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Electrical Work  
for Electrical Workers

**International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers**

**Local Union No. 176  
Joliet, Illinois**

October 8, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

Our members' health, safety, and financial prospects remain our top priority. Although COVID-19 has been relatively well-contained at most job sites, infections are still occurring and our membership remains at risk. Should anyone want to share questions or concerns regarding workplace health and safety measures, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your thoughts.

I attended a meeting of the Decatur Pension Fund Trustees last week in Champaign where I was elected to one of the vacant union trustee positions, and was then elected Chairman of the Decatur Pension Fund. We discussed reducing or eliminating unaccredited pension contributions. According to the actuaries' recommendations, depending on market returns, we may be able to eliminate some of the unaccredited monies at our April spring pension meeting if the market continues in its current trajectory.

In regard to our local pension, pension returns will be posted to accounts and statements will be mailed by the end of October. The audited pension returns for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2020 are 3.514%. May pension contributions are received at the fund office throughout the month of June, the auditors then audit the fund sometime in late July or early August. An audit of a pension fund of our size takes about four weeks to complete. Once the accountant certifies the audit numbers, Zenith then begins the process of crediting the monies to each person's account and at that point pension statements are generated and sent out.

After hearing our members' concerns regarding TASC medical savings account cards, we addressed these concerns with the vendor and were not satisfied with their ability to remedy the situation. Health and Welfare trustees have contracted with another vendor that will provide better, more seamless service. We plan to transition to the new vendor by January 4, 2021. Members' TASC cards will continue to be operational until then and we will share more detailed information as we get closer to the transition date.

In regard to our recent contract negotiations with AMITA Saint Joseph Joliet, we are pleased with the progress and have scheduled a negotiation meeting on October 8. We hope to have a contract to present to members for ratification within the next few weeks.

I met with legislators and their staff in Springfield regarding several issues, including Senate Bill 1407, the Hazardous Workforce Bill. A tentative agreement may be reached in the next few weeks that would allow a final vote on the bill in time for the November Veto Session or the Lame Duck Session in January. We will continue working with the Governor's office and members of both chambers to craft language on a comprehensive energy bill intended to keep Dresden and Byron Stations open and viable.

We're also working on proposed legislation to present to the legislature by the November Veto Session, a package that includes requirements for renewable energy contractors who work on solar and wind projects, binding them to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, and language to incentivize these contractors to use Project Labor Agreements on their renewable energy projects.

Cullinan Properties' was awarded a USDOT \$20M grant from the BUILD Grant Program for the I-55 and Illinois 59 Access Project. We've lobbied for this grant money for several years and are now working with IDOT to ensure that the interchange project will be included in their November bid releases. This project will provide access to the Rock Run Crossings development, bringing long term jobs and economic development opportunities. We have a signed Project Labor Agreement with Cullinan Properties that will ensure that the jobs created by this project will be good union jobs. We hope to see construction started by the end of the year.

We attended a kickoff meeting for the new Competitive Power Ventures project located near Dresden Station. Preliminary site work has begun on the project. Kiewit will sub out the temporary power and parking lot lighting, but they have not awarded contracts as of yet. This work will begin within the next four to five weeks. The first phase underground portion of this project is scheduled to start sometime after the first of the year. That is when the first calls for this project from Kiewit will start coming into the hall.

You may have heard that recent opposition to the GROW Act was not successful. It passed the House on September 30th. We oppose the GROW Act, the composite multi-employer pension proposal in the COVID -19 Relief Act (HEROS Act), because composite plans put worker and retiree benefits at risk. The IBEW supports legislation to preserve healthy multi-employer plans. The unemployment and economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic requires Congress to act. We're shifting our focus to the Senate and will communicate any further action needed on this legislation.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions placed on large gatherings in Illinois, we will be unable to host our annual Kids Christmas party this year. We hope to resume normal activities in 2021.

Finally, early voting has begun across Illinois. Thank you to our members who have stepped up to drop lit, deliver signs, and otherwise support important local races. Electing pro-labor candidates is the only way to protect union jobs, so please make a plan to vote in this upcoming election if you haven't already. We will send out more information about endorsed labor candidates. If you have any questions, reach out. Remain unified, brothers and sisters, as we move forward together.

In Solidarity,



Michael J. Clemmons  
Business Manager

**Business Agent, Apprenticeship, and Safety reports are as follows:**

**Jim Lockhart**

Book count for Thursday, October 8, 2020

76 - Book #1

368 - Book #2

4 - Residential

14 - Sound Tech

3 - Apprentices

2 - IT

Portability count commercial – 82/1

Portability count residential – 0/1

111 - Bk 2 working in local (108 -JW & 3 -VDV)

138 - JW long calls, 20 turned into a short call, 83 went to BK-2.

25 - JW Short calls, 15 went to BK-2.

3 - Sound Long Call, 2 went to BK-2

1 - Sound Short call

14 - Apprentice Calls

There are 75 out of town contractors under Inside Agreement reporting in the jurisdiction as of today.

## **Andy Rico**

### **Meeting Report 10/8/2020**

**Joliet** - At 2114 S. Frontage Rd., Local 130 Plumbers are adding to their training center. Connelly Electric is doing the electrical work for this project.

On the corner of Theodore and Drauden Rd., Executive Construction has begun construction for the new Gas & Wash. NuCore Electric has been awarded that job.

At 2959 Centerpoint Way, BCU Electric is doing the electrical work for new conveyor lines at the Home Depot Regional Distribution Facility. This project was scheduled to be completed by December 2020, but there have been several equipment and material delays. BCU has laid off a few electricians due to the delays.

The Tower Apartments at 247 Caterpillar Dr. is doing a \$2 million remodel project. Rex Electric has this job.

AMITA St. Joseph Medical Center is remodeling a portion of a 4th floor wing to add new CT scan rooms. Jamerson Bauwens is doing that work and will man it with 4-5 electricians.

At 2848 McDonough St., the IDOC In-patient facility; Block Electric has approximately 35-40 electricians working.

City Services Electric is doing the temperature control work and currently have 4 electricians onsite.

Live Wire Electric has 6 electricians working at the Administration building.

The VDV work is scheduled to begin ramping up in the coming weeks and months. Low Voltage Solutions has the bulk of that work.

At 2705 Plainfield Rd. (Rt. 30) Prairie Construction has resumed construction for the new Chick-Fil-A restaurant. American Electric is doing the electrical work on that project.

At the Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, construction is in full swing for a \$3.5 million addition/renovation. Meade Electric is the electrical contractor for this project.

Meade Electric has resumed work for the IDOT Des Plaines river bridge project, reworking the bridge tender house and cabling for 6 bridges. They will be manning it with 4-8 electricians periodically. Torres Electric is doing the fire alarm work on this project.

At Centerpoint Logistics/Business Park, Connelly Electric has manned up to approximately 25-30 electricians at Harbor Freight's nearly 2 million sq. ft. warehouse. Connelly is the VDV contract for this project, as well.

At 3501 Brandon Rd., a 1.2 million sq. ft. spec warehouse is under roof. Jan Electric currently has 7 electricians working on this project and will likely add a few more before the project is completed late in December.

On McKinley Ave., Elliot Electric is working at the Joliet Waste Water Treatment Plant. That work is expected to be completed early in 2021 with manpower fluctuating periodically.

Preferred Electric has begun work to install a 1.5 megawatt ground mount solar array at Joliet Junior College. Preferred has 15 electricians on this project and it is scheduled to be complete in November.

Continental Electric has a 2 megawatt ground mount solar tracking system at Chicagoland Speedway. This project is scheduled to be completed in December and manpower is expected to peak at 20 - 24 electricians.

At 1023 E. Laraway Rd., Connelly Electric is working on a tenant buildout for General Motors parts distribution. There are currently 15 electricians working on this project and it is scheduled to be completed by November.

At 2500 Centerpoint Way, Sievert Electric is installing a new crane rail system at the Union Pacific rail yard. Currently they have 9 electricians onsite and may add more manpower.

John Burns Electric is also onsite, pulling and terminating feeders and fiber to the crane rail.

The State Group Industrial is working on a couple pumping/metering stations on Brandon Rd. feeding into the Jackson Generation Power Plant. They currently have 5 electricians working between the 2 projects and may add more manpower depending on scheduling. These projects should remain busy through December.

**Plainfield** - At 15320 Wallin Dr., Plainfield School District 202 / ICI Construction has started vertical construction and setting precast walls for the new elementary school directly south of Ira Jones Middle School. Indicom Electric has this job.

**Elwood** - The Jackson Generation project on Noel and Brandon Rd. is in the cable pulling phase and installing raceways above ground on the electrical side of things. Currently there are approximately 80 electricians combined between day and night shift working on that project. Manpower is expected to continue to ramp up through the fall and winter months.

Elliot Electric has the electrical contract for the Administration building.

New River Electric is onsite for the next several weeks pulling and terminating the 347kv cable.

**Bolingbrook** - At 6 Territorial Ct., Connelly Electric has 3 electricians working on the Impact Networking expansion project. This project is scheduled to be completed this fall.

At 1150 115<sup>th</sup> St., Connelly Electric is doing a 450 light fixture upgrade for IDI logistics. This project is scheduled to be complete by mid November.

**Romeoville** - At 501 W. Taylor Rd. Crate & Barrel warehouse, Power Construction pushed an extremely aggressive schedule and has this project nearly complete and set for temporary occupancy. Connelly is down to a small crew to finish up.

Preferred Electric has been contracted to install a 1.5 MW solar array at Lewis University. This work has been delayed, but is anticipated to begin in the next month or so.

At 145 Pinnacle Dr., Jan Electric is reworking a portion of FedEx's distribution center. Currently they have 4-5 electricians onsite.

**Shorewood** - At Black Rd. and Rt. 59 next to Home Depot, G.A. Johnson and Sons is moving dirt for the new Aldi store. M3 Electric has been awarded the contract for that job.

At 21540 SW Frontage Rd., Complete Electric has a warehouse buildout for Kenco Logistics Group that is scheduled to be completed in November. Complete has 5 electricians working there.

**Crest Hill** - At 20600 Kubinski Dr., just north of Menards and directly east of the Crest Hill Public Library, construction has begun for the new Crest Hill City Center/Police Department. The City of Crest Hill is direct hiring subcontractors and has contracted Timm Electric to do the electrical work for that project.

On the corner of Caton Farm Rd. and Perinar Dr., Narvick Brothers construction has walls up for Low Voltage Solution's new shop. Ideal Electric will do the electrical work on that building.

**Naperville** - At 2244 W. 95<sup>th</sup> St., Johnson Construction has the new Compass Church under roof. Nesko Electric has been awarded the contract for this job and is now onsite.

## **Barry Aldrich**

### **Meeting Report 10/8/2020**

**Channahon** – The Four Rivers Environmental Education Center has a \$350,000 addition being built with Valley Electrical Contractors being awarded that project, they are not onsite yet at the time of this report.

**Essex** – We have had a few calls come in about the three Dollar Generals being built in Essex, Channahon, & Mazon. Channahon started out bad with First Phase out of Pennsylvania being the listed contractor on the building permit, but after throwing up the rat and a picket they were removed from the job temporarily as pending bids were turned in from three of our contractors, J.B. Electric, Gatza Electric, & Ideal Electric. We are currently working with and in discussions with the general contractor on these projects to get IBEW signatory contractors on these jobs.

**Gardner** – The Lutz solar project has now started located at Carbon Hill Road & Rt.53. Pieper Power has that with a total of 4 JW's currently onsite, we are told they will be manning up to 10 JW's on that one.

**Morris** – The Dresden outage has started putting calls in for the upcoming outage, which starts October 26<sup>th</sup> and ends on November 9<sup>th</sup>, with a total of 54 electricians needed this time around.

Reichold Chemical had C.E. Power onsite for a few days with two JW's clearing in to do some high voltage testing for them.

Out at the Nouryon plant (formerly called Akzo), Dynamic picked up some work out there, they currently have one cleared in and plan to take at least one more off the book.

Mid-Illinois Electric has a small job going on out at the Morris landfill on Ashley Road, they have two cleared in from 601 for that work.

Tri-City cleared in 1 JW and 2 VDV techs for ongoing Dresden Lock & Dam improvements.

Kiewit pre-jobbed at the Will/Grundy Building Trades' October 7 meeting for the CPV Project that will go just west of the Dresden Nuclear Station off Collins Road, this is the info given to the delegates earlier today:

At this time there was no manpower schedule available. The man trailers will be arriving onsite next month, D Construction is now working on the roads and site grading. Jan 1<sup>st</sup> is when Kiewit hopes that the crafts will begin hitting the site to start on the duct banks.

**Braidwood** – On Rt.53 just east of the Braidwood Nuclear Station, Continental has started on a 2.5 megawatt solar array, and they tell us they could man up to 20 electricians for that project, as they have a December 2020 completion date.

**Minooka** – The Wendy's on Ridge Road has a remodel going on by A&F Electrical Services, a 134 contractor that has two cleared in for that work.

**Wilmington** – We have been getting calls about a remodel that is going on along Rt.53 across from the VFW, that will be a new drugstore. The permit listed a rat contractor in Nu-Phase Electric out of Lombard. After speaking with the owner, he agreed to entertain bids from Clennon, Ruder, KPI, & Blackburn Electric for this 900 sq. ft. building. We are currently picketing the project. We should by the end of this week if this job is going to be turned around.

## **Floyd Jones**

### **Meeting Report 10/8/2020**

**OTTAWA:** Halm Electric was awarded the addition to Rosen's on Route 23 North of Ottawa.

Halm Electric also has a project installing air conditioning units and some new generators for the LaSalle County Housing Authority.

Gatza Electric has the contract for the new Clean Getaway Car Wash going in next to Culver's in Ottawa. They are just getting started on the underground for that project.

Financial Plus Credit Union is planning on building a new credit union across the street from the existing one on Chestnut Street. It is in the bidding stage now. The general contractor is The Redmond Company from Waukesha, Wisconsin, and Dynamic Electric picked up a 4-5 week job at Sabic installing some new cable trays. Ayers Electric has picked up an office remodel for Dr. Wise in Ottawa.

**OGLESBY/UTICA:** Rock River Electric from Local 145 was awarded the next phase at GreenThumb Industries. Steel is getting set now, and they just hired 2 long calls a couple weeks ago. That project will go through the winter and into next spring.

CEIS from Local 34 has picked up a temperature control job at Illinois Valley Community College, and American Electric has a job at the Operators 150 Hall in Utica remodeling some offices.

**TISKALWA:** Renew Electric from Local 426 has the job at the Lonetree Windfarm for the 32 wind towers, the project is moving along, they have 8 towers to finish up. The project is supposed to be completed by the end of October.

**PRINCETON:** Gatza Electric was awarded the new Advanced Asphalt building going in by the Bureau Junction on Route 26. Vissering Construction is the general contractor for that project.



Halm Electric has 2 JW's and an apprentice at the new Bureau County Law Enforcement Center, Engel Electric from Local 364 also has 2 guys there working on the temperature control work, and LVS will be doing the fire alarm for that project.

FE Moran from Local 601 picked up a 2 week job doing some security work at ACE Hardware distribution center in Princeton.

**LASALLE-PERU:** Gatza Electric was awarded the build out for the Famous Footwear in the strip mall next to Kohl's in Peru.

Gatza Electric also is working on the remodel for the Double D warehouse in Peru, and Advanced Data Technologies has picked up the low voltage work on that project.

Koener Electric from Local 34 has picked up a small low-voltage job at LaSalle-Peru High School.

Grand Kahn Electric from Local 134 was awarded the new \$16 million Peru Police Station. They have had a couple long calls and a short call in so far and are probably going to hire maybe 1 more long call later this year, and JB Contracting has the parking lot lighting on that job. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of April.

**SPRING VALLEY:** Engel Electric from Local 364 has picked up a small project at Wal-Mart Distribution Center. It is around a 4-5 week project. They have 2 guys there now.

**KEWANEE:** RNS Electric from Local 34 was awarded the remodel project for Midwest Dental of Kewanee. It is located at the strip mall by Menards. That is a 5-6 week project.

**TOULON:** Brittin Electrical from Local 34 is still working on the project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Toulon.

I want to thank all the apprentices that came out and volunteered their time on a Saturday a couple weeks ago for the Hall Township Food Pantry in Spring Valley. Together we helped set up and distribute food to 199 families totaling 907 people. It was very much appreciated.

On Saturday October 10th, we are going to be helping with the "Out of the Darkness" Suicide Prevention Walk for LaSalle County in Ottawa. There is a sign-up sheet at the apprenticeship school if any apprentices are interested. If any JW's are interested please contact me. I personally think it is a great way to give back to the local communities in the area and promote IBEW Local 176.

Also, I wanted to mention the Annual Labor of Love event has been postponed till next April due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Deric Wilkins**

### **Meeting Report 10/8/2020**

**University Park** - The new Amazon is going up at Steger Rd. and Central Ave. Clayco is the general contractor. The electrical contractor is ABCO and there are 17 guys onsite.

Local 9 is putting up a new crane training facility. Linear electric has that project.

**Manteno** – Peoples Bank is building a new facility next to McDonald's. Process Electric has the project.

A new O'Reilly Auto Parts is going up. Schmidt Electric has that project.

The Manteno Veterans Home is putting in a new back-up generator and considering a new fire alarm system. Ryan Electric has the generator project.

**Kankakee** – Love's Truck Stop, exit 308 is putting a solar array on the roof. Sutterfield Electric has this project.

The Kankakee Housing Authority has a remodeling project and Outsen Electric has this job.

The traffic signal project throughout the city is being done by Outsen Electric, as well.

Classic Cinema addition in Kankakee is close to completion. KPI has this project.

CSL Behring is moving slow. There is talk about taking down the existing steel and just doing storage. There is also talk of starting a waste-water treatment plant.

Riverside Hospital remodel job is starting to come down. Ruder still has a few guys on this site.

New 2 megawatt solar project going up on South Schuyler; Keast Electric has this project and it is near completion.

A new solar array is going up just east of town on 2700 Rd. E. Borrego Solar has given the job to MKD. We are working with Borrego and the city in efforts to rectify this situation.

A new Dollar General is going up on Jeffery St. Schmidt Electric has that project.

Nucor Steel – Com Ed is putting in a new substation.

**Bourbonnais** – the new Aldi store in Bourbonnais is complete.

Oak Orthopedics Center on Rt. 45 & 6000 Rd. in Bourbonnais is putting up a new \$15 million building. They have broken ground but the electrical has not been let yet.

Riverside \$25 million New Med Building in Bourbonnais has broken ground. Ruder has that project.

St. George School in Bourbonnais is doing a 10-classroom addition. Ruder Electric has that project, completion date is the end of July of 2021.

**Watseka** – Wal-Mart is doing a small remodeling job. Schmidt Electric has this job. The city is putting in 3 new generators and Outsen Electric has this job starting next week.

**Grant Park** - Peoria Packing is doing phase 2 addition. Emrich Electric has that project.

Love's Travel Stop will be putting up a new building (upcoming).

**Beecher** - A new fire station is going up. Timm Electric has the job.

## **Scott Smith**

### **Meeting Report 10/08/2020**

**NEW LENOX** - The new Metra Station located on Rt. 30 and Cedar Rd. Volt has a couple guys out on this project. The job is scheduled to be finished by December.

Timm Electric was just awarded a new shop for Aries Earth Moving Construction. This is just south on Cherry Hill Rd.

Jan Electric was awarded the Supervalu in Cherry Hill Business Park. This is an existing building adding battery chargers. This is a couple guys for 6-8 weeks.

Silver Cross has a 30,000 sq. ft. expansion. Block Electric has been on site for a few months, it's been a slow moving project. They want to be up and running by the end of the year. They should be hiring a few guys in the next couple weeks.

Hy-Power Electric out of 134 was awarded to West End Tool. This is a 80,000 sq. ft. industrial building. Steel just started this week. This is located at 2253 New Lenox Rd. Starting underground next week.

**LOCKPORT** - Holiday Inn Express is up in going in Lockport, it consists of 81 units at 54,000 sq. ft. It is located at I-355 and 143<sup>rd</sup> St. J.B Electric was awarded this a few months ago. Peak is the general contractor they told me it's scheduled to be open by Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

Circle R Electric out of Local 531 is finishing a ground mount solar project at Prologis Park at I-355 and 143<sup>rd</sup> St. Circle R has been awarded a few more solar projects in and out of our jurisdiction. The rat contractor Midwest Solar is subbing most of their work to Circle R because they can't find qualified people.

Beery Electric is finishing up some work at 16427 Prologis Park.

Jolen Electric has school work at William Butler Elementary located at 1900 Farrell Rd.

**HOMER GLEN** – Hawk Enterprises has various traffic signal work in the area.

Nucore Electric has the Gas and Wash on the corner of 159<sup>th</sup> St. and Gougar Rd. Nucore will be hiring a couple guys in the next couple weeks.

GS Electric out of 134 has school work at Oak Prairie Junior High at 15161 S. Gougar Rd.

**MOKENA** – At 191<sup>st</sup> and 88th Ave., Altorfer Power Center is putting in a new Caterpillar sales and service center. Northern is the general contractor and Connelly Electric is the electrical contractor. They started unground work last week.

On the corner of Rt. 30 and Owens Road, Palos Health Care Center broke a few months ago. It consists of 3 stories and is 50,000 sq. ft. Walsh is the general contractor. Sharlen was awarded the job a couple months ago. They finished underground last month. It's a slow-paced job as of right now, looking like six or seven guys for about 6 months. Completion date is supposed to be some time in March.

Atomatic Service has some lighting upgrades at Mokena Intermediate School located at 11331 195<sup>th</sup> St.

**FRANKFORT** - On Wolf Rd. and Rt. 30, Cedarhurst Senior Living consists of 56 living apartments and 26 memory care apartments. All Electric out of West Frankfort, IL Local 702. They finished the underground a month or so ago. There have been a lot of delays due to COVID-19 and getting a union carpenter contractor on the job.

Excel Electric has the Hickory Creek Church expansion, located at 10660 off of Rt. 30.

**Residential** – Plainfield on Wallin Dr. has an apartment development. It's called Sixteen-30, luxury lifestyle apartments with 248 units. Cary Electric out of Local 117 was awarded this job a few months ago. They got a few undergrounds done last week, it's been slow starting off because of COVID-19 and ongoing pickets.

## **Chris Lindstrom**

### **Meeting Report 10/8/2020**

As I reported last month, we are still meeting with several unrepresented electricians in the area. I am happy to report that one of them has been given the opportunity to become a member of local 176. He was stripped from V Squared Electric and has been placed with a signatory contractor this week.

With the election just days away, Local 176 has been active helping our political allies. Recently, I have been tasked with doing literature drops and assisting area labor friendly candidates by passing out campaign literature and yard signs. Getting candidates that respect the rights of working men and women elected to office is paramount to what we need to accomplish as a labor union.

Again, I urge everyone to get out and vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are not registered or need to request a mail-in ballot go to [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov).

COVID-19 is continuing to impact our daily lives. Please be vigilant and continue to follow the CDC guidelines of mask wearing, staying socially distant and practicing good hand hygiene. These are the best ways to stay healthy and safe.

## **Matt Kenney – Apprenticeship**

The JATC is only taking applications on Mondays. We are requiring all applicants to bring their own copy of their birth certificate and a copy of their driver's license. There is a \$25 application fee that must be brought in the form of a money order only. No cash or checks will be accepted. The second Monday of each month will be open an extra hour until 5:30 pm. Applications will be first come, first served as to keep only one person in the vestibule at a time. We have all information posted to the website.

The welding lab was down for a while due to some maintenance work that had to be hired out. We are hoping to have apprentice welding classes back up and running soon. We will be concentrating on getting the 5<sup>th</sup> year apprentices through instruction, as they need it to top out.

Please be aware that the newest 1<sup>st</sup> year apprentices will be attending classes on a weekly basis until they get caught up with the class that has already started. We hope to have this done somewhere around Christmas. When they have caught up, they will go back to every other week of day school.

We are currently only offering apprentice classes but will let you know when we can offer JW classes.