

I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION #725  
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# THE "CURRENT" WORD

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

MARCH, 2016

**REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE, THEN VOTE ABSENTEE...  
NO HASSLES, NO EXCUSES!  
INDIANA—[www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com)  
ILLINOIS—[www.elections.state.il.us](http://www.elections.state.il.us)**



## SUPER TUESDAY IS OVER—NOW IT'S OUR TURN!

No one can believe what is happening this presidential election—especially the elderly who thought they had seen and heard just about everything! Regular voter turnout is way down from previous years because voters are confused, scared and a little in shock. (What's all this hate talk about Mexicans and Muslims while accepting endorsements and money from hate groups and billionaires who want to buy the White House?) New radicalized, republican voters who are fed up with the establishment are coming out in droves going after anyone with a connection to government. Everyone is bewildered looking at the primary results. Even the press is at a loss for words when reporting on political progress. One would think this might change the tone and attitude of Congress, but the gridlock continues with the senate vowing to obstruct anyone who President Obama nominates to the Supreme Court. Yet, the Republican party has never been as divided as it is today and, while the Democrat party supports its candidates, they aren't getting out the vote. Ramifications of this election could be devastating to unions since Republican frontrunner Donald Trump loves Right To Work laws and is currently disputing the election results and refusing to negotiate a labor contract with Unite Here and the workers at the Trump International Las Vegas Hotel. World leaders are condemning Trump's words/actions—they are concerned about the future of America and laughing at the same time. Despite what Mr. Trump says, he is not a nice guy. He is a bully selling his bull s\_\_t to anyone ignorant enough to believe him. Democrats and Republicans agree that we have to get our families, friends and neighbors excited about this race and GO VOTE! If we don't, our country is destined to fail!



**2016 PRIMARY  
ELECTION DATES**  
ILLINOIS—MARCH 15TH  
INDIANA—MAY 3RD  
**VOTE YOUR PAYCHECK!**



**BAD  
POLITICIANS**  
★ ★ ★  
ARE ELECTED BY  
GOOD PEOPLE  
WHO DON'T  
VOTE

EVERY	ELECTION
EVERY	MEMBER
EVERY	VOTE
<b>COUNTS</b>	

## 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN QUOTES

Here's a bit of what we've been hearing...

*I like it better because it is lower.*

(Donald Trump on Right-To-Work)

*I am Hillary Clinton's worse nightmare.*

(Carly Fiorina)

*I never hit my mother with a hammer and I never stabbed anybody.*

(Mike Huckabee referring to Ben Carson)

*He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured.*

*I like people who weren't captured.*

(Trump referring to POW & Senator John McCain)

*Welders make more money than philosophers  
so America needs more welders and fewer philosophers.*

(Senator Marco Rubio)

*Obamacare is the worst thing that has happened  
in this nation since slavery.*

(Ben Carson)

*You can be strong without being involved in every  
civil war around the world.*

(Rand Paul)

*I step aside knowing our party is in good hands.*

(Rick Perry bowing out of presidential race)

*Thank you for the opportunity to run for the greatest office  
on the face of the earth.*

(Jeb Bush bowing out of presidential race)

*I ask you to prayerfully consider our coming together.*

(Ted Cruz asking 2016 candidates to get out of race and back him)

*My party has gone bat s\_\_t crazy!*

(Republican Senator Lindsey Graham at Washington Press Dinner)

*A con artist is about to take over the conservative movement  
and the Republican Party and we have to put a stop to it.*

(Marco Rubio referring to Donald Trump)

*His promises are as worthless as a degree from Trump University.*

*He's playing the American public for suckers.*

(Mitt Romney also referring to Donald Trump)

*I hate to crash the party!*

(John Kasich asking to be called upon at the debate)

*Unfortunately, I believe we're out of time.*

(Joe Biden announcing he would not run for president)

*Nobody who works 40 hours a week should be living in poverty.*

(Bernie Sanders)

*The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth  
between two royal families.*

(Martin O'Malley)

*Imagine what we can build together when each and every American  
has the chance to live up to his or her own God-given potential.*

(Hillary Rodham Clinton)

**YOU CAN'T FIX  
STUPID  
BUT YOU CAN  
VOTE IT OUT!**

## RETIREE CLUB MEETINGS

11:30 A.M. EST

(CUT & SAVE)



MARCH 2—MCL @  
MEADOWS CTR.  
TERRE HAUTE, IN



APRIL 6

GRAND CAFÉ-S. 3RD ST.  
TERRE HAUTE, IN



MAY 4  
OLIVE GARDEN, T.H.  
(BRING A GUEST)

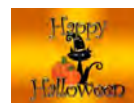
JUNE 1—36 SALOON  
ROCKVILLE, IN



JULY 6  
COOKOUT AT UNION HALL

AUGUST 3—CACKLEBERRIES  
7TH & POPLAR, TERRE HAUTE

SEPTEMBER 7  
FISH FRY AT HALL



OCTOBER 5  
PAT'S CAFÉ-US 41 S.  
TERRE HAUTE

NOV. 2—VALLEY GRILL  
3RD & MAPLE, T.H.



DECEMBER 7  
OLIVE GARDEN, TERRE HAUTE  
(BRING A GUEST)





# neca-ibew.org

## NECA-IBEW BENEFITS CONTACT INFO

HEALTH /DENTAL INSURANCE CLAIMS, VISION & HRA REIMBURSEMENTS, ELIGIBILITY

Phone: 800-765-4239, ext. 6  
Fax: 217-875-1487

RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE  
Phone: 800-765-4239, ext. 116  
Fax: 217-875-4651

E.R.T.S. (ELECTRONIC RECIPROCAL TRANSFER SYSTEM)  
Phone: 800-765-4239, ext. 117  
Fax: 217-875-6687

NECA-IBEW PENSION  
Phone: 800-765-4239, ext. 123  
Fax: 217-875-4651

TEMPORARY DISABILITY  
Phone: 800-765-4239, ext. 126  
Fax: 217-875-9563

COBRA  
Phone: 800-765-4239, ext. 150  
Fax: 217-875-6687

HRA/BENNY CARD  
Phone: 800-765-4239, ext. 124  
hra@neca-ibew.org

EXPRESS SCRIPTS (prescriptions)  
Phone: 800-711-0917  
Fax: 800-837-0959

Most forms can be found on-line @

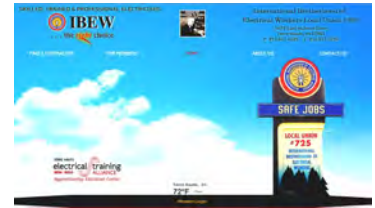
**neca-ibew.org**

(COBRA, disability, pension application forms, student certifications, spousal employment, stepchild affidavit, HRA reimbursement, etc.)

WHILE YOU ARE ON THE WEBSITE, DON'T FORGET TO CHECK ON YOUR CLAIMS OR USE THE PENSION CALCULATOR TO SEE YOUR BENEFIT.



DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE:  
**IBEW0725.ORG**



BLOOMINGTON SATELLITE OFFICE, FOUNTAIN SQUARE MALL  
101 West Kirkwood Ave., Suite 005A

BUSINESS MANAGER JOE KERR WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH MEMBERS LIVING OR WORKING IN OR NEAR BLOOMINGTON ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AS HIS SCHEDULE ALLOWS. CALL FIRST TO CONFIRM THAT A REPRESENTATIVE IS AVAILABLE ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH!

## ELECTRONIC RECIPROCAL TRANSFER SYSTEM (ERTS)

DON'T TAKE A CHANCE ON LOSING YOUR HARD-EARNED HEALTH & WELFARE AND PENSION BENEFITS. IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE TRAVELING OUTSIDE OUR JURISDICTION, THEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE YOU ARE SIGNED UP FOR ERTS BEFORE YOU BEGIN WORK ELSEWHERE. LET US KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!!!



We'll help you get there.™

## CONVERSION IS COMPLETE!

If you haven't done so yet, please visit the new supplemental pension plan website at:

**www.retiresmart.com**

First-time visitors will need to complete initial registration and then you're on your way to planning on how to:

# RetireSMART<sup>SM</sup>

FOR PENSION APPLICATIONS, CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY FORMS, ETC., PLEASE CONTACT JOHN DILL.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE ON HOW TO INVEST YOUR MONEY, PLEASE CONTACT SETH YUDES.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT MASS MUTUAL!

John Dill  
Senior Taft – Hartley  
HealthSCOPE Benefits  
Financial Administrator  
P.O. Box 50440  
8901 Otis Avenue, Suite 200  
Indianapolis, IN 46250-0440  
(P) 800-950-6789, Ext. 8364  
(F) 317-554-9020



Seth S. Yudes  
Financial Advisor  
Morgan Stanley  
Financial Planning Specialist  
800 East 96th St., Ste. 400  
Indianapolis, IN 46240  
(P) 317-818-7300  
(P) 800-224-1488  
(F) 317-818-7440

Morgan Stanley



**ORGANIZER'S  
REPORT  
TOM  
SZYMANSKI**

There has been a lot of organizing activities happening throughout our area the last few months. As demand for electrical workers and all skilled trades continues to increase across our region and the country, the time is now to make sure we can capture the workers and increase our control of the manpower. If we have the labor supply, we have the leverage to improve our wages, benefits and working conditions.

After hitting job sites, supply houses and utilizing social media, we held an Open House in Bloomington last month to meet and educate non-union electrical workers about the benefits of becoming IBEW members. We even had in attendance representatives from some of our signatory contractors to learn about the need to increase market share by going after the work we are not currently doing at all in most areas of our jurisdiction....the Market Recovery Work. This includes residential, multi-housing units, restaurants, strip malls, banks, small office buildings, and any other light commercial work.

I assisted a sister local union, IBEW 1424 in Columbus, with an internal organizing drive for the 850 plus employees at Faurecia manufacturing. Organizers came in from California, Tennessee, Kentucky, Washington D.C. and every state in the Sixth District. As a result, IBEW 1424 membership numbers went from 30% to 54% after a week of house calling every employee. Just as organizers

from other locals have assisted our efforts to make contact with the non-union contractors in our jurisdiction these past few years through numerous contractor blitzes, it is in the spirit of true solidarity that we always work to help each other as union members, and this was another great example.

Our efforts never stop to educate and talk with all electrical workers and their employers about joining the IBEW. As promised by the oath we all took... "to conform to and abide by the Constitution"...., we must continue "To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry..."

With that in mind, another *very important* aspect to making our union stronger is registering to vote and then voting for your jobs and paychecks! You have heard this a thousand times, but please remember that Indiana now has Right to Work for Less, lost our state prevailing wage law, had Unemployment benefits cut and OSHA budgets slashed to name just a few because labor friendly candidates were unable to win. Illinois is headed in the same exact direction if the right candidates are not elected into office. Your livelihood and ability to make good wages and benefits are the most important Family, Personal and Social Values, I would hope, that matters at election time!



**BUSINESS  
REPRESENTATIVE'S  
REPORT  
DANE STRAHLE**

Well it is early March and we are starting to see a little light at the end of the tunnel as far as winter is concerned. It definitely has been mild compared to some we have had in the past.

We have been having good turnouts at our monthly union meetings and that is great so the Hall and the Representatives can hear & work on the thoughts and concerns of our members.

One of the topics that has been around and discussed for approximately the last four years is the Market Recovery Strategy use of Construction Electricians and Construction Wiremen. This strategy is from the express direction of the IBEW International and designed to "recover" work and projects that the IBEW has not been doing for years. Simply, recover means to gain back something we once had, but lost, and this represents work and jobs for the IBEW. It is true that it got off on the wrong foot because it was not monitored correctly by some of our sister locals when it was implemented, and it was abused by some of the contractors. It can be a good thing if used correctly and Local # 725 has a couple of contractors that are utilizing this process and picking up work that we have not been able to bid on in years. The hall is monitoring this work and workers & the contractors are providing the proper paperwork as required.

The upcoming elections could possibly be the most important voting opportunity any of us has had in our lifetime, so please register and vote and help in any way available to see that all of your family and friends do the same. In 2014, Indiana had the lowest voter turnout of all fifty states. If we don't turn this around, our work and pay will continue to decline, so Please Go Vote!



**BUSINESS  
MANAGER'S  
REPORT  
JOSEPH D. KERR**



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Here we are in 2016 and we find ourselves in another Presidential Election year. I know we are all overexposed to the political bantering going on this election year, but there are other important elections happening this year other than the one for President. It's equally important for us to be concerned about our State and Local elections as well. Our members in Illinois are fighting against a Governor and his anti-union agenda that could put that state in the same situation as we here in Indiana are today. The passage of Right to Work Laws and the repeal of our Common Construction wage have been a direct attack on working men and women, union and non-union alike. Make no mistake there is an agenda to weaken our unions and drive down wages and before you cast your vote, I ask you to research and find out just where that candidate stands on issues that have a direct effect on your ability to provide for your family. Issues like Right to Work and repeal of the Common Construction Wage directly affect all unions when they sit down to negotiate a new contract. At the national level, depending on which political party gains control of the White House, we could see a national Right to Work Law passed, which has already been written and is just waiting for the right time to get passed. Also, we could see the repeal of the Davis Bacon Act which has provided wage standards on federal projects since its

passage in 1931. So please make sure you and everyone in your family is registered to vote and get out there and exercise your right to cast that vote, it does count!

The work outlook for our local has been brighter in the past, but we should see steady work calls for commercial projects throughout the summer. We do not, however, see any large industrial projects coming up like we have been blessed with in the past. However, some of our surrounding locals have been providing employment opportunities and should continue to do so for the next year or so.

On the second Friday of every month we have our union meeting and, as always, I encourage all members to attend, even if it's only a few each year. We try to answer questions and engage in conversation about topics and issues that come up and are important to us all. Last but not least, if you see or hear of something that you think we should know about, please call or contact me, Dane or Paul.

Remember, we all play an important role in our local union, whether you are an apprentice learning the trade, a JW evaluating an apprentice, a foreman, a local union officer or a steward, we are all equally important to the strength and future of Our Local!

In Solidarity, Joe Kerr



**FROM THE DESK  
OF PRESIDENT  
PAUL A. RUPSKA**

Hopefully by the time you're reading this the winter has gone, spring is in full form, and we are at full employment. Work has been good all winter and going into spring we have some big projects starting and finishing up. Before you know it, summer will be upon us and hopefully work will begin on some more big projects. In Terre Haute, we have some work finishing up at ISU and some going out for bid. We have multiple contractors working there and employing a lot of our members. We are getting ready to top out another class of great apprentices and soon to be capable journeymen to carry on the tradition of Local 725.

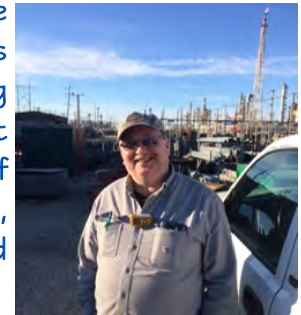
I want to thank Craig McNary for stepping up as steward on day shift at the Marathon Refinery for Lytle Electric and Mike Hendrickson on the night shift for the spring outage. I also want to thank Travis Runyan for agreeing to fill the vacancy on the Executive Board created when a member moved on to another job. Thanks also go out to Chuck Jennings who volunteered to be Election Judge in the Local Union Election. In closing, I personally want to thank all of the members for going out there every day and working these very dangerous jobs we go to every day.



## FEATURED MEMBER OF THE QUARTER

Each quarter, the Local features an article about one member who has stood out among us all and deserves recognition. We are asking all members to contact us and let us know which one of your brothers or sisters deserves a "hard hats off" salute. Your nominee may have done something on-the-job, for his family or community, or just performed a kind act such as helping a brother in need. We see that happen often and we want everybody to hear about it! Please be sure to submit the name of the member you would like to see featured in our quarterly newsletter. Let's make sure everyone knows about the members who make this Local so great!

This quarter's featured member is Brother Craig McNary. An Illinois resident and a strong Democrat, Craig is actively involved in what is going on in local and state politics and insures that the Local is informed of any new or prospective happenings. Craig currently serves as Chairman of the Local's Audit Committee, having been a committee member and recording secretary for several years. Brother McNary is also a great steward and well-respected extension of the hall, advising and assisting over 150 IBEW members employed with Lytle Electric at the Marathon Refinery. For almost 25 years, Craig has made himself available to his Local #725 brothers in whatever capacity needed, through activism, by volunteering, and always accepting anything asked of him. Thanks, Craig, from all of us for all you do!



### ARE YOU CURRENT ON YOUR DUES?

### INDIANA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AUDIT!

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development Quality Control Unit is now requiring the Local Union to submit Labor Organization Statements on members who are collecting unemployment. One question on the audit is "Was this individual a paid-up member in good standing the week ending 1/23/16?" If your dues were only paid through 12/31/2015, we would have to answer "NO" to this question and you would have to re-pay benefits for the week ending 1/23/2016.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR DUES PAID BY THE END OF EACH QUARTER  
SO THAT YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO FORFEIT YOUR UNEMPLOYMENT CHECK(S)!**

### CODE UPDATE CLASS

(Significant Changes to the NEC 2014)

WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: THEJATC

950 Ohio Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807

CALL (812)235-7541 TO REGISTER &  
PAY \$45.00 BOOK FEE BEFORE APRIL 7TH

### 2016 IBEW STATEWIDE

### GOLF OUTING

WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2016

TIME: 8:00 a.m. COST: \$85.00

WHERE: LEGENDS GOLF COURSE  
FRANKLIN, INDIANA

(Hosted by IBEW L.U. #481)  
HILTON GARDEN INN, HOST HOTEL

Going to work shouldn't be a grave mistake.

**WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY**

No worker should sacrifice their **life** for their **livelihood**.

*"Mourn for the Dead, Fight for the Living"*

**4 / 2 8 / 2 0 1 6**



Once again this year, the Local is sponsoring the food bags in the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive. Be sure to fill your bag all the way to the top on Saturday, May 14th.

# APRIL 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
(3/27) 				FDR Gala (3/31)	1	2
3	4	5	6 THBT	7	8 Union Meeting	9
10	11	12	13 Const. Conf.	14 Const. Conf.	15 Const. Conf.	16
17	18	19	20 THBT	21	22	23
24	25 Trustees Mtg.	26 Trustees Mtg.	27 Trustees Mtg.	28 WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY E-Bd. Mtg.	29 Trustees Mtg.	30



INDIANA PRIMARY ELECTION DAY—TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016





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Terre Haute, IN 47803

# IBEW LOCAL UNION #725

**CONTACT US ANYTIME:**

Phone: 812-877-4239

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E-mail:

unionhall@ibew725.org

We're Also On The Web:

www.ibew0725.org

Log On To Our Website For The Latest Job Information. Or, Follow Us On:



CONTINUE THE LEGACY,  
DON'T LET THE RADICAL RIGHT DESTROY IT!

