



THE 1439 TIMES

News and information for, and about, the members (and families) of IBEW 1439 who proudly serve: *The electrical industry*: Ameren UE (Missouri), Alliant Energy (Iowa) and Entergy (Arkansas); *the natural gas industry*: Atmos Energy (Missouri); and *city employees* (except police and firefighters) in Potosi (Missouri)

Volume 18, Number 2 March / April, 2011

Praise for Local 1439 members for storm repair, help to others

THE PREZ SEZ...

By **BILLY HOWLE**
**Tornado help:
It's just what we do**

Ameren Missouri crews showed up big on New Year's Eve when a tornado ripped through St. Louis. The Mackenzie area was hit the hardest

The worst weather brings out the best in Ameren employees, including 1439 members.

and 80 percent of the Ameren crews responded. Many people came off vacation and canceled New Year's Eve plans but no

one complained, except maybe some spouses! The worst weather brings out the best in Ameren employees, including 1439 members.

Even for the Storm of the Century — that turned out to be something less — everyone ready as always. Ameren seems to be better prepared for a big

storm, definitely a lot better than they used to be. Management seems to understand that working a storm or any over-

time is not a *BONUS!* Employees are taking time away from their wives, kids or significant other. *It's not a bonus; it's just what we do!* We want to be the first on the job taking care of our customers, friends and family. I'm sure once the winter storms are over, the spring and summer storms won't be far behind.

Labor awards celebration

In January we went to an award celebration for Labor Man of the Year. **Joe Hunt** from the Ironworkers won the award. Hunt said that since 2004 Ameren has employed 11 million

man hours to date.

Ameren Missouri's President and CEO **Warner Baxter** won the Construction Consum-

er Award. The reason Baxter received the award, according to Building Trades executive *See PRAISE page 5*



New Year's Eve tornado damage.

Our election procedures

By **MICHAEL D. WALTER**

Our elections are now complete. We did experience a contested race for Vice President. These things happen from time to time. The infraction at issue was not intentional, but in error.

When an election is contested, it is brought to the attention of the Election Judge **Aaron Mehrtens**. Brother Mehrtens filed the argument with the 11th District office for review. After investigation and serious

consideration, 11th District Vice President **Curt Henke** ruled in a letter dated January 27, 2011 that the infraction did not result in any significant influence and the election would stand as counted. **Tim Flanagan** is now our new Vice President to serve the three-year term. Brother Flanagan is an Overhead Repairman reporting to the Ameren St. Charles, Missouri District.

He was initiated into IBEW Local 1439 in 1993. His family has deep roots in the Ameren property. Tim has a brother who is a lineman represented by IBEW Local 2. Brother Flanagan has served two terms on the Executive Board and is presently a Shop Steward.

The fact that he reports to the St. Charles District has its benefits and disadvantages, as it is the same district as President **Billy Howle**. It certainly allows for great communication between the two officers. They have been friends for many

Republican lawmakers, big business go after workers' pay

Deadly legislation proposed by a Republican majority in Jefferson City took another step towards becoming law on Feb. 15 when S.B.1, the so-called "right-to-work" (RTW) bill passed out of a Senate panel and onto the floor for consideration by all members.

Local 1439 and all unions realize the consequences of RTW and are battling against it, not only for their members but for all Missouri workers.

No jobs are actually created with "right to work" legislation. Lawmakers and the businesses that support them say that unionized shops discourage businesses from locating in Missouri.

Unions are not the problem. In 1978, when these tricks were attempted the first time, nearly a fourth of workers were organized. It has fallen to 11 percent. If unions were keeping jobs away, why has there been no corresponding increase in businesses relocating here?

Hugh McVey, president of the Missouri AFL-CIO Council

Surprising support
Not all Republicans support RTW. Two St. Louis area state senators (**Eric Schmitt, John Lamping**) are on record as opposing it. A *St. Louis Business Journal* online poll gave the legislation a "thumbs down" as well.

said that it's time for politicians to focus on the real challenge of creating good-paying jobs, improving education and finding the right incentives to encourage plants to locate here.

Here's what's really happening

If S.B. 1 becomes law, the state allows members of a bargaining unit to refuse to pay dues. This weakens the union, not to mention being unfair to those who pay dues. Without unions fighting for fair wages and safer working conditions, companies can pretty much do as they want. If RTW passes, everyone with a job (union or not) can expect a lower standard of living.



BILLY HOWLE



TIM FLANAGAN



KEN BOHNING



CEDRIC CHILDRESS

See *ELECTIONS* page 5

Coming soon to a location near you

By
**MICHAEL D.
WALTER**
Business
Manager



Local 1439 has been preaching safety since 1945. Nothing has changed. Regardless of the employer, safety should be on the minds of our members each and every day, task after task.

Our efforts, combined with sincere

efforts from our employers, have raised the bar on safety. The Entergy Arkansas property has proudly announced an 83% decline in accident-related instances. Alliant has, and continues to, report positive numbers related to safety.

On the Ameren/Missouri property we also experienced success on safety. On all properties, we are pleased but continue to see reason to raise the bar even further. The CEO of Ameren Corporation, **Tom Voss**, recently set out a goal for the entire company. Ameren

wants to be in the top 10 percent of all investor-owned electric industry companies related to safety by 2014. When I heard that, I discussed it with our Executive Board. Would we want to go on record as supporting or partnering in this challenge?

The Executive Board unanimously agreed that we should actively pursue Voss' challenge. However we are only one of several unions in Missouri and Illinois under contract with Ameren. We can only represent ourselves.

With all that said, I am prepared to announce that Local 1439 will go on record stating that our Local will meet the challenge of meeting the safety record within the top 10 percent within 2013, one year prior to the rest of the company. I hope our members are up for the challenge. It is the right thing to do. Have you seen the signs and bumper stickers – IBEW “The Right Choice”? IBEW Local 1439 “No Accidents – The Right Choice” is coming to a location near you.

A glimpse at our future as a RTW state:

- Workers won't be paid adequately. On average the per capita personal income in “RTW” states is \$35,916 compared to \$39,900 in non-“RTW” states.

- “RTW” states have a high school graduation rate of 72.4 percent compared to 77.8 percent in non-“RTW” states.

- The average infant mortal-

ity rate in “RTW” states is 6.4 percent compared to 6.1 percent in non “RTW” states.

- “RTW” states have a 13.9 percent higher divorce rate than non-“RTW” states.

- The percent of people living below the poverty rate is 14.5 percent in “RTW” states compared to 12.4 percent in non-“RTW” states.

- “RTW” states have higher uninsured and less employment-based health insurance. “RTW” states have an average of 16 percent uninsured compared to an average 13.2 percent in non-“RTW” states. Missouri is currently 14 percent uninsured. That number is likely to grow with the passage of “RTW” legislation.

Local 1439 goes to bat for job training, improved infrastructure in rate case

Excerpts from the testimony of Mike Walter before the Missouri Public Service Commission (see the full document at www.ibewlocal1439.com)

I support Ameren's petition for a rate increase given the anticipated increase in the demand for power, the present crucial need to maintain, repair, replace and increase the capacity of the infrastructure of the transmission and distribution systems.

My purpose is to bring to light two main factors related to the safety and reliability of the Ameren Missouri electric system. The main factors are an aged infrastructure and an aged workforce.

As to the aging workforce, it should be undisputed that Ameren's workforce is typical of electrical utilities across this nation. Correspondingly, its workforce, in most cases, requires lengthy, intense training followed by on-the-job training, continuing advanced training on new technologies and methods, and experience to become safe, proficient and professional in these jobs. The aging of the industry's workforce and of the Ameren workforce is supported by

the Local 1439 Exhibits 1-4 (posted online at www.ibewlocal1439.com).

The method of waiting for an employee of the utility to retire before hiring an untrained replacement is irresponsible and lacking in foresight. We must take advantage of the opportunity to transfer knowledge and experience from senior personnel to junior personnel.

As supported by the union's exhibits, as well as by our International Office, the demand for trained utility workers in the next five years is alarming.

We cannot overemphasize the need for the Missouri Public Service Commission to continue to set mandates or policy which will address the need for the utility company to invest in the system and the workforce.

Nevertheless, the internal workforce is currently inadequate in numbers to keep up with the current normal and sustained workload of Ameren and with anticipated attrition.

It remains the union's position that the staffing levels of the internal workforce in general are significantly deficient. The internal workforce numbers are approximately 20 percent less than necessary in most areas. The internal workforce is one which takes great pride in their work performed for Ameren Missouri. This is a workforce which in many cases is also a stockholder. This gives the workforce a unique incentive to provide proficient, efficient and safe service. When the internal workforce touches the customers in the field, everyone wins.

We recommend that the Commission invest revenue in the immediate restarting of the Overhead Linemen training program, requiring Ameren to induct a class of at least 14 apprentices in 2011.


Accordingly, we recommend that the Commission invest revenue in the establishment of an internal workforce to perform inspections and underground employees. This

Who wouldn't like the right to work?

“Right to work” – sounds like a no-brainer to support it. But the anti-worker positive-sounding phrase was deliberately chosen to deceive. It's a form of propaganda so well-known that it even has a name: glittering generalities.

It works like this: By using positive-sounding words, people agree without questioning it because of the name. For example, when people are asked to do something in “defense of democracy” they are more likely to do it than if it had another name. Even if what was being “sold” had nothing to do with supporting our country, propaganda covers it up with a deceitful language.

We have often included the quote from **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** in *The 1439 Times*, because he said it so well: “In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans as ‘right-to-work.’ It provides no ‘rights’ and no ‘works.’ Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining.”



THE

1439

TIMES

is published by Local 1439 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for the benefit of its members, their families and retirees.

All inquiries should be addressed to:
Local 1439, IBEW, 2121 59th Street, St. Louis, MO 63110.

Telephone: 314-644-6111 or toll free 1-800-392-5004
Fax: 314-644-6736
E-Mail: local.1439@ibew1439.com
Website: www.ibew1439.com

Officers and Executive Board Members
Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Michael D. Walter
President: Billy Howle
Vice President: Tim Flanagan
Treasurer: Cedric Childress
Recording Secretary: Ken Bohning
Executive Board Members: John Brennan • Kris Covert • Richard Rapp • Jim Diedrich • Ruth Eagan • Kirk Kinnison • Lisa Parr • David G. Long • Terence O'Laughlin • Jeff Gottman • C.R. Statler

Business Representatives: Doug Mueller • Mark Staffne
Office Staff: Karen Krshul • Marianne Lindsey

Local 1439 is affiliated with the following:
Arkansas State AFL-CIO • Illinois State AFL-CIO • Iowa Federation of Labor • Iowa State Conference • Iowa Utility Workers • Lee County Labor Council • Missouri State AFL-CIO • Missouri State Conference of Electrical Workers • Missouri Utility Workers Conference • National Safety Council • Northeast Arkansas Labor Council • Safety Council of Greater St. Louis • St. Louis Labor Council • St. Louis Union Label & Services Trades Council • Labor Employment Relations Association (LERA)

would simultaneously provide effective entry-level training for employees interested in careers in the utility industry.

As I stated at the onset, we believe that a rate increase for Ameren is necessary and appropriate. We believe that Ameren's preparation to address the present and future

work dilemma should be considered in this rate case. I further recommend a separate “tracker” to monitor continued recruiting and training of a workforce for the future. Ameren/Missouri, has the opportunity to fill good jobs and create more permanent positions for the State of Missouri.

Local 1439 plus five equals one

By **DOUG MUELLER**
Business Rep.



Many members may not be aware that Local 1439 represents members on five different properties. While the majority of the membership works on Ameren Missouri's property, the remaining four, though smaller in comparison, are of equal importance to the Union Office and the membership as a whole. They are to be commended for their unwavering support of Local 1439 and their constant commitment to the IBEW.

Alliant Energy, an electrical utility located in Fort Madison and Keokuk, Iowa; Atmos Energy, a gas utility located

in Kirksville, Butler, Jackson Sikeston, and Caruthersville Missouri; The City of Potosi, a small municipality located in Potosi, Mo., and Entergy, an electric utility located in Walnut Ridge, Blytheville and Monette, Ark.

These members conduct themselves with the same professionalism and pride as does any Local 1439 member.

Their dedication cannot and will not be questioned; their solidarity and input has greatly influenced and impacted the agreements and stipulations which are enjoyed by those on the Ameren property.

Human nature dictates that we think only of the issues and concerns which directly affect our individual work group. We must never forget, and constantly remind ourselves that regardless of the property it is not just about me, but about we. Together we can benefit each other, and with the proven commitment toward solidarity, we will march forward as five, but be seen as one, just separated by a

few rivers and state lines.

A better year is not an option

A new year is upon us, the slate is wiped clean, the hope of a better year is on the horizon. Mistakes and bad habits are behind us, resolutions have been made, goals set, all with the grand intention of creating a healthier, wealthier, safer year.

For our well-intended thoughts to transpire into something tangible, errors and shortcomings must be recognized. The realization of a better year will ultimately require the ability to change, not a momentary change, but a permanent change. Once the right course is charted, then followed, a habit will be created and a permanent change will have been born. Will power, desire, and perseverance are words which describe the journey to a better year. Realizing this endeavor may be difficult, we must welcome outside influence and/or friendly intervention to enhance our success.

As with individuals, the Union and company are faced with similar objectives. The past year was reviewed, the alarming accidents which took place noticed. Flashes, burns, lacerations, and broken bones are clear indicators that a better year is not an option, it is a must. Change is mandatory. To initiate this change, resolutions have been established, new objectives determined, all with the hope of achieving zero. This goal will require a group effort; we must work together and welcome peer intervention for zero to be recognized. Some still remain pessimistic. Zero is attainable — look to the work groups who are realizing this achievement every year.

Let's persevere; the difference is ours to make. This effort is demanded and expected by our families. Denial is no longer an option, and the road to recovery is seen. Put safety at the top of the list and a healthier, wealthier life will follow.

1439, Ameren discuss additional apprentice training

By **MARK STAFFNE**
Business Rep.



The aging workforce and the understaffing of Local 1439 employees at Ameren Missouri have created a new problem in the last few months: who is going to perform the formal classroom training for future apprentices?

In the past, formal classroom training

was mainly handled by either someone from the company training department or an individual supervisor from the department in which the apprentice was from. On-the-job training is usually the responsibility of 1439 individuals or crews in the department.

Now, with the increased need for apprentices, more and more departments are being forced to use journeyman classifications to perform both the formal classroom training and controlled on-the-job training. In some departments, this has placed additional responsibility, not only on the journeyman trainer, but also the crews in the field. Taking members out of the workforce to train apprentices has left fewer people in the

field to get the work done.

Some of the departments that are using journeyman classifications for both classroom and on-the-job training are the Overhead, Heavy Underground, Relay and Meter Departments, just to name a few.

In some cases, the company has gone out and hired retirees to come back and perform the training.

The Union and company are presently in discussions to revise the Substation Electrical Mechanic Apprentice Program, which will require the use of additional journeyman as trainers. This was a request of the Union for years, to allow electrical mechanics to have more responsibility of training the apprentices

in a controlled on-the-job setting.

The Union office would like to thank the individuals who have taken on the extra responsibility of training apprentices in both the classroom and out in the field. These individuals have recognized the importance of passing on their knowledge of the job to future IBEW journeymen.

While it is Local 1439's opinion that there is no one else more qualified to train an apprentice than a fellow IBEW member, the company needs to recognize the need to increase staffing to accommodate the increase of responsibilities.



Are you taking advantage of free financial advice?

By **MATT KOPECKY**
Union Financial



During these uncertain economic times, it is important to ask yourself, "Am I financially secure?" Union Financial is a free resource offered through Local Union 1439 to help you

answer this question with certainty. Last year, more than 200 members of this local found answers to their questions by using Union Financial as a resource.

In 2011, Local Union 1439 added yet another resource to assist you in obtaining financial security through the Union Benefit Package. This resource will help you to understand and maximize your negotiated benefits, assist you in creating a solid personalized plan and

build and monitor your retirement. In addition, you are able to supplement your negotiated benefits with various plans offered through Local Union 1439 and Union Financial.

Are you thinking about retirement? Union Financial has compiled a retirement binder and is familiar with your retirement benefits. Going through the retirement process can be confusing and stressful. Enlist the help of a Union Financial advisor to walk you through the

process and explain the various options available.

Matt Kopecky is passionate about helping you achieve financial security during your

working years while maintaining financial independence throughout retirement. He is available to assist you at 314-495-9166.

Watch the website

Watch the 1439 website (www.ibew1439.com) for the announcement of the date and time when you can attend a Local 1439 seminar, "Living Trusts: Estate Planning" by Rich Shinnars, Esq. and Financial Planning and a summary of your negotiated benefits by Matt Kopecky.

Nobody likes losing the safety game!

By **ROB NGUYEN**
Blue Hat

At the new year, the calendar gives us a chance to start off with new commitments to better ourselves. When I think of the phrase "Kick Off" naturally for me I think of football and one team kicking the ball to the opposing team. That is pretty much the whole idea of a kick off, to get the ball going in the right direction and then retake ownership of it.

Safety is similar. My encouragement to the work force is to get our minds focused on safe acts and behaviors. By this we will be taking and teaching safety as a personal and community responsibility.

Nobody likes losing. Winning is something we all want deep down inside. When it's all said and done being safe and making it home to enjoy our family and friends daily is a winning experience we should never take for granted.

Safety is always a win; it may not always be an easy path, but one we must all work on together as a team so that we win always and often. So let's work with one goal in mind; winning the work game with safety!

Job briefings

Three very important factors in this important time should always take place before work starts.

1) Evaluation: Talking about the task at hand and what is required to complete the work safely and efficiently.

2) Identification: Making aware what is needed for the job, pointing out hazards, assigning responsibility and covering PPE and WPA.

3) Application: Actively apply all the information that is transferred during job briefing in a professional manner. Of course situations can change so another job briefing can always be implemented again to

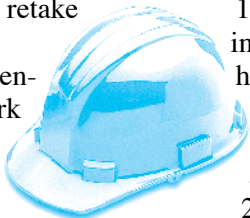
accommodate those changes. The more we communicate the better we will be equipped to safely complete the job.

Check these out!

- When placing grounds, remember to make use of **GROUNDING FLAGS** to help them to be easily spotted by others. Also identify your garage or crew number, as to help with locating proper personnel if needed.

- Take a minute to look at the standard book before constructing your work of art. There have been revisions that you may not know about.

- In December's edition I reminded all of us that we needed to prepare ourselves for cold weather with gloves, cleats, warm attire, things of that nature. But, also remember to slow down when traveling as well as carefully monitor your surface to be walked on. When placing outriggers, make sure to chip away ice or remove snow so the pad will have a better grip.



Repairman, Maurice Wallace

"The company is not the enemy — but unsafe conditions are."

Safety: **Incorporate it in every job**

*Asking me to overlook
A simple safety violation
Would be asking me
To compromise my entire attitude
Towards the value of your life.*

Ugly construction projects can cause injury



Often we come across construction projects that are not safety friendly. At times downright ugly! Many situations are cramped and working areas can be a challenge to work safely, but safety must always be the first defining factor.

When working in a situation where there is electric or stored energy of any kind, of course removing or completely isolating the potentially harmful energy source is ideal but not always practical or possible. With that

understanding we must use safe and wise judgment when considering the job.

These decisions should be discussed and reviewed by all involved with the particular job and communicated in a fashion that promotes a positive atmosphere. When we work together and brainstorm ideas, jobs tend to become safer rather than when a person is dictating what to do.

The days of "Hurry go get it done" or "Can you just do it real

quick" are going away. These attitudes, words, or unspoken words create an atmosphere that puts safety on the back burner. It has proven in the long run to be inefficient and expensive. All this does is increase unsafe acts and accidents.

Situations aren't always pretty but the more we discuss and figure out the best safe and reasonable ways to do things the safer our work place becomes and that equals long-term success.

Safety first – check your equipment



BEFORE



AFTER

Jefferson District took advantage of an inclement day and spent an hour or so inspecting their stringing rollers. They found some that had compromised their safe working abilities. Some of the rollers had missing door pin retainers that could cause the pin to dislodge and the hinged door to fall open.

They separated the rollers that needed new pin retainers and notified supervision. Management promptly ordered new retainer caps and within a few days the problem was resolved. This is a positive example of union/management partnership for safety. A tip of the hat!

Ameren South negotiations affect us all – are you prepared to strike?

By **MICHAEL D. WALTER**

The Local 1439 South collective bargaining agreement expires on September 30, 2011. This is the agreement with Ameren which covers our jurisdiction in Hayti, Missouri, Potosi, Missouri and their surrounding towns and counties in southern Missouri. This property was purchased by Ameren (formerly Union Electric) from Arkansas Power and Light in 1992. At the time of the acquisition, approximately 50 members were working in those areas. Today, we have 23 members working within the South jurisdiction.

This contract expiration date is significant to the remaining 900 members who work under the Local 1439 North/Ameren agreement. This significance cannot be overemphasized. Anything that is on the menu at the bargaining table for 1439 South will certainly

be on the menu at the 1439 North bargaining table, and more. Simply stated, ‘we are all united’ and ‘the challenges presented to our brothers under the Local 1439 South contract will be met by all of our members working under the Ameren contract.’

The reality of bargaining under the National Labor Relations Act is that, after the expiration of the contract, providing there is not a new agreement or extension of the present agreement, the Union may go on strike or the company may elect to lock out the employees. Certainly this is the final step and not one which anyone favors. The objective is always to reach an agreement that is ultimately ratified by the membership.

Although we will be bargaining for 23 members, who will be voting to ratify or reject the agreement, and the other 900 will be affected by the outcome.

Furthermore, if the 23 members find themselves in a strike or lockout scenario, the 900 under the North contract will be in the mix as well. The idea that the company could possibly take full advantage of a small group is eliminated. Therefore, it would be wise for all of our members to prepare themselves financially for the worst and hope for the best. This is truly a reality check. Have you prepared yourself?

This is not to be interpreted to mean that our relationship with Ameren has gone sour. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our Local Union objective to develop and build a stronger relationship with all our employers is still intact. It began under former Business Manager Leo Beishir in 2007 and continues today.

Our present partnership with Ameren is very sound at this time. We have partnered on many fronts

and worked toward common goals. It takes many years to foster real trust and for the most part on the senior management level we are there. Unfortunately years of hard work can be destroyed in the blink of any eye or at the mercy of an irrational decision on either side.

If you have attended your regular monthly meeting or read a previous issue of *The 1439 Times*, you know what the five Local Unions in Missouri are attempting to achieve in some fashion a joint bargaining concept. These efforts and serious considerations are by no means over. In fact, on March 4, we will again meet with senior management as we normally do on a quarterly basis.

The March 4 meeting will be a true indicator as to the potential of a common expiration date for all locals some time in 2015. There should be no doubt that

I, Business Manager of Local 1439, believe that it is in the best interest of the company and the Union to have labor peace for an extended period of time. It is only with mutual gain that we settle our corporate issues, such as wages, benefits and duration and bargaining over operational issues separately.

Regardless of the immediate future, members of Local 1439 are a great card to have in our hand at the table. I ask that everyone continue to be the best and work under the guidance and principals of the IBEW Code of Excellence. It would be hard for any company to turn their back on the greatest workforce money can buy.

The only way to really understand and be fully knowledgeable of our progress and the circumstances is to attend your Local Union meetings.

Elections

From page 1

years. I am certain that their relationship will bring value to our local union.

Some are of the opinion and commented that “it has become the St. Charles local” or “St. Charles has too much influence.” The fact of the matter is that St. Charles has been a very active district. Obviously by the present election of officers, the members of the district have stepped up, and with sincere allegiance to the Local Union. I ask that everyone support Brother Flanagan and Brother Howle as they do what is necessary to unite

our entire Local Union and take us to another level.

I also thank Brothers **Allen Wagner** and **Nathan Null** for taking a great deal of interest in our Local Union. The truth is, President Howle and I would have been pleased with any of the three candidates. We are certainly blessed. We ask that everyone who ran continue in their objectives to preserve the heritage of Local 1439.

Cedric Childress, Service Lineman Driver reporting to the Ameren Dorsett Overhead District, will serve his third term as

our Treasurer. Brother Childress is a reliable officer who takes his position very seriously. He is a “no glamour, no hype” individual who serves the members well. Brother Childress was initiated into Local 1439 in 1982. He has experience in several different work groups.

Ken Bohning, initiated in 1985, will serve his first term as our Recording Secretary. Brother Rohning another very devoted member, has also taken his position as an officer of the Union with pride and seriousness. Brother Bohning is

a Transmission Lineman reporting to the Ameren Dorsett headquarters.

You can be confident that you

have elected four officers with a great deal of integrity. I anticipate some good things to come with their leadership and enthusiasm.

MEMBER UPDATE

New Members

Daniel Bogue
James Byerley
Andrew Brandt
Gregory Lee Rector

Traveled In Retirees

Arlie Augspurg

Left Jurisdiction

Andrew Brandt
Aaron Wewers
Travis Bramlett
Tyson Quattlebaum
Bryan Witte

Deceased

Mike Pinkston

• Praise for Local 1439 members for storm repair

From page 1

secretary-treasurer Jeff Aboussie, is that the unions and building trades recognize companies and employers that hire union employees for their projects.

During his speech, Baxter said that Ameren recognizes that unions provide quality work on time and under budget. He is determined to make sure that the company and unions work together to keep Ameren going in the right direction.

Baxter also said to us that he knows his internal work force is what makes Ameren what it is.

Local 1 praises our generosity

We were seated with other union members that we didn't know. The first words out of their mouths were “How many members do you have not working?” I was almost embarrassed to say we're doing fine. It turns out they were from IBEW Local 1. When I told them we were from Local 1439 they went on and on about how much our Local has done for them.

The guy was tearing up when he told us about how we had saved some of their families'



WARNER BAXTER

Christmas and helped some of their 800 members that have



JOE HUNT

been out of work for more than 18 months. He said they pray we

don't ever need their help, but if we ever did they hope they can pay back our generosity! We were so moved by their appreciation that we decided to make the proceeds for the poker tournament go to the IBEW Relief Fund.

Want to go to the rodeo?

Lastly, the IBEW 702 Rodeo in DuQuoin, Ill. is April 8th and 9th. Journeyman teams or Apprentices interested in going please call the hall at 314-644-6111. Last year we brought home the championship trophy. Can we earn it again?

Conference Report – Electrical Workers Minority Caucus 21st Annual Leadership Conference

By **CURTIS TUNSTALL**
Vice President, EWMC

This year's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) was held in Washington, D.C. and was centered on projecting the IBEW through difficult times. As its theme states, "Strong Enough to Thrive in Hard Times."

The IBEW has proven itself as one of the nation's strongest labor unions, through its leadership and dedicated members who adhere to a unified code of excellence and the EWMC proudly govern themselves by those principles.

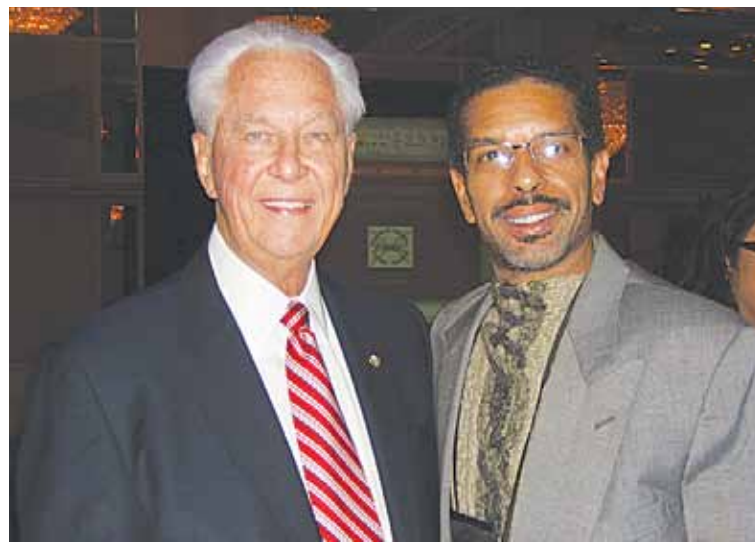
At this year's conference, the Code of Excellence was strongly reinforced and supported by keynote speaker **Edwin D. Hill** (International President, IBEW), along with other directives and expectations which included diversity, acceptance and full membership inclusion and participation at all levels of the IBEW.

The IBEW Women's Conference and the training program for diversity and full inclusion, which will begin its implementation in 2011, were also topics addressed by President Hill.

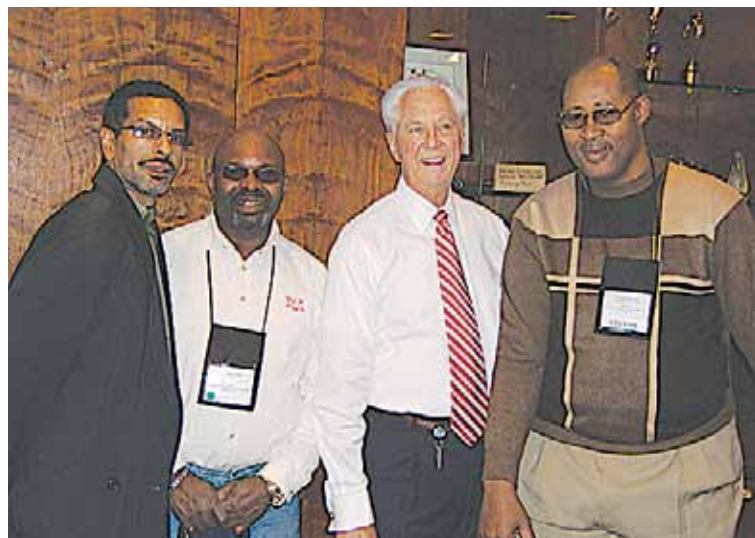
The conference's plenary session focused on several key items affecting the IBEW, which included unemployment, political status of the country, right-to-work law projection, the status of organized labor and the state of unemployment among skilled workers.

The conference's workshops addressed issues that the IBEW and labor unions in general are faced with, including the systematic erosion of labor unions, the increase of service sector jobs vs. the decrease in manufacturing jobs, transition of the labor force, older worker vs. younger workers and organized labor involvement with the political structure.

This year's EWMC conference has been a resourceful networking experience with labor unions across the country, in particular IBEW members and leaders. It was particularly rewarding to have shared this experience with my own business manager, Mike Walter of IBEW Local 1439.



IBEW International President Ed Hill with Carl Burks at the EWMC conference.



Carl Burks, Derek Carter, Ed Hill, Curtis Tunstall.

IBEW International Code of Excellence

The IBEW Code of Excellence Program insures that our work meets the highest standards, including the safest possible workplace, the ultimate quality and quantity of work, unsurpassed professionalism and work skills and the most productive and safe work methods. For additional information, call the Local 1439 office.

Local 1439: "Our Proud History", part 2

By **MICHAEL D. WALTER**

(See January/February 2011 issue for Part 1)

After the demise of the "Employees Mutual Benefit Association", as a result of the NLRB citing that Union Electric (U.E., now Ameren Missouri) violated the Wagner Act of 1935, IBEW organizing began. The IBEW increased its efforts to organize the Union Electric workers. Since the 1930's, the IBEW was representing utility workers in East St. Louis and Alton, Ill. through Locals 309 and 649.

The word had spread to Missouri that the IBEW was a good union and "the right choice." An energetic man named **Frank Jacobs** spearheaded the organizing drive on the U.E. prop-

erty. Brother Jacobs was the IBEW International Vice President of the 11th District. He circulated fliers and held meetings throughout St. Louis at neighborhood taverns, wherever and whenever workers wanted to meet.

In 1944, Tri-State joined the CIO, a name that created a rift among the membership. Competition between Tri-State AFL unions, especially the IBEW and IUOE, grew intense.

The heat was turned up and the year 1945 became a critical turning point for the IBEW and other union organizations on the U.E. property. The NLRB began hearings in which various unions presented arguments for representation. The IBEW had hoped to be chosen to represent some 900 outside physical workers.

This was the same residual group overlooked in the 1941 NLRB election. It existed of all building service, the country club clerks, meter departments, overhead, underground, troubleman, installers, steam heat, stores, utility shop, salvage, substations, transmission, distribution and transportation employees.

The NLRB held elections. Four district bargaining units would be recognized, including the unit prop-

posed by the IBEW. Employees cast their vote for the unit of their choice. On November 19-20, 1945, the elections were held at all locations, including the power plants. The outside physical workers chose the IBEW.

The hard work of Brother Jacobs and supporters paid off. By a 721 to 325 vote, the IBEW won the election and Local 1439 was born! Tri-State then represented only the clerical workers at U.E. On May 24, 1946, the clerical workers voted for IBEW and Local 1455 was then born.

Brother **Carl Mitchell**, a key man with Brother Jacobs, was named the first Business Manager/Financial Secretary of Local 1439. Brother **Raymond Sanders** became the first president of our union. They, along with the other officers, began contract negotiations with U.E. The first labor agreement was signed October 29, 1946 and was retroactive to October 1.

By our standards today, the wages seem unbelievably low, with a meter reader receiving \$1.50 per hour and a lineman only \$1.68 per hour. At the time, these rates were comparable to other union utility rates.

While Local 1439 was in its infancy,

it shared offices with the 11th District at 6233 Delmar in St. Louis. The Local moved its office several times until it landed at its permanent home on 59th Street.

Like any new organization, the Local sought to find its identity, setting up operations and establishing by-laws. Our 11th District office was essential to our beginning. The local rapidly grew in strength and confidence.

Following Brother **Ray Sanders**, Brothers **Pete Chase**, **Clarence Fahrendholtz**, **Walter Curtis**, **William Kellett** and **L.O. "Ted" Myers** served as President throughout the 1950's. In 1952, Business Manager Mitchell was asked to serve as an International Representative for the 11th District. The local was honored and proud of Brother Mitchell.

This created a need to appoint his successor as Business Manager. The Executive Board turned to Brother **Gene Roedder**, a Station Tester. Brother Roedder, realizing the hard work and commitment required, accepted the position. He served from 1952-1966. He would return in 1969 and hold the office of Business Manager until 1975, when he retired.



MITCHELL





ROEDDER





Statement of Official Local 1439 Meetings

In accordance with the IBEW International Constitution, the St. Louis meeting is the official meeting of Local 1439. All official announcements

and all voting, other than mail ballot, will take place at the regular St. Louis monthly meeting.

March 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 5 p.m. Executive Board	8 4:30 p.m. St. Louis meeting	9 1:30 p.m. St. Louis Afternoon meeting	10	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Time begins (double check meeting times)	14	15	16 4:15 p.m. St. Charles meeting	17 4:15 p.m. Jefferson meeting	18	19
20	21	22	23 4:15 p.m. Franklin meeting	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

WE DO THE WORK!

April 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 5 p.m. Executive Board	5 4:30 p.m. St. Louis meeting	6 4:30 p.m. St. Louis Afternoon meeting	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 4:15 p.m. St. Charles meeting	14 4:15 p.m. Jefferson meeting	15	16
17	18	19	20 4:15 p.m. Franklin meeting	21	22 Office closed for Good Friday holiday	23
24 	25	26	27	28	29	30

HOT FLASH

Union Benefits

To date 56 members of IBEW Local 1439 have requested enrollment packets for the new union benefit package, outlined in the last newsletter and posted online. Some of the options are vision care, dental, long-term care, credit union and legal services.

The initial information for the basic benefits in the vision plan has been forwarded to the provider, VSP. Those who enrolled can now enjoy the discounts available through VSP. When going to your vision provider, just let them know that you are also covered thru VSP. No ID card is necessary. For a list of VSP providers, go to: <http://www.vsp.com>.

www.vsp.com/employment/PDFs/MO%20-%20Choice%20MDL.pdf

If you are still considering enrollment thru HumanOne Dental, and are wondering if your current dentist accepts the HumanOne C550 plan, go to the following for a list of providers in your area: <http://www.humanaonedental.com/missouri-dental-insurance/dental-plan-C550.aspx>

Retirees

Please remember to utilize the benefits of the VSP vision discount benefit plan provided to you by Local 1439. Receive additional information at the next Retirees' Club meeting April 21 at 10 a.m.

Join up. Keep up.

To learn more about important Missouri legislation that affects energy issues in the state, go to moenergyfuture.org (without the prefix www). Missourians for a Balanced Energy Future (MBEF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization comprised of small and large businesses, chambers of commerce, labor organizations, farmers, associations, trade groups

and Missouri citizens. International President Emeritus **Joe Hunt** of the Iron Workers is a member of the MBEF advisory board, as is **Bob Kelley**, retired president of the Greater St. Louis Labor Council.

We strongly encourage our members to join this organization (it's free). Stay informed and up to date regarding utility legislation. It will affect you, your family, your future and your job.



TOPPING OUT — Left to right Journeymen Joe Tharp, Marty Politte; new journeymen Jeremy Lynch, John Berra, Chad Zust, Ken Utley, Journeyman Rendel Hoenes; new journeymen Abe Akers, Mike Cole, Kevin Becker, Alex Boggs; Journeyman Ted Howle.



THE 1439 TIMES

News and information for, and about, the members (and families) of IBEW 1439 who proudly serve: The electrical industry; Ameren UE (Missouri), Alliant Energy (Iowa) and Entergy (Arkansas); the natural gas industry; Amos Energy (Missouri); and city employees (except police and firefighters) in Potosi (Missouri)

Volume 18, Number 2 March / April, 2011

Newspaper delivery problems

We have been getting calls from members over the last few months, letting us know that they have not received the last few issues of *The 1439 Times*. In checking with our mailing house, we are finding that it is the local carrier who is the culprit. If you know of someone who is not receiving *The 1439 Times* or if you are not receiving all of *The 1439 Times* (six issues per year), please contact your local post office and strongly advise them that you wish to receive all of your issues.



December 31, 2010 tornado damage.

Permit No. 495
ST. LOUIS MO
PAID
STAGS ST
ST. LOUIS MO
63101

ST. LOUIS MO 63110
1121 65th Street
TACOT IBEW 63116