

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL 1347

CINCINNATI, OHIO



80th Anniversary
COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY



**BEST WISHES, LOCAL 1347,
ON YOUR 80TH YEAR!**

**CONTINUED SUCCESS WITH YOUR IMPORTANT
WORK AND VITAL BROTHERHOOD.**

From the diverse 3,100 members of I.B.E.W. Local 1393 throughout the State of Indiana who are covered by 42 different contracts, including 22 Rural Electric Membership Cooperatives, Hoosier Energy, Vectren Energy (a CenterPoint Energy Company), Duke Energy, two municipal utilities and outside line construction.



IBEW
LOCAL UNION NO. 6



CONGRATULATES

IBEW Local No. 1347

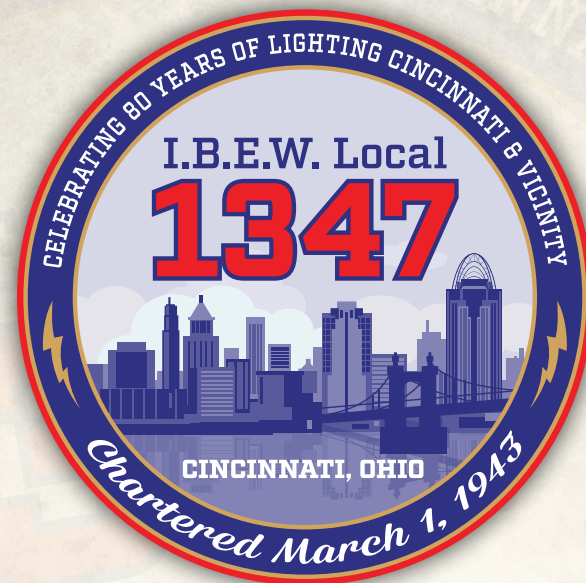
*Celebrating 80 Years of Service to
the Sisters & Brothers of the IBEW*

John J. Doherty
Business Manager - Financial Secretary

Members, Officers and Staff

Russell Au Yeung, President
Ronald J. Lewis, Vice President
John Langley, Recording Secretary
Brendan Greene, Treasurer

Christie Peterson, Officer
Jennifer A. Kramer, Officer
Douglas Wydler, Officer
Anthony C. Sandoval, Officer
Mike O'Mahoney, Officer



**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD of ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL NO. 1347, CINCINNATI AND TRI-STATE**

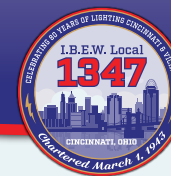
80th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

(Following the Local 1347 Union Meeting)

Local 1347 Union Hall
2100 Oak Road
Cincinnati, Ohio

**FOOD and FUN,
GIVEAWAYS and PRIZES**



LOCAL 1347 TRADITION POWERS CURRENT AND FUTURE SUCCESSSES

Brothers and Sisters:

It is with great pride that the Officers of I.B.E.W. Local 1347 congratulate our membership on achieving 80 years of solidarity and excellence. As the local's business manager, it is truly an honor and privilege to service the membership and to celebrate this historic occasion with all of you.

We are very proud of our heritage and the members who came before us to form this great union, starting with one company to now dealing with multiple companies. I, myself, am a third-generation utility worker. My grandfather was a lineman, and my father was clerical. I come from a strong union family that passed down the commitment and pride, just as our original officers and founders of the local. If it were not for that group in 1943, we would not have this opportunity this year to celebrate our 80th anniversary.

Reaching 80 years is no small feat. Many unions have come and gone over this time. We have faced many challenges since our humble beginnings in 1943; however, from the start, despite the challenges, exemplary leaders, staff and members have persevered and helped this union to continue to succeed in the industry. Our current membership continues to build upon the success of our past leaders and members. We are all called to represent the future of this union.

We continue to grow our membership by expanding our market share with traditional and nontraditional groups, with community involvement by volunteering at Matthew 25 Ministries and through our Cincinnati Children's Hospital teddy bear drive, and solidarity with our golf outing and lineman's rodeo achievements. Along the way, coworkers have become family, brothers and sisters who will forever be a part of our lives.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us honor those who came before us and those who work beside us by working diligently, leaving a path for future generations to continue our great tradition.

Faternally,

Andrew Kirk, Business Manager
I.B.E.W. Local No. 1347



This book was proudly produced by

UNION HISTORIES™
Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions
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**I.B.E.W. Local 1347 and Union Histories give thanks to the following
for their contributions to this book:**

Local 1347 Office Coordinator Miranda Florence

The I.B.E.W. Museum and Museum Curator Curtis Bateman

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"The CG&E Story," Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company, 1958

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The History of I.B.E.W. Local No. 1347

POWERING CINCINNATI & THE TRI-STATE FOR 80 YEARS



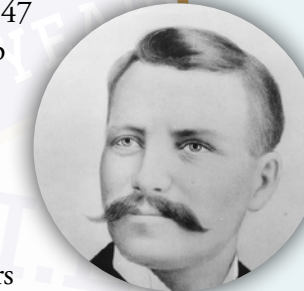
Representing more than 75 percent of the employees in the electric department of the **Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company**, which at the time was a subsidiary of Columbia Gas & Electric Corporation, 31 of those workers signed a charter granted to the group by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.) on **March 1, 1943**, to organize them as **Local No. B-1347**. With jurisdiction over **Utility** workers with the company, who constituted outside linemen, staff in generating plants such as the **West End Power Station** in downtown Cincinnati, substation operators and maintenance personnel of the utility company, the union also designated the new organization a “B” local as it consisted of both “beneficial” (or “A”) and “non-beneficial” (“B”) members, the latter of which did not pay into the union’s benefit plans such as healthcare.

*Cincinnati Gas and Electric (CG&E) had roots back to 1837 when Cincinnati Gas, Light & Coke was formed. That firm first entered the electrical-service business in 1887 when it began acquiring the stock of the Cincinnati Electric Company, after which the city’s so-called “Light War” ended in 1901 when Cincinnati Edison merged into Cincinnati Gas, Light & Coke to form CG&E. Some 93 years later, CG&E merged with Plainfield, Indiana-based PSI (Public Service Indiana) Energy on October 24, 1994, to form **Cinergy**, which Charlotte, North Carolina-based **Duke Energy** then acquired effective April 3, 2006.*

The I.B.E.W. would re-assign the Cincinnati utility local representing CG&E workers as Local No. 1347 on **January 1, 1950**, when it began representing only beneficial “A” and “AB” members.

BUILDING UP THE LOCAL AND EMPLOYER UTILITIES

In the midst of World War II, which the United States had entered following the December 7, 1941, Japanese surprise attacks on the U.S. Naval station at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the fledgling Local B-1347 initially held its general-membership meetings in the **Brotherhood of Railway Clerks Building** at the corner of Court and Vine Streets in Cincinnati on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Having selected temporary officers when it was first chartered, on June 1, 1943, its membership then voted for a slate of officers who would serve two-year terms, led by **Business Manager-Financial Secretary James S. Knight**.



I.B.E.W. ORGANIZED IN 1891 BY LINEMAN BROTHER MILLER

I.B.E.W. founder and first president **Brother Henry Miller** reportedly went without food and other necessities and instead used his earnings to travel the country to organize local unions in various cities after he and a small group had officially formed the **National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** during a convention on November 21, 1891, in St. Louis. At its 1899 convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the union officially changed its name to the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** after it had added a local in Ottawa, Ontario.

Brother Miller passed away on July 10, 1896, while working as head lineman for the Potomac Electric Power Company after he was shocked, fell from a ladder and died the next morning from a concussion. He was only 38 years old.

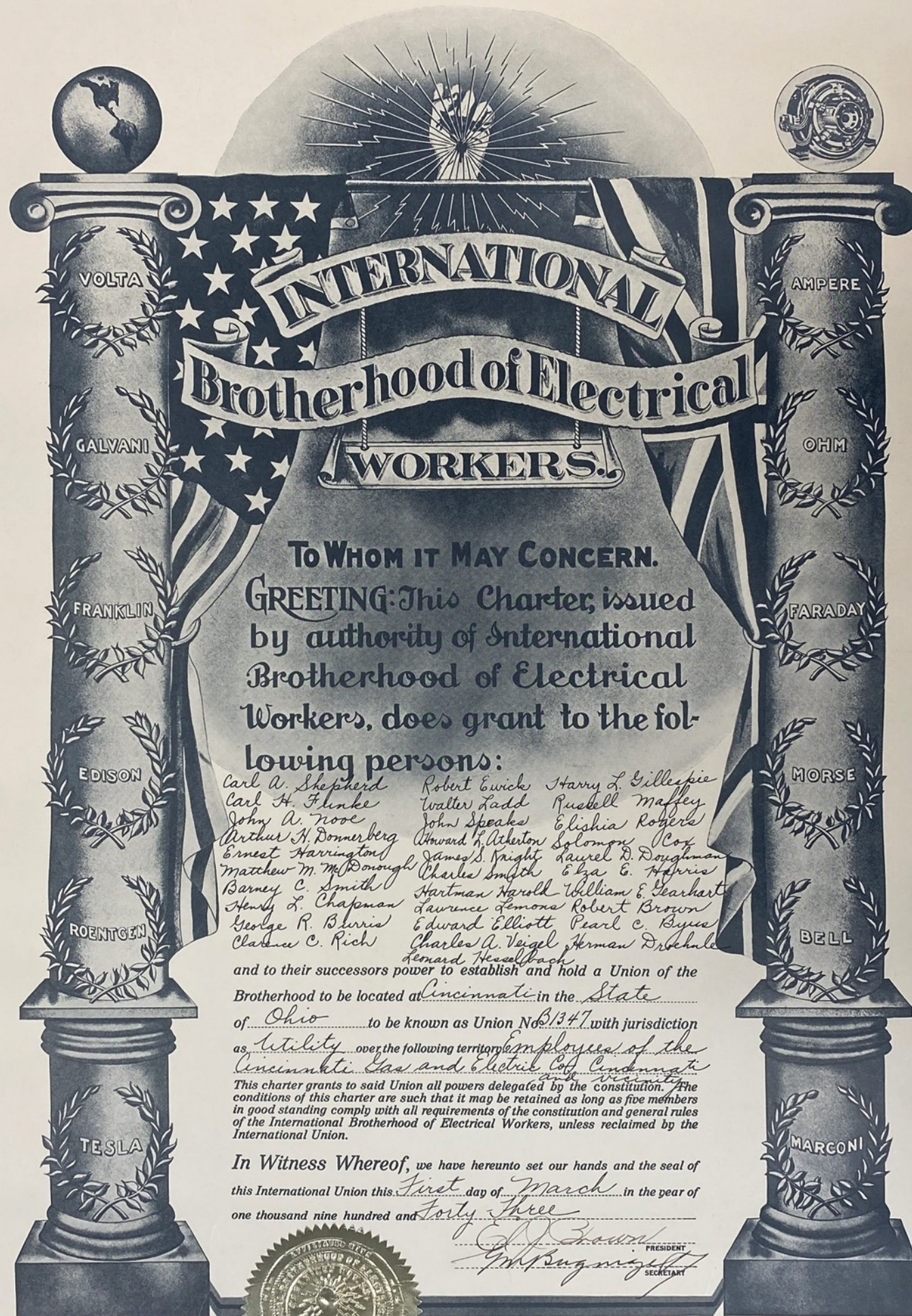
Just two months later on August 15, 1943, the local filed application with government agencies for a strike vote among 1,000 manual electrical workers employed in the CG&E electrical department, as well as those of the company's southwestern Ohio and northern Kentucky subsidiaries, in an attempt to have the local become the bargaining agent for all of those employees. At that time, the Independent Utilities Union was the recognized bargaining agent for many of those electrical maintenance, construction and operating workers as well as all non-electrical personnel.

After the failed vote on September 16, about 300 linemen, groundmen, drivers and warehousemen employed by CG&E staged a "wildcat" strike, which was not authorized by the I.B.E.W., against the company beginning September 21 after the National Labor Relations Board (N.L.R.B.) refused to "call an election of employees on the ground that the Independent Utilities Union held the contract as bargaining agent," according to an article in the September 22 *Cincinnati Enquirer*. The union men countered that the Independent

Utilities Union primarily consisted of clerks and other desk-workers who did not have the same interests as linemen "and other capacities not clerical" and, therefore, Local B-1347, which enrolled the majority of those CG&E workers, should be their bargaining agent.

The strikers returned to their jobs two days later following discussions with representatives of the U.S. Department of Labor, the War Labor Board and the I.B.E.W. However, some 650 CG&E electrical-division employees walked out again on September 27 for three days before the War Labor Board certified their dispute with the company and, during a meeting with the union and CG&E on October 1 in Cleveland, guaranteed an N.L.R.B. election in exchange for the I.B.E.W.

Subsequently, on September 26, 1944, the N.L.R.B., acting upon results of collective bargaining elections, certified Local B-1347 and the Independent Utilities Union "as the sole bargaining agents for separate groups of workers" employed by CG&E and its affiliate,



I.B.E.W. Local B-1347 charter, dated March 1, 1943, and signed by I.B.E.W. General President Ed J. Brown (who served in that position from 1940 into 1947) and I.B.E.W. Secretary G. M. Bugnizet (who served in that position from 1925 into 1947).

LOCAL 1347 CHARTER MEMBERS

These 31 linemen signed the charter issued by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on March 1, 1943, to form "Utility Workers" Local No. 1347. (Names are listed in alphabetical order. Spelling of some names have been corrected from their appearances on the charter.)

Howard L. Atherton	Elza E. Harris
Robert Brown	Leonard Hesselbach
George R. Burris	James S. Knight
Pearl C. Byus	Walter Ladd
Henry L. Chapman	Lawrence Lemons
Solomon Cox	Russell Maffey
Arthur H. Donnerberg	Matthew M. McDonough
Laurel D. Doughman	John A. Nooe
Herman Droehnle	Clarence C. Rich
Edward Elliott	Elishia Rogers
Robert Ewick	Carl A. Shepard
Carl H. Funke	Barney C. Smith
William E. Gearhart	Charles Smith
Harry L. Gillespie	John Speaks
Hartman Harold	Charles A. Veigel
Ernest Harrington	

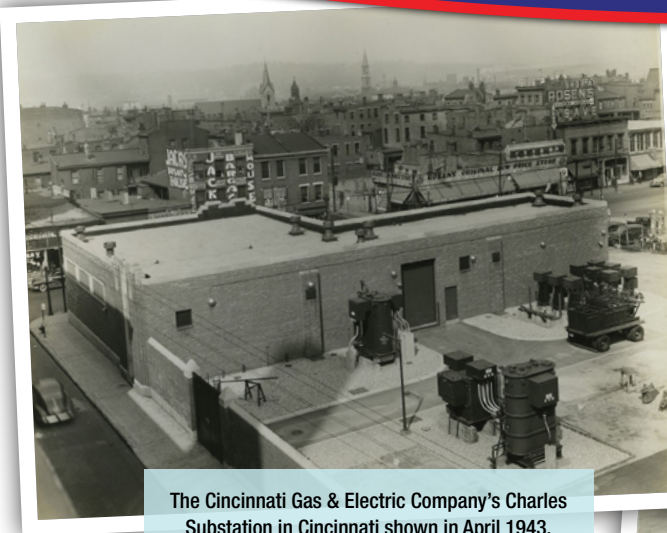
the **Union Light, Heat & Power Company** – which was supplying gas and electric service in the Kentucky portion of the Cincinnati metropolitan area – and other local affiliates, the next day's *Enquirer* reported. As such, the newspaper further announced, the local was "named bargaining agent for employees of the Cincinnati and Covington corporations

engaged in physical labor in electric production, maintenance, construction, operation and servicing, in addition to powerhouse switchboard operators in the electric operating department and certain meter readers."

Meanwhile, however, government war rationing was taking its toll on Local B-1347 members to the extent that by 1944, gas regulations were preventing many of its members from attending meetings held in Cincinnati. As a result, members employed at the CG&E **Miami Fort Power Plant** (formerly the Columbia Power Station when it was dedicated in 1925) in North Bend, located on the Ohio River in the extreme southwestern tip of the state, formed their own I.B.E.W. local which was chartered on March 1, 1944, as **Local No. B-1380**.

Foreshadowing the successful N.L.R.B. election that would take place in September, Business Manager Knight noted in the May 1944 issue of the I.B.E.W. *Journal* monthly member publication, "Local Unions B-1347 and B-1380 of Cincinnati, Ohio, have been in existence only a short time but are getting stronger and more sure of themselves every day. ... We are looking forward to an election by the N.L.R.B. ... which will, we are confident, result in our being certified as the bargaining agent for this group."

Also that year, the Federal Securities and Exchange Commission ordered Columbia Gas & Electric Corporation to come into compliance with the Public Utility Holding Company Act passed by the U.S. Congress in 1935, which provided for the Federal regulation of public utility holding companies and their subsidiaries. That mandate included Columbia's divestment of its interest in CG&E and three subsidiaries, the principal one of which was the Union Light, Heat and Power Company. Soon afterwards, CG&E extended its service area into Indiana and



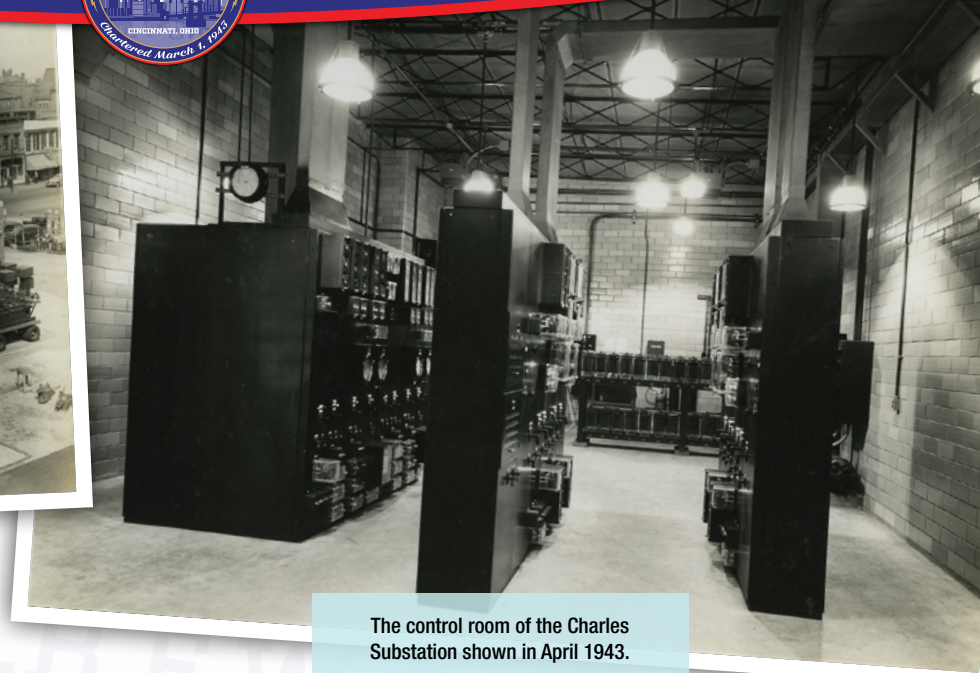
The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's Charles Substation in Cincinnati shown in April 1943.

Kentucky through the purchase of former Columbia subsidiaries that included Miami Power Corporation, West Harrison Electric & Water Company and Union Light, Heat & Power.

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH AND CONTRACT ADVANCEMENTS

After the war ended with the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945, after Nazi Germany capitulated to the Allies on May 8, the I.B.E.W. merged the 200 members of Local B-1380, all of whom worked at the CG&E Miami Fort Power Plant, back into Local B-1347 on October 6, 1945. With the amalgamation, which was affected during a meeting on December 14, the Columbia Park local was dissolved and Local B-1347 grew to approximately 900 members, all of whom were CG&E employees.

The local had grown to nearly 1,400 members by March 8, 1946, when it sent a 30-day strike notice to Federal agencies to protect the interests of its membership in the event there was no settlement after their contract expired March 31. After the local had earlier submitted a request to CG&E for a wage increase of 25 cents per hour and a union-only "closed shop" for its electrical division, representative from the union and the company were summoned to the Department of Labor in Washington,



The control room of the Charles Substation shown in April 1943.

D.C., for a hearing on April 5 – the day before the local was to go on strike after having worked for six days without a new contract after rejecting the company's latest offer of a 15-cent hourly pay increase.

The local postponed the strike again while non-stop, collective-bargaining negotiations in Washington, which included a Federal conciliator, continued into April 8. "The Washington negotiators recessed at midnight after conferring steadily since 2:30 p.m. without taking a dinner recess," the Associated Press reported that day.

The following day, the two sides reached agreement on a new, one-year deal that continued the previous contract but with a 17-cents-per-

Chartered just three weeks earlier, the new Local B-1347's **March 22, 1943**, meeting of employees of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company living and working in and around the eastern Cincinnati suburbs of Milford, Loveland, Batavia and Georgetown that was held at the Knights of Pythias Hall in Milford was believed to be the **first labor-union meeting** in that town's history. "Old residents cannot recall a previous labor union meeting here," The Cincinnati *Enquirer* reported that day.



The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's Miami Fort Generating Station coal-fired electrical power plant located in Miami Township, Ohio, shown in 1943.



LOCAL 1347 LEADERSHIP

After the I.B.E.W. organized and chartered Local 1347 on March 1, 1943, these temporary officers were selected to initially lead the local: **Business Manager/Financial Secretary James S. Knight**, **President Henry Chapman**, **Vice-President Richard Guinn** and **Secretary Raymond Greiner**.

The local held its first-ever election of officers on **June 1, 1943**, during which it chose Brother Knight as its first duly-elected business manager/financial secretary.

Business Manager/Financial Secretaries

James S. Knight 1943 – 1946	Michael E. Gilligan 1980 – 1986
Leroy W. Vieson 1946 – 1947	Nicholas Greco 1986 – 1988
William E. Markesberry 1947 – 1955	Michael E. Gilligan 1988 – 1992
Edward W. Schulley 1955 – 1957	Jeffrey M. Conner 1992 – 1995
John S. Rowland 1957 – 1973	Francis Kelly 1995 – 2000
John W. Mitchell 1973 – 1976	Stephen H. Feldhaus 2000 – 2010
Timothy J. O'Leary 1976 – 1977	Donald G. Reilly 2010 – 2016
Louis G. Amshoff 1977 – 1980	Andrew A. Kirk 2016 – Present

LOCAL 1347 OFFICERS, 2023

Raymond Fowee – President
Shaun Connley – Vice President
Theresa Bautista McCain – Recording Secretary
Marcus Greer – Treasurer
Andrew Kirk – Business Manager/Financial Secretary

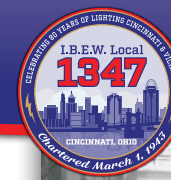
Executive Board	Office Advisors
Dane Ervick, Chairman	Ron Kippler
Jared Howard	Cheri Gaston
Justin Geiman	Don Scott Smith
Sean Coyne	
Gary Calla	

hour raise to the wages of all members and a provision that set up a “checkoff” by which the company would deduct monthly union dues from the wages of all employees within the bargaining unit, including non-members of the union – provided the attorney general of Ohio would rule that it was legal. After the local’s membership approved the agreement on April 10 by a 416-to-178 vote cast at a morning meeting of night workers and a night meeting of day workers, the attorney general ultimately approved of the so-called “union security clause” and the Federal Wage Stabilization Board authorized the 17-cent wage increase.

A year later, Local B-1347 and CG&E signed a new, two-year contract with an unconditional no-strike clause, which an article in the April 2, 1947, issue of the *Enquirer* declared “proved that industrial peace was possible.” The agreement, which covered approximately 1,400 employees CG&E and Union Light, Heat & Power, provided average wage increases across the utilities’ job classifications of 11-1/2 percent, improved working conditions and the option to renegotiate wages at the end of one year.

Just after that contract expired on March 31, 1949, the local’s approximately 1,500 members ratified another new, two-year working agreement with CG&E, nearly all of whose electrical workers in the Greater Cincinnati area were members of the local at that time. Retroactive to April 1, the pact included “substantial wage increases” and continued company healthcare and pension benefits for its union linemen, substation operators, metermen, powerplant electrical workers and other personnel working in its purchasing and stores division.

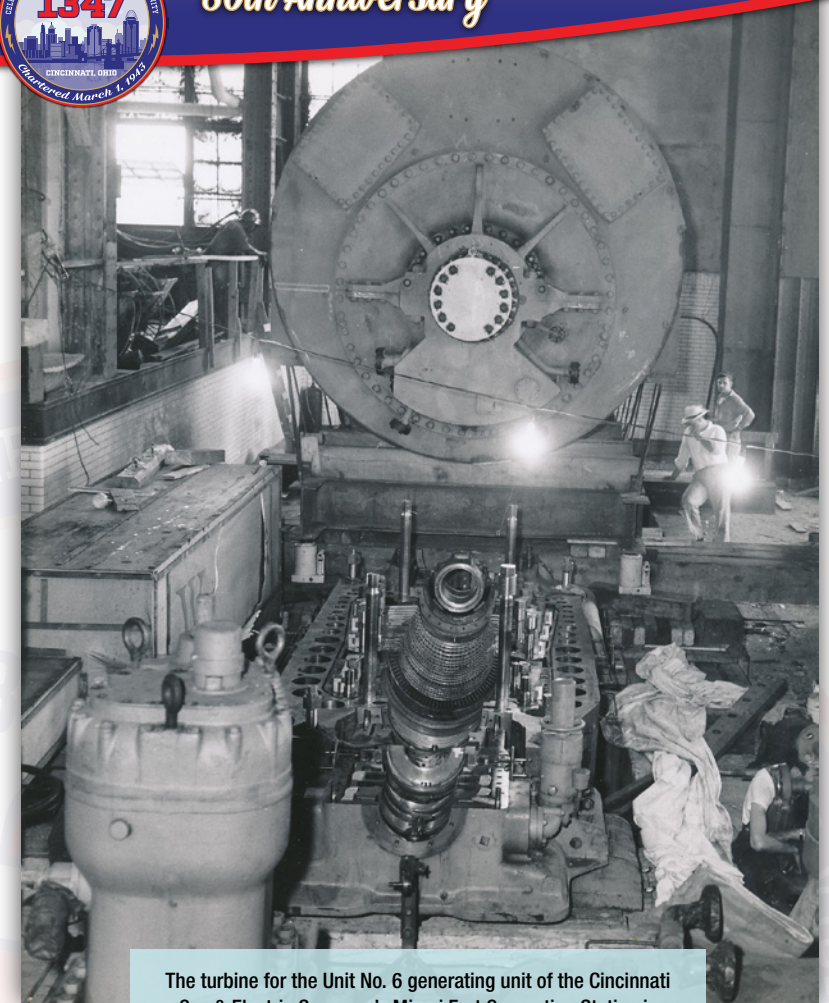
(CG&E was providing pension and group life-insurance plans to its employees after Columbia



Gas & Electric had created a pension plan in 1943. CG&E continued that plan after separation from Columbia.)

During that time, Local B-1347 was also a party of a group of associations voicing “vigorous opposition,” as the August 25, 1949, *Enquirer* described, to proposed municipal ownership of CG&E, which was targeted to appear on November voting ballots. If approved, the proposal would place the gas & electric company and the Cincinnati Street Railway Company under the ownership of the City of Cincinnati. (A similar proposal had been defeated by a large majority of voters in 1941.)

In response, the local submitted a resolution to the Bigelow Committee, which was sponsoring the proposed legislation, that in part read, “The foundation of fine service rendered and the stability of the company as a whole has resulted from and is based upon the American principle of free enterprise. We feel that public ownership in any form would interfere with our rights to bargain freely on behalf of our membership and would, therefore, be detrimental to our conditions



The turbine for the Unit No. 6 generating unit of the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's Miami Fort Generating Station is lowered into place during construction in July 1948.

of employment, result in a lower standard of service and be harmful to the general public of our city.”

In the end, the committee did not secure the required number of signatures on a petition to have the issue appear on the November 9 ballot. (While the issue would continue to be a point of contention among city politicians, CG&E would remain a private entity through to its merger with PSI Service to form Cinergy in 1994.)

A MAJOR NEW WORKPLACE AMID AMICABLE RELATIONS

Recently re-classified by the I.B.E.W. to represent only “A” and “BA” beneficial members, Local 1347 secured wage boosts in a new, two-year contract with CG&E that went into effect on April 1, 1950, of 4 cents per hour for members making up to \$1.21 per hour, 5 cents for those making from \$1.28 to



The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's Walnut Hills Substation 66-kilovolt switchyard in Cincinnati shown in April 1948.

LOCAL 1347 MERGERS

I.B.E.W. Local No. 1380 of Columbia Park, Ohio, which was chartered by the union on March 1, 1944, to represent workers with the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company in that city, was merged into Local 1347 on **October 6, 1945**.

I.B.E.W. Local No. 2070 of Cincinnati, which was chartered by the union on November 1, 1959, to represent workers at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation electric-equipment plant in the city, was merged into Local 1347 on **April 1, 1989**.



The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's Walter C. Beckjord Generating Station and its Unit No. 1 generator under construction near New Richmond, Ohio, in 1950.



\$1.50 per hour, and 6 cents for those making \$1.55 per hour. The agreement also provided a wage-reopening clause to renegotiate pay after one year; an improved pension plan that set minimum pensions at \$100 per month, including social security, for workers with 30 years of service at the retirement age of 65 and stepped up to \$200 for some members in higher brackets; and paid vacations of one, two and three weeks for members with one, three and 20 years or more of service, respectively, to the company.

Before the year was out, in December 1950 the local and CG&E negotiated a new wage scale with increases ranging from 7 to 9 cents per hour that would go into effect on April 1, 1951. With its membership busy with work and construction of the company's new **Walter C. Beckjord Generating Station** near New Richmond, Ohio, well underway, the local's 1,500 electrical operating members overwhelmingly voted on December 8 and 9 to accept the offer, after which Local 1347 **Business Manager William E. Marksberry** announced in the December 10 *Enquirer*, "Although our contract with the company does not expire until next April 1, we thought it better, in light of conditions, to get negotiations on wages in a new contract over with."

CG&E had broken ground November 10, 1948, on a site by the Ohio River in Clermont County about 20 miles southeast of Cincinnati for the Beckjord Generating Station, which would be its third electric generating plant. With Local 1347 members involved in its construction – and, ultimately, its operation – the 1.43-gigawatt, coal-fueled power plant (named in honor of the company's then-current president) would be dedicated in June 1952 with its first generating unit of 100,000-kilowatt capacity in operation.

The utility's electric-generating capacity would double from just eight years earlier (when it became independent from

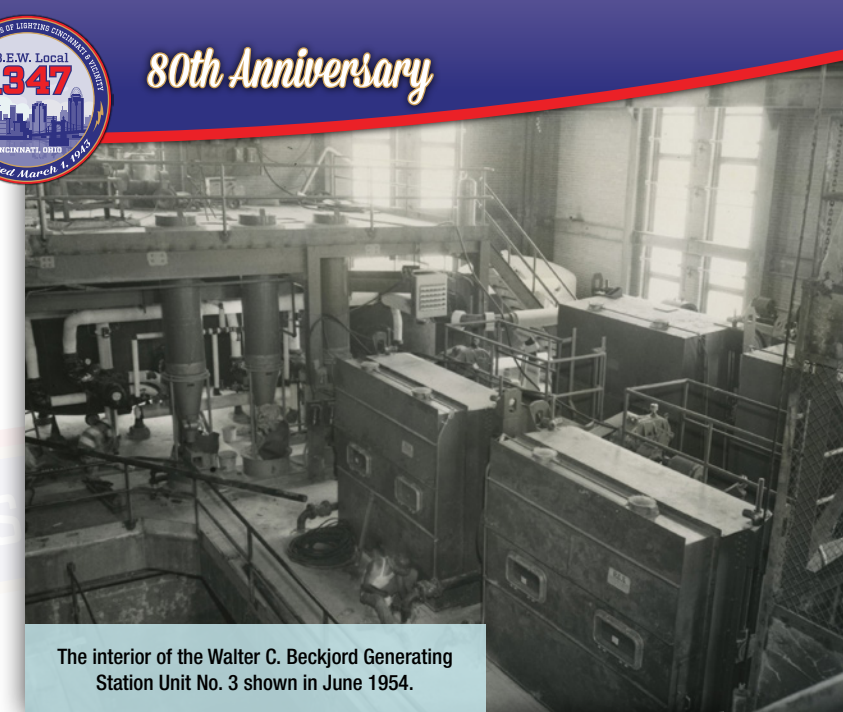
Columbia Gas & Electric) when it placed Beckjord's second 100,000-kilowatt unit into commercial operation in 1953 and then its 125,000-kilowatt third unit online in 1954. Built, expanded and maintained by Local 1347 member electrical workers, the power plant and the CG&E system added a fourth unit with a 165,000-kilowatt generating capacity in 1958.

Throughout the balance of the 1950s, Local 1347 gained new working contracts through relatively peaceful collective bargaining with CG&E and its subsidiaries that continuously improved wages and conditions. Indeed, the local's membership ratified a two-year agreement on May 9, 1952, which was retroactive to April 1, that provided wage increases of 9 to 11 cents; a wage-reopener after one year; improved vacation benefits; and industrial compensation clauses for preferential promotion of members returning from military service.

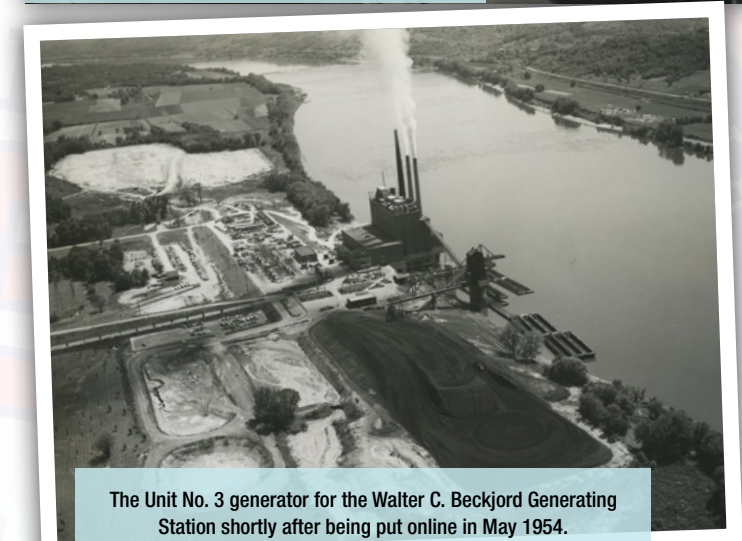
One year later, wage negotiations raised the pay of the local's approximately 1,500 members working for CG&E and Union Light, Heat & Power by a range of 8 to 20 cents per hour, effective April 1, the first day of the second year of their current working agreement. With the increases, through which about half of the local received pay raises of at least 16 cents per hour, the maximum hourly rate for switchboard operators in power stations became \$2.44; the hourly maximum rate for power linemen became \$2.29; and the maximum rate for mechanical maintenance men became \$2.19 to \$2.29 per hour.

A new, two-year contract signed March 20, 1954, and placed into effect April 1 likewise boosted CG&E and Union Light, Heat & Power employee wages and pension benefits by 7 cents per hour. The pact also provided an approved group insurance plan that would run for five years.

Local 1347 collectively bargained with the company with little to no newsworthy conflict for another two-year agreement that went into



The interior of the Walter C. Beckjord Generating Station Unit No. 3 shown in June 1954.



The Unit No. 3 generator for the Walter C. Beckjord Generating Station shortly after being put online in May 1954.

effect on April 1, 1956, and then a first-time three-year contract that went into effect April 1, 1958, and would not expire until April 1, 1961. As both contracts contained clauses to reopen wage negotiations after each year, in addition to improved vacation and other fringe benefits, by the end of the decade the local's more than 1,700 electrical workers were earning, based on their positions and service time, from \$2.60 to \$3.16 per hour.

A UNION HALL OF ITS OWN AND A FIRST-EVER STRIKE

As Local 1347 entered the 1960s, Local 1347 **Press Secretary James W. Martin** was able to point out in the

February 1961 issue of the *Journal* “some of the improvements in the operation of our local during the past three or four years.” Among those advances, “exclusive of the benefits gained from negotiation of contracts,” the local was more actively participating in the Cincinnati A.F.L.-C.I.O. Labor Council to promote and improve union causes and conditions, and it had also joined a “union optical program” that saved members money on eyeglasses.

Accordingly, the local renegotiated its members’ wages for the final year of its active three-year working agreement with CG&E in April 1960. The new scale provided members with 4-percent pay increases across their work classifications that amounted to average hourly

increases of 10 cents over the ensuing year.

Also in early 1960, after 18 months of meetings and discussions, Local 1347 successfully negotiated an upward revision in classification rates ranging from 6 to 14 cents per hour for workers in the maintenance sections of the power plants in the local’s jurisdiction. Those members, the majority of whom voted to accept the pay increase for the additional job duties, were required to merge into one general group, with possible job assignments in any power plant that may have electrical or mechanical failures of equipment.

To further enhance its ability to serve its membership, that year the local bought the three-story Cumminsville Veterans of the World War Hall at 4100 Colerain Avenue in Cincinnati for \$73,000 to serve as its first-ever **Local 1347 Union Hall**. With space for offices, meetings of up to 1,000 attendees, club rooms and storage, Press Secretary Martin noted in the February 1961 *Journal*, “The opinion of a large majority of members who have now seen our new home is that the purchase is an excellent one for the future welfare of the local.”

The membership also benefited from the construction and operation of a fifth generating unit at the Beckjord Generating Station that went online in 1962. Seven years later in 1969, a sixth coal-fired unit was also completed at the CG&E plant after Local 1347 members helped build the generator that they would also help maintain over the coming decades.

But by the early 1960s, the Local 1347 membership was feeling the negative effects of automated processes of electrical production and the resultant elimination of jobs in the older generating units of older CG&E power plants. With some members being declared an “excess group” by the company, the local attempted to place affected members in different positions, although in most instances they had to accept reduced incomes.

“Without a union organization, I am quite sure some of our people would have been



Construction of Unit No. 6 generator of the Miami Fort Generating Station shown in June 1958 (top) and May 1959 (bottom).



Local 1347 Meeting Locations, Union Hall

(All locations are in Cincinnati.)

<No union hall; Meeting location>

Brotherhood of Railway Clerks Building
1015 Vine Street (corner of Court Street)
1943 – 1947

<No union hall; Meeting location>

Teamsters Hall
219 West 12th Street
1947 – 1959

<No union hall; Meeting location>

526 Linton Apartments (basement)
526 Linton Street
1959 – 1961

Local 1347 Union Hall
4100 Colerain Avenue
1961 – 2016

Local 1347 Offices
Teamsters Local 100 Hall
2100 Oak Road
2016 – current

THE LOCAL 1347 UNION HALL

Local 1347 purchased the **Cumminsville Veterans of the World War Hall** at 4100 Colerain Avenue in the Cumminsville (now Northside) neighborhood of Cincinnati in December 1960 to serve as its first – and only – union hall. The local paid the World War I veterans organization, whose membership by that time had been reduced from a high of 300 to only 120 vets, \$73,000 for the building, in which the local maintained its offices and meeting space until 2016.



The Teamsters Local 100 Hall at 2100 Oak Road in Cincinnati, in which the Local 1347 offices have been located since 2016.

Local 1347 Trade Classifications

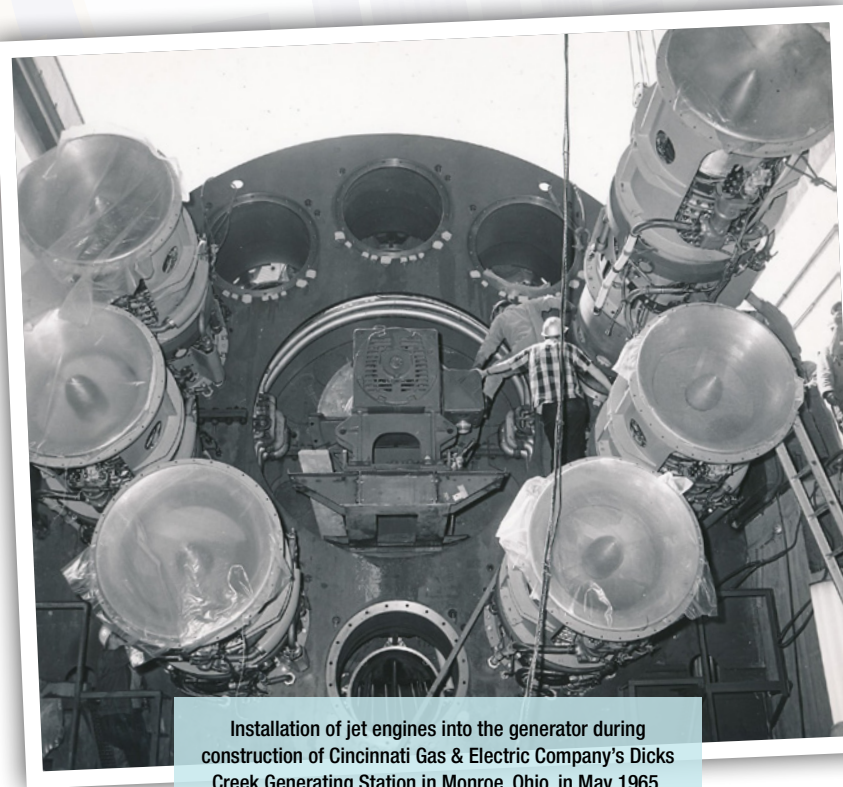
Local 1347 was designated a **Utility** local when it was chartered by the I.B.E.W. on March 1, 1943, to represent members of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company Electric Department.

In 1989, the union added **Electrical Equipment Service** and **Electrical Manufacturing** to the local's classifications.

In 2018, the union added **Professional Technical and Clerical** to the local's classifications.

on 'the bricks' months ago," Brother Martin wrote in the September 1961 *Journal* while addressing the issue. "The problem of what to do with displaced workers is going to be quite a headache as more and more new automated generating units are built into the system within our jurisdiction."

The local did obtain a new, two-year contract that went into effect on April 1, 1961, with a wage increase of 3.6 percent and total pay package, including benefits, increase of 4.25 percent. A one-year agreement that



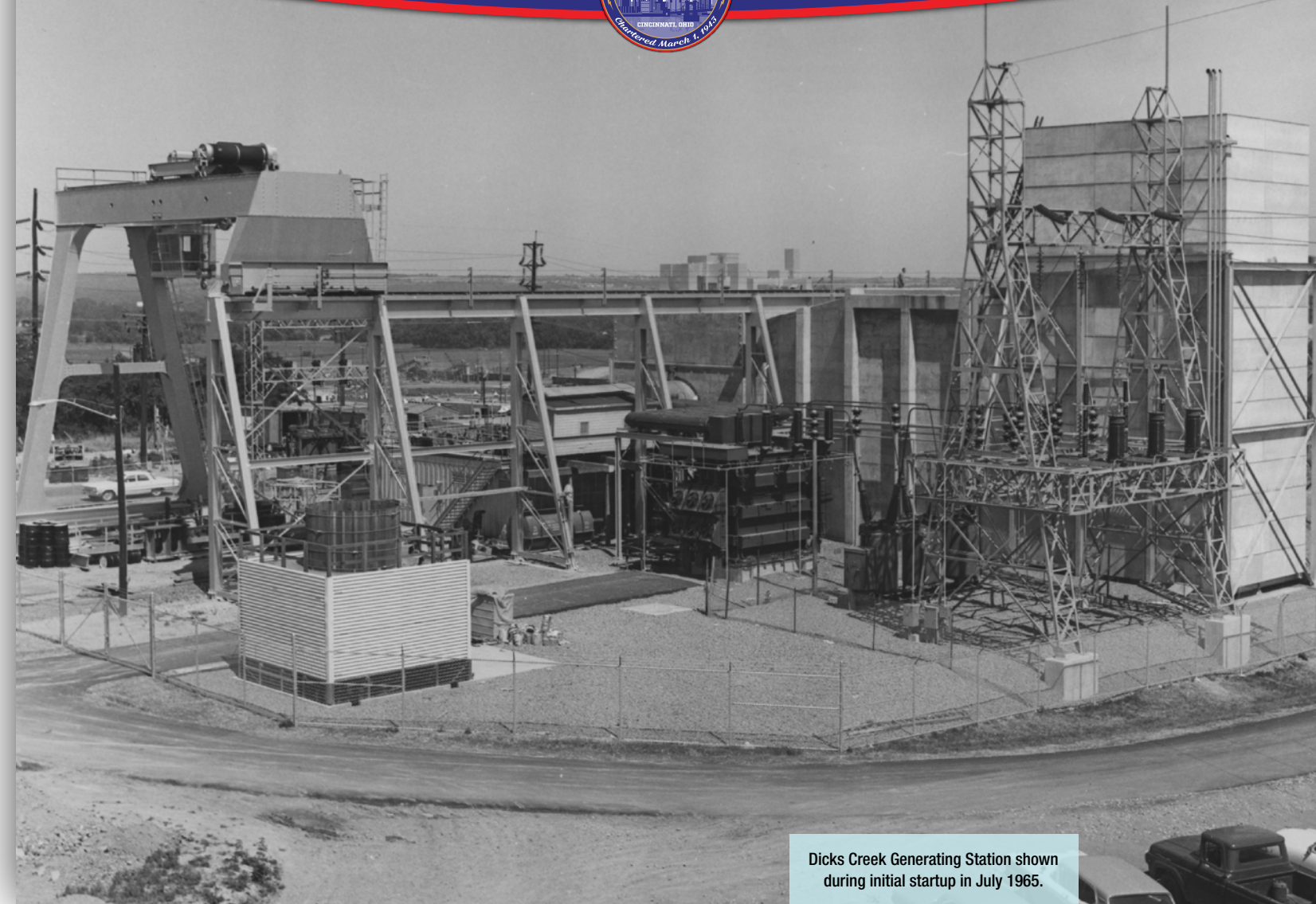
Installation of jet engines into the generator during construction of Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's Dicks Creek Generating Station in Monroe, Ohio, in May 1965.

went into effect April 1, 1963, and then a three-year deal that was put in place on April 1, 1964, likewise provided improvements, including a 4.23-percent increase in wages and fringe benefits in the latter agreement for 1,622 electrical workers with CG&E and its subsidiaries.

What's more the three-year contract, which expired April 1, 1967, further guaranteed Local 1347 six paid holidays and 52 weeks of 40-hours' worth of pay. With that, the local's members were the only utility workers in the State of Ohio who were assured of 40 hours of pay each week for that three-year period.

During that time, CG&E built its **Dicks Creek Generating Station** in Monroe, Ohio, as the world's first jet-engine power plant. Constructed using Local 1347 members, who would also operate and maintain the facility, the \$8 million, natural-gas-fueled plant featured 10 jet engines that were arranged like a revolver barrel and shot hot exhaust gasses against a turbine wheel to generate electricity once it was completed and in operation on July 1, 1965.

But following months of futile negotiations between Local 1347 and CG&E, which included the involvement of a Federal mediator, the local went on its first (and as of its 80th anniversary in 2023 its only) I.B.E.W.-sanctioned strike at 11:59 p.m. on May 10, 1967 – more than a month after members began working without a new contract. The local's roughly 1,550 members, who included 84 Union Light, Heat and Power employees working in Northern Kentucky, voted to authorize the strike over wages and shift assignments.



Dicks Creek Generating Station shown during initial startup in July 1965.

Despite a May 11 court order that limited picketing at CG&E installations and "alleged company harassment of pickets," as the May 27 *Dayton Daily News* reported, for which the local filed a petition in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court to stop, Local 1347 continued the strike into mid-July while company supervisors provided supply power and emergency service to customers. During that time, the local's membership voted to reject several two-year contract proposals from the company.

After 68 days, Local 1347 members ended the strike when they ratified a contract agreement, which union and company negotiators had reached two days earlier, by an 898-to-315 vote on July 18, 1967. Providing what union leaders said were "substantial wage increases as well

as real fringe benefits," according to that day's *Enquirer*, the three-year contract called for an immediate 5-percent wage increase, a 4.8-percent pay increase for the second year and a 4.6-percent hike beginning April 1, 1969, for the final year. As such, during the life of the contract, the lowest-paid scale for members of \$2.32 per hour would be boosted to \$2.60, and the top scale of \$4.05 would be pushed to \$4.63 per hour.

As the striking members, many of whom were employed by utilities in other cities during the strike, prepared to return to their jobs the following day, Local 1347 **President Paul Geiger** told them he was proud of them, the *Enquirer* reported. He further announced, "Not a single one of our bona-fide membership crossed a picket line."

Continued after the following spread.

(Left to Right) Duke Energy Production Manager Mike Boots, I.B.E.W. International Representative Larry Neidig III, Duke Energy Plant Manager Bret Riggins, Local 1347 Business Manager Andrew Kirk, Local 1347 President Ray Fowee, Local 1347 Executive Board member Lee McIntosh and Local 1347 Assistant Business Manager Kenny Gross marked the launch of the I.B.E.W. Code of Excellence Program at both of the local's Duke Energy power generation stations during the month of February 2019.



(Left to right) Local 1347 steward Nate Taylor and plant management Heath Powell and Ed Mandzukic at the NAES Corporation's Middletown Energy Center in 2023.



The employees of Baker Business and Tax Services, including Sarah Amshoff (far left) and Leah Peugh (far right), standing with owner Chris Baker (left) and Local 1347 Business Manager Andrew Kirk, joined the local after a successful representation vote in 2022.



Local 1347 and Matthew 25 Ministries staff pose outside of the Cincinnati-area headquarters of the international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization in 2018 (top) and 2023.



Local 1347 received voluntary recognition, led by organizer Don Scott Smith, with Lake Forest Financial Advisors in 2023.



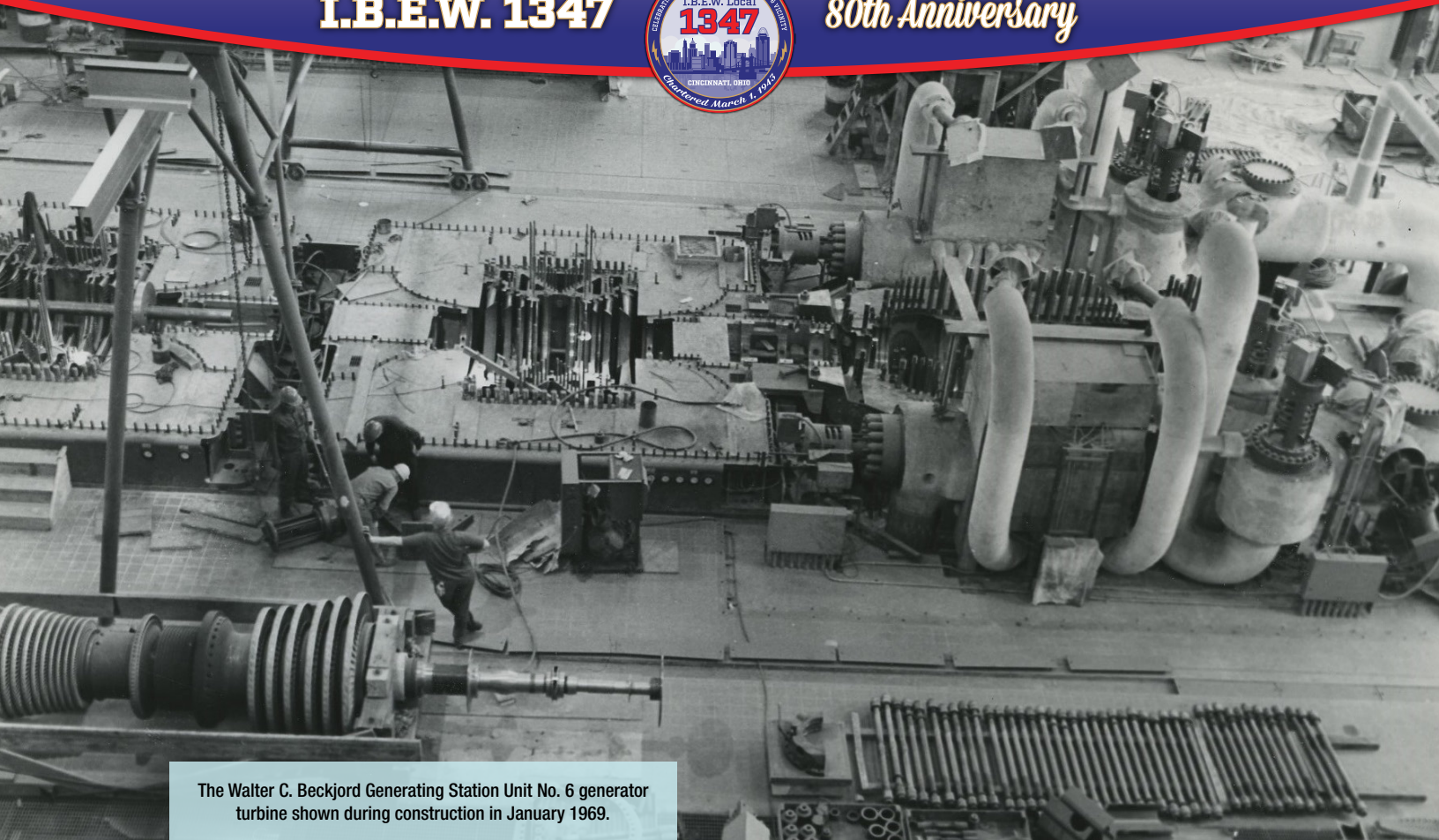
Members of the Local 1347 Transmission Department and members from Local 1393 took part in Safety Week at the Duke Energy Shelbyville headquarters in Indiana on June 17 through 21, 2019.



(Left to right) C.E.O. Jamie Madden, Local 1347 Business Manager Andrew Kirk and lead instructor Ron Perry represent Linemen University in Cincinnati, a union lineman school, in 2022.



(Left to right) Local 1347 Business Manager Andrew Kirk stands with Gary McIntire and steward Matt Land of NAES Corporation outside the Middletown Energy Center after employees of NAES, which is located at the energy facility, voted on August 3, 2020, for a first-ever collective bargaining agreement between the I.B.E.W. and NAES.



The Walter C. Beckjord Generating Station Unit No. 6 generator turbine shown during construction in January 1969.

CONTINUED PROGRESS AND WORKING AN ATOMIC PLANT

Local 1347 and CG&E averted another strike after their previous contract expired when the local's 1,600-strong membership overwhelmingly approved a new three-year agreement on April 2, 1970. About 1,000 of its members had voted on March 23 to

authorize local leaders to call a strike on the day the contract ended, but the two sides reached agreement on a deal for a 15-percent wage increase over the first two years of a new pact, improved fringe benefits and open negotiations for third-year wages.

Meanwhile, the utility company was again expanding its Beckjord Generating Station with a new, four-unit oil-fired power plant using Local 1347 labor. The facility would be put into service in 1972, after which it would also be maintained by the local's members (before it was decommissioned along with its first units in 2014).

After executing a three-year working agreement that began April 1, 1973, three years later the local's membership voted overwhelmingly on March 27, 1976, to give its officers the authority to call a strike against CG&E at the April 1 expiration of that contract. With members continuing to work without a new contract as long as the union and the

During the 1980s, Local 1347 made training and educating its members for various leadership and support functions a greater priority. As such, in 1980 for instance, the local began providing **steward training** for its members through a series of classes. In additional examples in 1986, the local provided courses for members to become **senior union counselors** who could provide knowledge of services and organizations in the community for health, welfare, unemployment, consumer protection and other services for fellow members; and **workers' compensation representatives** with basic knowledge of procedures for filing compensation claims.

company continued to negotiate, the two sides reached a deal that the Local 1347 membership ratified by a 2-to-1 margin on May 1 – a full month after the previous agreement ended.

The new, three-year contract, which was retroactive to April 1, immediately raised average salary rates from \$5.68 to \$6.20 per hour through an increase of 9.1 percent for the first year. The wage scale then went up 8.4 percent for the second year and 6 percent for the third year, during which a cost-of-living escalator also went into effect, while the contract also provided improvements in fringe benefits such as additional shift-differential pay (for work done above or beyond a standard shift) and Sunday premium pay; health and hospitalization coverage; and pension plans.

With the building of the new, atomic-powered **William H. Zimmer Nuclear Power Station** near Moscow, Ohio, by a consortium of CG&E, Columbus & Southern Ohio Electric and Dayton Power & Light underway since 1972, the first Local 1347 members came onto the \$420-million project in 1974. While its construction would take a host of monumental turns over the next decade, Zimmer would end up being a source of excellent union jobs for the area, employing literally generations of families through parents, children and grandchildren.

Faced with massive cost overruns that in 1983 put new estimates on the price to complete Zimmer at \$3 billion, as well as poor quality assurances under new Federal atomic guidelines, CG&E and its partners would stop work on the plant that year. Then in January 1984, the consortium would announce that it would convert the unfinished plant from nuclear to coal-fired electric generation.

But first, before the 1970s decade was out, Local 1347 signed a new, three-year contract with CG&E on July 1, 1979, after two months of negotiations and a 5-to-1

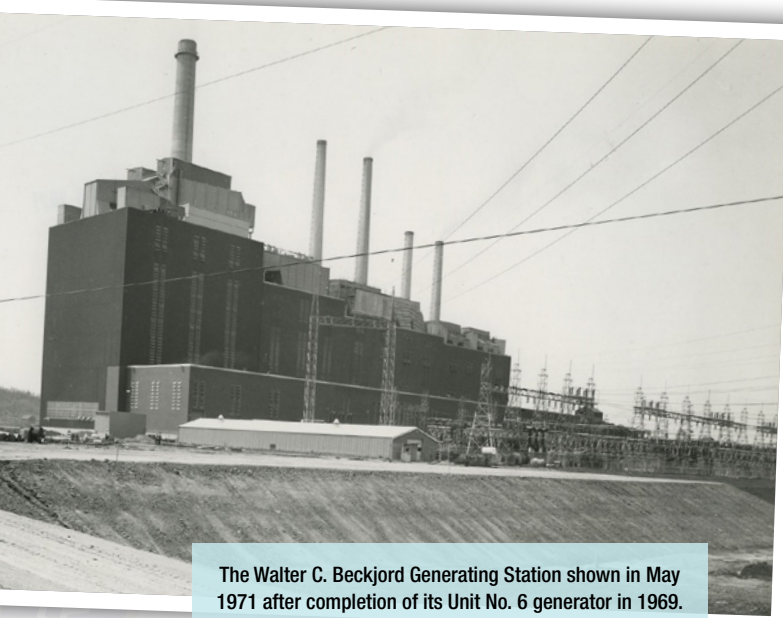
MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT WITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Since its founding in 1943, Local 1347 has regularly supported the communities in which its members live and work through a wide range of charitable activities. Perhaps most notably during its early decades, the local participated in and helped administer local campaigns of the **United Way**.

More recently, the many benevolent efforts in which Local 1347 and its members have participated have included its **Thanksgiving Coat Drive and Meals** for the Cincinnati Community projects; providing every child in **Cincinnati Children's Hospital** with a teddy bear at Christmastime beginning in 2016 (when the local delivered more than 600 bears); donating time and resources to **Matthew 25 Ministries** for people who live in poverty or are recovering from disasters; donating 80 pounds of Yummy Pops candy to **St. Joseph's Orphanage** in Cincinnati in February 2021; and the first-ever **Local 1347 Golf Outing** in 2021 to the **Unity Fund** that supports fellow union brothers and sisters. Among the local's far-reaching activities, in January 2018 many of its linemen traveled to Puerto Rico to help restore power there after three devastating hurricanes hit the island in 2017.

"If our membership has the ability to spread a little cheer, we are going to do so," Local 1347 **Business Manager Andrew Kirk** declared in the March 2023 I.B.E.W. **Electrical Worker** after the local had delivered teddy bears to Cincinnati Children's in December 2022.





The Walter C. Beckjord Generating Station shown in May 1971 after completion of its Unit No. 6 generator in 1969.

margin strike vote by the local in mid-April. At issue, in addition to wages, were the working conditions of senior employees and job security at the Zimmer Power Station and other power plants.

Having worked for two months without a new agreement, the local's members approved the deal by a 682-to-471 vote. In doing so, "Lineman A" (the classification of most CG&E linemen) were provided with a progressively increased wage from the former rate of \$8.71 per hour to \$10.67 per hour by April 1, 1981, and members were granted additional cost-of-living increases if inflation exceeded 10.5 percent in the first year of the contract or 7 percent in its second or third years. The agreement further called for changes in payment of shift differentials, per-diem driving allowances, an employee tool allowance and a company-supplemented stock and savings plan.

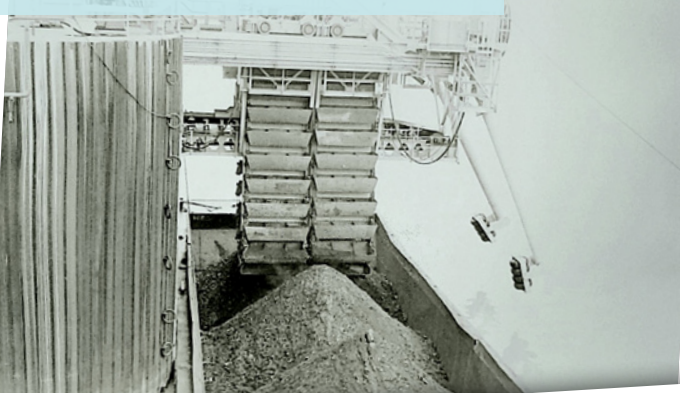
MORE TRADITIONAL PLANTS AND BARGAINED BENEFITS

When the CG&E **East Bend Power Station** opened in Boone County, Kentucky, in 1981, it began

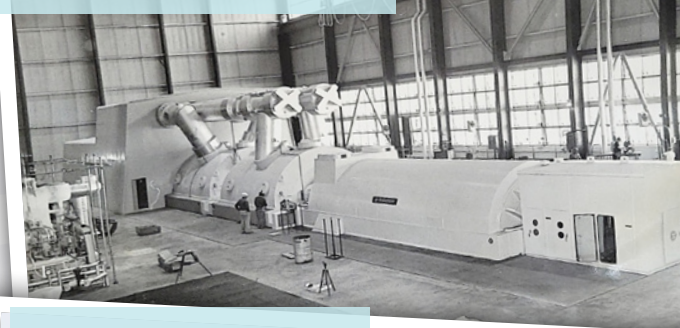
The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's East Bend Power Station under construction in 1980.



Coal to fuel the Unit 2 generator of the East Bend Power Station is unloaded for the first time on July 2, 1980.



The main turbine floor of Unit 2 of the East Bend Power Station shown on April 1, 1981.



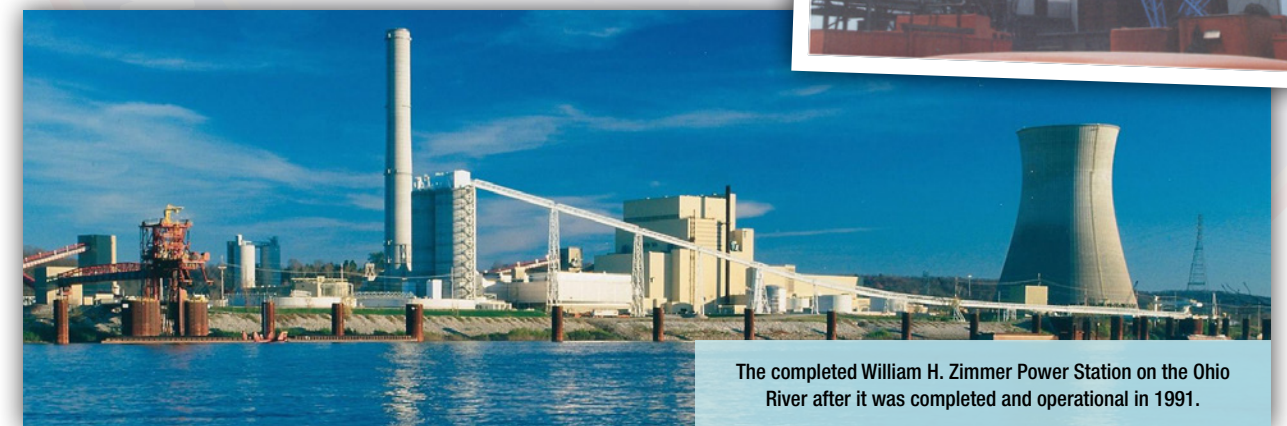
The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's East Bend Power Station.



employing more than 80 Local 1347 members, many of whom worked in its maintenance section. The fossil-fuel-fired, single-turbine plant located near the community of Rabbit Hash has a production capacity of 650-megawatts gross/600-megawatts net after only its Unit 2 (of four planned generating units) was erected. CG&E and its partner Dayton Power and Light immediately stopped construction of East Bend Unit 1, never to complete it or any of the other units planned for the site.

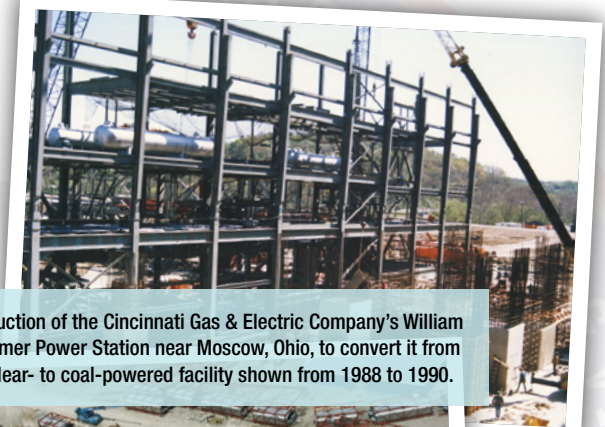
The following year, Local 1347 successfully negotiated a new, three-year contract that gave its nearly 1,800 members wage increases of 8-1/2 percent the first year and 7 percent for each of the final two years after they voted, 848 to 381, on April 4 to approve it. The agreement further provided employees with 15 years of service or more up to four weeks of vacation, and it increased the meal allowance for employees to \$4.50 by 1984 – about which **Press Secretary Ray Jay** simply stated in the June 1982 *Journal*, "Wow!"

Other fringe benefits included an increase in rest time from four to six hours before reporting back to work during trouble or extended work periods, and a \$90 annual tool allowance for all members working in the CG&E Transportation Department. Additionally, the pact stipulated that the company would pay 90 percent of all employee members' hospital, medical and dental costs for the term of the contract.



The completed William H. Zimmer Power Station on the Ohio River after it was completed and operational in 1991.

The **Local 1347 Retirees Club** was formed in 1988, after which it initially met on the first Wednesday of every month at the Local 1347 Union Hall. Its first officers were **President Charles Baeuerlin**, **Vice President Ronald Robertson** and **Secretary-Treasurer Vic Lehmkuhl**.



Construction of the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's William H. Zimmer Power Station near Moscow, Ohio, to convert it from a nuclear- to coal-powered facility shown from 1988 to 1990.



Local 1347 member **Sister Cynthia Young**, who worked for Cincinnati Gas and Electric in its Western Hills Overhead District, became the company's first female lineperson "A" when she was promoted to that top level in 1991.

By 1983, Local 1347 represented employees at the Beckjord, Miami Fort, East Bend Station and Zimmer Nuclear power stations, as well as linemen, tree-trimmers, underground cable installers and substation workers. During that time, the local was looking forward to putting many more of its members to work at Zimmer once it was completed, as **Business Manager Michael Gilligan** expressed in a letter that appeared in the February 1, 1983, issue of *The Cincinnati Post* and read in part, "This is to inform your readers of the quality of the work force which will operate and maintain the Zimmer nuclear power plant. The union brothers and sisters who will be working at that plant are the best trained and equipped employees that work for the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company."

However, CG&E and its partners mothballed the nuclear project that same year because of excessive costs and uncertainties of operating it as a nuclear facility. But on January 21, 1984, they then announced that

they would convert the incomplete plant into the 1.35-gigawatt, coal-fueled **William H. Zimmer Power Station**, which would go online in 1991 with Local 1347 members providing service and maintenance.

With CG&E "reeling under the financial burden of the aborted Zimmer nuclear power plant," as an article in the October 29, 1985, *Enquirer* described, on April 4 of that year Local 1347 accepted a new, three-year contract with relatively modest wage-scale increases retroactive to April 1. Approved by 57 percent of the voting membership that day, the pact called for wage improvements of 4 percent for the first year, 4 percent for the second year with a cost-of-living adjustment and 3 percent for the third year with a cost-of-living increase, along with fringe-benefit improvements.

The local's membership rejected by a 2-to-1 margin vote on April 8, 1988, an initial new agreement made between union and company negotiators to replace the former contract that expired April 1. It would be another 11 days before members voted on April 19 by a 4-to-1 margin to accept a three-year contract that included wage raises for each year that were enhanced with cost-of-living increases, before which the local's top-earners would receive \$18.01 per hour for the final year beginning April 1, 1990. The pact also provided improvements in retirement, vacation and other benefits, as well.

As the decade was drawing to a close, the more-than 1,500-member Local 1347 gained 16 new members when the I.B.E.W. merged **Local No. 2070** of Cincinnati into it on April 1, 1989. The former local had been representing employees of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation electric-equipment plant since the union chartered it on November 1, 1959.



CAUGHT IN CROSSHAIRS OF UTILITY DEREGULATION

Growth initially continued for Local 1347 into the 1990s, bolstered when Zimmer Station went online in 1990 as the first power plant ever to convert its source of generating power from nuclear fuel to coal. Additionally, in May 1990 the I.B.E.W. expanded the employee classifications the local could represent by granting it jurisdiction over **Electrical Equipment Service** and **Electrical Manufacturing** workers (adding to its "Utility" designation) to accommodate additional members in those fields, including the Westinghouse employees.

That September alone, the local gained 45 new members – the largest gain it had experienced in a single month since Zimmer Station was first staffed in the 1970s.

What's more, CG&E at that time was seeking new sources of electrical power for peak electrical-demand times and to replace some older generating units. Subsequently, in 1990 the company began constructing its **Woodsdale Generating Station**, a 572-megawatt, gas-fired power plant that would be commissioned in May 1992. (Local 1347 members continue to operate and maintain the Woodsdale Generating Station/Madison Generating Station, which consists of a combined total of 14 simple-cycle gas-turbine generating units.)

But by that year, Local 1347 was experiencing the effects of a restructuring at CG&E, with which it expected layoffs while it was already set to lose nearly 120 of the 128 members who were eligible for early retirement through the company's Voluntary Early Retirement Program. CG&E had agreed to follow the guidelines set forth by the collective bargaining agreement for such layoffs, which would help minimize the effects of the restructuring on the local.



"Local 1347 has never experienced a layoff of this nature," **Press Secretary Kenny Gross** relayed in a letter in the January 1993 issue of the *Journal*. "The watching and waiting have been stressful for everyone on both sides."

CG&E also began cost-cutting measures in May 1992 after the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio gave the company only \$114.6 million of a requested \$204.8 million operating funds, according to an article in the June 14 *Enquirer*, and a requested rate increase was rejected that month as well. Those money-saving actions included a hiring freeze, restricted travel and elimination of all but emergency overtime, the newspaper reported.

Local 1347 and Cincinnati Gas and Electric, the primary employer of the local's membership, agreed in early 1990 to work together on establishing a **drug-education program** to promote drug-free workplaces. Subsequently, a joint **Union-Company Drug Committee** began meeting in November 1991 to begin working toward that goal.

After it began focusing on union clients in 2016, **BlackoutTees**, a screen-printing and embroidery shop in Cincinnati, organized into the I.B.E.W. and all of its employees became members of Local 1347 with their first union contract executed on July 1, 2018. Now, as an I.B.E.W. signatory employer, BlackoutTees' mission is to supply union members with the highest-quality screen print and embroidery merchandise.

Consequently, the hiring freeze and loss of overtime hurt services. "If a call comes in at the end of a shift, it has to wait (rather than having an employee answer it on overtime)," Business Manager Gilligan told the *Enquirer*.

With the company deep into talks with PSI Energy in 1994 to merge the two utilities, the Local 1347 membership rejected a new contract offer from CG&E on March 30 of that year in a 3-to-1 ratio vote as the previous agreement was set to expire April 1, after which members continued to work. Following long

and difficult negotiations, during which its negotiating committee held firm on ruling out part-time employees as part of the deal, the local finally ratified an agreement by a 4-to-1 margin on April 18.

The new, three-year contract called for hourly wage increases of 3.5 percent in the first year and 3.25 percent in each of the following years, as well as improved medical-insurance benefits. It also included a promise by the company that no jobs would be cut in the life of the pact as a result of the planned merger of CG&E and PSI.

Later that year on October 24, 1994, CG&E and its subsidiary, Union Light, Heat & Power, and PSI Energy, Indiana's largest electric supplier, merged to form Cinergy Corporation (with each company remaining a subsidiary of the new entity). Just as Local 1347 continued to represent its 1,600 member CG&E and Union employees, I.B.E.W. **Local No. 1393** of Indiana likewise remained the representative of its 1,700 employees of PSI Energy.

But over the next two years, utility companies were forced to prepare for proposed electric deregulation that would allow consumers to "shop" for their electric service instead of having to receive it from regional utility companies such as CG&E, which were overseen by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and subject to price and cost regulation. Cinergy responded to the threat of deregulation in late 1996 with plans to cut its payroll of 8,600 workers by 10 percent.

In early September of that year, Local 1347 rejected a proposal for a new working contract from Cinergy – although the local's contract did not expire until April 1997 – that included early-retirement provisions in exchange for a no-layoff commitment. However, the local ultimately accepted a new agreement, which set new wages scales effective September 30, 1996, at a low of \$9.15 per hour and a high of \$23.30 per hour, based on job classifications, before



escalating through raises in 1998, 1999 and on April 1, 2000, to \$9.99 per hour up to \$25.55 per hour, plus any cost-of-living additions.

"Our local, along with most other locals across the nation, has been through significant changes in the way we are required to do business," Brother Gross announced in the May 1997 *Journal* in an essay in which he pondered the deregulation issue after 94 members took early retirement at the beginning of the year and 33 others accepted the company's severance package to resign. "All these changes are made, the employer says, to counter the ever-pressing threat of deregulation and the related legislation being introduced in the state legislatures."

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING

The passage in June 1999 of Ohio Senate Bill 3, the "Ohio Electric Restructuring Act," set in motion the deregulation of the state's electric industry when the new law took effect on January 1, 2001. It initially created a "market development period" over

the next five years to allow new electric retail markets to emerge while freezing electric rates, during which customers could choose to buy energy from Certified Retail Electric Suppliers instead of automatically receiving it from the utility company in their respective areas.

However, as a John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University policy brief reported in 2016, "At the conclusion of this period ... competitive electric markets did not develop as envisioned by the proponents of SB 3." The failure of the retail markets to develop resulted in a "rate stabilization period" being put in place in Ohio over the next three years, ending in 2008.

Meanwhile, Local 1347 reached agreement on a new, five-year contract with Cinergy and its subsidiaries CG&E and Union Light, Heat & Power that would cover a half decade beginning April 1, 2000. Wage levels set in the contract ranged from \$9.99 to \$25.55 per hour for the first year and then from \$11.50 to \$29.62 per hour for the fifth and final year beginning April 1, 2005.





Local 1347 members joined other union members from around the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky area in February 2023 for a protest rally against the firing of two Amazon employees, one of whom was targeted for union activity and the other of whom was wrongfully terminated.

By that time, Local 1347 membership was down to about 1,200 members, most of whom were Cinergy employees, after the union lost up to 500 jobs since the merger of CG&E and PSI. The majority of those job losses were caused by changes in work practices, including stretching out maintenance schedules.

Then in May 2005, Duke Energy of North Carolina announced that it would purchase Cinergy for \$9 billion. The acquisition would be finalized on April 3, 2006, after shareholders in Duke and Cinergy voted on March 10 in favor of the merger, which would create one of the nation's largest electric utilities.

But before that, Local 1347 threatened to strike when its contract with Cinergy's CG&E expired on April 1 of that year if the company were to proceed with plans to eliminate many of the jobs of the local's members. Cinergy

had informed the local that it wanted to cut at least 10 percent of its 1,185 I.B.E.W. union positions by January 2007 and replace those workers with less-expensive outside contractors, the *Cincinnati Post* reported on March 7, 2006. The company told union representatives that its pending merger with Duke Energy gave it access to contractors in the Carolinas who would "work for much less than ... I.B.E.W. members," according to the newspaper.

"Cinergy wants to offer its union workers a severance package to avoid layoffs, but the union regards that as a union-busting tactic and won't even discuss it," Local 1347 spokesman **Brother Gary Klinglesmith** told the newspaper.

"Unlike Duke contractors, we are members of this community, and we are very concerned about the disastrous effects of electrical outages

that could be prolonged as result of a strike," Local 1347 **Business Manager Steve Feldhaus** also said in the March 7 *Enquirer*.

The local's membership ratified a new, three-year contract with Duke Energy on April 12, 2006, after negotiators reduced the number of jobs to be eliminated from 137 to 28 "with the possibility that number might be reduced even further," the April 21 *Enquirer* reported. The company agreed to offer a voluntary severance plan to qualified union members to eliminate 23 positions, according to the newspaper, and the union and company agreed to postpone a decision on the other five jobs until 2008.

The contract, which was backdated to April 1, also provided wage hikes of 3 percent in each of the first two years and a 4-percent increase in the third year. However, the new agreement also included increased employee healthcare costs – about which Business Manager Feldhaus told the *Enquirer* that union members were upset with having to pay "while some former Cinergy executives were getting multimillion-dollar payouts as a result of its acquisition by Duke Energy."

Local 1347 negotiators walked out of contract talks with Duke Energy on March 24, 2009, with the former contract nearing expiration on April 1, while claiming the company was not bargaining "in good faith." But the two sides were able to reach an agreement on April 4 for a five-year contract that the local's members ratified on April 22 while working under an extension of the former contract.

The new pact included annual wage increases of 2 percent for each of the first three years and 3 percent for each of the final two years, as well as a new 401(k) retirement plan. With those raises, the local's lowest wage-level scale increased from \$12.92 with the previous contract to \$14.54 per hour on April 1, 2013, for the final year of the new contract, and its highest wage-level scale increased from \$32.82 to \$36.95 per hour for the final year ending April 1, 2014.

Local 1347 launched its **Politics, Activism and Livelihood (PAL)** training in 2023 with its pro-union partners, holding classes before each regular union meeting. One of those partners, Blackout Tees, provided its Local 1347 members with two days – on company time – to take the course.

REMAINING COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EXCELLENCE

A pair of new working contracts negotiated between Local 1347 and Duke Energy for three years beginning May 5, 2014, and 5 years beginning April 1, 2017, carried the local to its current contract as it celebrates its 80th charter anniversary in 2023, which was executed on April 1, 2022. Together, the agreements raised the local's lowest wage-level scale from \$14.58 as of March 31, 2014, to \$17.85 per hour on April 1, 2021, for the final year of the 2017 contract, and its highest wage-level scale from \$36.70 as of March 31, 2014, to \$45.30 per hour for the final year of the 2017 contract ending April 1, 2022.

By that time, Local 1347 members were working in 14 divisions of the company and its subsidiaries:

- East Bend Station
- Woodsdale Station
- Operators
- Substation
- Test & Relay/Field Services
- Electric Trouble
- Electric Meter
- Overhead Transmission and Distribution, Construction
- Underground Cable and Equipment
- Service Division
- Power Delivery Warehouses
- Generation Supply Chain
- Fleet Services
- Gas Operations Supply Chain



Also by then, the Beckjord Generating Station had been decommissioned and put out of service since September 1, 2014. Closing the plant, which was more beneficial to its owner than retrofitting it to comply with more-stringent environmental regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency, eliminated about 100 union jobs.

In August of that year, Duke also sold its Midwest Generation assets and retail business to **Dynegy**, a Houston-based provider of wholesale power to municipalities and other energy companies. The \$2.8-billion transaction, which was part of Dynegy's \$6.25-billion acquisition of 19 new plants that would increase its generating capacity nearly twofold, included purchasing 64 percent of Miami Fort (Dayton Power & Light owned the remainder), 46.5 percent of Zimmer (Dayton and Columbus-based AEP owned the remainder) and all of Dicks Creek.

Following the sale, Local 1347 members continued to work at those plants under a contract with Dynegy. Consequently, in 2018 some of the local's members were involved in a multi-million-dollar upgrade to enhance the Miami Fort Generating Station cooling tower that was one of the largest projects ever performed at the facility – where “Local 1347 brothers and sisters ... are prepared for many more years of providing safe, reliable power for the Tri-State area for years to come,” **Business Manager Andrew Kirk** declared in an entry in the July 2018 I.B.E.W. *Electrical Worker* publication describing the project.

At the remaining Duke Energy electricity-production facilities, the East Bend Power Station and the Woodsdale Generating Station, in February 2019 the union launched its **I.B.E.W. Code of Excellence** formal training program designed to ensure the highest standards of excellence at I.B.E.W. workplaces. “The events were welcomed with optimism by both our membership and the management team,” Business Manager Kirk reported in the May 2019 *Electrical Worker*. “We are hoping that with the implementation of this program, we might be able to see some positive changes in our working relationship between Local 1347 and Duke. With both parties on board, there is sure to be an improved working relationship, leading to a stronger foundation between the two entities.”

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES, CHANGES ON WAY TO 80TH

While Local 1347, the State of Ohio and the entire nation reeled from the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic beginning in January 2020, after which the disease would claim the lives of more than 1 million Americans over the next three years, Local 1347 members worked together to keep essential electricity flowing. Early on, the local took preventative measures

to help mitigate the spread of the virus, including closing its offices and canceling meetings and training, but as “essential workers,” its members continued their day-to-day work operations at Duke Energy power plants and on the power grid to provide electrical power for vital resources such as hospitals, grocery stores, nursing homes and all other crucial services. Indeed, all I.B.E.W. Local 1347 utility workers, including those on Duke Energy power plants, transmission and distribution, and all other departments; Dynegy/Vistra power plants; and NAES Middletown Energy Center were deemed “essential” workers and reported to work every day to provide the public with continuous power throughout the pandemic.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID epidemic, on August 3, 2020, employees of **NAES Corporation**, the power generation industry's largest independent services provider, working at the **Middletown Energy Center** held a ratification vote for a new collective-bargaining agreement between the I.B.E.W. and their employer after Local 1347 had conducted an organizing campaign at the plant over the previous year. The local subsequently proceeded to get a new, two-year contract ratified and passed as the bargaining agent for workers at the combined-cycle, 477-megawatt facility in Middletown, Ohio.

Local 1347 entered into its current collective-bargaining agreement with Duke Energy on April 1, 2022, in a four-year deal that expires on April 1, 2026, and provided wage increases of 3.5 percent for each of the first two years and 3 percent for each of the final two years. With those raises, the contract initially set the local's lowest-level scale at \$20.17 per hour and its highest-level scale at \$44.88 per hour. The agreement will

PREPARING THE REGION'S BEST ELECTRICAL WORKFORCE

Keeping its member linemen proficient and qualified to perform their work while being safe on their jobsites has always been of the utmost importance for Local 1347. Indeed, its linemen must be highly trained in order to work safely and effectively to protect, expand and maintain the increasing power demands within the local's jurisdiction.

To that end and with the future in mind, Local 1347 in early 2022 helped establish the first all-union **Linemen University** to open in Cincinnati. The new, state-of-the-art facility provides the necessary training to sustain a sufficient workforce through next-generation transmission and distribution training for the nation's power grid, which is provided by I.B.E.W.-represented instructors.

The university's seven-week course trains students in the skills and tasks needed to be successful in the industry. It also helps prepare them for the Construction and Skilled Trades (CAST) Test, a pre-employment assessment exam.



ultimately provide Local 1347 with a lowest-level wage of \$22.93 per hour and a highest-level wage of \$51.80 per hour beginning April 1, 2025, for the final year of the pact.

Meanwhile, the local also signed its second contract with NAES in July 2022. What's more, one year later, the relationship between the local and company had improved to the point at which Business Manager Kirk would announce in the September 2023 *Electrical Worker* that Middletown Energy Center had "become among the best places to work in our jurisdiction."

The maximum payrate at the end of the local's current collective-bargaining agreement will be \$55.83 per hour, including a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase of 19 cents per hour.

However, the William H. Zimmer Power Station produced its last megawatt of electricity on May 31, 2022, when it was permanently closing, putting 87 people represented by either Local 1347 or Utility Workers Union of America Local No. 600 out of work. Even though ownership of Zimmer had passed among several companies throughout the years, the I.B.E.W. remained a constant for the plant; as such, Business Manager Kirk lamented in the September 2022 *Electrical Worker*, "This closure has been a blow to not only our union brothers and sisters, but also to all the contractors, suppliers and surrounding communities."

Regardless, in 2023 as Local 1347 celebrates the 80th year since being chartered by the I.B.E.W. in 1943, it continues to wholly support its membership, most importantly



Local 1347 Brother Nicholas Greco served as I.B.E.W. Fourth District International Representative from 1990 until he retired on April 1, 2007. Brother Greco was initiated into Local 1347 in 1970, after which he worked as a lineman for the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company. In 1980, he became assistant business manager, and he then served as business manager-financial secretary for two years until his appointment as an international representative. Brother Greco passed away on December 4, 2017, at age 69.

by negotiating for some of the best wages and benefits in the utility industry. Meanwhile, the local also remains committed to providing the best service to its employers and the communities in which its members work and live – while promoting efforts such as member training and political activity to help safeguard its future. ■



I.B.E.W. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL PRESIDENTS

Henry Miller
1891 – 1893

Queren Jansen
1893 – 1894

H. W. Sherman
1894 – 1897

J. H. Maloney
1897 – 1899

Thomas Wheeler
1899 – 1901

W. A. Jackson
1901 – 1903

Frank Joseph McNulty
1903 – 1919
(First full-time, paid president)

James Patrick Noonan
1919 – 1929

Henry H. Broach
1929 – 1933

Daniel W. Tracy
1933 – 1940

Edward J. Brown
1940 – 1947

Daniel W. Tracy
1947 – 1954

J. Scott Milne
1954 – 1955

Gordon M. Freeman
1955 – 1968

Charles H. Pillard
1968 – 1986

John Joseph (Jack) Barry
1986 – 2001

Edwin D. (Ed) Hill
2001 – 2015

Lonnie R. Stephenson
2015 – 2023

Kenneth W. Cooper
2023 – current

I.B.E.W. INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS, 4TH DISTRICT

(Local 1347 has been assigned to the I.B.E.W. 4th District, which was first formed in 1919, ever since Ohio was first made a part of the district in 1940. The 4th District took on its current configuration of representing Ohio; Kentucky; Maryland; Washington, D.C.; Virginia; and West Virginia in 1947.)

Arthur Bennett
1930 – 1944

Gordon M. Freeman
1944 – 1955

H. B. Blankenship
1955 – 1972

B. G. "Buck" Williamson
1972 – 1988

Paul J. Witte
1988 – 2007

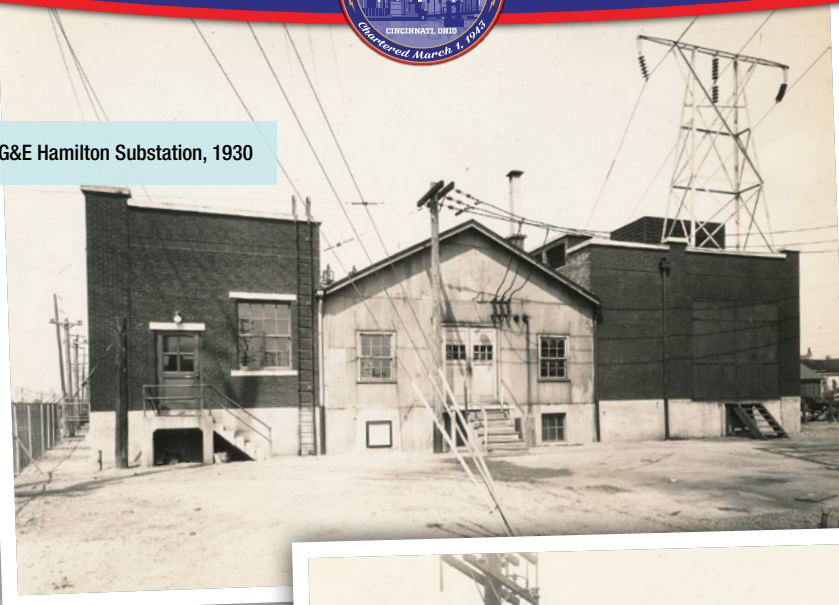
Salvatore J. Chilia
2007 – 2011

Kenneth W. Cooper
2011 – 2017

Brian Malloy
2017 – 2020

Gina P. Cooper
2020 – current
(Sister Cooper is the first woman to serve as an international vice president in the 129-year history of the I.B.E.W.)

CG&E Hamilton Substation, 1930



CG&E York Substation, 1938



CG&E Coke Otto Substation, 1932



CG&E Fort Mitchell Substation, 1937



CG&E Brighton Substation, 1940



CG&E Elmwood Substation, 1940



CG&E Gano Substation, 1940



CG&E Camp Washington Substation, 1940



CG&E Middletown Substation, 1938



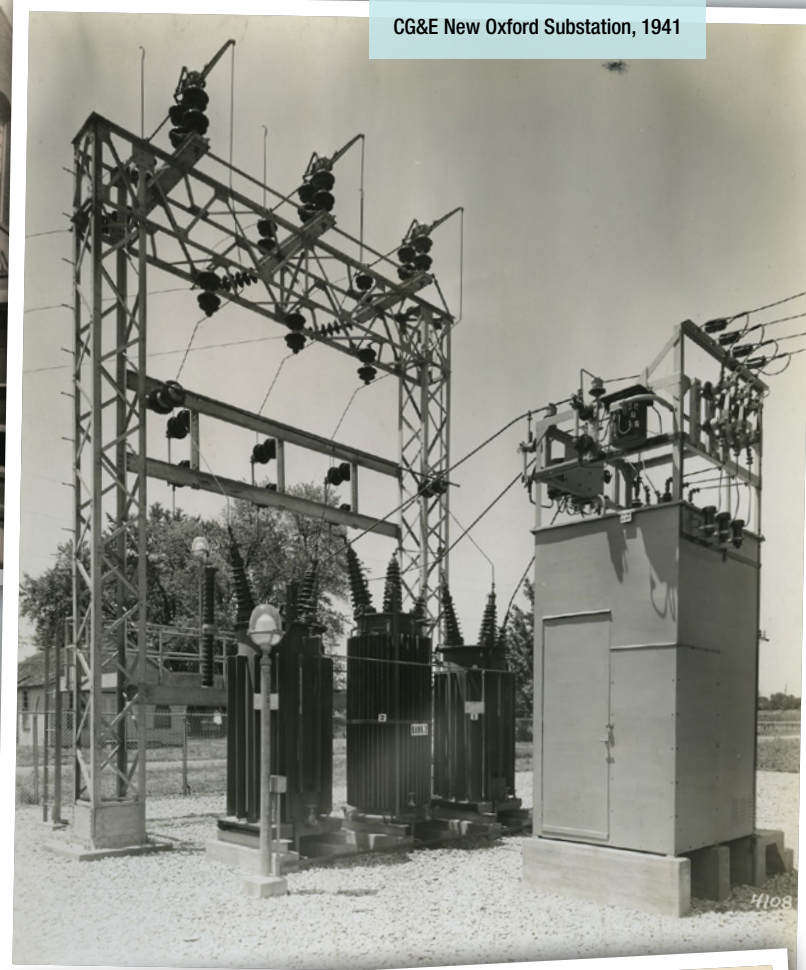
CG&E New Oakley Substation, 1937



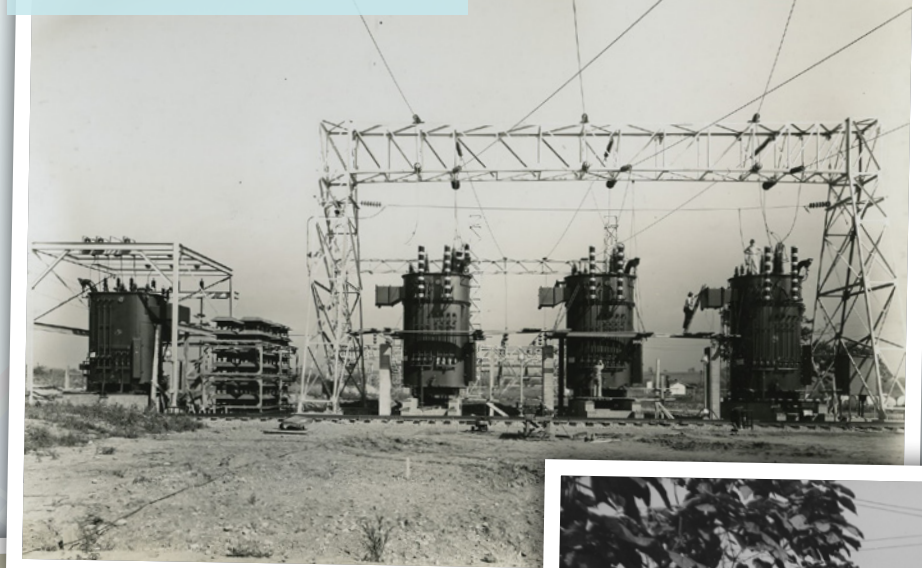
CG&E Eighth Street Substation, 1940



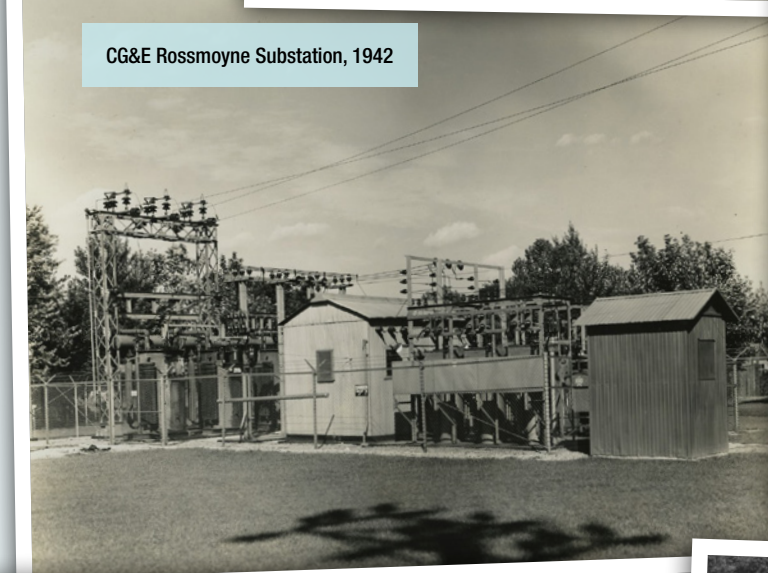
CG&E New Oxford Substation, 1941



CG&E Trenton Substation under construction, 1940



CG&E Rossmoyne Substation, 1942



CG&E Plum Street Substation, 1940



CG&E Walnut Hill Substation, 1946



CG&E Price Hill Substation, 1940



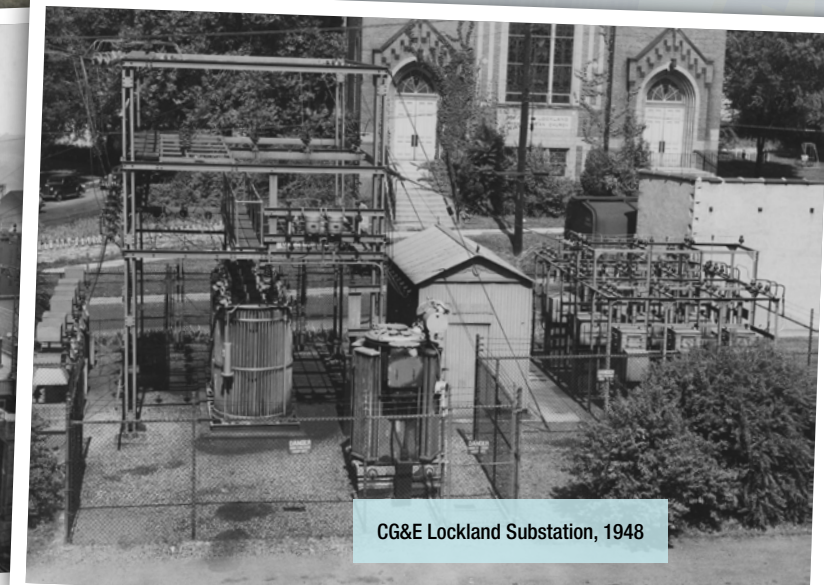
CG&E Mitchell Avenue Substation, 1940

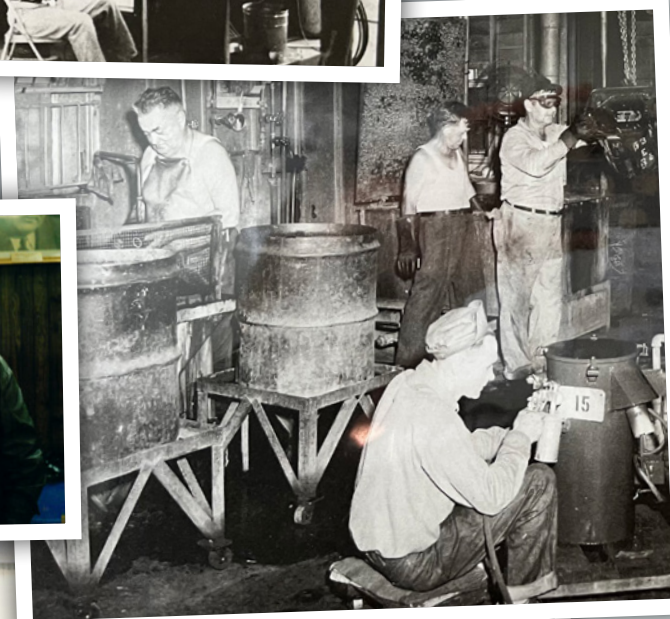
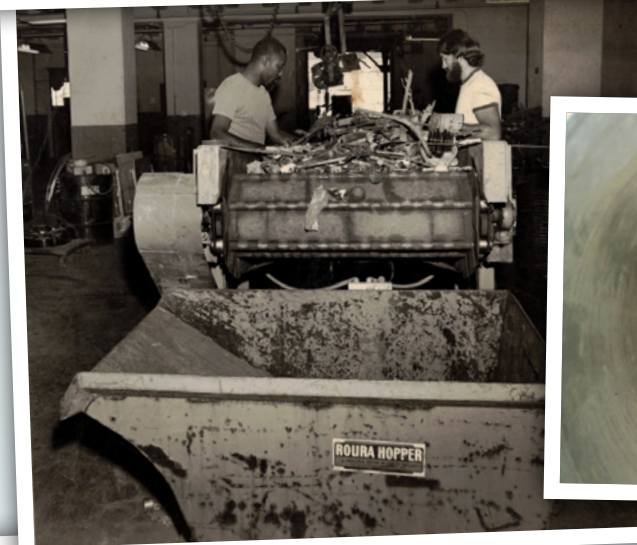
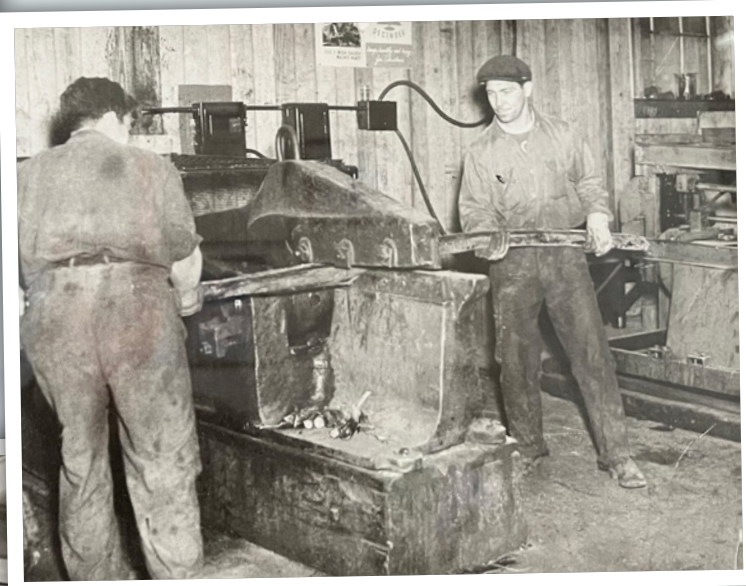
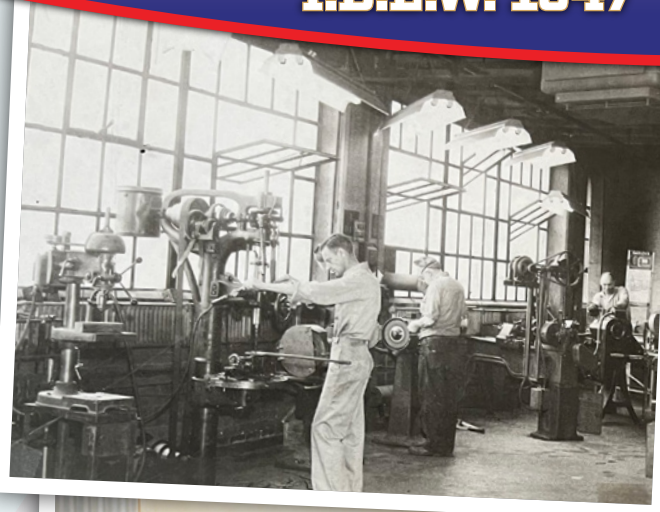


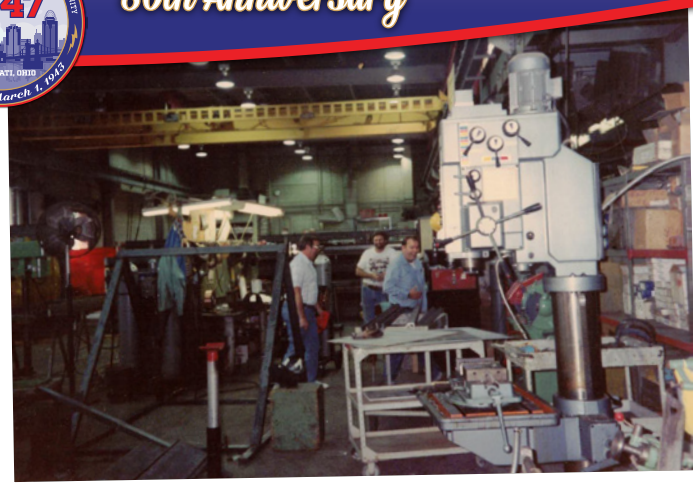
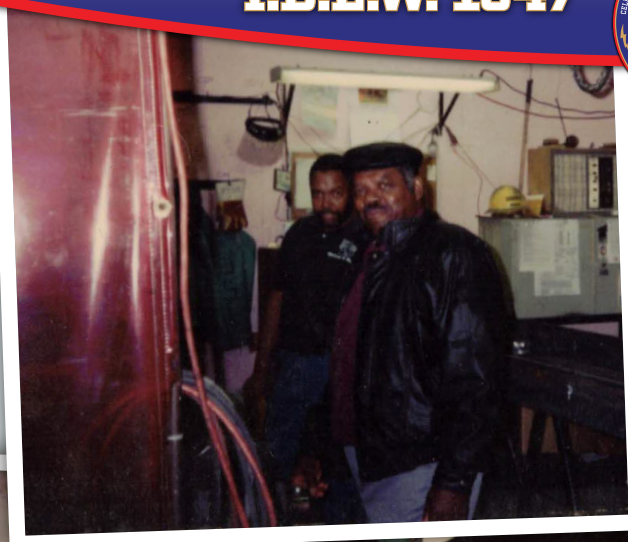
CG&E Front Substation, 1947



CG&E Lockland Substation, 1948













(u)B-1347 Cincinnati, Ohio.
R. S., Ray F. Greiner, 7116 Ohio Ave., Deer Park,
Ohio.
F. S., J. S. Knight, 1601 Brandon Ave., Zone 30.
B. M., J. S. Knight, 1601 Brandon Ave., Zone 30.
Tel., Bechmont 7902J.
Meets at Broth. of Railway Clerks Bldg., Court and
Vine Sts.; 2d and 4th Fri.

First I.B.E.W. Local 1347 Journal Directory listing, 1944

Cincinnati Utility Workers Get Raise

L. U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—Hi Brothers. As this is my initial effort as correspondent for our Local 1347 I hope you'll bear with a short resume. Our Negotiating Committee did a fine job on our contract with the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co. and deserves the plaudits of all members. Besides a substantial raise in all brackets, a better pension plan, plus three weeks vacation for all employees with 20 years or more of service were agreed upon.

Nickolas Krebs was appointed president to replace Lloyd L. Rudy when Rudy was advanced to a supervisory position and all his friends wish him success in his new job.

At the April meeting a moment of silent reverence was asked by president Nick Krebs for Brother Freddy Fessler, recently deceased.

William Richmond, chairman of entertainment has arranged for the local's third annual picnic at Strykers Grove, June tenth. As usual there will be free rides and refreshments for the kiddies and all facilities for family picnics, games and dancing.

Our June ninth meeting was the second consecutive meeting to observe a moment of silent reverence called for recent deceased members. The Brothers' names in this instance were Dan McCarty and John Vaccariello, both of whom passed away since our May meeting.

A committee was appointed to represent Local 1347 in the central labor meetings each month and Mr. James O'Dell was elected to be our delegate to the progress meeting, Roanoke, Virginia, July 22, 1950.

On June 10, our local held its third annual picnic and as usual, thanks to our tireless Picnic Committee and the various officers, it was a great success in every way despite threatening

rain in the morning. The day was beautiful and the weather proved to be perfect for such an event. Strickler's Grove proved to be a beauty spot to match the weather and add to the day's enjoyment. Pony rides, ice cream, drinks and movies were all free for the kiddies. The movies were loaned to us through the good graces of Fred Rauch, vice president, Industrial Relations Department of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company. The gasping sigh of a freshly-emptied half barrel was a common sound throughout the day and far into the night. Merchandise was won frequently on the various wheels of chance, your correspondent being the winner of one beautiful electric clock. A television set was the main door prize, plus various other prizes and Bingo for those who love to make rows with matching cardboard discs.

A blanket invitation by Business Agent Bill Marksberry, to the supervisory staff of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company was accepted by several supervisors and Cliff Keller was seen to win a new toaster on his first try on the merchandise wheel.

EDGAR AMOS, P. S.

August 1950 I.B.E.W. Journal

L. U. NO. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO

Editor: Local Unions B-1347 and 1380 of Cincinnati, Ohio, have been in existence only a short time but are getting stronger and more sure of themselves every day. These locals comprise the majority of the employees in the electrical departments of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company. We are looking forward to an election by the NLRB in the latter part of May which will, we are confident, result in our being certified as the bargaining agent for this group.

Local B-1380 consists of men employed at the Columbia Park plant, located on the Ohio River in the extreme southwestern tip of the state, and the membership of B-1347 is made up of employees of this company scattered over several cities in southwestern Ohio and northern Kentucky.

J. S. KNIGHT, B. M.

May 1944 I.B.E.W. Journal

Anticipate Success In Ohio Negotiations

L. U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—We here at Local Union 1347 are

looking forward to successful negotiations with the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company and the Union Light, Heat and Power Company, which probably will start some time in February. March 31, 1955, is the expiration date of our present wage agreement. We appreciate the help given by the International Vice President's office in the past negotiations and look forward to the same type of assistance in the future.

Unless something of great importance comes up, we have a problem getting a good attendance at our local union meetings. I understand that this is a problem most local unions have. This certainly puts a lot of responsibility on the ones who do attend. We, at Local Union 1347, as well as other local unions have come a long way considering the length of time we have been organized and we would like to have every member take a more active part in maintaining the advancements we have fought so hard to get and also to help us make new advancements in the future.

ALFRED K. SHOFNER, P. S.

March 1955 I.B.E.W. Journal

Cincinnati Committee Prepares Negotiations

L. U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO.—We are going along here getting our Negotiation Committee ready. We have a very good committee selected this time, and we are all going to give them all the help that we can in their efforts to negotiate for members of Local 1347 the best contract possible.

Enclosed are pictures of the Executive Board and some of the officials of Local 1347.

Inasmuch as we have all joined to help each other, we sometimes wonder just what is the best way to go about doing it. One way is to tell a Brother that he has done a good job when you think that he has.

We don't know how many Brothers read, *The Reader's Digest*, but if you do doesn't it seem that they are publishing articles that show only the dark side of the union picture? If they want to be fair about the thing, we feel that they should tell how much the union has helped millions of workers get better working conditions and better wages, and that the union is a joining together of workers to help one another in any way that they can.

ALFRED K. SHOFNER, P.S.

January 1958 I.B.E.W. Journal



News from Cincinnati Power Utility Local

L. U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO — The JOURNAL readers have not heard too much from our local, since our charter was issued and the organization completed. For various reasons, in years past, the press secretary's position has been neglected. However, the present officers feel we should become more active in informing members of our efforts to promote the welfare and interest of our membership, through education, economics, politics and other related fields. So, in the future, we hope to keep you informed from time to time of our local's activities.

As in all locals, we too have many men who are interested in clean, democratic, honest policies in our relationship as members and our dealings with management. We hope to keep our efforts that way; certainly we will fight dishonesty and corruption at any time.

The past officers and committees who have served our Local are many and in reflecting along those lines it would be almost impossible to name all of them and their activities. However, a vote of thanks is in order to all our people who have helped to bring our local this far in our common goal. Our present officers are: Business Manager John Rowland, Assistant Business Manager Charles Bauerlein, President Ed Collins, Vice President and Recording Secretary Lew Sunderman. Brother Collins has not missed a monthly meeting since he became a member, which we think is a record in our group. 'Tis a mark to shoot at for all of us. Business Manager Rowland, in his term of office has helped to improve the character of the local in innumerable ways. It is felt that our group is knit together more tightly through the efforts of many good men.

Power Utility Unions have many problems which may be unfamiliar to you in related fields. We would like to give you now and then an idea as to just what some of those problems are in order to better understand those with whom we are associated.

One item of concern in our field is the fact that in the State of Ohio, there is no State Safety Code covering the Utility Industry in the State. Through our association with the Ohio State Utility Workers Board, an effort is being made to present to the present legislature a proposed Safety Code to protect our workers from electrical dangers encountered daily.

Our group has many problems confronting them now and in the future, particularly those pertaining to automatic equipment and central control operation of power plants, substations and reduced line crews. These problems become larger every day and month in relation to men and their employment. These matters are of concern to all of us and shall affect the individual more as time moves along. We are sure that many of you are encountering the same difficulties, so, if you have any information that may help us, please let us know.

Another problem, which we believe every local has, is the one of "lukewarm" members who never attend their local's meetings, but choose to sit on their rumps and criticize the efforts of those who are trying, to the best of their ability to do the thinking for the entire group. We feel as though many of our own people need enlightenment on the purposes of a local union. This program is to be undertaken by our local in the near future, and we hope that it results in better understanding, improved attendance, and more interest in what is being done to protect our rights and equities in our employment. The problems of the laboring people never end and require constant attention and intelligent decisions in settling the problem involved.

I shall close for the present writing, and would like to leave the following for you to consider. "O God, give us the serenity to accept what cannot be changed, courage to change what should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other." Perhaps some of you remember reading or hearing this short prayer. There is much food for thought in it.

JAMES MARTIN, P.S.



Serious Thought Given To Contract Opening

L. U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO— Some time has elapsed since seeing one of our Local's articles appear in the JOURNAL, so, shall try to give some idea of our activities in recent months and some of our common goals.

At the present time our Negotiating Committee is scheduled to meet with the management of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company, to negotiate on wages, March 15th. Our contract is open this year only on the wage end. We are hopeful of a fair and reasonable increase to improve the economic welfare of our members. Several out-of-town meetings and conferences have been attended by our Business Manager Rowland and delegates during the past few months in an effort to determine the reasonable wage pattern, all of which takes much time and serious thought before decisions are made pertaining to our people's possibilities in wage discussions. I wonder where we would be should we attempt as individuals to bargain with management on wages? The answer of course is quite obvious.

Our president, Brother Ed. Collins recently attended the Regional Utility Conference, which was held at Atlanta, Georgia, Feb. 26th and 27th, in order to give a report to the Local of major problems in the Utility field of the region. At the same time, the Ohio State Conference of the IBEW was held at Columbus, Ohio and attended by our Business Manager Rowland with Brothers Robertson and Stricker as delegates from our Local.

On the local scene there have been meetings in which all labor in the area is interested, the primary one being the scheduled meeting of the Committee on Political Education, with reports of what has been done and what remains to be done in State and National political affairs. This series of meetings was attended by most of the union leaders and members from the entire region. The battle lines are being defined not too far away. On the national level the proposed legislation which all labor is backing is the Forand Bill, which is a social measure with the welfare of 10 million retired people at stake in respect to hospitalization, surgery and medication. As we all know serious illnesses and hospitalization are severe drains on those who are employed at fair wages. Imagine what it must be for those who are trying to

live out their lives on very limited incomes. Surely it is a catastrophe for those whose income is limited. As union members it is our social obligation to others and ourselves to write our various Representatives urging them to approve the Forand Bill, for though we are employed now our day is also coming to go on the retired list.

Again locally was an address by one of the leaders of the Nation of Israel concerning the part unions are playing in the new nation. Also on tap was an address by the Assistant Secretary of Labor, which was attended by both labor and management groups. It is quite evident that unions do play a very important part in the economy of our nation, yet there are those among our people who would have all citizens believe that there are no "clean" unions, that "all of them are corrupt!" Just tain't so!

In recent months the local through its representatives and committees, has been successful in negotiating an upward revision in classification rates ranging from 6 to 14 cents per hour for workers in the maintenance sections of the power plants in our jurisdiction. Those affected were required to merge into one general group, with possible job assignments coming up in any power plant which may have electrical or mechanical failures of equipment. Eighteen months of meetings and discussions occurred before the final details were hammered out and the issue resolved by majority vote of the members affected by this merger. The majority voted to accept the 6-to-14-cent offer made for the additional job duties involved, with portal-to-portal pay for those assigned jobs away from their base employment site. Of course there were and still are some phases of seniority rights being ironed out in a few individual cases.

During the sessions of the 103rd Ohio General Assembly last year, organized labor in the state was instrumental in helping to bring about substantial improvements in two major pieces of labor legislation, namely Supplemental Unemployment Benefit bill and improvements in Industrial Accident Compensation bill. Both of these bills are now on the books and represent substantial improvements and gains to unemployed and injured workers throughout the state. Of course labor was accused of making

the "industrial climate unfavorable for business in Ohio." The secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO State organization has this to say: "The record of the 103rd General Assembly is the best evidence of the effectiveness of political action. It is proof that if the workers elect the right people to represent them, they receive their reward in the form of laws enacted for all and not the privileged few." We are following with interest the records of our state Representatives in order to be better prepared for the coming November elections.

Another item which may be of interest is the inauguration by our local of a monthly newsletter service to every member of the local; in order to keep each member informed of political trends, news of fellow members, accidents, deaths, sports activities of individual members, to give a better understanding of why unions are necessary, constitutional procedures, etc. We hope in time to have a much better informed union membership from this activity.

As press secretary I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the cooperation given to me by President Freeman, Brother Glenn McKinnon, International Representative, Business Manager Rowland, the AFL-CIO, the IBEW Education and Research Department and all the folks involved in forwarding to me all current information pertaining to union activities throughout the country. Without their assistance and helpfulness, our efforts with our newsletter service would be severely hampered. My thanks to all for their interest in our behalf.

JAMES W. MARTIN, P.S.



New Home Acquired By Utility Local

L. U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO — The officers and press secretary of Local 1347 are very happy to announce purchase and acquisition of a large going property which will now be the center of all activities of the local. The opinion of a large majority of members who have now seen our new home is that the purchase is an excellent one for the future welfare of the local.

The property purchased is one that has been operated by a war veterans organization which dates back to World War I. The building consists of storage rooms on the third floor, caretaker's apartment on the second floor, office space on the first floor at front of building. Immediately behind the offices and cloakrooms is a

very large meeting hall completely equipped with tables, chairs, fluorescent lighting, amplifying loud speaker system, space heaters and other items. This hall is estimated to permit attendance of approximately 1000 members in seating capacity. Behind and to the side of the meeting hall is additional space of club rooms which may be utilized for various smaller gatherings of the local, such as stewards' meetings, Executive Board, Board of Directors and similar smaller groups. Some idea of the size of the property may be gained by the fact that there are three separate heating systems used to maintain adequate heat in the entire structure. Two complete and separate sanitary facilities are installed in this location. All in all the property is ideal for our needs and has numerous advantages from a viewpoint of rental possibilities to other organizations.

Under incorporation laws of the state the legal papers are prepared, under which a Board of Directors will govern and manage the property under the name of K.I.O. Inc., (this name taken from the fact that our members live in a three state area of Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.) There are many problems to be resolved by the Board of Directors in the management of the property and grounds, so there will be many meetings of the board in the near future to determine policies for the operation and income from the building.

It is only proper that our able and conscientious Business Manager John Rowland and the many other members interested in obtaining a home for our local be given a vote of thanks for their many efforts in making this dream come true. One person who is not a member but who has rendered yeoman service to the local in various legal ways and matters is Attorney Myron Rudd, who calls the local "my

local," this gentleman has served our local in numerous ways without benefit of just compensation, he has rendered us invaluable legal service in the negotiations and purchase of the above property and will act as the K.I.O. Inc., legal advisor, for which we are very grateful.

In reviewing some of the improvements in the operation of our local during the past three or four years, exclusive of the benefits gained from negotiation of contract, here are some of the following items which are now a standard part of our operation: the inauguration of a walking blood bank program for members, a monthly newsletter service to our 1600 members to keep them informed of local activities, participation in a Union Optical Plan for our members which saves them money on eye glasses, a more active participation in the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, inauguration of a program of giving Bibles instead of flowers when members suffer the loss of loved ones in their family, and of course the purchase of our new home. These outlined programs have developed under the leadership of our business manager.

It is the opinion of the majority of members that services of the Local to the individual member has improved considerably in the past few years and that all is not lost as long as we have interested, sincere and dedicated members striving to improve the local's operations.

Pertaining to the new year, one major problem is the forthcoming negotiations with Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company. Suggestions are now being reviewed relating to improvements in our contract, so at some future time shall try to give all readers a run down on the results of the negotiations.

JAMES W. MARTIN, P.S.

Automation is Hitting Utility Local Hard

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO— Quite a bit of water has gone under the bridge since our last letter for JOURNAL readers. At that time we reported the purchase of a home for our local union, to serve as a meeting place as well as office quarters. I am happy to report plans for use of the building have gradually developed with some income deriving from rental of our facilities to outside organizations during the evening hours and weekends, at times when the local is not holding meetings in the hall. Much is yet to be done to make the property self sustaining, but progress is being made gradually in that direction. Some of our Executive Board members and officers of the local have spent quite a few hours in many evening meetings attempting to manage and solve the problems arising from owning the property. All is done in the interest and welfare of all members of the Local.

I am sorry to report that the automated processes of electrical production and the resultant elimination of jobs on the older generating units in the older plants is now having its effect among our members. Some of our people have been declared an "excess group" with management and local officers attempting to place the affected persons in other positions within the company system. However, in most instances these boys must accept positions with reduced income. As a result our able Business Manager Rowland and his assistant plus various stewards have held innumerable meetings with management trying to iron out the problems involved. Without a union organization I am quite sure some of our people would have been on "the bricks" months ago. The problem of what to do with displaced workers is going to be quite a headache as more and more new automated generating units are built into the system within our jurisdiction.

This year our contract with Cincinnati Gas and Electric was open for negotiations relating to changes in work rules and conditions as well as wages. Our Negotiations Committee had a lengthy series of meetings and discussions with management, with management taking a tougher position than in previous negotiations. However, after a 13-day wrangle which often went into night sessions, an agreement was reached which was reported to the membership in special meetings. As a result of the members approval of the wage offer plus some changes in work conditions, the members received a package increase of 4.25 percent of which the wage increase amounted to 3.6 percent. Again the fact strikes home that without union bargaining rights, where would our people be in individual bargaining with management? It does pay to be a union member! Our International Representative Glenn McKinnon does a yeoman job in assisting our business manager and the negotiating teams in coming up with better contracts. Our interested members appreciate Brother McKinnon's sincere efforts.

The past month of June brought up the nominations of candidates for all the offices of the local, in accordance with Constitutional provisions governing such elections. The nominations were made; the Election Committee saw to it that the ballots were prepared and mailed, the deadline was established and after the proper period of waiting, the tabulation of the returned ballots began. As a result of those returns some changes among the officers of the local take place and the newly-elected officers and Executive Board members will take their obligation of office at our next business meeting.

Brother John Rowland was re-elected business manager for his third term, which breaks a precedent of two-term business managers. Charles Baeuerlin takes office as president of the Local, Paul Geiger as recording secretary, Jack Thornberry as treasurer and "Ronnie" Robertson will serve as vice president.

The following members will serve as the Executive Board officers: William Soden, Stan. Adams, C. McCord, A. Pollwine, Bert. Zimmer, Bob Dumas, George Waite, E. Witt, Chuck Pribble, Jim Martin, Lou Brothers, Bob Doherty, J. Morgan, and Lem. Cochran. Congratulations are in order to these newly-elected officers and a fervent desire to see them work in harmony and cooperation for the welfare of all members, without thought of personal selfish interests.

Also to conform with the Landrum-Griffin Act, the nomination of candidates as delegates to the International Convention took place, with the names of 30 members placed in nominations. Since a majority vote is required and our local is allowed a total of six delegates, the following named members received the highest majority votes. Brothers Bob Dumas, George Woodie, Bert Zimmer, Lou Brothers, with Bob Hessling and Jim Martin tied for the position of fifth delegate. This tie will be resolved by the local's Executive Board. The business manager is of course a delegate by our bylaw provisions.

JAMES MARTIN, P.S.



Utility Local Celebrates Its 20th Birthday

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—December 13, 1963 shall be an evening long remembered by the officers and members of our local. Combined with our regular meeting and annual Christmas Party, we celebrated our 20th Anniversary as an IBEW local union. Chartered March 1, 1943, we took this opportunity to invite back and honor, our International Officers and Representatives, charter members, all past local officers, and some distinguished guests.

We were honored by the presence of our 4th District Vice-President H. B. Blankenship, the Director of Utility Operations of the IBEW Dick Rapattoni, International Representa-

tive Glenn MacKinnon, International Representative James Knight, and International Representative Buck Williamson. Also present were Mr. Fred Rauch, vice president of Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company, Mr. A. Ehrnschwender and Mr. Crosby Smith.

Presented with Loyal Service Awards were International Representative Jim Knight, Brother Carl Shephard, Brother Bob Dumas and past Local Union President Paul Doherty.

The highlight of the evening and the finest thing our local union has ever done, was the presenting of a

cash purse to Brother Loren Garrison. Brother Loren Garrison was a line-man in our local union who was seriously injured by a fall from a pole. The response by our membership to this worthy cause was certainly in the true meaning of Brotherhood.

Refreshments were served by our fine Entertainment Committee to the overflow crowd. The large turnout was deeply satisfying to the officers of the local union.

Our thanks to Paul Aylward, Miami Fort Station, for the fine photography job.

PRESS SECRETARY.

April 1964 I.B.E.W. Journal

Local Negotiates Guaranteed Wage

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—Local Union 1347 is happy to join her sister locals in reporting its news through the JOURNAL after too long an absence.

The last article submitted to the JOURNAL, about our 20th anniversary, was written by our President Paul Geiger and appeared in the April, 1964 issue.

The same month we ended the contract we had worked under for the previous three years. At long last, the lethargy of our local's membership left it and we had a good attendance at our monthly meetings for several months. (Remember, meetings are held the second Friday of each month.)

I wish to thank our Negotiating Committee of Brothers Al Adrick, Bob Doherty, Bob Dumas, Jack Myers, President Paul Geiger and Business Manager John Rowland for a fine effort which brought a contract that netted us a million and a quarter dollars, spread over the contract's three-year span in wages and fringe benefits. Other highlights of our 1964-67

contract are guarantees of six of our seven paid holidays and 52 weeks of 40 hours pay. *Local 1347 members are the only utility workers in the state now assured of 40-hours pay each week for the next three years.*

Local Union 1347 has made some tremendous strides toward bettering the working conditions and increasing the wages of its 1,600 members in its 21 years of existence. Yet, our union is only as strong as each individual member, like the links in a chain, and it needs your individual participation, encouragement and whole-hearted support, if we are to make any gains in the future.

In just three short months, the wage section of the contract will be open. What do you want? A nickel? A dime? Or are you one of the increasing number of union members who will insist on tax-free fringe benefits in place of wages? Let your feelings be known. Attend these crucial forthcoming meetings and have a voice in the outcome of your own future. It is *your* wages that will be discussed. "A man without a voice is a man of any acceptance."

KENNETH A. BOTZUNG, P.S.

April 1965 I.B.E.W. Journal



Cincinnati Local Organizes Advance Deposit Blood Club

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—Local union 1347 is proud to join her sister locals in reporting once again. We wish to keep our members informed and to acquaint the other locals with our happenings, benefits and progress.

This article will be devoted to an explanation of local 1347's Advance Deposit Blood Donor Club.

Less than a year ago we were struggling along with our first blood donor club. We seemed to always need donors but never got them. Reasons, I won't mention, were used as excuses for not donating to a Brother who was in dire need of units of blood. While our Donor Club was failing, our interest in it was lagging.

At this point Mr. Geisen of the University of Cincinnati Blood Transfusion Service called our local. Mr. Geisen's offer to affiliate with the U.C.B.T.S. was promptly accepted. Rules for our A.D.B.D. club were drawn up and accepted by our membership after considerable thought and discussion at several meetings.

The purpose of the A.D.B.D. club is to provide through a blood donor service, replacement blood for members and their beneficiaries.

Members 59 years and over and retired members holding an honorary withdrawal card are eligible for benefits while being excused from donating.

The U.C.B.T.S. can send or credit blood almost anywhere in the continental United States with rare types of blood available.

Membership was opened February 15, 1964. On September 24, 1964 the mobile unit of the University of Cincinnati visited our local's hall and 83 pints of blood were deposited at that time. We had withdrawn 24 units from our account before ever depositing one. We thank the University of Cincinnati for dealing with us in a more than fair manner. I'm glad to say that at this time we are 27 units ahead in our account with approximately 33 per cent of our membership participating.

The chairman of administration of our club is our union secretary, Carol Steffen. Carol is the one to call if blood is needed or other problems arise. The sincere thanks of all the club members are extended to Carol for the fine job she is doing by keeping all the A.D.B.D.C. records in spite of the burden of other tasks she handles daily to help our union office run smoothly.

If you are not a member of A.D.B.D. club, see your master steward for information as to all the benefits and how to apply for membership. Do it today.

Recently a member of our brotherhood was killed working a tower line as a trainee. This brother and I had worked together for the previous year out of Brecon Overhead Headquarters and had become good friends. When writing my first article for the JOURNAL I asked this brother if he knew of a way to shake the members into recognizing their responsibility in attending union meeting, voting and otherwise advancing the union cause. His words—"A man without a voice is a man of any acceptance." Thanks, Brother Larry Schweinefus. May the Lord be with you until we meet again.

KENNETH A. BOTZUNG, P.S.

August 1965 I.B.E.W. Journal

A First for 1347— Father Obligates Son

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—February 10, 1967, was a night that will long be remembered in the history of L.U. 1347. At the February meeting, "a first" happened in our 24 years of existence. A 39-year-old IBEW member gave the obligation to his 18-year-old son.

Frank Wade, the father, started with the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company in 1944. He has been a member of L.U. 1347 almost from its inception—23 of its 24 years. When not working at Miami Fort generating station as an operator, he is busy serving as a member of our 1967 Negotiating Committee, or fulfilling his office as an Executive Board member for his second consecutive two-year term.

Terry Wade, his son, and a recent high school graduate, has just seven months with the same company. In his short tenure, Terry has progressed to Valley View Line Headquarters where he is in training as an apprentice lineman (Lineman "C").

At the February meeting, we saw the father obligating the son to carry on the work of the IBEW, and our eyes grew a bit misty as we realized how quickly the years have passed and that too soon our own sons will come of age.

We are extremely pleased with the way our Blood Donor Club is working. We have been a member of the University of Cincinnati Blood Transfusion Service for four years. In another article, I described how the UCBTS works, especially its ability to use all donors and make even the rare types of blood immediately available.

Recently, here in Cincinnati, there was a dire shortage of whole blood at all the hospitals. Each donor group was asked to add to their blood accounts. L.U. 1347 responded with 90 units when the UCBTS Blood Mobile visited our union hall. I was privileged to donate at this time, having used nine units when my eldest daughter underwent successful open-heart surgery in November, 1966.

KENNETH A. BOTZUNG, P.S.

June 1967 I.B.E.W. Journal



Local 1347 Celebrates 25th Anniversary

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—On Sunday, August 4th, Local Union 1347 celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a picnic and all-day outing at Le Sourdsville Lake (a local amusement park) for members and their families. There were rides for the kiddies and free drinks for everyone.

Several nice prizes were given away, such as transistor radios and a portable TV. Among the winners of the radios were: Charles LeBare, Ronnie Caproni, Duane Neu, Larry Maschmeyer, Jack Thornberry, Frank Schnur, Bob Turner, Lou Amshoff, Jack Goetz, Bo Cordell, Roy Hillenbrand, Glenn Combs, C. A. Kelley, Norm Anderson. The grand prize winner of the portable TV was Jim Ison.

Everyone had a fine time, and since this was such a success, I'm sure we'll be repeating this affair in a few years. Thanks to the hard working Picnic Committee who helped to make all this possible.

While I am writing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the locals which gave us a helping hand last year while we were on strike. Your assistance was greatly appreciated and we would like to extend a special thanks to Local 648, Hamilton, Ohio, and Local 82, Dayton, Ohio, for the great job they did in providing work for so many of our members.

After many years of fighting, Ohio labor finally got rid of Frank Lausche, the Democrat who voted against labor almost every chance he had. We have in his place the hard-fighting young Cincinnati, John Gilligan. Mr. Gilligan is a true friend of labor, as shown in his record from the time he was elected to the City Council in Cincinnati, on through his term in Congress. But the battle is only half won. Mr. Gilligan must now defeat William Saxbe in November. It is the duty of everyone of us to get out and vote in November. Remember—Vote for labor. Vote for Gilligan!

JOHN MITCHELL, P.S.

October 1968 I.B.E.W. Journal

Cincinnati Local Installs Officers

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—Recently, we held the installation of our officers. Re-elected were President Paul Geiger, Vice President Ronald Robertson, Secretary Glenn Combs, and Business Manager John Rowland. George Waite is the newly-elected treasurer.

Re-elected to the Executive Board were Charles Lankford, Raymond Ott, Glendon Smith, Clyde Gutzwiller, Norman Anderson, Charles McKinney, Ronald Caproni, and Roger Hodges. Newly-elected to the Board were James Kirchner, John Mitchell, Gene Bicknell, Thomas Broering, Stanley Pope, and Harry Balzer, Jr.

John Rowland, Paul Geiger, Jack Thornberry, Ronald Robertson, Glenn Combs, and Borden Cordell were elected as delegates to the 1970 IBEW Convention.

Final preparations for this year's picnic are now being made. It will again be held at Le Sourdsville Lake on Sunday, August 10, 1969. This year's outing promises to be bigger and better than last year's. We are looking for another big turnout.

JOHN MITCHELL, P.S.

October 1969 I.B.E.W. Journal

John Rowland Honored; Negotiations Under Way

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—As the new scribe of Local 1347, I extend a warm "hello" to all Brothers out there in "Union Country." In the future, I hope to be in touch by type, whenever possible, in pairing our views of current events.

Recently, a testimonial dinner was held in honor of John S. Rowland, past business manager of our local. John held this position from 1957 to 1973 and was voted the well-deserved honor of Business Manager Emeritus upon his early retirement in January, due to ill health. Brother Glenn Combs, past recording secretary, presented him with a plaque for his lifelong title.

Because of Brother John's untiring and devoted efforts to make the IBEW better today than yesterday, and stronger tomorrow than today, he will be missed by the International as well as the local and district offices. We almost lost John, but due to the grace of God and modern medicine, he will be able to enjoy the sun and relaxation Florida offers.

It is hard to put down on paper what one feels for our friend and Brother, but I know that our local would not be where it is today had it not been for John's leadership and guidance. Among his many friends attending the affair were International Representatives Lucian Bledsoe and Paul Witte. Brother John and wife Sally, here's wishing you the best of everything. You both deserve it. We will be down to see you when we can, so keep the fishing gear handy.

We are very fortunate to have an able replacement for business manager in the person of John W. Mitchell. He is young, energetic, and already has shown this local the wisdom the job requires. Brother Mitchell was the Executive Board chairman and member of numerous committees and delegations. Other Brothers appointed to office are Louis G. Amshoff, Assistant Business Manager; and Roger Shields, Kenneth Miller, James Day, and Carl Bungenstock, Executive Board members. Brother Ted Adams was elected Executive Board chairman.

We sent a special "get well" to President Paul R. Geiger, who has been ill and is convalescing at home. Brother

June 1973 I.B.E.W. Journal



Memorial Plaque Unveiled

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—A memorial plaque honoring our union Brothers who lost their lives while performing their work was unveiled at our August meeting. The plaque will be hung in the hall as a lasting reminder of our departed Brothers.

Our COPE Committee has been very active and we would like to thank them for their work to get members to register and vote. Our local has decided to push for more membership involvement in the political area this year. We hope every member votes in this election year.

We have a new university in our area, which has just gained university status—formerly Northern Kentucky State College. We have a crew of men working there now, installing a new substation to provide power for the new university.

Due to an early retirement plan offered by the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company our local will lose 50 members. Things are really tightening up in the utility area. These members will not be replaced with new employees.

The oldest power plant in our system, the West End Station, will be closed. We do have two new power plants being constructed at the present time. One is a nuclear plant and the other a coal-fired plant.

JOHN KRUSE, P.S.

July 1976 I.B.E.W. Journal

B.M. Goes to International; Contract Settled

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—John Mitchell, our business manager, was appointed to the International staff April 1, but remained with our local until our contract was settled which finally came about May 1.

We would like to congratulate John and wish him good luck in his new job. Tim O'Leary will fill the unexpired term of business manager.

After numerous meetings with the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company and the help of a mediator our Negotiating Committee was able to bring back a new contract for the members to vote on. Our old contract expired April 1, but our 1,600 members continued to work without a contract as long as the union and the Company continued to talk.

In closing this newsletter we want to thank John for his work with our local, and let him know he is always welcome.

JOHN KRUSE, P.S.

December 1976 I.B.E.W. Journal



Charges Filed With NLRB For New Job Classification

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—Local 1347 has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board against the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company due to a recently created job classification of premise mechanic.

The main question at hand is who should represent these people. The company has given the jobs to the Gas division which is represented by the United Steel Workers of America.

The IBEW stands to loose 25 jobs or more, if the action is not settled in our favor. We have gone to the NLRB for unit clarification in order to avoid conflicting arbitration and to resolve the issue in an orderly way, also to maintain our good relations with our USW of A union brothers.

The initial hearing has been held already and the final briefs have been filed so all that remains is the decision of the board.

There will be more on this issue in future articles:

Severe weather put a real icing on our annual Christmas party. Record low temperatures and iced streets kept most members at home. But the brave ones who did make it were rewarded with plenty of good food and beverages and many door prizes for their effort.

Remember to keep your blood bank dependent list up to date and encourage our new members to enroll also.

TIM O'LEARY, P.S.

February 1978 I.B.E.W. Journal

New Contract, New Linemen, New Plant Work for Local 1347

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—Over 1,600 members of Local 1347 work for the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company and the Union Light, Heat, and Power Company of Kentucky.

In July, 1979, the membership ratified a new contract and averted a strike. Not since 1967 has the local been on strike.

As of September, 1979, George Waite has filled the job of president, and as of March, 1980, Robert Hauck, the job of business manager. They will serve until the next election.

Training crews will soon start for future linemen, which means more union jobs and more union help for the line crews.

While union builders are constructing the Zimmer Nuclear Power Plant in Moscow, Ohio, the future looks good for more union jobs for this local.

It would be appreciated if the Brothers and Sisters of this fine local would drop me a line, c/o the business office, with news, pictures, and names they would like to see in the *Journal*. Let me know about it.

RAYMOND S. BROXTERMAN, P.S.

July 1980 I.B.E.W. Journal

Election Held in Local 1347; Members Work on Storm Damage

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—The May meeting went as usual, with a typical turnout. We managed to get enough members to run for office. Our election was held in June and the Brothers and Sisters realize they make up the union and make things happen in their local.

We did discuss the accident at Miami Fort Station in which some Brothers were involved. They checked out of the hospital and were able to return to work not long afterward. This local and OSHA are working to find out what happened in order to prevent future accidents of this nature.

As of May 12, the training crew started work at Brecon and Covington Overhead Districts. The crews will have one company supervisor and five union Brothers on each crew. The last time they had training crews was about three years ago. The members of the crews are D. Rumble, D. Binford, S. Hill, S. McCloud, R. Sizemore, D. Krutzhamp, R. Tallman, R. Steward, R. Ayer, and K. Berling. We congratulate these young men and wish them every success in their future as linemen.

Thanks to Jim Howard for representing our local at the AFL-CIO Union Industries Show. The show was held at the Cincinnati Convention Center May 23 to May 28.

On Monday, June 2, 1980, at 5:00 p.m., an unexpected storm struck the Cincinnati, Reading, and Middletown areas and parts of Kentucky area, with line crews held over and troublemen ready for any problem that may have arisen. The reports started coming in. Quickly the line crews reached their various destinations. With wires down, poles hit, and transformers out, it was easy to see that a long night was ahead. It seemed that most of the damage occurred 30 miles north of Cincinnati. Then came reports to send trucks to Wyoming, Lockland, Reading, Amberly Village, Madeira, and Kenwood areas. A funnel cloud set down ripping off roofs, overturning trucks, toppling trees, and snapping power lines.

An estimated 20 persons were injured, and the Red Cross said many persons were struck by flying glass or suffered shock. More than 50 buildings, homes, and businesses in Reading were damaged by the storm. With power lines down and crews already tired from their day's work, the men worked through the night and by the next day were still going up and down poles, hanging transformers, hooking up services, and stringing wires. By late Tuesday evening power was restored in most areas and by Wednesday all power was restored.

With strong unity and the ability to adjust to the elements before them, a stronger and better brotherhood is ahead. Thanks to the men from City, Covington, Florence, Oakley, Little Miami, Hamlet, Hartwell, Western Hills, Fairfield, Todd Hunter, and Brecon Overheads.

Thanks to the men in all the power plants and substations and to all the Brothers and Sisters who at times never receive recognition. A job well done! And a job all of you can be proud of. Sometimes when you work for a company, the little man is forgotten but this local is very proud of all its Brothers and Sisters.

Until next month, please make every effort to attend your union meetings.

R. BROXTERMAN, P.S.

September 1980 I.B.E.W. Journal

New Project Will Employ Some Local 1347 Members

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—When the East Bend Power Station opens soon it will employ topnotch union members like Rick Smith, Doug Baker, Doug Reed, Matt Kloeker, Dan Gibson, Steve Gehler, and Mark House in the maintenance section. This fossil-fuel plant, in the Cincinnati Gas and Electric System, covers over 1,700 acres and at present employs over 80 union members from this local.

Thanks to all the members who turned out for the annual Christmas party. And thanks again for the loyal support from the men from W. C. Beckjord Power Station and the Fairfield and Little Miami Overheads.

If any of you members have any ideas or changes for the next contract, please write them down and bring them to the next union meetings. Keep in mind that on March 31, 1982, our contract expires. Also, don't forget to start saving in case of a strike.

It would be appreciated if the Brothers and Sisters of this fine local would drop me a line, c/o the business office, with news and names they would like to see in the *Journal*. If you have any pictures or news, let me know about it.

See you at the next union meeting.

R. BROXTERMAN, P.S.

February 1981 I.B.E.W. Journal

Life-Saving Awards Presented to Two Brothers

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—On December 12, at our local union Christmas party, the highest award the IBEW has to offer, the Life-Saving Award Plaque, was presented to Brothers George Mullins, Jr., and Walter Getz, for saving the life of Brother James Carpenter, who was injured August, 1979.

In a letter from Mr. Charles H. Pillard and Mr. Ralph A. Leigon these paragraphs were written:

"It is with great pleasure that your International Office sends you two Life-Saving Plaques to be presented to Brothers George Mullins, Jr. and Walter Getz, members of your local who have performed the greatest service which man can perform on this earth, the saving of a human life.

"Will you present the Life-Saving Awards to Brothers Mullins and Getz with our congratulations and our gratitude? And may we extend our congratulations and appreciation to Local 1347, the local which, with the above awards, has sponsored nine members whose quick thinking and courage preserved the life of a human being."

By the way, the turnout for the Christmas party was great. And for those of you who missed it, or for some reason couldn't come, here is a list of prize winners.

TV set winners were Harry Thieman and Ed Brady, with Dave Yingling receiving the chainsaw. The ham and turkey winners were Jeff Marx, Ken Schalk, Ray McClure, Bob Vaughn, Harold Mullins, Fred Shatzer, Jim Sears, Dave Barbro, and Monte Utter. Smaller prize winners were Dean Bryant, Bill Ray, Lloyd Andrews, Tom Moffett, Dan Borke, Claude Brown, and Terry Burge.

A special thanks to all who were on the Entertainment Committee, and volunteers for the Christmas party.

Until next month, please make every effort to attend your local union meetings.

R. BROXTERMAN, P.S.

March 1981 I.B.E.W. Journal



Brothers Save a Life; Members Reach Safety Goal Again

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—Instrumental in saving a life after an eight-car chain reaction accident are Brothers R. Bauer, C. D. Bryan, and D. Smith. This local is especially proud to have these men as part of our Bargaining Unit. Their fast action and knowledge of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation provided time for more advanced medical treatment. We commend these men for their life-saving efforts.

Just a reminder to all the Brothers and Sisters of this fine local: your union meetings will be held the second Friday of each month at 8:00 p.m. The union hall is located at 4100 Colerain Avenue.

Congratulations to the Electric Production Department of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company. As a union member of this local I wish to thank all of you for your fine safety record. Also, thank you for showing how safe union Brothers and Sisters can be.

Recently, the Electric Production Department went over the one million man-hours worked without a lost-time injury. This is the third time in three years they have reached this point. The W. C. Beckjord Station, within a few weeks, will reach their own one million man-hours worked without a lost-time injury. This is a special pride and high accomplishment for each of you. Once again thanks and congratulations on this excellent record.

President George Waite announced that the members of the 1982 Negotiating Committee will be Brothers Tim O'Leary, James Howard, Nick Greco, George Waite, James Bentley, and Mike Gilligan. Wishes for a long and happy retirement are extended to Brothers Fred Heuer, Joseph Dardeen, Jack Anderson, Eugene Bailey, and George Hellmann. Congratulations to Brother James Mannix on his appointment to the "E" Board. He is at the East Bend Power Station. All members of this local extend best wishes for a happy marriage to our press secretary, Ray Broxterman.

R. BROXTERMAN, P.S.

August 1981 I.B.E.W. Journal

Local 1347 Christmas Party a Success

L.U. 1347, CINCINNATI, OHIO—Congratulations to all the winners at the 1981 Christmas party. A special thanks goes to Harry Thiemann, Bob Freese, Tim O'Leary, Nick Greco, George Waite, and Mike Gilligan for the planning and making sure everything went right at this year's party.

The major prizes were given to F. Heuer, who received a microwave oven, a stereo set went to D. Puthoff, an IBEW watch to D. Oppelt, fishing rod and reel to R. Fraley, and a clock radio to E. Poe.

I have had in the past the great honor to inform everyone who reads these articles of our members who have received the IBEW Life-Saving Award plaque from the I.O.

Well, once again, a Brother of ours received the Life-Saving Award plaque. It gives me a special pride inside to tell all of you that Brother Robert J. Schwaeble has received this award.

The total of awards is now 13 members, whose quick thinking and courage saved the life of a human being. Congratulations and thanks to all of you.

New changes to look forward to this year in our local include the following: a larger and newly surfaced parking lot, more acceptable appearance for rentals of our hall, general maintenance around the hall, and plans for a union picnic in July.

As we all know our contract expires March 31 of this year. I know that a lot of rumors have been going around about what might happen, or what has happened in the past.

Well, this is an altogether different leadership we have. If you hear a rumor, or have any question about our contract, call the union hall. Only non-union ideas will cause you to believe rumors. The business manager and his assistants have the answers, so find out first hand from them.

Finally, stick together. I know the economy is tight, but if we stick together, we can come up with a good contract.

See all of you at our next meeting.

RAY JAY, P.S.

March 1982 I.B.E.W. Journal

Local 1347 Ratifies Three-Year Contract

L.U. 1347 (u), CINCINNATI, OHIO—We have a new three-year contract with raises of 8½ percent, 7 percent, and 7 percent. By 1983, employees with 15 years of service will get up to four weeks of vacation. Our meal allowance will be up to \$4.50 by 1984. Wow! We get one paid personal day off work per year. There is an increase in rest time from four to six hours before reporting back to work during trouble or extended work periods. By 1984, the Transportation Departments will receive \$90 a year for tool allowance. Ninety percent of our hospital, medical, and dental for the term of the contract will be paid by the Company.

We have almost 1,800 union Brothers and Sisters who are affected by these high points of our contract. The vote was about 848 for and about 320 against. I wonder what the other 600-some people were thinking about.

Until next month, stick together and I'll see you all at our union meetings.

R. B., P.S.

June 1982 I.B.E.W. Journal

Contract Expires in April; Business Manager Very Busy

L.U. 1347 (u), CINCINNATI, OHIO—Two very important notes: 1. The Local 1347 Christmas Party will be December 15 from noon till 8:00 p.m. with a short meeting before. There will be plenty of food and prizes, and all members are invited. 2. Remember, April 1, 1985, our contract expires. If anyone has any changes, additions or subtractions from our present contract, write them down and give them to one of the officers of the local.

By the way, here's a little information on our business manager, Michael Gilligan. He is making major strides to improve union-management relations. He has also improved communications between the officers and stewards of our local, and he publishes a newsletter each month to keep the membership informed on various issues that affect them on and off the job. Also, he is dedicated to serving and protecting the rights of each member and was the driving force to purchase and install the computer to assist in the various functions associated with the local union office.

Mike is active in the Cincinnati AFL-CIO, Ohio AFL-CIO, Kentucky AFL-CIO and a member of the Conference Committee for the Ohio River Valley Committee on Occupational Safety and Health.

At this time I also want to thank these fellow Brothers who helped with the press secretary job: David Barbro, David Sturgeon, Robert Schooler, William Bingle, Timothy O'Leary and Nicholas Greco.

I want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And please keep "Christ" in Christmas.

RAY JAY, P.S.

December 1984 I.B.E.W. Journal

Members Rescue Worker; Install Special Cable

L.U. 1347 (u), CINCINNATI, OHIO—Four members of Local 1347 working at the Miami Fort Station assisted a fallen worker, from another company, when he fell into a barge and sustained head, shoulder, and ankle injuries. Brothers John Williams, Paul Ingersoll, Dave Clifton, and Terry Ochs administered first aid and assisted the injured man from barge to shore. The pilot of the Shawnee summoned the life squad and the worker was later transported to a local hospital where he was listed in satisfactory condition. We commend the fast thinking and courageous efforts of these individuals.

A 138-KVA underground cable, first of its kind in the United States, is being installed in Cincinnati, Ohio, by members of Local 1347. More than 140,000 conductor feet of cable will be installed. It will occupy an underground duct system that formerly held a 69,000-volt cable.

Brothers L. Franzen, T. Hardin, J. Hill, F. Litkenhaus, and R. Johnson were sent to Helsinki, Finland, for special hands-on training to develop necessary skills needed to splice and install this cable. They have completed 44 splices out of a total of 126. Every splice from start to finish will take about two days because of the unique procedure and precautions that have to be taken during the splicing process.

These brothers are the only men in the United States that are experienced in this process. We are extremely proud of these fine union Brothers.

RAY JAY, P.S.

January 1984 I.B.E.W. Journal

Local's Baseball Team Wins Championship

L.U. 1347 (u), CINCINNATI, OHIO—This year the local's baseball team was very successful winning their first regular season league championship. They are now in a postseason tournament. Congratulations to all the team members and to Managers Mike Tscheiner and Dave Seng for their hard work.

The Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council held its second Annual Picnic at Old Coney Island on the banks of the Ohio River. This year's weather was perfect. All who attended had a good time, especially Executive Board member Ed Brady's daughter Mary Shannon who won a \$25 door prize. She was a very happy little girl.

The local's baseball team participated in the All-Union Team Tournament, and it made quite a showing by going to the semifinals before losing to the eventual champions—the UAW team.

Assistant Business Manager Nick Greco presented a retirement watch to Warren Boseke at Fairfield Overhead. Brother Warren became a member of Local 1347 in 1945. The local presents an IBEW watch to all members with 35 years or more of continuous membership. We extend to Brother Warren our best wishes for a long and happy retirement, and also to the following Brothers preparing for retirement: Alfred Duell, Leroy Maloney, George Mullins and Ernest Hull.

RAY JAY, P.S.

December 1985 I.B.E.W. Journal



Members Complete Repairs At Beckjord Facility

L.U. 1347 (u), CINCINNATI, OHIO—Local members at the Beckjord generating facility successfully completed repairs on the No. 3 air heater. This type of repair was a first-time occurrence for these members. Considerable amounts of welding and cutting in addition to other related factors consumed over 5,000 manhours throughout the outage.

On November 4 removal of the baskets began, and it was also determined that additional work would have to be performed. Rising to the occasion, these members began a 10-hour, six-day workweek and completed the job as scheduled on January 12. Their performance in making these repairs as well as involvement in preplanning of the job resulted in improved efficiency and extended the life of the air heater for the next 30 years.

The crew members involved were Brothers D. Davidson, D. Morgan, M. Minnix, H. Utter, J. Carr, L. Caudill, M. Boone, M. May, G. Koester, G. Kincaid, S. Bradford, R. Davidson, T. Schenz, G. Colonel, C. Hogan, G. Reeves, G. Davidson, M. Smith, D. Hildebrandt, T. Dufau, R. Stobart, M. Perry, T. Gilpin, M. Beahr, and C. Quehl. Assistance was provided by other local members as it was needed during the project.

Training and education in our local continues to grow as evidenced by the recent graduation of senior union counselors and workers' compensation representatives. Union counselors provide knowledge of services and organizations in the community for health, welfare, unemployment, consumer protection, and other services. Workers' compensation representatives have basic knowledge of procedures for filing claims and the criteria needed for meeting claim demands. It must be noted that their training does not qualify them for all phases of the complicated workers' compensation system; therefore, it's recommended that the local be contacted with regard to the handling and filing of any claim. The recent graduates of these classes are Brothers Bennie Cosby, Tim O'Leary, Greg Bennett, Jim Kelly, Bill Gregory, Nick Greco, and Dave Barbro.

(Thanks to Dave Barbro, recording secretary, for supplying this *Journal* article.)

RAY JAY, P.S.

May 1986 I.B.E.W. *Journal*

CONTRACT RATIFIED

L.U. 1347 (u), CINCINNATI, OHIO—Our contract with Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co. has been ratified. The three-year agreement included raises each year with improvements in retirement, vacation and other benefits. The Negotiating Committee extends thanks to all the members for their support and concern, and for the record turnout for voting. The local thanks Int. Rep. Paul Witte for his assistance during negotiations.

Our local formed a Retirees Club; the club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the union hall. The officers elected are Pres. Charles Baeuerlin, Vice Pres. Ronald Robertson, Sec.-Treas. Vic Lehmkuhl; the Executive Board includes Clyde Gutzwiller, Lou Amshoff and James Sizemore. They have been supporting themselves with raffles.

John Gregory was selected to the Executive Board to fill Steve Feldhaus' unexpired term. Congratulations, John. Good luck, Steve, on your new position as councilman.

Remember, membership meetings are the second Friday of each month at 8 p.m.

GREGG BENNETT, P.S.

July 1988 I.B.E.W. *Journal*



LOCAL INTRODUCES NEW OFFICERS

L. U. 1347 (u), CINCINNATI, OHIO—In September Mike Gilligan became business manager, and Steve Feldhaus became assistant business manager. Bro. Gene Sharp was selected as the new recording secretary. Three new Executive Board members were chosen in October: Jim Kelly, Underground; Bob Schooler, Electric System Operations; and Gregg Bennett, Miami Fort Station. Former Bus. Mgr. Nick Greco was named International Representative to the Fourth District Office in September.

Our local extends best wishes for a happy retirement to Lou Amshoff. Lou has served our local in many capacities including as business manager.

—In an effort to better acquaint our membership with its officers, we will periodically profile our local officers in our "Local Lines" articles. This month we introduce Pres. Tim O'Leary who is from the Substation Construction, ET&DC Department. Tim has been a steward, committee member, recording secretary, business manager and a delegate. Tim was a recipient of the John S. Rowland Award in 1987.

Remember the membership meeting on the second Friday of the month at 8 p.m.

GREGG BENNETT, P.S.

January 1989 I.B.E.W. *Journal*

MEMBERS HELP TO RESTORE POWER

L.U. 1347 (u), CINCINNATI, OH—There was a fire on Unit 8 at Miami Fort Station. The Brothers and Sisters who are members of the Fire Brigade extinguished the fire and saved lives and property damage before the local fire department arrived. Greg Mack received an award of merit from the Ohio Electric Utility Institute for assisting Mary Jo Lippert from the fire.

When Hurricane Hugo damaged the electric system in September, 42 members assisted Duke Power Co. in restoring power in the Charleston area. Our members helped restore service with a work ethic and attention to safety which brought praise from officials of Duke Power. When one of the earliest snowstorms in area history occurred in the fall, 150,000 customers were without electric service. Many members worked 16-hour days until the last service was restored.

Int. Rep. Nick Greco conducted an eight-hour Stewards Training Course for the officers and master stewards of the local. The class covered legal rights and responsibilities as well as IBEW history, structure and organization.

Mike Gilligan, Bob Hansmann, Dave Campbell, Tim O'Leary, Ken Gross and Gregg Bennett represented the local at a meeting with CG&E concerning PUCO and Coast Guard regulations which are coming into effect concerning our members—a lot of these regulations pertained to drug testing.

The annual Christmas Party was held on Dec. 9 with 220 people in attendance. The retirees had games to raise funds for their club. Canned foods and cash were collected to be distributed to three members who are out of benefits.

On Jan. 12 the meeting time changed to 7 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. We hope this change will make it more convenient for our members to attend the meetings regularly.

GREGG BENNETT, P.S.

March 1990 I.B.E.W. *Journal*



NEW AGREEMENT ACHIEVED

L.U. 1347 (u), CINCINNATI, OH—The union and Cincinnati Gas and Electric have reached an agreement to work together on a drug education program. We have always wanted a drug-free workplace. As part of this agreement, the union has lifted its boycott of the We Care Program; and the company won't place undercover agents in our bargaining unit for the term of the contract.

The membership voted in March on a dues increase. The increase can insure that the services being provided are maintained and can acquire other services, such as implementing a new employee orientation program. We will also have contract negotiations in 1991; the same year of the International Convention which will be extremely costly to the local.

The local has been well-represented at area labor classes. The members have attended classes on steward training, arbitration, contract negotiations, workers' compensation, union threats, union counseling and labor history. The change in meeting times seems to be helping—attendance has risen. This is your organization; it can only be as effective as you help it to be.

GREGG BENNETT, P.S.

May 1990 I.B.E.W. Journal

OFFICERS ELECTED

L.U. 1347 (u,ees&em), CINCINNATI, OH—On June 10, our local elected the following officers: Pres. Tim O'Leary, Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Jeff Conner, Vice Pres. Bob Hansmann, Treas. Gregg Bennett and Rec. Sec. James Harmon. Executive Board members are Bob Pope, Elbert Bryant, Dan Amshoff, John Kloeker, Dave Campbell, Jan Stanley, John Gregory, Stanley Wells, Ken Gross, Bill Schmid, Ed Brady, Jim Kelly and Larry Creech.

Local 1347 will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1993. Committee members Tim O'Leary, Ken Gross, Jay Hepp and John Johnston are working on the anniversary celebration.

The 18th Ohio AFL-CIO Convention was held in Cincinnati in June. Bros. Mike Gilligan, Tim O'Leary, Mike Winkfield and Gregg Bennett attended the convention as delegates of our local.

Bros. Jeff Conner and Mike Harris represented our local in the contract negotiations with Eastern Electric in June.

Local union meetings are the second Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at 4100 Colerain Ave. Retirees Club meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. at the same location.

Local 1347 is your local. It needs your support.

GREGG BENNETT, P.S.

September 1992 I.B.E.W. Journal

CG&E RESTRUCTURING

L.U. 1347 (u,ees&em), CINCINNATI, OH—Our local is experiencing the effects of a restructuring at Cincinnati Gas and Electric. Layoffs are expected in our local, as well as at the other three local unions that service CG&E. We are losing nearly 120 of the 128 eligible for early retirement, known as the Voluntary Early Retirement Program (VERP). Our union officers have been meeting often with the company to get updates on events and schedules for the reorganization.

Local 1347 has never experienced a layoff of this nature. The watching and waiting has been stressful for everyone on both sides. The company agreed to follow the guidelines set forth by the collective bargaining agreement for such layoffs. We hope this will help to minimize the effect of the restructuring on our local union.

We wish all the Brothers and Sisters taking advantage of the VERP a fond farewell and a happy, long-lasting retirement. We thank them for their years of service to the local. Many of them dedicated their careers to the betterment of the IBEW, and we appreciate them for that. They will be missed.

KENNY GROSS, P.S.

January 1993 I.B.E.W. Journal

UTILITIES' MERGER

L.U. 1347 (u,ees&em), CINCINNATI, OH—Our local is experiencing the effects of a merger of utilities. Cincinnati Gas & Electric (CG&E) and Public Service of Indiana (PSI) are in the initial stages of merging to form CINERGY. Our union Brothers at PSI in Local 1393, Indianapolis, IN, probably have similar concerns about how this is going to affect our contracts and benefits. Our local and Local 1393 plan to exchange visits and tours to get a handle on our differences. We have already exchanged contract books to review and discuss. We are both in a "wait and see" mode, until our respective contracts come up for renegotiation in 1994. About that same time the final stages of the merger will be coming to a close. It will be very interesting to see what happens then.

Our local union officers are involved in the Drug Awareness Program, as required by the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988. We are touring all locations with the consultants endorsing the program; we are stating the union views and going over the drug and alcohol policy. We will be addressing all our members and then some. The members of the Drug Awareness Committee are Tim O'Leary, Dave Campbell, Kenny Gross, Frank Kelly and Jeff Conner. We have gotten some good feedback from the programs. A special thanks to the committee for a job well-done.

KENNY GROSS, P.S.

May 1993 I.B.E.W. Journal



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

L.U. 1347 (u,ees&em), CINCINNATI, OH—Our local celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. On March 1, 1943, our founders established Local 1347.

To commemorate the occasion, every local union member in good standing received an anniversary gift; and the local is making available newly designed Local 1347 T-shirts, sweat-shirts, hats and jackets that reflect our anniversary year.

The local received a proclamation from Cincinnati Mayor Dwight Tillery naming March 1 as "IBEW Local 1347 Day." With that, Pres. Timothy O'Leary suggested that all our members wear their new anniversary apparel to work on March 1 to celebrate our birthday in the spirit of unity.

Bros. James Harmon and Kenny Gross completed a union counselor's course on "Social Services and Community Referral Activities." The course was co-sponsored by the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council and The Community Chest. Thanks go to Harold Hall and Mike Lacinak (AFL-CIO community services liaisons) for their hard work and excellent training in this field. Bros. Harmon and Gross will be an asset to our fellow union Brothers in need and to the community. Feel free to contact them through the union hall about any community service questions you might have.

KENNY GROSS, P.S.

July 1993 I.B.E.W. Journal

THREE-YEAR CONTRACT

L.U. 1347 (u,ees&em), CINCINNATI, OH—We recently completed contract negotiations. Although I did not have the details at the time of this writing, I can report that we have a new three-year contract with an increase of benefits and wages. Thanks to the Negotiating Committee for their hard work.

Our ongoing efforts to organize the workers of the local cable-TV company have been going well. With the help of Pres. Tim O'Leary and the Fourth District office, we are growing ever closer to increasing the membership of Local 1347.

To aid in the organizing efforts, the local has offered extensive MEMO training at the union hall. Fourth District Int. Rep. Tom Curley conducted the training sessions. We hope to proceed with the organizing of other cable-TV workers after we secure this particular group. We all must understand the importance of increasing our membership nationwide. We are the only ones who can increase our ranks. It is up to us to promote and sell the union concept. Also, remember to look for the union label.

A number of our local union members travelled to Somerset, KY, to help restore power to that area following the February ice storms that swept the nation causing extensive power outages. Our members were quick to respond and help restore electric service to the public, both in our area and on the road. We commend them all for their efforts.

KENNY GROSS, P.S.

May 1994 I.B.E.W. Journal



INFORMED AND INVOLVED

L.U. 1347 (u,ees&em), CINCINNATI, OH—Our local, along with most other locals across the nation, has been through significant changes in the way we are required to do business. All these changes are made, the employer says, to counter the ever-pressing threat of deregulation and the related legislation being introduced in the state legislatures.

We are working hard to keep our membership informed and involved on the issue of deregulation. To that end, our local recently sponsored a meeting with our officers, Executive Board, and assistant and master stewards to discuss and ask questions regarding deregulation. After lunch, we had a number of excellent speakers to address how deregulation will affect our utility industry.

Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Paul J. Witte spoke eloquently and quite frankly about the International's position and its rebuttal to our employer's view of deregulation. He also presented the International's "Power Switch" video to the group. The presentation had quite an impact and spurred a number of questions. We thank Int. Vice Pres. Witte once again for taking time out of his busy schedule to speak to our membership at this meeting.

We also heard from John Stepp of Restructuring Associates Inc. (RAI), who played a major role in developing a program at Cinergy that dealt with the re-engineering of the corporation. He shed a little light on why corporations do what they do in this age of deregulation, and how we can make the best of it.

Fourth District International Reps. Nick Greco and Gary KlingleSmith also spoke on deregulation and our ever-changing utility industry. Both had a number of examples of how the effects of this state legislation will change the way we work and do business and the trend to deplete the membership and create a flexible worker who is required to do more with less.

And on that note, we heard from Bro. Bill Kibbey, business manager of Local 1466, Columbus, OH, about how American Electric Power (AEP) has impacted his unit. He spoke about the hundreds of members they've lost in the last few years, which certainly was an eye opener for a number of our people who think our employer is not treating us fairly. Our people left this meeting with a new outlook on our jobs and our future. All is not as bleak as it could be, since the corporation is allowing us input and participation in many of the changes and decisions. We must ask ourselves: "Is it better to be pre-

pared for deregulation (even if it doesn't come), or not to be prepared and it does come?" Truly the latter would be devastating to any utility. At this point, we must continue to work with the corporation to keep and expand the jobs we have—to show the employer that a union work force is the best work force, so we can continue to be the "employee of choice."

On a local note, we've had a number of changes in officers. Mike Essert was appointed to replace Bill Schmid (who recently retired from the Meter Dept.) on the Executive Board. Jim McLaren was appointed to replace Dave Caldwell (who retired from Overhead) on the Executive Board. Bennie Causby was appointed to replace Mike Essert as vice president. Bro. Essert was appointed to the Executive Board.

We've seen quite a few members retire at the beginning of this year: 93 members took early retirement, and 33 took the severance offered. We never expected these numbers. Could this be a sign of the times?

KENNY GROSS, ASST. B.M.

May 1997 I.B.E.W. Journal



IBEW Community Outreach

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OH — IBEW Local 1347 members stepped up to help spread care, warmth and gifts during the holiday season last year!

The holiday season can be tough for so many people. Part of our IBEW Local 1347 mission is community outreach. We are proud and humbled by the amazing donations members made for our Thanksgiving Coat Drive and Meals for the Cincinnati Community projects.

During the 2016 Christmas holiday season, we provided every child in Cincinnati Children's Hospital with a teddy bear.

Thank you to the Local 1347 fundraiser participants and to all members who donated their time to deliver over 600 teddy bears to hospitalized children. We are proud to be able to share warmth and care with the community during the holidays.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

March 2017 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

IBEW Community Service

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OH — IBEW Local 1347 members, friends and family gathered together on Saturday, April 29, at Matthew 25 Ministries to donate time, money and supplies for families affected by severe weather storms and disasters.

Our Local 1347 members are constantly working to maintain power and electric through those damaging storms, and they always want to try and help more families affected by these powerful, destructive storms.

With our RENEW group members leading the charge, we see Matthew 25 Ministries as a way we can help our community outside of our daily jobs and especially during difficult times to provide additional necessities. Thank you to Matthew 25 Ministries for allowing Local 1347 members to make a positive impact in our community.

Andrew Kirk, B.M./F.S.

July 2017 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Volunteers Step Up — Holiday Community Service

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — On Dec. 13 last year, Local 1347 members donated stuffed toy animals to the day care center for The Children's Home of Cincinnati. Several members hand delivered the toys to a class of children under the age of six, who were delighted. We look forward to donating again next year.

On Dec. 21, the Local 1347 membership donated 600 stuffed animals to Cincinnati Children's Hospital to give each child a present for the holidays. These donations were made possible by the membership through the selling of union pins and license plate covers.

Before Thanksgiving, Local 1347 members did a wonderful job giving back to the community by participating in the Fall Feast 2017 event at Duke Energy Center Convention Center, providing Thanksgiving meals for those in need. Members also participated in the winter coat drive effort.

On Dec. 30, IBEW members from several Ohio locals volunteered for a community service project at Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati. Participants included members from Locals 71, 212, 1224 and 1347. The volunteers helped sort and distribute needed items (such as clothing, personal care items, books, etc.) to help people from all across the country whose lives have been interrupted by tragedies beyond their control.

On Dec. 2, Local 1347 volunteers also delivered stuffed toy animals for the young children at St. Joseph Orphanage in Cincinnati to brighten their Christmas season.

Andrew A. Kirk, B.M./F.S.

March 2019 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

St. Patrick's Day Parade; Puerto Rico Storm Restoration

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — In January, IBEW Local 1347's linemen from Duke Energy traveled 1,798 miles to help restore power to Puerto Rico. Power restoration on the island has been a daunting task in the aftermath of the destruction caused by Hurricane Maria in September 2017. This tiny island has struggled with disaster relief since three consecutive hurricanes hit the region.

We are pleased to share a photo taken in Puerto Rico during the restoration efforts put forth by IBEW members, who worked to restore not only electrical power, but also to assist the community by giving life back to the businesses there, and most importantly, to help the residents, one day at a time. Bus. Mgr. Andrew Kirk traveled to Puerto Rico on Feb. 20 to check on the men who were sent to help restore power and to acknowledge all the great work they have provided to assist with restoration in the wake of the devastating storms.

On March 10, the Cincinnati St. Patrick's Day parade occurred a week before the actual holiday to set the mood for the next weekend's celebration. The procession wound along the riverside and up through "The Banks" before a large sea-of-green crowd. The IBEW Local 1347 contingent marched alongside fellow local unions in support of union solidarity. We plan to increase the size and status of our float next year to further promote the IBEW.

Andrew Kirk, B.M./F.S.

May 2018 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Miami Fort Station Cooling Tower Project

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — In North Bend, Ohio, directly across from the Indiana/Kentucky border sits Dynegy's Miami Fort Generating Station, a dual-fuel powered generating facility. While some may believe that fossil fuel power plants are headed out the door, it is still just as strong and powerful as ever. Since its initial establishment in the early 1900s, Miami Fort Station has undergone many improvements.

This latest endeavor is one of the largest projects this site has ever seen. This multi-million-dollar upgrade to enhance the cooling tower has taken a lot of blood, sweat and tears, but it's incredibly worthwhile for the viability of the station.

Our Local 1347 brothers and sisters working at Miami Fort Station are prepared for many more years of providing safe, reliable power for the Tri-State area for years to come.

Andrew Kirk, B.M./F.S.

July 2018 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Transmission Safety Week

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — Safety week for our transmission department took place June 4-7 at the Duke Energy Shelbyville headquarters in Indiana. IBEW members from Local 1347 and Local 1393 attended. We had many demonstrations on "hurtman" rescue from tower lines, and confined-space tri-pod rescues. There were many examples of the operation of special boom trucks and equipment brought in by vendors. Many vendors had tents and booths showing all kinds of different equipment, etc., available.

Safety was the main objective for all participants, as we continue to strive to make our workplace safe and accident-free. Both Local 1347 and Local 1393 set up booths to give out all kinds of union apparel and gifts for the membership. Pictured in the accompanying photo are some of those who attended the event.

Andrew A. Kirk, B.M./F.S.

September 2018 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

AFL-CIO Labor Day Picnic — Union Solidarity on Display

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — The AFL-CIO Labor Day picnic was held at Coney Island in Cincinnati, and it was a hot one. Not only because of the 100-degree temperature index, but also due to the political engagement on behalf of working people offered at the venue.

Unions from all over the greater Cincinnati region gathered to celebrate Labor Day and stand in solidarity for all unions. A ton of good food was served alongside several great bands that played across the different venues within the park. Guest speaker Jerry Springer spoke on the main stage and gave his view of politics today. We also spoke to many candidates who are certain to be winners in the upcoming elections.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

November 2018 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

'One of a Kind' Gas Turbine — At Dicks Creek Site in Ohio

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — We visited a "one of a kind" gas turbine located out of Monroe, Ohio, at the Dynegy/Vistra/Luminant site known as Dicks Creek. The utility operates and maintains this one-of-a-kind 110-megawatt gas turbine along with three other units of a more conventional style.

The "Bird Catcher," as it's known, has 10 LM-1500 jet engines, placed in a circle, that spin the 24-foot in diameter turbine blades, which turn the generator and power this massive unit. Built in 1965, it reportedly is only one of two ever built in the world. The other one was in France and is now gone, making the Ohio turbine the dinosaur that survived. The Dicks Creek site in Ohio continues to have plenty of visitors who come to take a look at this monster on a regular basis. It's really something to see. This unit also provides "black start" capabilities to provide power for other areas during system blackouts.

Andrew A. Kirk, B.M./F.S.

January 2019 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Holiday Season Donations To Area Children's Hospital

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — For the third year in a row, IBEW Local 1347 put forth a tremendous effort into donating stuffed animals to all the children who were staying at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital, located in downtown Cincinnati, during the 2018 holiday season. Local 1347 also gifted the hospital with an IBEW Local 1347 toy bear, who sported a T-shirt made by our very own Black Out Tee's. We look forward to making these donations happen for many years to come.

Andrew A. Kirk, B.M./F.S.

March 2019 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Code of Excellence

L.U. 1347 (ees.em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — The IBEW Code of Excellence program was recently launched at both of our Duke Energy power generation stations during the month of February.

The events were welcomed with optimism by both our membership and the management team. As with any newly launched program, there are some questions about how everything works. Our members are encouraged to keep an open mind and be receptive. We are hoping that with the implementation of this program, we might be able to see some positive changes in our working relationship between Local 1347 and Duke Energy. With both parties on board, there is sure to be an improved working relationship, leading to a stronger foundation between the two entities. As always, we will strive to provide the safest, most skilled, and most reliable workforce.

Ray Fowee, Pres.

May 2019 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Outreach to Students — IBEW Career Opportunities

L.U. 1347 (ees,em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — On April 12 this year, IBEW Local 1347 was invited to Holmes High School, located in Covington, KY, on behalf of the senior class of 2019.

We were invited to speak on union jobs within the IBEW for those getting ready to graduate this year. We discussed alternative careers that do not require a college degree, and that are desirable and well paid.

Overall, the presentation went over well, and many students seemed interested in future careers with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Attending from Local 1347 were: Bus. Mgr. Andrew Kirk, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Kenny Gross, lineman Bob Allen, and office coordinator Rachel Glover. John Waits, from the United Steelworkers, also attended.

A WLWT (NBC) news crew showed up to record the event. The cameraman with the news crew, Brandon Oubre, is also an IBEW member, from Cincinnati Local 1224. He added a few comments during the event as well.

Kenny Gross, A.B.M.

July 2019 *I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker*

AFL-CIO Labor Day Picnic

L.U. 1347 (ees,em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — For a second year in a row, Local 1347 attended the Labor Day picnic hosted by the AFL-CIO at Coney Island, in southern Ohio. This year we had a much bigger turnout from our membership than the year before, and we hope to see many more familiar faces attending as the years go on. The weather was beautiful for the countless trade unions that joined together to celebrate this wonderful holiday. We look forward to next year's event!

Andrew Kirk, B.M./F.S.

November 2019 *I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker*

Transmission Safety Week 2019

L.U. 1347 (ees,em&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — Safety week for our Transmission Department took place June 17-21 at the Duke Energy Shelbyville headquarters in Indiana.

IBEW members from both Local 1347 and Local 1393 attended the safety week events. We had many demonstrations, such as "hurt man" rescue from tower lines, and confined space tri-pod rescues. There were many examples of equipment brought in by vendors. Safety was the main focus for all participants, as we continue to strive to make our workplace safe and accident free. Both Local 1347 and Local 1393 set up booths to give out all kinds of union apparel and gifts for the membership.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

September 2019 *I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker*

IBEW Donates Toys To Cincinnati Children's Hospital

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — For a fourth year in a row, the children staying at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital during the month of December received stuffed animals as a gift from Local 1347. This donation is made possible by selling pins for the local union and puts a smile on every child's face. We plan to continue this tradition for many years to come!

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

March 2020 *I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker*

Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OHIO — On Saturday, Dec. 28, last year IBEW Local 1347 met with several other IBEW Locals (71, 212, 1224) at Matthews 25 Ministries in Kenwood, Ohio, for an afternoon of volunteering. In just two hours' time, our efforts can help as many as 150-plus individuals, which is why we love coming back every year! This is our fourth year in a row attending a Matthews 25 Ministries event, and plans are already underway for a fifth year come December 2020. We appreciate everyone who donated their time and hope to keep growing our group of volunteers as the years go by.

Volunteers pictured in the accompanying photo are: Kristen Kallaher, Pat Kallaher, Ray Fowee, Linda Dixon, Will McMahan, Kyle McMahan, Don Scott Smith, Tom Messamer, Sophia Sheppard, Bear Sheppard, Bill Dietz, Rachel Glover, Lee McIntosh, Dustin Fossette, Danny Fossette, Dominick Fossette, Greg Prewitt, Andrew Kirk, Adrienne Fossette, Richard Heimbrock, Liza Bruggeman and Matt Bruggeman.

Andrew Kirk, B.M./F.S.

May 2020 *I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker*

Local 1347 Donates Holiday Cheer

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — For a fifth year in a row, our local donated gifts to the children staying at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in November, with 200 teddy bears given to kick off the holiday season. This year, things were a little different due to the pandemic, but we were fortunate enough to still be able to send a little surprise to the children staying at the hospital. The caretakers planned to make gift baskets for the kiddos and to use our teddy bears as part of their baskets. A few of us socially distanced outside of the hospital for the annual picture because it was closed to the public. We are very happy to be able to continue our yearly tradition and can't wait to donate again this time next year!

We sadly report the death of two retired members: Michael Hannah, who passed away on Dec. 7, 2020; and Jack Jackson, who passed on Sept. 27, 2020.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

March 2021 *I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker*

Delivering Sweetness to the Community

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — On Feb. 26, 2021, our Local 1347 donated 80 pounds of Yummy Pops candy to St. Joseph's Orphanage here in Cincinnati. Because we are still in the midst of this pandemic, we wanted to find a way to continue our monthly community outreach in the safest way possible. Although we are currently unable to donate our time in person or meet in large groups as we once have, delivering these treats to the children at St. Joe's seemed to be the best route for all of those involved. We are so happy to have had the opportunity to donate to the much deserving children at St. Joe's and plan to return with more donations in the future!

Andrew A. Kirk, B.M.

May 2021 *I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker*

Welcome to New Members!

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — On Aug. 3, employees of NAES Cooperation, which is located at the Middletown Energy Facility, had a ratification vote for a brand-new collective bargaining agreement between the union and the employer. The organizing campaign began one year ago, with the help of Chad Donathan, Chuck Tippe and Ted Robison. Despite the challenges we faced throughout this pandemic, Local 1347 managed to get the new contract ratified and passed. We are very excited to have these new members join our local and further our relationship with the company. A big welcome to our new members!

Andrew Kirk, B.M./F.S.

November 2020 *I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker*

Recognizing One of Our Own

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — A big shout out to all the workers that help run the show behind the scenes: This one goes out to all of you! This month we wanted to do a special piece on our office coordinator, Rachel Glover. She has worked at Local 1347 for the past four years and has gone above and beyond each and every day. With the stress level for our membership at an all-time high this past year, having someone ready and available to answer any questions and ensure things are running smoothly (despite the chaos happening outside of the office walls) has really helped keep our membership on track. She is the glue to our operation, and we appreciate her efforts. Each one of us can make a difference, but together we can make change.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

July 2021 *I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker*

Local 1347 Hosts First Golf Outing

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — On Sunday, July 18, our local hosted its first-ever golf outing! And what a great time it was! We had eighteen holes of golf to play and a delicious fried chicken dinner at the end of the game. The purpose of this outing was to raise money for the Unity Fund, and after all of the teams had finished and gone home, we counted \$382.87 to donate to a great cause that supports our fellow union brothers and sisters.

Richard Fritsche, who is one of our stewards out of the East Bend Generating Station, won alongside his three other teammates. Each player received a trophy, a custom-made t-shirt by Blackout Tees and a name plate on the home trophy that will be displayed here at the hall. Plans for next year's outing are already underway. We hope to see twice as many faces next year!

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

November 2021 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

New Chairman for Local 1347's Executive Board

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — Members of the Executive Board (pictured below) for Local 1347, Cincinnati, Ohio, worked late into the night to bring resolution to issues being faced by their local and many others around the globe today. The fight for worker's rights during plant closures, a nationwide labor shortage, grievances and improving the working relationship with our various companies has become part of the daily grind. These board members and union officers have stepped up to sacrifice their time, and we are grateful for the work they do every day to help lead Local 1347 to a better future.

Local 1347's very own Executive Board Chairman Patrick Kallaher has accepted a new position within the International organization as the Fourth District organizer. He will be bringing his years of experience from his home local into service for the good of all IBEW members. Thank you, Pat!

Since Patrick has accepted his new role, we are happy to announce that Don Scott Smith has stepped up as the new chairman of our Executive Board. He is very excited for an opportunity to help lead his local going forward and make it stronger and more resilient. Thank you, Don!

All of these officers have stepped into these roles knowing they are here to help the local grow and leave a stronger future for all union members. Thanks to you all again, and here's to making 2022 the best year yet for our members and everyone within the IBEW!

Brad Evans, Exec. Board

January 2022 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Giving Back at Cincinnati Children's Hospital

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — For the fifth year in a row, our local had the opportunity to donate over 100 teddy bears to the beloved and well-deserving children at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Dec. 2021. We hope these small gifts can really make a difference for those that are staying at the hospital during the holiday season. If our membership has the ability to spread a little cheer, we are going to do so! With that being said, we wish to also extend a thank you to all of those working hard within the medical field. Here's hoping for good health and wellbeing going forward.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

March 2022 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

First All-Union Linemen University Opens in Cincinnati

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — In many ways, lineman can be considered the protectors of what is arguably the weakest link in our nation's electrical grid. With exposure to accidents, elements and natural disasters, it's a constant battle to keep everything in good working order and everyone's electricity on as power demands increase in our technologically dependent world. It can be an often overlooked and underappreciated — but absolutely critical — job. Lineman must be highly trained in order to work safely and effectively and to keep the U.S. moving forward.

With future needs in mind, Local 1347 in Cincinnati, Ohio, has partnered with Jamie Madden and Linemen University to establish a new state-of-the-art facility. This historic union lineman school will have instructors who are all IBEW represented. This opens the door for IBEW members to remain union members while taking part in formalized training. Linemen University will provide the necessary training to keep sufficient numbers of men and women who are exceedingly skilled moving into the workforce at a time when skilled labor and trades have been on a decline. Business Manager Andrew Kirk anticipates multiple facilities will be needed to fulfill these crucial roles.

For more information, visit www.linemenuniversity.com or call 513-767-7700.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

May 2022 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Union Membership on the Rise

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — Union membership is on the rise in the United States. As wages and benefits have not kept up with corporate profits, workers are once again seeing the benefit to collective bargaining. But one misconception people have is that unions are only useful in an oppressive work environment. Unions can be just as beneficial to companies as workers. Chris Baker of Baker Business and Tax Services is one such company owner. Chris started his union association working with the glazer's union before a career change led him into the world of accounting. After developing his company by providing a high-level quality service to his customers, Chris realized he could do more to better his company and benefit his employees. Reaching out to Local 1347, Chris had multiple meetings between his work force and the union to educate his employees on their rights and what benefits the union could provide them. With a successful vote, Local 1347 would like to welcome Baker Business and Tax Services into the union!

The future for American workers looks bright as we stand together and as other business owners, such as Chris Baker, see the benefits for their businesses and their workers from the union life!

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

June 2022 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Where Do We Go From Here?

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — On May 31, the William H. Zimmer generating station along the banks of the Ohio River produced its last megawatt of electricity. This 1300-megawatt plant started construction in the early 1970s as a nuclear plant. Before construction could be completed, public outcry forced a change in direction, and this station is known as the world's first nuclear-to-coal conversion.

After coming online in 1991 as a coal-fired plant, Zimmer has seen many changes in the power industry. Even though ownership passed among several companies throughout the years, one thing has remained a constant for this plant: the IBEW. With the first Local 1347 members coming onboard in 1974, Zimmer has been a source of excellent union jobs for the area, employing literally generations of families through parents, children and grandchildren. This closure has been a blow to not only our union brothers and sisters, but also to all the contractors, suppliers and surrounding communities. In these times of uncertainty, every plant shutdown creates a weaker electrical grid in our country. It appears that this situation will continue, creating even more demand on all members of the IBEW to keep providing leadership and stability for our future.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

September 2022 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Teddy Bear Delivery to Cincinnati Children's Hospital

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,ptc&u), CINCINNATI, OH — For the sixth year in a row, our local had the opportunity in December to donate over 100 teddy bears to the beloved and well-deserving children at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. We hope these small gifts can really make a difference for those who are staying at the hospital during the holiday season. If our membership has the ability to spread a little cheer, we are going to do so! With that being said, we wish to also extend a "thank you" to all of those working hard in the medical field. We wish everyone good health and well-being in the new year.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

January 2023 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

International Lineman's Rodeo Team Wins Division

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,u&ptc), CINCINNATI, OH — Our local got voluntary recognition, led by lead organizer Don Scott Smith, with Lake Forest Financial Advisors. This pro-union company realizes the true value of the union, dealing with current members and providing services from a professional group who has gone union. Please welcome this new company, and next time you need advice reach out to Lake Forest Financial Advisors at www.lffadvisors.com.

Business Manager Andrew Kirk brought a vote to send a team to the International Lineman's Rodeo. The vote passed, and the payoff was big. IBEW 1347 senior team #602 Davey Barricklow, Matt Dugan, T.J. Lewis and Chris Simpson won their division. All the locals stood tall and took top spots in their division. Team #602 would like to thank their other sponsors for helping to make it happen: Badger Daylighting, Blackout Tees, Midwest Utilities Sales, Lambert's Cable Splicing, Linemen University and Tallman Equipment.

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

May 2023 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker

Local 1347 Launches PAL Training

L.U. 1347 (ees,em,u&ptc), CINCINNATI, OH — This year our local launched Politics, Activism and Livelihood, or PAL, training, with classes before each regular union meeting and with our pro-union partners. Local 1347 reached out to the owner of Blackout Tees and explained the program and the overwhelming response we received in return. Blackout Tees then gave Local 1347 members two days, on company time, to take the course. Blackout Tees doesn't just employ Local 1347 workers, but it also has IBEW standards and values and always has the IBEW's back. We appreciate this and want to acknowledge it to members and the company (blackouttees.com).

Andrew Kirk, B.M.

July 2023 I.B.E.W. Electrical Worker



I.B.E.W. Journal staff



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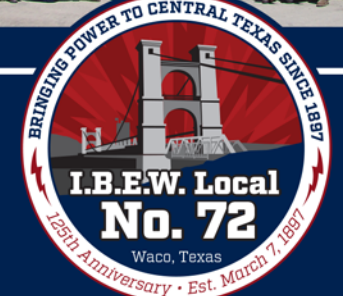
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