

# I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



I.B.E.W. Local 1439 Newsletter

2nd Quarter 2021

## In this issue:

- Business Mgr.
- IBEW Local 1439 News
- Business Manager Report
- Matt Kopecky
- Blue Hats
- American Income Life

## 2nd Qtr. 2021 Member News

### Memoriams

Ronald Hanson  
Thomas Exler  
Gerald Hollenbeck

### Retirees

Mark Staffne  
Mark Jennings

### New Members

Francis Barkofske  
Jeff Blumstein  
Jacob Cook  
Kody Domijan  
Michael Edel  
Jerry Goans  
Martin Jenkins  
Sue Kaiser  
Michael Marchi  
Kendrick McKnuckles  
William Rogers  
Jacob Steinberg  
Darrell Williams



## Grateful

**By: Jeremy Pour**  
**Business Manager/Financial Secretary**

I hope everyone is having a great summer thus far. I was recently on vacation with my family and spent some time reflecting on my role as Business Manager. First, I could not have enjoyed my time off without Billy Howle handling the day to day operations so I could focus on time with my family and friends. I am grateful to have Billy in the Union office working with me, but most importantly I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Local and work for the membership. The last two years have been extremely rewarding and I look forward to continuing to serve the members and for opportunities to grow

our Local.

I also reflected on the benefits that we have as Union members. The ability to take my family on vacation and make memories is something that should not be taken for granted. I am thankful to those who came before us laying the foundation for great pay, paid vacation days, medical benefits and all of the benefits we enjoy in our negotiated agreements. I hope that all of you take time this summer to enjoy what you have worked hard for and make some memories with your family and friends.

In every jurisdiction of Local 1439 our members are working safely to provide a service to the public. The excellence our membership shows everyday gives us bargaining power when it comes time for negotiations. This was evident in our recent negotiations in Iowa with Alliant Energy. The Company was willing to accept some of our proposals due to the way that group performs. It is refreshing to sit down at the negotiating table with a Company that has great respect for our members.

Recently, we proposed a new scholarship opportunity to Ameren and to our Executive Board. I am excited to announce we have reached an agreement with Ameren on the scholarship and the Executive Board has approved \$10,000 towards the scholarship. This will allow a son or daughter of an active member to attend a trade school and upon graduation will have an opportunity to test and interview for a pre-apprentice position with Ameren. This is open to all dues paying members, more information will be forthcoming.

Back in June we held the 25th annual Tom Kraus Golf Tournament. It was a hot day on the course but very successful. Thank you to all those who played, our sponsors and volunteers. We raised almost seven thousand dollars for Hope Lodge of St. Louis. We are already planning next years tournament we hope to see you all there again.

Please continue to focus on your work and stay safe. Try and attend one of our upcoming Union meetings, it will be good to see everyone again and build solidarity. Like the title of this article I am very grateful for my family, friends the contracts we have and our amazing membership. Stay safe, healthy and see you all soon.

# I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS

## National Lineworker Day

Our nation's lineworkers put their lives on the line every day to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable power to keep our economy running and to power our homes, schools, businesses, and hospitals. The work of lineworkers is inherently dangerous, and a culture of safety is ingrained in our industry thanks to decades of work by IBEW members.

When storms or other natural disasters strike, our lineworkers always answer the call to restore power safely and quickly, often traveling long distances and working in hazardous conditions. We have seen their customer commitment firsthand over the past year, as we faced devastating wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, and ice storms.

Lineworkers also continued to perform their mission while facing the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very proud of the COVID-19 protocols that were developed at the onset of the pandemic. These protocols enabled lineworkers to respond and to work safely, while also keeping their fellow lineworkers and customers safe.

On July 10, 2021, we celebrated National Lineworker Appreciation Day. We recognize this day on July 10, as it marks the anniversary of the death of Henry Miller, the first President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Henry Miller was killed in the line of duty, as the head lineman for Potomac Light and Power Company, while trying to restore electricity in the Cleveland Park area of Washington, D.C. This year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry's passing.

Thank you to all the lineworkers past and present for keeping the lights on and most importantly doing it safely.



# I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



**Pictured receiving their topping out knives from the June, 2020 Union meeting are, from left to right: Al Cantrell, Rich Wagner and Clayton Schwartz pictured with President Chad Fletcher.**



**Pictured receiving their topping out knives at the July 6, 2021 Union meeting are, from left to right, Kyle Holder, Tony Leeker Jr, and Mark Geluck with President Chad Fletcher.**



**Pictured are new members being sworn in at the July 6, 2021 Union meeting by President Chad Fletcher. Left to Right: Tyler Walker, Michael Hofmeister, Marty Jenkins, Francis Barkofske, Zachary Kieser, Kendrick McKnuckles, Kody Domijan.**

# I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS

## **Business Manager's Report July 2021**

### **Alliant:**

- Ratified a 4-year contract. 3.5, 3.0, 3.0, 2.7% wage increases.
- 401k improvements
- Working hour modifications
- Vacation leave improvement

Congratulations to Robert Martin on his retirement, Bob is a Steward in Fort Madison, and part of the negotiation committee. Bob leaves the end of July after 32 years in the IBEW, thank you for your service to 1439.

### **Ameren:**

- Modifying the Building Service training agreement.
- Revisions to the PAL agreement
- New Pilot Truck take home agreement for St. Francois Substation
- Submitted information request to the Company regarding use of GPS, and Medical Premiums
- Submitted a grievance on behalf of the membership requesting pay stubs contain all pay information as they did before the switch to WorkDay.

Congratulations to Mark Staffne and Mark Jennings on their retirement. Mark Staffne was a Substation Leader, former steward, former President of 1439 and former Business Representative. Thank you for your 39 years of service to the IBEW and 1439.

Mark Jennings was a Transmission Journeyman Lineman with over 41 years in the IBEW. Thank you for your service to the IBEW and 1439.

### **Entergy:**

- Contract negotiations are scheduled for August 9-27.

# I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS

## Business Manager Report Cont.

### Liberty:

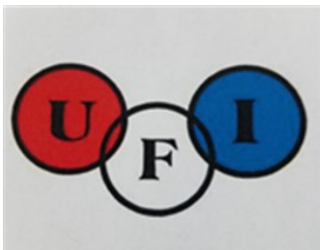
- Working on increase pay for performing distribution and transmission stopper work.

### City of Desoto:

- Contract talks will begin at the end of summer.

### City of Potosi:

- New agreement reached with the City.



## Union Financial Updates

By Matt Kopecky  
(314) 495-9166  
Kopecky.Matthew@principal.com

Although positive thinking can be powerful, there's a fine line between optimism and unrealistic expectations. There are possible pitfalls when overestimating how a portfolio will perform.

The most obvious risk of overestimating how your portfolio will perform is that you may not reach your goal on time. Major financial goals such as retirement and saving for college can take years to achieve. If you arrive at the expected date of your goal but haven't accumulated the expected funds, there's no starting over. You may be forced to postpone your goal or make do with less money.

A less obvious risk is that, as you get closer to your target date and it appears as though you may not achieve your goal, you may be tempted to take on more risk than would be suitable for your situation in order to help close the shortfall.

Unrealistic expectations can also create a false sense of retirement security by leading you either to contribute too little of your income during your working years or to withdraw too much during retirement.

It's natural to hope for the best. But being realistic — and not overly optimistic — may put you in a better position to pursue your financial goals. Contact Matt Kopecky, Financial Advisor for IBEW Local 1439 at 314-495-9166 or email me at [kopecky.matthew@principal.com](mailto:kopecky.matthew@principal.com) to help you construct a realistic plan.

# I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS

## Blue Hat Report



**Blue Hat  
Brandon Shortt**



**Blue Hat  
Aaron Mehrtens**

Well summer is in full swing. The high heat and humidity along with pop up storms are the norm here in Missouri. Most with children are in the middle of summer sports, and taking vacations. With all of this going on, its very easy to lose focus and become complacent. This is the perfect recipe for an accident.

Recently an Illinois coworker suffered a SIF (serious injury or fatality) at hands of compromised equipment. The preliminary report states the coworker made contact with secondary voltage. After contact was made he inadvertently fell out of the basket. The SRL (self retracting lanyard or yoyo as its often referred) caught him but failed after initial stop. This allowed the employee to fall to the ground approximately 15 foot breaking his ankle. While a broken bone is bad, this had potential to be much worse. While our fall restraints are subject to annual inspections, lets not forget that we must inspect ALL PPE before use. When in doubt, throw it out. Our lives depend on it.

Until next time stay safe,

Brandon Shortt  
IBEW 1439 Blue Hat

### UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- 7/13 4:00 Jefferson Meeting at Case-n-Bucks**
- 7/14 4:00 St. Charles Meeting at Knights of Columbus**
- 7/21 4:00 Franklin at Haggies**
- 7/27 4:00 St. Francois at Spokes**
- 8/2 4:00 Executive Board**
- 8/3 4:30 St. Louis General Membership Meeting**