

The 688 Wire



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Highlights of the Executive Board Meeting February 8, 2021

New members to be sworn in

Carter Smith – CW-1

Jacob Hunt – CW-2

Luke Pennywitt – CW-2

Drug Training

Owens Electric – Marion – 5:00 PM – February 15th – Employee and Supervisor
Owens Electric – Marion – 5:00 PM – February 16th – Employee Only

BCU Electric – Ashland – 5:00 PM – February 22nd – Employee and Supervisor
BCU Electric – Ashland – 5:00 PM – February 23rd – Employee Only

IBEW Local #688 – Mansfield – 5:00 PM – March 1st – Employee and Supervisor
IBEW Local #688 – Mansfield – 5:00 PM – March 3rd – Employee Only

Contact the hall with the date that you intend to come to make sure that there is a spot available, space is limited due to social distancing.

PRO Act

PRO Act Legislation in Congress will help construction unions in their efforts of:

- Organizing relief
- Misclassification of employees

Labor Management

- Grievance against Lake Erie Electric was upheld.

This Issue

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IBEW Local 688

67 S. Walnut St.

Mansfield, OH 44902

Employee/Office List:

Kristi Boggs:

Benefits Office Manager

(419) 529-5889

ibew688benefits@aol.com

Kristi Boggs: Office Admin.

(419) 526-4688

resign688@hotmail.com

Business Manager: Carl

Neutzling Office: (419) 529-4688

Cell: (419) 564-7596

carlneutzling@embarqmail.com

JATC Training Director: William

Thompson

(419) 989-5146

jatc@ibew688.org

Membership Development

Organizer: Dave Carnes

Office: (419) 526-4688

Cell: (419) 689-2421

organizer@ibew688.org

Local 688 Website:

www.ibew688.org

Facebook: [IBEW Local 688](https://www.facebook.com/IBEW-Local-688)

News Around the Local



Officers of Local Union 688:

President: Brian McPeck

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



MANSFIELD I.B.E.W. 688



Contract Negotiations

You should have received in the mail a Inside Agreement survey for the upcoming contract negotiations. Please, fill it out and return to the hall if you haven't already. If there is anything that we may have missed in our survey, please feel free to write it on your survey page.

Business Managers Report

- We have open calls in for Lake Erie Electric at the Marion Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- Speelman Electric has a signed contract for Lexington High/Middle Schools. The schedule and manpower needs are yet to be determined, but expect them to be hiring for underground soon.
- Whalen Electric will need people for a fire alarm project at the prison
- Upcoming Projects contractors are bidding on:
 - Mohican Lodge - \$15,000,000 renovation
 - Crawford County Storage/Evidence Building - \$1,600,000
 - Edge Plastics – 2,300,000 – Alpine will perform

With manhours and investment earnings, pension is headed out of the endangered status. Annuity is earning 13% fiscal year to date.

Fourth District Organizing Plan has been revised. Local union bylaws will have to be modified to comply:

- Journeyman exam – wait time after failed exam from 6 months to 3 months
- Day 1 membership – membership at first referral for every classification

These changes and previous changes will be reviewed at the next two regular meetings.

In Solidarity,

Carl Neutzling



Organizers Report



“Unions lift wages for non-union by creating a higher prevailing wage. Even if you aren’t a union member, your pay is influenced by the strength or weakness of organized labor. The *presence* of unions sets of a race to the top. Their *absence* sets off a race to the bottom.”

– Eric Liu

“The man who has millions will want everything he can lay his hands on and then raise his voice against the poor who wants ten cents more a day”

– Samuel Gompers

“Unions are one of the last remaining checks on corporate power, so it is no surprise that corporatebacked extreme special interests are attempting to effectively end unions as we know them” – Sarita Gupta

“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as “right to work.” It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and our job rights.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Organizers Report

I ran into Dustin Tate, whom I previously referred to Owens, but John Carter made him an offer he could not refuse. Dustin said he is content for the time being, he is driving a brand-new Cargo van. Discovered that Buckingham Electric is building a new shop across from Ariel Park in Mt. Vernon. Stopped by the old GM plant in Ontario and spoke with a couple guys from BIS, who is signatory with Local 306, I let Carl know and he made the arrangements to ensure we are getting the proper assessments. They said they were only doing the service and the building shell.

With the rise of Covid cases, I am following the same habits of other locals I have been in contact with, I am trying to reduce my face-to-face interactions, and I am leaving my card on vehicles and calling and emailing contacts that I have already made. I am still patrolling the jurisdiction, but unless they are outside, I am not speaking with anybody. I am not walking through jobsites; I don’t want to be “that union guy who is on my jobsite spreading Covid.”

If any one has a non-represented friend in the industry, please, talk to them, give them my number, or give me theirs. The best way to bring them on board, is to help spread the information, because most of them have been mis-informed by their employers.

Again, 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!



Calling all Volunteers!

Calling all interested in volunteering for to help wrap up our Choice Material's project, Saturday, February 20, 2021. Choice Material's provides used items to the needy, including our own members. We are installing a sub panel in a separate building with an overhead tri-plex drop and installing some conduit for some lights and receptacles. I know its not the idea time of the year, but any and all help would be greatly appreciated. [Click here for map](#)

If this is something that you would like to help out with, please contact Dave Carnes at (419) 689-2421 or call the hall.



Journeyman & Apprentices

4th District Health Fund
Claims and Eligibility:
www.4thdistricthealthfund.com
1-888-466-9094

Medical Providers:
www.anthem.com

Dental:
www.deltadentaloh.com
1-800-524-0149

Vision:
www.vsp.com
1-800-877-7185

Pension and Annuity:
www.yourunionbenefits.com
1-800-435-2388

Save-RX Prescription:
www.savrx.com
1-866-233-4239

Construction Workers & Construction Electricians

NECA/IBEW
Family Medical Care Plan:
www.nebf.com/fmcp/
1-877-937-9602

Medical Providers:
www.anthem.com
1-800-810-2583

Vision:
www.vsp.com
1-800-877-7195

Save-RX Prescription Problems:
www.savrx.com
1-866-233-4239

Dental:
www.metlife.com/mybenefits
1-800-942-0854

Good of the Union



MANSFIELD.I.B.E.W.688



The Health of the Union

Health of the Union

4th Period Apprentice, Steven Hunt, had surgery and is still recovering. He will most likely require 4 months off to recover.

5th Period Apprentice, Tanner Noblet, is back to work!

Jack Pifher is undergoing round 2 of Chemotherapy.

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.

Good of the Union



The Rehab Center Telethon was another huge success! The Telethon was able to raise \$115,000, which is an amazing accomplishment with all that is going on with the pandemic. You can read more about it [here](#).

In Memoriam

Retired Brother Jack Rush

November 15, 1949 – February 6, 2021



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.