LIVE WIRE

IBEW 602 NEWSLETTER First Quarter 2019

Message from the Business Manager

Greetings Brothers and Sister,

Good news! We are almost through the dead of winter and springtime is around the corner. Our National Prognosticator Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early spring! Not sure about you, but I think with these last couple of cold fronts coming through that time is getting the better of him and either his clairvoyance is getting a little fuzzy or just showing his age a little, either way Spring time will get here and we can all start shaking off winters chill. Time is an interesting concept. It has been said "How can you have time, if you don't make time?" We fight father time but welcome vacation time. Time either works for you or against you. Time is a funny paradox. It can help you focus as in preparing for a competition or make things fuzzy as in what happened in the past, or what was important yesterday. Time can ease the pain of yesterday but can never conquer the events of the past. The scary thing that happens all too often we run out of time, and sometimes we don't realize what's happing until time has run out!

How do we best make use of our time? We face that question every day at work and at home. Education has always helped me understand how to make the best use of my time. If I understand what it is I want or need, I can better plan how to use my time efficiently and productively. Over time many of the things in our lives get hazy or blurry and we lose focus on why they are important in the first place. Today I want to use my time to re-educate all our members as to why we need a Union? What is a Union?

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"Talk without the support of action means nothing."
— DaShanne Stokes

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Message from the Business Manager (Cont. from Front Page)

Webster dictionary defines “UNION” as “the action or fact of joining or being joined”, the Definition of labor union is “an organization of workers formed for the purpose of advancing its members' interests in respect to wages, benefits, and working conditions”. I always like to refer to great men and women of our society to help me put my world in perspective.

“If we don't fight for what we 'stand for' with our passionate words and honest actions, do we really 'stand' for anything?”

— Tiffany Madison

“Talk without the support of action means nothing.”

— DaShanne Stokes

Even Batman used the quote “It is not what we say, but what we do that defines us”

“Your beliefs become your thoughts,

Your thoughts become your words,

Your words become your actions,

Your actions become your habits,

Your habits become your values,

Your values become your destiny.”

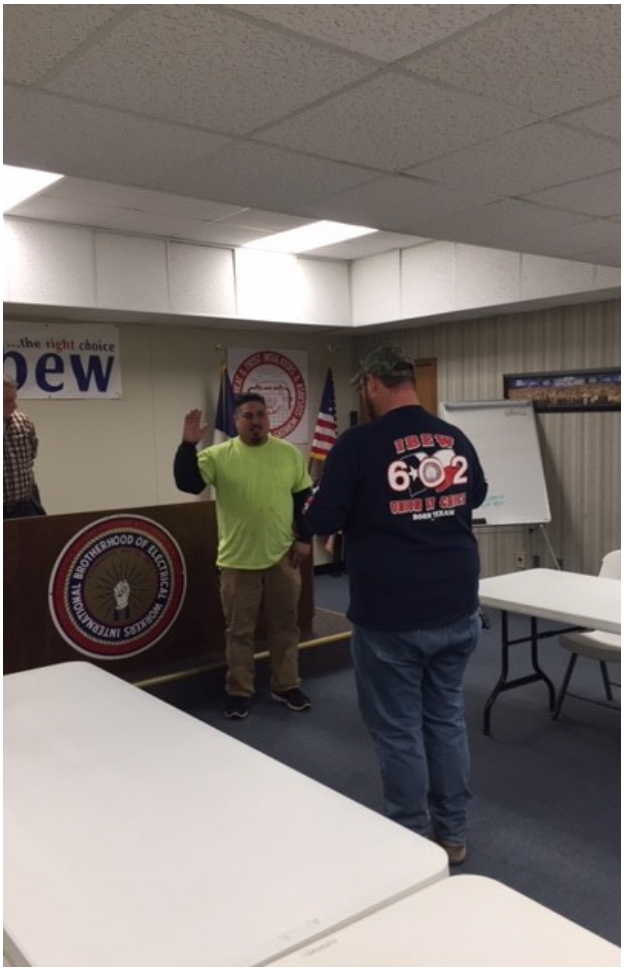
— Gandhi

It has always been my personal opinion “that you can’t understand where you’re going until you understand where you’ve been”.

I have found that a lot of people believe the “Union” is four walls and physical location where a few elected officers answer the phones and protect our benefits. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The reality is to have a Union we must Act to join and work together to advance the interests of our members. Actions prove who you are, words just prove who you want to be. Only through our actions will others recognize our efforts and respect our dedication to protecting our way of live for future generations to come.

Every day that the good Lord gives me to get up decide, how will I use my time today? Helps me stay focused on what is important to me and my union family. I will use my time to educate, What we are, Why we are, and how to become What we need to be. This is how I will use my time today! How will you use your time?

In solidarity, Robert Melton



Dustin Cazimero takes the obligation on 1/3/19.

Trace Locknane, Zachary Sierra, Jon Rodriguez, Jose Orosco, and Dustin Duncan take the obligation on 2/7/19.

From Amarillo Membership Development

After recently reviewing membership numbers and trends, we realized that changes needed to be made. I reported in the beginning of this year that we had grown to 1535 members by the close of 2015 with a surplus of work especially on the outside. However, as work slowed down, we began to decrease with drops, deaths and retirees and by the end of 2017 we had dwindled to 1439 members. In 2018 Local 602 signed up 175 new members but that number was unfortunately surpassed with a higher number of deaths, drops and retirees. By the end of
2018 overall membership was sitting at 1423 members. The decision was made to request open charter status from the international in which local 602 was granted permission to wave the
$50 initiation fee and the international also waved their $50 initiation fee for 6 months in an effort to entice more individuals to join the IBEW. The charter was opened on January 1st of this year and will remain open through June 1st. During this period, it only costs an individual $55.50 to join Local 602 as an “A” member. That’s 1 month’s dues of $43.50, $2 into the PBF Pension and $10(2 Death Benefits) into the 602 death benefit fund.

We have enlisted the help of International Organizing Representative Troy Johnson and Service Representative Joe Smith to assist with an internal organizing Campaign. So far 18 members have signed up to volunteer and are going through training with Troy. As of this writing we have already had 71 new members since January.

In addition to an internal organizing campaign, the body voted in February to create a scholarship program for apprentices. The program will hopefully increase membership among apprentices as it will reward apprentices who are playing an active part in the brotherhood. Individuals that sign up must meet the following criteria but in doing so will have the cost of their books and tuition for the school year reimbursed.

Local 602 Scholarship Program Requirements:

1. Be a member in good standing and remain current on all monthly dues to L.U. 602 for the duration of the current school year
2. Have no more than 3 Death Benefits in arrears payable to L.U. 602 for each current school year
3. Attend 6 regular monthly Union meetings during the current school year
4. Meet all requirements for advancement in the apprenticeship program
5. Complete 4 elective activities (Such as Volunteer Organizing, Referring New Members, Serving at Local Events etc.)

Any apprentice that wishes to sign up for the scholarship program needs to stop by the hall and pick up a registration form.

We always have additional need for more organizing volunteers especially during our internal organizing campaign. If you would like more information, please contact me at (806) 316-2663.

In Solidarity,
Marcus Lundegreen

From Lubbock

"What is a Union"

Well, back before we had unions, employees would work long hours without overtime, without breaks, and in unsafe working conditions. Workers would get injured or possibly lose their lives on jobsites. If anyone complained or voiced their concerns, the employer would fire you and conditions would not change. Employees started uniting together and demanding fair wages, sick leave, retirement benefits, and a safe working environment. Companies would prosper while the workers' wages got worse or stayed the same.

I believe everyone deserves a good wage, a good benefit plan, a retirement plan, and job security. Non-union employers today will reach behind your back and take money out of your wallet and food from your kid's mouths. The unrepresented worker can make that choice. What choice will he or she make? We are all doing the same work, union and non-union. Why not get the union wages and benefits to go with it? I choose "UNION".

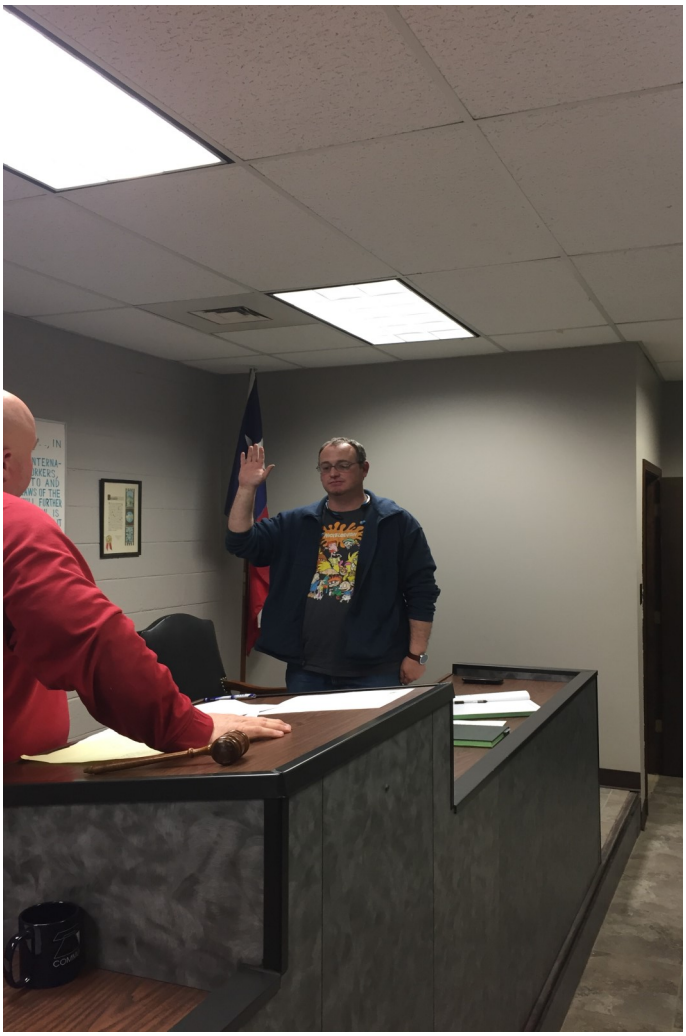
My experience being Union has allowed me to live comfortably and have the things that I would not be able to afford had I not been union. It has allowed my family and me to go visit the doctor and not have to worry about how we are going to pay the medical bills. It allowed me to enroll my daughter in college where she was able to earn a degree. Being a part of the union has made me very optimistic about my family's future. After speaking with some of the non- union workers, I've come to realize they are only concerned about the wages they earn, and not about what will happen when they retire or are unable to work. They only live for the moment. That is why we need to continue educating these non-union workers.

In the past few years, I believe Local 602 has become much stronger and continues to grow with all of our organizing efforts. With our internal organizing, membership in our JATC continues to increase both in Amarillo and in Lubbock. I am also thrilled to see more attendance at our unit meetings here in Lubbock.

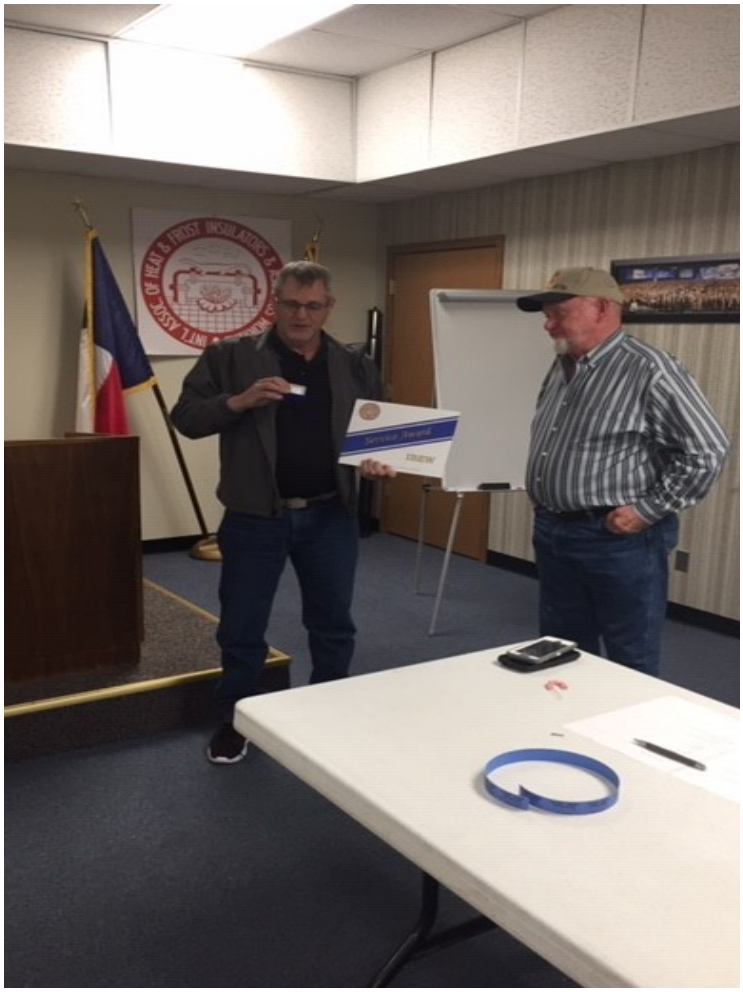
To summarize, participation in our local union is a must, and we all need to get involved in union activities. The membership is what drives this local, so let us not become complacent as we continue to move forward.

In Solidarity, Gilbert Salazar

Membership Development

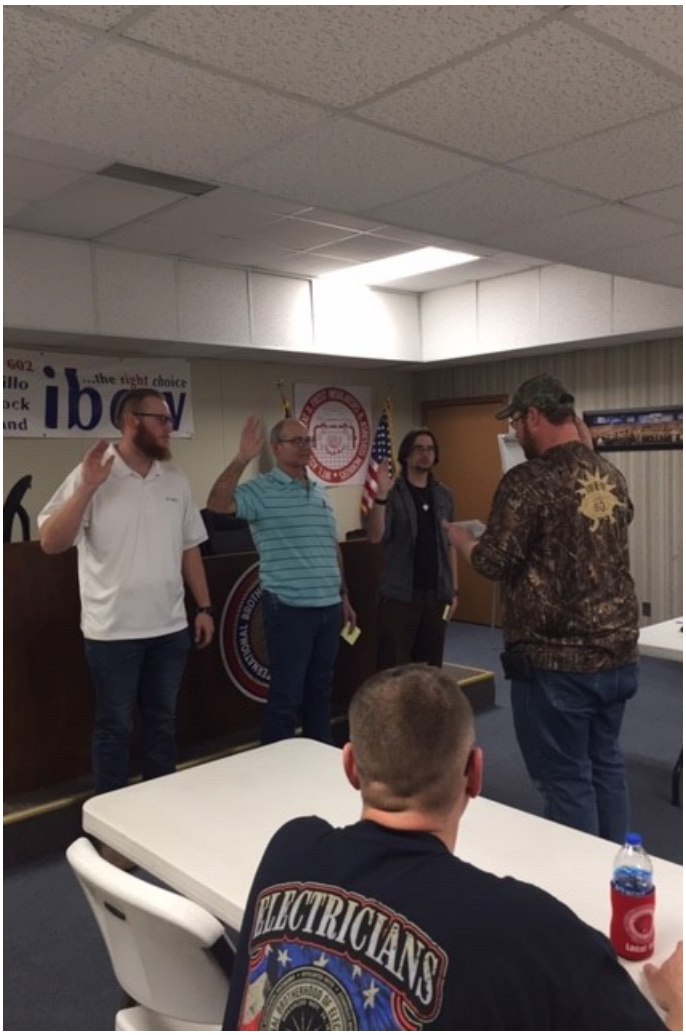


Tim Dillon sworn in as Recording Secretary at the 3/13/19 meeting.



Retired member Don Oden receives his 50 year service pin on 2/7/19.

John Young, Koby Yarbrough and Eric Hernandez sworn in at the 2/13/19 meeting.



Caleb Beville, James Crowell, and Bodhi Marshall take the obligation on 3/7/19.

Please note: **January 2019 All "A" Members**

Pension Fund increase of one dollar ($1.00)

DUES: **Inside & Outside Construction Dues: $43.50/month**

The IBEW 602 website has been down; if you need to pay dues online, please use the following link:

https://portal.icheckgateway.com/IBEWorkers/

This is the new link you will need to make online payments. There is a change in the transaction fees. A separate **3.5%** fee will be added (minimum $2.95) for all credit card transactions. However, if you pay online using your checking account, you will only be charged the $2.95 flat fee.

Death Benefits:

"Any member who is 30 days or more delinquent in payment of death assessments, after being notified by mail, and death occurs, the beneficiary shall not receive the death benefit payment."

223	**Edward D. Young**	**Brother Young passed away November 26, 2018**
224	**Max Wright**	**Brother Wright passed away January 4, 2019**
225	**Sam Walker Jr.,**	**Brother Walker passed away January 8, 2019**
226	**Dallas Van Etten,**	**Brother Van Etten passed away February 2, 2019**

Please pay Death Assessments in a timely manner

If you need to update your mailing address, contact number, email, beneficiary, etc., please call or email the office.

Amarillo Office#:	(806) 376-9945	Lubbock Office#:	(806) 744-4062
Amarillo Fax#:	(806) 376-9407	Lubbock Fax#:	(806) 744-7852

Stephanie Pantoja,	Office Manager	spantoja@ibew602.org
Sally Acosta,	Office Assistant	sacosta@ibew602.org
Rosie Velasquez,	Lubbock Office Assistant	rvelasquez@ibew602.org

1st Quarter 2019 Years of Service Recognition……

IBEW Local Union 602 Staff would like to congratulate the following Active and Retired members for their years of Service. It would be an honor to present your Years of Service Pin at the Regular Meeting, which is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Union Hall at 7:30pm. Please let us know which meeting you will be attending, so I can have your years of service pin ready to present. You may also come by the Union Hall anytime during business hours to pick up or you can call and request that your pin be mailed.

5 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/2014 thru 3/31/2014)
Robert T. Druyor, Michael D. Leatherwood, Christopher R. Leyva, Phillip J. Mobley, Pedro Garcia, Jacob Burt, Justin D. Whaley, Matthew C. Bowers, Gabe U. Narramore, Lyle R. Kjerstad, David R. Ross, Thomas S. Perales, Jorge Ortega

10 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/2009 thru 3/31/2009)
Jacob J. Anderson, Hamilton B. Baker, Dale E. Bedsole, Nathan P. Berry, Robert Chance, Christopher R. Chavez Sr., Lance A. Denton, Larry D. Dudley, Oscar Hidalgo, Sterling M. Justus, Kevin D. Proctor, Joseph R. Quintana, Johnny D. Roys, Jerrad E. Shelton, Bobby J. Smith, Larry M. Stanford, Jeffrey D. Sweeney, Sam G. Thomas, Victor R. Traves

15 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/2004 thru 3/31/2004)
Kenneth W. Johnson, Chris A. Perry, Brandon K. Stone

20 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/1999 thru 3/31/1999)
Jason Castellano, William M. McWilliams

25 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/1994 thru 3/31/1994)
John M. Lively, Bobby D. Miller

30 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/1989 thru 3/31/1989)
Mark A. Hartline

35 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/1984 thru 3/31/1984)
Jeffery M. Downey, Mark D. Huffine, Richard E. Mauldin, Thomas N. Riggs

40 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/1979 thru3/31/1979)
Drexel L. Ammons, Mark A. Cooper, Carl A. Davis, Martin L. Davison, Ricky L. Fussell,

45 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/1974 thru 3/31/1974)
Tommy L. Thorne

50 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/1969 thru 3/31/1969)
Allen L. Brown

55 years of service: (Members Initiated between 1/1/1964 thru 3/31/1964)
Dean M. Carlile

Till next quarter……

1ST ANNUAL

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 602

GOLF TOURNAMENT; MAY 4TH 2019

8:00 AM ROSS WILD HORSE COURSE

ENTRY FEE 100.00 PER PLAYER

RULES WILL BE ANNOUNCED DAY OF;

4 MAN TEAMS SCRAMBLE/ BLIND DRAW FLIGHTS

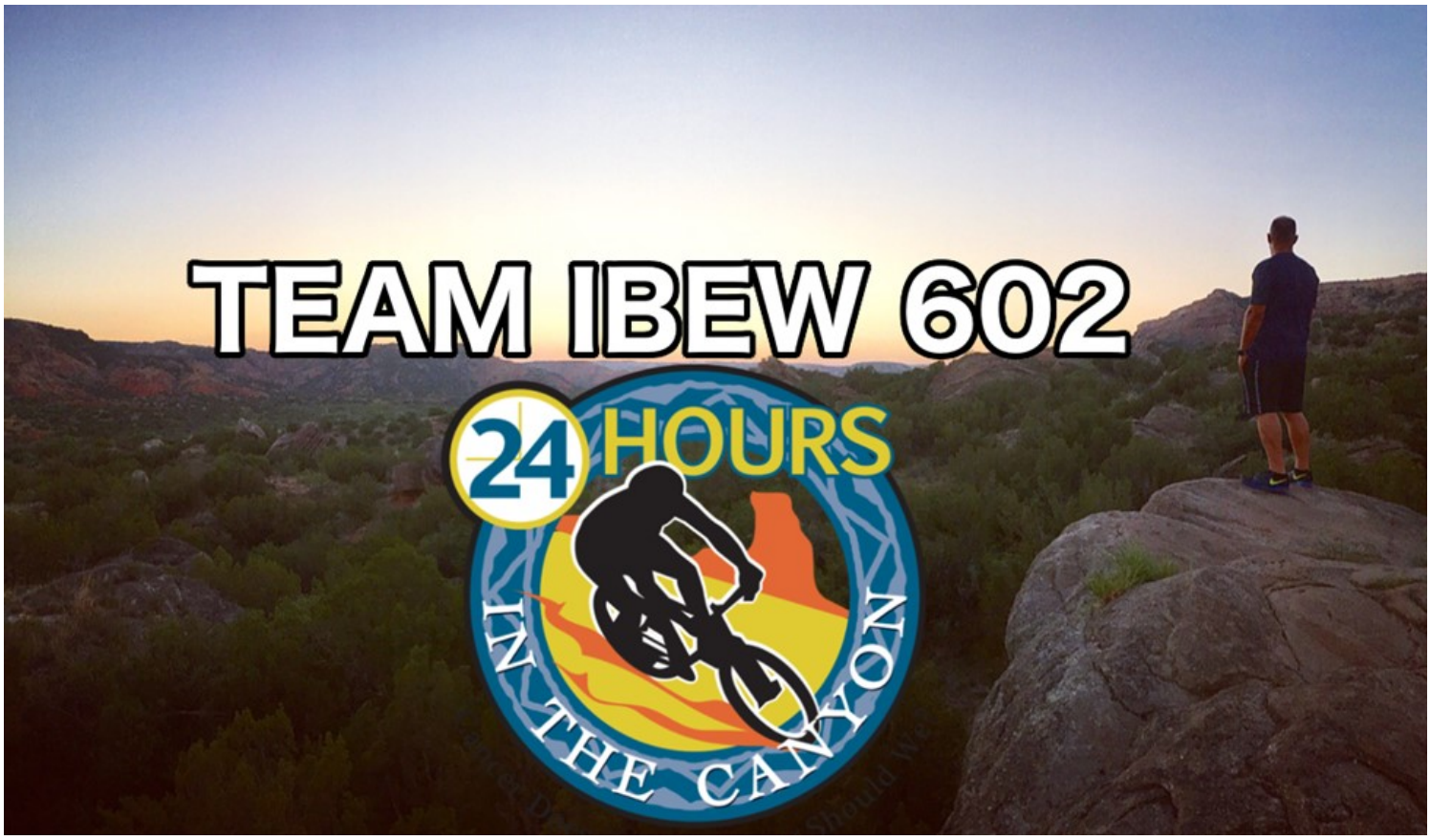
LUNCH; BBQ

CLOSEST TO THE PIN, LONGEST DRIVE AND LONGEST PUTT PRIZES ON FRONT 9 AND BACK 9, AS WELL AS FLIGHT 1ST,2ND,3RD AND DOOR PRIZES!

4 Drink Tickets good for Beer or Soft drinks.

Call the IBEW hall 806-376-9945 to sign up!!

As union members, we bargain collectively with our employers over wages, benefits, and rights. Most of us have very limited bargaining power as one person, but as a group, we are strong. We feel the same about coming together with others in the community. There is strength in numbers and IBEW Local 602 is excited to spend the first weekend of June surrounded with countless other people looking to enjoy life and contribute to the 24 Hours In The Canyon Cancer Survivorship Center. We have a 4 person road team in this year's event. More info about attending the event will be posted to the website and social media as the date gets closer. If you wish to contribute to the 24 Hours In The Canyon Cancer Survivorship Center, please donate to our team fundraiser on the home page of ibew602.org.



From the Podium

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all is well in your neck of the woods. Looks like I've been tasked with the topic of what a union means to me. I'm gonna keep this one pretty short. A union to me is a bond that is formed by people that have a common interest. We hear countless times that united we bargain divided we beg. Yes that is very true but more so to me we as a band of workers in the electrical industry have to work together to take care of our own. Our own not being inside or utility or whichever barging unit we come from but each and every person in this union. In the last few years each group has made strides in helping the local grow financially now we need to grow together. I hate hearing when an inside guy says the Xcel hands look down upon us, or when a someone doesn't seem to care what's going on out at Pantex because they are spoiled. Brothers and Sisters we are all a part of the IBEW Local 602 and that should mean we take the time to know what's in the best interest of every single group. Since I've been in this spot I do see it getting better but I know without a doubt we have some room for improvement.

I hope to see all of you soon,

Kevin Floyd

President Local 602

From the Training Director

We will be moving into a new JATC building sometime this year, probably in June. The new address will be 102 S Bowie. The building is about 5000 sq. ft, which is about triple what we have now, so we will be able to have more effective hands on training.

We take applications every Monday through Thursday from 1 PM to 4:30 PM at the Amarillo and Lubbock halls. We are not actively taking applications in Midland right now until the work situation improves. Applicants can also apply online at **wtxjatc.org**. Qualifications are 17 to apply (18 years old to be accepted), high school diploma or GED, and a valid drivers license. Everyone applying will be required to take the Aptitude Test. If you know of anyone you think would make a good apprentice, have them give me a call.

We still have a few continuing education classes for license renewal scheduled. Please go to **https://www.wtxjatc.org/calendar.html** for the schedule. You can also find the OSHA, CPR, and Foremen Development Series classes that are scheduled.

Anyone interested in becoming an instructor please send me a current resume. As openings become available, I will contact those interested about an interview with the committee.

For the Committee,

Paul Salazar

psalazarjatc@wtxjatc.org

806-372-1581 Office

806-318-8848 Mobile

From the Utility Rep

March 2019

2019 is moving fast, Spring is coming and for SPS, this is a contract year. They say that with the seasons changing, you can feel the change in the air. When it comes to SPS there is plenty of change coming. The old units are going to begin to be decommissioned. With the Company being a member of the Southwest Power Pool, they are cycling the units on a daily basis. Who would have ever thought that Harrington and Tolk would ever be changed from continuous run units to cycling units? The Company has made the poor decision (In my opinion) to run all of our locations leaner, they are overworking our members and then complaining about them not answering callouts. It seems that the Company is using contractors more and more. Many are wondering what we can do to take care of some of these issues.

It is my opinion that we need to come together as a strong, unified group of brothers and sisters. Unions were not established as a social club, the IBEW was founded because many linemen were dying in the field because of poor working conditions. Those days are long gone, work is much safer and because of the establishment of OSHA many good work procedures have been established. Please, do not kid yourselves, without OSHA, the NLRB, and the IBEW things would go back to the way that they were. I have been somewhat disappointed here recently, I was told by a member that he didn't believe that a Union was no longer relevant. He said that the Govt. would make sure that our wages and rights were protected. REALLY!! There many of our Federal Representatives and State Representatives that are working hard to make all States in America "Right to Work States", they are also fighting hard to strip us of due process or recourse if a Corporation violates a Union Agreement. With the new elections last year in our state capitol came a flood of new proposed bills to strip us even further and these are the government people that would take care of us??? REALLY!! There have been some key appointments to the NLRB and other institutions that hear labor issues that are not worker friendly. We need to be ever vigilante. Regardless of whether you are Republican, Democrat, or Independent, we need to be writing or calling our State and Federal Representatives and let them know that we support them but we also expect them to represent the interests of organized labor. Our membership coming together and becoming a unified force is imperative to the success of our future. We need to talk to our brothers and sisters that have not become members. Unfortunately, most of these nonmembers don't see the value of becoming a member "We get all the benefits without having to pay for them." That is the right to work mentality. The sad thing is that like any business it takes money to negotiate contracts, it takes money to process a grievance, and it takes money to keep the doors open at the Union Hall. There is really no such a thing as a "Free Ride." I can remember the old days of working without a contract in some of the jobs that I had before I became an IBEW member.

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All I will say, is that I am honored to have been blessed to become affiliated with the IBEW. Being a Union member is a privilege, I know many individuals don't see it from that perspective, but ask yourself, where would I be if we didn't have a Union? The answer is not pretty. Do some soul searching, our strength is our membership not your representatives, but YOU! Without your support, this Union Hall has no clout. This Union nor any Union is perfect. Mistakes have been made and will continue to happen from time to time, but that is because we are all human. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Representative. We have many good members out in the field. We must always keep in mind that there are forces out there that would kill to be able to take your jobs. We have to always be vigilant, do your job to the best of your ability, remind ourselves that this is a 24 hour a day business and be available when the Company needs you. Show the Company that we are worth every penny that we earn and much, much more. Please follow your processes and procedures. Follow all Safety rules, even if they are a pain in the ____. These rules may slow you down or be more trouble than you feel is worth it but they are there to protect you. Take care of each other and may God Bless You!

Until next time, Mike Andrade

From Dispatch

I hope this edition of Live Wire finds everybody out there doing good! I hope everyone is excited to finally crawl out of the ass crack of Winter and get to enjoy some better weather. Things look to be on the up-swing as far as inside construction goes. The books right now are as thin as they've been in the past 5 years and things definitely look to keep humming along. Outside construction has hit a big lull, which will be a big topic for discussion at the Construction and Maintenance Conference. All Locals having outside jurisdiction will be required to attend and we're anxious to see what International President Lonnie Stephenson has to say for this special meeting. We will keep the membership updated as soon as we have more information. Also don't forget that the Charter will remain open until June. So if you're working with someone who hasn't joined yet, please remind them that now is the perfect (and cheapest @$55.50!) time to join! Since we opened it in January we have had a total of 78 new members join and with your help we could easily double that number by June. As always I hope everybody stays safe out there and get to enjoy some good weather and good times!

Until next time,

Drew Downs

New members sworn in at the 3/13/19 Amarillo meeting: Charles Bray, Emily Keeling, Chay Gabel, Armando Solis, Sawyer Stone, Todd Gonzalez, Richard Ford, and Aleen Waak.

New ASARCO members sworn in: Zach Luster and Chris Kroeker

IBEW 602
P.O. Box 143
Amarillo, TX 79105

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

IBEW: The Right Choice for your Future!

Contact Us

IBEW 602
200 S. Fannin
Amarillo, TX 79106

(806) 376-9945

Visit us on the web at www.ibew602.org

Scan the code below to sign up for a digital copy of the newsletter.

To view or join the IBEW 602 Facebook Group Page go to:

https://goo.gl/NSKgZV