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# LOCAL 15 UNITY NEWSLETTER

UNION NEWS AND INFORMATION TO YOU

October 2021

## IBEW 15 Helps Secure Comprehensive Energy Legislation



After a little over a year since the announcement to close Byron and Dresden, a resolution has been reached by the State of Illinois. Senate Bill 2408 has passed both Legislative Chambers and signed by the Governor. President Terry McGoldrick and Vice President Bill Phillips have worked tirelessly trying to get a comprehensive energy bill across the finish line. It was a roller coaster ride to say the least. On September 9th, the House of Representatives passed this bill with 83 yes votes and 33 no votes. On September 13th, the Senate passed this bill with 37 yes votes and 17 no votes. On the morning of September 15th, Governor JB Pritzker signed the bill at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago

(pictured). President Terry McGoldrick and Vice President Bill Phillips were present for the signing. President Terry McGoldrick spoke at the bill signing. No bill is perfect, but there is a lot for Local 15 to celebrate in this bill. Local 15 leadership was a substantial player in getting this legislation that is being called landmark legislation. This legislation is crucial to the success of our Local moving forward.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Business Representative Tom Hinspeter to Retire!

Local 15 Nuclear Business Representative Tom Hinspeter has announced his plans to retire on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Brother Hinspeter has represented Braidwood, Dresden & LaSalle Generating Stations since August of 2016. Prior to Tom being appointed as a Business Representative he worked at both Braidwood and Collins Stations.

Tom started with the Company in August of 1981 at Collins Station where he worked as a Station Laborer (for \$6.78 per hour), Helper Mechanic and B Mechanic. In 1984 he transferred from Collins Station to Braidwood Station as a B Mechanic as Braidwood was under construction. He was promoted to A Mechanic and Senior A Mechanic at Braidwood Station. He was a certified welder for over 25 years as well.

Tom was a proud IBEW 1460 and 1469 member from the time he was hired until the amalgamation into IBEW Local 15 in 1994. Since then Tom has been a staple with IBEW Local 15. He was a Steward for the Mechanical Maintenance shop from January 2006 until April 2008. Tom was a Chief Steward for Braidwood Station from 2008 until 2016. He has served on the Local 15 Audit Committee and the Braidwood VPP Safety Committee. He was the Joliet Unit Meeting Chairman. Brother Hinspeter ran and was elected to 3 terms on the IBEW Local 15 Executive Board. His last term, he served as the IBEW Local 15 Executive Board Chairman.

Brother Hinspeter attended the University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin Arbitration Schools. He also attended the University of Wisconsin's Organizing Boot Camp class. Tom has attended several IBEW State Conferences in his time with Local 15.



*Continued on page 3*





*Energy Legislation Continued from Page 1*

This bill saves thousands of direct and indirect nuclear jobs and prevents Byron and Dresden from closure in September and November respectively. It gives approximately \$700 million in negotiated subsidies to Byron, Dresden & Braidwood Nuclear plants in the form of carbon mitigation credit. These stations will receive these credits for 5 years, beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. LaSalle Station will not receive any subsidy, but Exelon has promised to run it through 2026 as part of the negotiations in this legislation. Our hope is that within the next 5 years, electricity rates rise enough that the Nuclear Generating Stations can survive on their own without any aid in five years. The other possibility is that the Federal Government passes a bill providing a Nuclear production tax credit and this state bill is a bridge to get to a federal rule.

Senate Bill 2408 does away with formula rates for ComEd, as they are known today and returns ComEd to a traditional ratemaking process with the ICC more involved. It tightens up on ethics, accountability & transparency between the State of Illinois and utilities. This bill allows ComEd to invest in electrical infrastructure in the State of Illinois and be reimbursed for the work performed. That is very important to our Local and ComEd. ComEd investing in the electrical infrastructure for stabilization and reliability of the grid leads to continued work for our members.

All generation projects within the state of Illinois going forward will be done with the strongest labor standards set forth in the country. Prevailing wage will be paid to all workers on generation projects within the state that are considered larger than residential. This is something that Labor tried to get in the Future Energy Jobs Act in 2016 that kept QC and Clinton Stations from premature closure. At that time, the then Governor Rauner wouldn't sign the bill with prevailing wage language in it and it was pulled out in the eleventh hour to pass FEJA. This is a really big deal for labor across the state to achieve prevailing wage language in this bill.

Unfortunately, most of the companies that operate fossil generators in the state have already decided to close the

plants that they operate or have been attempting to sell them and get out of the business. This legislation goes a long way to try to protect the workers and communities around those facilities. For fossil plants that close, there are incentives to transition into solar generation or battery storage sites. This bill includes language that applies to displaced electric generating station and coal mine workers. These workers will be eligible to attend education on various programs available through the Department of Employment Security. Displaced Fossil workers will have the ability to gain credit from their work experience towards training, certificates, or degrees. Any child of an eligible displaced energy worker who possesses all necessary entrance requirements shall, upon application and proper proof, be awarded a transition scholarship of one calendar year of full-time enrollment to the Illinois State institution of his or her choice. Other available services will include reemployment services, training services, work-based learning services, and financial and retirement planning support.

IBEW Local 15 would like to thank all our members for continuing to go to work everyday with the uncertainty looming and perform their jobs error free. Local 15 also wants to thank all of you that stuck it out and patiently waited for this bill to come to fruition. Without your help and effort in going to the Springfield rally and reaching out to legislators, this wouldn't have passed. IBEW Local 15 would also like to thank all the other IBEW locals within the state that supported this legislation. This outcome wouldn't be possible without the support of the Illinois AFL/CIO, led by President Tim Drea and Secretary Treasurer Pat Devaney. Last but not least, thank you to all the Senators and Representatives that supported this bill! *(see a full list of Illinois Legislators and how they voted on Page 4 and 5)*

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## Hinspeter Bids Farewell

*Hinspeter* continued from page 1

Business Representative Hinspeter has been involved in negotiations for many Agreements and Settlements. He was involved in negotiating the Senior A Agreements for Braidwood, Dresden, LaSalle and Quad Cities Stations. These Agreements resulted in an immediate 108 promotions for our nuclear members. He was also involved in the Bellows settlement, Turbine work settlement and FLEX equipment settlement to name a few. Tom was also on the negotiating team for Effects Bargaining when Quad Cities and Clinton had announced closure and again when Byron and Dresden announced closure.

As you can see, Brother Hinspeter's career shows his continuous involvement and pledge to help the working men and women of IBEW Local 15. It's safe to say our Local Union is in a better place because of Tom Hinspeter. Altogether, he will have over 40 years of service time when he retires. It's sad to see him move on to the next chapter of his life. He will go on to enjoy working on his farm, Camping with his wife Carol and visiting his Son, Daughter-in-law and newly added granddaughter and raising his new puppy.

Tom was quoted saying "I couldn't be prouder to say I worked Union-IBEW for 40 years. I've met a lot of great people along the way and it's been an honor to represent the membership."



Callie— Deutsch Kurzhaar on point

***Thank you Tom for all you have done for our Local! We wish you the best in retirement.***

## Remote Work Discussions Continue

Assistant Business Manager / Business Representative Michael Freeman and Business Representative Fabian Vela have been meeting with Company representatives from ComEd and BSC about the possibility of our members continuing to work remotely beyond the pandemic period. Although the discussions are moving slowly the parties are continuing to meet. The Union has provided the Company a list of many of the issues that have come up during the pandemic period and the parties are currently reviewing and discussing those issues. As a reminder, a Covid-19 Emergency Agreement was signed by both sides at the onset of the pandemic to allow as many employees as possible to work remotely in order to reduce the risk of exposure and transmission at work. That agreement remains in effect through the Covid-19 pandemic period, but does not allow for remote work for our members once the pandemic has passed. Any remote work opportunities for members of the bargaining unit beyond the pandemic period would require an additional agreement with the Union. IBEW Local 15 has made it clear during these discussions that we are not interested in trading work for convenience as work is our member's job security! Attend your local monthly UNIT meeting for further updates on these discussions.

**Slow the Coronavirus Spread . . . .**  
**WEAR A MASK!**

NO. 5

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
 ONE HUNDRED SECOND  
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
 HOUSE ROLL CALL  
 SENATE BILL 2408  
 INSURANCE GUARANTY FUND  
 SENATE BILLS  
 THIRD READING  
 PASSED

Sep 09, 2021

83 YEAS

33 NAYS

0 PRESENT

Y Ammons	Y Guerrero-Cuellar	Y Nichols
Y Andrade	Y Guzzardi	N Niemerg
Y Avelar	Y Haas	Y Ortiz
N Batinick	N Halbrook	N Ozinga
Y Bennett	Y Halpin	Y Ramirez
N Bos	N Hammond	N Reick
N Bourne	Y Harper	Y Rita
N Brady	Y Harris	Y Robinson
Y Buckner	Y Hernandez, Barbara	Y Scherer
Y Burke	Y Hernandez, Elizabeth	N Severin
N Butler	Y Hirschauer	Y Slaughter
Y Carroll	Y Hoffman	Y Smith
Y Cassidy	Y Hurley	E Sommer
N Caulkins	N Jacobs	N Sosnowski
N Chesney	Y Jones	N Spain
Y Collins	Y Keicher	Y Stava-Murray
Y Conroy	Y Kifowit	Y Stephens
Y Costa Howard	Y LaPointe	Y Stoneback
Y Crespo	Y Lewis	Y Stuart
Y Croke	Y Lilly	N Swanson
Y D'Amico	Y Luft	Y Tarver
N Davidsmeyer	Y Mah	N Ugaste
Y Davis	Y Manley	Y Vella
Y Delgado	N Marron	Y Walker
Y DeLuca	Y Mason	Y Walsh
Y Demmer	Y Mayfield	N Weber
Y Didech	N Mazzochi	Y Welter
N Durkin	Y McCombie	Y West
N Elik	Y McLaughlin	Y Wheeler
Y Evans	N Meier	N Wilhour
N Flowers	Y Meyers-Martin	Y Williams, Ann
Y Ford	N Miller	Y Williams, Jawaharial
E Frese	Y Moeller	Y Willis
N Friess	Y Morgan	N Windhorst
Y Gabel	N Morrison	Y Yang Rohr
Y Gong-Gershowitz	Y Moylan	Y Yednock
Y Gonzalez	N Murphy	Y Yingling
Y Gordon-Booth	Y Mussman	Y Zalewski
N Grant	Y Ness	Y Mr. Speaker
Y Greenwood		

E - Denotes Excused Absence

NO. 5

State of Illinois  
 102nd General Assembly  
 Senate Vote

Senate Bill No. 2408  
 CONCUR IN HOUSE AMENDMENT  
 CONCURRENCE

Sep 13, 2021

37 YEAS	17 NAYS	3 PRESENT
N Anderson	Y Gillespie	Y Peters
Y Aquino	Y Glowiak Hilton	N Plummer
N Bailey	NV Harris	Y Rezin
N Barickman	Y Hastings	N Rose
Y Belt	Y Holmes	P Simmons
Y Bennett	Y Hunter	Y Sims
N Bryant	Y Johnson	Y Stadelman
Y Bush	Y Jones, E.	N Stewart
Y Castro	Y Joyce	N Stoller
P Collins	Y Koehler	N Syverson
Y Connor	Y Landek	N Tracy
N Crowe	Y Lightford	P Turner, D.
Y Cullerton, T.	Y Loughran Cappel	N Turner, S.
Y Cunningham	Y Martwick	Y Van Pelt
Y Curran	N McClure	Y Villa
N DeWitte	N McConchie	Y Villanueva
Y Ellman	NV Morrison	Y Villivalam
Y Feigenholtz	Y Muñoz	N Wilcox
Y Fine	Y Murphy	Y Mr. President
N Fowler	Y Pacione-Zayas	

# ATTEND YOUR UNIT MEETINGS

## GET THE FACTS

Union Approval Hits 56Year High	October - Calendar	
<p>Approval for labor unions has hit a 56 year high according to the most recent Gallup poll. The poll has been asking Americans their thoughts on unions since 1936, although it has only been conducted yearly since 2001.</p> <p>This year's poll found that sixty eight percent of Americans approve of labor unions. This was up from 65% last year and was the highest since 1965 when 71% of Americans supported them. Approval has increased among nearly all major demographic subgroups since 2016. However, one group where the approval rating did decrease slightly was among union members. The poll found 86% supporting unions down from a high of 93% in 2019.</p> <p>Some of the biggest supporters of unions were young people. The poll found that among 18–34-year-old's, 77% supported unions. Another large supporter was low-income households making under \$40,000 a year. Within this group, unions had a 72% approval rating.</p> <p>Among political groups, Democrats overwhelmingly supported labor with a 90% approval rating. This was the highest it has been in two decades and is up seven points from last year. The 90% approval rating is a higher level of support among a political party than even in 1965 or 1953 when unions had their highest ever approval rating. 66% of independents and 47% of Republicans also support labor unions which were essentially unchanged from last year.</p> <p>According to the poll, only 17% of the respondents were either union members or lived in a union household.</p> <p>The impression that the larger general population has of unions continues to be strong, especially true among the younger generation who has grown up hearing about unions as the fighters for the middle class and lower-income workers who have directly seen unions not only organize their workplaces but also fight for things like the \$15 minimum wage. <i>Reprinted from UComm</i></p>	5	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Tuesday</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NORTHERN UNIT MEETING - 5:30<sup>PM</sup></b>  <b>American Legion</b>  <b>749 Milwaukee Ave - Gurnee</b></p>
	6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Wednesday</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>POWERTON UNIT MEETING - 4:00<sup>PM</sup></b>  <b>PACE</b>  <b>300 McLean Street - Pekin</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">* <b>JOLIET UNIT MEETING - 5:30<sup>PM</sup></b>  <b>Stone City VFW</b>                  ** <b>124 Stone City Drive - Joliet</b></p>
	7	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Thursday</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DIXON UNIT MEETING - 6:00<sup>PM</sup></b>  <b>American Legion</b>  <b>1120 W. First St. - Dixon</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ELMHURST UNIT MEETING - 6:30<sup>PM</sup></b>  <b>American Legion</b>  <b>310 W. Butterfield Rd - Elmhurst</b></p>
	13	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Second Wednesday</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>KINCAID UNIT MEETING - 3:45<sup>PM</sup></b>  <b>South Fork Building - 124 Central Avenue - Kincaid</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHICAGO UNIT MEETING - 5:00<sup>PM</sup></b>  <b>IBEW Local 134 2722 S Martin Luther King Dr - Chicago</b></p>
	14	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Second Thursday</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">* <b>ROCKFORD UNIT MEETING- 5:30<sup>PM</sup></b>  <b>Holiday Inn</b>                  ** <b>7550 E. State Street - Rockford</b></p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">* <i>President McGoldrick will attend</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">** <i>VP Phillips will attend</i></p>
<p><b>Slow the Coronavirus Spread . . .</b>  <b>STAY SIX FEET APART!</b></p>		

**YOUR LOCAL 15 REPRESENTATIVES AND ELECTED OFFICERS**

**— OFFICERS —**

**Terry McGoldrick**  
PRESIDENT - BUSINESS MANAGER  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**Bill Phillips**  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
SENIOR ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

**Lisa Sims**  
RECORDING SECRETARY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

**George Longoria**  
TREASURER

**— EXECUTIVE BOARD —**

CHAIRPERSON

**Kathy Flynn**  
CLERICAL DIVISION

**Brian Daniels**  
GENERATING PHYSICAL NUCLEAR DIVISION

**Ian Hacker**  
GENERATING PHYSICAL FOSSIL DIVISION

**Mike Keating**  
COMMERCIAL PHYSICAL DIVISION

**Vinnie Rochotte**  
COMMERCIAL PHYSICAL DIVISION

**Russ "Rudy" Ruettiger**  
AT LARGE

**Tom Tibbles**  
CLERICAL DIVISION

**CLERICAL BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES**

**Mike Freeman**  
ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER-AREAS- CALL CENTER CRYSTAL LAKE,  
ELGIN, GLENBARD/BULK POWER, HIGHLAND PARK, LC1-2-  
3, LIBERTYVILLE, MT. PROSPECT, SKOKIE, WOODSTOCK  
**630-442-9864 FREEMAN@IBEW15.ORG**

**Fabian Vela**  
BUSINESS REP -AREAS- AURORA, BOLING-  
BROOK, BRADLEY, BRAIDWOOD, BYRON, CANTERA, CHASE  
BLD, CHICAGO NORTH-SOUTH COMM CENTER, CRES-  
WOOD, DIXON, DEKALB, DRESDEN, ENERTOUCH, GOODCENTS, FRE  
EPORT, JOLIET- CCC/DDC, LASALLE, MAYWOOD/TECH  
CETER, QUAD CITIES, ROCKFORD, STC, UNIVERSITY PARK  
**773-717-6073 VELA@IBEW15.ORG**

**ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER  
And ARBITRATIONS**

**Dave Wiggins**  
ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER / ARBITRATION COORDINATOR /  
UNITY EDITOR  
**630-918-2906**  
**WIGGINS@IBEW15.ORG**

**COMMERCIAL PHYSICAL  
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES**

**Sam Studer**  
ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER- AREAS- BRAD-  
LEY, CHANNAHON, CRESTWOOD, JOLIET, PONTIAC, SSG  
SOUTH, STREATOR, UNIVERSITY PARK  
**630-600-1106 STUDER@IBEW15.ORG**

**Ralph Trentadue**  
BUSINESS REP -AREAS- BARRINGTON, CRYSTAL LAKE, HIGHLAND  
PARK, LIBERTYVILLE, MT. PROSPECT, SKOKIE, SSG  
NORTH, WOODSTOCK -SENIORITY MANAGER-  
**847-636-9868 TRENTADUE@IBEW15.ORG**

**Chris Riser**  
BUSINESS REP -AREAS- COMM CENTER, BOLING-  
BROOK, ELGIN, GLENBARD, MAYWOOD, O'HARE, TECH CETER  
**630-809-5334 RISER@IBEW15.ORG**

**Mark Shaulis**  
BUSINESS REP -AREAS- AURORA, DEKALB, DIX-  
ON, FREEPORT, QUAD CITIES SSC, ROCKFORD  
**815-312-7581 SHAULIS@IBEW15.ORG**

**Jim Collins**  
BUSINESS REP -AREAS- CHICAGO NORTH CHICAGO SOUTH COM-  
MERCIAL CENTER  
**630-569-3571 COLLINS@IBEW15.ORG**

**GENERATION BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES**

**Dave Grooms**  
BUSINESS REP -AREAS- JOLIET 8-29, KIN-  
CADE, POERTON, WAUKEGAN, WILL COUNTY  
**815-6773137 GROOMS@IBEW15.ORG**

**Tom Hinspeter**  
BUSINESS REP -AREAS- BRAIDWOOD, DRESDEN, LASSALE  
**815-690-2020 HINSPETER@IBEW15.ORG**

**Ben Busser**  
BUSINESS REP -AREAS- BYRON, QUAD CITIES  
**815-440-4216 BUSSER@IBEW15.ORG**



# NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN AT UNIT MEETINGS



New members sworn in at Elmhurst unit meeting  
 Jamie Ozman CW Glenbard  
 Bryce Sesemsnn OHH Bolingbrook



The following members were sworn in at the September 1st meeting in Joliet:  
 Sal Vargas-OVHD Construction-Joliet, Daniel Krugel-OVHD Helper-Dixon ,Seth Randa-OVHD Helper-Dekalb , Cadin Keller- OVHD Helper-Freepport, Matthew Skobel-OVHD-Helper-Bolingbrook, Fabian Ramos-OVHD Helper-Elgin , Miguel Guzman-OVHD Helper-Joliet, Brandon Arena-OVHD Helper-University Park, John Cooper OVHD Construction-Joliet, Jesus Reneteria OVHD Helper-Dekalb

## Illinois Moves to Ban Right-to-Work Laws

**Illinois voters will have the chance to more permanently ban right-to-work laws when they go to the polls next year.** “Voters in Illinois know what most working people across the country know, that right-to-work laws are wrong. They’re bad for workers and bad for the economy,” said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson, who began his career and remains a member of Rock Island, Ill., Local 145. “This is a chance to enshrine the true rights of working people into the state constitution and say once and for all that every employee deserves a voice on the job and the right to bargain collectively.”

The Workers’ Rights Amendment would establish a new section in the Illinois Bill of Rights that would limit the power of the General Assembly, state, or any local government to pass a law that restricts or prohibits collective bargaining over wages, hours and terms and conditions of employment, including private sector workers’ rights to contract for union security agreements.

The amendment passed both the state House and Senate with bipartisan support in May. Since this type of legislation does not require a governor’s signature, the next step is for the issue to go before voters via ballot, which will happen in November 2022. It will need approval from three-fifths of all those voting on the question, or a simple majority of all ballots cast in the election, to be ratified, reported Capitol News Illinois.

Despite mountains of evidence demonstrating their many shortcomings, right-to-work laws have proliferated across the U.S. The laws, largely championed by anti-union businesses and their allies, allow employees to access the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement without having to pay any fees for them. Consequently, union budgets are starved, weakening their bargaining power.

Currently, 27 states have these nefariously named laws on the books, including neighboring states Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. According to a new study from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute and the Project for Middle Class Renewal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois fares significantly better for having avoided this pitfall.

Among the findings, when compared to right-to-work states, Illinois workers’ have a 6% higher annual income, are 5% more likely to have health insurance coverage, are 3% more likely to own their homes and are 4% more likely to have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Worker poverty is also lower. Illinoisans also have 32% fewer on-the-job fatalities.

“The data shows that the states that are most effective at building middle-class jobs and delivering economic growth are those that support workers’ rights and collective bargaining,” wrote study authors Frank Manzo and Robert Bruno. “This suggests that passing the proposed Workers’ Rights Amendment would promote good jobs, safe workplaces, and a strong economy for the people of Illinois.”



# IBEW

...the *Right* choice

## NERC Warns of Energy Shortfalls

"Electricity is a key component of the fabric of modern society", states NERC, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

NERC's 2021 Summer Reliability Assessment warns that parts of North America are at elevated or high risk of energy shortfalls during above-normal peak temperatures.

NERC's risk scenario analysis shows Texas, New England, MISO and parts of the West are at an "elevated risk" of energy emergencies. In the "high risk" category is California, which relies on large energy imports during peak demand scenarios and when solar resource output retreats in the evening hours. While more than 3 GW of additional resources are expected in California this summer compared to 2020, most will be solar photovoltaic (PV) generation.



These plants can provide energy to support peak demand, however solar PV output falls off rapidly in late afternoon while high demand often remains. Reliance on imports during these periods is an increasing reliability risk. While actions taken by the California Public Utilities Commission, CAISO and utilities to procure additional resources will help, the Western Interconnection's increase in demand and decline in resources may reduce the amount of surplus capacity available when California is in shortfall.

"As the grid transforms and weather-dependent resources become increasingly important to maintaining the real-time supply for electricity, the bulk power system becomes more vulnerable to abnormal weather," said John Moura, director of Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis. "Above-average seasonal temperatures, such as those predicted for this summer, contribute to high peak demand and impact the availability of generation resources and imports from neighboring areas. This means that it is especially important for the electric industry to ensure the committed resource mix can support a variety of abnormal conditions."

Sourced from NERC Summer Assessments 2021 mts



## RETIREMENTS

The following Members have received Honorary Withdrawal Cards from IBEW Local 15  
 Congratulations and Thank You for Your Service - from your IBEW Local 15 Sisters and Brothers

<b>Richard Turkstra</b>	Mechanic Meter Equip	ComEd Commercial Center	Jan-77
<b>Edward Schaibley</b>	Senior Mechanic	LaSalle	Aug-81
<b>Alan Turner</b>	Sr. Energy Tech Physical	Freeport	Feb-84
<b>Jonathan Butler</b>	Energy Tech Physical	Chicago South	Mar-97
<b>Rodney Whitmore</b>	Nuclear Station Op	Quad Cities	Jun-85

## Colectivo Coffee Successful In Organizing

Colectivo Coffee was successful voting in Union Representation. Under supervision by the federal government, mailed-in ballots resulted in a 106-99 for organizing. Brett Lyons, Business Representative for IBEW Local 1220, said Colectivo will be the largest unionized coffee chain in the nation with around 440 workers. Colectivo has a workforce consisting of café, bakery, and warehouse workers. These cafes are located in Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. IBEW Local 1220 in Downers Grove and IBEW Local 494 in Milwaukee will share representation duties. The initial vote count in April ended in a 99-99 deadlock, but the National Labor Relations Board then opted to count seven ballots that the company objected to. Those votes ultimately favored the Union. The IBEW hopes this victory leads to other organizing opportunities where employees feel they have not been heard by management. Congratulations to our Colectivo union sisters and brothers on their long-fought victory!



**FEEL SICK?  
STAY HOME!**



## IN MEMORY



John David Tushak Retired from Tech Center 79 years old.  
 Larry McLean Retired Lasalle MMD Technician 67 years old  
 Daniel Floreani Past Vice President of IBEW Local 1427 84 years old