

I.B.E.W. LOCAL NO. 1579

*Diamond
Anniversary*



COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY

1948 - 2023



Your IBEW family joins in celebrating
75 years of brotherhood

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ANNIVERSARY!



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Kenneth W. Cooper, International President
Paul A. Noble, International Secretary-Treasurer

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**Powering and Empowering
the Electrical Industry!**

Best Wishes for Your Next 75 Years



**NORTH AMERICA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS &
NUCLEAR POWER LABOR MANAGEMENT COOPERATION COMMITTEE**



**CONGRATULATIONS ON PROVIDING 75 YEARS
OF EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP TO THE
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

ON BEHALF OF THE
**NORTH AMERICA'S BUILDING TRADES & NUCLEAR POWER
LABOR MANAGEMENT COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

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**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local No. 1579
Augusta, Georgia**

75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration

**Saturday, February 25, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

**Augusta Marriott
Olmstead Exhibit Hall
2 Tenth Street, Augusta, Georgia**

Social Hour 5:00 p.m.

Program and Dinner..... 6:00 p.m.

Music & Fellowship to follow

I.B.E.W. 1579



75th Anniversary

WITHOUT ITS PAST, LOCAL 1579'S FUTURE WOULD NOT EXIST

In my eighth year as Business Manager of I.B.E.W. Local 1579, I have come to truly appreciate how important every member of the local, past and present, is and has been. We all have stories that we can tell about the brothers and sisters of Local 1579, perhaps how they helped us in our careers, making us a better electrician or making us a better person in general. We all can tell stories of how we supported each other through the loss of a loved one or if we were just simply having a bad day. And we can also tell stories of how the I.B.E.W. has changed our lives for the better.



After 75 years of hard work and dedication, Local 1579 is now one of the most respected unions in the country. We have been blessed with large projects starting in the 1940s, from the Savannah River Site to the present day as we finish Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4. Think about that: More than 70 years ago, we built the largest project in the country and now we are finishing the largest project in the country. Impressive!

Of course, there's more to Local 1579 than Savannah River Site and Plant Vogtle. In the early 1950s and 1960s, Clarks Hill Dam Hydro-Electric Plant, Urquhart Steam Plant, Talmadge Hospital and University Hospital were all under construction with Local 1579 members on the job. In the 1970s and 1980s, Augusta and Regency malls, Naval Fuels and S-Area kept the membership busy. In the 1990s, we continued to spread our craftsmanship as we installed the electrical at Port Royal and the International Paper, Bridgestone and Shaw Carpet plants. In the past 22 years, we have also been working on the MOX, Kimberly Clark, Georgia Cyber Center, the Green Jackets baseball stadium and the Augusta National Retail Complex, along with several other projects across the metro area.

As we look back at the many projects on which the membership has worked, Local 1579 has proven time and again that our skilled union labor, which is supported by a world-class training program, is the most efficient workforce and provides a safer work environment on jobsites. That said, Local 1579 has been able to provide an above-average quality of life for our members throughout their employment as well as their retirement years.

We should never forget the members who came before us, for if not for them and the foundation that was laid for us to build on, we would not have survived.

Although we are here to remember the last 75 years, let's also look toward the future. Work has been secured to build the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) as well as the Tritium Finishing Facility (TFF) at the Savannah River Site. In addition, it is my job to make sure we continue to secure work in our jurisdiction, and that is what I will continue to do.

Congratulations, Local 1579! Here's to another 75 years of service and commitment to the I.B.E.W. and those that employ us, and continued prosperity to us all.

In Brotherhood,

George W. "Will" Salters Jr.
I.B.E.W. Local No. 1579 Business Manager/Financial Secretary

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History of I.B.E.W. Local No. 1579

A 75-YEAR SOURCE OF PRIDE AND POWER FOR GEORGIA & SOUTH CAROLINA'S CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA



“After having been under the jurisdiction of Local Union No. 508, Savannah, Ga., for more than six years, we members of Augusta now have something to be proud of. ... The future around this vicinity looks very bright, but there is nothing definite so far. You can bet your life, though, that Local No. 1579 is going to take advantage of every opportunity that comes a knocking.”

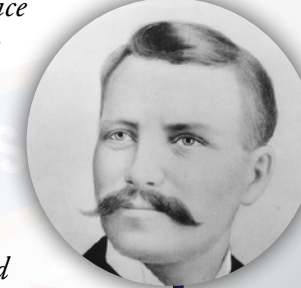
Throughout nearly half a century before International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.) Local No. 1579 Press Secretary Brother William C. Seigler made that declaration in the May 1948 issue of the I.B.E.W. *Journal* magazine while announcing his new local had been organized and chartered by the union earlier that year, the I.B.E.W. tried to establish a permanent local in the City of Augusta, Georgia. As early as February 1, 1901, the union had chartered “mixed” inside-wireman and outside-lineman Local No. 85 in the town, but it was declared defunct less than a year later on January 31, 1902.

Several more attempts to organize a local in Augusta included a charter on June 11, 1902, for lineman Local No. 270, which would go defunct on May 30, 1903; a charter on January 1, 1903, for Local No. 255, which did not make it through the year; and a charter on December 1, 1903, for mixed Local No. 449, which would go extinct on October 31, 1905.

Beginning almost five years later, Local No. 208 functioned from March 30, 1910, to May 30, 1912, during a time when the so-called “Reid-Murphy Split” divided the union into two competing factions from 1908 to 1913 before nearly all of the locals that had broken



away from the original I.B.E.W. attended the union's 12th convention in Boston that year. (Driven by dissension between wiremen and linemen, disappointed office-seekers and a former grand treasurer removed from office in 1907 because of "irregularities," as History of The I.B.E.W. describes, a splinter group of locals elected J. J. Reid as its president and J. W. Murphy as its secretary during a special convention in 1908. With the seceding locals refusing to recognize President Frank J. McNulty and Secretary Peter W. Collins as the true officers of the I.B.E.W., two union conventions were held in 1911. However, a court decision in February 1912 declared the 1908 convention illegal and its actions void, effectively ending the civil war.)



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.

The President McNulty-led I.B.E.W. chartered wireman **Local No. 121** in Augusta of 1912; however, it would go defunct in 1916. The union re-chartered Local 121 as a mixed local on March 5, 1918, but it would again be terminated on May 16, 1932.

After more than six years without union representation for electrical workers in Augusta, the I.B.E.W. made another attempt at establishing a local in the city when it chartered **Local No. 977** on July 27, 1938. But less than a year later, it would go defunct on April 19, 1939, soon after which the union chartered inside **Local No. 771** on July 1, 1939. However, just more than two years later on September 8, 1941, the union amalgamated that Augusta local into **Local No. 508**, which itself had been established on November 4, 1916, giving the Savannah-based local jurisdiction over Augusta and the surrounding area.

FORMING A LASTING LOCAL FOR AUGUSTA

With construction of the **Clarks Hill Dam** underway just 22 miles north of Augusta on the Savannah River, on January 16, 1948, 42 members of Local 508

who resided in and around the city submitted an application for a charter for a new local to the I.B.E.W. – along with the \$3 charter fee and \$2 for each applicant for admittance into the Electrical Workers Benefit Association that provided insurance to members. The union subsequently granted the charter to the group, establishing mixed inside-wireman and outside-lineman Local No. 1579 in Augusta on **February 1, 1948**.

I.B.E.W. international representative **Brother Wesley Lee Holst** from Beaumont, Texas, installed the new local's charter during its first meeting on February 10, which every member attended. That evening, each of those members, including apprentices, was allowed to vote in an election for the local's officers, which Press Secretary Seigler explained in his May 1948 *Journal* article: "We thought this fair, because the whole membership seems to hold a keen interest in setting up the new local."

That initial membership elected as the local's first-ever officers **Brother Guy T. Solomon** as business manager, **Brother Ronald E. Cartledge** as president; Brother **Cleveland**

LOCAL 1579 CHARTER DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL CHARTER MEMBERS

Forty-two electrical workers, most if not all of whom were members of I.B.E.W. Local No. 508 of Savannah, signed the charter application submitted to the I.B.E.W. international office on January 16, 1948, requesting a charter for a new local in Augusta. Because of space restrictions, the charter that was granted to the group on February 1, 1948, establishing I.B.E.W. Local No. 1579 only contained the names of 25 of those 42 charter members.

M. Kale as vice president; **Brother Hobert W. Lytle** as treasurer; and **Brother Crosby C. Fortune** as recording secretary.

With funds tight, the fledgling Local 1579 set up an office in a small upstairs room at 636-1/2 Broad Street in Augusta, from which Business Manager Solomon conducted the local's business while simultaneously organizing new members and employers within its jurisdiction. During those early years, the local held its general membership meetings in the Disabled American Veterans Hall on the corner of 10th and Broad streets.

The local initially had no signed contract with any contractors, and wages for its journeyman electricians ranged from \$1 to \$1.50 per hour. However, soon after it was chartered, the local negotiated agreements with three electrical contractors for a wage scale of \$1.75 per hour, and by November 1948, Local 1579 had working agreements with six contractors: **Alrich Electric, Harben & Wallace Electric, Joseph McNeill Electric, United Electric Service, Lane Electric** and **Parish Electric** – which the local announced in an advertisement in the November 7 issue of the *Augusta Chronicle* newspaper.

As the local's membership grew, it moved its offices to 215 9th Street before the end of 1949,

and soon after hired its first office secretary.

Among the several projects in its jurisdiction on which Local 1579 members were working at that time, construction of the \$76-million Clarks Hill Dam (now known as the J. Strom Thurmond Dam) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its seven hydro-electric-producing turbines was the primary employer of the local's electricians. As such, by February 1949, about 40 of the local's members were working full-time around-the-clock on three shifts running 24 hours a day to wire the 1,096-foot-long concrete-gravity dam that would have a 380-megawatt power-producing capacity when completed in 1954.

With a 3-percent-of-wage assessment levied on the membership and a vigorous organizing campaign being conducted by Business Manager Solomon, by March 1949 the local had signed enough contractors to collective bargaining agreement to increase its membership to more than 100 electrical workers.

Although Local 1579 joined the ironworkers and operating engineers in a brief but unsuccessful strike on July 5 at Clarks Hill Dam after the contractor denied a request from the unions for a 12-1/2-cent-per-hour wage increase, which would have raised the hourly pay scale for about 100 strikers to \$2, the project would be a watershed job for the local. As Brother Solomon later explained in the program for the local's new union hall dedication ceremony on December 19, 1953:

"Had it not been for the fine relations we enjoyed with our contractors and the beginning of the Clark Hill Project, the local would not have survived. The project proved to be a great help to the local, but the assistance gained did not come voluntarily and easily. The job was a tough fight all the way and had to be handled with kid gloves. But in spite of all the difficulties, the local gained greatly in experience and otherwise."

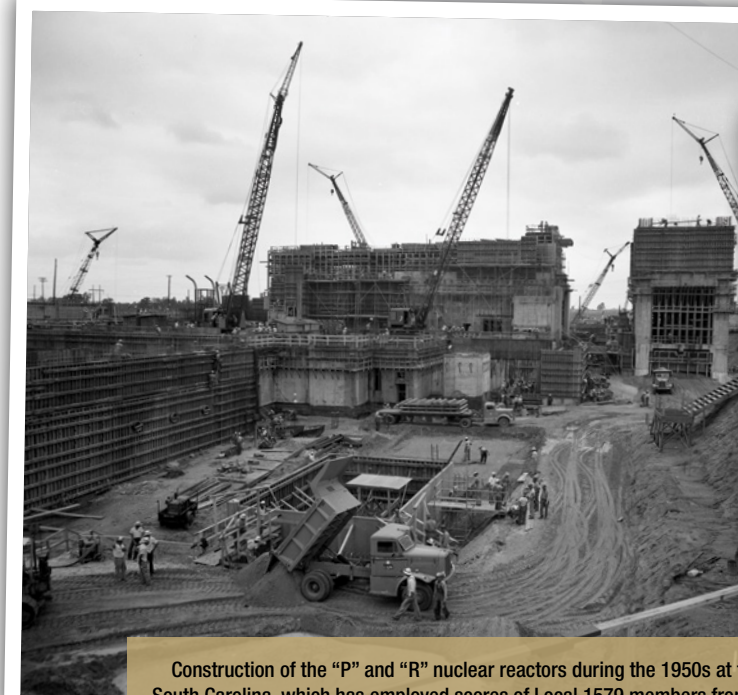
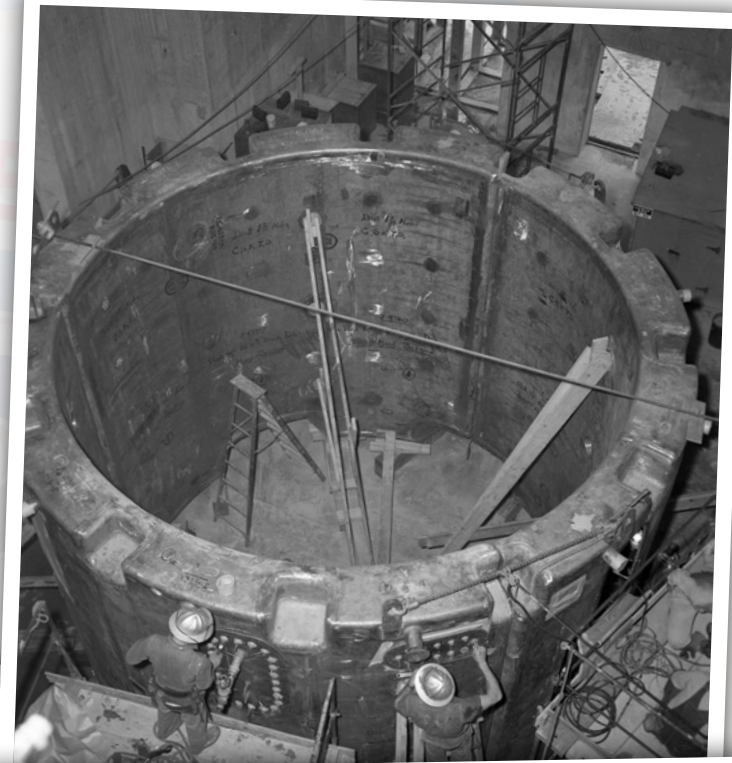
NUKE PROJECT HITS, NEW HOME OPENS

Even with the powerhouse and generators at Clarks Hill Dam under construction and throughout most of 1950 remained a small local of some 200 construction wiremen that had difficulty keeping its membership consistently employed, primarily because of the lack of industry in its jurisdiction. Aside from the dam, the local at the time depended entirely on a small amount of commercial and residential wiring for manhours.

Looking back on that period, Business Manager Solomon reflected in an article in the May 1953 *Journal*, "The will of our membership to make sacrifices and a keen spirit of cooperation is alone responsible for our survival through the dark days. I often think back just a few short years of our pitiful plight and realize that our efforts have not been wasted."

The local emerged from its slumber when development and construction of the **Savannah River Site** (S.R.S.) "hit us like a bomb shell," as Brother Solomon described in his article. Announced in November 1950, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission facility on 310 square miles of land adjacent to the

Continued after next spread



Construction of the "P" and "R" nuclear reactors during the 1950s at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina, which has employed scores of Local 1579 members from the time it was being built during the early 1950s to produce materials used in nuclear weapons. (U.S. Department of Energy photos.)



Electrical Workers Home Association Building

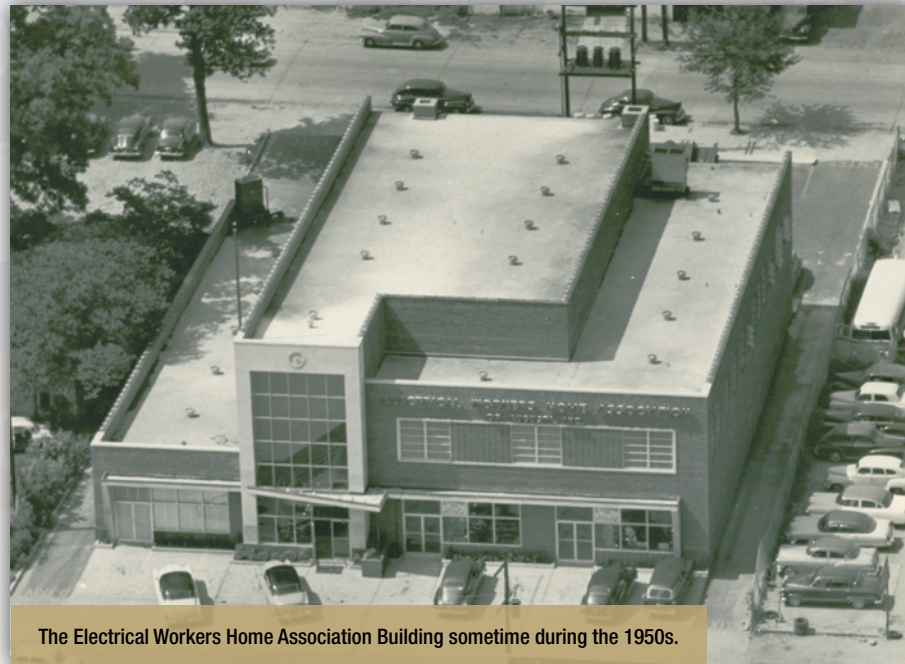
THE STORY OF LOCAL 1579'S UNION HALL

“On December 19, 1953, the long-cherished dreams and ambitions of the members of Local 1579 became a reality. I believe this day will stand out in our memories as one of the most important days in our lives.”

– Local 1579 Business Manager Guy T. Solomon, March 1954 I.B.E.W. Journal article announcing the opening of the local's new union hall

After the I.B.E.W. chartered Local 1579 on February 1, 1948, the local initially rented a small office at 636-1/2 Broad Street in Augusta from which it conducted business, while it held its membership meetings in the Disabled American Veterans Hall at 119 10th Street (on the corner of 10th and Broad streets). As its membership grew, by 1949 the local had moved its offices to 215 9th Street, and by 1952 it was holding its meetings in the Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall at 311 8th Street.

Recognizing that one of the local's “greatest disadvantages has been the lack of a decent place to hold meetings,” as Business Manager Guy Solomon announced in the May 1953 issue of the I.B.E.W. Journal, Local 1579 constructed its own, \$200,000 building that year to serve as its union hall. The two-story structure at 1250 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta, which was designed by well-known architect F. Arthur Hazard, featured an air-conditioned, 500-seating-capacity auditorium and an apprenticeship training center on its second floor, which the local's offices occupied while it rented the first floor to businesses.



The Electrical Workers Home Association Building sometime during the 1950s.

“This will be one of the better buildings in Augusta,” Business Manager Solomon also declared in his Journal article.

Local 1579 held a grand opening and formal dedication for its new Electrical Workers Home Association Building on December 19, 1953. The event's program noted that the facility was “one of the nicest union halls in the entire country. It is a place where our members can proudly congregate, do business, socialize and learn.”

Constructed with a steel inner frame and exterior masonry bearing walls, the building was set on 35-foot-long wood pilings and its exterior walls were constructed

of face brick over hollow tile and concrete block. The entrance pavilion was faced with Indiana limestone and featured large amounts of plate glass and aluminum framing, while the exterior top of the pavilion was a pink Georgia marble patera into which the I.B.E.W. emblem was carved.

“One of the outstanding features of this building is the electrical system and equipment,” the grand-opening program further described. “Sound and communicating devices are ingeniously employed throughout the construction.”

The dedication essay closed with the additional declaration, “Labor has given Augusta a most outstanding contribution to its already fine group of buildings.”

As it celebrates its 75th charter anniversary in February 2023, Local 1579 continues to reside within the Home Association Building, having taken over the entire facility



The Electrical Workers Home Association Building sometime during the 1970s.

years earlier while adding a training center to the original edifice in 2012. The main building also received a facelift inside and out in 2018, and the local purchased adjacent lots on the corner of Reynolds and 13th streets – making the local the owner of the entire corner – one of which contained an historic building built in 1891 that the local renovated for use as additional training space.



The Electrical Workers Home Association Building decorated for Christmas in 2021. (Photo courtesy of Alison South Marketing)

LOCAL 1579 BUSINESS MANAGERS

Guy T. Solomon
1948 – 1960

Lionel W. Gulledge
1960 – 1962

William S. “Bill” Carter
1962 – 1970

Thomas E. “Pug” Schneider
1970 – 1979

Thomas S. “Tommy” Yarbrough
1979 – 2006

Kenneth T. Ward Sr.
2006 - 2015

George W. “Will” Salters Jr.
2015 – current



Savannah River in South Carolina's Aiken, Allendale and Barnwell counties would eventually consist of five reactors and support facilities for manufacturing materials used in nuclear weapons.

Work on the S.R.S. began soon after the commission revealed its proposed construction, forcing Local 1579 to quickly ready itself for handling one of the greatest numbers of electrical workers that would ever work on a single project. Among its preparations, the local rapidly expanded its staff from one to six office workers in order to handle the influx of administration, and it devised a numerical system to keep track of I.B.E.W. members “since it is impossible to go by name alone with so many people involved,” Business Manager Solomon explained.

Indeed, the Local 1579 membership would balloon from around 200 in late 1950 to about 1,200 before the end of 1953 – a period during which the local was only involved in a single, one-day work stoppage at the site as the result of a labor dispute. What's more, more than 2,500 “traveler” electricians from

other I.B.E.W. locals around the country who traveled into the Local 1579 jurisdiction would work on the S.R.S.

During that time, the I.B.E.W. certified the S.R.S. job under a National Labor Relations Board (N.L.R.B.) vote in early June 1952, through which the employees of the two electrical subcontractors to the DuPont company, which was overseeing construction of the site, voted overwhelmingly for union representation. After those workers of the **Dunn Electrical Company** and the **Miller Electric Company**, which were performing all of the electrical work on the project, elected to be represented by Local 1579, every electrician at the site was a member of the union.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, which has operated the site since the department was established in 1977, the production of heavy water for the S.R.S. reactors started in its Heavy Water Rework Facility in 1952, and the first production reactor, R Reactor, went critical in 1953, followed by P, L, and K reactors in 1954. F Canyon, the world's first operational full-scale PUREX (Plutonium

and URanium EXtraction) separation plant, began radioactive operations on November 4 of that year to extract plutonium and uranium products from materials treated in the reactors.

In 1955, C Reactor went critical; the first plutonium shipment left the site; H Canyon, a chemical separation facility, began radioactive operations; permanent tritium facilities became operational; and the first shipment of tritium to the Atomic Energy Commission was made. The basic S.R.S. plant, which ultimately engaged the skills and manhours of thousands of I.B.E.W. electrical workers, would be completed in 1956.

Local 1579 wiremen were also employed on numerous additional jobs while the S.R.S. project was underway, including several housing developments, various commercial buildings and construction of the \$45-million **Urquhart Generating Plant** beginning in February 1952. Built by the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, the coal-fired, stream-powered electric station in Aiken County would produce 150,000 kilowatts of power when its first two generators went online in October 1954, at which time a third, 100,000-kilowatt generating unit was also being built with union labor for completion in September 1955.



During the 10th-anniversary meeting of Local 1579 in early 1958, (left to right beginning with second from left) Local 1579 Business Manager Guy T. Solomon and Savannah-based Local 508 Financial Secretary William E. Bray and Business Manager Michael J. Counihan celebrate receiving their 15-year I.B.E.W. service pins from I.B.E.W. 5th District Vice-President G. X. Barker (left).

Elsewhere, union electricians wired the new, \$16-million **Eugene Talmadge Memorial Hospital** on 15th Street in Augusta that was completed in the fall of 1955 and opened in June 1956 as part of a **Medical College of Georgia** (now the Georgia Health Sciences University) campus project that included dormitories, staff quarters, a treatment center for alcoholics, a warehouse and an educational facility. Local 1579 members also helped build the ultra-modern, \$2-million, 162-bed wing for neuro-psychiatric tubercular patients at the **Veterans Administration Hospital Lenwood Division** in Augusta beginning in mid-1953 for its opening in January 1955.

With employment booming, the wage rate for Local 1579 journeymen increased from \$2.25 per hour in 1951 to \$2.65 per hour in 1953. By that time, the local's pay and working conditions were comparable to those of the other locals in the I.B.E.W. Fifth District.

The flourishing Augusta local then constructed a new union hall and office building of its own on Reynolds Street in the city's downtown area in 1953 to accommodate its expanding membership and their growing needs. The local held an open house and dedication for its new **Electrical Workers Home Association Building** on December 19 of that year, complete with a luncheon at the Bon Air Hotel, a caravan to the new building, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a dance in the facility's auditorium that evening.

LOWS TO HIGHS & BACK DOWN AGAIN

When Local 1579 celebrated its 10th anniversary in February 1958, the completion of the larger projects in its jurisdiction, most notably the Savannah River Site, had reduced its membership to about 800 electricians, roughly half of whom were working as travelers in the jurisdictions of other I.B.E.W. locals around the country

DRIVING TV COVERAGE OF THE MASTERS

After CBS began televising *The Masters Tournament* in 1956, when it used six cameras and covered only the final four holes of the major professional golf championship that has been played annually at Augusta National Golf Club since 1934, Local 1579 members have worked with the broadcasting company to help provide the TV coverage of the competition. Throughout the years, the local's technicians have assisted CBS by setting up power supplies and working with camera crews and broadcasters as they traversed the course.

In 1976, Local 1579 reached an agreement with CBS that stipulated the company would exclusively use the local's members for its work at The Masters. However, in 1983, that arrangement ended when a new national CBS contract required that it use its own technicians for various sports telecasting, although the local's members were used again for future tournaments through to the local's 75th anniversary year in 2023.



A Local 1579 crew working for CBS on television coverage of a Masters golf tournament in Augusta.

Local 1579 **Press Secretary Richard Dyson** summed up the local's employment situation in the November 1962 *Journal* by simply writing, "Not Good."

But construction of an **Olin Mathieson Corporation** chemical plant in Augusta beginning in late November 1964 not only provided a respite from the poor employment but also commenced a prosperous 5-year period for the local as it entered the second half of the decade. The Olin Mathieson job consisted of a large amount of 2-, 5- and 6-inch switchgear pipe, as well as tray work and temporary work in shacks and power.

Along with numerous smaller jobs, the local's members were also employed during that time on a \$22-million expansion of the **Continental Can Company** paper mill in Augusta beginning in the spring of 1964 and continuing into late 1966. Even more manhours for the union electricians came with construction of the new **Southeastern Signal School** at **U.S. Army Fort Gordon** in Augusta (where all of the Army's signal corps would be consolidated in 1974) and the 10, three-story-high enlisted soldiers' barracks buildings at the Army base in 1965 and 1966.

As favorable conditions persisted, Local 1579 **Press Secretary Golden D. Casto** was able to announce in the December 1965

because of the lack of work opportunities in and around Augusta. However, the local at that time had about \$1 million in assets and its wage scale was up to \$3.20 per hour for journeymen, who were also receiving paid vacations and sick leave as fringe benefits.

Two years later, the local's first and only business manager to that point, Brother Solomon, left the local for a job with the I.B.E.W. international office in 1960, after which **Brother Lionel W. Gullede**, who had been serving as assistant business manager, took over the local's top administrative position. After two years, Brother Gullede was defeated by a slim margin in the local's 1962 election for business manager by **Brother William S. "Bill" Carter**.

Out in the field throughout the early 1960s, the local's employment remained stagnant and members continued to travel for work. In fact,

Journal, "The work situation in and around Local 1579 is really wonderful. I suppose that every local would like to have more work than it can handle."

Although those large projects were completed in 1966, other sizable jobs and additional smaller ones took their place in providing manhours for the local's membership. Those included construction of the new, 17-story **Georgia Railroad Bank Building** corporate office tower (now the Augusta University Building and previously the Wells Fargo Building) on Broad Street in downtown Augusta beginning that year and continuing into 1967, when it was completed as the tallest structure in the city.

Meanwhile, Local 1579 negotiated for a new contract with its employing contractors in early 1967 that increased its journeyman wage rate to \$4.45 per hour. The pact also granted a 15-cent-per-hour-worked contribution from the contractors into a new **Health and Welfare Fund** that provided hospitalization insurance for the local's members, which went into effect on September 1 of that year.

More good fortune – and manhours – came the local's way with the beginning of construction of the 10-story, \$14-million **University Hospital** in Augusta beginning in the summer of 1967 to replace the aging University Hospital that had opened in 1915. Scores of the local's electricians would wire the 700-bed medical center, which included coronary-care and intensive-care units when it was completed in 1970.

Elsewhere, on November 28, 1967, Local 1579 won an N.L.R.B. election to represent more than 110 employees of **Fidelity Maintenance and Construction Company** working at the **Columbia Nitrogen** and **Columbia Nipro** chemical and fertilizer plants in Augusta. The vote tally was 87 for union bargaining rights and 20 opposed to them, while seven other ballots were challenged.

As employment remained strong into 1968, highlighted by six Local 1579 crews working on projects at Fort Gordon, that year the local settled on a new, two-year contract with its employing contractors for raises of 20 cents the first year and 25 cents the second year.



Local 1579 officers elected in 1964 were (left to right, seated) Recording Secretary K. Dean Phillips, Vice President J. T. Thigpen, President M. O. Fox, Business Manager-Financial Secretary William S. Carter and Treasurer Lee I. Thompson; and (standing) Examining Board members C. D. Lentile, W. E. Lewis and Lake L. Widener; and Executive Board members B. A. Callahan, W. E. Hughes, Delmar Owens, Ben Bilton, T. E. Schneider and Jesse Johnson.

The agreement also added 5 cents per hour to contributions to the health-and-welfare fringe benefit.

Later that year, the Local 1579 membership voted to have the **Augusta Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association** (NECA) serve as the bargaining agent for the union-signatory contractors in its jurisdiction. "(Business Manager Carter) seems to think this will strengthen our local," Brother Casto reported in the July 1968 *Journal*. "It seems it will help with the negotiations, as we will be dealing with just one party instead of several contractors."

Before the end of the decade, however, construction work in and around Augusta became increasingly more slack as projects on which Local 1579 electricians were employed were completed. As a result, a large number of members were again on the road working through sister I.B.E.W. locals in locations including Pittsburgh, New Jersey, Savannah and Macon, Georgia.

GAINING A PENSION & DEFINING PROJECT

After construction of University Hospital was completed, employment was again relatively scarce for Local 1579 members in 1970 and throughout 1971. Subsequently, at one point during the year more than half of the local's electricians were "on the road" traveling for work with other I.B.E.W. locals.

The local also took an internal hit when Business Manager Carter passed away on December 8, 1970, while on an airplane headed to San Francisco.



Local 1579 members (left to right) John Farthing, Jesse James, Herold Hensley, Bull Moore, Rufus Sizemore, Lum Ward, Sly Fox, Billy Rabun, Nick Knox and Charlie Dietschler at work at the Olin Matheison chemical plant construction site in Augusta in 1965.

The Local 1579 Executive Board appointed **Thomas E. "Pug" Schneider** to fill Brother Carter's term as business manager. He went on to be elected to the position and served the local in that capacity until 1979.

A second phase of construction on the Signal School at Fort Hood, expansion and upgrade projects at the Savannah River Site and a job at the Columbia Nitro plant, which utilized more than 100 electricians at one point, provided an uptick in employment for the local in 1971 and 1972. That year, the start of construction on the new, \$27-million **Dwight D. Eisenhower Hospital** at Fort Gordon, which would be completed in the fall of 1975 after budget delays, likewise provided more jobs for members.

Beginning March 1, 1973, the local's journeyman electricians began earning \$6.55-1/2 per hour for the ensuing year in a contract with NECA. They further received 30 cents per hour from contractors into the Health and Welfare Fund.

But poor regional and national economies plagued the construction industry during the early- and mid-1970s, stifling Local

1579 once again. In that climate, increasing unemployment hampered the local as projects in the local's jurisdiction were stalled, placing many members on the out-of-work "bench" in 1973 and 1974.

Regardless, the local initiated its new **Pension Fund** on October 1, 1974, to provide its members with a retirement benefit. The local's initial contribution to the fund was 20 cents per hour worked by each member.

As the slump continued and was further exacerbated by a growing non-union presence within the construction industry in its territory, the local struggled to keep members gainfully employed in their home jurisdiction throughout 1975 and into 1976. Several key jobs ended during that time as well, including Eisenhower Hospital and a new, \$15-million textile dyeing, finishing and printing plant in Augusta for the **Toyobo Company** of Japan, leaving more Local 1579 members without consistent sources of manhours.

"Our work is progressing at the pace of the snail that lost the race," Local 1579 **Press Secretary Gene Banks** duly lamented in the August 1975 *Journal*. By then, half of the local was working away from its home jurisdiction, and although additional construction at Continental Can and the addition of precipitators on powerhouses at the S.R.S. created manhours for the local, its employment situation remained poor throughout that year and the next and into 1977.

Meanwhile, the local gained a new **"in-town" agreement** that went into effect on April 1, 1975, for an immediate 60-cent hourly raise and an additional 40 cents on October 1, 1975, that took the wage rate to \$7.96 per hour. The local also received a new **Savannah River Site agreement** for a 70-cent hourly raise effective May 1, 1975, that took that wage rate for work at the site to \$8.11 per hour.

LOCAL 1579 MEMBER MADE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN VIETNAM



Local 1579 Brother Theus Everett DeLaigle

Brother **Theus Everett DeLaigle**, a new apprentice with Local 1579 in 1965 who broke into the trade while working on the new signal school at Fort Gordon that year, was killed in action on February 28, 1968, while serving during the Vietnam War as a member of the U.S. Army. He had taken an honorary withdrawal from the I.B.E.W. to join the Army on November 16, 1966, after which he rose to the rank of sergeant and was ordered to Vietnam in August 1967 with the 242nd Assault Support Helicopter Company.

A native of Waynesboro, Georgia, who graduated from Sardis High School in 1965 before joining Local 1579, Brother DeLaigle was nearly 21 years old when he was killed by enemy fire in the Hua Nghia Province of Vietnam.

"Everett didn't catch on too quick because he was well-mannered and didn't say much. When you asked him to do something, he would really go all out to do it right," Local 1579 Press Secretary Golden D. Casto, who worked with Brother DeLaigle on the signal school job, eulogized in the April 1970 I.B.E.W. *Journal*. "As the summer wore on and men and boys came to know and love each other better, we tabbed Everett 'The Lip' because he was so quiet and we all liked him."

The following year, a total 75-cent increase in a new in-town contract that began April 1, 1976, raised the scale to \$8.71 per hour beginning October 1. A new S.R.S. contract called for a 63-cent raise on May 1, 1976, that increased the local's pay there to \$8.74 per hour.

Then in 1977, another in-town agreement that went into effect on April 1 added 55 cents to wages and 20 cents to the Health and Welfare Fund. A new S.R.S. agreement effective June 1 added 47 cents to wages and 20 cents to the Health and Welfare Fund, resulting in a scale of \$9.21 per hour for journeyman wiremen.

Local 1579 Training and Education

CREATING THE FINEST ELECTRICAL WORKFORCE

“Local 1579 realizes that the backbone of its organization is based on skill, and the future of its organization lies in the hands of the apprentices today. It is with this thought always forward that the apprentices are required to perform their tasks diligently and to always maintain high, first-class craftsmanship.”

– Local 1579 Business Manager Guy T. Solomon, January 1950 I.B.E.W. Journal



Local 1579 apprentice Brother Bruce Fox receives on-the-job training on a project at Fort Gordon in Augusta in 1965.

Even before Local 1579 was organized and chartered by the I.B.E.W. in February 1948, union electricians in the City of Augusta – who were members of Savannah-based Local No. 508 – had formed the Augusta Joint Apprenticeship Committee with employing contractors in the city. The committee had even submitted a “program for the training of electrical apprentices” to the U. S. Department of Labor on April 23, 1947, for registration.

Following that initial attempt to establish a formalized electrical apprenticeship training program, immediately after Local 1597 was chartered, it revised the apprenticeship committee as the [Central Savannah River Area Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee](#) (J.A.T.C.) that February 1948. The committee of three members each from Local 1579 and its National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) contractors then “went to work in earnest to devote more time to the development of its future craftsmen,” as Business Manager Solomon explained.

To that end, with the ultimate goal of producing highly skilled union journeyman-level electrical wiremen, the J.A.T.C. initially indentured all electrical apprentices to its four-year training program and consulted the Bureau of Apprenticeship “as to the proper manner in which the Joint Apprenticeship Committee could better produce trained craftsmen.” The committee then contacted the [Augusta Vocational School](#), which subsequently furnished training facilities and classrooms while the J.A.T.C. provided qualified instructors and assisted with preparing related study course for the apprentices to supplement the knowledge and training they would receive while working on jobsites under the guidance of experienced journeyman electricians.

The new J.A.T.C. program quickly expanded, so much so that in September 1949 the committee divided its single class into two classes to accommodate that growth. By 1953, the apprentice school had an enrollment of about 250 apprentices who were being taught by three instructors in multiple classes at the Augusta Vocational School, while



A Local 1579 first-year apprentice class participates in a “tool and material safety and handling” training session during their apprenticeship in September 2017.

ACROSS THE CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA

the apprentices continued receiving on-the-job training while also earning wages for their work.

In 1962, Local 1579 and the Central Savannah River Area J.A.T.C. instituted the new I.B.E.W.-NECA electrician training curriculum that had been certified by both the U.S. Department of Labor and the National Electrical J.A.T.C. In June 1969, the local graduated its first group of apprentices from the four-year program, which required apprentices be high-school graduates, pass an aptitude test and complete four years of on-the-job training and classes two nights each week.

With an abundance of construction work forecasted for its jurisdiction in the 2010s, by which time the J.A.T.C. program had been extended to five years, Local 1579 built an addition onto its downtown Augusta union hall in 2011 and 2012 that contained training classrooms. The J.A.T.C. began renting the space after it was completed that year, and in 2023 as the local marks its 75th charter anniversary, the committee continues to partner with Augusta Technical College for additional training space.

Under [Training Director Donald Kelly](#), the Central Savannah River Area J.A.T.C. now provides Local 1579 apprentices with a five-year program that requires 900 hours of classroom work and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training. The J.A.T.C. also purchased a building in Columbia County in which it expects to expand in 2024 to supply additional hands-on training for apprentices.

The J.A.T.C. also offers upgrade classes and training for the local’s journeyman-level electricians. Those classes include Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Instrumentation Certification that was added in 2017, Fiber Optic Association (FOA) Certified Fiber Optic Technician (CFOT) Certification that was added in 2019 and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) Electric Car Charging Certification that was added in 2022.

The first [Central Savannah River Area Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee](#) established in February 1948 consisted of three representatives each from Local 1579 and its employing contractors: From NECA, [Walstein W. Wallace](#) (chairman), [J. H. McNeil](#) and [J. A. Shaw](#); and from Local 1579, [Brother William E. Lewis](#) (secretary), [Brother William S. “Bill” Carter](#) and [Brother Guy T. Solomon](#).



Local 1579 apprentices participate in training classes administered by the Central Savannah River Area Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee at the local’s training center in 2018.



After a slow start, 1977 proved to be a strong year for the local's manhours, as its members and some traveling I.B.E.W. brothers were regularly employed on a variety of large and small projects that would continue into 1978.

Among those jobs that provided employment to a significant number of union electricians was what would eventually become the pinnacle project for Local 1579: construction of the **Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant**, or Plant Vogtle, for **Georgia Power Company** that after much delay finally broke ground in August 1976. The two-unit nuclear power plant near Waynesboro, Georgia, would be completed in 1987 and 1989, respectively, after employing thousands of I.B.E.W. members – and contributing to a meteoric rise experienced by Local 1579 during the 1980s.

Beforehand as Plant Vogtle slowly built up its construction crew over the remainder of the decade, many of the local's electricians helped build major expansions at the Columbia Nitrogen and Continental Can plants, the latter for which the local secured an agreement stipulating that all electrical work on the



A Local 1579 member participates in a picket of the construction site of the new Windsor Square Shopping Mall in Augusta in 1975 to protest the use of non-union labor on the project.

LOCAL 1579 RETIREES FORMED CLUB IN 1975

The I.B.E.W. chartered the **Local 1579 Retired Members' Club** on April 1, 1971, with **Brother Jim Kitchens** as its first-ever president. However, that initial iteration of the group was an on-again/off-again endeavor, and by 1975 the club was no longer functioning.

Retirees, with Brother Kitchens still at the helm as leader, re-formed the club late that year and held an "initial charter meeting" on December 9 with 13 retired members in attendance. During the meeting, the club elected Brother Kitchens as its president, **Brother Bill Howe** as vice president, **Brother A. B. Thomas** as recording secretary and **Brother J. H. Gibson** as chaplain.

The restored Retired Members' Club held its first regular meeting on January 26, 1976, with 16 members – and it is still providing fellowship for the local's more than 215 retirees 47 years later as Local 1579 celebrates its 75th charter anniversary in 2023.

\$100-million construction would be performed by union wiremen. Concurrently, the new seven-story, 420-bed, \$50-million **Veterans Administration Hospital, Downtown Division** on 15th Street in Augusta employed union electricians beginning in August 1976 and had three I.B.E.W. crews employed in 1978 before it was completed later that year.

The near-simultaneous construction of the \$25-million, 1.14-million-square-foot **Regency Mall** in South Augusta and the \$30-million, 550,000-square-foot **Augusta Mall** beginning in early 1977 also were wired by a large number of Local 1579 members. The two-story Regency Mall, the city's first enclosed, climate-control shopping center, would open on July 27, 1978 (and has since been closed down in 2002), and the two-story Augusta Mall would open one week later on August 3 (and has since been expanded to more than 1 million square feet of space).

Among the continued influx of jobs, during the 1978 Christmas holidays, Local 1579 members and travelers it hosted also worked on one of the Continental Can Company's largest-ever shutdowns for maintenance and upgrades to its mill. When complete, all phases of the updates started on schedule.

Additionally, the workforce at Plant Vogtle was gradually building up under electrical contractor **Cleveland Consolidated**. By 1979, more than 100 of the local's members were working at the facility during its initial stages of construction.

That final year of the decade, Local 1579 also ushered in a new administration when its membership elected **Brother Thomas S. "Tommy" Yarbrough** as its next business manager.

VOGTLE PUTS LOCAL INTO THE FOREFRONT

Although most all of the United States – and especially its union construction industry – endured distressing economic times during the 1980s, Local 1579

FIRST PENSION FUND CHECK AWARDED TO RETIREE IN 1977

Local 1579 first instituted a pension plan for its members as the **Local 1579 Retirement Fund** in late 1976. Retiree **Brother Bill Callahan** was the first-ever recipient of a retirement payment from the fund when he was presented with a check during the local's March 14, 1977, general membership meeting.

thrived during the decade. At the core of the local's unique prosperity was construction of Plant Vogtle, and with additional larger projects such as construction at the S.R.S. of its naval nuclear-fuel-manufacturing facility and its radioactive-waste storage **S-Area**, at one point in the mid-1980s more than 3,000 I.B.E.W. electricians were working in the local's jurisdiction.

To begin the decade, the local accepted a new contract offer from NECA that gave its member journeymen a total increase of \$1.04 per hour to their in-town wage-and-benefits



Central Savannah River Area Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee apprentice program Instructor C. C. Garrard (center) poses with the Local 1579 apprentice graduating class of 1978 during the graduation ceremony on May 26 of that year.

package beginning April 1, 1980. The raise elevated their pay scale to \$11.35 per hour and Health and Welfare Fund contributions to \$1.04 per hour for the following year.

Later in 1980, the local was awarded a new, one-year S.R.S. agreement with an 86-cent-per-hour wage increase. An additional 10 cents were also allocated to the Health and Welfare Fund.

Work in the Local 1579 jurisdiction advanced very rapidly as the decade progressed, and by mid-1981 the local was receiving calls for electricians almost weekly from the S.R.S., Plant Vogtle and local contractors for

in-town projects. Those jobs manned by the union wiremen included construction of a new administration building at Plant Vogtle and reactivation of the L-reactor at the S.R.S.

With both **Dunn Electric Company** at the site and Cleveland Consolidated at Vogtle even hiring a large number of traveling I.B.E.W. members from other locals in 1981 and 1982, Local 1579 President **A. W. "Art" Edwards** was able to announce in the May 1982 *Journal*, "The work situation is the best in many years."

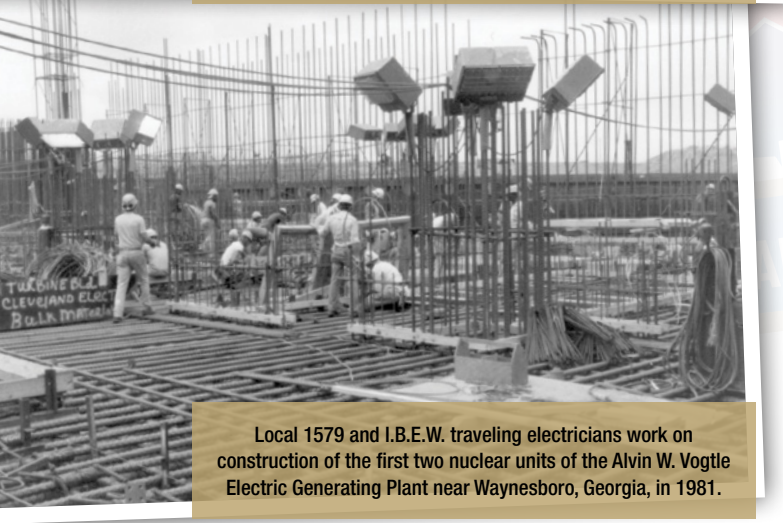
As employment remained stable – at the very least – throughout 1983, it was given a further boost when in July of that year Local 1579 signed a project agreement with Morrison-Knudsen, the general contractor for construction of the **Naval Fuel Handling and Defense Waste Project** at the S.R.S. Afterward, Press Secretary Banks proclaimed in the October 1983 *Journal*, "For a project of this magnitude, this is indeed a step forward for this local and the economy in this jurisdiction."

The local also gained a two-year working agreement with NECA for in-town work that went into effect on April 1 of that year and provided an immediate 90-cent hourly increase and then another 90 cents on April 1, 1984, for a \$15-per-hour wage. Its S.R.S. agreement was likewise extended for two years, effective May 1 with \$1.25-per-hour increase and another 90 cents on May 1, 1984, for a \$15.55 per hour wage.

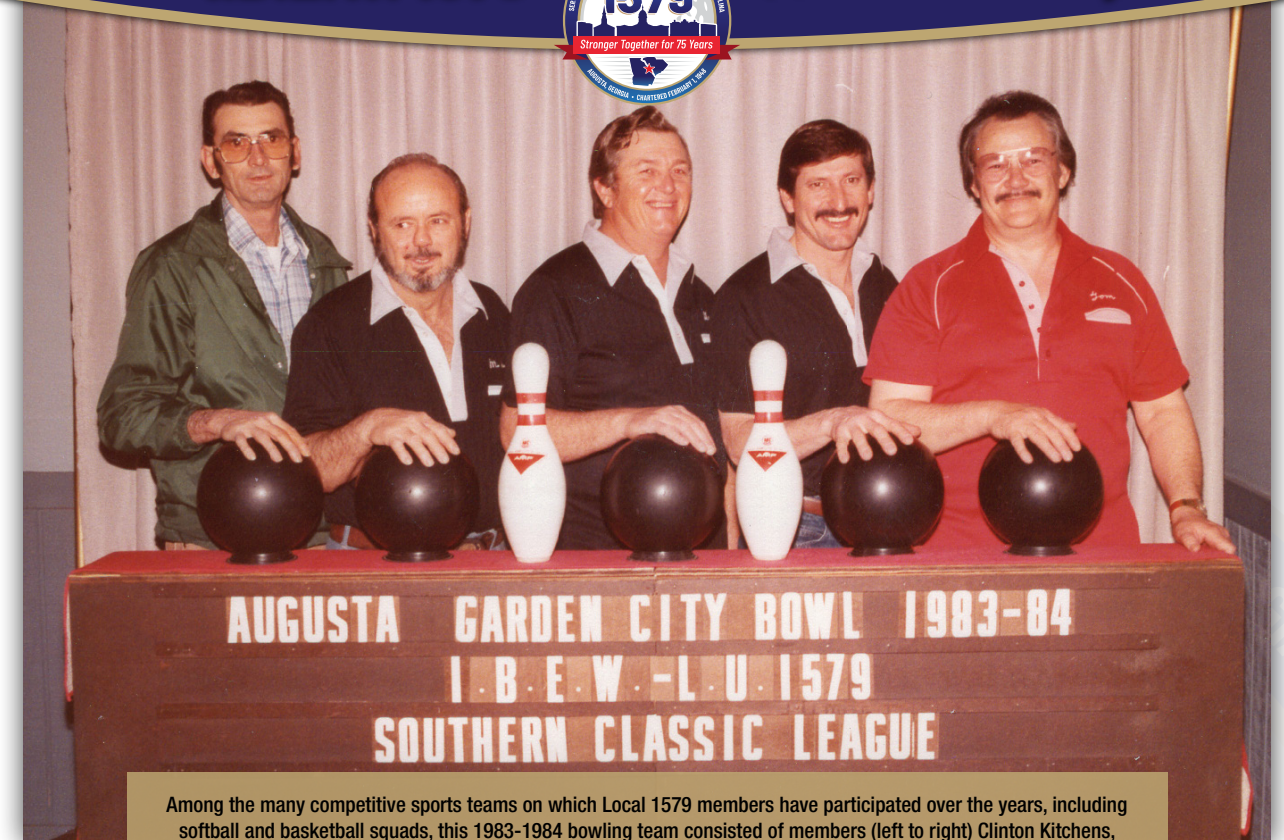
Before the end of 1985, more than 1,300 electricians and apprentices were being employed by 10 different contractors at Plant Vogtle to install its two generator units and 850 more I.B.E.W. members were working at the S.R.S., prompting Business Manager Yarbrough to request that all of his members working on the road as travelers return to their home jurisdiction. What's more, as Local 1579 **Press Secretary Chuck Wood** noted in the May 1985 *Journal*, "Our local shops are



Local 1579 Business Manager Tommy Yarbrough and members Brother Carl Morton and B. R. Randolph on site of the construction of the first two nuclear units of the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant near Waynesboro, Georgia, in 1981.



Local 1579 and I.B.E.W. traveling electricians work on construction of the first two nuclear units of the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant near Waynesboro, Georgia, in 1981.



Among the many competitive sports teams on which Local 1579 members have participated over the years, including softball and basketball squads, this 1983-1984 bowling team consisted of members (left to right) Clinton Kitchens, Marion Denton, Gene Baker, Charles Jurnigan and Tommy Yarbrough.

thriving, and we have more members working in the shops than ever before; this is a good sign, and it is a joint effort between contractors and the local union."

The following year, as the local maintained its strong employment conditions, its members and the travelers it was hosting together broke an all-time construction record with over 1-million feet of cable pulled and over 50,000 feet of conduit installed at Plant Vogtle in a one-month period.

Adding to the local's still-improving situation, in early 1987 its members began working on the pulp-mill addition of a \$1-billion expansion to the **Federal Paper Board Company** mill, the former Continental Can facility that Federal acquired when it took over Continental in 1985. The entire project would provide manhours for the next nearly eight years until its completion.

Handling about 30 percent of the construction work in its jurisdiction as compared to the non-union electrical industry, for the balance of the

1980s Local 1579 remained buoyed by work at S.R.S. and Plant Vogtle, the latter of which still had nearly 1,000 union electricians onsite in late 1987. Even after Unit 2 at Vogtle was put online in May 1989 following the completion of Unit 1 in June 1987, Local 1579 immediately worked out a project agreement with Georgia Power to supply labor to the completed plant.

With nearly 500 travelers still working in its jurisdiction as the decade neared its end, the local gained new contracts in 1989 for in-town work and at the S.R.S. for the coming year. For non-site jobs, its members were given a wage hike of 33 cents per hour with 20 cents going to the Health and Welfare Fund, and for work at the site, wages were increased 60 cents with 20 cents going to the insurance benefit.

PUTTING UP A FIGHT TO WIN BACK WORK

Employment for Local 1579 was stable as it entered the 1990s, with several in-town jobs that included construction of the

ALWAYS A GOOD AND CARING MEMBER OF ITS COMMUNITY

Since its inception in 1948, Local 1579 has consistently supported the communities in which its members work and live through a host of charitable and benevolent activities. Perhaps most notably early on, beginning in its charter year, the local annually contributed to a number of funds that provided Christmas gifts for under-privileged children of the Augusta area – until 1954, when the local set up the [Local Union 1579 Charity Fund](#) to furnish presents to needy youth. That first year, the local held a dance at its union hall on December 10 that raised about \$1,000 for the fund.

Local 1579 also held its first annual [Christmas Party](#) for underprivileged children beginning in 1954, while other efforts over the past 75 years have ranged from regularly donating to [Shriners Hospital for Children](#) and sponsoring [Little League Baseball](#) teams to hosting suppers at the [U.S.O.](#) (United Service Organizations) for military service members during the late 1960s. More recently, the local's community service has included donating \$7,000 to the [Shriners Burn Institutes](#) in December 1985; building houses for underprivileged families with [Habitat for Humanity](#) beginning in the 1990s; and contributing to the [Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots](#) annual drive to provide Christmas gifts to less-fortunate children.

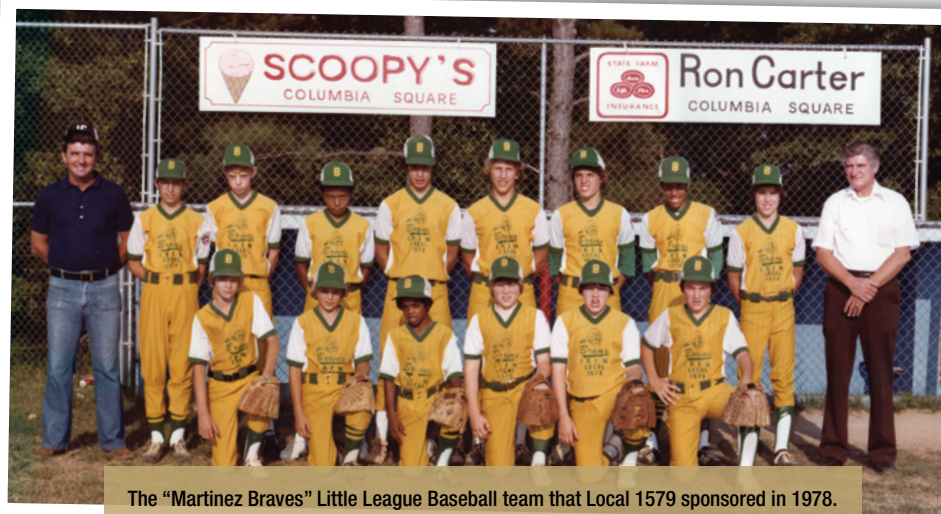
Among its many more deeds of support, in 1991 the local provided its union hall for the [American Red Cross](#) to set up its disaster operations after Tropical Storm Marcos left the homes of more than 825 families with flood damage. Nearly two decades later, in 2019 the local made a significant donation to the [Vietnam War Memorial](#) in Augusta. In between, in 2001 the local set up a [Community Service Committee](#) to help those in need within the community, which early on included Habitat for Humanity and the [Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation](#).



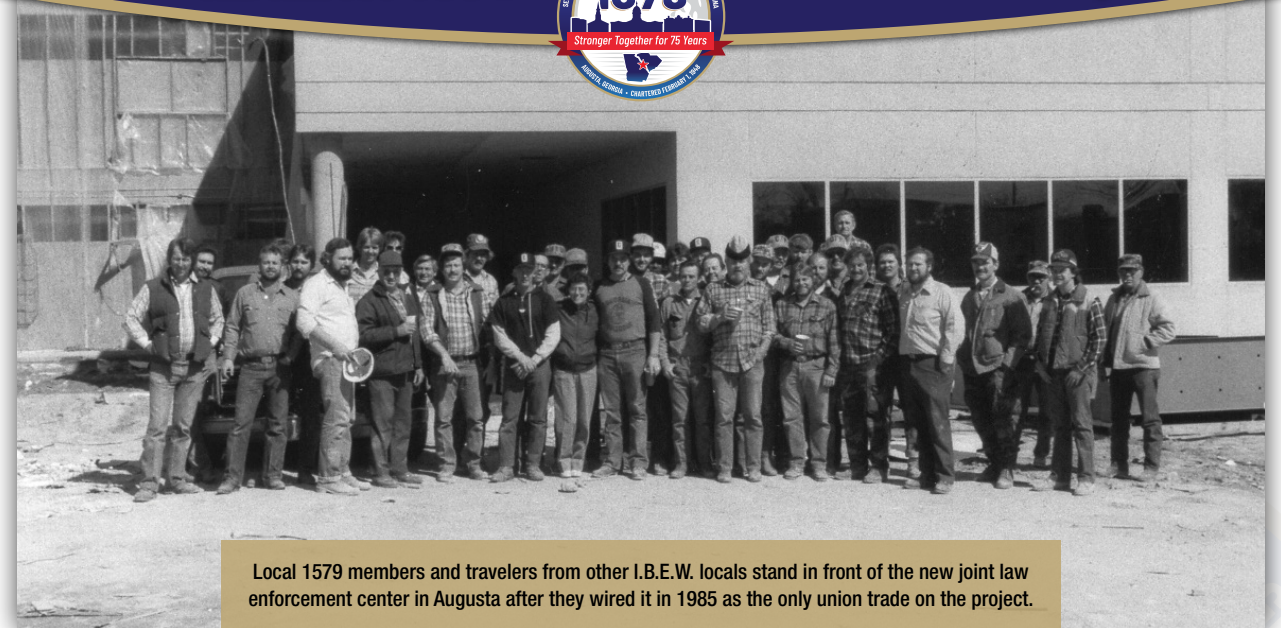
Local 1579 member Brother Wayne Gullidge displays a donation made to Toys for Tots by the local in December 2006.

\$36-million [Port Royal](#) 14-floor condominium and office tower and 120,000-square-foot commercial and retail mall located downtown at 7th Street on the Augusta Riverwalk that would open in March 1991. Member electricians also worked at the time on major upgrades to the [Procter & Gamble](#) plant in Augusta, which manufactured powdered laundry detergents, and a maintenance shutdown at the Federal Paper Board mill.

But the decade turned out to be a very difficult period for the local as its employing contractors were constantly fighting an ongoing battle with non-union companies. Even larger jobs in town, which had historically been handled by a union workforce, were regularly lost to unorganized labor.



The "Martinez Braves" Little League Baseball team that Local 1579 sponsored in 1978.



Local 1579 members and travelers from other I.B.E.W. locals stand in front of the new joint law enforcement center in Augusta after they wired it in 1985 as the only union trade on the project.

The entire Augusta area was also hit hard in 1990 and 1991 by layoffs at the Savannah River Site after Bechtel took over the electrical work there. Eventually, the I.B.E.W. workforce at the nuclear facility would be decreased from 1,200 to under 200 electricians before the end of the decade.

After long and grueling negotiations, however, in early 1992 Local 1579 was able to land a new contract for work at Plant Vogtle that provided 4-day, 10-hour and 3-day, 11-hour workweeks. But by that time, many of the local's journeymen were working with other

locals across the country because of the lack of jobs in their own jurisdiction.

While downsizing at the S.R.S. and escalating non-union competition continued throughout 1992 and 1993, the local worked to reduce the number of its out-of-work members by targeting and "salting" non-union jobs – whereby the local's members worked on projects to organize its non-union employees – with increased success. For instance, in late 1993, extensive efforts by the local's organizing and bargaining committees helped win contracts for work on construction of a carpet manufacturing plant in Augusta and a training center at the S.R.S.

"We're seeing positive results from this salting initiative, and we are reaping immediate benefits," [Press Secretary David A. Alexander](#) also reported in the March 1994 *Journal*. "Not only are we beginning to stifle unfair contractors in this area, but word of our organizing progress is dissuading other outside unfair contractors from bidding on local projects. What once seemed like a long-shot chance to regain our work is now becoming a reality."

The local continued to reap the benefits of its salting efforts in 1994, during which it successfully targeted several non-union jobsites. As a result, the local had one non-union contractor removed from a job and replaced with a union contractor, while other



Local 1579 Business Manager Tommy S. Yarbrough presents a 50-year I.B.E.W. service pin and certificate to former Business Manager Thomas E. Schneider in 1986.



Local 1579 Business Manager Tommy S. Yarbrough presents a 50-year I.B.E.W. service pin and certificate to Brother Cecil "Red" McManus in 1990.

non-union shops folded because of financial hardships resulting from the local's legal actions against their unfair labor practices.

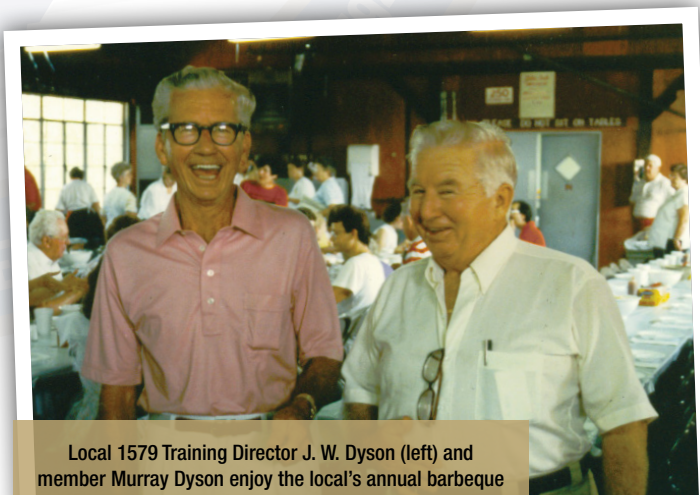
"With the adoption of a new and dynamic philosophy of expansion and growth, our union has literally mobilized the rank-and-file membership to actively pursue the electrical job market," Brother Alexander announced in the January 1995 *Journal*. "Through such-measures as market recovery and with innovative organizing strategies, we have begun to turn the tables on our non-union competition."

Even as downsizing continued at the S.R.S. into 1995, the **Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council**, of which Local 1579 is a member, reached a new, landmark agreement that year with the U.S. Department of Energy that ensured that subcontractors at the site would use union hiring halls, including the city's I.B.E.W. local, to fulfill their manpower needs.

Throughout the second half of the 1990s, although Local 1579 experienced some lows in its workload, it also reached many peaks in employment, which were enhanced by ongoing job-targeting and organizing efforts to gain new members and contractors. Among the jobs gained by the local, maintenance and refueling outages for the nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle provided a regular, albeit temporary, source of abundant manhours for the local's electricians as well as some traveling I.B.E.W. members.

NUKE PLANT BACK TO CENTER STAGE

The new "Y2K" millennium brought with it a welcomed spike in employment opportunities for the Local 1579 membership, allowing some of its many electricians who were working out of town to return to their home jurisdiction. Perhaps most notably during the early 2000s, more than 100 members worked on construction of the new **Tritium Extraction Facility** at the Savannah River Site, where tritium would be extracted from irradiated tritium-producing burnable absorber rods (TPBARs) after the facility was operational in 2006, and at one point nearly 90 members were employed at the **International Paper** mill (which International had taken over when it acquired Federal Paper in 1996).



Local 1579 Training Director J. W. Dyson (left) and member Murray Dyson enjoy the local's annual barbeque family outing at the Julian Smith Bar-B-Q Pit in 1990.



T.S. Yarbrough, business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, says the sign in the union's Reynolds Street parking lot is an effort to encourage people to buy American-made products.

Front page of the newspaper article in the July 22, 1992, *Augusta Chronicle* reporting on the "no foreign cars" signs that Local 1579 posted in the parking lot of its union hall that year. (Image ©Augusta Chronicle – USA TODAY NETWORK)

Union sends message to 'buy American'

By Erica C. Wilson
Staff Writer

In a year of political slogans and election promises, "Buy American" is a theme that U.S. citizens recognize and support.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is doing its part in encouraging the public to buy U.S. cars with a sign in its Reynolds Street parking lot that reads "Absolutely no foreign cars allowed on this property, cars will be towed at owners expense."

T.S. Yarbrough, business manager for IBEW, said the idea was brought up during a membership meeting.

"About two months ago at the membership meeting we decided that we had been preaching buy American for the past few years and it was time for us to do something about it," Mr. Yarbrough said. "We want to let people make a conscious effort to buy American."

After one of the local electricians made the signs, Mr. Yarbrough said, the union erected them in the front and back parking lots of the Local 1579 building, as well as at the Electrical Workers Home Association building in Appling.

Mr. Yarbrough said other

Please see SIGN on 12C

Meanwhile, the local not only continued its organizing campaign against non-union labor but also enhanced those efforts by making **COMET (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training)** classes a ritual of sorts at the local's union hall on Thursday nights.

The local also began engaging more with the business community. "Throughout these meetings, we have developed a very cooperative and trusting relationship with our contractors and the Augusta NECA Chapter Manager Everett Greenwood," Local 1579 **President Dennis Rocque** explained in the November 2002 *Journal*. "Only by working together can we significantly improve our ability to compete in an ever-changing market."

In 2006, the Local 1579 membership elected **Brother Kenneth T. Ward** to serve as its business manager after Brother Yarbrough retired. Under Brother Ward's administration, the local almost immediately joined the multi-local NECA-I.B.E.W. Family Medical Care Plan to help curb rising healthcare costs. Then in 2008, after the stock market suffered its biggest one-day point drop in history and the Federal Government passed new pension laws, the local's Board of Trustees protected

its members' pension benefits while having to make changes to the local's retirement plan.

Out in the field, employment over the later years of the decade was strong as multiple projects in the local's jurisdiction kept all of its more than 800 members working and employed travelers from around the country. Initially, those jobs were punctuated by construction of the estimated \$5-billion



Local 1579 members (left to right) Elbert Fields, Fred Broyles, Dean Lowe and Josh Broyles display their trophies after winning the local's annual Bob Reid Memorial Golf Tournament in 1995. The event was named for deceased member and avid golfer Brother Bob Reid, and has since been renamed the Members Memorial Golf Tournament in recognition of all deceased brothers and sisters.



The Central Savannah River Area Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee graduating Local 1579 apprentice class of 1996.

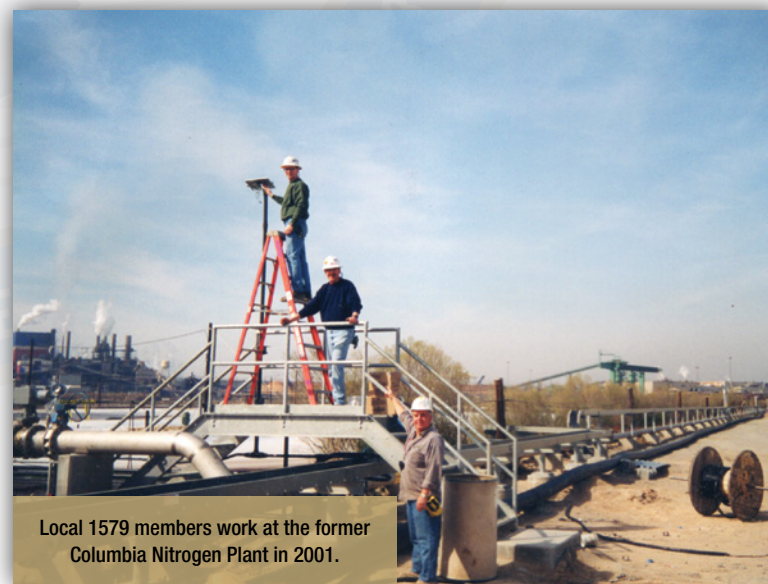
Mixed-Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility at S.R.S., which was to be the only such manufacturing plant in the United States, beginning in 2008 (although construction would be terminated in February 2019).

Then just one year later in 2009, the largest construction project in the country got underway in the Local 1579 jurisdiction with the start of work on the long-planned generating **Units 3 and 4** at Plant Vogtle. The first nuclear plants to be built in the United States in more than 30 years, work on its two new, 1.117-gigawatt generators began on June 22 of that year – and continued into the local's 75th anniversary year of 2023, when Vogtle would become the largest nuclear power station in the country.

But before union electrical workers were placed on the Vogtle expansion project, it began as a non-union job. In response, the Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council and Local 1579 immediately organized the **Jobs for Georgians** campaign to demonstrate that using skilled union trades labor was the best option for building the reactors. As part of the

campaign, union leaders and members stood outside the main entrance of Plant Vogtle displaying signs and getting the attention of the news media, while Local 1579 leaders met with Federal Government officials to communicate the building trades' message.

As a result of the united effort, **Southern Company** and its subsidiary Georgia Power eventually negotiated the **National Nuclear**



Local 1579 members work at the former Columbia Nitrogen Plant in 2001.



Local 1579 fifth-year apprentices working on a National Register of Historic Places home that was being converted into a museum in Greene County, Georgia, in 2002.

Powerhouse Project Labor Agreement (P.L.A.) with the union building trades for construction of Plant Vogtle – as well as future nuclear plants to be built in the United States.

After the Vogtle project transitioned from non-union to union building-crafts labor, 15 non-union electricians remained on the job, as was their right since Georgia was (and remains in 2023) a so-called “right-to-work” state, which provided them with the option to work on organized jobs while not joining a union. But Local 1579 was able to organize into the I.B.E.W. the qualified electricians and apprentices from that group of non-union workers, after which the project was handled solely by union members.

“Everybody is watching Vogtle,” Local 1579 **Assistant Business Manager Will Salters** declared in the July 2010 *Journal* after announcing the P.L.A. “We are aware that this project will be a test run and may have an impact on union agreements on future work.”



Local 1579 Business Manager Ken Ward (right) and I.B.E.W. International President Edwin D. Hill visit the construction site of the local's new training facility at its union hall in late 2011.



Local 1579 member Lee Thompson (left) receives his 65-year I.B.E.W. service pin from Business Manager Ken Ward (a 45-year I.B.E.W. member at the time) in 2013. Brother Thompson would receive his 70-year service pin and Brother Ward would receive his 65-year pin in 2018.

JOB INFLUX BRINGS 'HISTORICAL TIMES'

"When we look at the work situation in the Augusta area, we feel fortunate compared to other locals in the state."

With the size of the workforces on the units at Plant Vogtle and the MOX facility being steadily increased as the early 2010s progressed, Brother Salters was able to gratefully make that statement in the September 2010 *Journal*. Truly, the local's situation continued to improve to the point at which in August 2011 it had full employment of all its members within its jurisdiction for the first time in at least 20 years.

A large number of traveling brothers and sisters from other I.B.E.W. locals were also working with Local 1579 into 2012 as it could not staff all of the jobs in its territory. However, before the end of that year, the local's employment experienced a few setbacks with engineering issues on the Vogtle project and layoffs at the Savannah River Site that were caused by budget issues. In true brotherhood

spirit, many of the travelers left town to help alleviate the high joblessness among the Local 1579 membership.

By mid-2013, the local's work picture in the Augusta Metropolitan Area was improving and the local was gaining market share with the assistance of its local employers as well as its out-of-town union contractors. At that time, most of the large projects in the area were being wired by union electricians, helping Local 1579 claim about 36 percent of the electrical industry's employment.

However, the local still had "a long way to go," as Assistant Business Manager Salters proclaimed in the January 2014 *Journal*, on commercial and metro-Augusta work because of its constant battle with state legislators who were writing anti-union bills and the public's negative image of the union industry.

Having worked to counter those challenges, Local 1579 by early 2014 had members working for customers in the metro area with which the local had not placed its electricians in many years. Those jobs included projects at manufacturing plants operated by Bridgestone tire company, Kellogg food company and Procter & Gamble.

Over the remainder of the decade, Local 1579's condition remained strong and constantly improving as the Plant Vogtle unit additions and construction of the MOX were complemented with a host of other large and numerous smaller jobs that employed I.B.E.W. members from Augusta and around the country. Those sizable projects included the \$100-million **Georgia Cyber Innovation & Training Center**, a two-building cyber-security campus located just across the street from the union hall, built from early 2017 to December 2018; **SRP Park** baseball stadium, the North Augusta home of the minor-league baseball Augusta GreenJackets, built from May 2017 to April 2018; the **Augusta National Retail Complex** at Augusta National Golf Club,



Construction of Units 3 and 4 of the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant near Waynesboro, Georgia, which has employed hundreds of Local 1579 and other I.B.E.W. traveling members from other locals, in February 2021 (top) and January 2021 (bottom). (Photos courtesy of and used with permission of Georgia Power)

host of the Masters Tournament professional golf championship, built from late 2017 to April 2018; annual maintenance and refueling outages at Plant Vogtle; and expanding work at Fort Gordon.

Also during that time, Business Manager Ward retired at the end of his term in 2015 and the Local 1579 membership elected Brother Salters to the position, which he took over on July 20 of that year.

One of the new administration's primary immediate tasks was to keep filling jobs in its jurisdiction with union electricians. To that end, the local continued to recruit and employ traveling I.B.E.W. brothers and sisters, and it also worked ceaselessly to strip qualified electricians from the non-union sector and organize them into the union.

With an abundance of work that saw the local's manpower at one point in 2016 reach numbers that were higher than they had been in decades, and with more to come as the 2020s approached, Business Manager Salters declared in the May 2018 I.B.E.W. *Electrical Worker* (which replaced the *Journal* in May 2007), "These are historical times in Local 1579."



STAYING STRONG INTO ITS 75TH YEAR

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which first appeared in the United States in early 2020 and would claim the lives of more than 1 million Americans into 2023, affected Local 1579 in a variety of ways – as it did for many Americans across the country. While 2020 was prosperous for the local as work at its main employing jobsites continued, it was also a very difficult year for many of its members as the local had to change the way it worked out in the field and at the union hall, with added layers of safety required



The turbine for Unit 4 of the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant being set in place in 2020.

to perform the work. What's more, many members contracted the virus with a range of severity from mild sickness to hospitalization.

In particular, the virus spread swiftly at Plant Vogtle, whose Units 3 and 4 project was still the largest construction job in North America and was employing nearly 2,000 I.B.E.W. members. As COVID-19 persisted, the plant's 9,000-strong construction workforce was cut by 20 percent, and many workers were given the option to quarantine for two weeks at first and then longer.

The adjustments to safeguard trades workers at Vogtle mirrored the changes on construction sites elsewhere in the local's jurisdiction. Those safeguards transformed the jobsite and included reduced workforces, the required wearing of masks and plexiglass dividers in breakrooms, as well as social distancing whenever possible.

Also, by May 2021 the Vogtle expansion was on its fourth main contractor after the previous three had been dismissed by the Southern Company, and the project had survived engineering issues and threats of being shut down by the Public Service Commission and COVID-19. Throughout all of those challenges, however, the I.B.E.W. stood strong and its members performed their jobs to keep the project moving forward.

As construction of Unit 3 neared its completion with Unit 4 completion not far behind, Plant Vogtle continued to maintain more than 1,000 I.B.E.W. members throughout 2022. That October, fuel was loaded into Unit 3 for its eventual startup, which would continue to provide jobs for Local 1579 members.

Although the Vogtle project was downsizing toward the end of 2022, in October of that year Business Manager Salters, acting in his capacity as president of the 19-member Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council, signed a new P.L.A. for the construction of the **Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility** at the S.R.S. that is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2023. Once construction of the facility that will make the plutonium pits that go inside every U.S. nuclear weapon fully ramps up, it is expected to employ up to 600 I.B.E.W. members, and after it is operational in about 10 years, many members will staff the plant to handle maintenance and other electrical work. The plutonium pits are critical components to nuclear weapons and will be manufactured to replace the U.S. Governments' aging stockpile of pits.

The new project calls for converting what was originally designed to be the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility, which many of the local's

members were wiring before its construction was terminated in February 2019 because of cost overruns, into the Plutonium Processing Facility. "Any time our local union members can find work in the Central Savannah River area, their families and communities benefit as well," Brother Salters stated in an article in the December 5, 2022, *Electrical Worker*. "The timing could scarcely be better with the Vogtle project winding down."

With a promising future ahead as Local 1579 celebrates its 75th charter anniversary on February 1, 2023, the local represents more than 1,000 active members and retirees in its jurisdiction, which encompasses the Georgia counties of Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Greene, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffe, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren and Wilkes and the South Carolina counties of Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield and McCormick.

Among its membership, the local has been employing about 100 apprentices each of the preceding few years, whereas it had previously been indenturing about 30 apprentices per year. Additionally, the local in 2022 also purchased

land outside of Augusta for construction of a \$2 million upgrade to its joint apprenticeship and training center.

"We're blessed," Business Manager Salters acknowledged in the December 5 article. "We've got it pretty good." ●



Building-trades job stewards on the night shift for construction of Units 3 and 4 of the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant near Waynesboro, Georgia, in May 2021 include Local 1579 members Brian Sloan (second from left) and Shawn Rooney (third from right).



Building-trades job stewards on the day shift for construction of Units 3 and 4 of the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant near Waynesboro, Georgia, in May 2021 include Local 1579 member Seth Coit (front row, second from right).



IN MEMORIAM

Local 1579 Brothers and Sisters Who Have Passed Before Us

V. A. McManus	M. L. Benson	D. W. Farr	F. G. Kelly	F. H. Jordan
L. L. Roton	J. Chapman Jr.	L. T. Cooper	D. Evans	J. Thurmond
J. A. Andrews Jr.	Z. Hall	E. C. Leopard	F. R. Richard	J. C. Denning
D. A. Morgan	O. L. Hayes	B. J. Meehan	J. W. Langham	C. B. Deer
D. W. Summerall	F. D. Mills	C. T. Kendrick	H. H. Teague	R. L. Safley
G. R. Raisen	T. McDaniel	R. E. Sammons	C. E. Brantley	H. Yonce
S. V. Lee	R. L. Chrystal	E. S. Adams	C.L. McKenzie	H. Haines
H. B. Hill	R. H. Green	H. Logan	R. C. Brown	H. Redfern
M. T. Haynes	J. R. Price	R. L. Cowan	B. R. Fulmer	E. M. Jones
E. C. Cooper Sr.	P. W. Benner	L. R. Weems	F. W. Gibson	H. M. Edenfield
R. A. Carn	F. B. Cook	B. M. Chance	P. F. Carter	W. F. Robinson
W. J. Linday	W. A. Mattison	C. L. Rogers	B. W. Sellers	R. H. Taylor
J. D. Wilkinson	C. D. Smith	L. L. Archer	J. C. Hardy	J. B. Baker
R. H. Nelson	M. L. Banks	J. H. Lawrence	R. M. Smith	R. J. Dickens
J. M. Baltzecar	O. B. Lentz	J. F. Cunningham	J. W. Highsmith	C. H. Street
H. H. Baker	H. C. Murphy	J. Garrett	L. L. Widener	W. T. Grubbs
J. R. Henderson	S. E. Sims	T. S. Dunbar	N. R. Yeargain	D. Solomon
G. E. Eidson	J. M. Kelley Sr.	N. T. Huff	H. B. Black	M. J. Stephens
A. S. LaVance	W. E. Eidson	W. W. Harbin	B. C. Fisher	C. R. Collins
M. McDaniel	E. R. Harbin	W. F. Burns	U. E. Wiggins	A. B. Thomas
W. E. Brown	J. J. Hannaford	E. R. Rodgers	T. H. Armstrong	R. P. Cooper
J. D. Williams	W. M. Koon	F. E. McDonnell	B. B. Colley	D. L. Hammett
C. E. Mullineaux	B. H. Sloan	O. D. Templeton	C. A. Cox	J. R. Mauldin
D. D. Stevens	N. T. Hein	W. S. Carter	R. C. Thompson	J. M. Carmack
M. M. Holsonbake	F. M. Meehan	R. A. Story	H. L. Seawell	R. W. Holsonbake
A. M. Simmons	L. E. Capes	D. Owens	C. C. Fortune	C. M. Giles
C. H. Bragan	H. K. Treadway	D. B. Emory	J. A. Bickerstaff	T. L. Chance
H. W. McManus	L. M. Johnson	C. E. Penn	O. L. Manning	H. H. Kitchens
L. M. Golden	C. A. Martin	S. N. Hay Sr.	L. C. Wallace	A. J. Burchfield
J. A. Holbert	J. L. George	G. Eidson	J. T. Thigpen Jr.	B. F. Simons
L. H. Brackin	W. F. Stuckey	A. B. Windham	S. L. Cook	J. C. Johnson
W. R. Rabun Jr.	D. K. Hauchins	R. O. Mullins	C. R. King	W. Spivey
H. C. Batchelor	C. P. Zellner	E. G. Boatwright	O. P. Richards	M. H. Fowler
F. D. Parrish	K. Clark	C. C. Smith	P. H. Hull	R. C. Bennett
W. H. Yaun	E. B. Treece	J. O. Bennett	G. Widgeon	N. Newman



G. W. Bly	D. L. Remkus	F. A. Allen	B. Spivey
F. O. Chaplin	A. L. Baughman	01/10/90	08/27/91
R. E. Hebbard	C. Adair	W. E. Hughes	Kenneth Solomon
G. H. Morris	H. G. Anderson	01/25/90	09/20/91
H. W. Morris	C. E. Livingston	J. K. Denham	W. O. Thompson
F. M. Music	W. E. Reeves	01/28/90	10/01/91
R. H. Toler	F. C. Ward	C. B. Clark	W. J. Palmer
H. M. Willis	E. L. Russell	02/24/90	10/07/91
J. W. Buckhalter	O. White	B. L. Harper Sr.	John D. Denton
J. V. Murray Jr.	F. R. Hollifield	04/02/90	11/12/91
G. A. James	W. L. Jones Jr.	J. D. Carver	C. L. James
W. E. Cadden	W. W. Ford Sr.	04/10/90	11/21/91
M. F. Hebbard Sr.	H. F. Eady	W. F. Russell	Paul H. Foster
E. E. Richardson	E. A. Meischen	05/29/90	12/16/91
H. T. Brasfield Sr.	S. L. Kitchens	H. M. Center	T. E. Schneider
J. E. Wilder	J. D. Meadows	06/03/90	01/27/92
C. Antwine	J. J. Rivera	F. J. Lloyd Jr.	C. G. Rutherford
J. H. Farthing	E. C. Bentley	08/09/90	02/20/92
J. C. James	S. T. Campbell	J. R. Price	Sherman Pitts
J. C. Brantley	M. B. Fricks	11/06/90	02/21/92
J. H. Gibson	G. T. Solomon	F. L. Allen	D. A. Crawshaw
W. Allen	J. L. Gann	11/07/90	05/25/92
J. P. Dial	R. M. Rice	P. K. Fitzgerald	E. L. Allen
J. P. Dial	R. E. Hebbard Jr.	12/10/90	06/25/92
L. T. Lamb	J. R. Brady	W. K. Sellars	Anthony D. Harrell
E. R. Banks	E. M. Thomas	03/09/91	07/18/92
C. L. Mitchell	J. C. Sienkiewicz	Roy J. Odum	Dennis D. Kimberly
W. J. Hendrick	R. J. Reid	03/21/91	08/16/92
R. E. Long	R. W. Johnson	J. H. McElhaney	Fred Schmidt
B. F. Byrd	P. W. Bennett	04/10/91	08/19/92
J. A. Lewis	Derrill C. Rowell	L. C. Palmer	J. A. Lamb
J. H. Johnson	05/06/79	04/19/91	09/20/92
C. H. Salley	J. E. Huey	J. D. Cloer	Callie Hall
J. H. Sherman	01/22/89	04/28/91	10/31/92
W. C. Johnson	H. J. Edwards	G. K. Curtis	J. A. Rawlings
J. A. Lacey	03/17/89	05/04/91	11/11/92
C. A. Wall	Jimmie Kitchens	Ralph Bagwell	S. L. Fox
J. P. Caston	03/27/89	06/12/91	11/28/92
J. E. Farr	R. G. Carden	W. W. Ford Jr.	Timothy C. Padgett
	04/14/89	07/11/91	02/20/93
	J. J. Deason	C. P. Tidwell	Fred W. Winchester
	07/18/89	07/20/91	02/21/93
		Charles F. Parham	C. L. Videtto Sr.
		07/26/91	02/24/93
		J. M. Kelley Jr.	Henry Allen Roberts
		08/13/91	06/03/93



IN MEMORIAM

Local 1579 Brothers and Sisters Who Have Passed Before Us

B. E. Blackburn 08/31/93	Wadsworth Williamson 08/18/95	Ralph Bruce Saunders 05/12/97	Clifford R. Phillips 01/25/99
Delmas A. Nichols 09/11/93	David B. Cash 10/15/95	William R. Youmans 05/18/97	Horace G. Connor 01/29/99
Lonnie C. Tullis 10/12/93	Joe M. Peerson 10/17/95	Ward J. Knight 05/19/97	Corbett M. Kimberly 04/08/99
Marion Lee Johnson 12/03/93	Benjamin F. Bilton 10/19/95	Joseph O. Cudd 06/11/97	Harry W. Taylor 04/09/99
Jimmy D. Benson 01/04/94	William F. Burnley 12/11/95	James E. Wiggins Jr. 10/23/97	Lester J. Zeitz 05/20/99
Hilton H. Sanford 01/14/94	Francis M. Timpson 12/12/95	Levi C. Kitchens 11/21/97	Jack S. Horger 06/03/99
B. A. Callahan 01/28/94	Clarence E. Odom 12/30/95	Charlie B. Mills 01/19/98	Herman C. Kammer Sr. 08/18/99
James D. Ray 02/21/94	Cecil E. McManus 01/08/96	Walter E. Kelly 02/16/98	Charles F. Bennett 01/25/00
Deborah R. Corbin 03/04/94	Bryan H. Spence 05/18/96	John M. Rich Jr. 02/20/98	John W. Anderson 02/26/00
John James Rolison 03/07/94	Talmadge L. Thomas 06/06/96	Sidney M. Dyson 03/29/98	Allen F. Sears 04/05/00
John Thomas Crowley 04/05/94	Edward A. Marshall 06/29/96	Lynn M. Carter 05/06/98	Julian F. Hennett 05/04/00
D. S. Culpepper 07/23/94	Dean White 09/11/96	Robert L. Kitchens 05/08/98	John M. Lackey 05/11/00
Neal Montgomery 11/03/94	Robert C. Fisher 10/07/96	Bryant W. Gregory 07/21/98	William E. Lewis 07/08/00
Willie D. Nimmons 01/06/95	Lonnie B. Hatcher III 11/06/96	Carson J. Bryan 07/25/98	Hovert W. Lytle 12/07/00
Mack D. Hammett 01/10/95	Robert L. Crawford 12/10/96	Ed N. Scott 07/30/98	Thomas S. Leaphart 12/15/00
Robert C. Meeler 02/03/95	J. Gerald Dennis 12/18/96	Terry W. Thurmond 08/04/98	Art W. Edwards 12/16/00
Wilbert Scott 02/21/95	Ralph Mathews 12/29/96	David L. Hammett 08/31/98	Charles G. Brady 12/29/00
Charles L. Anderson 04/08/95	Richard K. Morris Sr. 02/23/97	James L. Smith 11/19/98	Willie "Bill" Hendrix 02/02/01
James H. Smith 05/04/95	Terry C. Thompson 03/23/97	Marion O. Fox 11/20/98	M. L. "Slick" DeWitt 03/21/01
Robert H. Fitzgerald 06/03/95	Wallace A. Greer 04/15/97	Dempsey G. Jordan 12/26/98	Noel R. Kersey 04/24/01



Wayne Tucker 08/03/01	Matthew Donaldson 07/21/03	Lonnie E. Barton 02/21/06	Walter M. Parker 02/19/08
Ray W. Abear 09/19/01	Gary E. DeWitt 07/28/03	Delbert H. Thompson 03/01/06	Nick Marchisio 03/01/08
Dwight E. Black 10/04/01	Carlos B. Jackson 07/31/03	Dale A. Law 03/18/06	Fred B. Stacks 03/12/08
Ricky K. Morris Jr. 12/01/01	Van McLendon 08/26/03	Wail Pickens 05/01/06	James E. Thompson 03/25/08
John O. Swanson Jr. 02/05/02	Elvan S. Knox 11/11/03	Clifford O. Dupree 05/20/06	Walter R. Palmer 04/19/08
Richard Dyson 02/26/02	Pierce E. Long 12/13/03	Helvic Leverett 06/23/06	Doug Wilder 05/20/08
Monte Tillman 03/06/02	Ed Yaun 03/07/04	Joe M. Stanley 06/25/06	Norman Howard Jr. 06/04/08
Gerald "Gene" Denton 04/06/02	Robert E. Beall 05/13/04	Louie "Sparky" Johnson 07/15/06	Arlie Outler Jr. 06/30/08
Lionel W. Gullledge 04/13/02	William T. Best 06/21/04	Herman Miller 07/24/06	Allen Hagood 08/27/08
Claud W. Bond Jr. 05/15/02	William H. Rhoden 07/26/04	W. O. "Buddy" Creech 07/26/06	John Hebbard Sr. 09/18/08
George W. Hoshell 06/20/02	Amos J. Tucker 09/24/04	Robert H. Zimmerman 08/09/06	Jesse Johnson 09/27/08
Fred W. Mays 07/19/02	Charlie J. Hankinson 09/25/04	Marvin German 08/17/06	Louis Powell Jr. 10/11/08
Llewellyn M. Alexander 11/30/02	James W. Shipp 10/20/04	Gus O'Neal Jr. 11/19/06	Bose Gowdy Jr. 12/16/08
Dean E. Little 12/12/02	George W. White Jr. 04/27/05	Jesse Rush 02/17/07	Harlen J. Allen 02/22/09
Noah E. Feagan 12/17/02	R. B. "Dickie" Beard 05/09/05	Aaron A. James 02/20/07	Billy Rabun 04/07/09
Rufus E. Sizemore 01/28/03	Louis B. Cato 05/22/05	Fred Schoenfelder 04/03/07	Fred Yaun 04/13/09
Cecil C. Larymore 02/04/03	Harold C. Whatley 06/22/05	Golden Casto 05/12/07	William H. Morey 08/12/09
James G. Jones 03/17/03	Joe B. Murray 08/17/05	Fred Meadows 09/18/07	Marshall F. Hebbard Jr. 09/11/09
Harold A. Hensley Sr. 03/22/03	Henry V. Barker 10/12/05	Walter H. Williams 09/27/07	Walter T. McCoy 11/08/09
Henry S. Logan 04/02/03	Sidney L. Whittle 10/19/05	Paul J. Smith 11/07/07	William G. Stansell 12/26/09
Clifford L. Harrison 04/11/03	William Monroe Reeves 10/24/05	Robert B. Harrington 12/20/07	Otis G. Murray 03/15/10
Gene Satcher 05/11/03	Ronald V. Murry 10/24/05	John W. O. Anderson 01/07/08	Gregory L. Corley 04/23/10
William O. Mathews 06/12/03	J. W. Dyson 10/30/05	James E. Wiggins 02/04/08	Michael S. Parks 06/14/10



IN MEMORIAM

Local 1579 Brothers and Sisters Who Have Passed Before Us

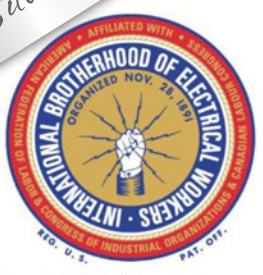
Robert C. Gross 08/25/10	Heyward Crosby 06/05/12	Harold “Vic” Woodward 05/07/14	Arbie Thomas 11/21/15
Arnie Q. Neesmith 10/17/10	Wayne H. Luckey 06/14/12	Anthony Yarbrough 06/08/14	Jack Cook 11/23/15
George Harmon 01/19/11	Bennie R. Sammons 11/24/12	Richard Dilegge 09/24/14	Jimmy King 11/30/15
Robert Neil Manning 01/26/11	Columbus C. Pullen 11/24/12	Lloyd Davidson 11/14/14	C. David Jones 12/06/15
Patricia A. Dent 01/27/11	Willie Gresham 12/11/12	Michael Outley 12/01/14	Mike Readdy 03/14/16
Hill Padgett 06/07/11	Jay Park 01/11/13	Rudolph C. Thomas 12/02/14	Fred McNeal Sr. 08/14/16
Elton J. Bush 06/24/11	W. Thomas Partin 01/17/13	Bradley Nappier 12/27/14	Kermit Hasty 09/09/16
Edward W. Keene 07/14/11	Edison Rachels 01/19/13	Clarence Miller 01/12/15	James Parrish 10/18/16
James W. Webb 08/29/11	R. Wayne Sammons 03/05/13	Ralph Hull 01/21/15	William Whitaker 11/18/16
John L. Kitchens 10/11/11	Norman Sheppard 03/15/13	Ronnie Lloyd 02/09/15	Charles Lackey 01/26/17
N.C. Murphey 11/02/11	Rudolph S. Dixon 06/10/13	Marion Denton 02/22/15	Victor Hankerson 02/03/17
A. Sherwood Kelly 11/21/11	David J. Roton 07/14/13	Michael Short 03/15/15	John McStay 02/04/17
Robert “Bob” Baurle 12/10/11	Clinton L. Perry 09/28/13	Robert “Bobby” Clark 03/31/15	Robert Hester 02/05/17
William H. Allen 12/19/11	Albert D. Rodgers 10/20/13	James “Jimmy” Yarbrough 04/11/15	Charles Dietschler 03/09/17
Charles D. Lentile 12/25/11	John H. Roton 11/13/13	Harold Outley Sr. 04/27/15	Jerry Pryor 03/15/17
David W. Brown 01/07/12	John D. Black 11/26/13	Leroy Hall 05/12/15	Edwin “Kirk” Ashe Jr. 03/31/17
Alvin Murphey 01/29/12	John W. Pickrell 12/29/13	William Hammett Jr. 05/13/15	Duane James 04/07/17
Greg Wells 02/21/12	Richard L. Howard 01/14/14	Daniel Anderson III 08/15/15	William West 04/28/17
Harold Leverett 04/06/12	Dennis “Marty” Allen Jr. 02/01/14	Joe M. Barnett 10/04/15	George Ponder 05/17/17
William T. Hillman 04/21/12	Johnnie Russell 04/20/14	Henry Videtto 10/11/15	Jerry McDonald 09/02/17



Ralph Hartley 09/24/17	Jimmy Barnes 02/18/19	James Hendrix Jr. 06/29/20	William “Ricky” Gillespie 08/22/21
Steven Zahner 10/04/17	Alton Johnson 03/17/19	Fred Walker 07/29/20	Maurice “Mo” Clark 08/25/21
Alton Osborn 11/10/17	Kenneth Moore 03/21/19	James F. Bell 07/31/20	David B Edwards 09/08/21
Lester Thompson 11/16/17	Frankie Kearsce 04/06/19	Michael Storey 08/02/20	Paul L Dyson 09/18/21
Tracy Jeffcoat 12/16/17	Gerald Attaway 05/01/19	Shirley Randolph 09/01/20	Lee Thompson 10/12/21
Hal Cromer 01/04/18	Woodrow Greene Jr. 05/03/19	Joseph Henderson 09/09/20	Gregory W. Jackson 10/29/21
Charlie “Pete” Price 02/01/18	Perry Tam 05/07/19	James F. Ansley Sr. 10/25/20	William E. Hennen 11/01/21
Kyrenie Boyd 03/28/18	Dennis Vowell 06/18/19	Dale Smith 11/25/20	John Tate 11/08/21
Robert “Bobby” Powell 04/26/18	Grover C. Coogler 06/24/19	Lawrence “Tommy” Lamb Jr. 12/22/20	Danny Faircloth Jr. 12/19/21
Betty Griffin 04/28/18	Willie C. Dominguez 08/16/19	Charlie “Trippi” Yarbrough 12/27/20	Gene Kelley 02/07/22
Leroy Bates 05/31/18	George Barnes 10/06/19	Clay Spence 01/06/21	Daniel Matthews 04/06/22
Thomas Oliver 06/14/18	Gregory Wingrove 10/14/19	Susan Cromer 01/11/21	Michael Andrews 04/12/22
Ronald “Ronnie” Jones 06/20/18	Thomas Yarbrough 11/18/19	Keith “Squeaky” Kimberly 02/13/21	Clifton O’Bryan 05/10/22
James Cumbee 08/09/18	John Coker 11/18/19	William “Bill” D. Hammett Sr. 03/01/21	Joseph Loadholt 07/12/22
Robert Fuechsel 09/16/18	Marion Jackson 12/04/19	Joseph Larry Enroughty 03/05/21	Timothy Overstreet 07/19/22
Hendley “Gordon” Rowe 10/10/18	Otis Lowe 02/28/20	Mario J. Sousa 03/05/21	Albert Short Jr. 10/03/22
Kenneth “Dene” Phillips 12/11/18	Daniel Timmerman 03/04/20	Willie Holsonbake 04/07/21	Elbert Larry Fields 10/21/22
Anthony McDaniel 12/23/18	Barry Solomon 04/17/20	David R. Brown 04/14/21	Ernest Huff Sr. 11/01/22
Larry “Tony” Giles 01/04/19	William “Mitch” Carter 04/18/20	Ward Mason Clark 06/05/21	Jerry Lewis 11/04/22
Joe McKenney 01/25/19	Kenneth “KC” Davall 06/13/20	Joshua Weeks 06/11/21	Edward Johnson 12/14/22
Roy “Joe” Flanders 02/04/19	Eugene McGhee 05/23/20	John “Gene” Baker 08/20/21	Shane McCullough III 01/21/23

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Local 1579 Electricians



Local 148 Plasterers' & Cement Masons



Local 283 Carpenters



Local 515 Laborers



Local 26 & 456 Boilermakers



Local 92 Insulators & Allied Workers



Local 150 Plumbers & Steamfitters



Local 709 & 846 Ironworkers



Local 470 & 474 Operating Engineers



Local 1756 Painters



Local 85 & 399 Sheet Metal Workers



Local 509 & 528 Teamsters



Local 8 Bricklayers and Cement Masons



SE Carpenters Reg. Council



Local 136 Roofers



Local 669 Sprinkler Fitters



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heather.j.seigler@morganstanley.com
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President: Rusty Browning

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**BRIAN CLARDY
President**

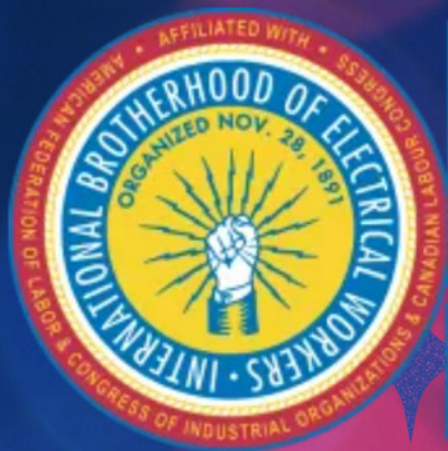
**MICHAEL POWERS
Secretary-Treasurer**

**CHARLEY BROOKS
Vice President**

**BRIAN MATHIS
Recording Secretary**

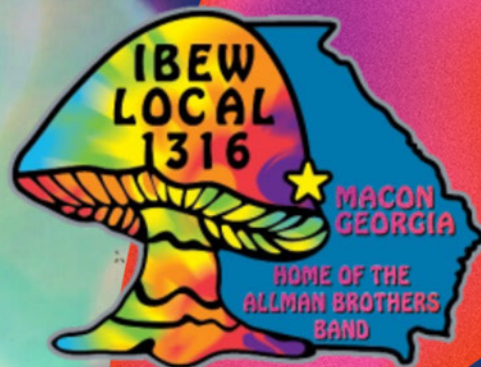
**Trustees
JEFF CARTEE
VICTORIA ESCUDERO
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IBEW LOCAL 1579

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Best Wishes, Local 1579

As You Celebrate 75 Years and Look Forward to
Your Next 3/4-of-a-Century Powering the C.S.R.A.

YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1205
Representing workers in the electrical industry
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Best Wishes on your 75th Anniversary Celebration IBEW Local Union 1579

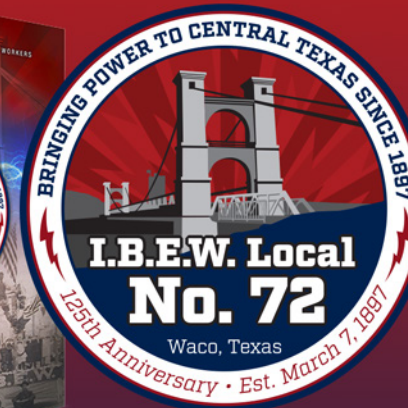
From

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FOR
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We Salute Your Diamond 75 Years Of Serving The Electrical Industry!

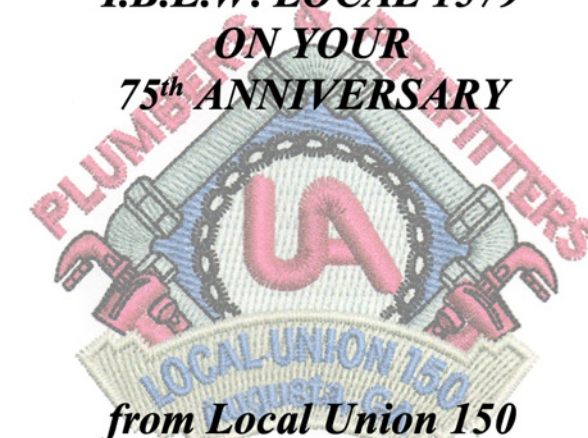
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**NORTH AMERICA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS &
NUCLEAR POWER LABOR MANAGEMENT COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

*In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and the seal of
this International Union this thirtieth day of February in the year of
one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight*