



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 3 May / June, 2011

## Bill destroying fair pay is stalled in Mo. legislation

### Still fighting off the RIP-OFF

On March 3, the Missouri Senate sidelined SB 1 (the deviously misnamed “Right-to-Work” legislation) until the next session in the fall. Unfortunately it is only a temporary reprieve. The bill actually has nothing to do with anyone’s “right” to “work”. Its phony name covers up the fact that it is all about corporations, not workers. It is out and out fraud

and a RIP-OFF.

This is not a union issue, although opponents have tried to paint it as such. If passed, it weakens unions by allowing members of a bargaining unit to refuse to pay dues. When union contracts are destroyed because unions are no longer financially sound, employers have the upper hand as to wages and benefits.

People in RTW states are paid less, have a lower high school graduation rate, higher infant mortality and higher divorce rate. They have higher rates of uninsured and people living below the poverty line.

### Voter registration

If you have moved or changed names since you registered to vote, you must notify the election board in your county. If you are not registered to vote, do so.

Encourage all family members of voting age to register as well.

Missourians can now register by mail or at any public library. To find out more, go to

[www.sos.mo.gov/elections](http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections) or call 800-669-8683.

### Sign up to become informed

To learn more about the issue, contact your Registrar Russ McCreary, your Steward, an Executive Board member or the Union office. Get informed about the issue because it will hit you in your bank account!



SWORN IN: Walter (I.) with IBEW International President Ed Hill.

## Business Manager appointed to 5th District International Executive Council

On March 31, Local 1439 Business Manager **Michael D. Walter** was appointed to the Fifth District International Executive Council (I.E.C.) of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The district covers ten states: Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas and Colorado and encompasses territories of four vice presidential districts: sixth, seventh, eighth and eleventh.

Brother Walter continues to serve as the Business Manager

of Local 1439. “I am honored at the opportunity to expand my service to one of the greatest organizations in the world,” he said, “But you can be assured that the business of the Local Union must continue to be my top priority.”

The appointment was unanimously approved by the IBEW I.E.C., International President **Edwin Hill** and International Secretary **Lindell Lee**. He fills the unexpired term of Steve Schoemehl, business manager of IBEW Local 1. The term expires at the International

Convention in September, after which he plans to run for a full five-year term. This position is the highest office held thus far by a member of Local 1439.

Brother Walter joined IBEW in 1979. In 1981 he became a Steward, was elected to the Executive Board in 1990 and in 1995 was appointed business representative, appointed business manager/financial secretary in 2007 to fill Leo Beishir’s unexpired term and was elected business manager/financial secretary in 2008.



**Sure, we want the ‘right’ to work, but not FOR LESS! Don’t be fooled by the name. RTW will reduce your wages and benefits.**

## 2011 Utility Conference reinforces need to fight for fair wages

By **C. R. STATLER**  
Overhead Repairman,  
Ameren and Local 1439  
Executive Board Member



I attended an IBEW Utility Conference in Washington, DC in March. Locals from across the country and Canada were in attendance to discuss the aging workforce, staffing, regulatory and legislative issues. Speaking at the conference, IBEW

International President **Ed Hill** stressed the importance of being proactive on the regulatory and legislative fronts. Local 1439 has been recognized as an industry leader in that regard as we have secured over \$3 million for new jobs and training from the Missouri Public Service Commission.

However, the overriding issue of the discussion involved what is happening in Iowa, Wisconsin and the phony “Right-to-Work” legislation in Missouri. As you know, “Right-to-Work” would lessen our influence on safety, benefits, wages and

work rules. This means that our negotiating position would be significantly weakened.

On average, it has been proven that wages are 30% lower in “Right-to-Work” states. Thirty years ago, I personally experienced this while working as an Apprentice Lineman in IBEW Local 2286 in Southeast Texas. Although on average the wages were 30% lower, the cost of living was not 30% lower and the corporate executive salaries were not 30% lower. Therefore, it is evident that our portion of the wealth that we earned went to corporate executives and

shareholders.

What can we do as union members? First, attend your local union meetings to hear about the issues that our union representatives work on every day, and you can voice your concerns about local issues.

Second, fill out your voluntary Political Action Committee (PAC) payroll deduction card or consider increasing your monthly contribution. These monies are used to support legislators that are union friendly and have labor’s best interests at heart.

Third, be willing to attend a

rally or work a phone bank to help influence our position on a legislative issue or candidate.

We each have a vote. Our adversaries like to use wedge issues to get us to vote against what is in our best interests. We all need to be ready to advocate for candidates for either party that are open to labor’s concerns and issues.

Finally, talk to your friends and neighbors and help them organize as well. Doing so will increase labor’s position and make it easier for us to win greater gains and influences in the work place.

## Update around the jurisdiction

By  
**MICHAEL D.  
WALTER**  
Business  
Manager



### Alliant/Iowa

Business Representative **Doug Mueller** and I have started preparing for contract negotiations with Alliant Energy in the southeast corner of Iowa. We have had several preliminary discussions in an effort to determine if we can settle in a reasonable manner. The contract will expire on June 30, 2011. Our relationship with Alliant has always been, and continues to be, good. However, there is a new division manager and the jury is still out on her disposition and agenda.

As in most cases, we are bargaining with an outstanding bargaining unit in Iowa. Contract proposals were ex-

changed on April 13. Brother Mueller is serving as our chief negotiator. This will be his first time out of the gate, although he recently attended an IBEW contract negotiations class and got straight A's. We are confident that Brother Mueller will serve the Iowa members well.

### City of Potosi

The City and Local 1439 will begin negotiations soon to address the issues of both parties. The agreement will expire June 30, 2011. It is an annual agreement. Labor/Management committee meetings will begin in May and we are hopeful to reach agreement prior to the end of June. This group of members has suffered a wage freeze for two years and this must end.

Our members have helped the City to move to a higher level. They have reduced costs and provide a much more efficient workforce than in the past. Again, a work group who works up to the principals of the IBEW

Code of Excellence is a much better work group to negotiate for at the table.

The recent April 4 elections in Potosi resulted in the two Local 1439 endorsed candidates for aldermen being re-elected. This is key to success in a community such as Potosi.

### Ameren/South

The company and Union met on April 5 to discuss options related to the upcoming contract, which is to expire on September 30, 2011. The Union suggested that we agree to bringing the 23 members under the existing Local 1439 North contract of approximately 900 members. There was no interest on the company's part to simply bring them into the North agreement. Some additional suggestions could ultimately achieve a similar result. However, the members covered by the Local 1439 North contract must remember that, as a Union on Ameren's property, we are all one as a bar-

gaining unit. We must remain united in solidarity.

### I.E.C. appointment

On March 22, I received a phone call from International President **Ed Hill** asking if I would accept an appointment as 5th District representative of the I.E.C. After several seconds, I responded "Yes, I would be honored."

On March 31, I was officially and unanimously appointed a member and officer of one of the greatest organizations in the world.

My term will expire at the International Convention in September, where I will obviously lobby to be voted in by the entire IBEW membership for a five-year term.

The next six months will be difficult and I ask for your understanding and cooperation. The key will be good communication with members to continue to have your support as we get adjusted. We could

not ask for a better staff, business representatives, officers and Executive Board. We have no turmoil among the leadership and staff and have a very cohesive relationship.

I owe a great deal of thanks to **Tom Kraus**, who had the confidence to offer me a position as business representative in 1995. I have learned from former business managers **Gene Roedder, John Durham**, (who asked me to be a shop steward), **Tom Fagan** and **Leo Beishir**. I tried to take away a bit of their knowledge, but most of all their characteristics, their demeanor, approach, strategies and wisdom.

A great deal of thanks must go out to all of the motivated and sincere Shop Stewards I have had the pleasure to work with over the last 16 years.

If you have any questions related to this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail, Facebook, written letter or phone call.

## You can't always see 'ownership'

By  
**RUSS  
McCREARY**  
Local 1439  
Registrar



When you hear the word ownership, most of us think of things we own, our house or car and all the things that fill them. Yeah, I know, thank you captain obvious. But what about the things you didn't buy? What about the things you've earned, your job or your reputation?

Nobody gave me a job at Ameren, they gave me an opportunity to help a corporation make a profit and to help make the company a better place. I earned that chance by going through a four year apprentice program, somewhere else. What about the "probationary period"? Has anyone ever given you a gift and said I might take this back over the next six months for any reason or no reason at all? What about the old line "I'll have your job?" Usually said by some angry customer or someone who felt slighted. If you don't own it how can somebody take it

from you?

With ownership comes responsibility, call it maintenance or stewardship or whatever you want. Don't fix a leaky roof or change the oil in the car, and we all know what happens. The examples are endless. Now think about your job. I look back and think of the things I have learned just to keep this job. All the things I've done to maintain the job, C. D. L., D.O.T inspections, W.P.A. Best practices, Standard changes, D.O.J.M., O.A.S. A lot of things I didn't have to do twenty years ago.

Now imagine how you'd feel if someone thought they knew better than you and felt they had the right to change some of the things you own. Not only the right but the duty to change things. Picture this: you come out from work and your new car has been replaced with a twelve year old beater. Then that was replaced with a bus pass, then replaced with a bicycle, then to make things better, that was replaced with a pair of shoes. Sounds like a race to the bottom doesn't it? What if you got home and found that your house was replaced with an old F.E.M.A. trailer? I don't know anyone

who would put up with that.

Well guess what? Someone is trying to do that to your job. Certain members of the Missouri Legislature want to bring "Right-to-Work" laws to Missouri. All RTW does is weaken the union until we don't have any say on how the work gets done. No say on safety, no say on health-care, or pensions or work rules. Imagine a never-ending probationary period.

How does RTW do it? It's easy. Don't pay your union dues. Look! Instant pay raise. If you have a grievance, let the union handle it. Someone else will foot the bill. With no resources it doesn't get too far. Then comes the next contract, take it or leave it. Go ahead, go on strike. You will be replaced.

I don't think our employer wants that, but having to stay competitive you know things would change. Because as the rules change everyone has to change.

These are the same people who think that everyone collecting unemployment are doing it by choice. The term freeloader is one term they use. Oh yea, they are trying to block federal mon-

See **OWNERSHIP** Page 3



**1439 Business Representative Mark Staffne (l.) and 1439 Registrar Russ McCreary met with State Rep. Chris Kelly (D-Columbia) at a March legislative conference.**



# THE 1439 TIMES

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**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)

# Atmos members are top notch

BY  
MARK  
STAFFNE  
Business  
Rep



Everywhere you look, companies are downsizing, trying to do more with less. The production of American companies is up while the amount of employees at these companies has decreased. At Local 1439 represented companies, this is no different. Everyone knows we are working with less fellow workers and/or production has remained the same, or in many cases, has increased.

In no other company is this fact more true than Atmos Energy, one of the largest, if not the largest, gas utilities in the United States. Local 1439 has 41 members working at six headquarters located across the State of Missouri. The six locations in Missouri include Caruthersville, Butler, Jackson, Kirksville, Maulden and Sikeston. Each location consists of four to ten employees working in varying job classifications from Meter Reader to Crew Leader.

Most locations are made up of Meter Readers, Senior Service Technicians, Senior Construction Operators and a Crew Leader. The Crew Leader is

basically a Working Foreman for the locations. We also have three Senior MIC Technicians that perform a wide range of work from checking the system for leaks which requires them to walk the entire system to maintaining the system up to Federal and State Safety standards to name just a few of their jobs.

At most locations, the Crew Leader directs the day-to-day duties of the district. A lot of the responsibility falls on these members, and they accept the challenge. In most, but not all locations, the company supervision leaves these members alone to run the crews day-to-day operations. His other main

responsibility is to work on the construction crews.

The largest job classification at Atmos is Senior Service Technicians (equivalent to a Troublemaker) consist of 17 members at the six locations. These members are responsible for providing emergency help across the system 24/7, 365 days a year. In most cases, these members are on "stand by" a week at time. In some locations these members are on "stand by" every other week. They do not get paid for being on "stand by." However, it limits the time they have for their families and friends.

The Senior Construction Operators are responsible for

all required installation and removal of gas lines, which is being done with only a handful of members.

On top of all of this work, each employee is required by the Federal Government to be certified in anywhere from four to thirty Operation Qualifications which are tests related to their job.

The workload on these members is unbelievable at times, but each member does everything possible to help their Union brothers and sisters to get their jobs completed. Our members at Atmos are perfect examples of the IBEW Code of Excellence and the true meaning of Union Brotherhood!

## OSHA rule for derricks and cranes is challenged

BY  
DOUGLAS  
MUELLER  
Business  
Rep



On October 6, 2010 the Edison Electrical Institute (EEI) filed a "Petition for Review" with the U.S. Court of Appeals challenging OSHA's final rule on cranes and derricks in construction. One of the initial objectives was to persuade OSHA to meet with the EEI to discuss the industry's main concerns over the coverage and several specific requirements in the rule.

As a result of this petition, OSHA and the EEI asked the court to hold the litigation in

abeyance while several EEI member companies met and outlined several areas of concern which focused mainly on three key points.

1. The coverage of digger derricks when performing work covered by the OSHA construction standard in 29 CFR Part 1926, Subpart V, including the training and certification requirements for line truck operators.

2. The requirement to supply contractors working near utility power lines with voltage information within 48 hours following a request.

3. The implication that utilities would be required to de-energize power lines when work is to be performed by private crane contractors in the area of an energized line.

After this meeting, which included IBEW representatives and written support by the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the National Rural Electric Association (NRECA), OSHA requested additional information to assist the agency and its attorneys in understanding the concerns and issues.

Last week, OSHA offered and asked for acceptance to an "agreement in principle" which does not settle the lawsuit but will give an idea of what OSHA is proposing. While work continues toward a settlement, the parties have jointly requested the Court to continue to hold the case in abeyance while further discussions are pursued.

In addressing these three key issues, OSHA will propose to

amend the cranes standard so as to exempt digger derricks used by electric utilities and their contractors from coverage under the standard as to any work that is covered by Subpart V. OSHA agrees to seek clearance from Department of Labor officials to do this via "direct final rule" or other notice and comment rulemaking.

OSHA will also develop a "letter of interpretation" that clarifies that electric utilities will have "2 working days" to provide requested voltage information to those crane contractors working near power lines rather than "48 hours". Finally, OSHA will develop another letter of interpretation clearly stating that electric utilities are NOT required to de-energize lines and equipment when

contractors are working around energized lines.

The EEI litigation will remain in "abeyance" until such time that OSHA completes the offered solutions to concerns at which time EEI and OSHA will enter into a settlement agreement to end the litigation. If OSHA does not follow through, or is denied permission to propose amendments to the rule, EEI's position is protected because it could then resume the litigation. It must be realized and appreciated that OSHA has recognized the legitimate concerns about the standard and responded accordingly to the EEI members concerns.

*The information in this article was made possible by Charles J. Kelly, SPHR, CUSA, of the Edison Electric Institute.*

## • Ownership

from page 2

ies meant to help these people, millions of dollars, but that's a different bill. How come when it comes to dues someone else pays it's OK to freeloader? Most likely it's because their contributors want to weaken the opposition.

If you look at RTW it's nothing more than representation without taxation. I wonder what our senators or representatives would think if some third party told us here in Missouri we didn't have to pay our taxes or at least the part that pays their salary their health-care or their

pension.

This is one a few bills that are meant to strip working families of their rights. All under the cause to create jobs. Don't buy it!

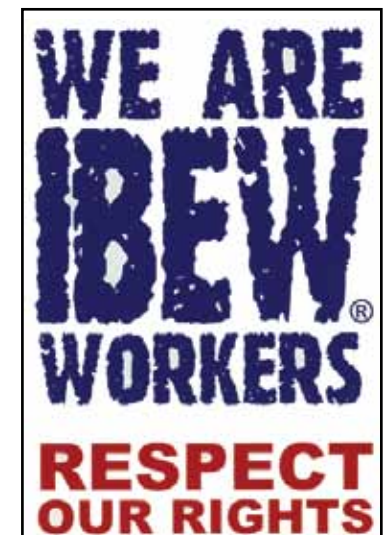
Back in March I took some vacation time and went to the United States Capital to watch the debate on the Senate floor. For two and a half hours they talked about how we need RTW to get jobs here. One instance they told of was the Volkswagen plant that went to Tennessee and how Missouri missed out. Then

Senator **Victor Callahan** told that the State of Tennessee gave five hundred million dollars to bring in two thousand jobs. That's a quarter of a million dollars a job! How long will that worker have to work before the taxes he or she pays will break even? Don't forget that's going to be at substandard wages too.

Don't be fooled by the names they give these bills. We all need to keep informed and a good way is to go to your union meetings.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the passing of the

100th anniversary of the New York Triangle shirt waist fire. On that day 146 people died in a fire at their work. 56 burned to death on the factory floor. The rest either jumped or fell to their death because the escape route doors were locked. If you think that doesn't happen anymore, think about the Big Branch Mine fire that happened last year where 29 miners died on the job. Just be careful out there. There are all kinds of dangers. Until next time – stay safe and stay informed.



## No punishment allowed for asserting OSHA rights

You cannot be punished or discriminated against for using your rights established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The OSH Act of 1970 protects workers who complain to their employer, OSHA or other government agencies about unsafe or unhealthful working conditions in the workplace or

environmental problems.

You cannot be transferred, denied a raise, have your hours reduced, be fired, or punished in any other way because you used any right given to you under the OSH Act. Help is available from OSHA for whistleblowers.

If you have been punished or discriminated against for using your right, you must file

a complaint with OSHA within 30 days of the alleged reprisal for most complaints. No form is required, but you must send a letter or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742) and ask to speak to the OSHA Area Office nearest you to report the discrimination.

*Information supplied by Occupations Safety and Health Administration.*

## Too many parties instead of too many accidents

By  
**ROB  
NGUYEN**  
Blue Hat,  
Ameren UE



Have you ever thought about instead of having too many injuries or accidents we should have too many parties? Sounds crazy?

Think about it...Why can't we come to work every day and not get hurt or wreck stuff? Why can't we celebrate and have parties about how safe and good we are on a regular basis? That sounds more fun than mulling over how someone got hurt or how a truck got damaged.

If the utility business is our career, why not fill it with good

memories of people who worked with zero accidents? A place that is talked about in the grocery store or at a barbecue about its positive safe atmosphere. If you're wondering, no I am not dreaming, but rather envisioning a great place to work.

I would be lying to you if I said that safety is perfect here and everything I see in the field is picture perfect. For the most part, I do see good safe work habits and have good conversations *about safety* with *fellow* peers; but there is still a missing piece to the safety puzzle. In my September Blue Hat News Report I spoke about how we go from good to great. How do you?

I believe that the successes I do see in the areas of safety

have to do with believing in safety. Believing in more than a program, but understanding deep in your heart that safety is what will bring you home to your loved ones as well as pay for that Cabo San Lucas trip. Seriously though, safety just makes sense to believe in. We should understand that all our safety stuff from committees, reps, safety meetings etc., are a privilege to have and we should embrace and stay involved for the well being of ourselves and all those who depend on us. It's not a dream to wake up and be excited about where you work and look forward to the next safety party. We are opening a new page in Ameren history and how we believe in safety will write our destiny.



Hats off to our Meter Shop at the Ameren Dorsett facility for 11 years with no LWAs!



Lineman Chad Fletcher steps up as upgraded repairman and shows the younger guys the "do's and don'ts" of stringing.



Mackenzie Crews Evaluate and Job Brief onsite in Sunset Hills, Missouri after a tornado hit New Years Eve!

## Seeking member involvement for Facebook video

### THE PREZ SEZ. . .

By  
**BILLY  
HOWLE**  
President



When it comes to teaching our Apprentices, no one can be a better trainer, advocate or mentor than our Journeymen. Everyone's future depends on the proper training. Safety is and should be first and foremost

the most important aspect of our jobs. Our Apprentices need to be taught properly from the very first day on the job. We hope that all members of the various work groups step up and preserve our tradition of being the safest, best trained and best qualified utility local.

Local 1439 is looking for work groups to show your talent. We need work groups to show us what they do on the job and make a video to share with everyone else. The average person does not know or

understand what employees of a utility company do other than thinking everyone climbs a pole.

Our Meter Shop test rubber goods and repair meters to correctly collect revenue for the company; our Relay Department repairs and maintains the electric grids for safety and reliability. Our Telecommunications members make sure communications to all work groups and crew-to-crew communication is possible.

Our Stores Department employees distribute supplies to all districts; our Building

Service employees clean and maintain all buildings. Substation employees are responsible for the construction and maintenance of transformer power to residence and businesses; Underground crews construct and maintain all underground electrical systems.

Traveling Operators perform switching in operations; Forestry is responsible for landscaping on Ameren's property; Fleet Service maintain and repair company trucks and all fleet vehicles. Transmission, Troublemens and Linemen distribute electricity

to your home and businesses.

The bottom line is that everyone in this local does something to be very proud of. Our plan is to make a 3.5-to 4-minute video about our work groups and put it in the website and on our Facebook page. We are working with IBEW Local 4, who are now based out of our union hall,

to produce this video. Local 4 represents the television news channels. Some of our members have skills in this area, namely Bryan Borah and Nick Walter. If you have such skills, please call the union hall and sign up to help with this endeavor!

## 401(k) disclosure rules clarify expenses

A change for the better: The Federal Labor Department published regulations in October that will force employers to disclose all 401(k) fees, along with performance information in a standardized

format. Beginning in 2012, each quarterly statement will say, in dollars and cents, how much you've paid in investment management fees, administrative costs and other expenses.

*The IBEW Code of Excellence goes hand in glove with the Local 1439 Safety Policy. Learn and follow both, and keep yourself and co-workers out of danger.*



Mike Cole (second from left) and Jeremy Lynch (far right) receive jackets from Bob Dixon at their March 11 Topping Out ceremony at the Jefferson headquarters.

## Give your “Great Expectations” a reality check

BY  
MATT  
KOPECKY  
Union  
Financial



Although positive thinking can be powerful, there's a fine line between optimism and unrealistic expectations. There are possible pitfalls when overestimating how a portfolio will perform.

A survey of investors found that many have reduced their expectations for the stock market. A large majority expect annual stock market returns over the next one to five years to be no higher than 8%. This is down from the 12% return investors expected from stocks in 2010 and the 20% return they expected in 2009.

Despite scaling back their investment expectations, 87% of investors still expect to reach their long-term financial goals,

even though four in 10 made no adjustments to their investment strategies during the previous two years.

### Possible Pitfalls

The most obvious risk of overestimating how your portfolio will perform is that you may not reach your goal on time. Major financial goals such as retirement and saving for college can take years to achieve. If you arrive at the expected date of your goal but haven't accumulated the

expected funds, there's no starting over. You may be forced to postpone your goal or make do with less money.

A less obvious risk is that, as you get closer to your target date and it appears as though you may not achieve your goal, you may be tempted to take on more risk than would be suitable for your situation in order to help close the shortfall.

Unrealistic expectations can also create a false sense of retirement security by

leading you either to contribute too little of your income during your working years or to withdraw too much during retirement.

It's natural to hope for the best. But being realistic — and not overly optimistic — may put you in a better position to pursue your financial goals.

Contact Matt Kopecky, Financial Advisor for IBEW Local 1439 at 314-495-9166 to help you construct a realistic plan.

## • Our Proud History

today on all of our properties.

From 1969-1975, he took on many challenges to address job and wages reclassifications. Periods when complicated reclassifications and adjusted wage rates took place, the membership was in turmoil. Despite the turmoil, Local 1439 always managed to negotiate reasonable wages and benefit improvements. Work stoppages did occur during this time. Most stoppages were related to the company or companies violating safety and other operational agreements.

By 1961 Local 1439 had grown to 2,000 members. The Business Representatives were **Norman Leeker** and **John “Bull” Durham**.

Job safety was at the top of the list and critical to Roedder and the Union in the early 60's. Many injuries could have been prevented and not enough was being done by the Union to educate and protect the membership. In typical Roedder fashion, Local 1439 approached the Union Electric company with an innovative plan. What if the Union and the company jointly

from front cover

participated in a safety board? Three members of the Union and three members of the company would serve on the board.

The board would study the effectiveness of the safety programs and make recommendations for improvements. If a member made a safety suggestion which was not acted on, the member could appeal the suggestion to the board for further review and recommendation. On June 30, 1961, the Joint Safety Board became a reality.

This safety agreement, negotiated between Local 1439 and the Union Electric Company, set a new standard in the utility industry. Even the national Safety Council (N.S.C.) recognized this concept and expressed how impressive this agreement was toward the betterment of worker safety. The N.S.C. was so impressed that they selected the agreement to receive its highest award. Brother Roedder traveled to Chicago to receive a

personal award and one for the agreement itself. To receive national recognition was a pleasant but well earned surprise for Local 1439.

The next issue we will continue with more Local 1439 recognition as in 1963 a group

of employees of the Arkansas Missouri Power company (Ark-Mo) were in search of a union and Local 1439 had caught their attention. I believe there are several brothers and sisters out there who could help me write the next portion of our history.

**The 1439/UE Joint Safety Council, established in 1961, gained national attention and awards from the National Safety Council.**

### Objectives of the International Brotherhood

- To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry in the United States and Canada, including all those in public utilities and electrical manufacturing, into local unions,
- To promote reasonable methods of work,
- To cultivate feelings of friendship among those of our industry,
- To settle all disputes between employers and employees by arbitration (if possible),
- To assist each other in sickness or distress,
- To secure employment,
- To reduce the hours of daily labor,
- To secure adequate pay for our work,
- To seek a higher and higher standard of living,
- To seek security for the individual,
- And by legal and proper means to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship.

## MEMBER UPDATE

### New Members

David Sweat  
Kevin Kraemer

### Retirees

Leonard Dickens  
Leo Najbart  
(45 years with Ameren)  
William Real

### Left Jurisdiction

Carlton Richardson  
Justin Arment  
Lawrence Culpepper  
Ted Walsh  
Jay Boaz

### Deceased

John W. Pitman  
Jerry Thomas



Golfers at the 2009 South Barton tournament.

## IBEW Local 1439 members' generosity raises more than \$110,000 for charities

By Karen Krshul  
1439 Office Staff

It's been 15 years since the passing of one of many great leaders of Local 1439, the incomparable **Tom Kraus**. The Executive Board formed a charity golf tournament in his name and an offshoot from its success formed the 1439 South charity golf tournament named in honor of **Guy "Boomer" Barton**, a Senior Lineman who also died of complications of the dreaded disease cancer.

Throughout the years, during drought, heat, rain and hurricane restoration, Local 1439 members, their families and friends have continually supported these tournaments to donate monies to worthwhile charities and organizations. Many of the charities have been nationally known, but many are local and those dollars raised stay in our area.

We can't forget the wonderful donations by numerous unions and companies, one of which being Anheuser Busch which donated some of the best attendance prizes

in the area. We have also been blessed with the most wonderful volunteers, without whom these tournaments would not be a success. And last but not certainly least, are the usual suspects – the golfers – who keep coming back year after year for more food, fun and beer, and we hope that dedication continues.

For all of our new members who like to golf, sign up for a foursome and experience the fun.

This year's tournaments are June 11, 1 p.m. Tee Off for Kraus and August 20, 1 p.m. Tee Off for 1439 South. Flyers are out, so sign up or call the union office to reserve your spot.

"Krausie" and "Boomer" would be very proud of our accomplishments and our donations to charity. It's a fine IBEW trait and we have a damn good time doing it. We are the union of hearts and minds – our hearts are always in the right spot and our minds certainly are expanded after one of our golf outings!

## Heavy (up to 25 lb./ft) and Underground (out of sight)

*When most of your work is done underground, it's hard to get noticed.*

By  
**CHARLES RILEY**  
Cable Splicer



Gravois Bluffs, Rams Park, Six Flags, West County Mall, Missouri Baptist Hospital and The Mills Mall are just a few of the many developments and projects that Heavy Underground Splicers, Construction Mechanics, and Utility Workers have helped deliver energy to. In fact Heavy Underground facilities are in all of Metro St. Louis. Although downtown St. Louis and downtown Clayton get much of their energy from a distribution perspective underground, North City and County, South City and County, West County, and the Central West End have many circuits that partially run underground.

Be it the Edward Jones Dome or the new Edward Jones complex on Dorsett and I-270, the Underground Department has helped deliver a safe and reliable source of electrical power. The work is dirty and of course many of the cables are heavy (some as much as 25 pounds a foot), yet this 40-person department blankets the **entire metropolitan area** to install, repair and maintain circuits ranging from secondary voltage to 35kv. From pad mount switchgears and transformers to terminal poles and manholes, Heavy Underground has its finger prints on it.

If you didn't notice us, we understand. It comes with the territory, under the ground that is. Even if that territory goes from the new MSD station in North County to the new River City Casino in South County, from Earth City to Busch Stadium and every downtown loft. From the Thomas Eagleton

Federal Courthouse to both Metro Link spans, from the Scotttrade Center to Barnes-Jewish Hospital, the Heavy Underground team reports for duty.

Many may not fully understand the hazards and conditions that our seniority division must work with and around each and every day. Most of our material and equipment is heavy, thus the term "Heavy Underground."

As brothers and sisters of our Local Union, I ask that you at least try to imagine our work from our perspective. Consider the work we have recently done in projects mentioned above and work we do below the streets of downtown St. Louis where we work on a 75- to 100-year-old network system.

It is time the Local 1439 Heavy Underground seniority division make ourselves known for all the good work we do.

### Kraus Golf Tournaments

1996 (first year)	\$2,746.00
1997	\$4,815.79
1998	\$6,000.00
1999	\$5,529.09
2000	\$4,533.17
2001	\$5,067.42
2002	\$5,463.57
2003	\$6,218.14
2004	\$4,316.18
2005	\$3,671.14
2006	\$4,114.41 (+\$1,000)
2007	\$5,239.61 (+1,500)
2008	\$7,018.42
2009	\$6,485.18
2010	\$5,216.18

North/Krause total to date \$78,934.30

Make-A-Wish Foundation
A.L.S.
American Diabetes Assoc.
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Hope Lodge (American Cancer Society)
Hope Lodge (American Cancer Society)
Hope Lodge (American Cancer Society)
Hope Lodge (American Cancer Society)
Hope Lodge (American Cancer Society)



### Barton Golf Tournaments

2002 (first year)	\$3,473.82
2003	\$2,287.25
2004	\$3,473.82
2005	\$2,880.65
2006	\$2,800.58
2007	\$2,794.58

2008	\$3,903.84
2009	\$5,295.71
2010	\$4,368.84

South/Barton total to date \$31,279.09

Sayer's Senior Center
Sayer's Senior Center
Sayer's Senior Center
Sayer's Senior Center
Rainout proceeds given in 2006
Rescheduled and held in 2007
(combined \$5,595.16)
Sayer's Senior Center (\$450 for bench)
Sayer's Senior Center
Sayer's Senior Center

**Grand total raised to date: \$110,213.39**

## 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.

### May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 5 p.m. Executive Board	3 4:30 p.m. St. Louis meeting	4 1:30 p.m. St. Louis Afternoon meeting	5 4:15 p.m. St. Francois meeting	6	7 
8	9	10 4:30 p.m. Substation Dept. meeting	11 3:45 p.m. St. Charles meeting	12 3:45 p.m. Jefferson meeting	13	14
15 	16	17	18 3:45 p.m. Franklin meeting	19 4:15 p.m. Bldg. Service – Day Shift – Dept. meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25 4:30 p.m. EWMC meeting	26	27 4 p.m. Distribution Service Dept. meeting	28
29	30 Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday	31				

**WE DO THE WORK!**

### June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 5 p.m. Executive Board meeting	7 4:30 p.m. St. Louis meeting	8 1:30 p.m. St. Louis Afternoon meeting	9	10	11 1 p.m. 16th Annual Tom Kraus Golf Tournament
12	13	14	15 3:45 p.m. St. Charles meeting	16 3:45 p.m. Jefferson meeting	17	18
19 	20	21	22 3:45 p.m. Franklin meeting	23 4 p.m. Forestry Dept. meeting	24	25
26	27	28 4 p.m. Traveling Operators Dept. meeting	29	30 5 p.m. Executive Board meeting (date change due to 4th of July holiday)		



The members of Local 1439 working for Ameren/South & City of Potosi are proud to announce the

9th Annual 1439 South

*Guy "Banner" Barton*

## Memorial Golf Tournament

### Saturday, August 20, 2011

at  
Terre du Lac Country Club — Bonne Terre, MO

Open to all 1439 Members & the Public  
144 Golfers - Shotgun Start — 1 p.m. Tee-Off

Price includes cart, green fees, lunch & dinner  
Beer and Soda will be sold on the course

Attendance Prizes and Closest to the Hole Contests — Awards for 1st Place A & B flights  
Proceeds to benefit the Sayer's Senior Center

For more information, contact Louis Drummond at 573-438-3031,  
Sam Johnson at 573-438-7322, or IBEW Local 1439 at 314-644-6111

Make checks payable to: Belgrade State Bank c/o Sayer's Senior Center  
and mail to: IBEW, Local 1439, 2121 59th Street, St. Louis, MO 63110

16th Annual

IBEW Local 1439

*Tom Kraus*



## Memorial Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 11, 2011

1 p.m. Shotgun Start — Sunset Lakes Golf Course  
13366 West Watson Rd., Sunset Hills, MO 63127

PRIZES FOR:

- Closest to the Hole ● 1st Place in A & B Flights ● Attendance Prizes
- Price includes cart, green fees, beer, soda, brat lunch & pork steak dinner  
Open to the Public - 144 Golfers - 4-person Scramble - Price Includes Margarita Hole  
Proceeds to benefit

American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge Center in St. Louis, MO

A residential support center for cancer patients  
A "Home Away From Home"

For more information, contact the Union office 314-644-6111  
Make checks payable to: IBEW Local 1439, 2121 59th Street, St. Louis, MO 63110



# 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 3 May / June, 2011

## Our Proud History Part 3: The Sixties

By MICHAEL D. WALTER

(See Jan./Feb. and Mar./Apr. issues for parts 1 and 2)

In 1969, Local 1439 was led by Business Manager **Gene Roedder** as he was re-elected and to serve until 1975. Brother Roedder led with passion, choosing to negotiate from a position of intelligence and knowledge rather than antagonism and force. He attended numerous workshops and took college level classes to learn about arbitration, negotiations and other labor related topics. He began to build a library of books related to business, labor, financial and legal publications. This collection and more is still displayed in the Local's Executive Board Room today.

He began building dialogue with other local unions across the country to discuss and exchange contract language. He was quoted as saying he "wanted Local 1439 lineman wages to be among the top three in the nation." In time, Local 1439's leadership was able to put together what they, and others across the country, believed to be a good, high-class contract. Brother Roedder was no stranger to wage negotiations and he can be credited for the wage rates we have

See **HISTORY Page 5**



ROEDDER IN 1975

Permit No. 495  
MO SOUT.  
PAID  
PRSRST STD  
POSTAGE  
P.S.'N

101139 OM'S, 071 S  
Street  
651212  
WBI 6311 TVCOT