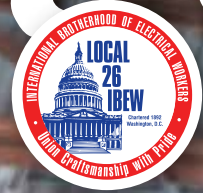


THE MAGAZINE OF IBEW LOCAL UNION 26
SERVING MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, AND WASHINGTON, DC

NCharge

1st Quarter 2022
Volume 15, No. 1



Moving at the Speed of Metro

Page 8



OFFICERS

George Hogan, Business Manager
 Tom Myers, President
 Rich Wilkinson, Vice President
 Joe Dabbs, Financial Secretary
 Rich Murphy, Recording Secretary
 Paulo Henriques, Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chris Cash
 Tom Clark
 John Collins
 Gary Hall
 Nondas Mouhanis
 Lorne Seay

EXAMINING BOARD

Robert Fritz
 Kyle McMillan
 Mark Pontello

www.ibewlocal26.org

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Business Office, Finance Office,
 & JW/RW/RE/TD Referrals
 301-459-2900

Apprenticeship & Training
 301-429-2575

Health & Welfare Office
 301-731-1050

IBEW 26 Federal Credit Union
 301-306-0610

FEATURES

ON THE COVER: PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



DEPARTMENTS

- 3** | BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT
- 4** | PRESIDENT'S REPORT
- 6** | FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
- 7** | ORGANIZER'S REPORT

CONTENT

- 5** | NOMINATIONS & ELECTION NOTICE
- 16** | SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- 17** | EWMC COMMUNITY SERVICE
- 20** | HOLIDAY PARTIES

Reflections of the Season



George Hogan
Business Manager

As I sit here at my computer and think back on all the times I have had as a Local 26 member, I must reflect on the passage of time, the friends I've made, and the ones I have lost. I remember Local 26 in the late fifties and early sixties when I was just a young lad following my father around at picnics in Chesapeake Beach to help him with whatever he needed to get done at the time. I remember traveling down to Eastern Market in DC with him to purchase a fifty-pound bag of Virginia peanuts which we brought to the picnic so Credit Union officers like Harry Creamer; Paul Webb; my dad, Larry Hogan; and others could give to the children. We always looked forward to the day of the picnic—the fun, the rides, meeting up with old friends of my parents and their children. This was a family day when we, as the kids of the members, could run, jump, and go a little crazy with the excitement that always seemed to hold us intrigued with what would happen next. There were sack races where you would pair up with a family member or friend to see if you two could be the first across the finish line to win. That was not the only competition to be a part of. There was a race that included a raw egg and a spoon and the object was to be the first to the other side to pass it off to your partner in the race and make it back to the starting line without dropping the egg. The prize was a brand-new silver dollar for each of you and, at that time, believe it or not, that would buy a lot of candy. It may seem like a foolish game but it taught us kids how to work together as a team for a common goal, and that was a subtle way to prepare us for the future. I cherish those memories and so much more of my life in the IBEW.

I found myself being drawn into the world that would shape my future and the future of my family. I eventually entered the apprenticeship in 1972 after attempting a stint in college, which just didn't seem to hold a lot for me, but was something my father asked me to try. That is when I had found my place in life, something I could grab onto and move forward into the career that would carry me through my adulthood. I also met a lot of great Brothers and Sisters with whom I helped build projects in the DC area. There were a multitude of different structures and monuments that we, as members of Local 26, all had a hand in either building, repairing, or maintaining. We were proud of what we had accomplished through the vast knowledge and training that we had acquired in our time as apprentices and mechanics of our Local.

I have to also mention the close friends that I made over the years and the mechanics who I trained under like Sparky Watts, Pete Holster, Skip Kelly and many more, too many to name. There were also the Brothers that I went through my time with, such as Larry Nevitt, Al Ng, Randy Kurty, Rick Barton, Bill Proctor and, again, so many more. We have lost some of these Brothers, gone too soon, but all left me with many memories of so many good times on and off of the jobs. I can't even begin to express the important part they all played in my career in Local 26.

I know if you're a young person reading this, you're probably thinking that I'm totally off my rocker, and when I was young, I would have probably agreed wholeheartedly with you. But you may find as you travel down your future path that you, too, will look back one day and reflect on what has passed in your life and the many friends that you came

in contact with because of your time in Local 26. This is something we all share as members of our Local and we must remember to pass on to the younger members the pride and respect we have for one another as an IBEW Brother or Sister.

I must say that I never imagined myself holding the position that I do today, but it has been one of the greatest experiences I have ever had in my time at Local 26. I work with a team of business agents, Brothers and Sisters, that I am proud to say is one of the most efficient and progressive teams that I have seen in a long time. Not taking anything away from anyone else, but you have to admit that this team has been faced with what I think everyone would say are some of the most difficult problems this Local has seen in quite a few years. Dealing with Covid has caused us all to take a new and different look at every process that our Local has in place. This is another reason I take pride in being part of this team. When the pandemic all started, we had to figure out how we would keep our Local moving forward and how we could best protect our members and their families through this difficult time. This team jumped into action and came up with solutions that just boggled my mind and made me very proud of all of them. I can't thank them enough for all that they did in a time of crisis.

Well, as usual, I think I've taken up enough of your time so I will sign off for now and I hope all of you had a happy holiday season with family and friends.

Fraternally,
George



Tom Myers
President

Gripe or Grievance?

I have been asked by many Brothers and Sisters to explain the grievance procedure, either in an article or a webinar, as many of our members are not really sure what a grievance is or means. I may do both. Let me know if this article is sufficient or if you want more. I really love hearing from you guys so keep those emails coming.

In the most abstract form a grievance, for any worker working under one of our Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs), is a claim that an employer has violated the worker's rights under one of these agreements.

Some examples of a grievance that may have merit:

- 1) A company refuses to allow an employee to take the required thirty-minute lunch. (Inside CBA, Art. IV, Sec. 4.15 or Residential CBA, Art. III, Sec. 3.01).
- 2) An employer does not pay 1.5 time for any hours worked past 40 in a given work week. (Inside CBA, Art. V, Sec. 2).

These are both grievances under the contract.

Now for what a grievance *ISN'T*. There is a *real* difference between a grievance and a gripe (Um, Tom, is "gripe" the official term? No, it just flows better.)

- 1) If a member doesn't like working for a specific foreman, this is NOT a violation of the CBA.
- 2) If the company elects to shut the job down on a recognized holiday instead of working, this is not a violation of the CBA.
- 3) If a specific job is "SUPPOSED" to be working overtime, and it doesn't work overtime, this is not a grievance. The company cannot be required to work overtime if there is no need for it.

a) Now, if the company tells all the employees on job "A" that there is no overtime on job "A" and then brings employees from another jobsite onto job "A," THIS may be a violation of the CBA (Inside CBA, Art. IV, Sec. 4.09)

The above are some examples of grievances that I have been tasked with investigating by the Business Manager. There have been many more, some more complicated and some less so, but the procedure remains the same and is laid out in each CBA. They all have similar clauses. I will use the Inside Agreement as my working example so, go ahead and get a copy. I'll wait.

Got the agreement? Great! Turn to Article I, Sec. 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. These are the grievance procedures for the Inside Agreement. Let's go through them one at a time.

Sec. 6: Basically, this section states that any grievances or disagreements arising from this contract must be addressed by the parties to the agreement. Just to be clear, the parties to the agreement are Local 26 and NECA (not the employee and the contractor). Local 26 represents the employees working under the contract and NECA represents the contractors. This is the part that confuses a lot of people. The grievance is filled out by an employee to make the Union aware of the issue. The Union will then begin the investigation. If the two parties are unable to resolve the grievance within 48 hours (from the time the grievance is filed, i.e. notice to the opposing party) it may then be forwarded to Labor-Management, unless both parties agree to extend the deadline.

Sec. 7: If the Union investigates an

employee's claim that the contract was violated and determines, after a fair and thorough investigation that it wasn't, the grievance has "no merit" (the Business Manager makes that determination) and the member will then be notified. If, after that fair and thorough investigation, the Union decides that the contract WAS violated, the Business Manager (or his agent) will contact the company and try to adjust the violation. If the company says, "Hey you guys are totally right; we're sorry," and they fix it, then all is good and the employee is made whole and receives notification from the Business Manager stating the outcome. If the company believes that they have not violated the contract and will not come to a resolution, the grievance gets bumped up to Labor-Management for a decision. The committee (which has equal numbers of management and labor representatives) hears the grievance and decides if the contract was violated or not. If they decide that it was violated, they then decide the resolution (monetary, job back...whatever). If the committee comes to a resolution (majority vote) then that decision is BINDING on all parties.

Sec. 8: If Labor-Management cannot come to an agreement, in the previous step, the case is referred to the Council on Industrial Relations (CIR). CIR is essentially the highest authority, within our industry, for dispute resolution. The council meets quarterly and will render a final decision based upon the facts. That decision is binding on both parties.

Sec. 9: This section essentially means that while a grievance is going through the process, whatever condition was in place will remain in place until the final



Official Notice: Nominations and Elections of Officers for Local Union 26

decision is rendered.

Sec. 10: This is the one that is most important to the individual!!! Any entity (whether an employee or contractor) has 15 days (calendar, not working) from the time they knew of or should have known of a violation to notify their representative of the violation. Once that requirement has been met, the responsible party (Union or NECA) has an additional six days to notify the opposing side. If either of those deadlines are not met, then the other party can declare that there is no grievance. So, if you believe that your rights under the agreement have been violated, don't wait; reach out to your shop steward or, if your job doesn't have one, call any agent and ask the question. If unsure, the agent will contact the Business Manager and find out, but it never hurts to fill out a grievance form. Just ask the agent for the form. It will give you a way to organize your thoughts and answer all the pertinent questions that we will need to investigate your claim.

Remember, the contract is what the UNION (you guys) has agreed to work by. The contract is negotiated by the Union (the entity known as Local 26 and its actual employees). Grievances are handled by agents who have been trained to process them effectively, and all agents have the help of the Business Manager and every other agent. Agents are required to investigate grievances based upon the facts and contracts, without any favoritism. In fact, under the NLRA, unions are legally bound to the duty of fair representation (look it up; it's true), but fair representation does not mean *that a gripe is a grievance...*

Nominations for officers of Local Union 26 will be held on Friday, May 13, 2022, beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the General Membership meeting located at 4371 Parliament Place, Lanham, MD 20706, as well as the satellite offices (Manassas, Winchester, and Roanoke, VA; and southern MD) via Business Skype. The following offices will be open for nominations: President (1), Vice President (1), Recording Secretary (1), Financial Secretary (1), Treasurer (1), Business Manager (1), Executive Board (6), and Examining Board (3).

In accordance with Article XVI, Section 10 of the IBEW Constitution, anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination. No member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate. In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two years of continuous good standing in Local Union 26. Good standing means that the member is current in the payment of dues and has been for the two years preceding the nominations. Apprentices are not eligible to hold office in the Local Union.

The ballot counting for the election of officers shall take place on Friday, June 10, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Local Union Hall located at 4371 Parliament Place, Lanham, MD 20706. Any candidate for office may be present or have an IBEW member as an observer present at the counting of the ballots. The election shall be conducted by mail ballot.

All members in good standing shall be mailed a ballot no later than Friday, May 20, 2022. Please keep the Finance Office updated on all address, email, and phone number changes. Ballots received after 10:00 a.m. on June 10, 2022, will not be counted. The ballots will be counted and the results certified and announced at the General Membership meeting that night. If a run-off election is required, same shall be held on Friday, July 8, 2022. Instructions on the use of the mail ballot will be enclosed with the ballot. If a ballot is not received or is ruined, replacement ballots may be obtained by making a written request to: electionjudge@ibewlocal26.org and/or mail in a request for duplicate ballot to: Election Judge – IBEW Local 26, P.O. Box 1510, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Any questions or concerns regarding the 2022 election should be addressed to electionjudge@ibewlocal26.org or 301-918-8836. Any updates will be posted on the Local 26 website, www.ibewlocal26.org.

Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted is urged to contact the election judge within a few days after the ballots are counted. Further protests of the election may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the district within 30 days following the election. The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President, the member may submit his or her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor.



Joe Dabbs
Financial Secretary

Have You Visited the EWTF's, the NEBF's, and the IO's Website Lately?

The beginning of the year is a good time to review and update your information with the Electrical Welfare Trust Fund Office (EWTF), National Electrical Benefit Office (NEBF), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Pension and Reciprocity Department, and the Local Union 26 Finance Office. It is the member's responsibility to keep their information up to date with these different offices. Some people think that if they call the Local Union and update their information that it is updated with the other offices. This is not the case; each office is independent of one another. If you change your address, phone number, or email or would like to update beneficiary information please reach out to the appropriate offices so they are aware of the change. It is also a good practice to set up online portals with the EWTF and the NEBF.

Let's begin with the Electrical Welfare Trust Fund Office (EWTF). The EWTF office has improved their website over the last few years in an effort to make the members' experience easier and more user-friendly. They continue to work in this direction with more improvements in process that will be available soon. One of the best ways to access and keep your information and your family's information up to date is by using the online portal that can be found on their website. By doing so, you will have access to your:

- Beneficiary Information
- Demographics
- Deductibles
- Health Claims
- Work History
- Disability Payments
- Pension Credits
- Pension Options
- Pension Payments
- Eligibility
- Document Center

All of this information is available to you so you can track the latest updates to your

account. You can make modifications to your user profile and demographics as changes may occur with your family. You can keep track of health claims and deductibles as well as eligibility for your health insurance. The work history section shows you a running list of the employers you have worked for and your hours worked. You also have available sections where you can view your pension credits, pension options, and pension payments.

Another section of the portal is the document center. This section makes available to you the following documents:

- Beneficiary Designation Form
- Other Insurance Update Form
- Spouse's Statement for IAP Benefits
- Spouse's Statement for Pension Benefits
- Statement of Injury
- Uniform Transfer to Minor Benefits
- Weekly Accident & Sickness

In addition to helping you create a personalized portal for access to the most up-to-date information, the EWTF website landing page has a large amount of information about the Health Care Plan, Pension Plan, and the Annuity Plan. This landing page includes a section with information about Teledoc, a 24/7 access to doctors; Virta, a program to help members reverse type 2 diabetes; your medical card, a section that helps you to better understand the information listed on your medical card; the Health and Welfare Office, as well as the trustees to the Trust Funds who diligently work to make sure the membership is provided with the best services possible.

You may also want to take a look at the National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF) website. It also offers the ability for a member to set up an online portal. By doing so the member can manage their information, receive notices, and stay up to date with their career activities. This portal enables you to access your inbox, your profile, documents, your

benefit estimate, a change of address form, the NEBF application, and customer service.

The inbox will contain the most recent notices sent from the NEBF office. You will also see your latest benefit estimate show up in this section if you initiate a benefit estimate from the benefit estimate section. Use the profile section for updating your address, phone number, email, and security information. The documents section of this portal keeps a running record of documents that have been sent to the member (annual statements, funding notices, Summary Plan Description, SMM-Summary of Material Modification, online estimate). The change of address section is exactly what it states. This information can be updated here or by going through the profile section. You can download the NEBF application with one click in the section that directs you to download the NEBF application. Finally, the customer service section populates fields quickly so you may send a message directly to the NEBF.

The next place you should take a quick look at is the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Pension and Reciprocity Department. If you are retired, thinking of retiring, or would like to update beneficiary information, the IO's website pension and reciprocity page has the following information for the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF):

- PBF Summary Plan Description
- PBF Frequently Asked Questions
- PBF Rules and Regulations
- Beneficiary Forms & Instructions
- Pension Calculations, Applications & Instructions
- 1099-R for IBEW PBF
- Direct deposit changes: USA 1-800-733-4239 (option #2)

If you are retired, a few items that may come up can be addressed through this sec-

Continued on page 15



Mark Pontello
Organizer

Organizing Department Focused on Making Organizing a Little More Personal

It's a new year and the need for manpower continues to grow in our jurisdiction. That's certainly great news for our members and the construction industry. However, this need also highlights the very real manpower shortage that exists here in Maryland, Virginia and DC, in fact, all around the country. This shortage has made the work of Local 26 organizers that much more critical and challenging at the same time.

The organizing department has been doubling down on efforts to organize new members into our Local Union. Those efforts have been heavily focused on personal interactions with non-union electricians. After two years of a pandemic that has altered the way in which we interact with others in-person, organizers are finding that connecting with potential new members face-to-face is being well received.

Organizers have been visiting countless jobsites in their efforts to recruit new members and have been calling upon our Local 26 members to be foot soldiers in recruiting and organizing. All Local 26 Brothers and Sisters are encouraged to speak directly to any non-union electricians they may know of who may be interested in joining the Union. Members out in the field and in the community are uniquely positioned to know of workers who may be interested in learning more about Local 26 and share that information with our Local 26 organizers. Our members can witness the craftsmanship of these members and know if they would be able to meet the expectations of being a Local 26 member. Members should even feel willing to share with non-union workers their own first-hand account of the benefits of Local 26 repre-

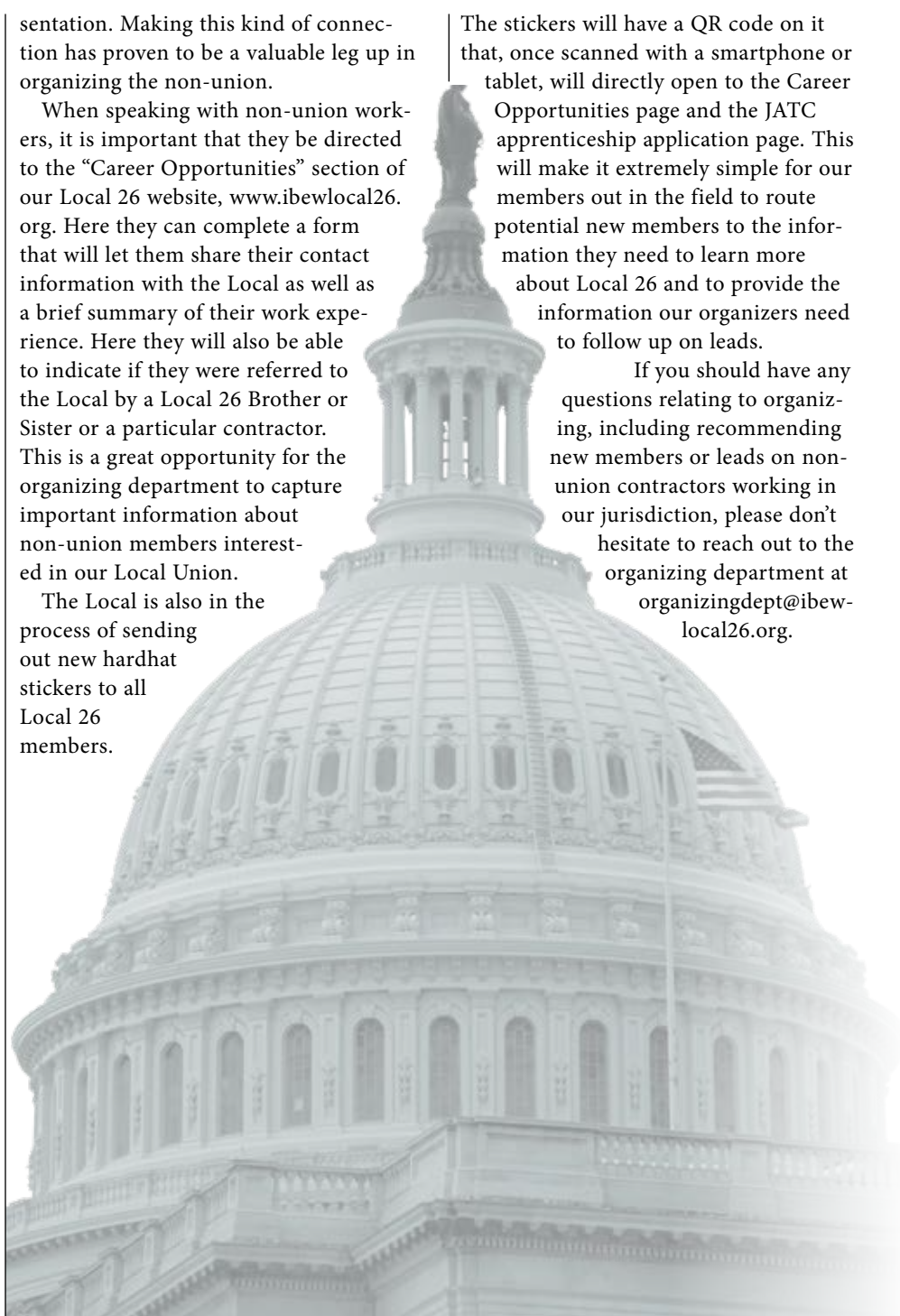
sentation. Making this kind of connection has proven to be a valuable leg up in organizing the non-union.

When speaking with non-union workers, it is important that they be directed to the "Career Opportunities" section of our Local 26 website, www.ibewlocal26.org. Here they can complete a form that will let them share their contact information with the Local as well as a brief summary of their work experience. Here they will also be able to indicate if they were referred to the Local by a Local 26 Brother or Sister or a particular contractor. This is a great opportunity for the organizing department to capture important information about non-union members interested in our Local Union.

The Local is also in the process of sending out new hardhat stickers to all Local 26 members.

The stickers will have a QR code on it that, once scanned with a smartphone or tablet, will directly open to the Career Opportunities page and the JATC apprenticeship application page. This will make it extremely simple for our members out in the field to route potential new members to the information they need to learn more about Local 26 and to provide the information our organizers need to follow up on leads.

If you should have any questions relating to organizing, including recommending new members or leads on non-union contractors working in our jurisdiction, please don't hesitate to reach out to the organizing department at organizingdept@ibew-local26.org.



Moving at the



Superintendent
Kevin Patterson



Kneeling, from left: Anthony Barrett, Financial Secretary Joe Dabbs, and Aaron Bowlan. Standing, from left: Business Manager George Hogan, Nick McAlister, Business Agent Cordelia McKoy, Dave Harris, Chris Elliott, Scott Smith, James Kingsbury, Kevin Patterson, and Business Agent Tom Clark.

Speed of Metro

OR

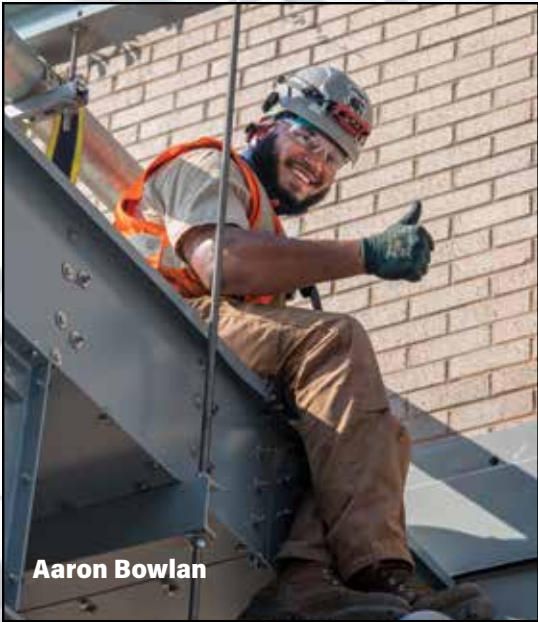
C3M
POWER SYSTEMS

GR

Local 26 members working for C3M Power Systems are making the Metro a better, more efficient, and safer riding experience.

Anyone who lives in, works in or even just visits the Washington, DC, metropolitan area knows that the Metro mass transit system is truly a well-oiled machine and critical to the success of the Nation's Capital. And, critical to the success of the Metro system—since its original construction—are the men and women of IBEW Local 26.

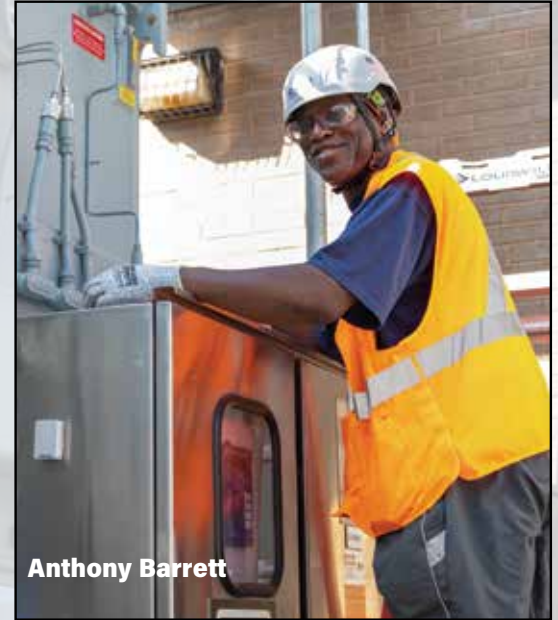
The first portion of Metro was opened in 1976 but like any major piece of infrastructure, repairs have been made over the years to improve the functionality of the system, upgrade components using the latest technology and, above all else, keep the riding public safe. For the past three summers, the Metro system has had shutdowns to various parts of the rail system—stations and trackwork alike—under the guidance of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro), the government agency that operates the transit system. Additionally, regular maintenance has also been ongoing throughout the transit system where Local 26 members have worked around a fully functioning Metro. Performing upgrades to the traction power systems has been C3M Power Systems.



Aaron Bowlan

OR

GR

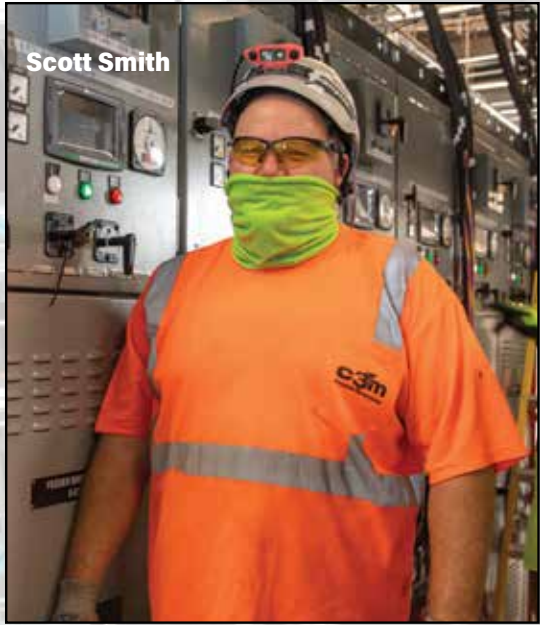


Anthony Barrett



Business Manager George Hogan, Kevin Patterson, Chris Elliott, and Financial Secretary Joe Dabbs

Scott Smith



C3M, one of the Washington, DC region's largest electrical contractors, constructs, rehabilitates, and maintains electrical and specialty systems for railways, airports, highways, and utilities nationwide. C3M has completed seven projects already for Metro and has five projects currently underway with Metro. In 2020, after an incident- and injury-free year, C3M was recognized by the National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association with a Gold Safety Award. C3M, based locally in Capitol Heights, MD, has been a signatory contractor with Local 26 since 2014.

In May 2019, C3M was awarded the contract for the work they are currently performing on the Red, Green, and Orange lines replacing electrical equipment at five tie-breaker stations (TBS) and 11 traction power substations (TPSS) of Metro. This work began in December 2019. Multiple substations are currently being renovated, and completion of the remaining substations is expected by spring of 2023.

Superintendents Kevin Patterson and Wayne Kirkpatrick, as well as Foremen John Carlin, Sean Damon, Brandon Thomas, Richard Ladow and Scott Smith, have been overseeing the Local 26 crew, which peaked at 50 electricians. The team has been working multiple shifts for power cut overs so as to not impact normal operations when changing from temporary power to new power or existing power to new power.

The electrical work being performed at the tie-breaker stations and traction power substations is to accommodate the additional power need for Metro's 100% eight-car train program and State of Good Repair program. C3M is charged with replacing six-pulse 2MW transformer-rectifier units (rectifier transformers coupled with rectifiers that convert power from medium voltage AC to 750V DC needed to power the Metro trains) with larger 12-pulse 3MW units for the increased power demand. Additionally, the crew has



James Kingsbury





Karl Wenger and Cody Barnett



Kurt Fisher and Ronnie Johnson

OR

RD

c3m
POWER SYSTEMS



Rich LaDow

been making upgrades to the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system at all locations in order to give Metro the ability to remotely operate and manage these locations. The AC switchgear, DC switchgear, negative switchboard, bus duct, and auxiliary power equipment are also being replaced.

Conveniently, station shutdowns on the Green Line during the summer of 2021 allowed C3M to accelerate their work because the shutdowns allowed the work on the traction power systems to be completed in half the time. C3M rehabilitated 5 TPSSs simultaneously during that 90-day time period, a feat never before achieved on the Metro system. This time-saving measure has been critical to helping C3M stay on target with its spring 2023 target completion date.

Senior Project Manager Nick McAlister had high praise for the Local 26 crew. "The craftsmanship performed by Local 26 electricians is the best in the industry and continues to impress our clients, allowing C3M to be recognized by industry leaders and bring value to rail systems throughout the DMV," he said.

The relationships forged by C3M with Metro and Local 26 are win-win relationships for all. Local 26 is given the opportunity to work on good quality projects and Metro can provide a better, more efficient and even safer riding experience for all who use the Metro system. Our Local 26 members take great pride knowing they are putting their skills to work for the betterment of the city in which they call home.

26



Mark Wright



Kneeling, from left: Ronnie Johnson, Cody Barnett, and Business Agent Tom Clark. Standing, from left: Business Agent Cordelia McKoy, Rich LaDow, Kurt Fisher, Karl Wenger, Kevin Patterson, Business Manager George Hogan and Financial Secretary Joe Dabbs.

August SERVICE PINS



Pictured above, front row, from left: Joe Dabbs, Financial Secretary; Kwesi Amihere, 20 years; Charles Richter (front), 50 years; Tom Myers, President; Cris Ritter (front), 40 years; Walter Hughes, 50 years; Robert Staton (front), 50 years; Jerry Lozupone, 50 years; Jay Landen, 50 years; and George Hogan, Business Manager

Congratulations to the following members who have retired:

July 2021

Michael C. Bishton
Jeffrey D. Colie
John L. Witkowski
Daniel T. Paul
Robert J. Simard
Reginald R. Goodwyn

August 2021

Dennis E. Murphy
Nicholas B. Corts
Luis A. Aranguren Belandria
Freddy S. Bautista
Michael J. Brunelle
Owen G. Carroll
James M. McDonough
Glenn G. Martin
Robert B. Klopfer
James L. Kieffer, Jr.
Bradley H. Behm
Michael L. Rethford

September 2021

James J. Carroll
Louis D. Chevalier
Stanley K. Clum

Garth A. Kelly
Charles R. McClay, Jr.
Christopher Nathan
Michael C. Whittington
Robert B. Wood, Jr.
Kirk E. Riner
Richard J. Stenberg
Jeff W. Henry
Charlie D. Johannning

October 2021

Jeffrey L. Green
William H. Noel
Mark A. Bailey
Danny E. Wheeler
Joe B. Sabha
Donald T. Morgan, Jr.
Michael L. Brookman
Michael A. Passmore
Charles E. Alexander
Jeffrey A. Lampe
Robert J. Goodwin
Thomas B. Winslow
William E. Merry
Thomas E. Smith
Scott A. Bates

William T. Weiss, Jr.
Robert E. Gosheff

November 2021

Angel C. Zeballos
James E. Cockrell, Jr.
John H. Blankenship
Robin K. Lucas

December 2021

Christopher A. White
John R. Clark
James D. Foster
James C. Shea
J.C. Coney
Michael S. Gilheany
William A. Costanzo
Curtis L. Tolley
Chris B. Loda
Mario A. Cobarrubias
George H. Randolph
Millard E. Voigt, Jr.
Warren D. Darby
Gregory A. Roling
Michael R. Lambert
Brian R. Flynn

Club Continues with Trips; Medical Equipment Closet Still In High Demand

Sometimes it seems like every day we have new challenges, just like the saying goes. The retired members were already living one day at a time, but the pandemic has made it so for every member of Local 26. Please take a moment to reflect on the 800,000 individuals we have lost, just in the United States, and their families and friends missing them.

In September, November, and December we were able to meet again in-person at the Union Hall *and* have members attend virtually through the technology of Zoom! We will continue to have combined meetings in 2022. (If you are not on our email list or do not have a personal email address, consider sending us a child's or grandchild's address.) We are grateful to Local 26 for sharing the technology used for satellite meetings with

the Retired Members' Club. It is a morale boost to *see* other members during this isolation.

Some trips have remained on the calendar, like going to the casino, but you must have received your vaccinations for Covid, wear masks, and refrain from eating or drinking on the bus for everybody's continued safety. Please contact Brother Warner if you want more information, 240-472-0438. The train trip to the Canadian Rockies SOLD OUT, but contact Brother Warner for any update on individual cancellations if you are still interested.

The Medical Equipment Program has seen more use from member-to-member information sharing than from many written articles. If there is a piece of medical equipment needed, please contact Sister Flashman before

purchasing items, as we may already have it in our stock. Contact her at flashmanbissell@aol.com or by calling 301-325-5708. We have too much equipment to list everything here!

Operation Paperback continues so if you have books you would like to donate to our military in the U.S. and overseas, please let Sister Flashman know. Our service men and women continue to send their thanks for our packages.

This year we were able to successfully have the Retired Members' Club raffle and help fund our medical equipment program. The drawings were held at our November meeting via Zoom. We thank our active and retired members for their continued support.

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

FINANCEREPORT *continued from page 6*

tion of the International's website. When a retiree would like to change their direct deposit, they should call the toll-free number listed on the pension and reciprocity page. If you are retired and need a copy of your 1099R when preparing your taxes, this information is also available on the pension and reciprocity page. The beneficiary form for the International pension is available on the pension and reciprocity page of the IBEW International website for anyone who would like to update this information.

If you are considering retirement from the IBEW, you can view your pension estimate on the Pension and Reciprocity page of the IBEW International website. You may also access the application for this pension on this page of the website. However, keep in mind that the application must be submitted to the Local Union for a signature and seal before being submitted to the International for approval. The earliest they will accept a pension application is six months prior to your

62nd birthday.

Finally, if you should have any changes to your address, phone number, or email, contact the Local Union 26 Finance Office with the update to keep your information current. Below is the contact information to the offices you should stay in contact with and, in the event of a member passing, their family should reach out to these offices as well. Electrical Welfare Trust Fund Office (EWTF) www.ewtf.org, 301-731-1050 National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF) www.nebf.com, 301-556-4300 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers International Office (IO) www.ibew.org, 202-833-7000 IBEW Local Union 26 www.ibewlocal26.org, 301-459-2900

Important notes for the NEBF beneficiary: As of August 23, 1984, if you pass away before receiving a NEBF benefit, your spouse may be eligible for a Pre-Retirement Spouse Benefit. The earliest your spouse may begin receiving

this benefit is the month following when you would have first been eligible for any NEBF benefit type. This benefit is for your surviving spouse only. No benefit will become payable to your spouse's estate or beneficiaries.

To apply for a Pre-Retirement Spouse Benefit, your spouse must complete and submit an application. If NEBF is aware of your marriage, an application will be mailed to your spouse at the appropriate time after NEBF is notified of your death. Your spouse may also obtain an application by contacting the NEBF office. When your spouse contacts the NEBF office to request an application, they will need your full name, your Social Security number, and your spouse's current mailing address.

The landing page for the NEBF contains large amounts of additional information including plan documents, FAQs, and forms.

Thank you for everything you do. I wish everyone a happy, safe, and prosperous 2022.

Scholarship Awards

IBEW Local Union 26 Scholarship Award

The Local Union Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the annual Local 26 Scholarship Award. The scholarship is only open to the children of those Local 26 members who have been in good standing for at least five years. Four winners will be selected as recipients of the four-year, \$2,500 per year award. Applicants must be in their senior year of high school or be a high school graduate between the ages of 17 and 21, with less than two years of college completed in order to apply.

You can go to the Local 26 website, www.ibewlocal26.org, to download the application from the “News” tab. You may also call the Hall at 301-459-2900 to request that an application be mailed to your home or emailed to you. The deadline for returning completed applications is March 31, 2022.

IBEW Founders’ Scholarship Award

Each year, the officers of the IBEW (International Office) are pleased to offer working members scholarships on a competitive basis. This award is for \$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate’s, bachelor’s, or postgraduate degree in an approved field. The maximum distribution is \$24,000 over a period not to exceed eight years. The IBEW Founders’ Scholarship is awarded only to IBEW members who have been in continuous good standing for the four years preceding May 1, 2022. The scholarship is not offered to the spouses or children of IBEW members. For more information or a printable application, visit the IBEW website at www.ibew.org. All applications must be postmarked prior to May 1, 2022.

IBEW 26 FCU Scholarship Award

Are you or a family member headed off to college in 2022? IBEW 26 FCU and the Credit Union Foundation of MD & DC are pleased to announce a college scholarship opportunity that may make it easier for you to meet your tuition costs. The \$12,000 Credit Union College Scholarship Program for 2022 is now underway! Eligible credit union members may apply for one of ten \$1,000 essay-based scholarships, one \$1,000 video-based scholarship, and/or one \$1,000 photo-based scholarship. And yes, eligible members may apply in all three categories!

This year’s essay topic: “In life, things can happen fast. Describe a sudden change in your life, real or imagined, that presented a financial challenge and describe how your credit union helped you get through it.” This year’s video topic: “You’re suddenly confronted with an unexpected financial challenge. Create a 60-second video depicting the challenge and how your credit union helped you successfully handle it.” Photographers are asked to capture an original photograph that represents the credit union core value of “Respect”.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2022. Awards will be made in May 2022. PLEASE NOTE: Parental membership does not qualify applicant. All applicants must themselves be a member of a participating credit union. Applicants must be entering their freshman through senior year of college or trade school. This scholarship does not apply to students in post-graduate programs nor payment of student loans. Visit www.cufound.org/consumer-resources/college-scholarship/ for more information.



EWMC Continues Their Commitment to Service

It was a true honor for our Local 26 members of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) to participate once again in the EWMC's National Day of Service this past November. Every year that our Local 26 chapter participates, they seem to raise the bar on their mission to give back to their community.

The National Day of Service is a day set aside for all 42 chapters of the EWMC to volunteer in their communities across the United States and Canada at the same time. It is an ultimate show of solidarity among the chapters and a show of commitment to the EWMC's goal of being actively involved in elevating underrepresented communities.

This year, the Local 26 chapter of the EWMC joined forces with United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP), which whom Local 26 has had a longstanding relationship. In addition to clean-up efforts and minor repair work at various neighborhoods in Prince George's County and the District, Local 26 members also provided supplies and support for area children who are back in school under strict health protocols. Additionally, the EWMC helped UCAP prepare for their annual Thanksgiving meal distribution.

With the holiday season on the heels of the National Day of Service, the members of Local 26's EWMC committed to provid-

ing additional support to UCAP through the holidays. They organized baskets for UCAP seniors and provided gifts for three formerly homeless families, as well as offered mentoring services for women in a homeless shelter and young boys in UCAP's PATH program.

The members of the EWMC are keenly aware of how fortunate they are to earn the wages and benefits they do and to have the opportunities afforded to them as members of the IBEW. They volunteer time and time again to lend a hand to others and they are truly honored to be able to help right here in their own backyard.



JATC Hosts Secretary of Labor Walsh and Congresswoman Wexton

The JATC was honored to host U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh at our Manassas training center last fall. Secretary Walsh, a card-carrying member of Laborers Local 223, Boston, MA, is the very first union member Secretary of Labor and also the former Mayor of Boston. He was treated to a tour of the center by JATC Director Chris Cash; Business Manager George Hogan; Local 26 Political Director Tom Clark; Business Agent Greta Nicholson; Organizers Juan Bonilla and Kyle McMillan; Manassas School Coordinator Billy Triplett; and Apprentices Jamil

Mohamed-Burhan, Julian Melendez, and Mikayla Hammer. Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D) who represents Virginia's 10th District which includes Manassas, also joined Secretary Walsh on the tour of the school. As part of the tour, Apprentice Julian Melendez taught Secretary Walsh and Congresswoman Wexton how to make a 90-degree bend in a piece of conduit, which they each did perfectly. The group toured the center's classrooms and Secretary Walsh even spoke to the students in one class. It was an honor for the students to be visited by Secretary

Walsh and Congresswoman Wexton. In addition to wanting to learn more about our extraordinary apprenticeship program, Secretary Walsh and Congresswoman Wexton took this opportunity to promote their support of the PRO Act, which strengthens federal laws that protect a worker's right to join a union. It was a proud day for Local 26 to host Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh and Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, each of whom has the best interests of our members and all of organized labor in mind in all that they do.



IBEW 26 Federal Credit Union

Offers two ATMs in the following locations:

4371 Parliament Place
Lanham, MD 20706



7010 Infantry Ridge Road
Manassas, VA 20109



ALLPOINT SURCHARGE-FREE NETWORK

Check our website www.ibew26fcu.com for current loan specials!

We love to make loans!

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 Union 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 FCU



Holiday Parties Returned In-Person

The holiday parties took on even greater meaning this past year as they were one of the few opportunities our Local 26 members have had to come together in person in recent years. Fellowship and brotherhood/sisterhood are the hallmarks of Local 26 and the absence of in-person events has been hard on our members during this pandemic. The holiday parties certainly brought the fellowship and brotherhood/sisterhood out in force, but

they also gave the members a sense of normalcy and opportunity to celebrate the holiday season the way it should be celebrated—with joy, love, and optimism.

Local 26 holiday parties were held in Roanoke, VA; Front Royal, VA; and Greenbelt, MD. The party in Roanoke was held Saturday, December 4th at Hunting Hills Country Club; the party in Front Royal was held Friday, December 3rd at Shenandoah Valley Country Club; and the

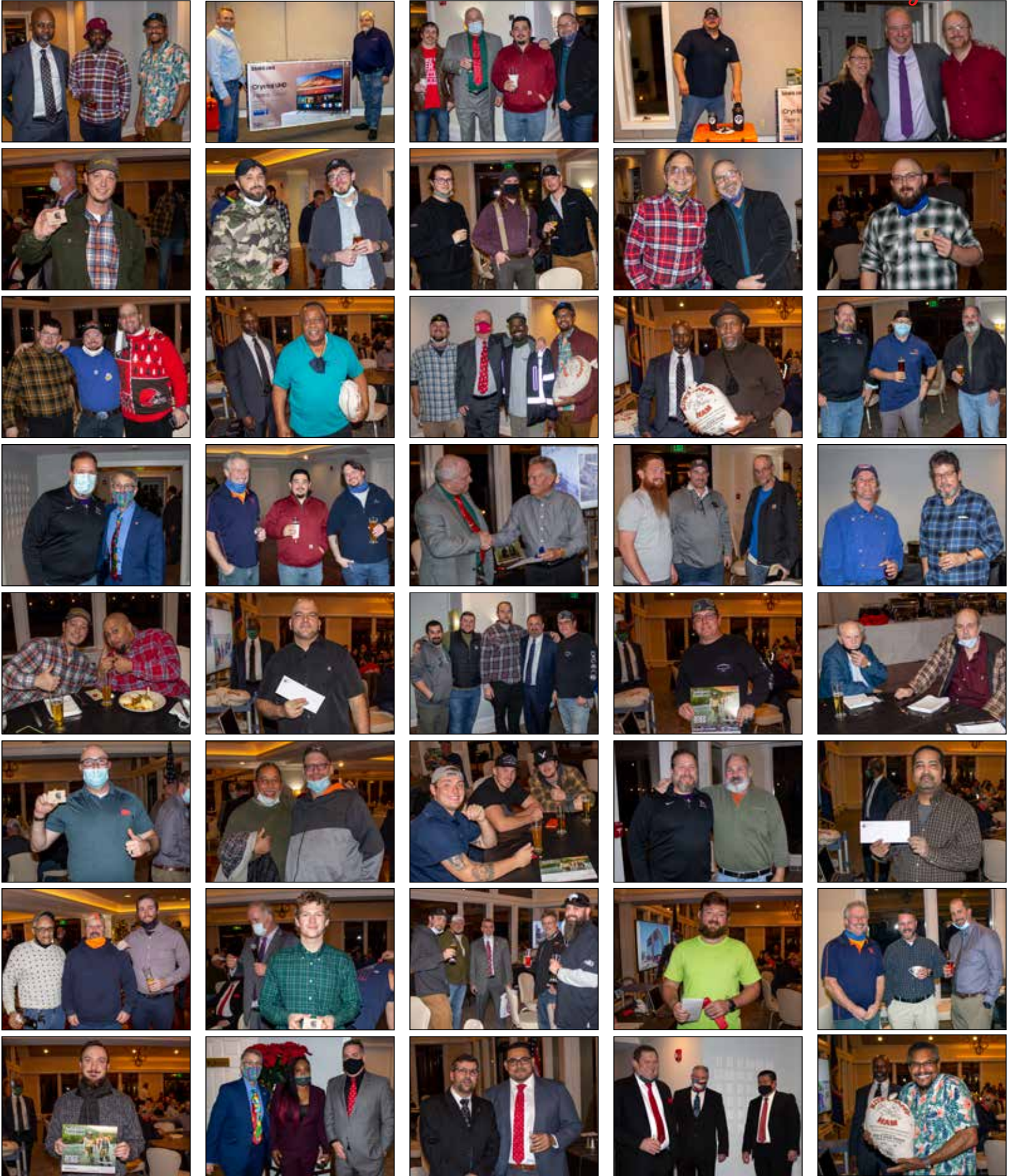
party in Greenbelt was held Friday, December 10th at Martin's Crosswinds. The parties included all of the usual fun, including raffles and festive food, and the holiday cheer and good will that overflowed filled the venues.

Local 26 is hopeful that these parties are the start of many more in-person events to come for our members and the return of celebrating events and milestones together!

Roanoke, VA



Front Royal, VA



Greenbelt, MD





LOCAL 26 MEMORIAM

Members

- Retired Brother Clarence L. Lewis
- Brother Joe L. Koonce
- Retired Thomas R. Steadman
- Retired Carl H. Weiland, Jr.
- Retired James D. Smith
- Retired Brother James R. Lewis
- Retired Brother Richard A. Meaney
- Retired Brother John L. Waltman
- Brother Jonathan L. Kanagy
- Retired Brother Charles A. McKeithan
- Brother Earl E. Otten
- Retired Brother Clarence I. Meiggs
- Retired Brother Albert B. Williams
- Retired Brother Roger E. Golden
- Brother Mark A. Herring
- Brother Paul D. Childers
- Retired Brother David F. Blanche
- Retired Brother Burnell A. Frizzell
- Brother Michael G. Whittington, Jr.

Members

- Sister Dedra R. Raddie (also wife of Retired Brother Stephen M. Raddie)
- Retired Brother Alvin H. Fautleroy
- Brother Willis A. Lockett, Jr.
- Retired Brother Robert E. Coats, Sr.
- Retired Brother Carl R. Garrett
- Brother Marian E. Green
- Brother Arthur I. City
- Brother Timothy D. Downing
- Retired Brother Robert L. Singer
- Brother Raymond L. Gans
- Brother Wayne E. Marish
- Brother Jeffrey S. Cruz
- Brother Leroy Allen
- Retired Brother Joseph A. Ruby
- Brother Andrew E. McLean
- Brother Benjamin C. Mann, IV
- Retired Brother Bradley K. Sherman
- Retired Brother Robert B. White

Members

- Retired Brother David Dugan
- Retired Brother Jerry L. Rexroad
- Retired Brother Edward P. Huhn
- Retired Brother Roy K. Brush
- Brother Ronald "Caveman" T. Canady
- Retired Brother James C. Moreland
- Brother William E. Bott, Jr.
- Brother James E. Davis
- Retired Brother Thomas O. Johns (also father of Retired Brother Jesse "Jaybird" T. Miller, III)

Family Members

- Brother Reginald B. Stewart's wife, Cheryl D. Stewart
- Brother Daryl L. Whitt's mother, Juanita A. Whitt
- Brother Patrick P. Harvey's mother, Dorothy Nell
- Brother William J. Litzinger's father, Richard Litzinger
- Brothers Tommy and Johnny G. Garrett's father, Robert G. Garrett

IBEW Local Union 26

4371 Parliament Place

Lanham, MD 20706



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NATIONAL REBUILDING DAY **APRIL 30TH**

April 30th is Rebuilding Together's National Rebuilding Day, a day for volunteers from all throughout the DC region to roll up their sleeves and pick up their tools to repair homes for area families in need. Volunteers come from companies large and small, houses of worship, and organizations such as labor unions. Many of our own Local 26 members have proudly been regular volunteers from year to year.

Rebuilding Together is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining affordable homeownership and regenerating neighborhoods by providing free house repairs and improvements to neighbors in need. Our local chapter serves Washington, DC and Alexandria, VA. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Maggie Klefstad at mk@rebuildingtogetherdca.org for more information.



[Re]Building DC.
[Re]Building Alexandria.
[Re]Building lives.