

The 688 Wire



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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

From Your Business Manager

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President Elect Joe Biden, nominated a 2nd generation union member, a brother who carried his tools and who was an elected officer of his union, Marty Walsh, current Mayor of Boston, to be the next Secretary of Labor of the United States of America. If confirmed by the Senate, Walsh will be the first union member to serve as Labor Secretary in 50 years.

Walsh will succeed Donald Trump's Secretary of Labor, Eugene Scalia, a vicious union buster. Walsh joined Laborers Local 223 in Boston at the age of 21 and served as President until 2014, while simultaneously serving in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and as Boston Metropolitan District Building & Construction Trades Council. Walsh was elected Mayor of Boston in 2014 and re-elected in 2018. He had led a successful effort to raise the city's minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour, while at the same time creating 135,000 new jobs. This appointment by Joe Biden is just one of the thousands that will be forthcoming over the next few months.

As some of you have probably heard, we have been working on a new website which we will roll out on January 15, 2021. While the website will be functional, we will still be tweaking it until we are satisfied with the overall content. The 688 Wire will be uploaded there from now on instead of email. The Members only portion is not quite ready, but we hope to be able to have it up and running smoothly by the months end.

In Solidarity,

Carl Neutzling

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

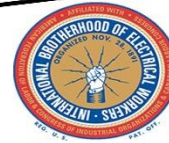
CW Hours: 440

Start Date: 11/16/2020

Job Duration: 12 Weeks



MANSFIELD I.B.E.W. 688



Work has continued to be steady around the Local, again no big jobs, but little ones here and there that our keeping our guys busy.

Organizers Report

My report this month is jobsite activities that I visited & non-union electricians I have spoken with.

I referred Area Energy & Electric foreman Chris Butsko to Owens and have had continued positive dialogue with another of their foremen's Don Perry. I have also been in contact with guys from Carter, Knapp Electric, BP Electric, Peak Power, Cogburn Electric, and WireNut Electric.

On December 11, I was involved in accident, I was northbound on Diamond street, and someone ran a stop sign on 6th St. and I was t-boned, right in front of Alpine's shop. I am OK, still seeking treatment for soft tissue damage, as well as a possible fracture of the mid back, still trying to work with BWC on treatment. The car has been repaired, I was stuck in the office for the holidays, but I was able to continue organizing efforts from here, I sent emails & made phone calls.

If anyone is friends with an unrepresented worker, please let me know. 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!

News from Gary Osborne (District Organizer)

In the Fourth District, our construction membership continues to grow. From August through November our District grew by 603 members or 1.6%. We were fortunate during 2020 that the majority of our projects remained on track, with very few projects cancelled.

We have the Regional Agreements which allows our contractors the tool to competitively compete for the work, our organizers on the Inside and Outside have the ability and the tools to recruit workers from their chosen targets. Growing our membership, growing our market share, and increasing the number of signatory employers equals better wages, more secured benefits, and greater employment opportunities for our members. Let's make 2021 our year!

Calling all Volunteers!

Calling all interested in volunteering for a little project, would like to get 5-6 guys for Saturday, January 30, 2021. Choice Material's provides used items to the needy, including our own members. We would like to help them out by donating our time and skill to install a separately derived system and some lights and receptacles in their warehouse in Bellville. If this is something that you would like to help out with, please contact Dave Carnes at (419) 689-2421 or call the hall.



International President of the IBEW: Lonnie Stephenson

International Treasurer of the IBEW: Kenny Cooper

International Vice President of the 4th District: Gina Cooper

“All life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King

“The ultimate test of a person, a union, a movement and a people is not whether we get knocked down. It is what do we do when we get up. Are we smarter, stronger, more compassionate, more determined and more united? This is always our choice.” -

Mark McDermott

News Around the 4th District



MANSFIELD I.B.E.W. 688



International Convention:

The IBEW International Convention is scheduled for September of this year in Chicago, Illinois. With the recent release of the COVID-19 vaccines, we are hopeful that the convention can take place in person. However, International President Stephenson and International Secretary-Treasurer Cooper are preparing for both a virtual and in-person convention should it be unsafe to hold the event in-person. I will keep you posted as more information is available.



The Fourth District Needs Your Creativity!

With the 40th International Convention upon us in late August/early September 2021, it has been a long-standing tradition that each district design a unique district pin that can be worn proudly by each of our delegates, in addition to trading these pins with other delegates from other districts. It is also a tradition to redesign the logo every 5 years. With that said, we are asking for design ideas for our Fourth District Delegate Pin from the local union's membership. In these creative designs, please keep in mind the district's motto of "The Fighting Fourth." Selection of the design will be done by presenting the designs to each business manager for a vote.

Please have designs submitted by email or mail by March 1, 2021.

IBEW Fourth District Office

5100 Buckeystown Pike – Suite 255

Frederick, MD 21704

or ivpd_04@ibew.org

Good of the Union



MANSFIELD I.B.E.W. 688



"I consider it important, indeed urgently necessary for intellectual workers to get together, both to protect their own economic status and also, generally speaking, to secure their influence in the political field" – Albert Einstein Charter Member AFT Local 552

"Unions have been the only powerful and effective voice working people have ever had in the history of this country"
-Bruce Springsteen

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" – Gandhi

"The world changes according to the way people see it, and if you can alter, even by a millimeter, the way people look at reality, then you can change the world." – James Baldwin

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, had surgery and is still recovering. He will most likely be out for 6-8 weeks for recovery.

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

Congratulations go out to our recently retired Brothers! Thank you for all the years of service and the valuable skills and knowledge that you passed down to all those that worked with you.

Harvey J. Tester

Dana R. Blasberg

The Rehab Center Telethon

CATALYST
— LIFE SERVICES —
30th Rehab Telethon

Going Virtual this year!
Saturday, February 6th, 2021
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

WATCH IT HAPPEN!

WMFD
TELEVISION

Be sure to watch the Labor Hour starting at 5:00 PM to see our check presentation!



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
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

National Day of Service



1st Annual Food Drive & Personal Care Item Collection

To Benefit Harmony House

Items needed: Non-perishable foods and
Personal Care Items such as:

Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo, Toiletries

Also accepting cash donations, and you can also donate @ <https://theharmonyhouse.org/>

Please make checks out to The Harmony House

Drop-off Locations for January 18, 2021 from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM:

IBEW Local 688 at 67 S. Walnut St. Mansfield, Ohio 44902

or

Harmony House at 124 W. Third St. Mansfield, Ohio 44902

In Sympathy

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

Martha Haliburton

April 17, 1947 - January 12, 2021

Eugene "Gene" Haliburton

Husband