

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL 306



100TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY

1926 - 2026

CONGRATULATIONS



The Officers, Members and Staff of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council and ACT Ohio congratulate IBEW Local 306 on 100 years of building Northern Ohio.

Mark Douglas

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Ohio State Building Trades

Matt Szollosi

Executive Director, ACT Ohio

41 S. High St., Ste 2325 | Columbus, OH 43215
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Congratulations

Your IBEW family joins in celebrating
a century of brotherhood



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Kenneth W. Cooper, *International President*
Paul A. Noble, *International Secretary-Treasurer*
Austin W. Keyser, *International Vice President, Fourth District*



I.B.E.W. LOCAL 306 CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER-DANCE

Saturday, June 13, 2026
5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Goodyear Ballrooms, John S. Knight Center
77 East Mill Street, Akron, Ohio

Cocktail & Hors d'Oeuvres Reception with Live Music	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Dinner Seating	6:00 – 6:15 p.m.
Welcome, Pipes & Drums Band, Invocation	6:15 – 6:30 p.m.
Plated Combination Dinner, Dessert	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Remarks and Presentations	8:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Live Music, Dancing, Celebrating, Gifts.....	8:30 – 11:00 p.m.



UNITY, TRADITION, VALUES MAKE LOCAL 306 A WAY OF LIFE

Brothers, Sisters, Retirees, and Friends,

As we gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of I.B.E.W. Local 306, I am honored to reflect on the proud legacy of our local union and the generations of members whose hard work, dedication and solidarity have made this milestone possible.

My journey with Local 306 began before I was accepted into the local's apprenticeship program. I started in the electrical industry as an unindentured apprentice with J.W. Didado Electric and was fortunate to be accepted into the Local 306 Apprenticeship Program as a first-year apprentice in 1996. The training, mentorship and opportunities I received through the I.B.E.W. helped shape not only my career but also my commitment to serving our membership.

Over the years, I have been privileged to serve Local 306 in many capacities, including as a member of the Social Committee and Executive Board, president of Local 306 and assistant business manager. Each role strengthened my appreciation for our Brotherhood and reinforced my belief that the true strength of our union lies in the dedication and involvement of its members. Today, as business manager, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this membership and help lead our local into the future.

One of the greatest blessings of my career has been witnessing the next generation embrace the values and opportunities that Local 306 has provided for so many families. As a father, I am incredibly proud to have my son follow in my footsteps and become a member of Local 306. It is equally rewarding to see my son-in-law join our Brotherhood as well. Seeing them choose this path reminds me that our union is more than a place of employment – it is a family, a tradition and a way of life. As we celebrate 100 years of Local 306, nothing gives me greater confidence in our future than knowing the next generation is prepared to carry forward the principles of hard work, craftsmanship, and solidarity that have defined our organization for a century.

This centennial celebration is more than marking the passage of time. It is about honoring the brothers and sisters who came before us – the charter members who established Local 306, the leaders who guided us through changing times and the generations of skilled electricians whose dedication built the reputation we enjoy today. Their sacrifices and accomplishments created opportunities for all of us and laid the foundation upon which we continue to build.

For 100 years, Local 306 members have demonstrated excellence in their craft, pride in their work and an unwavering commitment to one another. Through changing technologies, evolving industries and economic challenges, our members have remained united in the principles of Brotherhood, professionalism and service.

As we celebrate our history, we must also look toward the future. The continued success of Local 306 depends on our ability to prepare the next generation, embrace new opportunities and preserve the values that have defined our organization for a century. By remaining united and committed to our mission, we can ensure that Local 306 continues to thrive for generations to come.

On behalf of the officers, staff and leadership of I.B.E.W. Local 306, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our active members, retirees, contractors, families and community partners. Your support, dedication, and sacrifice have made this remarkable milestone possible.

Thank you for being part of our first 100 years. I look forward to building the next 100 together.

Fraternally,

Chuck Zittle Sr., Business Manager / Financial Secretary
I.B.E.W. Local No. 306



This book was proudly produced by

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Layout & Design: Steven Demanett



The 100-Year History of I.B.E.W. Local No. 306, Akron

A CENTURY NORTH

POWERING AST OHIO



OUR 50th YEAR "Proudly serving the community since 1926"

After three unsuccessful tries, a Local Union was finally established in the Akron area to serve the needs of this community. This Local Union, 306, despite resistance to their organizing efforts, struggled through hard times through a depression, through the war years and continued their growth. As a result of fine Apprenticeship and Training programs, our Local Union has been able to keep abreast of the Electrical Construction Industry. Our members are skilled craftsmen who take great pride in their workmanship. Based on the goals of our Founders, Local Union 306 has been able to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship.

An advertisement I.B.E.W. Local 306 ran in newspapers in 1976 as part of its 50th charter anniversary celebration.

"The standard ingredients for a strong organization are teamwork and unity. We can be proud of our past achievements, but more important, we must be aware of the challenges of the future."

— Business Manager Dennis M. Johanyak, 1974 "State of I.B.E.W. Local 306" report

A s Akron, Ohio, was claiming its title as "Rubber Capital of the World" during the early 20th Century, with its tire-manufacturing companies rapidly expanding between 1900 and 1920 along with the unprecedented demand for tires created by the booming American automobile industry, the organized electrical workers in the city were already facing significant challenges. First and foremost, in a decidedly anti-union town in which the "Big Four" tire and rubber companies – Goodyear, Firestone, B.F. Goodrich and General Tire – aggressively opposed organized labor, the struggle to merely exist as a union was very real.

Consequently, early attempts by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.) to maintain a local union of organized electricians and wiremen proved futile. The union first chartered "mixed" trades **Local No. 89** in Akron on November 27, 1899, to represent the city's inside wiremen and outside linemen, but the local was declared defunct on January 31, 1905.

After the I.B.E.W. chartered mixed **Local No. 11** in the city on March 31, 1906, just two years later the local joined a large faction of mostly outside-lineman locals that in 1908 separated from the union and formed their own



I.B.E.W., electing James J. Reid as its president and James W. Murphy as its secretary during a convention that year. Primarily driven by dissension between wiremen and linemen and disappointed national office-seekers, the “**Reid-Murphy Split**” locals refused to recognize President Frank J. McNulty and Secretary Peter W. Collins as the true officers of the union; however, after a court decision in February 1912 declared the 1908 “Reid-Murphy” convention illegal and its actions void, nearly all the locals that had broken away attended the I.B.E.W.’s 12th convention in Boston in 1913 – but by that time, Local 11 of Akron had already gone defunct sometime in 1912.



MILLER, OTHERS FOUNDED I.B.E.W. 135 YEARS AGO

A small group of inside electricians and outside linemen, headed by founder and first president **Brother Henry Miller**, officially formed the **National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** during a convention on November 21, 1891, in St. Louis. Brother Miller reportedly went without food and other necessities and instead used his earnings to travel the country to organize local unions in various cities into the new national union.

At its 1899 convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the union officially changed its name to the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** (I.B.E.W.) after it added a local in Ottawa, Ontario. The union’s primary objectives remained improving safety, wages and working conditions for its members – just as the modern-day I.B.E.W. continues to focus on organizing, collective bargaining and advocating for workers’ rights.

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 I.B.E.W. then chartered inside-wiremen **Local No. 220** in Akron on July 15, 1914, and outside-linemen **Local No. 439** in the city on September 10, 1916. But Local 220 would be disbanded on September 25, 1925, while Local 439 would ultimately go defunct on May 16, 1927.

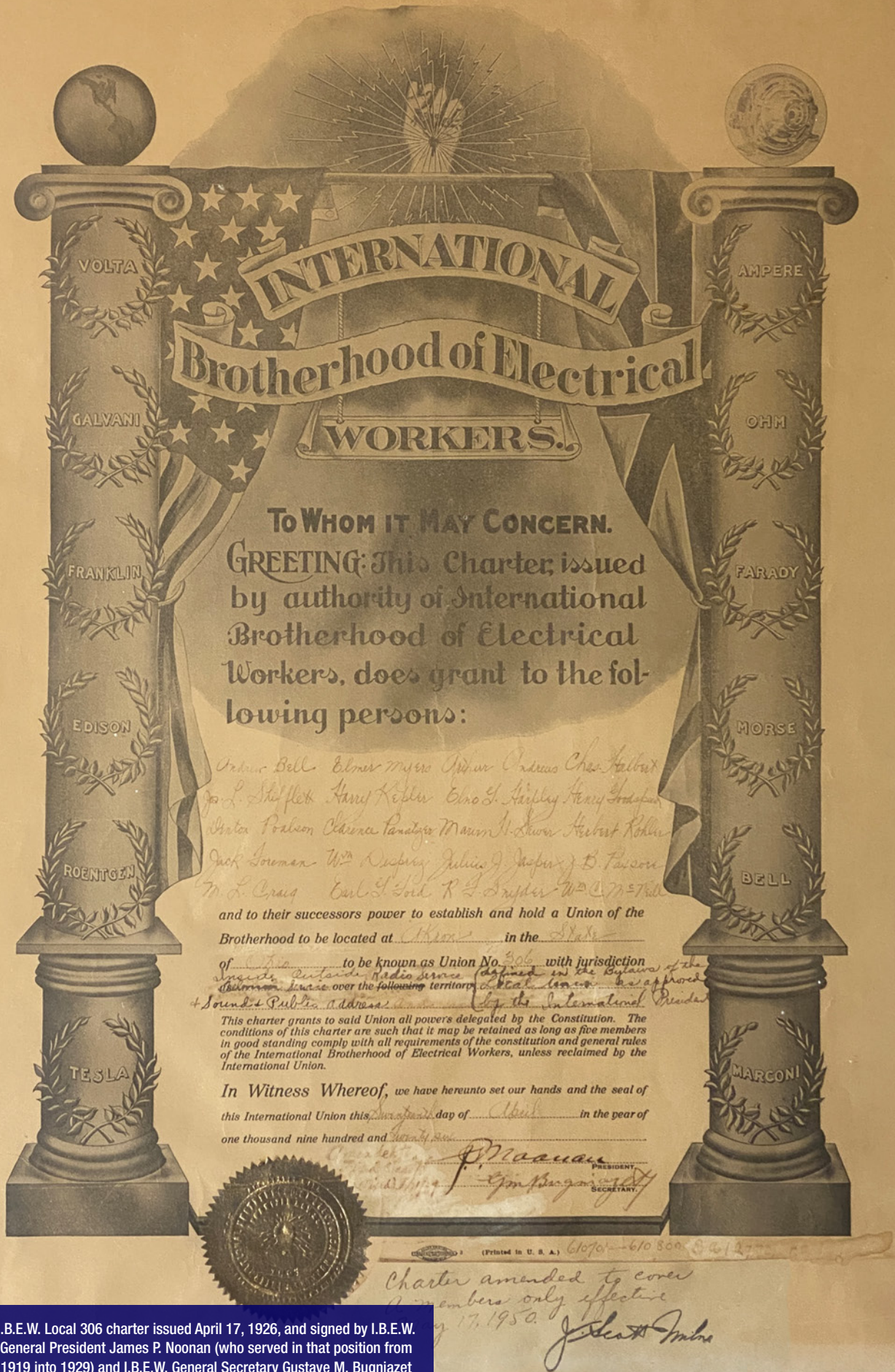
Meanwhile, by the second half of the 1920s, Akron’s tire industry was operating at full blast and its rubber companies were rapidly expanding their massive factory complexes to meet record-breaking demands, while they also continued to persistently quell organizing efforts among their employees. Regardless, by the late 1920s Akron’s rubber manufacturers would be producing more than 40 percent of the country’s tires, while simultaneously spurring unprecedented economic and population growth in and around the city.

Determined to provide Akron’s electrical workers with union representation as their city and its industrial landscape were flourishing along with the “Roaring Twenties,” a vibrant nationwide period of economic prosperity, mass consumerism and extreme cultural change during the greater part of the 1920s, the I.B.E.W. continued to organize within the town. Subsequently, the union chartered mixed

inside-wiremen and outside-linemen **Local No. 306** on **April 17, 1926**, to serve the city.

‘CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS’ AFTER ‘AN UPHILL STRUGGLE’

For several years after Local 306 was organized, it largely seemed as if the local might go the way of its defunct Akron-based I.B.E.W. predecessors before the local began to gain traction and more-soundly establish itself within the city’s electrical construction industry during the early 1930s. First, however, in addition to its struggle against an anti-union climate, the local and the entire nation were severely throttled by the Great Depression, the historic decade-long national economic collapse and ensuing humanitarian



I.B.E.W. Local 306 charter issued April 17, 1926, and signed by I.B.E.W. General President James P. Noonan (who served in that position from 1919 into 1929) and I.B.E.W. General Secretary Gustave M. Bugniazet (who served in that position from 1925 into 1947).



LOCAL 306 CHARTER MEMBERS

These 20 men signed the application for the charter granted to Local No. 306 by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on April 17, 1926, and were subsequently listed on the local's charter.

Arthur Andrews	Harry Kepler
Andrew A. Bell	William C. McNeill
Melvin L. Craig	Elmer Myers
William Desprez	Clarence L. Panatzer
Earl G. Ford	Jasper B. Paxson
Jack C. Foreman	Denton V. Poulson
Henry T. Goodspeed	Herbert Rohler
Charles Halbert	Marvin H. Seiver
Elmo G. Harpley	Joseph L. Shifflett
Julius J. Jasper	R. F. Snyder

catastrophe that began with the U.S. stock market crash of October 29, 1929, after which upwards of 25 percent of the nation's workforce was unemployed at times during the 1930s.

The collapse of national automobile and construction sales caused by the Depression devastated Akron's manufacturing base as the demand for rubber tires plummeted, resulting in exceedingly high industrial unemployment in the city that reached as high as 60 percent in 1932. Likewise, during the early 1930s Local 306 electrical workers were left with few employment opportunities.

But even during the Depression, nearly a decade into the local's existence – and just shortly after unions began organizing within the rubber industry – Local 306 **Press Secretary William H. Wilson** (who was also the former business manager of the local) was able to reflect in the July 1935 issue of the *I.B.E.W. Journal*, the union's monthly member publication:

"Our local is still on the map and is making progress. We have had an uphill struggle for many years, but our efforts are beginning to bear fruit."

"Nearly 14 years of persistent and consistent effort put forth on the part of a few loyal electrical workers, who have hung on with the stamina of a

bull dog, have finally brought about a harmonious relationship with a number of the major electrical contractors in this city, and we have entered into a closed-shop agreement."

"Akron, as you know, was always a noted anti-union open shop town, but things have changed somewhat in the past two years. All organizations here have made considerable progress. It has not been an easy task. A lot of hard work has been put in. Nothing is gained by labor without a lot of heartbreaking sacrifices and hard work."

"The Akron electrical workers, by their persistent efforts in carrying on the struggle and continually pounding away at the opposing forces, have finally removed many of the barriers and obstacles that stood in the way to the goal of freedom and industrial democracy."

As such, by that time Local 306 had even gained employment agreements with the rubber companies that covered hours, wages and conditions for work in their plants. While only initial stepping stones for the city's union electricians and linemen, Press Secretary Wilson still declared, *"We have a foothold,"* before he also went on to warn his fellow unionists:

"The struggle must be continued. We must keep hammering away continually at the enemy's forces that are striving to keep us in involuntary servitude."

Among the scant jobs on which Local 306 members were employed during the early years of the 1930s and the Great Depression was construction of the new 16-story **Mayflower Hotel** (now the Mayflower Manor Apartments) in downtown Akron that opened on May 18, 1931. The city's most luxurious and prominent hotel at the time, it was also one of Akron's tallest buildings after work on it was completed.

Nationally, as the United States suffered unprecedented economic hardship during the Depression, more than 50 percent of

the I.B.E.W.'s membership throughout the country was unemployed at times, and wages for members who were able to work decreased, according to *I.B.E.W. History & Structure*. The National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 – the "New Deal" – developed under U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt provided some relief from the effects of the Depression with its series of national economic measures aimed at generating jobs, while the federal government also passed legislation that assisted unions and protected workers' rights, including the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, which guaranteed employees the right to form and join unions and to collectively bargain for contracts through representatives of their choosing.

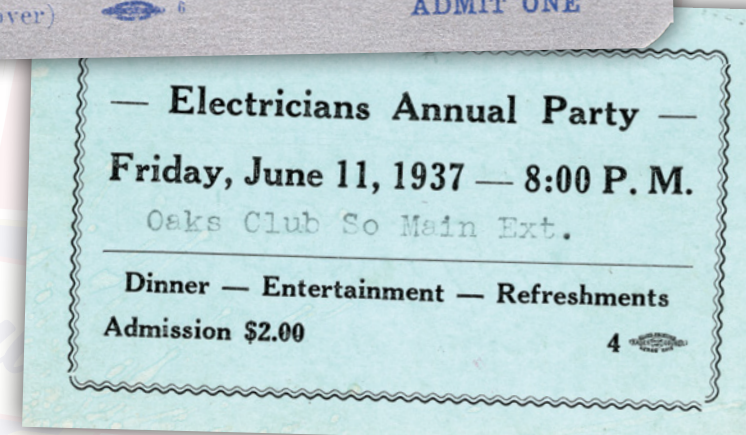
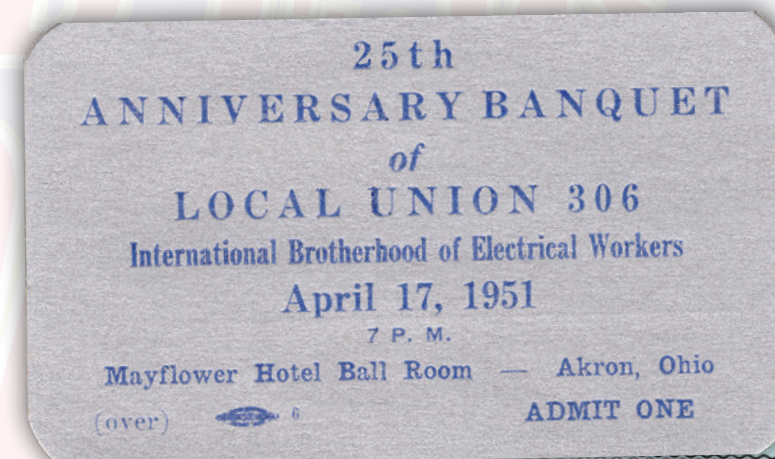
But it was the status of Akron's rubber industry that continued to primarily affect conditions for Local 306 and employment of its membership. Accordingly, the local openly supported and intensely monitored with great interest the mass strike by United Rubber Workers of America Local No. 2 against Goodyear in its Akron plants that began February 16, 1936, to protest random layoffs, wage cuts and increased work hours.

"The success of the Goodyear strike is the concern of every organized worker in greater Akron," Local 306 **Press Secretary** and future **Business Manager Chester W. Murray** explained in the March 1936 *Journal*. "If they fail, other organized workers fail in their objectives, which are signed agreements and the right to collective bargaining."

After 33 days, during which 10,000 striking workers occupied the Goodyear plant and created a 24-hour picket line around the 18-mile perimeter of the property, the strike ended on March 21, 1936, after the company granted most of the workers' demands. Many outlets have since cited the

successful strike as one of the defining victories of the early industrial union movement in the United States.

The second half of the 1930s for Local 306, even as the country remained in the clutches of the Great Depression, brought with it improved employment conditions that included a large amount of work in the revived home-building industry that was installing electric ranges in new houses. In 1935 and 1936 alone the local also manned numerous sizeable jobs that included construction of a fully automatic, 22,000-volt to 4,000-volt substation for the City of Cuyahoga Falls; a major addition to the **Engineering Building** (later renamed Carroll Hall and demolished in 2008) at the fast-expanding **University of Akron**; several "New Deal" funded public-school projects; and an addition for the **Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company (PPG)** chemical-manufacturing plant in nearby Barberton, Ohio.





As work remained plentiful throughout 1936, the local's membership was fully employed for the first time in several years. Notably, additional jobs on which the union electricians were working during that time included a project at the **Babcock & Wilcox Company** manufacturing plant in Barberton that had previously been manned by non-union workers before Local 306 campaigned to have them replaced with its members.

"So far, it has been the banner year since the fatal year 1929," Business Manager Murray announced in the August 1936 *Journal*. The following year as employment continued to steadily improve, he was also able to report in the May 1937 *Journal*, "Our members are all working and we have taken in several new members lately."

With its electrical workers employed that year on several substantial industrial projects along with a number of new commercial buildings

and housing jobs, Local 306 gained an improved wage scale in a work agreement with its employing electrical contractors that increased pay for its journeyman electrical workers to \$1.22-1/2 per hour through April 1, 1938. The contract then raised the rate to \$1.25 per hour through November 1 of that year.

The following year, contractors would begin bargaining with Local 306 through the **Akron Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association** (NECA), whose parent organization was formed in 1901. (The Akron Chapter has since become the **Akron Division, North Central Ohio Chapter of NECA**, through which Local 306 signatory contractors continue to bargain and partner with the local in a host of labor-management functions and activities.)

As the definitive decade was coming to a close and the impact of the Great Depression still lingered, employment conditions within the



Local 306 apprentice graduates John Montavon and George Csanyi (third and fourth from left) receive their certificates after graduating from the Akron Area Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (J.A.T.C.) apprenticeship program as journeyman electricians in 1956 from (left to right) John Beck, National Electrical Contractors Association vice president; H. B. Blankenship, I.B.E.W. vice president, (the two graduates) and E. J. McDowell, J.A.T.C. chairman.



The current Local 306 Union Hall and Training Center on South Main Street in Akron shortly after it was built in 2001.

Local 306 jurisdiction of Summit and Portage counties weakened to a point at which the local agreed to hold its wage increase at \$1.20 per hour into 1940. However, work through other I.B.E.W. locals around Northeast Ohio employed many Akron-based electrical workers who "traveled" to the jurisdictions of those sister locals for jobs – a practice that would become common among Local 306 members throughout its coming history.

POWERING WAR VICTORY & CONTINUING TO PROGRESS

With **World War II** already raging in Europe and Asia, by 1940 Akron and its expansive industrial industries were beginning to retool their factories and build new plants to accommodate an already increasing demand for military supplies and materiel. As the call to ramp up production for war equipment finally pulled the United States out of the Great Depression, the increased construction activity simultaneously created an abundance of employment for Local 306 electrical workers within the local's jurisdiction.

Among a range of war-related projects on which Local 306 members worked that completely reshaped Akron's construction landscape away from any civic and residential building and toward extensive industrial expansion and wartime infrastructure work was construction

LOCAL 306 UNION HALLS AND HEADQUARTERS

(All locations are in the City of Akron.)

Central Labor Union Temple

139 East Market Street
1926 – 1929

Akron Building Trades Council Hall

76 North Main Street
1929 – 1931

Akron Labor Temple

184 West Center Street
1931 – 1942

Local 306 Offices & Meetings

Merchants Building
290 South Main Street
1942 – 1949

Local 306 Offices & Meetings

First Federal Savings & Loan Building
326 South Main Street
1949 – 1952

Local 306 Offices

321 North Summit Street
Meetings:
230 West Center Street
1952 – 1954

Local 306 Offices

321 North Summit Street
Meetings:
Carovillese Hall
570 East Cuyahoga Falls Avenue
1954 – 1970

Local 306 Union Hall

518 East Cuyahoga Falls Avenue
1970 – 2001

Local 306 Union Hall

2650 South Main Street
2001 – current

of Goodyear's massive aircraft and munitions plants. In particular, as the city's rubber titans each rapidly expanded their footprints to support the military, the newly formed Goodyear Aircraft Corporation retrofitted and repurposed its existing **Goodyear Airdock** to accommodate World War II defense contracts



LOCAL 306 BUSINESS MANAGERS

(Local 306 combined its offices of Business Manager and Financial Secretary in 1938.)

Business Managers

<none>

1926 – 1929

Cornelious M. Jeffords

1930

Alfred R. Johnson

1930 – 1931

William H. Wilson

1931 – 1934

Cornelious M. Jeffords

1934 – 1935

Charles A. Mellinger

1935 – 1937

Chester W. Murray

1937 – 1938

Business Manager/Financial Secretaries

Chester W. Murray

1938 – 1953

Sam Oaks Sr.

1953 – 1969

Dennis M. Johanyak

1969 – 1984

Jerry Bowers

1984 – 1998

David E. Moran Jr.

1998 – 2007

Mark W. Douglas Sr.

2007 – 2013

Michael A. Might

2013 – 2025

Charles J. Zittle Sr.

2025 – current



Local 306 longtime Business Manager Chester W. Murray (seated) in 1941 while on the Car Rationing Board for Summit County created during World War II to handle new car and truck rationing in response to material shortages caused by the war. (Photo © Akron Beacon Journal via Imagin Images.)

and airplane production, eventually building more than 4,000 Corsair fighter planes for the U.S. Navy.

What's more, because Imperial Japan occupied much of Southeast Asia, cutting off America's natural rubber supply, the federal government funded extensive new chemical and synthetic rubber plants across the city. With many union electrical workers employed on those projects,

Firestone, Goodrich and Goodyear added sprawling specialized facilities to meet the need for manmade artificial rubber.

Meanwhile, following stalled contract negotiations, on March 23, 1940, the Council on Industrial Relations, a national labor-management arbitration board founded in 1920 by the I.B.E.W. and NECA to avoid strikes and lockouts, awarded Local 306 the 15-cent-per-hour wage increase it had requested from the Akron Chapter of NECA, which had countered with a 5-cent raise offer in a new work agreement. The Council's decision raised the local's scale to \$1.35 per hour beginning June 1, 1940, for the ensuing year.

But the local's members went on strike in October 1940 after an electrical contractor refused to pay a new wage on work at Goodyear's new **Chemigum Plant** ("Chemigum" being the

brand name of the company's synthetic rubber) that it was building for the U.S. Defense Plant Corporation, the federal agency established to finance and supervise the construction and equipping of vital defense manufacturing facilities. While the pay scale for the local's electrical workers on the fast-track specialty project – and many other war-related jobs across the jurisdiction – had been raised to \$1.50 per hour, they instead demanded \$1.62-1/2 per hour because of the plant's frenetic timetable.

The pace of work and employment for Local 306 members throughout Akron's vast industrial complex became even more frantic after the United States entered World War II following Japan's surprise attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. As Akron's industry continued to completely adjust to help supply the nation and its allies with vital military materiel, Local 306 electricians continued to help convert the city's factories – including Goodyear's synthetic rubber plant, where the

local called off the strike on December 13 in the aftermath of the country's official entry into the conflict.

Throughout the duration of the war, the local's members were fully employed and the local regularly hosted travelers from other I.B.E.W. locals for the construction of new plants and the retooling and upgrading of existing ones for military production. Among many other facilities that were altered or erected in Akron for wartime production, additional synthetic factories and rapid wartime housing projects to accommodate the expanding defense workforce helped keep scores of union electrical workers busy.

After the war ended with the surrenders of Nazi Germany on May 7, 1945, and then Japan on September 2 of that year to the U.S.-led Allies, strong employment conditions for Local 306 continued as Akron retained its place as the unopposed "Rubber Capital of the World," with union electrical workers reverting Goodyear, Firestone and B.F. Goodrich rubber



A Local 306 bowling team displays its trophies earned in the Akron-area union bowling league in 1975.



COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED BENEFITS

Local 306 gained its first-ever employer-funded fringe benefits in a work agreement when the local and the Akron Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) signed a new contract in 1954 that included a **Health and Welfare Plan Fund** that provided healthcare insurance for members and their families, which was initially funded by contributions from employing contractors of 5 cents per hour worked by members. The contract also established a **Vacation Fund** to provide paid vacations for members also through employer contributions of 5 cents per hour worked.

A new work agreement in May 1970 then established the local's first employer-funded **Pension Plan Fund** fringe benefit to provide retirement benefits for members through contractor contributions into the fund. The pension plan went into effect in November 1971 after the local's membership had approved it in July of that year.

factories back to pre-war production capabilities while also further expanding their facilities, which would again be producing about half of the world's vehicle tires by 1950. The post-war industrial boom, created in large part by a surge in automobile ownership that generated an ongoing demand for tires, also sparked major suburban housing construction and complex urban renewal projects that reshaped the Great Akron Metropolitan region, supplying more work for Local 306 members.

In response to expanding powerline work as suburban sprawl demanded more electrical infrastructure, the local in the late 1940s conducted an "intensive drive to organize men in all classifications working for line contractors within our jurisdiction," Business Manager Murray reported in the May 1949 *Journal*. Highlighting the success of the campaign, he went on to proclaim, "That branch of our work as yet has not shown any decrease in volume. It is amazing how many unorganized people these line contractors can gather around them. Our efforts in this organization will naturally have to be followed by an educational program for those organized."

As Local 306 moved into and through the early 1950s, celebrating its "silver" 25th

charter anniversary with a banquet at the Mayflower Hotel on April 17, 1952, attended by more than 400 members and guests, it continued to enjoy strong employment conditions as Akron's manufacturing industries sustained their post-war prosperity. What's more, by that time the city's industrial and construction markets were under heavy union influence.

The local was then able to make several significant gains in its work agreements with NECA, beginning with a 15-cent hourly wage-scale increase to \$2.80 per hour for its 325 journeyman electrical workers in a new contract that went into effect on April 16, 1952. Following negotiations in 1954, the local obtained its first-ever employer-funded fringe benefits in a work agreement that went into effect in April 1955 with 5-cent-per-hour-worked contractor contributions into both a new **Health & Welfare Fund** that would provide healthcare insurance for members and a new **Vacation Fund** that would subsidize paid time off for members.

As work in its jurisdiction also continued to escalate, the start of construction of the 1.5 million-square-foot factory **Chrysler Corporation Twinsburg Stamping Plant** in Twinsburg, Ohio, in January 1956 added another source of abundant workhours for union electricians, including many traveling I.B.E.W. members from other locals. The world's largest auto-stamping plant, after it went online in August 1957 it would produce parts for multiple Chrysler car lines as Twinsburg's largest employer while also regularly using Local 306 members for maintenance, expansions and upgrades until the factory was closed on July 31, 2010.

Meanwhile, **General Motors** employed the local's electricians to power a new 660,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in

Hudson, Ohio, the automobile-manufacturing giant erected in 1957 and 1958 to produce earth-moving equipment and crawler tractors. The plant would operate for nearly three decades, during which it anchored the industrial tax base for Hudson's suburban growth and regularly provided jobs for the local's members for modernization and upkeep.

Elsewhere, among a litany of educational- and medical-institution growth in the Akron region that created work for union electrical workers, between 1958 and 1962 **Akron General Hospital** (now **Cleveland Clinic Akron General**) expanded its facilities by constructing a new research wing, a service building, an updated pharmacy and a new Intensive Care Unit. The hospital's continued expansion as part of a major post-World War II modernization program also put many Local 306 members and I.B.E.W. travelers to work within the local's territory.

Another new work agreement with NECA then pushed the wage scale for the local's 400 journeymen from \$3.50 to \$3.58 per hour beginning May 16, 1958, and then to \$3.65 per hour beginning September 29 that year. The local's members were also receiving an additional 10 cents per hour for their health and welfare benefits as they approached the close of the productive and lucrative decade.

TRAVERSING HIGHS, LOWS AND REMAINING RESILIENT

As Summit County was transformed during the 1960s by downtown Akron urban renewal, ongoing suburban expansion and considerable retail, medical and higher-education development, Local 306 employment conditions remained strong. Correspondingly, the local's electrical workers worked on many of the construction jobs generated by the progress within its jurisdiction, including extensive growth of the University of Akron and **Kent State**



Local 306 formed a **Political Action Committee** in the 1950s and then its **Committee on Political Education** (COPE) in the late 1960s to endorse political candidates; support legislation that benefited workers and organized labor; and keep members informed about local and national politics and elections.

University campuses that were driven by spikes in student enrollment – helping the local's membership maintain full or near-capacity employment from 1963 throughout the remainder of the decade.

In the surrounding neighborhoods and suburbs during that time, numerous union electricians helped build two major regional shopping malls as well with construction of **Summit Mall** that opened in October 1965 in Fairlawn, Ohio, and **Chapel Hill Mall** that opened in October 1967 within Akron's city limits. Additionally, many of the local's members also gained a large amount of workhours at various new smaller strip shopping centers throughout the region.

The new **Blossom Music Center** in Cuyahoga Falls was one of the more notable of a wide range of other major projects on which the local's electricians also worked throughout the decade. Started on July 2, 1967, after construction was completed in July 1968, the 23,000-capacity outdoor amphitheater, which includes 5,700 covered seats and a vast hillside lawn for festival seating, continues to serve as the summer home of the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra and annually host a variety of other music events.

The local's work agreements with NECA subsequently improved during that flourishing time, with the local gaining a new, three-year-long contract that went into effect May 1, 1962, and would incrementally boost the local's journeyman pay by a total of 45 cents to \$4.51 per hour before it expired in May 1965. Before the decade was out, the local signed a

Continued after the following spread.



Local 306 Member Training EDUCATING ITS INDUSTRY-BEST ELECTRICAL WORKFORCE

Since the time I.B.E.W. organized and chartered Local 306 in 1926, the local has trained new, inexperienced members to become skilled union electricians through the time-honored system of **apprenticeship**, by which trainees learn the trade while working on jobsites alongside experienced, journeyman-level inside wiremen. As apprentices advanced through the training, they also earned wages and healthcare and retirement benefits through the union's "earn while you learn" apprenticeship program – however, during the local's early years, its training had no formal structure and very little hands-on or classroom learning.

To improve the training of their workforce, in 1943 Local 306 and its employing contractors with the Akron Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) formed the **Akron Joint Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee** (J.A.T.C.) to formulate, administer and fund a structured apprenticeship program that required classroom and lab work that supplemented on-the-job training. The initial four-year-long J.A.T.C. training classes were held under the auspices of the **Akron Public Schools Board of Education**, with classes and labs at **Hower Vocational High School** that were led by contractors and Local 306 journeymen.



After five apprentices became the first to graduate from the J.A.T.C. electrical apprenticeship training in June 1947, by which time the program was educating some 40 students, the program progressed and expanded. By 1960, the training had developed into a five-year curriculum during which apprentices switch contractors for which they were working every six months so they would be exposed to different trade practices and techniques that may be unique to journeymen and their employers.

After the Local 306 reverted back to a four-year program in the 1970s and classes were held at **Cuyahoga Falls High School**, **Roberts Junior High School** in Cuyahoga Falls and **Springfield High School** in Akron during into the 1980s and 1990s, late that decade the local began seeking a new location for a new union hall and a training center of its own. After an extensive search for land, the local and the J.A.T.C. built and then opened the new **Akron Area Electrical J.A.T.C. Training Center** onto the new Local 306 Union Hall on South Main Street in south Akron.

The school features modern and fully equipped classrooms, hands-on labs and journeyman training space as well as offices for training staff. It also includes a high-bay shop area for welding, pipe bending, prototype and mock-ups as needed, as well as a manhole mock-up for practicing underground utility work.

From their ever-evolving training center in 2026 as Local 306 celebrates its 100th charter anniversary, the local and the Akron Area Electrical J.A.T.C. provide their world-class training for two electrical-trade disciplines through which apprentices can become journeyman-level electrical workers. The **Inside Apprenticeship** four-year program requires each apprentice to complete a minimum of 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and 720 hours of classroom training while attending class two nights per week, and the **Residential Apprenticeship** two-year program requires each apprentice to work a minimum of 4,800 hours in on-the-job training and 480 hours of classroom training.

As always, as members of Local 306, apprentices earn wages and healthcare and retirement benefits while working and learning, with the apprenticeship program providing six pay periods in which wages increase as

an apprentice progresses through the training program. Additionally, all Akron Electrical J.A.T.C. apprentices are enrolled at **Northwest State Community College**, which gives them college credit for their J.A.T.C. courses that can be applied to earning an associate's degree in Technical Studies in Construction Electricity.

To further fulfill their mission to supply the Akron Area electrical-construction industry with the most-highly trained and skilled workforce available, Local 306 and the J.A.T.C. also continue to provide advanced **upgrade training** courses to Local 306 journey-level electricians. With continuous offerings of new educational opportunities through the training center, the local's members are able to stay current with the latest advances and techniques in the electrical industry.





The Local 306 **Retirees Club** was established on November 1, 1996. **Brother Forrest D. Ryan** served as its first president.

new two-year agreement with its contractors that went into effect in May 1968 and would ultimately raise the local's journeyman wage scale to \$7.36 per hour and provide additional 20-cent-per-hour employer contributions for the Health and Welfare Fund that were in place as the local entered the 1970s.

However, a weakened national economy slowed employment within the Local 306 jurisdiction during the early years of the new decade, prompting **Business Manager Dennis M. Johanyak** to announce in the June 1971 *Journal*, "At the present time, work in our jurisdiction is the slowest it has been for seven years."

Nevertheless, the local had ratified a new, two-year work agreement with NECA on May 14, 1970, with total wage and benefits raises of \$2.12 per hour that would bring the local's total wage-and-benefits package for the local's

nearly 800 electrical workers to \$9.68 per hour for the pact's final six months beginning November 29, 1971. A portion of the raise would be contributed to a new, first-ever **Local 306 Pension Fund** fringe benefit that would go into effect in November 1971 to provide retirement stipends for the local's retired members.

After the membership voted on the retirement annuity plan that would be utilized by the local and subsidized by the pension fund, Local 306 **Press Secretary Robert E. Shultz** praised and thanked the local's Negotiating Committee in the September 1971 *Journal* for having "the foresight to negotiate an annuity into the contract."

But still, the "dire unemployment," as Business Manager Johanyak had labeled the local's situation in the June 1971 *Journal*, would persist into mid-1972. Several sister I.B.E.W. locals were able to provide work for many Akron-based union electrical workers during that time, however, inspiring their business manager to also proclaim, "It is the cooperation of people like this that makes you feel secure in our Brotherhood."



A Local 306 softball team, circa 1980.

Although work picked up in the Akron area beginning in 1972, it remained sluggish enough that the local's total traveling workhours significantly increased into 1974. That year, 20.5 percent of the total 1,150,999 hours worked by members were gained through other I.B.E.W. locals, while in 1971 only 7.42 percent of the total 985,055 hours worked were through other locals.

As the local's employment conditions slowly improved, much of the new work providing members with hours was commercial and light industrial. Members were also working on an increasing amount of residential construction after Local 306 and NECA negotiated a new three-year commercial work agreement and a new, first-ever **residential construction contract** that included lower pay rates of \$6.35 per hour for homebuilding jobs, both of which went into effect on June 1, 1973.

The commercial contract would immediately raise the local's base journeyman pay rate to \$9.38 per hour on non-residential work, after which it called for "reopeners" in the following years to renegotiate wages. The pact also raised the value of all members' health-and-welfare benefits to 37 cents per hour and maintained their pension benefits at 50 cents per hour on all types of work.

New significant jobs that helped the local's work situation to continue improving included construction of the new **Richfield Coliseum**, indoor arena in Richfield, Ohio, beginning in March 1973. When completed and opened in October 1974, the facility had a seating capacity of 20,273 for basketball and more for concerts (but would eventually be replaced by Gund Arena – now Rocket Arena – in downtown Cleveland in 1994 and demolished in 1999).

Elsewhere, Local 306 members also worked on the new **Akron Federal Building and United States Courthouse** (later renamed the John F. Seiberling Federal Building and United States Courthouse in 2006) in the city's



Local 306 fourth-year electrician apprentice **Brother Charles "Chip" White** was the first-ever local member to be electrocuted to death on a job when he was killed September 28, 1973, while working on construction of the new Akron Jewish Center on White Pond Road. The husband and father of a three-year-old daughter was 26 years old.

downtown area from January 1973 to early 1975. Construction of the 450,000-square-foot first phase of the new indoor **Rolling Acres Mall** in Akron that opened in August 1975, after which it would eventually be expanded to 1.2-million square feet, likewise employed many of the local's electricians (before being demolished beginning in 2016).

With those projects and more underway, Local 306 **Press Secretary David Haught** was able to report in the March 1974 *Journal*, "The work situation remains stable at this writing."

ORGANIZING ITS WAY OUT OF THE HARSH '70s & '80s

By the mid-1970s, the introduction of longer-lasting durable radial tires, which allowed consumers to replace their tires less often, and the growing trend of companies relocating facilities to evade union labor forces began to severely affect Akron's rubber manufacturing when B.F. Goodrich ceased regular tire production in the city in 1975. A steep decline in the industry would continue when Goodyear in 1978 shut down tire production at its primary Akron plant – although it still maintains its world headquarters in the city – and then Firestone in 1980 and General Tire in 1982 ended all manufacturing in the city and closed their local tire-production facilities also in favor of relocating to the southern United States or overseas.

The impact of the exodus of its rubber-and-tire economic core was far-reaching and especially harsh for nearly all of the Greater Akron region, including Local 306 and its



LOCAL 306 GIVES BACK IN ITS COMMUNITIES

The new, two-year work agreement Local 306 signed with the Akron Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) on May 14, 1970, included a provision that 2 cents per hour worked by each Local 306 member would be automatically contributed into the **United Fund**, a localized charity that raised money for social service agencies (and eventually became the **United Way**). Through that first-ever contract feature among Summit County's building-trades local unions, by November the following year Local 306 had contributed \$14,000 to the fund.

Over the ensuing years and decades, the charitable fund provided donations to a wide range of numerous organizations and causes. Those recipients have included **Akron Children's Hospital**, **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank**, the **YMCA**, **Camp Quality USA**, **Community Drug Board**, **Haven of Rest**, **Christmas in April**, the **Akron-Summit County Public Library**, **Make-A-Wish Foundation**, **Hospice Care Center**, **Battered Women's Shelter**, **Junior Achievement** and the **National Association of Women in Construction**.

When Local 306 and its membership signed on to the United Fund program, they were maintaining a tradition of charitable activity that they would continue as the local celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2026. From donating time and funds to wire the new Play Center at Portage Lakes, a recreation facility for teenagers, in January 1950 to volunteering labor for the Challenger Ball Field Project at Weaver School and Workshop in 2003, which would provide an opportunity for mentally and physically challenged individuals, the local and its members have regularly contributed to charitable activities.

Many other benevolent efforts of Local 306 and its membership over the years have also included donating their time to build an interfaith chapel at the Summit County Detention Home in February 1970; donating labor to rewire cabins and the mess hall at the Great Trail Council, Boy Scout Camp Manatoc in 1979; and donating time to upgrade the Interval Brotherhood Home, a nonprofit community center dedicated to alcohol- and substance-abuse treatment and rehabilitation, in 1993. The local also regularly supports advocacy organizations such as the Summit County Sheriff's Deputies Fraternal Order of Police.

In one particular show of goodwill and solidarity, in February 1986 Local 306 and its members donated and delivered a sizable amount of food to striking Lawson Milk Company employees and their families. The workers had already been on strike over a wage cut for two months and would remain off their jobs for another 10 months before the unsuccessful strike ended without a final resolution.

member electrical workers, forcing Business Manager Johanyak to concede in a report in the November 1975 *Journal*, "Our work picture here is still very bleak. We are saddled with approximately 17 percent unemployment, with no relief in sight."

What's more, non-union labor had been moving into the local's jurisdiction at an alarmingly accelerated rate during the first half of the 1970s, an ongoing incursion that would last throughout the decade and well into the 1980s. "Certainly one of the most disturbing situations facing organized labor today," the business manager had written in his "State of Local 306" report to the membership in 1974, "is the concentrated efforts of open-shop contractors to gain a foothold in areas that have traditionally used union labor. ... It has only been recently that stronger organized territories have felt the impact."

While work remained slow for the better part of the balance of the decade, with unemployment along the local's membership reaching as high as 20 percent at times, sister I.B.E.W. locals and some larger construction projects in its own jurisdiction provided respites for Local 306 members, including construction of the 19-story **Ohio Edison Building** (now the FirstEnergy Building after the merger of Ohio Edison and Centerior Energy formed the First Energy Corporation in 1997) in



Local 306 participated in the 2010 "Night at The Races" charity fundraiser at the Northfield Park harness racing track in Northfield, Ohio, an event it has often supported.

downtown Akron from 1974 until it was completed in 1976.

Beginning early in the second half of the decade, expansion projects at most Akron-area hospitals, a brief surge in home construction and ongoing major work in the jurisdictions of surrounding I.B.E.W. locals such as **Local No. 38** in Cleveland also put many of the local's members back to work. Along with construction of the new **Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine** in Rootstown Township that was completed and opened in the fall of 1977, by that time and well into the following year the region's union electricians were enjoying full employment within their own territory for the first time since the Richfield Coliseum was built several years earlier.

But as the rubber industry continued to abandon Akron and the ill-effects of its prolonged departure became more pronounced in the late 1970s and early 1980s, by which time more than 45 percent of the industry's employees had lost their jobs over the previous 30 years, work and employment for the Local 306 membership again quickly deteriorated. "The work situation is very bad in our area," **Press Secretary Bruce Adams** reported in the August 1981 *Journal*, by which time the local had not matriculated a new apprenticeship class the year before because of the lack of jobs. "Many of the locals have helped us out by putting our people to work."

Indeed, Local 306 had become so reliant on sister I.B.E.W. locals for employment that in 1978 and 1979 it signed **reciprocity agreements** for fringe benefits with many other locals. Through those agreements, workhour credits for healthcare and pension benefits would be returned to Local 306 from the locals through which a high number of its members were traveling for work.



LOCAL 306 TRADE CLASSIFICATIONS

Local 306 was assigned jurisdiction of **Inside Wiremen** and **Outside Linemen** when it was chartered by the I.B.E.W. on April 17, 1926.

On November 4, 1949, the I.B.E.W. added **Utility, Electrical Manufacturing, Radio-Television Service** and **Sound and Public Address** to Local 306's trade jurisdiction.

On May 17, 1950, the I.B.E.W. removed Utility and Electrical Manufacturing from Local 306's trade jurisdiction.

On March 21, 1952, the I.B.E.W. removed Radio-Television Service from Local 306's trade jurisdiction.

On October 27, 1981, the I.B.E.W. removed Sound and Public Address from Local 306's trade jurisdiction.

On March 20, 2001, the I.B.E.W. removed Outside Linemen from Local 306's trade jurisdiction. (*I.B.E.W. Local No. 71 now has statewide jurisdiction over Ohio's outside linemen.*)

As of June 7, 2026, the 100th anniversary date of its charter, Local 306 represents the **Inside Wiremen** trade classification within its jurisdiction.

With a lack of steady large construction and a mounting national anti-union political climate, however, Akron-area construction unions, including Local 306, struggled through a period of intense hardship and defensive restructuring during the early 1980s. As commercial and industrial construction plummeted, primarily in the wake of the city's rubber-industry collapse, local building-trades unions were forced to make significant contract concessions.

"Work is still slow" became a common phrase in Local 306 reports in I.B.E.W. *Journals* throughout the first half of the decade, which also often included a rundown of the sister locals who were employing Akron-based electrical workers, despite some work being provided by a six-story addition to the **Akron General Medical Center** (formerly Akron General Hospital) that was wired by Local 306 members before it opened in early 1984.

Regardless, Local 306 agreed to a wage freeze during negotiations with NECA for their new



contract that would go into effect in June 1984. "After an informative discussion period, a vote was taken," Local 306 **Press Secretary David L. Garcia** reported in the July *Journal* on the May 4 meeting during which the wage-freeze proposal was presented to the membership, "and the body voted to accept the proposal to freeze the hourly rate at its present level, with a maximum health insurance maintenance upkeep of 25 cents an hour, if needed."

Back out in the field, key area projects that were able to supply any consequential workhours to the local's members during that

time included conversion of a former Kmart location in Akron to a **Builders Square** big-box home improvement store that opened in 1986 (but would be closed along with the chain a short time later in 1999). Upgrading the **Pepsi** bottling facility in the city during that time provided some much-needed work for the local as well.

But poor employment compounded by a general lack of construction projects in its jurisdiction and the still-growing threat of the non-union electrical construction sector continued to afflict Local 306 into the 1990s. With more than 80 of its roughly 550 members fully unemployed in the middle of the traditionally busy construction season in 1991, returned Press Secretary Adams declared in that September's *Journal*, "Our local has been in a depression."

Local 306's recently accelerated and intensified **organizing** efforts began to gain meaningful results at that time, however. Most notably, after



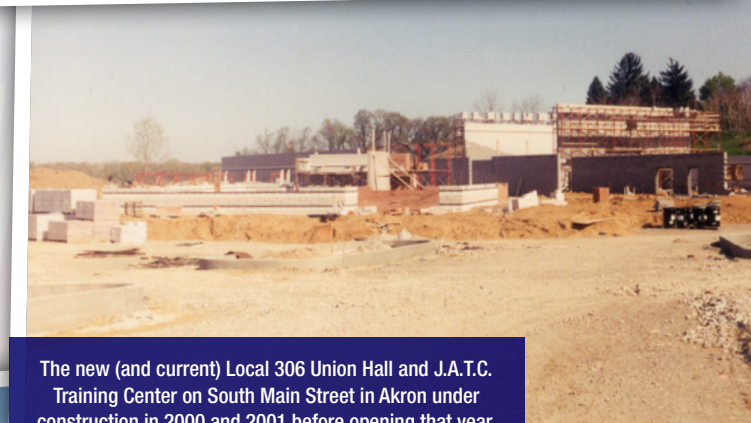
Local 306 members prepare food they donated and delivered to striking Lawson Milk Company employees and their families in February 1986 during the second month of the year-long strike.

a lengthy organizing campaign, **J.W. Didado Electric**, the largest (formerly) non-union electrical contractor in the local's jurisdiction, signed a union collective-bargaining agreement with Local 306 in May 1992.

"Among the many factors influencing the company's decision was the highly qualified labor pool available to our signatory contractors," Brother Adams announced while reporting the Didado signing in the June 1992 *Journal*. "This again illustrates the difference between us and our non-union competition – training, skill and proficiency."

Organizing would continue throughout the decade with the local utilizing increased picketing and deploying salting tactics, through which members work on non-union jobsites to "strip" employees away from their non-union contractors by informing them of the benefits of union membership, while also engaging in other concerted activity that included implementing the I.B.E.W. **COMET (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training)** program for members. Subsequently, just one year after its Didado victory, the local's organizing again paid off when **Great Lakes Electric**, another large non-union firm, signed a union work agreement with the local.

Meanwhile, by August 1992 the local was seeing "signs of a recovery" in its territory, as Press Secretary Adams reported in the August 1992 *Journal*. Indeed, by that time several of the local's signatory contractors had gained numerous new significant jobs, including construction of a Kmart superstore, a Finast Supermarket and a Wal-Mart in Fairlawn



The new (and current) Local 306 Union Hall and J.A.T.C. Training Center on South Main Street in Akron under construction in 2000 and 2001 before opening that year.





Local 306 members attend a labor rally in Philadelphia in August 2012.



and another Wal-Mart in Springfield; and the remodeling of the nine-story **Summit County Safety Building** (now the Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center) and the 12-story **Akron Centre Building** in the city's downtown area.

More employment came with the remodeling of the historic former **A. Polsky Co. Department Store** in downtown Akron, which had been built in 1930 and was closed in 1978, for the University of Akron for use as a classroom building when it reopened in 1993 and the new, 123,000-square-foot **John S. Knight Center** convocation facility in downtown Akron that opened in June 1994. With members also employed on construction of the new **Portage County Jail** in Ravenna, Ohio, that would open in May 1995 and the local even hosting some I.B.E.W. travelers to help handle its contractors' projects, Brother Adams announced in the October 1992 *Journal*, "Work has improved, at least temporarily, for the Tri-County area. We are glad to be able to help those locals that employed our people during our slack time."

Work remained steady throughout the late 1990s as well, with members employed on construction of the modern new, 7,630-seat

Canal Park baseball stadium (now 7 17 Credit Union Park) in downtown Akron that would be home to the Akron RubberDucks Double-A minor-league baseball team when it was completed and opened in 1997. Then, even as construction in the area continued to shift from heavy industrial teardowns to civic and downtown revitalization, a major modernization project at the Chrysler Twinsburg Stamping Plant beginning in the late 1990s that featured a multi-million-dollar press room upgrade to stamp body panels for minivans provided more work hours for union electricians.

By that time, the local had grown to more than 600 electricians working for about 32 contractors in Summit, Medina, Portage and Wayne counties and the need for improved training of its apprentices for entry into the fast-evolving electrical industry to better-compete with non-union labor had become overly apparent. Subsequently, in early 1998 the local formed its **Local 306 Building Corporation** to review, select and secure a location for a new Local 306 Union Hall and Training Center – a task that would prove challenging at times.

REGAINING MOMENTUM TO ITS CENTENNIAL MARK

After Local 306 reviewed several sites and finally purchased six acres of property on South Main Street in South Akron, it built its modern new (and current) 25,000-square-foot **Local 306 Union Hall** and **Akron Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (J.A.T.C.) Training**

Center in late 2000 and 2001. The local held a grand opening for the facility on November 10, 2001, which was sponsored by the Local 306/Akron NECA Labor-Management Cooperation Committee and attended by more than 500 members and guests.

Also that year, on March 20 the I.B.E.W. removed "outside linemen" jurisdiction from Local 306, leaving it to just represent inside electricians in its jurisdiction. (Columbus-based I.B.E.W. Local No. 71 has jurisdiction over linemen in Northeast Ohio and most of the state.)

Back out in the field, the local's union electricians remained busy wiring jobs such as the new **FedEx Custom Critical Building** in the City of Green, Ohio, from 2000 to 2003. The large 260,000-square-foot facility would house the "time-specific shipping service" subsidiary of FedEx Corporation.

But a national recession in 2001 severely hit Akron, which was still shedding industrial jobs, further dealing another blow to the area's manufacturing sector and triggering a long-term economic decline. As a result, Local 306 entered a five-year period of low unemployment among its membership, although I.B.E.W. locals around the region were able to provide work for traveling Akron electrical workers during that time.

"We are finishing the slowest spring construction season in recent history," Local 306 **Press Secretary Robert Sallaz** reported in the July 2004 *Journal* before declaring, "The economic forecast, rising healthcare costs and the unemployment picture would make lesser folks want to give up!"

However, with Akron and Summit County already in the midst of what a March 7, 2016, *Akron Beacon Journal* newspaper article would later call a 15-year "steady decline" during which their goods-producing sectors "plunged," the onset of the nationwide Great Recession of 2007, the most severe fiscal collapse in the United States since the Great Depression, further crippled the local economy. Local 306 employment likewise faltered and only slowly recovered over the next few years as the effects of the recession lingered.

But construction work did begin to rebound in earnest by 2010 as the local and its NECA employers put in place a Recovery Agreement through which the local would help subsidize members' wages for certain projects so that their signatory contractors could more-competitively bid those jobs and, therefore, regain market share overall. Furthermore, by that year, property acquisition and demolition equipment were becoming active in Akron and utility infrastructure and streetscape



Local 306 retirees pose during a retirees' breakfast event in 2016.



conduits were being installed at the East Akron Goodyear Campus and the new **University of Akron Sports Complex** with its 30,000-seat **InfoCision Stadium** that would open in 2010, along with adjacent retail and housing facilities.

With the economy still slowly improving into 2011, both Goodyear and Bridgestone/Firestone Americas had already begun reinvesting in their hometown Akron, with the latter building the massive **Bridgestone Americas Technical Center** research development and engineering facility on the south side of Akron with Local 306 skilled craftspeople. Meanwhile, construction on the new, seven-story, 639,000-square-foot **Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company Global Headquarters** was also underway with union electrical workers and would be completed on time and on budget in early 2013.

Employment in the area for the local's members continued to improve that year and into 2014 with a host of new and ongoing projects due, in part, to a project labor agreement negotiated by Local 306 and owners and contractors. Those included construction

of a Children's Hospital addition, **Giant Eagle** grocery stores, the **First Energy Data Center** and the new **Hard Rock Café Racino** in Northfield, Ohio.

Summa Health System then began in 2017 to erect its new, seven-story, 343,000-square-foot **Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Tower** (often called the Summa Health Patient Tower) at its Akron Campus with Local 306 electricians wiring medical facility before it welcomed its first patients in May 2019. During that time, restoration of the **FirstMerit Tower** skyscraper in downtown Akron, the city's tallest building since its completion in 1931, to become **Huntington Tower** after its namesake banking company acquired FirstMerit Corporation, likewise supplied a large number of workhours to the local's members.

However, Local 306, the State of Ohio and the entire United States were abruptly and somberly derailed with the onset of the worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that began to spread throughout the country in early 2020, after which it would claim the lives of more than 1 million Americans over the next

three years. The outbreak initially forced the local to cancel meetings and training and curtail services out of its union hall in order to keep staff and members safe, while out in the field construction sites implemented safety measures including social distancing and reduced staffing to keep important projects moving forward.

Emerging from the pandemic, a relative flood of work provided mostly steady employment for the local's members across its jurisdiction into 2026, the year in which the local would celebrate its

100th charter anniversary. Key projects that employed the local's electricians over that most-recent period have included construction of an **Amazon distribution center** near Rolling Acres in 2020; a **Bitcoin data center** inside a former Goodyear industrial building in 2021 along with its electrical substation and distribution; the **Medina County Courthouse** in downtown Medina, Ohio, that was completed in December 2022; and the seven-story **Juve Family Behavioral Health Pavilion**, which houses the dedicated psychiatric and addiction inpatient care for Summa Health, that was completed in January 2023 on the Akron City Hospital campus.

Additional employment and workhours have continued to come from historically consistent sources such as the several different hospital systems within the local's jurisdiction that have constantly modernized and expanded; Kent State University and the University of Akron as they have upgraded to reverse several years of enrollment decline; and major facility improvements at the **J.M. Smucker Company** (or Smucker's) headquarters campus in Orrville, Ohio, including a research-and-development lab supporting their popular Uncrustables brand that opened in December 2022.

What's more, the local's residential work under its lowered wage scale has boomed during the mid-2020s, with more than 100 members working in the housing industry at one point, while a large number of small- and mid-sized commercial and industrial jobs likewise created work for union electricians.

LOCAL 306 SIGNATORY CONTRACTORS, 2026

These firms are signatory to the Local 306 collective-bargaining work agreements and employ its members as the local celebrates its 100th charter anniversary in 2026.

Advanced Electric
All Energy Systems
Amps Electric
ANR Electric
B.I.S.
Blanks Electric
Casey Electrical
CNE Electric
J.W. Didado Electric
Dies Electric
Dutton Electric
Emery Electric
Fine Line Communications
Four Star Electric

Hatzell & Buehler
Haywood Electric
Hilscher-Clarke Electric
JMP Resource
Jordan Electric
Lake Erie Electric
Nelson Electric & Controls
Novatny Electric
Speelman Electric
Steen Electric
Thompson Electric
Witchey Lightning Rod
Woodarski Electric



Local 306 members (left to right) George Manus, Buz Hudson, Jim Betz and Vern Saylor man an informational picket against a contractor not employing union electricians on a construction project in the Akron area.

Sister I.B.E.W. locals around Northeast and Central Ohio were also flush with work after the COVID years and, as a result, were able to regularly host Local 306 members when they needed employment opportunities. In particular more recently, the construction of data centers throughout the state have somewhat dominated the available work through neighboring locals.

At 100 years since it was organized and chartered to represent electrical workers in and around the world's Rubber Capital of Akron and the surrounding region, Local 306 has made an impact on some of the most historically significant companies in the country and their internationally vital industry while also powering the growth of local hospitals, schools, neighborhoods, infrastructure and electrical workers' careers that have been the backbone of the development of Northeast Ohio. Through its unsurpassed member training and the commitment of its highly skilled electricians and technicians, Local 306 at its centennial is poised to keep making history as it powers its union and its region into the future. ♦



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Proud IBEW Member
Co-Owner
JATC Instructor
JATC Committee

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Chris, John, and Jim Kellamis

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communities, create opportunities and strengthen the electrical industry
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IBEW LOCAL 306



CONGRATULATIONS, LOCAL 306
ON A CENTURY OF SERVICE!



FROM YOUR BROTHER AND SISTER UNION
ELECTRICAL WORKERS OF YOUNGSTOWN

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**IBEW Local 71 wishes Local 306
a Happy 100th Anniversary!**



Todd Kessler
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Walter Gribble III
President

Dirk Dozer, Vice President
Kurt Williams, Treasurer
Jay Roessner, Recording Secretary

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**CONGRATULATES
IBEW LOCAL 306 ON
100
YEARS**



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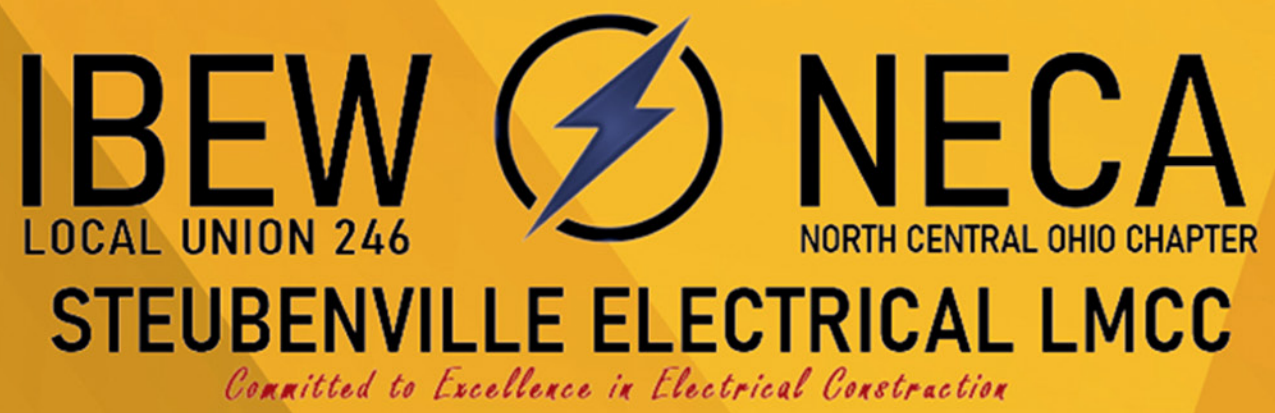
CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 YEARS!

**YOUR DEDICATION, HARD WORK, AND COMMITMENT
TO THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY HAVE MADE A
LASTING IMPACT ON YOUR MEMBERS AND THE
COMMUNITIES YOU SERVE.**

**HERE'S TO YOUR CONTINUED SUCCESS AND MANY
MORE YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!**

In Solidarity,

**The Officers and Members of
IBEW Local 246
Steubenville, Ohio**



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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP & PROGRESS

The Greater Cleveland Chapter of NECA
Proudly Congratulates I.B.E.W. Local 306
on its Centennial Anniversary!



*For a Century, the success of our two organizations has
always been shared, built on mutual respect, skilled
craftsmanship and a commitment to excellence ...*

**Congratulations on this historic achievement,
and here's to the next 100 years of partnership
and progress.**

gccnconececa.org

*Faulkner, Hoffman & Phillips
proudly supports the
100th Anniversary
of the
I.B.E.W. Local No. 306*

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AND PROUD TO SERVE.



**Congratulations on your 100th Anniversary
IBEW Local Union 306**

Business Agents

Frank Aikens
Richard L. Antonellis, Jr.
Daniel Daly
Renee L. Dozier
Jay Frasier
Tim Long
David O'Laughlin
Bernard N. Sharpe, Jr.
Brad Vinton

Executive Board

Michael T. Donahue
John Kelly
David Mastrangelo
Brian P. Sharpe
Daniel Sheehan
Jeffrey M. Sheehan

Examining Board

Brian Burke
Carlos A. Caceda
Franklin Daly
Adam DeFilippo
Ron Verma

Vikas Verma

Louis J. Antonellis

Business Manager/
Financial Secretary

Robert S. Sheehan, Jr.

President

Philip DeCola

Vice President

Kevin W. Monahan

Treasurer/Business Agent

James M. Fleming

Recording Secretary/
Business Agent

CONGRATS IBEW LOCAL 306

ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY



BUSINESS MANAGER & FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Richard I. Muttik

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>	<u>RECORDING SECRETARY</u>
Jason D. Acree	Christopher J. Wentzel	Charles A. Elliot V	Steven W. Lutz

Executive Board

Patrick Casey Wallace Kidd
Benjamin Frey Steve Kuncelman
Thomas Mannon Joseph Martin III
Steve Pankowski

Examining Board

Joshua Raffle
Craig Bruse, Jr
Paul Semon

Business Representatives

Jason Acree Joshua Manges
Gabe Iannozi Charles Elliot V
Bernie Kephart Paul Semon
Christopher Smitley Christopher Vandegrift
Christopher Wentzel Craig Bruse, Jr.

LOCAL UNION #164, IBEW

OFFICERS

Daniel Gumble
Business Manager

Warren Becker
Vice President

Daniel Gumble
Financial Secretary

Thomas J. Sullivan
President

Donald J. Heal
Recording Secretary

Jason Reiser
Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rick Anastasi
Chris Cunningham
Anthony Hall

Daniel Mendler

John Callari
Jimmy Flaherty Jr.
Denis McPartland

EXAMINING BOARD

Matt Benvento
William Jones Jr.

John Torres

Marco Jarvis
Lenny Spurlock

BUSINESS AGENTS

Jason Reiser
Construction

Vinny Colucci
Construction

Thomas J. Sullivan
Construction

Donald J. Heal
Construction

Victor Docherty Jr.
Organizer

Christopher Larson
Construction

Keith Misciagna
Telecommunications





Congratulations

to Local 306 on 100 Years of Greatness!
From the membership of Local 212

TODD MICHEL

Business Manager

PHIL BOVARD

President

Business Agents

Joe Noeth • Tracy Thorner • Chad Day • Jim Fischer • Richard Heimbrock

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IBEW LOCAL UNION 26



***Congratulations to IBEW Local 306 on your
100th Anniversary! Have a great celebration!***

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100 YEARS STRONG!

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POWERING THE COMMUNITY AND LIGHTING THE WAY!



FROM YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CANTON

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Congratulations

IBEW LOCAL 306

ON YOUR

100TH ANNIVERSARY

FROM

IBEW LOCAL

613



WWW.IBEW613.ORG



Congratulations IBEW Local 306 on your 100th Anniversary!



**FROM THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF IBEW LOCAL 666
RICHMOND, VA**

Charles Skelly · Business Manager
Brant Dunn · Financial Secretary
JD Jenkins · Recording Secretary

Chris Ball · President
Shawn Fleek · Vice President
Thomas Beach · Treasurer

1400 East Nine Mile Road, Highland Springs, VA 23075
www.ibewlocal666.com · facebook.com/ibewlu666

Congratulations IBEW 306 on your 100th Anniversary Celebration

From the members of
IBEW Local Union No. 8

Toledo, Ohio



Officers

Shaun Enright
Business Manager

Tom Enright
President

Don Momenee
Recording Secretary

Tom Brogan Jr.
Vice President

Jim Pfeifer
Financial Secretary

Perry Hester
Treasurer

Best wishes for your future success!



- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| President
Timothy Stem | Trustee
Jason Legg |
| Vice President
Scott Harter | Trustee
Brian Murray |
| Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Chuck Zittle | Trustee
Preston Yuzwa |
| Recording Secretary
Brett Bozak | Serrgeant-At-Arms
Ron Johnston |

Congratulations on your 100th Anniversary



- Business Manager** - Timothy Stem
Business Agent - Brett Bozak
Financial Secretary - Bill Nicholson
President - Will Nicholson
Vice President - Adam Bozak
Inside Sentry - Sean Hartman

- Executive Board**
Tony Carlin
Zack Darst
Paul Hensley
Dan Hatcher

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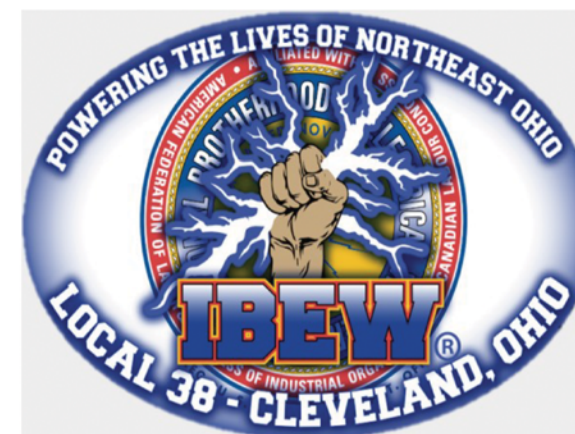
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**CONGRATULATIONS IBEW LOCAL 306
100 YEARS STRONG**



Michael Muzic
President

Dan Gallagher
Business Manager
Financial Secretary

Jamie Davis, Vice President

Brent Misenko, Treasurer

John Onacila, Recording Secretary

Executive Board

Jarrold Amberik
Steve Skantzos
Jamie Mance
Keith Carpenter
Jeff Nenadal

Examining Board

Dave Watts
Michael Cesa
David Dushaw

Business Representatives

Jim Embrescia
Michael Shingary
Michael Bremmer

Organizers

Kevin Wilson
Tom Petrasek

Congratulations on your 100th Anniversary! We are excited to see what the future holds for the IBEW.

IBEW Local Union 575. Proudly serving the Ohio River Valley since 1907.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 YEARS, LOCAL 306!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR PARTNERSHIP,
SUPPORTING THE REGION'S ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY NEEDS



THIRD GENERATION, FAMILY-OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1952

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Congratulations
Local 306

100th Anniversary

19
26

20
26



From the Officers, Members, and Staff



OVBTC

Upper Ohio Valley Building &
Construction Trades Council

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We would like to congratulate
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100th Anniversary!

Mark Hawthorne

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**CONGRATULATIONS
LOCAL 306
ON 100 YEARS!**



**CONGRATULATIONS
LOCAL 306
ON YOUR FIRST CENTURY!**



WWW.IBEW129.ORG



Congratulations IBEW LOCAL 306

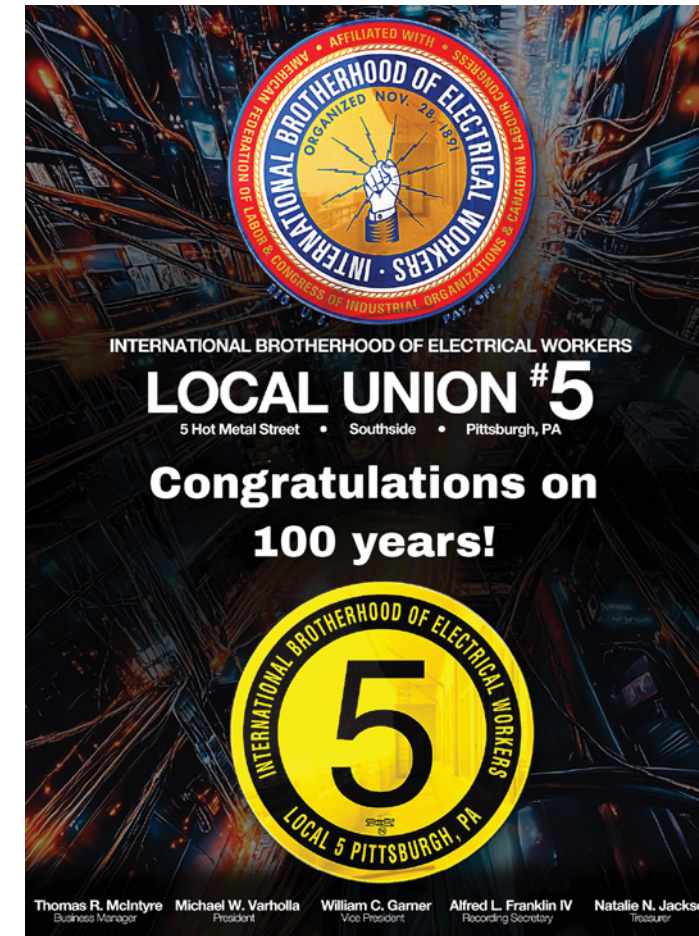
On your 100th Anniversary!

WE WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR
THE NEXT "100 YEARS!"
FROM IBEW LOCAL 131 MEMBERS, OFFICERS, & STAFF



IBEW LOCAL 143

Happy 100th Anniversary!

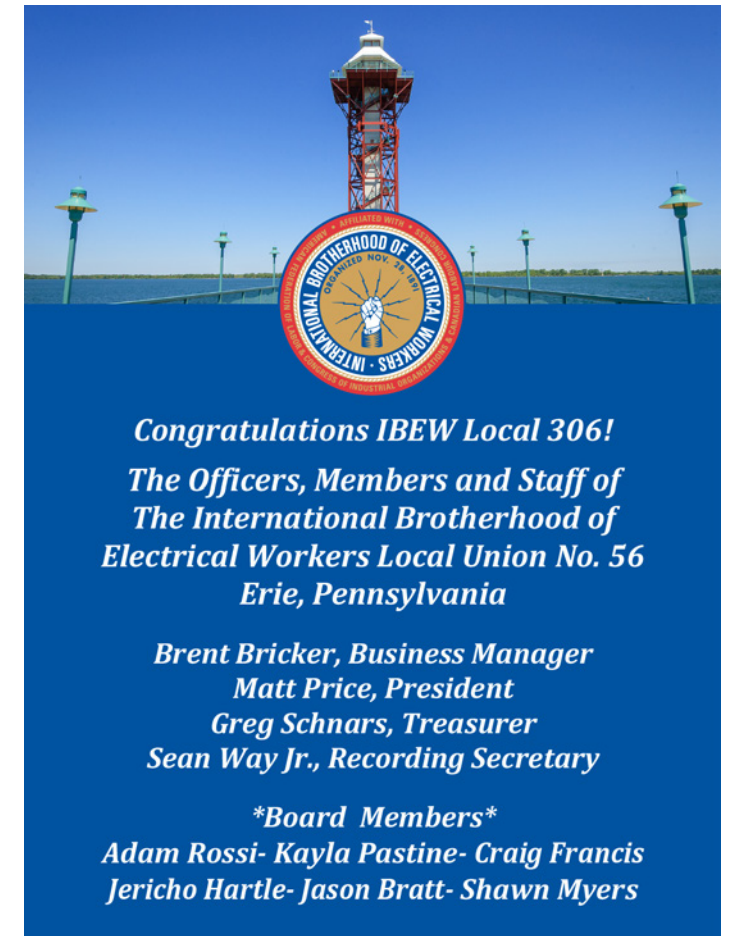


LOCAL UNION #5

5 Hot Metal Street • Southside • Pittsburgh, PA

**Congratulations on
100 years!**

Thomas R. McIntyre Business Manager Michael W. Varholla President William C. Garner Vice President Alfred L. Franklin IV Recording Secretary Natalie N. Jackson Treasurer



Congratulations IBEW Local 306!
*The Officers, Members and Staff of
The International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers Local Union No. 56
Erie, Pennsylvania*

*Brent Bricker, Business Manager
Matt Price, President
Greg Schnars, Treasurer
Sean Way Jr., Recording Secretary*

**Board Members*
Adam Rossi- Kayla Pastine- Craig Francis
Jericho Hartle- Jason Bratt- Shawn Myers*



IBEW Local #146

Decatur, Illinois

**Congratulations
IBEW Local 306
on 100 Years of
Service**



BEST WISHES

FROM THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF

IBEW LOCAL UNION #25

LONG ISLANDERS SERVING THE
ELECTRICAL NEEDS OF
LONG ISLAND SINCE 1932

KEVIN B. CASEY
Business Manager

SEAN MEEHAN
President

*DENNIS SHAY, Vice President
JASON ALVAREZ, Recording Secretary
RYAN G. CASEY, Financial Secretary
LISA HOFMANN, Treasurer*



**I.B.E.W.
LOCAL 712
BEAVER, PA**



IUPAT DC-6
DISTRICT COUNCIL 6

IUPAT-DC6.ORG

CONGRATULATIONS
from the Officers and Members



IRON WORKERS
LOCAL 550 CANTON

Sean Diekmann
Business Manager / FST

Gary Felgenhauer **Chad Jordan** **Shawn McCartney**
President/Business Agent Vice President Recording Secretary



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**Laborers' International Union
of North America**



Local Union No. 894
Jason A. Legg
Business Manager

Brian Owens	President
Paul Presutto	Vice-President
Phill Ralston	Secretary-Treasurer
Matthew Korb	Recording Secretary
Kenny Neloms	Executive Board Member
Greg Nelson	Executive Board Member
James Smith	Sergeant at-Arms

OFFICE STAFF
Ruth Bennett – Joy Gadson – Tracy Lahmidi

**Congratulations to
my friends with
IBEW Local 306 on
a century of
outstanding service
to our community!**



Kandy Fatheree
Summit County Sheriff

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