

NCharge

3rd-4th Quarters 2022
Volume 15, No. 3



HQ2 MEETS NoVA

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The First Roanoke Picnic Since 2009

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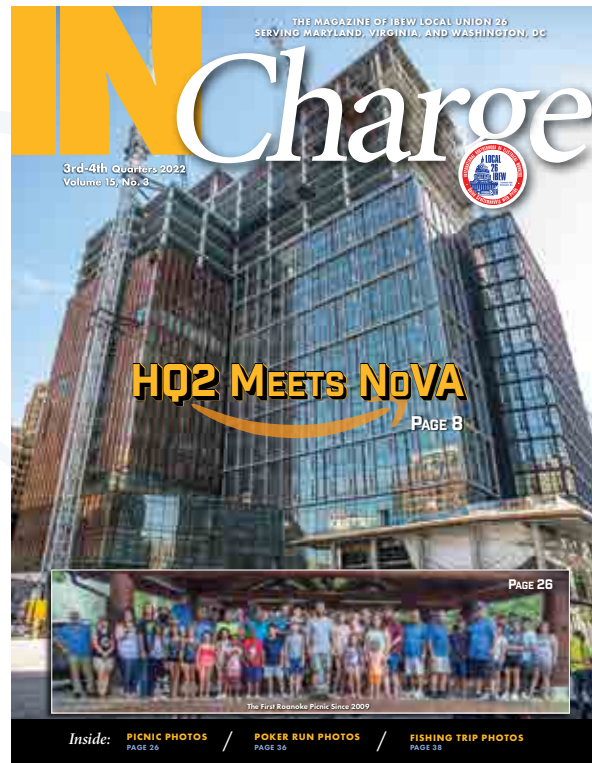
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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

**LOCAL 26 AND J.E. RICHARDS ARE HELPING AMAZON
 PLANT ROOTS IN ARLINGTON, VA**



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Licensing and Politics



Joe Dabbs
Business Manager

Before I begin my article, I want to let you know how proud I am to be your new business manager. Serving my brothers and sisters of Local 26 is truly the greatest honor of my life and I promise to lead you with honesty, determination, and distinction. Building on the accomplishments of former Business Manager George Hogan and working together with the extraordinary team of officers and agents in our Local Union, I know that Local 26 will continue to set the bar high—in the electrical industry and within the labor movement. I extend my heartfelt appreciation for the work of Brother Hogan and wish him a long, healthy retirement. I encourage each of you to reach out to me with any concerns or ideas you may have for the betterment of our Local. My door is always open and together we will go far.

Recently, changes were made to the electrical licensing requirements in Maryland and Virginia. It is important to understand the purpose, value, and far-reaching benefits of obtaining an electrical license and keeping it active throughout your career. By carrying an active license, you are able to validate your qualifications as a qualified tradesman. A trade license is permission granted by the state government to perform any business or trade for which it is issued. Governments require trade licenses to ensure skilled craftsmen install a job properly for the safety of the public.

The electrical industry, as a whole, benefits when all workers within the industry are properly trained and licensed. Think of the value added for a customer or end user who hires an electrical contractor

that is staffed with a licensed workforce. Having a licensed workforce in place gives a contractor a massive advantage when bidding a job. Now, if contract documents for a project specify that all workers performing electrical installation must be licensed, this would give our union contractors a competitive advantage that most non-union contractors could not compete with.

The IBEW prides itself on the training it provides to all members to ensure we put forth the most qualified workers in the electrical industry. With a higher degree of knowledge, skill, and ability, we work on the most complex jobs that come to market. This allows us to bargain for higher wages and benefits for the membership which carries over to the entire industry. You should see that obtaining a license and maintaining that license is important for all parties within the industry.

The State of Maryland recently enacted the new Maryland Electricians Law. For full details, follow this link on the DLLR's website, www.dllr.state.md.us/license/elec/elechowtoapply.shtml. Part of the new law allows for a six-month window to secure a license without testing. After December 31, 2022, this grandfathered rule expires.

In Virginia, another situation with licensing has come to light. Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that, at its most recent meeting on August 2, 2022, the Virginia Board for Contractors, a regulatory board under the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), took steps to reduce several regulatory barriers in the construction and

building related trades. Reducing licensing requirements for the sake of meeting industry demands only places the public at risk. Regardless of the trade, standards exist to help ensure that jobs are installed properly to ensure the public's safety. Lowering the bar for skilled craft labor training would not ease the construction workforce shortage or reduce project costs; quite the opposite, in fact. Using untrained construction workers lowers productivity and substantially increases the likelihood of on-the-job accidents; high turnover rates; and shoddy workmanship—all of which lead to costly project overruns and delays. The IBEW and our employer-partners in the National Electrical Contractors Association provide high-quality training with zero cost to participants or taxpayers. To see the IBEW response to Virginia's effort to lower training standards, please review the press releases on the IBEW's website at www.ibew.org/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Press-Releases.

Hopefully you can see the importance of being a licensed professional as well as the effects politics can have on our industry. This is one of the reasons being a member of IBEW Local Union 26 is the best path to a great career. Take pride in the work you install and represent your Union to the best of your ability. Thanks for everything you do. Stay safe!



Tom Myers
President

Multi-Employer...Fiduciary What?

Recently at a union meeting, it was brought to the attention of everyone present (you were there, right?) that there had been a benefit increase that basically amounted to an additional well-baby visit for children covered by the health plan. This was necessary because the number of well-baby visits initially allowed by the plan didn't match the number of visits required to receive all of the vaccinations recommended by doctors, so it seemed like a great idea and the trustees made the change. After the meeting I was asked what a trustee is. It hit me then that while I have explained what benefits we have as brothers and sisters working under our various contracts, I have never explained how those funds are managed. "Hey Tom, you're right! I would like to know how all that trustee stuff works." Great, sit back and get some learning on.

IBEW Local 26 has various funds, most of which I have described from the viewpoint of how we benefit from them as union members, hence why they're called benefit funds. The main ones are the EWTF (health), the Pension, the Annuity, and the JATTF (Joint Apprenticeship Training Trust Fund). Each of these funds are managed by a board of representatives called trustees (the list of trustees can be found on the Local's webpage, www.ibewlocal26.org/trustees). Now these trust funds are managed by an equal number of labor trustees and management trustees. Additionally, each fund has rules that must be followed to be in compliance with the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). None of these funds can be controlled by either side (labor or management) alone. There are quarterly meetings where the trustees gather to discuss many topics. What kind of topics, you ask? Funding percentages, expenses, litigation that may affect the fund, accounting, benefit improvements (or reductions if needed), future planning, meeting new laws imposed by various state and federal governments, investment strategies for the

actual funds, staffing, appeals, etc., etc., etc. A recent example would be the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. If you remember, the trustees created a means by which a participant (somebody who is covered by a given fund) could draw money out of their individual account plan to help in a time of crisis. It was a temporary plan designed to meet the needs of the participants who, through no fault of their own, were out of work. That plan has expired now and the normal rules are back in effect. BOTH MANAGEMENT AND LABOR had to agree to do that, and to the conditions under which it would be allowed. Another example is the recent \$5.00 increase to the pension credit. Yep, that was agreed to by both sides of the trustee table. With input from the accountant, lawyers, and actuaries, the trustees determined that the fund could afford that increase, and that it would be a prudent use of the funds.

"Tom, that is all well and good but what the heck is a multi-employer fund? I only work for one employer." Well, that is only partially true; you only work for one employer at a time. The vast majority of us have worked for many employers throughout our careers. The key thing is, regardless of which contractor you are working for, your benefits come from the same place. You guessed it, THE FUNDS. Unlike benefit programs that are sponsored and controlled by one employer for their own employees, a multi-employer benefit trust fund is a fund that is created solely for the benefit of collectively bargained employees working for many employers. The fund is maintained pursuant to a trust agreement and one or more collective bargaining agreements. Employers and the union negotiate the fund into the applicable collective bargaining agreement and negotiate employers to contribute to the fund at certain specified rates for the benefit plans that are negotiated (medical, dental, vision, etc.). These funds are often referred to as Taft-Hartley Funds because of the Taft-Hartley Act that was passed in 1947 (otherwise known as

the Labor Management Relations Act or LMRA). This act was passed by Congress to regulate organized labor practices and define standards for union benefit funds.

Most of our contractors could not afford to provide the benefits that we receive if they had to pay for them by themselves. Through collective bargaining, the union negotiates rates per hour that are pooled for the benefit of every participant, we get better benefits and the contractors get a reduced cost for the benefits as compared to a stand-alone company. Additionally, because the funds are paid to the trusts, your benefits follow you from company to company throughout your career. Remember, the dollar amount per hour worked is for the fund, not for the participant, and those rates are negotiated by the union so that the fund can provide the benefits promised in the plan description (all of which can be found at EWTF.org)

"So, trustees come from labor and management, and they get a lot of training about fiduciary responsibility? But Tom, you're going to have to explain that." Oh, sorry. A fiduciary is someone who has a LEGAL responsibility to act in the best interest of the participants of a given fund, meaning that when I am acting as a trustee of a given fund, I am legally required to act in the interest of the fund participants, WITHOUT REGARD TO MY ROLE AS A UNION MEMBER. For example, I, as president of Local 26, would love to raise the pension benefit to let's say \$120 per credit year. It would be great, and all of you would like it too. Here is the problem: If we did raise the credit dollar amount to that rate today, the fund would immediately go into the red. Doing that would be fiduciarily irresponsible because it is not in the best interest of the fund and would be a violation of the ERISA laws. "Tom, how do you know it would go into the red?" Earlier I mentioned those quarterly meetings and in those meetings are professionals who assist us—lawyers, accountants, actuaries, investment



Rich Wilkinson
Vice President

Be Prepared to Be Safe On the Job and Off

managers...you get it. Those professionals are experts in their given fields, just like you guys are experts in the electrical construction field. I would not want an accountant wiring my house any more than I would want an electrician doing actuarial studies on the impact of a \$25.00 increase to a benefit that covers every single (living) member, past and present, out for the next 50+ years. So, the trustees task all of the professionals with certain duties, those professionals make recommendations to the trustees and then the TRUSTEES, as the fiduciaries, make the final decision. During trustee training (every year or two) they always say that as a trustee you have to take off your labor or management hat and put on your trustee hat, and make decisions that are in the best interest of the fund and its purpose. Sometimes the decisions made by trustees are not good for every single participant, but are good for the whole. Other times decisions are made that are good for the fund, and, therefore, all the participants, but are unpopular to certain individuals for whatever reason. "Hey Tom, why can't I get maintenance medicine from my corner drug store?" Because the Fund Office has negotiated for the same medicine at a 20% discount from the mail-in pharmacy. While the difference to your individual prescription might only be \$15, multiply that out by 3000 prescriptions of the same type—monthly—and then add the multitude of various costs and prescriptions for everyone. That is an INSANE savings, and for the exact same medicine most of the time. A trustee weighs the benefit of a certain action against the total fund, not against his or her goals as labor or management. The decisions a trustee makes must be fiduciarily prudent, not necessarily popular. Put another way, if a trustee makes a decision that benefits a few but hurts the whole, that is illegal. There is a whole lot more to it, but this is a good start. So, a multi-employer fiduciary is what? Now you know, and knowing is half the...

Brothers and Sisters, I want to focus this article on safety. We are all aware of the importance of safety on the job as it relates to using proper safety gear, working in a safe manner, and never taking shortcuts. However, there are external conditions that we must also remember when considering jobsite safety, and even safety off the job in our everyday lives.

As we find ourselves on the verge of winter, weather is going to play a big factor in how we work and live and we shouldn't underestimate the impact that extreme conditions can have on our safety on the job and off. Just as you prepared this past summer to work in extreme heat by staying hydrated, taking breaks in the shade when possible, and wearing cooler clothing, you should plan in a similar way for the colder months that lie ahead. Look in your closet to make sure you have cold weather clothing you can wear in layers when the temperature drops and make sure you have insulated, waterproof boots to keep your feet warm and dry when the snow comes.

Now would also be a good time to refresh your memory on the signs of frostbite and what action to take if you suspect frostbite. Signs of frostbite include cold skin with a prickling feeling; numbness; skin that looks red, white, bluish-white, grayish-yellow, purplish, brown or ashen; clumsiness due to joint and muscle stiffness; and blistering after rewarming.

If you believe you or a co-worker have frostbite call for emergency medical help and while waiting for help to arrive:

- move to a warm area to prevent further heat loss
- remove wet clothing
- remove all constrictive clothing and jewelry that may block blood flow
- give the person warm, non-alcoholic,

non-caffeinated fluids

- do not try to re-warm the affected area and do not rub the frozen area
- keep the affected area away from direct sources of heat, such as hot water, heaters, hair dryers, etc.
- protect the affected area from further cold
- avoid walking on frostbitten feet
- reduce pain with a pain reliever

It would be smart to keep extra clothes and shoes in your car in case you need more layers or your clothes and/or shoes get wet. And, speaking of your car, make sure your car is winter proofed so that you can be safe driving in colder, perhaps snowy or icy, conditions. Make sure your car is up-to-date on its regular maintenance and oil changes and fluids are topped off to reduce the chances of getting stuck in dangerous weather conditions. Always keep warm blankets and water in your car in the event that your car breaks down in bad weather.

Don't forget the impact that cold weather can have on those in the community. If you can, please consider donating cold weather gear, socks, and undergarments to homeless shelters in your community. These things are badly needed this time of year. And, of course, please donate any gently used winter coats you may have to our Local 26 Coat Drive to give the gift of warmth to someone in need. Even our four-legged friends should be considered with the coming of winter. Please do not leave your pets outside on cold days or nights as they need warmth too.

Living and working in the Washington, DC area means living and working in sometimes unpredictable weather conditions which makes it that much more important to be prepared on the job and off.



Chris Cash
Financial Secretary

Retirement: It Will Come Sooner Than You Think

As I am getting settled here at the Finance Office, I have noticed that there are a lot more members preparing for retirement. On October 1, 2022, there was a Retirement Seminar held at our Lanham facility. There were 238 attendees, including members and their spouses. Even with the remnants of Hurricane Ian upon us, we had a great turnout.

The topics covered at the October Pension Seminar included:

- International Pension – Presented by Chris Cash – www.IBEWLocal26.org
- NEBF Pension – Presented by Larry Bradley and Darrin Golden – www.NEBF.com
- Local 26 Pension – Presented by Robin Balint from EWTF – www.EWTF.org
- Individual Account Plan (Annuity) – Presented by Paul Vutiprichar from Fidelity Investments—www.Fidelity.com
- Silver Scripts – Presented by Luis Carbajal from CVS – www.CVShealth.com

I get very excited when I share information regarding retirement. There is so much information and so little time. Everyone should attend this type of seminar, at least once, if not twice, before they retire. The presenters go into great detail regarding our pension and retirement benefits helping our members and spouses fully understand the benefits that will help them live with peace of mind in retirement. The next Retirement Seminar is scheduled for

Saturday, April 1, 2023. Look for a post-card reminder that will be in the mail at the beginning of the new year.



With retirement in mind, I would like to remind everyone how important it is to pay your dues and try to be timely so you do not incur any extra costs. One question I have been getting a lot is, “When do I stop paying dues?” You must continue paying your dues until you retire from the International regardless of the status of your other pensions. By now you should have also received a letter stating all the new per capita rates that make up our monthly/quarterly dues. The amount of \$4.00 per month or \$12.00 per quarter will be the increase beginning January 1, 2023. These items, among other things, were mentioned in last quarter’s article. There will also be an increase to the Pension Benefit Fund from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per month beginning in 2023.

I also want to remind you of our new Challenge Coin (pictured right) awarded to those who pay their full year’s dues all at once. The coin is a true collector’s item customized to the current year. I hope this special coin incentiviz-

es all of our members to pay their annual dues in one payment.

Finally, I have been busy with designing new items for the webstore. Please take the time to visit the website at ibew26.imagepointe.com. There you will find the latest items and apparel offered by IBEW Local 26 to show your Local 26 pride.



The Finance Office is here to help you any way we can, whether it be an address change, payments, or just general questions. If you need anything, reach out to us as we are here to help. I would like to thank every member of this great Union for their support. I hope to see every sister and brother at the next Union meeting or planned event. Be sure to come up and say hello!





Mark Pontello
Organizer

Local 26's Organizing Efforts Are Rapidly Expanding into Schools and Communities

The Organizing Department is continually finding, vetting, and bringing non-union electrical workers into membership to Local 26. We are drawing a lot of contacts from the Career Opportunities page on the Local's website. Many of the candidates have indicated that they were referred to Local 26 by a current member who advised them to fill out the contact form. A sincere thank you, from the organizers, goes out to the members who have been actively promoting Local 26.

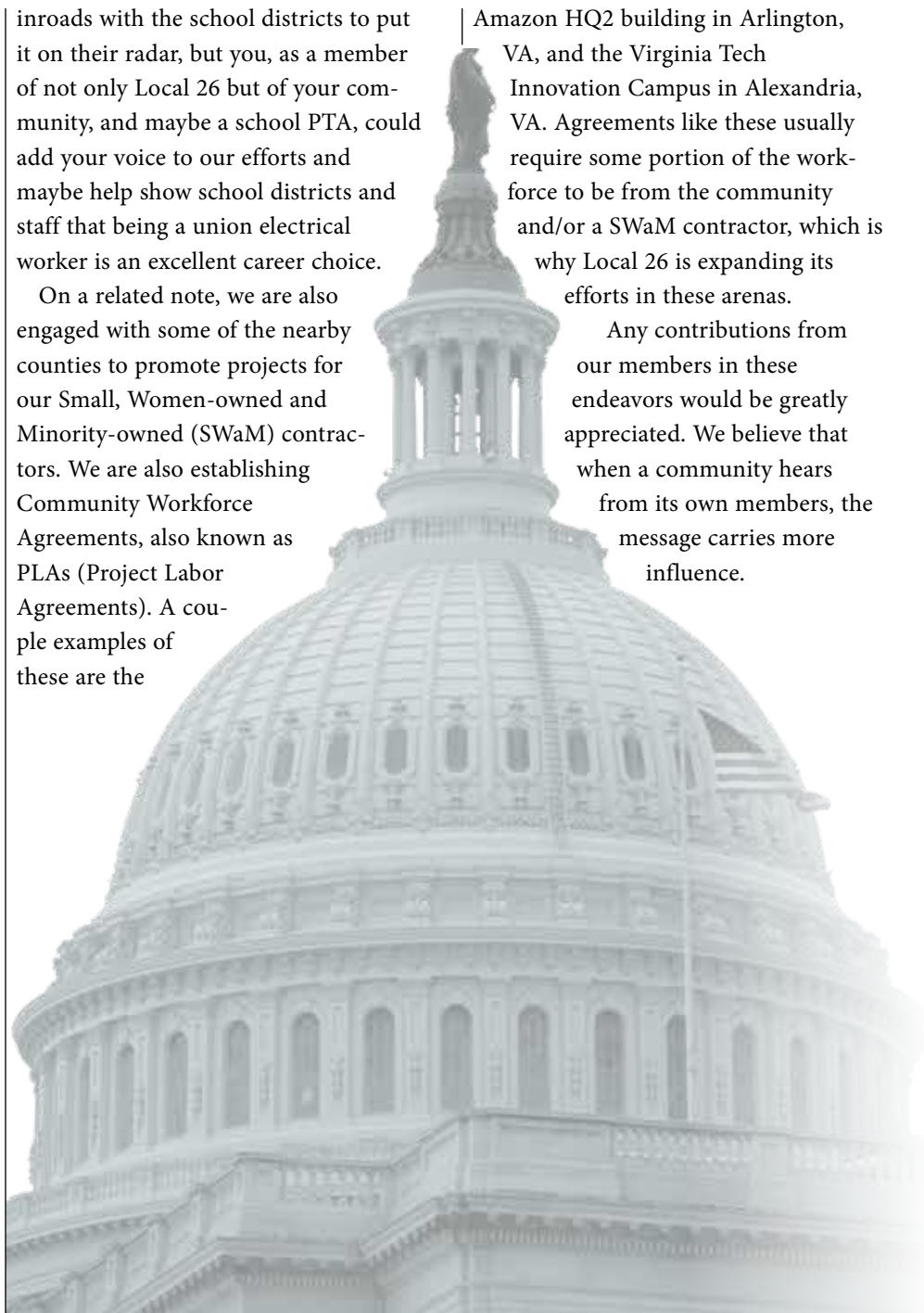
We are continuing to expand our outreach methods to attract new members. One method we have been focused on is trying to connect with potential members who are still in high school or even younger. We have participated in industry nights and job fairs, both virtually and in-person. We have done this independently and with the JATC and some of our contractor representatives with good success. We are sure that you have seen posts with Gary Hall, Luis Gonzalez, and Kyle McMillan on the Local's social media pages. This is in an effort to remind younger folks, who may be undecided on their future, that Local 26 is a very real option and an opportunity for a great career. We are going to continue with this effort with a goal of getting the local schools, parents, and communities to recognize what we have to offer and see us as the workforce of tomorrow. We are trying to make

inroads with the school districts to put it on their radar, but you, as a member of not only Local 26 but of your community, and maybe a school PTA, could add your voice to our efforts and maybe help show school districts and staff that being a union electrical worker is an excellent career choice.

On a related note, we are also engaged with some of the nearby counties to promote projects for our Small, Women-owned and Minority-owned (SWaM) contractors. We are also establishing Community Workforce Agreements, also known as PLAs (Project Labor Agreements). A couple examples of these are the

Amazon HQ2 building in Arlington, VA, and the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in Alexandria, VA. Agreements like these usually require some portion of the workforce to be from the community and/or a SWaM contractor, which is why Local 26 is expanding its efforts in these arenas.

Any contributions from our members in these endeavors would be greatly appreciated. We believe that when a community hears from its own members, the message carries more influence.



HQ2 MEETS NOVA

PICTURED BELOW, FROM LEFT: RETIRED BUSINESS MANAGER GEORGE HOGAN, FOREMAN TIM FLEMING, TYLER PATTERSON, AND BUSINESS MANAGER JOE DABBS



PICTURED ABOVE, FROM LEFT: RETIRED BUSINESS MANAGER GEORGE HOGAN, SUPERINTENDANT DAVE BASTAIN, BUSINESS AGENT CORDELIA EVANS, FOREMAN KENNY HIGGINS, BUSINESS MANAGER JOE DABBS, GENERAL FOREMAN MARK SCULLY, SUPERINTENDENT DANNY GROHT, AND GENERAL FOREMAN JUSTIN LITTLEFORD



JE RICHARDS CREW, JULY 2021

Local 26 and J.E. Richards are helping Amazon plant roots in Arlington, VA.

When the world's largest online retailer, now also the world's largest retailer outside of China, makes a business decision, you know it's going to be big, really big. And, actually we would expect nothing less from Amazon.

Last year, Amazon reported nearly \$470 billion, yes billion, in revenue. The company currently carries 33 subsidiaries, ranging from online book services to Zappos online shoe store to the Ring doorbell company to the Whole Foods grocery chain, under its corporate umbrella. However, their catalogue of subsidiaries is constantly expanding because if there is one thing you can always count on with Amazon, it's their commitment to evolving and growing their company.



SOUTH TOWER TENANT INSTALL (TI) CREW, APRIL 2022



BRAYDEN BANE AND AUSTIN WEBBER



PICTURED FROM LEFT: LABOR SUPERINTENDENT BILL MCGRAW, PROJECT MANAGER DAVE EDWARDS, AND SUPERINTENDANT CHARLIE DEPHILLIP



KNEELING FROM LEFT: JOHN PEYTON, TYLER GETGEN, BRET NEISER, ALEXANDER MORGAN, WILLIAM KNOTT, AND HUNTER SLOAN. BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: RETIRED BUSINESS MANAGER GEORGE HOGAN, DEREKE JONES, CAMERON DERIEUX, ERSKINE COLEMAN (LOCAL 131), JONATHAN LOPEZ, BUSINESS MANAGER JOE DABBS, DOUGLAS McLATCHIE, AND GENERAL FOREMAN MARK SCULLY



BASE BUILDING SOUTH TOWER CREW



VINH NGUYEN



SHELDON MOOREFIELD AND
IZAACK CHANNEL

Most recently that commitment can be seen and felt here in our Local 26 jurisdiction where Amazon is currently in the process of building its second headquarters—HQ2—on a 10.4-acre parcel of Arlington, VA, once known as National Landing. This area had long been one of the largest undeveloped parcels of land close to DC and was once considered for a major league ballpark. Now it's home to Amazon's latest project, a multi-phase, multi-purpose city-within-a-city that, upon completion, will include 50,000 square feet of retail space, high-rise office buildings, a 2.5-acre public park, biking paths, and even a new high school. The prime piece of land in Arlington is within walking distance to the Metro station at Pentagon City. And then there's the Helix Building. The centerpiece of this project will be a 350-foot-high spiral glass building called the Helix, shaped like a double helix, which will house alternative work spaces for Amazon employees, and will even have walking paths on the outside of the building.

The massive project is broken up into two phases, two communities within the larger plan. The first phase, which will be complete in 2023, is known as Metropolitan Park, and includes two office towers, retail, and the public park. The second phase, which will include the Helix building and two more office buildings, is known as PenPlace, and isn't expected to be complete until 2025.

Under the umbrella of general contractor Clark Construction, hundreds of



PICTURED FROM LEFT: RETIRED BUSINESS MANAGER GEORGE HOGAN,
GENERAL FOREMAN KENNY KRONK, BUSINESS MANAGER JOE DABBS,
AND GENERAL FOREMAN MARK SCULLY



SOUTH TOWER TENANT INSTALL (TI) CREW



TENANT INSTALL (TI) CREW



SOUTH TOWER TENANT INSTALL (TI) CREW



PICTURED FROM LEFT: CHRIS LANDEROS, FOREMAN RYAN SIMPSON, AND BUSINESS MANAGER JOE DABBS



WILLIAM KNOTT



MARCUS MELTON



ANDRE MILTON



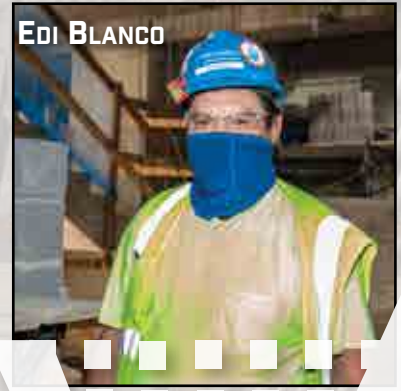
TYRONE SMITH



SOUTH TOWER FIRE ALARM CREW



**FOREMAN
BRIAN BAKER**



EDI BLANCO



**PICTURED BELOW, FROM LEFT: KYLE BOOKER,
FOREMAN MARTY O'NEIL, AND SEAN FAIRLEY**



**PICTURED FROM LEFT: GENERAL FOREMAN MARK SCULLY, JONATHAN LOPEZ, RONALD MINNER,
JASPER HUGGINS, JOSHUA GRAHE, AND JOHNNY NOLASCO**



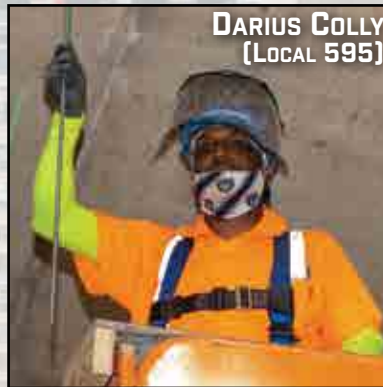
**AARON LIVENGOOD AND RETIRED BUSINESS
MANAGER GEORGE HOGAN**



EDDIE MURPHY AND DONALD PADDY



**OTIS COLLIER AND
FLOYD COLLINS**



**DARIUS COLLY
(LOCAL 595)**



**FOREMAN MARCHELLA
GOUGH**



**PICTURED FROM LEFT: MILTON GARCIA, LIGHTING FOREMAN PHIL WHEELER,
BUSINESS MANAGER JOE DABBS, GENERAL FOREMAN MARK SCULLY**

Local 26 electricians—550 at peak—hired by J.E. Richards have been working to bring the Metropolitan Park vision to life. J.E. Richards has been in business since 1983 and has been an important signatory contractor of Local 26 since its inception. In March of 2020, J.E. Richards' first crew came on site to install the temporary electrical system for the construction work. In July of 2020, building construction began and in October of 2021 tenant improvements began. The Local 26 work on this phase of the project is expected to be finished in the third quarter of 2023. The sheer number of tradespeople on the job required an army of highly skilled foremen to ensure that the project ran smoothly, efficiently, and safely. The foremen on the project have included: Danny Groht, Charlie DePhillip, Mark Scully, Justin Littleford, Kenny Higgins, Benji Vess, Phillip Wheeler, Kenny Kronk, Ryan Simpson, Marty O'Neil, Tim Fleming, Brian Baker, Brian Benson, Danny Breece, Ryan Kruckow, Bryan Fraley, Matthew Bateman, Jamie Berstler, David Thompson, Lewis "Owen" Loyd, Aaron Stepler-Krieg, Jon Spivey, Luke Trevathan, Kyle Kyllonen, Rick Arnold, Josh Martin, Steven Berry, Mike Berggren, John Aulhouse, Ward "Cole" Brincefield, Jr., Mario Butron, Michael Callaway, Brian Carney, Martin Coen, Brandon Forsman, Marchella Gough, Breon Grant, Douglas Gregory, David Hartman, Jasper Hudgins, Scott



SOUTH TOWER CENTER OF ENERGY CREW



PICTURED FROM LEFT: SUPERINTENDENT DANNY GROHT, PROJECT MANAGER ROBERT CORKHILL, SUPERINTENDENT CHARLIE DePHILLIP, LABOR SUPERINTENDENT BILL MCGRAW, AND BUSINESS AGENT TOM CLARK



KNEELING FROM LEFT: MICHAEL BERGGREN, GREG CAMPER, SHELDON MOOREFIELD, AND VICTOR NOVA. STANDING FROM LEFT: SUPERINTENDENT DANNY GROHT, GENERAL FOREMAN JUSTIN LITTLEFORD, ALBERT MCLANE, JR., HUNG NGUYEN, MATT BATEMAN, DANIEL MILLAN, GAVIN BARBITTA, RYAN SIMPSON, WIDEN KORNER, AND STEPHEN PULEIO.



PICTURED FROM LEFT: PATRIS SHAHAMATDAR, ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ, FOREMAN RYAN POTTS, AND FOREMAN JONATHAN SPIVEY



PICTURED FROM LEFT: RETIRED BUSINESS MANAGER GEORGE HOGAN, SUPERINTENDENT KEN HIGGINS, FOREMAN DAVID RABITOR, AND BUSINESS MANAGER JOE DABBS



PICTURED FROM LEFT: ERIC PEREZ, CHRISTIAN LOPEZ, ISAAC VELASQUEZ, DONALD PADDY, SEAN FAIRLEY, TYLER PATTERSON, VICTOR DEL CID, FOREMAN TIM FLEMING, SUPERINTENDENT DANNY GROHT, MARK SCULLY, LABOR SUPERINTENDENT BILL MCGRAW, SUPERINTENDENT CHARLIE DEPHILLIP, AND MARTY O'NEIL

Kirkner, Ryan Kroll, Elmer Marquina, Brycelyn Miller, Mike Moszczynski, Garret Perry, Jason Rawlings, Juan Ruiz, Todd Stephens, Andrew Winslow, and Dave Zetscher.

The J.E. Richards' crew has installed all of the power, lighting, and fire alarm systems. At over 1 million manhours so far, the crew has already installed 35,000 light fixtures, 12,000 fire alarm devices, 245 miles of conduit, 800 miles of MC cable, 2000 miles of wire and 36 miles of MI cable. All of this has been installed in 2.5 million square feet of office space and 1 million square feet of parking garage space.

Amazon has noted that one of their major goals on this project was to design and build with a goal of net-zero carbon in mind. This goal aligns with Amazon's partnership with The Climate Pledge, a consortium of the world's top companies committed to reaching net-zero carbon by 2040. In pursuit of that goal, HQ2 will have strictly electric operations for their building systems and food service and have committed to powering 100% of its operations with renewable energy received from an offsite solar farm in Virginia. Given Amazon's commitment to the environment, building their new home needed to also be environmentally focused as well. The buildings at Metropolitan Park have earned a LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Platinum is the highest rating awarded and is only



**ISAAC
VELASQUEZ**



QUEEN MCKNIGHT



**PICTURED FROM LEFT: RETIRED BUSINESS MANAGER
GEORGE HOGAN, ALTON AUGUSTINE (LOCAL 130),
AND BUSINESS MANAGER JOE DABBS**



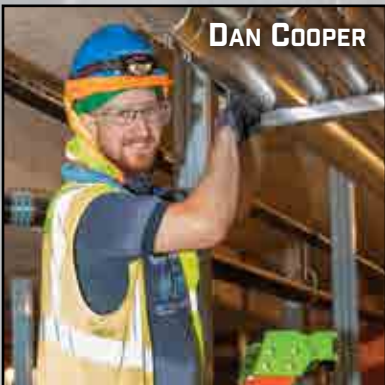
JESSIE MCGLAUGHLIN



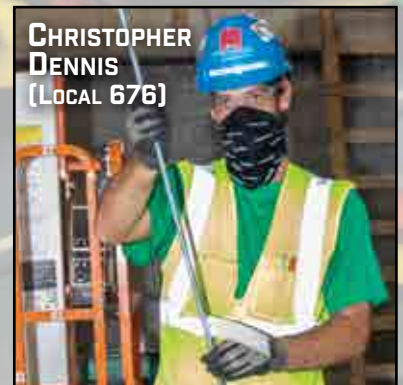
JANIE OLIVER



**PICTURED FROM LEFT: DEREKE JONES, BRET NEISER,
VICTOR CHINCHILLA, AND ERROL CRUTCHFIELD (LOCAL 24)**



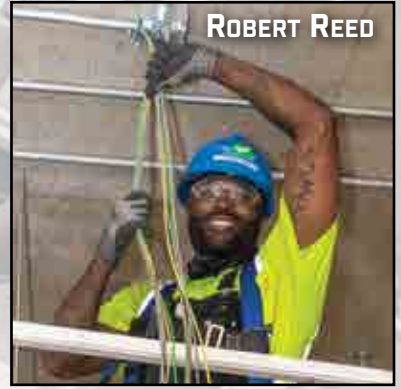
DAN COOPER



**CHRISTOPHER
DENNIS
(LOCAL 676)**



CHRIS REID



ROBERT REED



PICTURED FROM LEFT: DJ LITTLEFORD, PETER BACENET, AND CHRISTIAN BONILLA



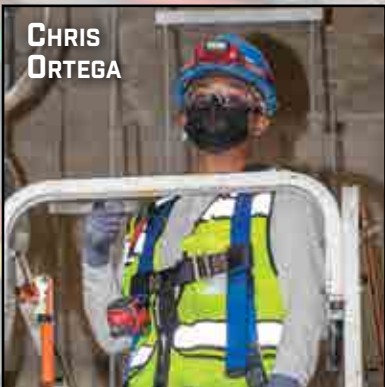
WILLIAM SORTO



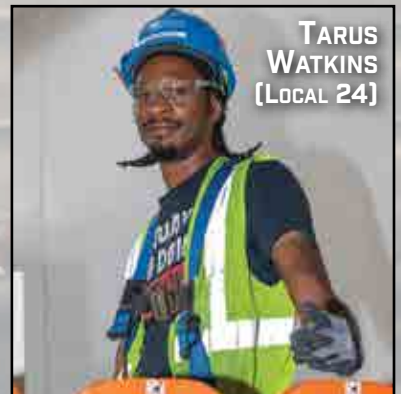
JAMES CHARLES



PICTURED FROM LEFT: MICHAEL PEYTON, CHARLES GHRER, AND RONALD WEAREN



CHRIS ORTEGA



**TARUS WATKINS
(LOCAL 24)**



BASE BUILDING CREW



NORTH TOWER TENANT INSTALL (TI) CREW



NORTH TOWER TENANT INSTALL (TI) CREW



FIRE ALARM CREW, PICTURED FRONT, FROM LEFT: EDWARD WEYANT, SOTHEARAK NOU, TELISHA WILSON, JANIE OLIVER, AND MIKE SIMONDS. PICTURED BACK, FROM LEFT: SUPERINTENDENT KEN HIGGINS, DAKOTA POOLE, FOREMAN OWEN LLOYD, ORION LLOYD, CHRIS BATTLE, GERARD UMERLEY, TIM JACOBS, NAM KIM, JESSE MCGLAUGHLIN, AND NELSON CIENFUEGOS.



achieved when 80+ points are earned through the review process, which focuses on energy and atmosphere; indoor environmental quality; integrative process; location and transportation; materials and resources; and sustainable sites.

This project was monumental in scope and coordination noted Superintendent Charlie DePhillip. “Getting the correct manpower for the job was tough in a time of work being plentiful. We created a lot of opportunities for workers to be part of one of the largest projects on the east coast, and we brought in a lot of travelers from other areas to help out which created a very diversified group of talented electricians,” he stated. “It’s amazing to walk through the building and see how in a couple weeks’ time the floors went from being bare to paint on the walls with lights burning.”

Clark Construction Vice President John Swagart echoed Brother DePhillip’s sentiment about the Local 26 crew saying, “When I walk into the vaults I cannot help but admire the craftsmanship. The organization of the runs, the cables and the bends are artwork, professionally done and sets the bar high for attention to details and quality.” He added, “This craftsmanship has filtered through in many other aspects of the project positively. J.E. Richards’ field leadership expects this type of quality and production and it shows. I was impressed by how early the QAQC teams were formed



BASE BUILDING CREW



PICTURED FROM LEFT: MICHAEL MOSCZYNSKI, PHILLIP BALL, AND CHRISTOPHER TILSON



TYLER GETGEN



ROGUE AMAYA LINO

GUNNAR KEENAN





FAUSTO NUNEZ PAZ AND NABIEU BOCKARI



LUIS VILLAR AND DENIS VARGAS



KNEELING FROM LEFT: SOON HONG, TYRONE SMITH, DENY MOLINA, AND BUSINESS AGENT TOM CLARK. STANDING FROM LEFT: DARIUS COLLY (LOCAL 595), ANTHONY LONGORIA, ANDRE MILTON, FOREMAN BRIAN BAKER, GENERAL FOREMAN MARK SCULLY, JONATHAN WAGNER (LOCAL 474), AND SUPERINTENDENT CHARLIE DePHILLIP.

and equally as impressed by the quality and quantity of prefabrication. We identified potential supply chain issues and J.E. Richards was able to mitigate those potential issues by prefabricating all of the electric rooms.”

Just as Amazon completely transformed the online shopping experiencing as we once knew it into a streamlined, modernized, and comprehensive one-stop-shop, so too has their new headquarters transformed Arlington, VA, as we once knew. In fact, this massive project has redefined what a corporate headquarters can look like and how it can function within a community. The members of Local 26 are proud to be part of a team that can work seamlessly with the biggest of corporations while staying committed to the integrity of the communities that make up our Local 26 jurisdiction.



CENTER OF ENERGY CREW

Retired Members' Club Enjoyed a Busy Fall

We had a busy summer and fall. At the end of August, we sent out our annual raffle tickets for our Medical Equipment Program and switched to a committee to coordinate drop-offs and pick-ups. So, if you need something please call Bob Cunningham at 410-299-3717, Maurice Griffin at 301-885-7989, or Bill Koennel at 301-355-0056. Susan has retired from this job.

In September, we helped with the Local 26 Motorcycle Club's Poker Run for Special Love. President Bissell won the worst hand and donated his winnings back to Special Love.

In October, we held our Annual Retired Members' Club Crab Feast. It was beautiful weather the day before and the day after... but true autumn weather on October 8th. For those who braved the cold there were plenty of crabs and other delicious food. The crab soup was a great warm-up. Hopefully next year we can have an indoor venue.

This year the Retirement Seminar was held in-person. Go to the "Events" page on our website to watch the seminar if you missed it. Remember, new retirees, we are here for you to share time with some of your "old" coworkers. Take advantage of this opportunity! Working members and their spouses are welcome to join us as well. Those age 50 and above can join the Club before they retire!

The drawing for our our annual raffle was held November 12th at our regular meeting. Our meetings are available via Zoom, as well as in-person, so no excuses for not attending. Members should receive the Zoom link via email. If you are not on our email list, but would like to join the Zoom, contact Sister Flashman via email at flashmanbissell@aol.com.

We look forward to our annual parties in December and the adventures in 2023. Now that Covid appears to be subsiding, we hope more of you will attend our regular meetings (the 2nd Saturday of the month at noon).

Congratulations to the following members who have retired:

June 2022

- Robert M. Newman
- John R. Kempe
- Darren M. Sullivan
- Kevin P. Kiggins
- Randall W. Irvine

July 2022

- Charles R. Tanner
- Daniel T. Hilf
- Richard G. Brawner
- Kevin R. Donovan
- Dennis C. Wilson
- Mark L. Burkhart
- Lee T. Wiggs, Jr.
- David J. Belcher
- Theodore J. Kirkland
- Nicholas I. Gardner
- Robert L. Schalk

August 2022

- Daniel J. Posey, Sr.
- Kenneth D. Rye
- Gregg P. Schanne
- Clinton B. Hylton
- Preston C. Fowler
- Daniel W. Johnson, Jr.
- Richard W. Fries, Jr.
- Alan L. Middleton
- Gary M. Ebbes
- Charles E. Graham
- Marcus G. Avelleyra
- Gregory A. Meterko

September 2022

- Paul B. Nowak
- Patrick S. Gayle
- Jeffrey R. Bransome
- Otis K. Foster, Jr.
- Barry W. Rye
- Brian M. Smith, Sr.
- Donald L. Walker
- Frank J. Minott

October 2022

- Paul G. Disharoon
- Darrell E. Dixon
- Torrence S. Edwards
- Russell A. Galpin
- George C. Hogan
- Lambert J. Marlow
- Phillip C. McDonald
- John E. Shreve
- Gregory B. Surniak
- Frank A. Szumilo, Jr.
- Michael C. Young
- Tony A. Callaway
- John J. Hartshorne
- Robert J. Quesinberry
- John Maher, Jr.
- Jon D. McMaster
- Kevin D. Sharp
- Joseph P. Bardales
- Steven E. Carle

November 2022

- Joseph Malovrh
- Stanley L. Eaton, II

Birth Announcement

Brother Christopher P. Fanning and his wife, Chelsey, welcomed a baby boy on June 25, 2022. **Declan Paul Fanning** was born weighing 9 lbs., 3 oz. and measuring 19.5" long. Also welcoming Declan was his proud grandfather, **Brother Larry J. Clark**.





Local 26 Officers and Board Members were sworn into office. Pictured above, front row, from left: Nondas Mouhanis, Executive Board; Richard Murphy, Recording Secretary; Tom Clark, Executive Board; Robert Fritz, Examining Board; and Joe Dabbs, Business Manager. Back row, from left: Kyle McMillan, Examining Board; Paulo Henriques, Treasurer; Mark Pontello, Examining Board; Chris Brooks, Executive Board; Tom Myers, President; and Chris Cash, Financial Secretary.



Local 26 hosted the Maryland/DC Alliance for Retired Americans' Expanded Executive Board Meeting to discuss issues of importance to seniors and retired workers.



Pictured above, from left: Mark Lizzi, 40 years; Charlie Redding (back), 50 years; Gary Hutt, 35 years; Dennis Holsinger, 50 years; Larry Greenhill, Sr., 50 years; Victor Freeman, 40 years; Don Simmel, 40 years; Joe Harbin, 50 years; Paul Robinson (back), 50 years; Dick Bissell, RMC president; George Siegrist (back), 50 years; Barbara Brody accepting for Vincent Blount, 30 years; Clarence Harris (back), 50 years; Randolph Scott, 50 years; Nedly Harwood, 50 years; and Rick White (on screen via Zoom), 45 years

Three Union Picnics Brought Local 26 Together this Past Summer

The Local 26 picnics have become a summertime tradition in our Local Union, greeted with great excitement by everyone who calls Local 26 home. There is literally something for everyone at our three picnics, from our distinguished retirees to the youngest members of our union family. If carnival rides thrill you, a water park makes you feel like a kid again, outstanding food is your idea of a great picnic or fun music makes you feel

like dancing, the Local 26 picnics were the place for you to make memories this past summer.

On June 25th, our Manassas area members and their families enjoyed a day at Signal Hill Park where the water park was enjoyed by the young and young at heart. On July 16th, our Roanoke area members and families spent the day together at Loch Haven Lake where time on the lake marked the first picnic held

in Roanoke since 2009. And, on August 20th, Camp Letts in Edgewater, MD, was the host site for the Maryland-area picnic where carnival rides and games made the day special.

No matter where our members joined their Local 26 brothers and sisters for a good old-fashioned union picnic this past summer, there is no doubt that fun was had and memories were made!

Roanoke, VA





Manassas, VA





Edgewater, MD





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

- Online Banking and E-statements
- 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

- Regular savings, checking, Christmas Club and IRA accounts
- College student checking - Special benefits for members ages 18-26 attending college
- Youth accounts

VISA CARDS

- VISA Debit/ATM - Over 55,000 surcharge-free ATMs worldwide
- Card Self Service - Use IVR (Interactive Voice Response) to activate new, reissued, or replacement debit cards and PIN changes
- Platinum VISA Credit Card - Great rates based on your credit score
- Card Valet - Control when, where, and how your card can be used by turning it off and on
- EMV Credit and Debit Cards

CONSUMER LOANS

- Credit builder, tool loans, automobile, motorcycle loans, signature loans, line of credit
- Boat and RV loans
- New & used vehicle buying services
- 1st mortgages and HELOC loans

OTHER SERVICES

- Debt Protection
- GAP PLUS Insurance
- 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
301-306-0610



Electrical Alliance and Environmentalists Pursue a Green Energy Collaboration that Supports Workers

On August 28th environmentalists, contractors, manufacturers, and union members formed a new coalition. The goal of this collaboration is to advocate for labor standards in green energy legislation at the state and local level while working together on active federal projects.

The event was hosted by Local 26 at our headquarters in Lanham, Maryland and focused on finding ways to pursue a greener future without sacrificing workers' equity.

The attendees discussed creating partnerships on upcoming projects like EV charging stations and large-scale solar arrays. They also discussed legislative priorities like prevailing wage, wage theft protections, and community workforce agreements.

Historically, labor and the green movement have been at odds over the acceleration towards a clean economy because of low wages in green tech construction and rampant worker abuses.

"It's a tough ask for a mine worker making ~\$60,000/yr or a pipeline welder making ~\$70,000/yr to cut their salaries in half installing solar panels, with no healthcare, retirement, or time off," said Don Slaiman, Local 26 Political Consultant. "The solar industry was rolled out by the Rahm Emanuel staffed White House which prioritized investing in green entrepreneurs to kick start and drive the indus-



try which resulted in prioritizing a race to the bottom. The Biden Administration is emphasizing labor standards and matching sustainable jobs with the goal of achieving a sustainable environment—Green Energy careers!"

This partnership between the labor and environmentalist movements aims to mend that rift and ensure that, moving forward, the transition to a clean economy is equitable for everyone in the community.

The solar installation field represents a unique opportunity for orga-

nized labor and the IBEW. These large-scale solar arrays need to be built by union contractors. At the same time, the current solar installers have an opportunity, a pathway to a meaningful career with higher pay and benefits as union electricians.

"Ultimately, we have to make sure we prioritize creating equity as we make transitions to a greener economy," said Slaiman. "We have to keep both the environment and disaffected communities in mind by continuing to provide good wages and benefits. If we all work together, it is absolutely possible."

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
c/o Washington, DC Chapter NECA
electricalalliance.org
contactus@wdcneca.org

Changes at the JATC; Recruitment Underway

As we close out 2022, we are closing out a year that saw significant changes in leadership for our Union, including changes in leadership here in the JATC. The JATC has a new director—Bill Murphy (pictured right)—as former Director Chris Cash was elected Local 26 Financial Secretary in our June elections. Brother Cash served his role as director with great distinction and was instrumental in keeping our JATC running through even the darkest days of Covid, a challenge of monumental proportions. With fortitude and dedication, he met a challenge never before presented to us. We are grateful for his leadership. Brother Bill Murphy brings 36 years as an IBEW member to the job, including 24 years serving as an instructor. Director Murphy says his goal in his new position is to continue to provide training and opportunities to the members of the IBEW and to prepare the next generation of electrical workers for the challenges ahead. We welcome Brother Murphy to the director position.

Another change in leadership at the JATC includes the addition of two new assistant directors, Brothers Ralph Lilley and Vernon Heavner, who have joined Assistant Directors Mike Miller, Markco Yates, and Roy Reeves. Our core of day school instructors bring relatable field experience and technical expertise to the classrooms with Mark Thompson, Marty McRae, Joe Jackson, Charlie Penkert, Jimmy Rogan, and James Reid working out of the Lanham school; Billy Triplett, Derek Winne, Juan Hernandez, and John Watterson working out of the Manassas school; and Jason Dudding working out of the Roanoke school.

The Local 26 JATC is proud to announce that our new first-year apprentice class—the class of 2027—is our largest class ever, with over 400 students. This speaks to the future of our industry



as more and more people are seeking out a career in the unionized electrical industry. What's more, word is certainly out about the quality of education offered through Local 26, making the program highly desirable to aspiring electricians.

And, speaking of getting the word out, applications are being accepted now for next year's apprentice selections. Please encourage anyone you know who might make a great electrician to consider pursuing a career with Local 26. Potential candidates can learn more about Local 26 and our JATC through our websites, www.ibewlocal26.org and www.jatc26.org. Our recently revised JATC website even has a new look and more information than ever before, including trainee

job calls and upcoming classes for the spring semester. Those interested should also open a TradeSchool account and apply for a program by completing an application, getting scheduled for an aptitude test, and sitting for an interview. The completed application acceptance window closes March 31, 2023.

We are approaching the winter months and weather could play a factor in our ability to hold classes so please be sure to check the inclement weather hotline by calling 301-429-6939 before driving to school.

The JATC wishes all of our Local 26 members and families the very best for a joyous holiday season. May the holidays be meaningful and special and a reminder of all that we have to be thankful for.

2022 IBEW Women's Conference Provided Inspiration and Motivation

Although the construction industry is still a very male-dominated world, things are rapidly changing both in the number of women now entering the trades and the mindset of those on the job and in leadership positions. It is indeed the dawn of a new day for our sisters in the trade, built on the backs of the trailblazing sisters who came before them. Our thriving Local 26 Women's Committee is proof of the impact women are having on the industry and the impact women want to make for the generations to come.

This past September, Business Manager Joe Dabbs appointed seven Local 26 sisters to serve as delegates to the 2022 IBEW Women's Conference. Joining the more than 600 IBEW sisters in attendance from across the U.S. and Canada, and proudly representing Local 26, were Sisters Christa Tichy, M.C. Fisher, Cary James, Stacy Santini, Ebony Edwards, Zoraya Silva, and Business Agent Cordelia Evans. These sisters are not only highly skilled electricians; they are leaders on and off the job, extremely active in the Women's Committee and role models for younger generations of Local 26 sisters rising through the ranks.

The week-long conference was held at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC. Business Manager Joe Dabbs and Business Agent Chris Brooks joined the delegation on opening day of the conference. IBEW International President Lonnie Stephenson and IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth Cooper opened the conference with keynote addresses. A highlight of the event for the sisters of Local 26 was escorting Maryland Congressman (D-8th) Jamie Raskin into the conference to deliver his remarks on the

importance of union labor. Business Agent Cordelia Evans remembers the clever analogy Congressman Raskin used in his speech to remind the delegates which political party is right for labor: "Everything you need to know about voting is everything you need to know about driving. If you want to go forward you put it in D; if you want to go backwards you put it in R." Another inspirational moment for our Local 26 delegation was meeting 4th District International Vice President Gina Cooper, the first female vice president of the IBEW.

As the title of the conference suggests, the focus of the week was entirely on issues affecting women in the workplace. Our Local 26 sisters were highly impressed with just how comprehensive the topics were. Among the topics discussed in breakout sessions were diversity and inclusion, mental health, parenting and motherhood, strategies to recruit and retain more women into the trades, women and member engagement, and dealing with difficult people. Sister Edwards says one of the topics of discussion she found most interesting was about the role union brothers play in helping promote women on the job, adding that when union brothers believe in their local union sisters' competence and commitment, the women tend to achieve more and take on better positions. "When my union brothers push me toward better opportunities I will take their lead and accept the position without hesitation because of their support," she noted. Our Local 26 delegates had high praise for our own Local 26 Sister Tarn Goelling, now the director of civic and community engagement for the International, who, along with her staff, worked tirelessly to make sure all of the

delegates' voices could be heard at the conference, the topics covered were current and relevant to our jobsites, and the workshops were engaging.

While the delegates spent a significant amount of time in workshops and plenary sessions, equally as important was the time the delegates spent making connections with IBEW sisters from all across the International, sharing success stories and sharing challenges they have faced. "It was inspiring to see what other Women's Committees are doing in their local," said Sister Fisher. "It was also eye-opening to hear some of the sisters' stories of dealing with apathetic local leadership and the lack of support they experience. It made me appreciate our local siblings even more." Sister James added, "There are so many people who have had their lives turned around by the IBEW."

All of our Local 26 delegates left the conference feeling inspired and motivated to not just bring more women into the IBEW but to ensure that a career in the unionized electrical trades is one that more and more women seek out. "We walked away from the conference with ideas to bring to our business manager and president, to the Local 26 Women's Committee, and to the apprentices," noted Sister Tichy. "It is important to embrace this family of brothers and sisters and fight for each other, strengthening our industry and the labor movement as a whole. The struggles of the older sisters shall always be remembered," added Sister Silva.

Sister Santini describes the conference as simply an "incredible experience" and all of the delegates are eager to put what they learned into practice!

Our Local 26 Womens' Committee Delegates



MD Congressman Jamie Raskin greets our Local 26 Sisters.



Business Agent Greta Nicholson Retires; Adam Boles New Manassas Business Agent

The officers and staff extend a heartfelt thank you to newly Retired Business Agent Greta Nicholson, from the Manassas office, who retired on April 28, 2022. Greta served tirelessly as business agent for three years. Sibling Nicholson joined Local 26 in 1995 after graduating from Old Dominion University and then serving two years in the United States Army. She was a night instructor with the JATC and a member of the State of Virginia's apprenticeship board. Just prior to becoming a business agent, Greta was a foreman with Power Solutions and had worked for many signatory contractors throughout her career.

Greta enjoyed being a member of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance and was on the the first women's team to take first place in the Annual USA Skeet Shoot Tournament (pictured below). She plans to continue pursuing her passion of shooting sporting clays in her retirement. Even as a retiree, Greta remains on the executive board of the Local 26 Women's Committee and co-president and chair of the State of Virginia's Pride at Work. She's also passionate about spending time with her dog; hunting and fishing; life-guarding, for which she renewed her certification; and coaching girls' lacrosse, all of which she looks forward to doing in her retirement. Sibling Nicholson plans to spend more time with her partner, her parents, and her grandchildren in her retirement. She also plans to stay physically fit,

something she urges all Local 26 members to commit to as well. In fact, Sibling Nicholson has these words of advice for her fellow brothers and sisters: "Keep your health up, go to your doctors' appointments, stay fit, and pay off your house and car so you don't have that worry living on a fixed income. The union gives us the ability to retire at 62, our health insurance, and the gift of time."

In regards to her career and membership in Local 26, Greta says, "I've enjoyed all the work and interacting with the members. Being a business agent was the capstone of my career and I enjoyed working for the membership."

With the retirement of Sibling Nicholson, a warm welcome is extended to our newest business agent, Adam Boles, located in our Manassas office. Adam was appointed business agent upon the retirement of Business Agent Greta Nicholson. We wish Greta a long and healthy retirement and thank her for her dedication to our Local Union and for serving as a role model to all of our Local 26 members.

Brother Boles is a third-generation union member following in the footsteps of his father, a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS); his mother, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); and his grandfather, a member of the Transportation Clerical Union (TCU),

before him. "Growing up in my family, it was not a question of whether you would join a union, rather which union would you join," he says. "I knew I wanted to go into the electrical field, so the IBEW was the obvious choice." Adam was sworn into Local 26 on September 1, 2005, accepted into the apprenticeship in 2006, and graduated to a journeyman in 2011. Before joining Local 26, Brother Boles was a member of UFCW, working in a union grocery store in Des Plaines, IL. Adam has been married to his wife, Sara, for 10 years and is the proud father of son, Jackson, and daughter, Taylor.

Over the course of his career, Brother Boles has worked for a number of signatory contractors. He won a craftsmanship award in 2020 for power generation, distribution, and switchgear while working for Merial Electrical Contractors on the Central Utilities Plant modernization and upgrade project in Washington, DC.

In addition to serving as a business agent, Adam also currently serves on the Virginia Building Trades Executive Council, a position he accepted this past September.

Brother Boles says that his goal for his new position is to "faithfully execute the duties of union representation fairly, in good faith, and without discrimination." Local 26 has no doubt that Brother Boles will serve his new role with great honor and distinction! Welcome aboard, Brother!



Brother Adam Boles



The Local 26 Womens' Committee took first place at 2022 USA Shoot.



Sibling Greta Nicholson

Poker Run Raises Nearly \$30,000 for Special Love

The Local 26 Motorcycle Riders' Club spread the love for Special Love once again this year with their annual charity poker run. On September 24, 2022, motorcycle enthusiasts and poker players from Local 26 and many other trades participated in a poker run to raise money for Special Love for Children with Cancer, the Motorcycle Riders' Club featured charity since the club's inception.

Sixty-two bikes and 92 poker hands from IBEW Local 26 and 24, Plumbers Local 5, Elevator Constructors Local 10, and Asbestos Workers Local 24, as well as other unions and bike clubs, marked the poker run that began in the parking lot of the Asbestos Workers union hall in Laurel, MD. Special guest in attendance was Mark

MacNichol, Utility Department International Representative from the International. The first stop of the day was Twin Arch Tavern in Mt. Airy where members of the Local 26 Minority Coalition checked in participants and stamped poker hands. The second stop was at Ten Oaks Tavern in Glenelg, MD, and was hosted by the members of RENEW, our Local 26 apprentice club. The final stop of the day was Looney's Pub in Fulton, MD, hosted by the members of our Local 26 Retired Members' Club.

The winner of the worst hand and \$100 was Brother Dick Bissell and the winner of the best hand and \$200 was Local 26 Treasurer Paul Henriques. Both winners generously donated their prize money back

to the collection for Special Love, which will receive nearly \$30,000 raised through the participants and sponsors. A huge thank you goes to all who participated in the poker run and to the signatory contractors, trades, and others who generously sponsored the event.

Special Love provides a community for children with cancer and their families, offering summer camps and getaway weekends, emergency financial support, and educational scholarships. Special Love works closely with the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes for Health. Local 26's Motorcycle Riders' Club is honored to support this most worthwhile cause.

Next year's 10th Annual Poker Run is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2023.





Camaraderie—and Rough Seas—Marked the 2022 Fishing Trip

As the over 100 fishermen can attest to, this year's fishing trip was not for the faint at heart as the seas grew angry as the day went on. However, fish were still caught, fun was still had and stories were still told to mark our 2nd Annual Local 26 Fishing Trip a success.

On Saturday, June 18, 2022, six boats left the Rod 'n' Reel Resort in Chesapeake Beach, MD, and another five boats left Turkey Point Marina in Edgewater, MD. Each boat carried 10 fishermen. At the

start of the day the seas were calm, but about two hours into the outing, the winds picked up and the waters put everyone's sea legs to the test.

Nevertheless, rockfish, spot, and perch were the catch of the day. Brother Nick Rauls took first place with his catch measuring 28" long, weighing 7 lbs., 12 oz.; Brother Walter Shultz took second place with his catch measuring 22" long, weighing 3 lbs., 5 oz.; and Retired Brother Vernon Edwards took third place with his

catch measuring 21½" long, weighing 2 lbs., 15 oz. First place prize was \$200, second place earned \$150, and third place took home \$100. The day closed with a luncheon at the Moose Lodge in Upper Marlboro, MD, where many gift cards were given away as door prizes, and the camaraderie continued.

Mark your calendar for next year's fishing trip to be held on Saturday, September 2, 2023. All boats will be leaving from Happy Harbor Marina in Deale, MD.



Local 26 Was Well Represented at 50th Anniversary Softball Tournament

This past summer Local 26 sent two teams to the 50th Annual IBEW Midwest Softball tournament in Cleveland, Ohio. It was the 20th year Local 26 has participated in this exciting event and, once again, the tournament did not disappoint. Camaraderie, solidarity, and union pride took to the field and were met with some good old-fashioned summertime fun.

The two Local 26 teams were a combination of Local 26 softball players from the Maryland; Fairfax, VA; and Winchester, VA teams, representing the best of Local 26. They merged together to form two tourna-

ment teams to represent our Local Union and were led by Captains Danny Mixon and Jake Sanfino, who together did an excellent job of leading our teams throughout the tournament.

In rather unforgiving heat, Local 26's sluggers played against teams from Joliet, IL; New York, NY; Louisville, KY; Detroit, MI; and Cleveland, OH, to name a few. In the end, the Local 26 A team went 4-2 over the course of the weekend and the Local 26 B team went 3-2.

In addition to the marquee event—the softball tournament—lots of fun was had

off the field with a golf outing the day before the tournament and plenty of other social events.

Longtime Local 26 Softball Team Member Shayne Kramer summed up the tournament by saying, “Both teams came together and played well all weekend. The camaraderie our members showed to one another as well to the other teams on and off the field was amazing.”

Our Local 26 teams are already looking forward to next year's tournament which will be held in Evansville, IN.

LOCAL 26 MEMORIAM

Members

Retired Brother Wieslaw Porebski
Brother Craig W. Knotts
Brother Victor E. Moore
Brother Vince E. Butler
Retired Brother Don P. Mackessy
Brother Brandon R. Matassa
Brother Curtis L. Havens
Retired Brother Roger A. Barnes
Brother William A. Campbell
Retired Brother Don C. Hockman
Brother Michael E. Moscati
Brother Steve W. Shaffer
Retired Brother Frederick L. Shipp
(also father of Brother Danny Shipp)
Retired Brother Clayton T. Butler, Jr.
Brother Sydney J. Mortiniera
Retired Brother Robert L. Terrett, Jr.
Sister Meliza A. Holdren
Brother William A. Eaton
Brother Charles Noble, Jr. (also son of
Brother Henry M. Darden)

Members

Brother Robert C. Martin, II (also son of
Retired Member Robert C. Martin and
brother of Brother Nathan J. Martin)
Retired Brother Theodore J. Mobley
Retired Brother David A. Rice
Retired Brother William H. Hooten, III
Brother Neal L. Hovatter
Retired Brother Gary L. McKinney
Retired Brother Charles W. “Chick”
Gagnon, Jr.
Retired Brother Charles E. Scheller
Brother Joseph R. Clark
Retired Brother Ian S. Jones, Sr.
Retired Brother Timothy J. Brown
Retired Brother William G. “Bill” Wooten
(also father of Retired Brother Robert E.
Wooten, grandfather of Brother William-
Gran T. Hill, and father-in-law of
Brother Thomas Vanderark)
Retired Brother Robert L. McFarland
Brother Todd J. Slaseman
Retired Brother Frederick A. Reckeweg

Family Members

Brother Tim J. Hall's father, James Hall
Retired Brother Daniel J. Posey, Sr.'s
brother, Philip Posey (also uncle of
Brothers Daniel J. Posey, Jr. and
Austin I. James)
Sister Shawna L. Edger's brother,
Ryan J. Edger
Brother William E. Sueldo-Ochoa's wife,
Jessica Elbia Chavez Gabriel
Brother William S. Wright's wife,
Shelley Wright
Brother Greg S. Clow's father,
Douglas Clow
Brother Ty K. McKeever's wife,
Madison McKeever

IBEW Local Union 26
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**Local 26's
Annual Food Drive**
Now - December 16th

*Please bring in non-perishable
food items/toiletries and
drop them off in the student
lunch room.
Monetary donations are also
accepted. All donations are
greatly appreciated!*

**RENEW's
Annual Coat Drive**
Now - December 16th

*Please bring in gently-used
winter coats, gloves, scarves,
or hats and drop them off
in the student lunch room.
All proceeds go to SOME
(So Others May Eat)
in Washington, DC*

