



VOLUME LIII

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 5 NEWS & VIEWS



IBEW Local 5 Meeting Hall, Training Center, And Headquarters Building 5 Hot Metal Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2355



FALL 2026

LOCAL 5 OFFICERS VOTED IN BY ACCLAMATION



Standing L to R: Business Manager/Financial Secretary Thomas R. McIntyre, President Michael W. Varholla, Vice President William C. Garner, Recording Secretary Alfred L. Franklin IV (Buddy), Treasurer Natalie N. Jackson, I.B.E.W. 3rd District Vice President Frank Muia, I.B.E.W. 3rd District Representative Edward Braukus
Seated L to R: Executive Board Kenneth F. Morris, Matthew E. Vinglish, Paul R. Rusiewicz, Ronald E. Moye Examining Board: Robert C. Davide, David J. Mazza, Casey J. Roche

Corner by Tom McIntyre



I would like to begin this Business Manager's Corner by thanking all of the members for your show of confidence, not only in myself, but for all of the officers for another three-year term at all of our respected positions. It is very important that the officers have the respect and support from the entire membership to help keep us united and moving this great Local Union forward. Thank you, again.

Back in June, we had a beautiful day for our annual "Denny Miller Family Picnic" at Idlewild Park. I would like to thank all of the members and their families who attended the picnic, and I hope that everyone had a good time as the rain held off until dinnertime, but it was still an enjoyable day.

Labor Day was another beautiful weather day, and we were, once again, in the front portion of the parade so we were marching before 10:30 a.m. and were back at the hall for our traditional party at 11:30 a.m. I would like to thank all of the members and their families who attended as, once again, I believe we had the largest marching group in the parade. I would really like to give a special thank you to all of our volunteers for both the Idlewild Picnic and Labor Day. The success of these events is because we have so many members that step up and are always willing to assist the officers at these events.

The work picture still is promising looking into the future. The industrial end of our business is looking to continue to take manpower at several different locations. The potential for this work could explode, giving us plenty of work opportunities. The Homer City Power Generation Project continues to grow at a rapid pace with the hope that the data center portion of this development starts in the near future. The United States Steel Mon-Valley Works Site Improvement Plans are continuing to progress and will hopefully start putting out the various projects planned out for bid in the near future.

There is potential for an indescribable amount of electrical work here in Western Pennsylvania like we have never seen before. But for this to happen, we are going to need support from our political friends in our State Capital, Harrisburg. Later in this edition of the newsletter there is an article explaining fact from fiction on data centers in Western Pennsylvania. Please take the time to read this. We must support Governor Shapiro's GRID Legislation that covers responsible data center construction for Pennsylvanians and our communities.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd. Please get out and vote for the Local 5 endorsed candidates listed in this edition of the newsletter. Starting with Governor Shapiro and Lieutenant Governor Davis. This Governor is the reason for this data center potential boom here in Pennsylvania. Not only is there work here in Western Pennsylvania but across the entire state. Governor Shapiro works hand in hand with the State Building and Construction Trades to ensure that this work is done union. His opponent has been endorsed by our major competitor, the ABC. The Governor's opponent was quick to point out the great relationship the Governor has with the Building Trades Unions and accusing him of being owned by us. We must send a strong message by not only electing Governor Shapiro, but by beating her in a landslide. Please vote for our endorsed U.S. Congressional, State Senate and State Representative candidates listed in this newsletter.

I hope everyone had a great summer, and I hope to see all of the members at our holiday parties throughout our jurisdiction in December. Once again, thank you for your support and have a great holiday season.

MEET YOUR AGENT

Natalie Jackson

Treasurer/Manpower
Coordinator



As a first-generation member of IBEW Local #5, Sister Natalie Jackson was blazing her own trail in the trade when she started her apprenticeship in 1999. Over the next five years, her apprenticeship took her through some of Pittsburgh's greatest and most iconic projects of the 2000's, including PNC Park, PNC Firstside, Hillman Cancer Center, and Pittsburgh's highways and bridges.

Her dedication to our craft and steady leadership didn't go unnoticed. Field roles quickly expanded into foreman, general foreman, and superintendent responsibilities, putting Natalie at the helm of projects for The Port Authority, PA Turnpike, PennDOT and the Dept of Energy. All the while her commitment to our Local extended far beyond the job site as she poured her energy into volunteer projects, serving on the Labor Day Float Committee and lending a hand to the IBEW 3rd District 3DYC and Local 5 RENEW initiatives.

Recognizing her dedication to Local 5, Business Manager Michael Dunleavy appointed Sister Jackson to the Examining Board in 2016. Three years later, Business Manager Dunleavy expanded her role, appointing her as Manpower Coordinator and Allegheny County Business Agent. Through it all, Natalie remained grounded in mentorship and fraternity, actively supporting Local 5 RENEW and the Women's Committee to help the next generation of electricians build thriving, sustainable careers.

Natalie's responsibilities continued to expand when the Executive Board appointed her to serve out an unexpired term as Treasurer in October 2024—a position the membership officially solidified by electing her to a full term alongside Business Manager McIntyre's team this past June.

Taking on even greater stewardship of her union family, Natalie helps lead the Newsletter and social media efforts and was recently appointed as a Labor Trustee for the IBEW Local #5 Pension, Healthcare, Deferred Compensation, and Wage and Fringe Funds. Working side-by-side with Business Manager McIntyre and Recording Secretary Buddy Franklin, Sister Jackson now helps safeguard and strengthen the vital benefits that sustain Local #5 members and their families for generations to come.

HOLIDAY PARTY LOCATIONS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
Following meeting at 8 p.m.

Local Union No. 5 Hall
Southside

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
Doors open 6 p.m.
Dinner at 7 p.m.

Slippery Rock Golf Club
106 Ralston Road
Slippery Rock PA 16057

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
Doors open 6 p.m.
Dinner at 7 p.m.

Cedarbrook Golf Course
215 state route 981
Belle Vernon PA, 15012

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
Doors open 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 7 p.m.

The Copper Cork Event Center
512 Arnold Avenue
Clearfield, PA 16830

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
Doors open 6 p.m.
Dinner at 7 p.m.

Blair County Convention Center
1 Convention Center Drive
Altoona, PA 16602

IBEW President Ken Cooper, IBEW Secretary/Treasurer Paul Noble and Local 5 Business Manager Tom McIntyre visit Homer City site to announce the IBEW Code of Excellence!



Data Centers in Western Pennsylvania: *Separating Fact from Fiction*

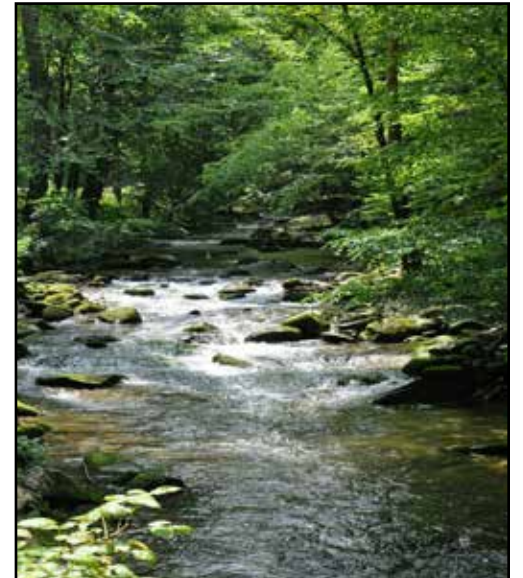
Rapid data center expansion across Pennsylvania—particularly on former industrial brownfields and along rural power corridors—presents unprecedented work opportunities for Local #5. However, growing local opposition highlights real community concerns. Members must be armed with accurate information when forming opinions and making decisions that will affect our region and our industry for generations.

Alongside proposed legislation like House Bill 2650, Executive Order 2026-05 puts Governor Shapiro's GRID (Governor's Responsible Infrastructure Development) standards into immediate effect, establishing binding guardrails through DEP permitting and state tax programs while protecting our region's vast potential.

Key Factors & Regulatory Solutions

Water Usage: Abundant Resources vs. Local Stress

- **The Myth:** Data centers will dry up Western PA's local water supplies.
- **The Facts:** Western PA's cool climate and plentiful waterways offer a strong advantage, and data center developers are moving toward closed-loop systems.
- **Cooling Tech Matters:** Older open-loop systems evaporate 1 to 5 million gallons daily (far exceeding a golf course's 100,000–300,000+ daily gallons). Modern hyperscale facilities use sealed, closed-loop systems that require an initial fill but consume near-zero daily water, preventing strain on municipal supplies. A modern closed-loop facility uses less daily water than a single golf course hole, since its water is recycled inside the closed piping.
- **GRID & EO 2026-05 Protections:** Under EO 2026-05, operators must submit mandatory annual reports detailing monthly water and power consumption, source allocations, and efficiency measures. Developers must sign binding DEP Consent Orders and Agreements and comply with GRID requirements to maintain state sales tax exemptions and receive streamlined permit reviews.



Power Grids: Regional Demand & Ratepayer Impacts

- **The Myth:** Data centers will immediately trigger blackouts and utility rate hikes for Duquesne Light and West Penn Power customers.
- **The Facts:** PA is a top energy exporter largely due to an abundance of natural gas and nuclear power, but large AI data centers (100–1,000+ MW) strain PJM's 13-state grid capacity. Whether data centers are built here or elsewhere, consumers share in the cost of regional demand.
- **GRID & EO 2026-05 Protections:** To shield residential electric bills, GRID and EO 2026-05 encourage customer provided behind-the-meter generation and direct regulators to ensure developers pay 100% of grid interconnection, transmission, and reliability backstop auction costs—preventing cost shifts to families even if an operator defaults. The executive order also prioritizes data center grid curtailment during emergencies so residential power remains uninterrupted.

Transparency, Brownfields, and Community Benefits

- **Public Transparency:** Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) have historically fueled public distrust. GRID requires early public outreach, township notifications, public hearings, and before construction begins, developers must also publish footprint reports covering peak electric demand, estimated daily water use, noise and lighting mitigation, traffic impacts, and emergency responder needs.
- **Site Remediation:** Projects target legacy industrial brownfields, turning unviable land into tax revenue and economic growth.
- **Standards & Agreements:** GRID requires green building certifications such as LEED Gold or Energy Star, along with Community Benefit Plans that include prevailing-wage construction jobs, local hiring commitments, and livable permanent wages.

The Bottom Line

Western PA has the natural resources and energy necessary to support data center growth. The combined framework of HB 2650 and Executive Order 2026-05 addresses community concerns by shielding ratepayers and local water resources while securing union labor and development opportunities for the region that haven't been seen since the Industrial Revolution.

CONGRATULATIONS!

IBEW JOURNEYMAN OF THE YEAR KEITH KELLER



Congratulations on a wonderful career
and best wishes in retirement!

RENEW NEWS

Renew volunteers give back to Local 5 Retirees!



L to R: Emma Ciaramella, Zach Podish, Tom Zabrenski, Sheehan Aitken, Nancy Karpan, Steph Rogers



L to R: Emma Ciaramella, Zach Podish, Nathan Slivka, Wayne Happe, Annika Szczymbak, Sheehan Aitken



RENEW 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament Winners
Cory Floyd and Andrew Sedlak



Congratulations to the Local 5 T-shirt
design contest winner
Daniel Black!



Coming
soon to the
merchandise
store!



Retired Member Service Pin Ceremonies

30 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Patrick K. Santore & President Michael W. Varholla.

35 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Gregory J. Ionadi, James M. Manuppelli, Thomas W. Isiminger, William R. Curry, Scott P. Straynick, Max D. Dervin, Peter J. Murphy, & President Michael W. Varholla

40 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Thomas J. Dimarco, Kenneth R. Delraso, Robert M. Brown, Dennis M. Johnson, Jeffrey A. Krieger, Robert B. Wiefeling & President Michael W. Varholla

45 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, John F. Radasci, James P. Reardon, Thomas H. Higgins, George E. Conley, Thomas E. Elder, Michael R. Dunleavy, Nicholas S. Bennett & President Michael W. Varholla

50 YEARS



Sitting: James R. Richter, Donald R. Bitters, Wayne E. Hay, Scott T. Hay, Thomas N. Whitesell
Standing: Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Charles T. Bazier, Michael C. Conroy, Dennis E. Eicker, Robert J. Guenther, William E. Jacob, Eddie N. McCorvey & President Michael W. Varholla

55 YEARS



Sitting: Robert K. Kutz, Jr., Robert J. Kearns, David A. Duffill, Duane E. Wist
Standing: Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Lawrence G. Lott, Nicholas R. Palmer, William F. Schneider & President Michael W. Varholla

60 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, William Poeschl, Russell G. Lachman, Raymond W. Diehl, Michael F. Staudt, Gerald H. Neubert & President Michael W. Varholla

80 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Herbert T. Miller, Jr. & President Michael W. Varholla

Retired Members 20 To 80 Year Service Pin Recipients

TWENTY YEAR PINS

Howard J. Friscia Robert J. Sabol

TWENTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Arthur E. Barkley	Gregory Claassen	Thomas W. Ferguson	William J. Lesso	Timothy L. Lynn	Richard E. Pfaff	Mark W. Robertson
Walter M. Caper	Donald E. Colaric	David W. Good	Christopher Loder	Raymond E. Muharsky	Mark O. Price	Jerry Tate
Erin M. Carlisle	Timothy R. Edwards	Dennis J. Hurley		John C. Pettyjohn	David J. Pruchnik	Norman R. Wissinger

THIRTY YEAR PINS

Frederick P. Anthony	Samuel A. Cocola	Philip W. Gordon	Ronald E. Kuhn	Alexander K. Moore	Patrick K. Santore	Raymond R. Thompson
Martin W. Casciola	Jeffrey J. Flanders	Joseph C. Kitta	Kenneth I. Louder	Thomas J. O'Connor	Thomas A. Spence	Stanley L. Vuckovic
			Ron Marangoni			

THIRTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Crystal L. Avery-Drain	Chris Decoske	John Frazier	Martin C. Kassalen	Joseph R. Marconi	Daniel L. Overly	Mark A. Siwik
Frederick T. Bashor	Max D. Dervin	Charles D. Gerdes	George J. Kazalas	Jeffrey H. Matthews	Victor J. Pentland	Carl P. Smith
James M. Bodack	Philip A. Dilonardo	Daniel L. Gill	Richard A. Kepchia	William E. Menzietti	Constantine J. Peripanos	John D. Snively
John P. Bohaski	John S. Dimoff	Samuel Goldsboro	Matthew J. Kormosh	Vincent J. Monteleone	Joseph M. Podrosky	Thomas D. Stewart
Thomas R. Brown	George D. Duricic	Robert A. Grayson	Michael Lassinger	James E. Morton	Bernard A. Pollack	Scott P. Straynick
Robert S. Cancilla	Kurt H. Eisengart	Albert A. Henze	Kevin B. Lauff	Peter J. Murphy	James L. Prah	Tiimothy J. Stroke
Daniel J. Cenci	Richard A. Fairtrace	Gregory A. Huber	Kevin L. Linza	Kirk C. Niemeyer	Eric L. Rahm	John R. Trulick
Randy W. Contestabile	William H. Fawcett	Gregory J. Ionadi	Troy D. Mackenzie	Michael S. O'Rourke	Jay D. Reed	Mark D. Winarski
William R. Curry	Joseph D. Flickinger	Thomas W. Isiminger	Paul M. Mackiewicz	Michael K. Osterritter	Raymond S. Ritter	Thomas G. Winters
James M. Czapik	David Francia		James M. Manuppelli		Jerome Sholtis	

FORTY YEAR PINS

Robert Artinger	Thomas W. Conrad	Thomas J. Dimarco	Dennis M. Johnson	Richard R. McKenzie	Larry E. Reed	Brian D. Wiefeling
Gerald T. Bearer	Douglas C. Darrah	Craig A. Eisengart	Ronald W. Jones	Darnell Palmer	Harry D. Stewart	Robert B. Wiefeling
Richard G. Bergman	Kenneth R. Delraso	Arthur L. Hall	Gerald S. Kopach, Jr.	John J. Raleigh	John C. Thompson	James G. Witzberger
Robert M. Brown	Albert F. DiCello	John J. Heptig	Jeffrey A. Krieger	Mark P. Randig	Lester P. Voit	Dale L. Yoder

FORTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Gary L. Bence	George E. Conley	Mark A. Endress	Barry A. Massare	David A. Ozenich	James P. Reardon	Joseph R. Tokar
Nicholas S. Bennett	Charles J. Davis	Albert J. Gooch	Scott J. Matz	Jerome M. Padlo	Robert A. Rebovioch	Keith Tomasello
Anthony I. Bentley	Michael R. Dunleavy	Cornelius J. Hartung	Charles R. McPartland	Edward J. Pastorius	Dennis W. Rio	Leo P. Truby
Glen K. Beveridge	Thomas E. Elder	Thomas H. Higgins	James M. Mitchell	Daniel B. Pauly	Robert M. Shea	Alfonso Whipper
Horace M. Carter	Timothy B. Emory	John A. Mackowick		John F. Radacsi	Dennis W. Sterner	Gary H. Wynn

FIFTY YEAR PINS

Charles T. Bazier	Michael C. Conroy	Joseph C. Dornetto, Sr.	Gilbert J. Glessner	Scott T. Hay	John A. Lucas	William J. Schollaert
Gerald G. Beach	Theodore A. Costanzo, Jr.	Dennis E. Eicker	Ronald W. Gorton	Wayne E. Hay	Michael A. Lynn	Richard A. White
Salvatore T. Bianco	James L. Darr	Paul E. Emert	Robert J. Guenther	William E. Jacob	Eddie N. McCorvey	Thomas N. Whitesell
Donald R. Bitters	Michael E. Doerfler	Richard L. Ford, Jr.	K. Gus Halvas	William L. Kerrigan	James R. Richter	Dewitt C. Wiley

FIFTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Edward D. Abram	Ronald L. Eddy	Charles R. Hanlon	Lawrence J. Kozlowski	Charles R. Neff	Russell J. Sole	Terrence V. Thorsen
James A. Cohenour	Stephen P. Eury	George R. Hillard	Robert K. Kutz, Jr.	Nicolas R. Palmer	Ray C. Sprowls, Jr.	Clarence L. Uhlig, Jr.
Roy G. Davis	Walter G. Fleeger	James E. John	Hubert E. Lanier	Edward I. Pasi	Donald R. Storch	Patrick G. Weber
David A. Duffill	David H. Frick	Robert J. Kearns	Lawrence G. Lott	William F. Schneider	Terry L. Summers	Duane E. Wist
			Roger M. Messmer			

SIXTY YEAR PINS

Carl J. Boley	Edward P. Hart	Russell G. Lachman	Gerald H. Neubert	William Poeschl	Joseph W. Smith	Michael F. Staudt
Raymond W. Diehl	Robert T. Hutchinson	Wayne R. Miller	Gilbert R. Orchard, Jr.	John W. Shaw	William V. Sniegocki	Edward J. Wheeling
Dennis L. Fullerton			James H. Orchard			David M. Wolfhope

SIXTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Charles J. Ashby	Philip E. Baum	David S. Kelly	Roger W. Quigley	Richard S. Rectenwald
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SEVENTY YEAR PINS

Thomas W. Bell	Thomas R. Hale
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EIGHTY YEAR PIN

Herbert T. Miller, Jr.

Denny Miller Family Picnic



PICNIC BINGO COMMITTEE

Chairman Buddy Franklin

Co-Chairman Thomas McIntyre

Co-Chairman Michael Varholla

BINGO COMMITTEE

Scott Bell
Michael Berta
Charles Brosgol
Nathan Butler
Michael Cook
Jim Crispell
Rick Dobnak Sr.
Rachel Hienz
Travis Hienz
Edward Hursen
Brian Krug

Shane Letchford
David Mazza
Stephen Morrocco
Casey Roche
Paul Rusiewicz
Ed Staley
Annika Szczymbak
Matt Vinglish
Tim Wisyanski

GOLF COMMITTEE

Jim Berger
Josh Berger
Chris Bradley
Norman Brice
Lonnie Coles
Leonard Collins
Ronald Dunleavy
Aaron Eicker
Dennis Eicker

Todd Freund
William Garner
Ken Morris, Jr.
Greg Parker
Jerome Rebholz, Jr.
Paul Rusiewicz
Paul Rusiewicz Jr.
James Saeler
Nathan Slivka



2026 PICNIC WINNERS

ADULT RAFFLE WINNERS

William Stillman
Ken Losteter
Michael Mahon
Andrew Norris
Wayne Hay
Frank Devola

Chuck Ferrick
Alicia Green
Adam Stewart
Diana Miller
Sharon Jackson
Theresa Moore

Tim Bush
Andy R.
Genevieve Weiss
Tom Golofsky

GOLF Winners
Colt Hay
Anthony Magnu
Larry Kirby
Jeff Walter

CHILDREN RAFFLE WINNERS

Girls 0 - 3

Zoey Fenell

Callie Metroka

Reese Norris

Lily Muschella

Girls 8 - 11

Myla Danner

Mila Monday

Kinley Kmete

Emma Nadeo

Girls 4 - 7

Arianna Klocek

Gracie Krestal

Ky Cockrell

Addy Wilson

Alice Barnes

Girls 12 - 16

Abigail Cragen

Zoie DeCostro

Piper LaPlace

Madi Shindledecker

Boys 0 - 3

Jonathan Gogoel

Andrew Lewis

Callan McKenna

Emerson Gillespie

Boys 8 - 11

Jude Anderson

Nico Mazza

Braxton Young

Kael Vallorani

Boys 4 - 7

Arett Goodman

Evan O'Brien

Carter Orrvick

Weston Rob

Danny Peterson

Boys 12 - 16

Messiah Jackson

Ethan Defide

Mason Haire

Carson Cockrell



Local No. 5 Endorsed Candidates
2026 General Election
Tuesday, November 3rd



Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Last Day to Register is Oct. 19

PA Governor
PA Lt. Governor

Josh Shapiro
Austin Davis

United States Congress

Dist. 12	Summer Lee	(D)
Dist. 14	Alan Bradstock	(D)
Dist. 17	Chris Deluzio	(D)

Pennsylvania State Senate

Dist. 38 Lindsey Williams(D)	Dist. 42 Wayne Fontana (D)	Dist 46 Camera Bartolotta (R)
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Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Dist. 8 Rick Telesz (D)	Dist. 27 Daniel J. Deasy, Jr. (D)	Dist. 42 Jen Mazzocco (D)
Dist. 12 Brandon Dukes (D)	Dist. 28 Jeremy Ferderber (D)	Dist. 44 Hadley Haas (D)
Dist. 15 Joshua Kail (R)	Dist. 30 Arvind Venkat (D)	Dist. 45 Brittany Bloam (D)
Dist. 16 Robert F. Matzie (D)	Dist. 32 Joe McAndrew (D)	Dist. 46 Jason Ortitay (R)
Dist. 19 Aerion Abney (D)	Dist. 33 Mandy Steele (D)	Dist. 48 Timothy J. O'Neal (R)
Dist. 20 Emily Kinlead (D)	Dist. 34 Abigail Salisbury (D)	Dist. 57 Eric Nelson (R)
Dist. 21 Lindsay Powell (D)	Dist. 35 Dan Goughnour (D)	Dist. 58 Eric Davanzo (R)
Dist. 23 Dan Frankel (D)	Dist. 36 Jessica Benham (D)	Dist. 72 Frank Burns (D)
Dist. 24 La'Tasha Mayes (D)	Dist. 38 John Inglis (D)	Dist. 77 H. Scott Conklin (D)
Dist. 25 Brandon Markosek (D)	Dist. 39 Andrew Kuzma (R)	Dist. 79 Caleb McCoy (D)
	Dist. 40 Natalie Mihalek (R)	

If you or a family member hold an elected or appointed public office, please reach out to Ken Nagel at 412-432-1457. We'd love to discuss how we may work together to further our common goals!

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2026 APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATES!







LEGAL COUNCIL REPORT



JOSHUA BLOOM & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDERGOING A TYRANNY?

Drawing on their experience under British monarchy, the framers of the U.S. Constitution were deeply concerned that concentrating distinct governmental powers in one person, branch, or political faction could expose the American people to arbitrary and oppressive government action. In The Federalist No. 48, James Madison defined tyranny as “the accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective.” That concern is reflected in the Constitution’s separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers. U.S. Const. Arts. I § 1, II § 1, III § 1. One-party control of all three branches does not, by itself, establish tyranny; the critical question is whether each branch continues to exercise its constitutional authority independently. When Congress or the courts defer to the President rather than checking executive power, the separation of powers is weakened in the very way the framers warned against.

Recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court raise serious separation-of-powers concerns. On August 31, 2026, the Court reportedly permitted President Trump to continue spending \$400 million on a White House ballroom despite a federal statute prohibiting that expenditure. *National Park Service, et al. v. National Trust for Historic Preservation*. Chief Justice Roberts, a Republican appointee, reportedly described the expenditure as “likely illegal” and as a loss for the separation-of-powers doctrine. More broadly, the President has prevailed in a substantial number of emergency motions in which the Supreme Court reversed lower-court rulings against the administration without full written explanations. Brennan Center for Justice (2026). The Court has also limited the ability of federal judges to issue nationwide relief against unlawful executive action. *Trump v. Casa, Inc.* (2025). In addition, the Court ruled that a president has immunity from criminal prosecution for certain official acts. *Trump v. United States* (2024).

Congress has likewise failed, in important instances, to assert its constitutional role. President Trump initiated military action against Iran without congressional approval, despite Congress’s constitutional authority over declarations of war. U.S. Const. Art. I, § 8. Even though the legislative branch was bypassed, Congress did not take meaningful institutional action in response. The resulting conflict has contributed to global instability and, according to critics, increased pressure on gas, groceries, and other consumer prices. Similarly, although Congress holds core constitutional authority over taxation and foreign commerce, President Trump has repeatedly imposed significant tariffs unilaterally. U.S. Const. Art. I, §§ 8–10. These actions have raised consumer costs and strained relationships with European allies and neighboring countries.

These examples illustrate a broader concern: the Constitution’s separation of powers is diminished when Congress and the courts do not operate as meaningful checks on executive authority. The most direct response is civic participation. In the November 3 mid-term election, voters can support candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives who are committed to upholding their oath to defend the Constitution and preserving the separation of powers. Please review Local 5’s endorsed candidates and encourage your family, friends, and community members to support and vote for them.

Veterans News

More Than a Long Deployment: What the Lincoln Crew Endured

Most of us who served have heard the phrase, “That’s what you signed up for.” There is truth in it. Military service means long deployments, changing plans and the possibility of war. But that phrase can also become an easy way to dismiss what service members and their families are actually being asked to endure.

The Sailors and Marines of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group are a good example. The Lincoln left San Diego on November 21, 2025, for a Pacific deployment. After a one day stop in Guam to resupply in December, it was ordered in January to the Middle East as tensions with Iran escalated. A deployment many families expected to end around May stretched through the summer. By late August, Lincoln had been gone for more than nine months.

What made this deployment especially punishing was the lack of a real break. Carrier crews normally receive periodic port calls — not leave, but chances to get off the ship, walk on land, contact home and briefly escape the place where they work, eat and sleep. For Lincoln’s crew, that meaningful break never came. The Guam stop was brief, and many sailors could not get off the ship. A July logistics stop in Oman allowed many sailors ashore for one day, but only into a secure compound. Neither provided the kind of liberty that normally gives a crew a chance to reset.

That lack of relief was compounded by the difficulties of keeping the strike group supplied during the war. Traditional Middle East logistics hubs were disrupted, forcing replenishment ships to bring supplies from as far away as Diego Garcia, more than 2,200 miles across the Indian Ocean. Fuel, ammunition, aircraft parts and other mission-critical supplies understandably came first. Fresh produce, mail, toiletries and many of the small things that make daily life bearable could fall farther down the list. Sailors and families also reported food rationing, water shortages, broken laundry facilities and shortages of basic hygiene items. Sailors also described long workdays with little time off, followed by training and drills when they were not conducting operations.

Add crowded berthing, aircraft operating overhead, poor sleep, limited communication with home, combat operations and no firm return date. Reports from sailors and families also raised serious mental-health concerns, including incidents involving sailors attempting or preparing to go overboard. Whatever someone thinks about military toughness, human beings have limits.

And this did not affect only the carrier. Lincoln deployed with Carrier Air Wing 9 and several destroyers, meaning thousands of Sailors and Marines were affected across the strike group. And let’s not forget about the thousands of loved ones at home. Spouses handled children, bills, repairs, illnesses and emergencies alone. Children missed a parent. Families watched the news and wondered whether their loved one was safe. Birthdays, graduations and anniversaries passed. Perhaps hardest was the uncertainty — expecting a homecoming around May and then not knowing whether it would be July, September or later.

Long deployments are not new to the Navy, and Lincoln’s experience should not diminish what earlier crews endured. But there is a useful comparison. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the USS Stout set the Navy record with 215 consecutive days at sea. Lincoln came remarkably close to that mark, spending 207 consecutive days underway between Guam and its brief logistics stop in Oman — while also surpassing the previous carrier record. Even after Oman, the crew still had no normal liberty. By the time Lincoln reached Thailand on September 2, 2026, its crew had effectively gone 286 days without a normal liberty port call. What makes that especially striking is that much of the deployment was spent conducting sustained combat operations, with Middle East ports threatened by war, a difficult resupply chain and an unexpectedly extended deployment.

Yes, they signed up to serve, knowing they could go to war. But that does not mean the rest of us should become indifferent to what we ask of them. Supporting our troops means caring not only about the mission, but also about the Sailors and Marines carrying it out — and the families bearing the burden at home. “That’s what they signed up for” should never become an excuse to stop recognizing the sacrifice we are asking them to make.

Please support our troops and their families!

TV Talk

By Jim Ryan

Why Health Coverage Remains So Difficult for Freelance Broadcast Members

IBEW Local 5 understands that health coverage remains one of the biggest concerns for freelance broadcast members. Over the years, the Local has spent a great deal of time looking for better options. The difficulty has never been a lack of concern or effort. The difficulty is that most health insurance systems were not designed for the way freelance broadcast members actually work.

Traditional health insurance is usually built around steady employment, predictable payroll, consistent hours, and a clearly defined group of employees. Freelance broadcast work is different. Members may work different events, seasons, venues, employers, and schedules, with income that can change from month to month. That makes it difficult to find a health care structure that is both affordable and flexible enough to fit everyone.

The Affordable Care Act also changed how certain employer health care dollars could be used. Those changes affected the Entertainment Industry Flex Plan because employer contributions could no longer be used in the same way for individual or Marketplace medical premiums. That problem has become even harder for members who rely on ACA Marketplace coverage, with enhanced ACA premium tax credits expiring after 2025 and not being extended. For freelance broadcast members, that creates a double problem: Marketplace coverage may be their only realistic option, but Flex Plan employer contributions generally cannot be used to pay those premiums.

Local 5 has continued to look for ways to improve this situation. We have explored whether the existing Flex Plan could be adjusted to better fit members' needs. We have researched other options, including Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), Association Health Plans (AHPs), and Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (MEWAs). In 2013, Local 5 also created its own group health plan option for broadcast members.

That group health plan was a serious attempt to create a replacement option for members affected by the ACA changes to the Flex Plan. The Local initially offered broadcast members better coverage options and competitive pricing compared to the Flex Plan's options, including both a PPO plan and a Qualified High Deductible Health Plan. The goal was to give eligible members access to group coverage and help preserve the ability to use Flex Plan medical reimbursement benefits when the Plan rules were met.

Unfortunately, the plan became difficult to sustain. Enrollment remained very low — under 10 members — and without enough people in the plan, it was impossible to control costs. Between 2015 and 2021, Local 5 group health plan rates increased dramatically. On average, the low deductible plan increased by about 93%, while the high deductible plan increased by about 84%. In several categories, premiums nearly doubled in only six years. By 2022, the program ended because there were no enrollees.

That outcome was frustrating, but it was not a reflection of Local 5's commitment to finding a solution. It reflected the larger reality of health insurance in the United States. Small groups with low enrollment have very little ability to spread risk or negotiate stable rates, especially when the workforce does not fit the traditional full-time employment model.

Other possible options have limits as well. MEWAs and AHPs still need a large enough group of clearly eligible employees to make the plan workable. HSAs can help members enrolled in a qualified high deductible health plan, but the insurance cost and deductible may not be properly offset when contributions depend on how much freelance work a member gets. FSAs can also help in some situations, but they usually work best with predictable payroll deductions, predictable expenses, and steady employment.

The Flex Plan still helps many members. It can pay for certain group premiums and reimburse certain eligible expenses when the rules are met, including some dental, vision, and disability-related benefits. But the Flex Plan, like HSAs, FSAs, MEWAs, and AHPs, has rules and limits. None of these options fully solves the health care problem for every freelance broadcast member.

That is the core issue: freelance broadcast work is flexible, but health insurance systems are not. Each option has rules, limits, costs, and tradeoffs.

Local 5 recognizes the importance of this issue and the frustration it creates for members. The challenge is building something that works for the way our members actually work. We will continue to evaluate what is possible, pursue every reasonable option, and keep pushing for a health care solution that better fits freelance broadcast work.

2026 GOLF CLUB

It's been a great season and hope to see you next year! To be put on the mailing list, contact us at:
ibewlu5golfclub@gmail.com





teg INTERVENTIONS

Coping with alcohol and substance abuse is a difficult experience. For family, friends, loved ones and co-workers, it is often a confusing and heartbreaking time. It is important to know that you are not alone, and help is only a phone call away.

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5 Hot Metal Street, Suite 100, Pittsburgh 15203 RSVP to:

rachelhienz@yahoo.com

I.B.E.W. L.U. #5 is working with Scouting America to help young students “Explore” being an electrician. If you know of a student interested in exploring or would like to volunteer, please reach out to Rachel Hienz.

LifeSolutions

Member assistance
program [MAP]



Life can be challenging. Get the peace of mind you deserve.

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Disruptive event management

- 24/7 support to develop a response plan
- On-site group and individual services, plus follow-up for those showing acute distress
- Help with recovery, resilience, and self-care strategies for IBEW 5 member

Services for life stressors

- Free, 30-minute legal consultation and up to 25 percent off the attorney's fees post-consultation
- Free, 30-minute telephone consultation with a financial professional

Safe Journey

- Call a transportation service when you are concerned about getting home safely
- Get reimbursed for up to two, one-way rides per year (maximum of \$50 per ride)

Web-based resources

- **RxWell app**—Personalized program that allows you to learn tools and techniques for in-the-moment relief from depression, anxiety, and stress
- **Skill Builders**—Personal and professional self-paced courses
- **Downloadable legal forms**—Wills, bills of sale, and powers of attorney
- **Monthly wellness webinars**

Lifesolutions@upmc.edu
+1 855-209-8762 (TTY: 711)

To access the Work-Life section of our website, go to lifesolutionsforyou.com, click Login, and enter your company code.

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SHOP LOCAL 5 MERCHANDISE



JATC NEWS



The summer of 2026 brings changes to the Clearfield County, John F. McIntyre Training Center. Scott Bell was recently appointed to fill the Assistant Training Director post left vacant by the retirement of Ronald Ewing earlier in the year. Scott began his journey through the apprenticeship over 30 years ago and quickly impressed those that he worked for. Eventually Scott accepted foremanship responsibilities in the industrial and commercial sectors. In 1999 Scott began working part-time in the evenings and weekends for the JATC. In his 25 years working as an instructor, Scott has earned the respect of hundreds of apprentices and journey-persons that have passed through the Clearfield facility. Everyone wishes Scott success in this new challenge.

In this edition of the JATC news, we thought it appropriate to focus some attention on the Training Center located in Clearfield County. Unbelievably this facility was originally completed over 25 years ago! After its completion in 1999, the building was dedicated as the John F. McIntyre Training Center; after our respected Business Manager John F. McIntyre, who served from July 1994 to August 1998. Originally the center had just 4 classrooms, and lab-space located in a small garage. Eventually the apprenticeship out-grew the facility and it was decided that renovations and additions were needed. These changes were completed in time for the 2021 school year. The improvements allowed for better utilization of the original classroom space. Storage of classroom and lab material was made available. LED lighting made the facility more efficient and improved the learning environment. High-Definition projectors allow for better presentations by the instructors. New furniture made the space more comfortable. All of these improvements let the student remain focused on their tasks instead of struggling to see a dimly lit display, or fidgeting in uncomfortable chairs. Level II electric car chargers are available in the parking area. In addition to these much-needed changes, HVAC controls, Security and Communications were all upgraded and improved to meet the needs of a modern IBEW learning facility.



But that's not all...

The biggest improvements are seen in the addition to the property. A new wing was added to the building that houses new lab space.

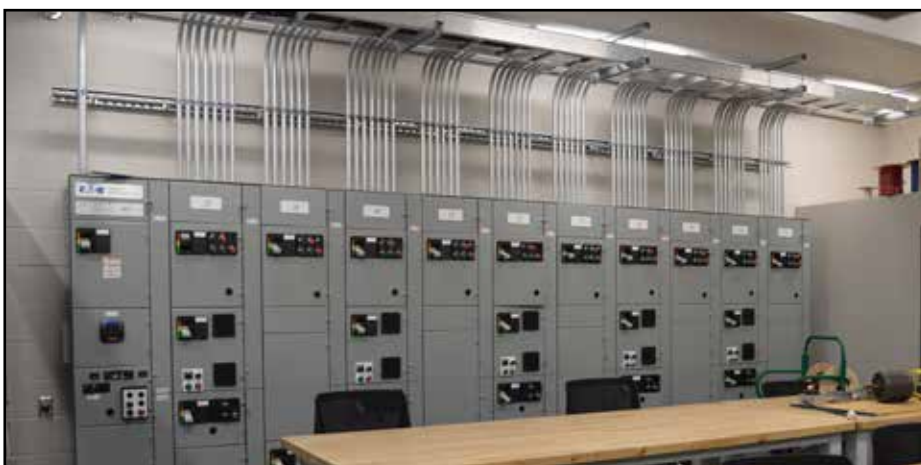
The new space allows for practice installations using several different methods: Uni-Strut and strut straps, one and two-hole straps, bolt rod and minerallacs, and others. There are also smaller areas that let the learner practice tighter installations. These smaller areas are also used to practice plug and switch installations. The latest tools are all available including: Electric benders by Greenlee and Gardner Bender, mechanical benders (Chicago style), and plenty of hand benders. Rigid threading tools and oilers, portable band saws and a full slate of Milwaukee/Dewalt battery tools (digital torque wrenches, cable strippers, drill motors and more) that the learner may see on today's worksite.



The Conduit Lab

The Motor Control Lab:

The new motor control lab is very impressive and offers practical experience for the learner. The Center of the lab is the new Eaton Motor Control Center. Around the perimeter of the space there are 8 control stations with the latest equipment used in today's installations. These control stations and the new MCC let the class practice local and remote installations that control single and three phase motors. Combination motor starters and PLC controllers complete the experience. There's even a traffic signal installation for the interested learner.



JATC NEWS

The Transformer Lab:

There are seven stations around the perimeter of this lab with Delta/Delta and Delta/Wye step down examples for the class to practice wiring. All of the transformers have 48 volts applied to the primary (high) side so that both the primary and secondary voltages are at a safe value when testing your system. The secondary sides feed distribution panels that can be used to practice breaker installation, including GFCI or AFCI installations.

It's truly remarkable how far this Training Center has come. All members should be proud of the fact that your organization has the means to offer these experiences to our apprentices and to journey-persons who are looking for a continuing education opportunity or an update for your safety portfolio. If you live closer to the Clearfield Training Center or if you're passing by during business hours, stop in and see what all of the talk is about.



2026 Scholarships Are Awarded

Cole Heckathorn
Emma Joyce
Jolynn Neal
Sophia Reinert
Bane Stalder
Abigail Thompson

Applications for the 2026 scholarships will be available from September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Those who are eligible are high school seniors who are sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of Local #5 "A" members. Complete eligibility rules and applications can be obtained by mail, from:

N.E.C.A.
5 Hot Metal Street, Suite 301
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2357

WPANECA Electrician Emergency Support Program

The **WPANECA Electrician Emergency Support Program** was created in 2018 to lend a helping hand to IBEW electricians and their families in the face of emergencies. We've proudly been able to do that over the past few years. What we build together as **NECA/IBEW** is truly a team effort. We want you to know that we are here to **HELP YOU** when you need it most. We want to make sure electricians in Local 5 understand that the EESP is a confidential, safe place to seek financial assistance in the face of an emergency.

Please visit www.wpaneca-electrician.org to learn more



Retiree Picnic 2026



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Hours of Operation
Monday & Thursday
9am -7pm
Tuesday & Wednesday
9am-3pm
Friday
9am -NOON

AROUND OUR JURISDICTION



Clista Electric at Armstrong County Memorial Hospital
L to R: Rick Walchesky, Troy Evans, Roy Lewandowski



Bettwy Electric at Osmond Building PSU
L to R: Jamie Jones, Todd Himes, Jordan Demko, Jared Bressler, Cole Smay, Noah Miller, Matt Rowis, Eric Krug, Phil Smithmyer, Greg Rosenberg, Jalen Emel



Wellington Power at Wegman's
L to R: Zebadiah Zengel, Dan Cuffin, Ricky Owens, JD Hyatt, Sarah Woods, Elizabeth Hamilton, Paul Rusiewicz, Liam Burns, Stephen Patsen, Sean Mitchell, Brayden Bates



Pure Tech at Woodland Elementary
L to R: Luke Dart, Eric Leathers



Ferry Electric at Citizens Live at the Wylie
Back L to R - Chad Davis, Brenton Baumiller, Brandon Eisenbarth, Rod Armstrong, Aaron Walker, Wyatt Smith, Carson Novosel, Rob Stonecipher
Front L to R - Gerry Sladic, Beth Stevenson, Ben Kadora, Stefan Chatman, Bryan Ruediger, Dave Backus, Dasheay Shields, Jerry Lau



Blackhawk Neff at Trinity High School
Denene Quinton, Roger Walton



Blackhawk Neff at Kane Middle School
L to R: Logan Huriburt, Clark Rupp



TP Electric at Trinity High School
L to R: Logan Robert, Connor Keegan, Levi Smith, Bill Balaban



All Solutions at UPMC Washington
L to R: Lee Labovick, Greg Martin, Stephen Morrison



Kronenwetter Electric at Kane WWTP
L to R: Ryan Tegano, Adam Sorg, John Tegano, Robin Bower



Sargent Electric and OZ Enterprises at Forbes Rd. CTC

AROUND OUR JURISDICTION



University of Pittsburgh Maintenance

Back L to R: Mike Matthews, Jonathan Kovacs, Brad Kraus, Tony Simoni, Mike Eleam, Jake Ruby, Wade Peart, Matthew Ciccone, Paul Illinicki, Mike Galioto Front L to R: Kevin Stuck, Bob Doerfler, Stephen Morrocco, Craig Kepple, Mark Hovanec, Ray Austin, Tim Seifert, Dave Francia, Ed Apel, Vic Flinko, Justin Cassel



Miller Electric at Frick Fine Arts

L to R: Brian Wysocki, Kris McKee, Steve Weltner, Shawn Berta, Zac Miller



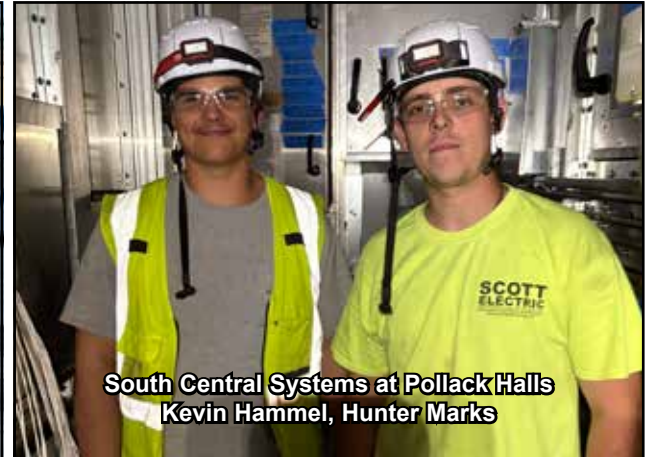
Blackhawk Neff at Slippery Rock University

L to R: Issiah Patterson, Ryan Bell, Shawn Guzzi, Austin Eyer



Vantage Corporation at BRT Project

Matt Rossa, Hal Perry, Pat Clark, Noah Twiss



South Central Systems at Pollack Halls

Kevin Hammel, Hunter Marks



Bluestone Communications at University Of Pittsburgh

Back row: Max Wilson, Tyler Harrington, Brian Tempest, Eric Gelzhiser, Justin Reardon Front Row: Josh Varhola, Cat O'Connell, Ben Crouch, Gerald Askins



McCurley Houston Electric at Karns City High School

Steve Timko, Joseph Beaty



Bettwy Electric at UPMC Altoona

Back L to R: Travis Reading, Gordon Trexler, Marc Paronish, David Lozinak, John Krejnos, Jeffrey Loar Front L to R: Austin Reading, Scott Strohmier, Zachary Claycomb, Cameron Thomas



Mare Solutions at RIDC New Kensington

L to R: Preston Holmes, Rick DeFrank



Becdel Controls and Sargent Electric at Lower Burrell High School



Ferry Electric at the Caroline Apartments

L to R: Dean Parasolick, Pete Malloy, Brian Hoesch, Brandon Weismann, Matt Rahuba, Allan Layne, Josh Mammarelli, Nathan Kunsak, Cody Nicholson, Matt Martin, Andy McKenzie



BEST WISHES TO PENSIONERS

The officers, and members of Local 5
congratulate these newly retired members and
wish them a long and healthy retirement:



Brian S. Bentz
Dennis P. Dryburgh
John A. Ferralli
Richard D. Kifer
Robert R. Stonecipher
Breaden D. Young
Neal G. Fanks
Keith S. Flowers
Mark A. Kisan
Guy D. Pellegrini
James E. Popinski
Scott M. Sweeney
Gerald G. Beach, Jr.
John A. Brown
Michael J. Cenci
Keith M. Keller
Alan D. Kobrys
Clarke E. Mangan
Mike T. Mikec
Mark A. Mikesic
James P. Miller
Eric J. Mora

James P. Shipley
Gary P. Bohatch
John F. Bryan
John S. Gonzales
James L. Gusky
Kevn J. Hilpert
Benjamin Hoffman
Mark L. Lundberg
Charles E. Miller
James H. Moore
Thomas J. Shea
Robert K. Landowski
Stephen E. Mihalik
Shaun E. Wallace
Jeffrey A. Kubit
Dean E. Hill
Norman E. Sturgess
David G. O'Black
James A. Ryan
Paris J. Pagliari
James L. Scott
Robert W. Campbell, II

Anyone interested in joining the Local #5 Retirees Club should contact:
Mr. Tim Perkosi @ 412-860-4033

**It is very important to notify the Local
Union promptly of any mailing address
or phone number change!**

BENEFIT INFORMATION

IBEW LOCAL 5 OFFICE: 412-432-1400 or Toll Free 1-800-225-IBEW

Judy Elkanich: Pension applications, deceased member notification / information, beneficiary changes, scheduling of appointments with the Business Manager, "Honorary and Participating" withdraw information..

Cate Eichner: Highmark, Security Blue, Freedom Blue, Pensioners \$10 Dental and Optical Premium and Maintenance assessments.

Courtney Steingraber: Dues payments and inquiries, change of address notifications, and BA Member information and "Military Card" requests.

National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA): 412-432-1155

Chris Cottrill: Scholarship information.

JATC Apprenticeship Office: 412-432-1145

Lisa McManus: Apprenticeship information.

W.P.E.E. Pension Fund: 412-432-1156

Pension benefit calculation inquiries and questions; W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund death benefit beneficiary updates; and Workers Compensation pension and insurance benefits.

W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund 412-432-1130 or Toll Free 1-800-382-1428

All insurance-related questions, including Hospital, Emergency Department, Medical/Surgical, Major Medical, Dental and Vision; Pensioners Dental & Optical Claims.

Secretary of Funds: 412-432-1128 or Toll Free 1-877-782-1817

Beneficiary changes, ERTS, contractor contribution information, benefit hour information, vacation check inquiries.

W.P.E.E. Deferred Compensation and Sick and Disability: 412-432-1144

Deferred Compensation, Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) withdrawal, and Sick and Disability benefit inquiries.

Central Data Services (CDS): 412-432-1125 or Toll Free 1-877-782-1410

Pension benefit calculation inquires and questions; W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund death benefit beneficiary updates; and Workers Compensation pension and insurance benefits.
All other fund-related questions.

IBEW Local 5 Federal Credit Union: 412-432-1152

Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM to Noon

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IN FRATERNAL MEMORY

Deceased Retired Members

Joseph W. Smith July 24, 2025
Donald A. Colebert April 9, 2026
Charles H. Telban, Jr. April 22, 2026
Robert H. Pennington April 23, 2026
Richard A. Bruschi April 25, 2026
Raymond M. Niccolai May 5, 2026
George F. Guenther June 2, 2026
Glenn T. Rosporski June 5, 2026
Sidney L. Hardy June 6, 2026
Robert T. Hutchinson June 13, 2026
James J. Sobien June 21, 2026
Mary Ann Gaus July 17, 2026
Gale E. McClaine July 23, 2026
Ronald Mascioni July 23, 2026
Richard A. White August 22, 2026
Stark A. Shrubbs September 8, 2026

Deceased Active Members

William M. Kapton, Sr. March 28, 2026
Adam C. Reddinger July 17, 2026
Michael Martin August 28, 2026
Patrick J. Kelly September 7, 2026

All Business Agents can
be reached at:

(412) 432-1400
1-800-225-IBEW

Business Agents

Kirby Christie	Natalie Jackson
Jim Crispell	Ken Nagel
Daryl Ezell	Tom Platt
Buddy Franklin	Jim Ryan
William Garner	Ben Steinmeyer
Chris Gualazzi	Michael Varholla



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Vice President William C. Garner
Recording Secretary Alfred "Buddy" Franklin
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