

The 688 Wire

IBEW Local 688

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Work has slowed a bit with layoffs at 4 local contractors. RMF Nooter has added a few at the AK Steel Plant. For 2022, solar will headline the work, provided our contractors are able to secure the work. There are 3 large solar field in the permitting phase of development. Crawford Co (Sycamore Creek) had a public hearing in July and I spoke in favor at that hearing. Marion Co (Marion Solar LLC) had a public hearing Sept. 28, Dave Carnes, retiree Mike Huffman, and I all spoke in favor of the Marion project. Wyandot Co (Tymochtee) will have its hearing on Oct. 26, and it would be great if we could get someone who lives in Wyandot county to speak on behalf of this project, Dave Carnes and I will be there in support of this project as well, the hearings are short. We have also met with a developer who is proposing a field in Morrow County and one in Knox county. All this work is scheduled to begin in 2022 and will continue through at least 2024. These projects are necessary to bring in more big business, as a majority of Fortune 500 companies have stated they want to be carbon neutral by 2030.

In Solidarity,

Carl Neutzling

Organizers Report



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

We are continuing our Organizing effort here at 688, and I am putting together a Volunteer Organizing Committee, and I am hopeful that we will be able to really step up our game with not only unrepresented electricians in our area, but also with the non-signatory contractors. Some of the duties will involve hanging door hangers on unrepresented doors, educating the unrepresented, getting out into the communities and letting the community leaders know that we are more than just a “union”. We will be holding bi-monthly meetings before our regular general meetings, each meeting should be short, yet productive, involving brainstorming and game planning. I hope to have at least 3-4 volunteers to get involved, but would love to have all of membership there.

I have made several Top-Down organizing efforts, trying to bring in more contractors so that we can continue to do our first objective in our Constitution, “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” The more organized workforce means greater benefits for our membership, and the industry as a whole. With membership involvement, I feel that we can deliver on this objective. I have reached out to and spoke with James Streng and Sam Long, owners of Strong Electric of Ashland, John Carter of Carter Electric, and Bill Nichols of Nichols Electric of Lexington.

Local 688 President Brian McPeek and myself attended COMET Training at Local 683, we will be holding a COMET class in January, 2022. If you have never attended COMET training, the International Office request that all members be trained in COMET. I also attended Employapalooza Job Fair at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center, spoke with several people, unfortunately, none are currently in the industry. I encouraged them to apply for the Apprenticeship and I followed up with each of them the following week.

I would like to thank those who showed up in support of solidarity for the Labor Day Parade, Dave Carnes and family, Carl Neutzling and family, Will Perry, and Jeff Phillips and family. All the Local Trade Unions were there in support as well. It was a beautiful day to honor and recognize the Labor Movement and remember all those that fought for the many things that we now take for granted. There was free carousel rides after, along with free food, cotton candy, and even balloon animals.

Organizers Report



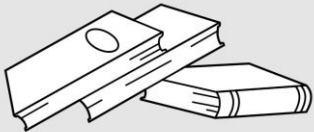
Community Involvement

I am looking at a project that will need some volunteers in the near future. Lorine's Little Learners Daycare and Pre-School is in need of some electrical upgrades and repairs. Lorine's "is a gem in our community" and meets a very real need in Mansfield.

Call, text, or email Dave Carnes if you are interested in this project or any others that may be on the horizon.

Resign, Resign, Resign

It's that time again, Brothers and Sisters.
The week of the 10th thru 16th is Resign week.
Pass it on, Brothers and Sisters.



'THE LABOR MOVEMENT IS A BROTHERHOOD... A BROTHERHOOD OF WORKERS. SURELY IT CANNOT SET ITS FACE AGAINST THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.'

—GEORGE MEANY



Member Jeff Phillips children left and right, Organizer David Carnes daughter middle.

The Marion Popcorn Festival was a success, which was a huge surprise considering the company in charge of providing all the rides and power cables canceled on Labor Day, which was the day before they were supposed to start set up. The Festival Committee was able to round up enough cable from neighboring festivals and even had to go as far away as Springfield to get cables. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped: Apprentices Justin Dubois, Matt Frazier, Sevy Hernandez, Steven Hunt, Cody Jenkins, and Will Perry and Journeyman Dave Carnes and Michelle Smith, and Retirees Gary Baumberger and Mike Huffman.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSOR

FOR HELPING US TO CONTINUE A COMMUNITY TRADITION.



IBEW Local 688

Southwest Agreement Start Form:

Employer: Speelman Electric

Jobsite: Lexington 7-12

103 Clever Lane

Lexington, OH 44904

Manhours: 26,000

JW Hours: 10,000

Apprentice Hours: 4,000

CW Hours: 6,000

CE Hours: 6,000

Start Date: 02/22/2021

Job Duration: 16 Months

Speelman Electric put in a Regional Agreement Variance Request form and was granted the variance, which allowed them to be competitive enough to win this project.

As can be seen from the Southwest Agreement start form, the Southwest Agreement is doing what it was created to do, create Union jobs for Journeyman and apprentices alike, while at the same time allowing the contractor to be competitive, which is required to compete with the non-union contractors who are now having to compete with us. Currently, there are 1 JW from 688, 2 Apprentice from 688, 1 Foreman Speelman brought in, 1 JW Speelman brought in and 1 CW from Local 306.

Health of the Union



MANSFIELD I.B.E.W. 688



HEALTH OF THE UNION

Jack Pifher is continuing his treatment and seems to be in good spirits.

Jr Ross has been moved to Heartland of Bucyrus Nursing Facility.

Brian Wittibschlager had a knee replacement.

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

I would like to Congratulate our newest Journeymen Wireman, Apprentices who recently topped out: Nathan Jerome, Mark Karbula, Dakota Lionheart, Kyle Mathews, Ryan Ogborn, Morgan Park, Bubba Pryor, Kyle Snow, & Kevin Spangler. I would also like to Congratulate our newest Journeymen Wireman, who recently passed our Journeyman Wireman Examination: Chris Butsko, Tom Hamilton, Laurent Poissonnet, John Reyna, & Tyler Rice. Congratulations Brothers! We would also like to say welcome to our newest members: Seth Arneson, Chris Butsko, Mike Case, Thomas Hamilton, Laurent Poissonnet, & Finley Surgener. Welcome aboard Brothers!

At the October 2021 Regular Meeting, we will be initiating 13 new Brothers and Sisters, It would be nice to have a full house of members be there in show of solidarity and welcome our newest Brothers and Sister! Please join us in welcoming the following: Michael Adkins, Thomas Beer, Arturo Faustino, Carson Hauger, Sevy Hernandez, Audrey Hickman, Zach Howell, Jackson McCormack, James Pack, Jacob Paff, Derrick Pifer, Harrison Shoup, & Ryan Taylor. Don't forget new shirts, beanies, and koozies are in!



Special Messages



“What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful, and childhood more happy and bright.”

– Samuel Gompers

Union Membership is like a gym membership. Dues are necessary to operate. And, just like a gym, if you don't show up to participate, you do not become stronger.

– Unknown

“The most important word in the language of the working class is SOLIDARITY.”

– Harry Bridges

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those that have **MUCH**; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too **LITTLE**.”

– Franklin D. Roosevelt

Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Mathews are the proud new parents of a beautiful baby girl!
Mr. and Mrs. Rory McKee are the proud new parents of a handsome baby boy!

Congratulations from all your Brothers and Sisters at IBEW Local 688

Thank you for your Service

Tim Miller Applied for Pension for April 1st, 2021

In Memoriam

Retired Brother, Business Manager and International Representative

Harold “Harvey” Ebersole

June 13, 1929 – April 9, 2021

In Sympathy

Juan Ramirez

April 1, 1960 – May 17, 2021

Michelle Smith

Daughter

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