

# The 688 Wire



## This Issue

- Message from the  
Business Manager **P.1**
- News around the Local **P.2**
- Good of the Union **P.3**
- RENEW **P.4**
- Special Messages **P.5**

### IBEW Local 688

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Local 688 Website:

[www.ibew688.org](http://www.ibew688.org)

Facebook: IBEW Local 688

## From Your Business Manager

27 on Book 1   2 on Book 2   0 \_ Inside Apprentice   0 Tele data Tech

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
from myself and the staff at  
IBEW Local 688, we wish you  
a very Merry Christmas and a*

*Happy New Year*

*In Solidarity,*

*Carl Neutzling*

# News Around the Local



## MANSFIELD.I.B.E.W.688



### Officers of Local Union 688:

President: Brian McPeek

Vice President: Tory Gorka

Recording Secretary:

Sean Spears

Treasurer:

Todd Simmermacher

### Executive Board:

Donnie Hankins

Dane Hart

Dustin Endicott

Josh Klass

Malcom Salyers

Michelle Smith

Eric Ruffner

### Examining Board:

Jesse Crumlick

Brian Wittibschlager

### Century Link Unit Officers:

Chairman (Mansfield):

Steve Frazee

Chairman (Greenville):

Walker Branson

### Southwest Agreement Start Form:

**Employer:** Speelman Electric

**Jobsite:** Brightview

580 West Park Ave.

Mansfield, OH 44906

**Manhours:** 880

JW Hours: 440

CW Hours: 440

**Start Date:** 11/16/2020

**Job Duration:** 12 Weeks

Work has been steady around the Local, no big jobs, but little ones here and there that our keeping our guys busy. There was a fire at AK Steel, that created an emergency job call, that we were able to fill. Currently there are 4 schools being built in our jurisdiction, Hillsdale Local Schools PK-12 building, Lexington Schools PK-12, Marion Pleasant Schools, Shelby City Schools is building a PK-8 building. BCU has the Hillsdale sitework, Vaughn Industries was low bidder on Marion Pleasant, Speelman Electric out of Local 306 is trying to get into Lexington, I have reached out to Adena to find out who the electrical contractor is on the Shelby School project, but so far have not heard back, I have been by the jobsite several times and so far only temp service to the job trailer has been done.

Retired Brother Clarence (Bob) Fulton had a circuit not working, I went over and troubleshot the situation, I found a bad connection in the attic, and repaired the issue.

### Organizers Report

I have had some continued positive dialogue one of Carters top guys. I had referred Dustin Tate to Owens, to start December 14, but he called me on the 1st and informed me that John Carter made him an offer he could not refuse. While I was unable to strip Dustin from Carter, I feel that I did level the field and made John pay his guy a fair wage. I have also been in discussion with Chris Butsko and Don Perry, both are foreman's for Area Energy and Electric out of Marion.

Kiess Electric is working on a new Brew Pub in Bucyrus, this project has been put on hold due to financial issues, but now seems to be back on track. Kahl's is installing power for 19 door openers at Bucyrus City Hall. Knapp Electric is involved in the renovation of Bucyrus Manor Apartments. Strong Electric is still on the Ohio Health Ashland Project. Buckingham is still active in Ariel Corporation and busy around Mt. Vernon, so far, I have not had much of a vibe from any of the guys, though they have been cordial.

If you haven't already, be sure to like our Facebook page. The page is for organizing purposes, feel free to share pics of your work, I would love to flood our page showcasing our craftsmanship! Be sure to check out our Facebook page IBEW Local 688, and don't forget to Like it!

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

# Good of the Union



## MANSFIELD I.B.E.W. 688



### The Health of the Union

Retired Brother Jack Pifher has been undergoing chemotherapy for cancer of the lymph nodes.

4<sup>th</sup> Period Apprentice, Steven Hunt, is having foot surgery later this month, and will most likely require 4 months off to recover.

5<sup>th</sup> Period Apprentice, Tanner Noblet, broke his fibula and had surgery on December 22, 2020. He will most likely be out for 6-8 weeks for recovery.

Normally, we pass a donation container around for collection at the monthly meeting, however, due to the pandemic, we don't know when that may occur. But, if you would like to donate to the Hurt and Hungry fund, or just to help these guys through a tough time right now, you can drop off donations at the Hall and we will make sure they get it.

During these tough and difficult times of living through a pandemic, the likes of which have not been seen in over 100 years, it is often difficult to comprehend what many have lost. I personally know someone who has passed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but I can't begin to realize what they and their loved ones had gone through.

I know we can't knock on someone's door and check on them, but please, reach out with a phone call. Grand-parents are afraid to see their children and grand-children for fear of contracting this virus. This virus is creating not only physical health issues, but mental health issues as well. But don't despair, there is a light at the end of the tunnel! With the vaccine rolling out, we may start to return to normal by late summer or fall. If you or someone you know is feeling depressed, as many are this time of year, there is help, State of Ohio has set up a free 24/7 text line for people in crisis, just text 4HOPE to 741741.

As you all are aware, Local 688's Annual Christmas Dinner was postponed, a date has not been set as of yet, but until the virus gets under control, we cannot expect anytime soon. Perhaps maybe a Christmas in July Cookout outdoors may be something to consider so that we can all get together safely and practice social distancing in an outdoor setting.

*Merry Christmas from all of us in the office of IBEW Local 688. We hope you have a very happy Holidays and we wish you all the best for the New Year.*

*"I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old, familiar carols play. And wild and sweet, the words repeat, of peace on earth, goodwill to men!"*

*~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

*One of the nice things about Christmas is that you can make people forget the past with a present." ~ Unknown*



#### RENEW Officers:

Chairman:

Mark Karbula

Recording Secretary:

Cody Jenkins

Treasurer:

Kyle Snow

RENEW meets on a bi-monthly basis at 5:30 PM before the Local 688 meeting at the Union Hall. Meetings are scheduled for:

February 9, 2021

April 14, 2021

June 8, 2021

August 10, 2021

October 12, 2021

December 14, 2021

If you are interested in donating to the RENEW program, please contact any officer of RENEW or the Local IBEW 688.

"Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours, and provided supplemented benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

# RENEW



## Mission Statement:

The mission of the Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers (RENEW) initiative is to inspire the next generation of IBEW workers to become active in their local union by focusing on issues important to younger workers, providing education about the IBEW and the labor movement, and fostering relationships with members and local union leadership.

## The RENEW Initiative

Greater involvement by local union members of all ages is critical to the growth of the IBEW. RENEW is an IBEW-wide initiative dedicated to creating opportunities for members ages 35 years and younger and helping them develop the skills necessary to become active in the local union and play a role in shaping its future.

The goals of this program are to educate the next generation of workers about the benefits of the IBEW, to provide a space for younger members to discuss issues relevant to their workplace and community, and to encourage their participation in programs that are focused on strengthening the local union and the labor movement.

Each local union will develop its own RENEW Committee. This committee will set its own goals based on the needs of the local union and the interests of its members. A strong RENEW program will energize young workers and has the potential to increase their attendance at union meetings, create meaningful engagement among members and local union leadership, and bolster their confidence.

Ensuring the IBEW is reflective of ALL members is essential to a strong and sustainable workforce. The RENEW initiative is an opportunity to better understand younger workers while continuing to engage members of all ages to foster proud and active union members.

The RENEW Committee is funded through volunteer donations, so it really is amazing all the things that they have been able to accomplish. I know they are currently trying to get the funds gathered up to provide the homeless in the area with a drawstring bag filled with basic necessities like toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, etc. One thing many people don't realize, is that these people don't have a medicine cabinet to keep these items, so it can be a great resource for them to be able to have all these items in one convenient bag that can be thrown over their shoulder. Please, if you are fortunate enough to donate, please consider donating to RENEW, and together we can renew the impact that we can have on our community.



## MANSFIELD I.B.E.W. 688



### Journeyman & Apprentices

4th District Health Fund  
Claims and Eligibility:  
[www.4thdistricthealthfund.com](http://www.4thdistricthealthfund.com)  
1-888-466-9094

Medical Providers:  
[www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com)

Dental:  
[www.deltadentaloh.com](http://www.deltadentaloh.com)  
1-800-524-0149

Vision:  
[www.vsp.com](http://www.vsp.com)  
1-800-877-7185

Pension and Annuity:  
[www.yourunionbenefits.com](http://www.yourunionbenefits.com)  
1-800-435-2388

Save-RX Prescription:  
[www.savrx.com](http://www.savrx.com)  
1-866-233-4239

### Construction Workers & Construction Electricians

NECA/IBEW  
Family Medical Care Plan:  
[www.nebf.com/fmcp/](http://www.nebf.com/fmcp/)  
1-877-937-9602

Medical Providers:  
[www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com)  
1-800-810-2583

Vision:  
[www.vsp.com](http://www.vsp.com)  
1-800-877-7195

Save-RX Prescription Problems:  
[www.savrx.com](http://www.savrx.com)  
1-866-233-4239

Dental:  
[www.metlife.com/mybenefits](http://www.metlife.com/mybenefits)  
1-800-942-0854

### *In Memoriam*

IBEW International Vice President of the 4<sup>th</sup> District

Brian George Malloy

November 19, 1959 – August 22, 2020

Brother William Brad Cooperider

December 10, 1954 – September 3, 2020

Retired Brother Jackie "Jack" Uselton

October 2, 1952 – September 28, 2020

Retired Brother Paul Smith

February 6, 1956 – November 18, 2020

Retired Brother Robert "Bob" Hoover

April 19, 1924 – December 11, 2020

Retired Brother Guy "Bud" Pasheilich

June 2, 1939 – December 13, 2020

### *In Sympathy*

The officers and members of IBEW Local Union No. 688, extend their deepest sympathy to the members and their families on the sorrowful loss of their loved ones.