

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS

I.B.E.W. Local 1439 Newsletter

September, 2020



Meet Shane Dintelman

In this issue:

- Business Manager
- Business Rep
- History of Labor Day
- Anniversary Merch.
- Blue Hats
- Vice President
- Matt Kopecky
- 'A' Ticket Info



Shane Dintelman is an Apprentice Lineman at Ameren. Shane is married with a 16-month-old son named Chase. Shane was diagnosed and admitted to the Siteman Center with B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on June 18, 2020. Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia is a very rare and aggressive form of pediatric Leukemia with a two-year prognosis. Shane began his challenging battle with cancer on June 23, 2020, receiving weekly chemotherapy treatments, bi-weekly spinal taps and monthly bone marrow biopsies. During this time, Shane has experienced wicked and painful side effects from the treatment. Luckily Shane is under the care and expertise of some of the leading oncologists in the world.

Register to Vote

With the general Election just around the corner please take the time to make sure you are registered to vote. The IBEW has created a website to make it easier to check your registration status, click on the following link,

<https://ibewvotes2020.org/>



Members in Motion

Send us pictures of your fellow brothers and sisters keeping the lights on! We would like to capture the hard work of our members by posting them on our Facebook page.

local.1439@ibew1439.com

While battling this fierce disease during his stay at the hospital, Shane challenged himself to a daily physical routine of walking the halls on the unit. During his 37 day stay at Siteman Center, he walked a total of 150 miles to distract himself from the rigors of the intensive treatment schedule. On the last day of his stay he was given a spinal tap and bone marrow biopsy to determine whether his body was responding to the chemotherapy treatments. Fortunately, it was good news!! Due to the positive results, he does not need a bone marrow transplant and will continue chemotherapy in the next phase. His wife, Erika, has started a GoFundMe page so people can help them deal with the financial repercussions of his fight with cancer. The whole family, Shane, Erika and little Chase, are doing all they can to focus on healing and supporting each other during Shane's fight with this dreaded disease.

Shane has continued outpatient treatments once a week though the Siteman Center. He has remained positive even with the difficult side effects that come along with it. Shane, Erika and Chase thank you all for the continued support and love ❤️#Teamsuperman

Shane's Ameren co-workers and management have donated over 1,180 hours of vacation in order to keep him whole. This takes him through March 20, 2021. Any and all vacation time donated has been greatly appreciated.

For those of you unable to donate any vacation and/or who wish to donate, their GoFundMe page is https://www.gofundme.com/f/i-walk-with-shane?member=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_email%tesupporters

As of the time of this publication, Shane's GoFundMe contributions have reached over \$55,757.00. What a blessing for the family!

From Shane and Erika, "My family and I would like to thank everyone for their generosity through donations of vacation and the go fund page during this challenging time. There is no doubt we have a lot to deal with through the daily grind of fighting this cancer, but because of you all we can make it our main focus. From the bottom of our hearts thanks again for your support."

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



Navigating IBEW 1439 Through COVID

By Jeremy Pour, Business Manager

Brothers and Sisters, I hope you and your family are safe and healthy. This summer has been a different experience for all of us. I hope you and your family have found ways to make enjoyable memories and had some time to kick back and relax. Since the middle of March, we have all been dealing with a different environment both at work and home. I would like to take a moment to thank each member for their hard work, dedication, and most importantly, your understanding. There have been many different agreements made, along with modifying existing agreements to keep members safe and to deal with COVID. While there was no playbook on how to deal with a pandemic, everyone has come together and risen to the challenge of what we have faced. There may be conflicting views at times with various agreements reached or differencing in opinions with what needs to happen. However, at the end of the day, we are still a brotherhood. We are all safely working together to earn a living, provide for our families, and provide an essential service to the public. Everything Local 1439 does is with consideration to the members we work for. We appreciate the feedback and support the membership has given during this time.

Not only have we had to deal with COVID, but severe storms and hurricanes have wreaked havoc on many communities. Our members once again put in countless hours restoring power in Connecticut, Iowa, Missouri, and currently in Arkansas and Louisiana. Thank you to all the members that have been away from their families to help other communities in need. Also, a big thank you to everyone back home keeping the lights on and the gas flowing. Regardless if it is installing gas mains or new smart meters, maintaining office buildings, and city streets or logging thousands of miles distributing material, all of our members are critical to maintaining a quality of life for the public.

While we wish we were all coming together for our traditional Labor Day festivities to celebrate the work all of us do, please know everyone will be in our thoughts and we look forward to the time when we can all come back together once again. It looks like we still have a way to go till we get through this pandemic and life can get back to normal. Until then please continue to work safe and stay healthy!

In Remembrance of Local 1439 Member Elmer Derry

Elmer Ray Derry, a 21 year member of 1439 died at his home in Butler, Missouri on Sunday July 19, 2020. Elmer was a Senior Service Technician for Liberty Utilities. He left behind a loving family, countless friends, and coworkers as well as multitude of blessed acquaintances who shared in his love for life.

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



Thanking those with a thankless job

By Billy Howle, Business Representative

As you all know, since March, we have not been able to have any monthly union meetings per the city of St. Louis.

Seven months with no union meetings have been no fun and very hard to communicate with everyone in 1439's membership.

Luckily we have a great group of people that volunteer to do a truly thankless job. That includes our Officers, Executive Board, Registrars, advisors and especially our SHOP STEWARDS and ASSISTANT SHOP STEWARDS!

Jeremy and I have made it our number one priority to communicate very often with the shop stewards. We ask them to communicate out to their work groups. Their job has been especially difficult because everyone is separated into pods.

All of our 1439 shop stewards are awesome!! They are a "representative of the union" and have to deal with our members issues. They also have to work with supervision's issues. All that, trying to keep everyone happy and working safely, while doing their regular duties!

Jeremy always jokingly tells them he would love to double their salary. But two times zero is still zero! We promise that when this nightmare is over and we can all get back together, we will do something to show our great appreciation for their thankless service! So a big shout out to the shop stewards, Thank you for all you do!!

Ameren North & South Stewards

Bell	Mike
Bogue	Dan
Boland	Dan
Brissette	Mark
Brodbeck	Eric
Brown	Doug
Burks	Carl
Butler	Michael
Clines	Shannon
Edwards	Chad
Engelbach	Jarred
Flanagan	Tim
Foley	Dwayne
Gill	Clayton
Gottman	Jeff
Kearns	Dave
Lammert	Jon
Landolt	Todd
Long	Chris
Lopinot	Doug
Luley	Tim

Ameren North & South Stewards

Malon	Steve
Meyer	Fred
Miner	Brian
Naes	Rich
Null	Nathan
Peipert	Adam
Portell	Lynn
Reinhardt	Alex
Renaud	Cliff
Rose	Ray
Schaper	Jim
Straughn	Wesley
Sweat	David
Tanner	Eric
Theiss	Jeff
Thessen	Joey
Trautman	Jackie
Vaught	Steve
Venegoni	David

Ameren Assistant Stewards

Barton	Brad
Calloway	Trevor
Halley	David
Harsey	Rich
Jones	Steve
Ruess	Ron
Schwartz	Jason
Seiffert	Jim
Todd	Jim

Entergy Stewards

Anderson	Steven
Gist	Aaron

Entergy Assistant Stewards

Shelton	Chase
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Alliant Stewards

Kite	Joe
Martin	Robert

Liberty Stewards

Corrick	Jason
Duffield	David
Elder	Michael
Ellis	Steven
Montgomery	Jason
Williams	Tim

City of Potosi Stewards

Johnson	Sam
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City of DeSoto Stewards

Hurley	Kevin
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I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



The History of Labor Day

Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. Traditionally observed on the first Monday in September, Labor Day 2020 occurs on Monday, Sept. 7. Created by the Labor Movement in the late 19th century, Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894.

Today, Labor Day also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, parades and athletic events. But the annual celebration of workers and their achievements originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as five or six toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages. People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks.

As manufacturing increasingly supplanted agriculture as the wellspring of American employment, labor unions, which had first appeared in the late 18th century, grew more prominent and vocal. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay.

Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed. Others gave rise to longstanding traditions: On September 5, 1882, some 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history.

'WORKINGMEN'S HOLIDAY'

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers' rights squarely into the public's view.

On May 11, 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives.

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On June 26, the American Railroad Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. To break the strike, the federal government dispatched troops to Chicago, unleashing a wave of riots that resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen workers.

In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS

The History of Labor Day (Cont'd)

FOUNDER OF LABOR DAY

More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Many credit Peter J. McGuire, cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, while others have suggested that Matthew Maguire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, first proposed the holiday.

THE FIRST LABOR DAY

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. Since it was not yet an official holiday, many workers lost a day's pay in order to participate. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date.

The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

A NATIONWIDE HOLIDAY

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families.

This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday.

Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the Labor Movement.

MODERN CELEBRATIONS

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone changes over the years, with many outside the Labor Movement viewing it as nothing more than a holiday to mark the end of summer and the start of the back-to-school season.

However, for those in the Labor Movement and many others, the holiday and parades are a recognition of the vital force of Labor and how it has added materially to the highest standard-of-living and the greatest production the world has ever known, bringing us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy.

(Sources: Labor Tribune, U.S. Department of Labor and History.com)

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



Bayside 960
Navy

Bayside 5710
Tri Asphalt

Bayside 5040
Navy

Camo Cap

Navy Cap

STYLE	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	2X-LARGE	3X-LARGE	4X-LARGE	TOTAL
960 (\$50)								
5710 (\$25)								
5040 (\$20)								
Camo (\$25)								
Navy (\$25)								

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
 EMAIL _____
 PHONE _____ CREDIT CARD _____ EXP DATE _____ CVC _____
 MEMBER NO. _____ SIGNATURE _____

• IBEW Local Union 1439 •
 Office: 314-644-6111 | Local.1439@ibew1439.com | 2121 59th Street, St. Louis, MO 63110

Shirts and hats are in stock, quantities are limited. Please email or call in your order. Bayside 5710 shirts are a new Tri-blend material.

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



LABOR AND SAFETY MOVEMENT

By 1439 Blue Hats Joe Buneta and Aaron Mehrtens



Before the safety movement, YOU were in danger of becoming ill, disabled or deceased due to the lack of safety standards.

In the late 1800's when the AFL (American Federation of Labor) was formed, the safety movement was born. The struggle for safe and healthy working conditions began and continues to this day. Through collective bargaining and federal laws, labor has been able to work with employers to create a safe work environment.

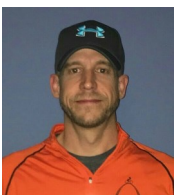
With the formation of another labor organization called the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organization) and the merger of both organizations in 1955 to form the AFL-CIO, safety became a stronger part of our working culture.

Safety was still a struggle, however with the passage of federal departments such as: Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA Act) in 1970, along with the Coal Mine Health and safety Act (1969) and the Mine Safety and Health Act (1977), there were federal departments with legal responsibility to protect workers in the workplace. Workers finally had the legal right to a safe and healthy workplace.

Although OSHA is the minimum required safety standard, Unions have achieved stronger protections through collective bargaining. We are fortunate that Ameren IBEW 1439 has been able to negotiate safety rules through collective bargaining. Labor has developed many training programs to educate workers about safety and health hazards they face. Labor has worked with employers to mitigate hazards in the workplace. Leaders who can work together can achieve a safe and healthy workplace.

Labor wants the best working condition for its members. Employers want the best product for their customers.

At the end of the day, labor and employers have a common goal; that everyone goes home safely after a productive day on the job. We are all in charge of our own safety and use the PPE that is provided to us. We are all leaders in safety and should hold our peers accountable to follow all safety rules.



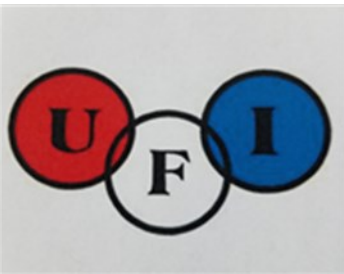
SO MANY APPRENTICES SO LITTLE TIME!

By Matt Curry, Vice President

With the number of new apprentices and pre-apprentice laborers filtering through work headquarters at Ameren, it's difficult to keep track of them all. The responsibility for training apprentices falls mostly on Journeyman in the field. Journeyman need to be familiar with the requirements set forth in the apprentice agreement pertaining to your job classification and also have an understanding of what work apprentices can and cannot do. Journeyman should also make sure accurate documentation is being made of an apprentice's progress, or lack thereof. In the case where an apprentice is struggling to progress in training, the Apprentice Advisor should be made aware of the situation as soon as possible so that any necessary assistance can be made available.

While Journeyman play an important role in apprentice development, it is the apprentices themselves who need to take the initiative to ensure they are getting the training they need. Crews and management at each headquarters have their own responsibilities and apprentices are not always at the top of the list. Therefore, don't expect anyone but yourself to have a comprehensive understanding of where you are at in your training, how much time you have left, and what type of work would benefit you the most at a given time. Make sure your daily log and worksheet are done and signed by a member of your crew, and make sure that your reviews are being done in a timely manner. Each time a move to a new location is made, you should make sure to find and introduce yourself to the apprentice advisor, steward, and local management. Get their phone numbers and use them as a resource to help with your progression. Taking an active role in your progress will help ensure your success in an apprenticeship.

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



Taking Emotions Out of Investing

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

It is said that individual investors rely 75% on emotion and 25% on fact when making investment decisions. When the market is skyrocketing have you been tempted to invest more money or take higher risks? When the market is plummeting have you reduced your investment contributions or pulled out of the market? If the answer to either one of these questions is “yes”, then you may be at risk of being an emotional investor. Reviewing your portfolio and making changes to become more aggressive or conservative is not necessarily a bad move. However, if we take a long term approach and understand that the market may make large moves short term, having a consistent plan may actually reduce your portfolio risks while maximizing potential gains. This takes discipline during these tumultuous times. It may be difficult to see your account balances decrease, or even increase and want the portfolio to increase even more. Both scenarios are dangerous. Instead, it is important to have a written plan to know where you are and where you want to be in a given time frame and develop a portfolio that is flexible in order to accommodate changes in your plan.

****Matt Kopecky is with Union Financial, an IBEW represented Investment Firm. Matt is a service offered by Local 1439 for it's members. If you are a new member, a long-term member or a member nearing retirement give Matt a call to discuss your investment portfolio.***

“A” Membership in the I.B.E.W.

Did you know that you can become an ‘A’ member and receive a pension from the IBEW upon retirement? By upgrading your membership to an ‘A’ membership instead of the ‘BA’ you pay into the International Pension Fund now and gain the benefit of the International Pension. Here is a link to some Frequently asked questions regarding the Pension Fund.

What Are the Benefits of 'A' Membership?

There are two main types of membership in the IBEW, 'A' and 'BA.'

Pension

The most important difference between the two classifications is that 'A' members participate in the Pension Benefit Fund, the pension plan administered by the IBEW. All IBEW construction branch members are automatically enrolled as 'A' members. Any member can choose to convert their 'BA' membership.

'A' members receive a pension once they meet the PBF pension requirements. For example, if you retire at 65, and you have been an 'A' member continuously for at least the preceding five years, you get \$4.50 per year of continuous membership per month.

After three-and-a-half years, retired 'A' members make back everything they put in.

Death Benefit

All active 'A' members for at least six months are covered by a \$6,250 benefit for death by natural causes, and \$12,500 for accidental deaths, on or off the job. No vesting or years of service are necessary.

The benefit for retirees is different. Retired 'A' members are eligible for a death benefit between \$3,000 and \$6,250, depending on how much of their pension they have received, but the amount does not go below \$3,000.

Leadership

To be a delegate to the convention with the right to vote on every topic, you have to be an 'A' member.

There is another, less tangible, impact. The International Office can count retired 'A' members and includes them in the membership. When an 'A' member retires from the IBEW, the relationship with the union changes, but it does not end. Those 100,000 'A' members drawing a pension are an important part of the strength of the union.

'A' and 'BA' membership dues are \$20 a month. To become an 'A' member is \$39 a month, which is \$20 membership dues and \$19 PBF contribution plus a one-time \$2 application fee for the PBF.