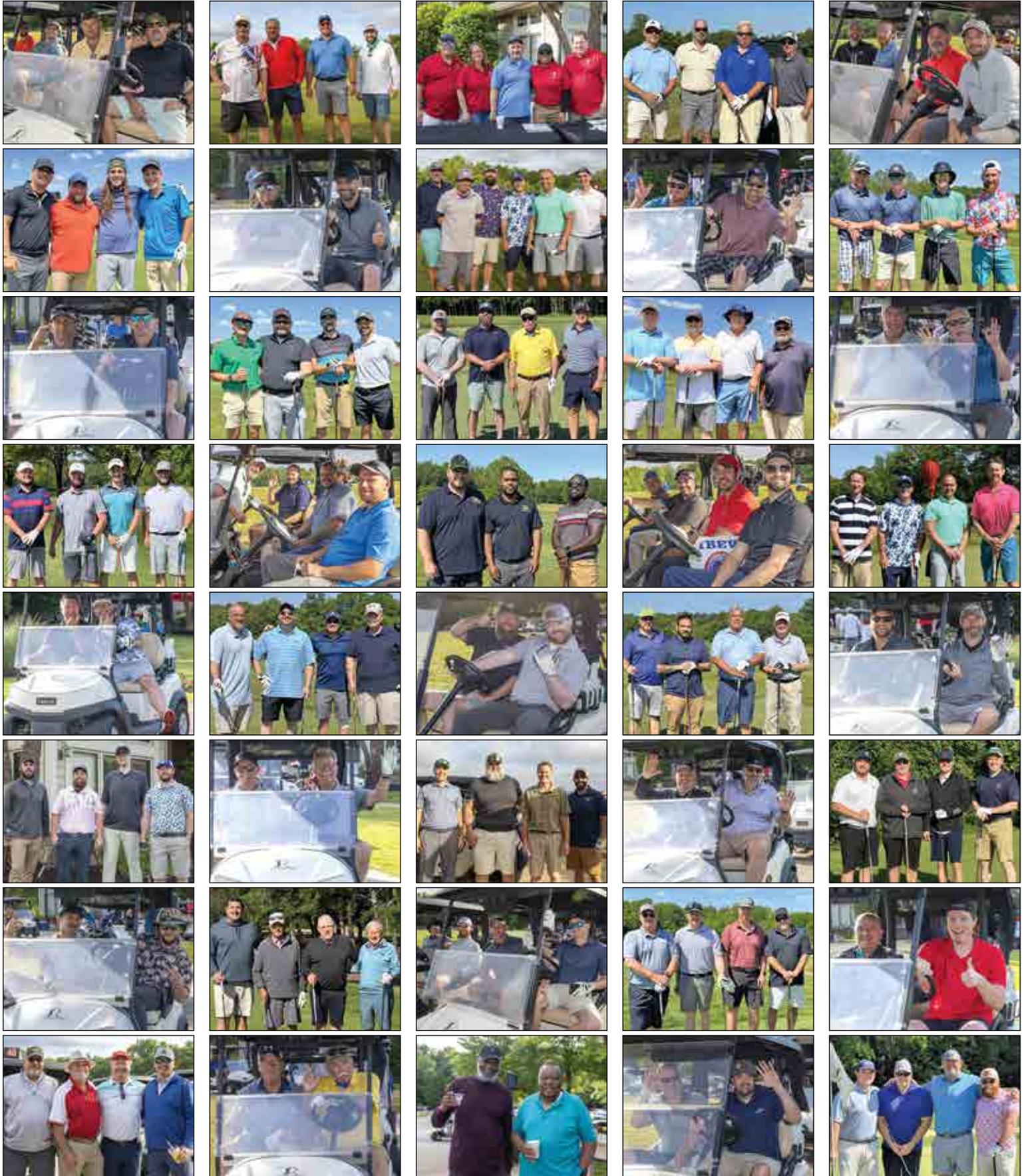
Bristow Manor Golf Club, VA



Walden Country Club, MD



Renditions Golf Course, MD



Whiskey Creek Golf Course, MD



From the National Conference to Days of Service, the EWMC Has Been Busy

The Local 26 EWMC was well represented at the 2023 EWMC National Conference over Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, January 12-15, 2023, in Denver, Colorado. Local 26 EWMC members in attendance at the conference included Tommy Clark, MC Fisher, Cary James, Queen McKnight, Tiffany Seay, Sam Bulagay, Brian Dittman, Chris Mosley, Charlie Penkert, Larry Thompson, Mark Thompson, and Jamell Thrower.

The Local 26 delegation was joined by EWMC delegations from Local 24, Local 70, and Local 1805 which together formed the regional 4th District group. The conference was especially meaningful for our Local 26 delegation because they were able to witness Local 24, Baltimore, receive their charter at the convention. Our Local 26 EWMC was instrumental in helping Local 24 establish their EWMC by consulting with them, serving as a liaison between the local and the national EWMC, and helping them craft their bylaws.

An important part of the National Conference has always been volunteerism, a day of service. The Local 26 EWMC delegation rolled up their sleeves and participated in the service effort volunteering at a local concert venue in Denver to bring the studio up to code.

However, the Local 26 EWMC has also been heavily focused on that same commitment to volunteerism here at home. This year, the Local 26 EWMC has already partic-

ipated in a number of volunteer efforts including a clean-up effort at Barry Farms Recreation Center in Southeast DC completed by about 30 members. Not only did the members clean up the rec center and make it safer for the community, the Local 26 EWMC also restocked the rec center's first aid supplies.

Local 26's EWMC also recently hosted two wall washing efforts in DC—one at the Vietnam Memorial and one at the Korean Memorial. Although the EWMC has participated in wall washings in the past, this was the first year in which the Local 26 EWMC was the host chapter. However, it won't be the last as the chapter voted to make it their regular volunteer effort each year in second quarter.

On May 20th, 22 Local 26 members came out to wash the walls of the Vietnam Memorial and on May 27th, 19 members came out to wash the walls of the Korean War Memorial. Both washings were planned intentionally on the weekends leading up to Memorial Day so that the monuments would be beautiful for the visitors coming to pay their respects on the important holiday weekend. In addition to scrubbing the walls of the memorials, the Local 26 volunteers scrubbed the walkways and surrounding areas and removed debris.

Keeping the memorials pristine is no small task, yet so very necessary to ensure that they remain a beautiful tribute to important events in our nation's history and

the brave men and women who fought for our country. "The Local 26 members that participated took the time out of their schedules to serve in a small way for those who served for us in the greatest way possible," noted EWMC President Mark Thompson. "It's always with a sense of reverence and awe that we gather to do this in paying respect for those who gave all for the freedoms we enjoy today."

The EWMC believes volunteerism to be one of their greatest priorities, a core value. The EWMC is in the process of planning future volunteer projects that would be part of joint regional days of service as well volunteer projects that would be in conjunction with a national day of service. Days of service used to be an annual effort but now they take place on a quarterly basis. Brother Thompson says that this change took place after Covid when it became obvious that the need for these service days was great. Sister Queen McKnight serves as the outreach chair for the EWMC and works tirelessly responding to requests for help and organizing impactful volunteer events to serve our Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC communities.

Local 26 is incredibly proud of the dedication of our EWMC members, to their Local Union, to our communities, and to their goal of inclusion and brotherhood/sisterhood. Keep your eyes open for future opportunities to support the EWMC and join in their events.



RENEW Hosts Additional Blood Drives and Game Night

This past spring RENEW put themselves to work helping the community at large and reaching out to even more members of the Local.

RENEW held Red Cross blood drives on April 8th at the Manassas Union Hall from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. and on July 1st at the Lanham Hall from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. These drives make a total of three blood drives RENEW has organized this year. After the success of the first blood drive, held in January at the Lanham, MD Hall, planning immediately began for future drives. The

April drive hosted 39 members and family members who, in total, donated 117 units of blood. The January blood drive hosted 34 donors and yielded 102 units of blood and the July drive had 32 people donate blood to yield over 90 units. All of these donations will go on to save countless lives and RENEW plans to hosts even more blood drives before year's end.

RENEW also hosted a meet and greet game night on March 18th at the Lanham Hall. About 30 brothers and sisters came out for some fun and fellowship while play-

ing board games and video games. Many of those in attendance even participated in an introductory Dungeons and Dragons session and learned a new game. It was a huge hit! Of course, no get-together is complete without food and prizes and RENEW's game night did not disappoint in these categories either with everyone leaving with a door prize!

A big thank you goes out to RENEW for their activism in Local 26 and their efforts to support and serve the communities within Local 26.





Renewable Ready: Solving Siting Problems Through Strategic Partnerships

On June 21, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Fourth District leadership and renewables team held the DMV Solar Summit. At this event, participants discussed renewable energies, focusing on how workforce partnerships can assist with local permitting efforts.

Members of the IBEW and solar developers were in attendance, including 31 organizations, renewable energy experts, community engagement teams, and construction teams.

The IBEW always advocates for healthy job opportunities, and this strategic discussion was no different.

“When it comes to the Solar Industry, our members understand the challenges of eco-related permits,” said Business Manager Joe Dabbs. “The Fourth District is there to help everyone involved navigate siting problems as efficiently as possible. It’s a win-win for all—it supports bountiful jobs which feed back into the community, all while still decreasing a project’s carbon footprint.”

After a detailed discussion on how the IBEW can increase community support through tactical stakeholder engagement, there was an immersive tour of the Local 26 training facility. Participants learned about the IBEW’s

registered best-in-class apprenticeship training programs.

Led by International Vice President Gina Cooper, the IBEW Fourth District is comprised of Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Within this area, the IBEW represents over 55,000 workers. These workers are employed in a wide variety of industries with 91 local unions within the district.

For more information on how the IBEW’s Fourth District is leading the industry, head to www.ibew4renewables.com.



ABOUT: The Electrical Alliance is a cooperative effort between the skilled craftsmen of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 26 and the electrical contractors of the Washington, DC, Chapter of National Electrical Contractors Association.

CONTACT: Electrical Alliance
electricalalliance.org
contactus@wdeneca.org



IBEW 26 FCU



Offers two ATMs in the following locations:

**4371 Parliament Place
Lanham, MD 20706**



**7016 Infantry Ridge Road
Manassas, VA 20109**



ALLPOINT SURCHARGE-FREE NETWORK

IBEW 26 FCU has offered security, dependability, and integrity for our members for over 60 years. We strive to be the primary financial institution of our members and work to promote and assist in our members' financial well-being.

IBEW Local 26, contractors, and employees of contractors who have signed agreements are eligible to join. Family members are also eligible to join including spouses, children, parents, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, and grandparents.

Contact us at 301-306-0610 or visit our website at WWW.IBEW26FCU.COM.





IBEW 26



MOTORCYCLE RIDERS' CLUB

PRESENTS
THE

10TH ANNUAL

POKER RUN

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

PROCEEDS GO TO



Specialove

for children with cancer



Registration 9:00 am
First Bikes Out 10:00 am

Registration and First Stop:
Manassas Training Center (JATC)
7016 Infantry Ridge Road
Manassas, VA 20109

Various Stops Along the Route
Draw a Card at Each Stop
End Stop: Old Towne Sports Pub
8971 Center Street
Manassas, VA 20110

Best Poker Hand Wins \$200
Worst Poker Hand Wins \$100

All types of bikes, custom cars, hot rods or any other vehicles are welcome to participate, or just come out, park and show off your ride!

All registered players will receive a t-shirt.

Volunteers needed, call 301-918-8834.

Go to www.ibewlocal26.org
for more information.



Registration Form
\$35 per Player/\$40 Day-of
Due August 25th

Rider/Player Name(s): _____

T-shirt Size(s): _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Non-rider/Player: _____

T-shirt Size(s): _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Volunteer(s): _____

T-shirt Size(s): _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

of Players: () Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to "Special Love."
Mail to Paul Henriques
4371 Parliament Place
Lanham, MD 20706



26 Meet your Steward

These are the people who take on leadership roles on our Local 26 jobsites each and every day all across our jurisdiction in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Not only does each steward help keep our jobs running smoothly—on time, on budget, safe, and expertly installed—they also serve as an onsite union representative for our members to turn to for support and with questions. They are proud to serve our employers in keeping the good name of Local 26 front and center and proud to serve their fellow brothers and sisters in solidarity.

Kim Rhoades has been a member of Local 26 for 23 years. She is currently working for Rosendin Electric on the Corscale Data Center project in Manassas, VA, a massive five building project that will encompass 2.3 million square feet. Sister Rhoades was appointed steward in March 2023.

Sister Rhoades came to Local 26 after a friend told her about the union. She needed a job so she visited the old Union Hall on Kansas Avenue in the District and signed up! She has spent her more than two decades as a union electrician learning all of the aspects of the trade but she considers her specialty to be fire alarm, communications, and low voltage systems. Interestingly, Sister Rhoades' most challenging project over the course of her career is also credited as her favorite project to date—the Metro Dulles Phase 2 Silver Line project and platform renovations. She says that she learned a lot working around the platforms and track and even affectionately called this project “boot camp” because of all of the walking and heavy lifting it entailed.

With so many years in the trade, Sister Rhoades has seen the industry change and evolve. The biggest change she has seen is the growth in data centers. What she would like to see more of on the jobsite is energy conservation, and green technology.

The most important thing she would like those outside of the Local to know about Local 26 is that our members literally do it all—data centers, chip plants, airports, military bases, etc. “I think we have some of the most skilled electricians on the east coast,” she noted. There is no doubt that the entire membership of Local 26 would agree and would count Sister Rhoades among those leading the way!



Kim Rhoades, a 23-year member of IBEW working as a steward for Rosendin Electric



Mike Souder, a 25-year member of the IBEW working as a steward for Dynalectric

Mike Souder, or Hippy Mike as he calls himself, was appointed steward on July 27, 2022 and is currently employed with Dynalectric. He has been an IBEW member for 25 years. His first 18 years in the IBEW, he was a member of Local 342 in North Carolina and his last seven years have been spent with Local 26. Although he called Local 342 his home local, for many years Brother Souder was working in Local 26's jurisdiction so when now-retired Business Agent Jerry Lewis asked him to transfer into Local 26, the decision was easy.

From July 2022 until April 2023, Brother Souder worked on the data center Stacks job, however he has also been a steward for Dynalectric on the MCC2 data center project and for Power Solutions on the MCC6 data center project. His favorite job was rebuilding the Pentagon, where he was employed by Singleton Electric. However, his most challenging job was the MCC2 project with Dynalectric as it was underway during the Covid pandemic and it took a lot of oversight making sure everyone was informed and in compliance with the Covid rules mandated by NECA and the Local.

Over his quarter decade in the trade, Hippy Mike has seen so much change in regards to technology. “We went from blueprints, to AutoCAD, to new 3D prints on tablets,” he stated. One thing he would still like to see change though is an increase in the starting wages for helpers to get more people interested in and introduced to the trade.

The strength of the brotherhood/sisterhood is not lost on Brother Souder as he credits the most remarkable thing about Local 26 to be the brothers and sisters coming together to help one another in a time of need. “Brotherhood/sisterhood, what more do you need,” he says. “We're all family.”

Local 26 is honored that Brother Souder has chosen to spend his career with our 26 family!

Local 26 in the Community

Local 26 has made a name for itself on the jobsite—that of skill, craftsmanship, and dedication. However, it has also made a name for itself in our communities throughout our jurisdiction. Local 26 is well known for being a supporter, an advocate, and an activist. We are proud of our members and officers who make a difference in our communities and who let our friends and neighbors know what our Local Union stands for.



Business Agent/Political Director Tom Clark and Business Agent Cordelia Evans were honored to bear witness of the signing of House Bill 2 by Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Maryland House Bill 2 pertains to union dues and allows a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain union dues paid during the taxable year; and applies the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022.



Business Agent/Political Director Tom Clark and Business Agent Cordelia Evans were honored to bear witness of the signing of House Bill 830 by Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Maryland House Bill 830 pertains to residential construction and electric vehicle charging.



Pictured above and below: Local 26 hosted a low country boil and labor walk in Woodbridge, VA for pro-data center candidates.



Officers and business agents rolled up their sleeves to volunteer at the Capital Area Food Bank.





Local 26 Honored to Be Part of Workers Memorial Day Mass

It is a true honor for Local 26 to be a founding organizer of the Workers Memorial Day Mass at St. Camillus Catholic Church in remembrance and reverence of those who've been injured or killed on the jobsite.

Business Agent Tom Clark and Father Brian Jordan, labor priest and pastor of St. Camillus, organized the first mass three years ago, modeled after New York City's Workers Memorial Day Mass, in which Father Jordan is heavily involved. Each year the mass is dedicated to the workers who passed away over the previous 12 months. This year the labor community lost 40 workers between April 28, 2022 and April 28, 2023. (April 28th is significant as it is Workers Memorial Day and also the day in 1970 when OSHA was signed into law.) The 40 fallen workers were each remembered

with a chair covered in black, a stenciled personalized hardhat and a rose all prominently placed at the front of the church.

Among the 40 fallen workers was Local 5 Retiree and Amalgamated Transit Union 689 Brother Robert Cunningham. Brother Cunningham, while working as a Metro employee, tried to subdue a gunman who had already shot and killed another person, and sadly was shot and killed himself. His family members are parishioners of St. Camillus.

Special guests joining Father Jordan at this year's mass were Co-Celebrant Bishop Evelio Menjivar, who hails from El Salvador and spoke of his time as a young man working as a painter; Maryland Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Maryland Secretary of Labor Portia Wu; and Maryland State Delegate Jeff Long.

Dejah Williams of the Metro Washington Council and Lou Spencer of Plumbers Local 5 did readings.

Members of Steamfitters Local 602, Plumbers Local 5, Painters Local 51, SMART Local 100, Laborers Local 1, and IBEW Local 24 and 26 were all in attendance. A big thank you goes out to Business Manager Joe Dabbs for his support of this special event and to the leadership of Steamfitters Local 602 and Plumbers Local 5 who have also been instrumental to the success of the mass.

Local 26 members are highly encouraged to support this important event each year to honor our fallen and/or injured brothers and sisters. The Local looks forward to an even larger Local 26 turnout next year.

LOCAL 26 MEMORIAM

Members

Retired Brother Lawrence J. Widener
 Brother William E. Barger (also father of Brother Shayne Barger)
 Retired Brother William C. Raines (also step-father of Brother Bob Nelson)
 Retired Brother Bruce C. Richardson
 Retired Brother William R. Alexander
 Retired Brother Elmer "Skip" McConkey
 Retired Brother Stephen M. Raddie
 Retired Brother Wilson P. Collins
 Retired Brother William A. Myers

Members

Brother Brian L. Thomson
 Retired Brother William R. Rutan
 Brother Joseph M. Parkinson
 Brother Arthur M. Campli
 Retired Brother Don O'Sullivan
 Retired Brother John Leslie
 Brother Travis R. Barrett
 Retired Brother Ronald P. Auth
 Brother Theodore M. Green

Family Members

Deceased Retired Brother Gene E. Hickman's wife, Gloria Hickman
 Brother Bob Nelson's mother, Dorothy Nelson
 Sister Christa M. Tichy's mother, Margaret E. Tichy
 Retired Brother David A. Ennis' wife, Susan Ennis



So Fresh and So Clean, Clean...

The look of our newly redesigned website that is!

www.ibewlocal26.org



General Information

Members Only

Cool Buttons

Video Montage

Sitemap

Navigation Menu

The new landing page of the IBEW Local 26 website contains some fantastic video footage of our members on their jobsites. This video montage will be updated periodically and feature different members across our jurisdiction. There are four main sections that branch from the "Home" landing page (check out the cool buttons below the video). The main two sections our current members will utilize are the "General Information" and the "Member Resources" sections.

If you know someone who is interested in joining Local 26, whether they have experience or not, please direct them to the "Career Opportunities" section. And if you are starting a company or know a nonunion one that should go union, please direct them to the "Business Opportunities" section.

Can't find what you're looking for? Go to the Sitemap link located at the bottom of the "Home" landing page or you can do a search. Enjoy!

Referrals pages are in the Member Resources Section