



LOCAL 15 UNITY NEWSLETTER

UNION NEWS AND INFORMATION TO YOU

July 2021

IBEW 15 Leader Terry Sheridan Retiring

Brother Sheridan fresh out of the Navy and after a brief stint at the Steel Mills in Chicago started his career in 1980 at Chicago Central reading meters at \$ 6.77 an hour, dodging dog bites and strange interactions on the city bus, yes that was a thing back in the day riding the city bus to the daily Meter Reading routes. From there, Terry went on to the Overhead qualifying as a Journeyman in October of 1985 then Overhead Electrician Special in 1994 and finally Overhead Crewleader in 2014.

Terry was involved in the Union as a Steward and Chief Steward, then Business Representative in 2007 and later promoted to Assistant Business Manager of Local 15 in 2012.

Over the course of his career Terry has furthered his education to better represent the members of the IBEW by attending several courses and classes at the University of Illinois and the National Labor College in Silver Spring Maryland to name a couple. The fields of study were Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), family medical leave act (FMLA), Arbitration training (both preparation and presentation and advanced arbitrations training) as well as contract negotiations and IBEW Business Manager training. "Terry is an invaluable asset to Local 15 and will be sorely missed" says Local 15 President Terry McGoldrick

Terry had a passion for safety which is

unmatched, He challenged the Company and his co-workers to work safely and follow the rules, he truly led by example.
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Energy Legislation Update

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Illinois lawmakers wanted to create and pass comprehensive energy legislation in the 2021 Spring legislative session. President Terry McGoldrick and Vice President Bill Phillips are more involved in politics than our Local has ever had to be in the past. They worked alongside labor throughout the state including the AFL-CIO in order to keep our members employed. As we all know this has been an uphill battle. Covid-19, ComEd deferred prosecution agreement and Splitting of the company all falls on the shoulders of labor to battle through and convince Illinois politicians

that we need to get something done for our members. May 31st came and went without any legislative help. There were many forward movements during the Spring legislation that led to the talks of bringing back both chambers to vote on energy legislation after the session had ended.

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Terry Sheridan

Continued from page 1

This passion wasn't always met with kindness, nonetheless Terry never wavered and continues to advocate for a safe workplace for all Local 15 Members. That passion never ceased when Terry agreed to take on the role of Business Rep. He was a driving force behind the Safety Rule book re-write and positive changes, namely ridding the ComEd electrical System of the dreaded Pot Head, energized hand operated cable terminations practice, which the company begrudgingly ceased as a practice only after they realized Terry's persistence for safety wasn't mere words.

Terry always had a passion for Unionism and labor friendly politics.

He was an advocate for working people, not only ComEd/Exelon but working people in general. Terry has walked picket lines, attended Union rallies/conventions and also served on many boards and councils such as the Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL). Terry was heavily involved in the IBEW Illinois State Conference for many years working side by side with then President of Local 15 Dean Apple who chaired the conference. Terry worked tirelessly on grievances and arbitrations and was a major influence on many negotiations such as the wildly popular 2010 Underground Package and the AMI agreement, keeping the vast majority of Smart Meter work in house with Local 15 members; as well as the Distribution Testing, Lead Crew Leader and Construction Worker negotiations. These are just a few of the projects Terry has had major influence on over the years here at Local 15. Terry was the Unity editor and also developed the

Local 15 Logo's that appear on countless items from T-Shirts to bumper stickers.

"The knowledge, experience and work ethic Terry has is second to none and he has been a valuable asset to our Local. Terry has had a profound impact on our Local and we are in a better place due to his hard work over the years", says Assistant Business manager and Arbitration coordinator Dave Wiggins. Terry plans on spending time with his wife Kathleen and Children Brook, Liam, Joe, nephew Danny and the newest addition his granddaughter Hazel

Terry's last Chicago Unit meeting will be July 14th 5pm at IBEW Local 134 - 2722 S Martin Luther King Dr, Chicago, IL 60616, USA Stop by and wish him well!

Special Message From

Terry Sheridan

"I thank all the IBEW members who came before and bargained for the pension and benefits that I intend to enjoy. Thank you to Local 15 staff and Stewards who represent our members everyday in hundreds of ways. Thanks to our members who keep the lights on. Protect what we've earned, save some money, vote for labor friendly candidates, and attend your local union meetings."

THANKS TERRY have a long and healthy retirement!!!!

Energy Legislation cont...

This was good news but complicated things even further as legislation now needs to receive 3/5th vote or greater to pass the bill. Exelon is in agreement with the state on funding and a timeframe to keep the Nuclear fleet alive and our members employed. ComEd is onboard with ending formulary rates as they are in today's environment, and going to a new process with ratemaking that incorporates more oversight. Many renewable lobbyists want to close the Coal and Natural Gas Generating facilities immediately. Local 15 wants to keep these stations operating as long as possible. On June 15th and 16th, we thought the Senate and House of Representatives would vote on the comprehensive energy bill. There were portions of the bill unrelated to the Nuclear and ComEd topics that delayed the bill then and continue to delay it now. We are being told that the stakeholders involved in the bill being held up are meeting on a regular basis and that those meetings are productive. We believe these negotiations will end with finalized language on an energy bill. That bill will then be distributed to legislators to review. Both the House of Representatives and Senate will then have to be called back for a vote. We believe this vote will take place at some point this summer. Lawmakers can now vote remotely, which is a positive change. Once voted on and passed by both chambers it will go to the Governor, where we believe he will sign it as well. Exelon, Local 15 leadership and our members continue to remain patient as we wait for this legislation.

UNITY July 2021



**Monthly Newsletter of
IBEW Local 15**

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— 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

July - Calendar

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | First Thursday | DIXON UNIT MEETING 6:00PM American Legion - 1120 W. First St. - Dixon |
| 4 | Sunday | ELMHURST UNIT MEETING 6:30PM American Legion - 310 W. Butterfield Rd - Elmhurst |
| 5 | Monday | Holiday - Independence Day <i>Observed by Employees Whose Regular Day Off is Saturday</i> |
| 6 | First Tuesday | NORTHERN UNIT MEETING 5:30PM American Legion - 749 Milwaukee Ave - Gurnee |
| 7 | First Wednesday | POWERTON UNIT MEETING 4:00PM PACE - 300 McLean Street - Pekin JOLIET UNIT MEETING 5:30PM Stone City VFW - 124 Stone City Drive - Joliet |
| 8 | Second Thursday | ROCKFORD UNIT MEETING 5:30PM Holiday Inn - 7550 E. State Street - Rockford |
| 14 | Second Wednesday | Chicago Unit Meeting 5:00PM ** * * IBEW Local 134- 2722 S. Martin Luther King - Chicago Kincaid Unit Meeting 3:45PM South Fork Township - 124 Central Ave - Kincaid * President McGoldrick Will Attend ** Vice-President-Elect Phillips Will Attend |

IBEW Rallies to Save the Nukes

On Friday, May 28th, 2021 the Climate Jobs Illinois Coalition organized a rally on the Steps of the Capital building in front of the Abraham Lincoln Statue in Springfield, Illinois. It was an impressive rally that included many IBEW Local 15 members and their families. There were other Illinois IBEW members in attendance as well, including Local 51 members that represent the Clinton Nuclear Station workers. Coal City and Byron had a strong community showing as well at the rally with Superintendents and teachers in attendance. Joe Duffy with the Climate Jobs Illinois organized the event with the help of the Illinois AFL-CIO and IBEW Local 15 President Terry McGoldrick and Vice President Bill Phillips. There were many speakers that spoke for the need to save the Nuclear Plants from premature closing including: Joe Duffy with Climate Jobs Illinois, Illinois State Representative Marcus Evans, Chairman of the Illinois Senate Energy Committee Michael Hastings, Illinois State Senator Sue Rezin, Illinois State Representative David Welter, Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson, Illinois State Representative Jim Durkin, Coal City Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg and last but not least IBEW Local 15 President Terry McGoldrick.

All speakers encouraged the crowd to make their voices heard and assured us that they were going to get this done for us. Representative Evans told the group that he works for the people and to let him know what we wanted him to do. The crowd responded with a loud "save our jobs" chant. Senator Hastings assured the group that nothing's going to stop us from saving these Nuke plants. Senator Rezin stated that she supports these Nuclear plants as they support thousands of jobs. Representative Durkin relayed the importance to maintain the nuclear plants to keep a diverse energy portfolio throughout the State of Illinois. Senator Anderson, previous Union firefighter, left a calming message to the group that we've done this before, we are going to get through this again and then start having a conversation on building more nukes. Representative Welter represents half of the nuclear fleet in the State and says it's an awesome responsibility and that we must save these Nuclear power plant jobs. Superintendent Kent Bugg discussed the devastating impact on the communities surrounding the nuclear stations, if the stations were to close. Our President, Terry McGoldrick thanked all that have helped us in our cause to keep these great jobs alive. He thanked all those that showed up to the Rally on 24 hours' notice. He finished out his speech with we need to get this damn thing done!



New Members take the Oath



Business Representative Ralph Trentadue swears in new members...Left to right: James Clark, Construction Worker, Lib; Clinton Lashley, Single Phase, Lib; Matt Matthias, Single Phase Overhead, Lib; Samuel Keller, Construction Worker, Lib; Erick Rodriguez, Construction Worker, Lib



Joliet Unit Meeting Chairman- Brian Daniels, swears in new members at the June Unit Meeting.

Members are Christian Callender (Bolingbrook Overhead) and Tammy Lewkowicz (Oakbrook Lincoln Center 2 CSR).

**NO JOB IS SO
IMPORTANT -
NO EMERGENCY
IS SO GREAT -**



**- THAT WE
CANNOT TAKE
THE TIME TO
PERFORM**

OHT Aerial Group Flying Their Old Coop

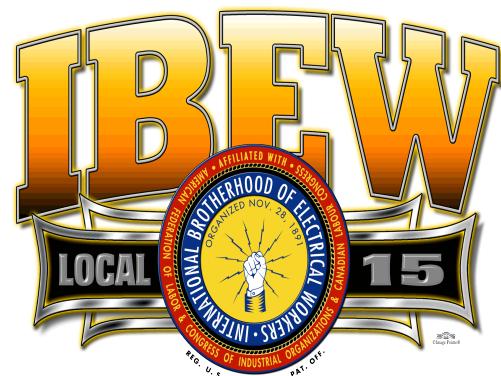


The OHT Aerial Group will be lifting off to new heights from a new location.

The new location is the DeKalb Municipal Airport, in the middle of the DeKalb county and the ComEd territory. The location offers several improvements to their previous hanger. The improvements include better security for material and equipment and a hanger dedicated to their aircraft, where previously it was shared. It also provides improved facilities for meetings, personal and work gear storage, and clean up areas.

The group consists of a small number of specialized Overhead Electricians (OE) assigned in the Overhead Transmission Department. An OE, often wearing specialized gear called a Faraday suit, can work on live, high-power lines by being transported to the lines in a helicopter. The OE can perform maintenance and construction while sitting on an outrigger platform attached to the helicopter while the aircraft hovers next to the line. When approaching the line a long wand is touched to the line to equalize the potential of the aircraft to that of the line, then a breakaway bonding wire connected to the helicopter's frame is attached to the line during work. Alternatively the worker can transfer to the wires from the helicopter and crawl down the wires, then be picked up by the helicopter after the work is completed.

From inspections to construction and maintenance, they perform their work from the highest points on the system.



Anti-Union Right to Work Law Defeated in New Hampshire

Despite a push from the Governor and out-of-state business interests, the New Hampshire House has resoundingly killed the latest attempt to pass Right to Work in the Granite State.

The House voted 199-175 against the bill on Thursday night, with all Democrats voting no and 20 members of the Republican majority joining with them to sink the bill. They then voted 196-178 to indefinitely postpone the bill, meaning that the legislature cannot reconsider the bill until the next legislative session in 2023.

For weeks, people who had been closely involved with the bill on both sides thought that the vote would be close, but that ended up not being the case as Democrats stuck together and were able to bring some of their Republican colleagues on board.

As legislators voted inside the NH Sportsplex in Bedford, dozens of union members from across the state rallied outside letting the legislators know that they opposed the bill and opposed the negative consequences that come from Right to Work. Studies show that workers in Right to Work states make \$10,000 less thanks to these laws.

"Unions give workers an avenue to raise important issues with their employers and protect their right to negotiate these issues without government interference," said state Rep. Doug Ley, D-Jaffrey, who voted against the measure. "They provide a path to a better life, and it's in everyone's interest to make sure unions are available to those who want to join."

The defeat of the bill was a huge loss for Republican Governor Chris Sununu who

promised that it would be a top priority when he first took office in 2017. However, the bill was rejected in 2017 by the Republican-led House before Democrats regained control of the House in 2018. Right to Work legislation has been routinely introduced in New Hampshire in nearly every session since the 1980s but has consistently failed to become law. "For nearly 40 years, "right to work" legislation has been pushed by out-of-state corporate interests in New Hampshire," said Glenn Brackett, President of the New Hampshire AFL-CIO in an editorial that was published last week. "And every year it's been on the table, our lawmakers have shut it down. Why? Because they know what the labor movement has done for the Granite State. Our members go to work each and every day knowing that their union contracts allow them the top wages and benefits, with the knowledge that there are safety and protections on the job. And for them and their loved ones, that's priceless." Even though right to work was defeated once again, the out-of-state business interests, like the Koch brothers-backed Americans for Prosperity, who were behind it have vowed to keep pushing the bill in the state. "Right to Work supporters remain fully committed to ending forced unionism in New Hampshire, and I'm confident they will be back with even more energy next year to put right to work over the top," Mark Mix, the group's president, said in a statement

. Source: Right to Work Defeated in New Hampshire | ucomm blog

Lineworker Skills Competition

Postponed to 2022



Due to the ongoing Pandemic protocols, the 2021 Lineworker Skills Competition has been postponed until 2022.

The competition was revived in 2019 after a long term hiatus of the then called Linemans Rodeo. The Rodeo was an extremely popular event in the mid 1990s and was held at the Joliet Training Center. The original Rodeo was a family friendly event that showcased the skills utilized by the trades in the daily performance of their work.

The 2019 competition was also extremely successful, using the same basic format of family friendly events with additions of food carts and music entertainment. This event spawned plans for a 2020 expansion of the 2019 format to include both the Underground and Sub Station Construction work groups.

The plans for a return to competition are underway and will make the 2022 Lineworkers Skills Competition a resounding success. Keep your eyes, and schedule, open.

Virtual Site Visit for Commercial Center Clerical Employees

IBEW Local 15 Assistant Business Manager/Business Representative Michael Freeman and Business Representative Fabian Vela held their second virtual site visit with Commercial Center employees on Wednesday the 19th of May 2021. Chief Steward Lisa Sims and Steward Anthony Trentadue also participated in the call. Most Commercial Center employees were transitioned to working remotely and are the second largest group of remote workers behind the Call Center. The pandemic affected the way we socialize with our members, among them the cancellation of the monthly Unit Meetings. Although the unit meetings have slowly resumed, the virtual visit has become another way to stay in touch with our members since there is still some apprehension of gathering in crowds. The virtual site visit is crafted around an open Teams invite that was sent out to all the Commercial Center employees, allowing them to drop in and out during their breaks or lunches. At the first virtual site visit, most of the questions asked focused on the status of remote working beyond the pandemic period as well as the Exelon spinoff announcement. The concern raised centered on the splitting of the generation and the regulated transmission and distribution segments and its possible impact on our members.

These questions were raised again and we also expressed the importance of not working outside of your work hours without approval. In addition, the concern of improper use of Company equipment which has resulted in numerous disciplinary actions against employees. Local 15 is planning on holding similar type virtual visits with other work groups in the future.

Right to Unionize

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois House passed a proposed constitutional amendment Wednesday, May 26 that would guarantee workers in the state the right to unionize. The proposed amendment, which passed the Senate two weeks ago, would provide that employees have a “fundamental right” to organize and engage in collective bargaining over wages, hours and working conditions. It would also prohibit the state or any local government from enacting so-called “right-to-work” laws, which prohibit contracts that make union membership a condition of employment. Rep. Marcus Evans, D-Chicago, the lead sponsor of the measure in the House, framed the vote as a choice between standing up for the rights of workers or the interests of business.

“Where do you stand when you look that working mother in your community in the eye, and do you want her to have collective bargaining,” he said. “Do you want her to have representation,

or do you want to follow many other states as they continue a concerted effort to take away the rights of working men and women? You’ve got to make a decision.”

But Rep. Lance Yednock, D-Ottawa, stated that collective bargaining generally leads to safer working conditions and better economic conditions for all workers.

“One of the most diabolical ways to limit collective bargaining is through so called right-to-work laws,” he said. “States that limit collective bargaining see declines in wages, benefits, training, and safety standards. And it’s a losing proposition for all workers.”

Currently, 28 states, mainly in the Deep South and Great Plains, have some form of right-to-work laws or constitutional amendments on the books, according to the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, including the neighboring states of Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa and Wisconsin.

The amendment passed the House with bipartisan support, 80-30, which was more than the three-fifths majority needed for passage. It will next be placed on the November 2022 general election ballot where 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.

The measure is Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 11.

R E T I R E M E N T S

The following Members have received Honorary Withdrawal Cards from IBEW Local 15

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Debra Lepe | Liability Rep | Lincoln Center | Feb-80 |
| Glenn Klee | Equipment Operator Nuclear | LaSalle | Mar-90 |
| Dennis Mitchell | Sr. Energy Tech Physical | Dixon | Oct-72 |
| David Dobbs | Rad Protection Tech | Braidwood | Sep-83 |
| Paul Pointer | Rad Protection Tech | Braidwood | Dec-07 |
| Richard Killian | OVHD Elec | Streator | May-87 |
| Pamela Marunde | Liability Rep | Lincoln Center | Jan-88 |
| Anthony Ries | Crew Leader Line | Chicago South | Mar-85 |
| Daniel Pniewski | Equipment Mechanic Fleet | Mount Prospect | Jul-91 |
| Carol Martello | General Service Rep | Joliet | Dec-88 |
| Daniel Verjinsky | Control Systems Tech | Dresden | May-90 |
| Daniel Moeller | Equipment Operator Nuclear | Quad Cities | Sep-01 |
| Donald Blecha Jr. | Sr. Maint Electrician | Braidwood | Jul-88 |
| Frederick Hiort | Equipment Operator Nuclear | Byron | Jun-88 |
| Gary Skrogstad | Nuclear Station Op | LaSalle | Mar-91 |
| Janice Manning-Spencer | Construction Order Clerk | University Park | Mar-96 |
| Jeffrey Bell | Nuclear Station Op | Dresden | Oct-91 |
| John A'Hearn | Ovhd Elec | Joliet | May-91 |
| Joseph Martello | Sr. Energy Tech Physical | Crestwood | Aug-90 |
| Linas Bildusas | Crew Leader Construction | Aurora | Dec-88 |
| Mark Rdzok | Equipment Operator Nuclear | Braidwood | May-00 |
| Theresa Perez | Elect Mechanic | Crestwood | Jun-96 |
| Thomas Modelska | Material Handler | Chicago North | Jul-91 |



IN MEMORY

Terry Marks Retired Member Clerical May 31, 2021 – Age 58

Jim Fidlar Retired Member Quad Cities Station June 6, 2021 – Age 75