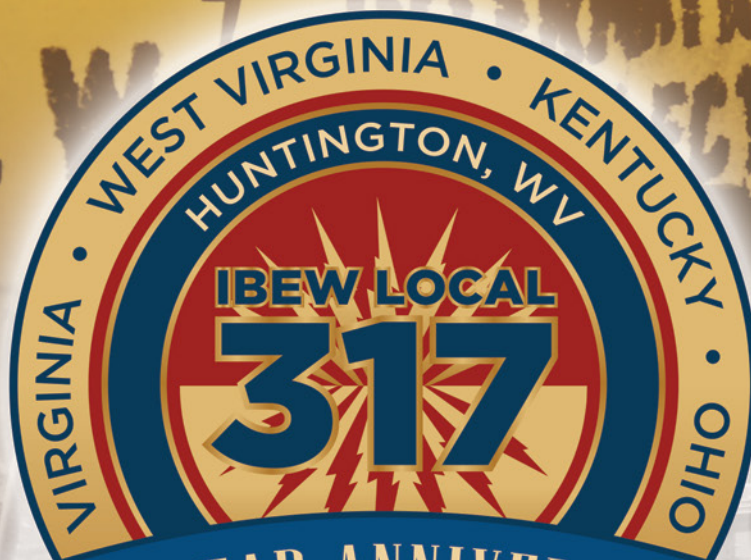


100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



1917 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 2017
CHARTERED AUGUST 13, 1917

COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY BOOK

Will Organize Monday Night

The new Electrical Workers Union of Huntington will be formally organized Monday night, when the seventeen chartered members will meet at Carpenters headquarters. Organizers announce that the charter for the new union has arrived here.

Union is Formed by Electricians

The new union was organized by the Huntington electricians Monday night. W. J. Meyers was elected president. The organization was named by J. H. Bond, local labor leader. Meetings, it was decided, will be held each Thursday. The other officers elected were: G. L. Hawes, vice-president; E. H. Porter, recording secretary; F. Hiner, financial secretary; E. J. Newman, treasurer, and A. A. Pettit, H. E. Paden and J. E. Perdon, trustees. C. J. Daishley was elected sentinel.



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**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS
Local 575**

PRESIDENT/ORGANIZER: Joseph P. Dillow

VICE PRESIDENT: Dustin Brown

RECORDING SECRETARY: Bryan Pitts

TREASURER: Randy Brown



Welcome to the Century Club!

**Daniel L. Shirey
BUSINESS MANAGER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

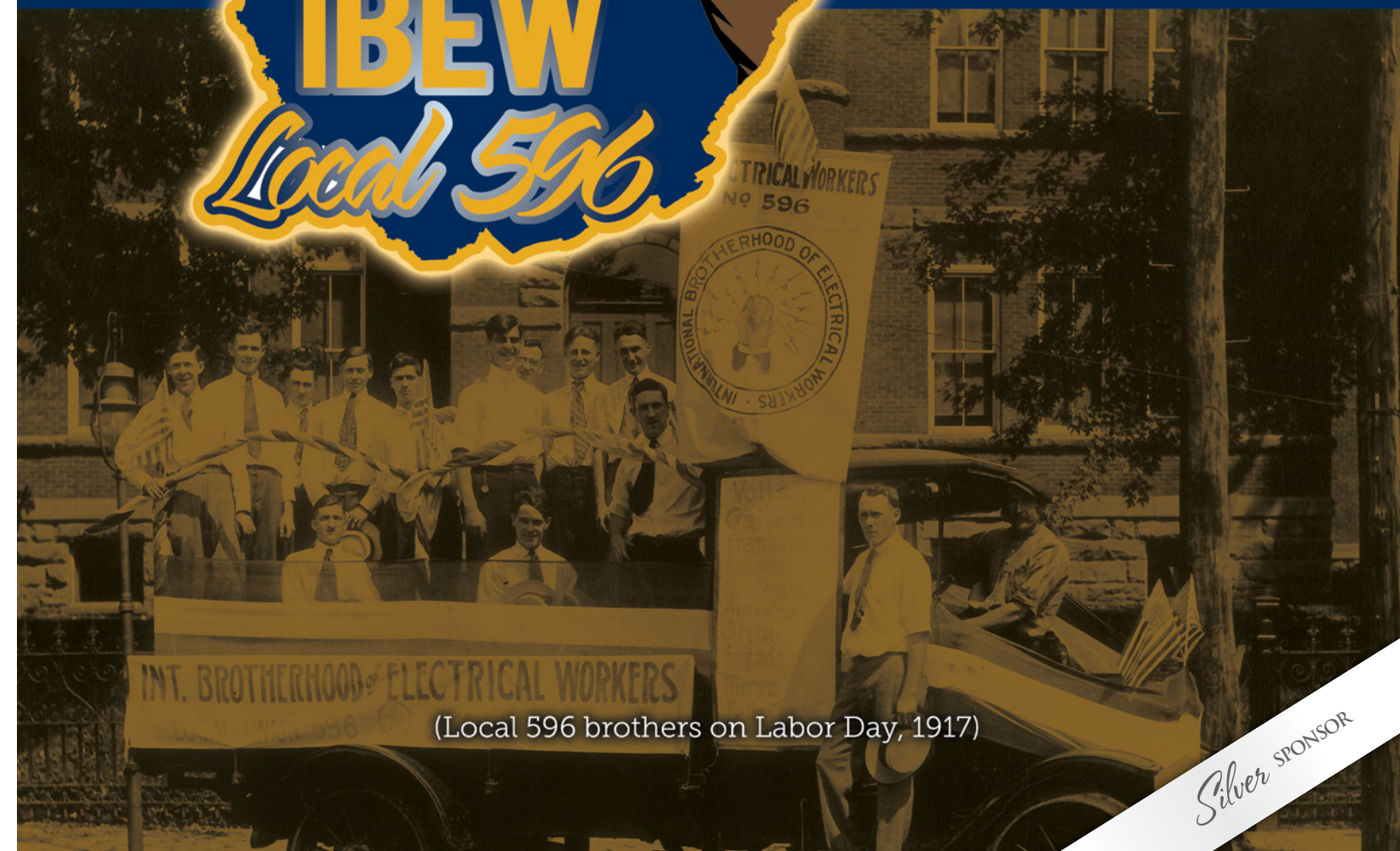


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(Local 596 brothers on Labor Day, 1917)

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*Best Wishes, Local 317,
on 100 Years!*

From Your Brothers and Sisters of
I.B.E.W. Local 466
Charleston, West Virginia

Dana Joe Samples - Business Manager/Financial Secretary
Terry Turley - President
Donald Carrico Jr. - Vice President
Larry Shelton - Recording Secretary
Mike Anderson - Treasurer
Thomas Samples - Apprenticeship Director



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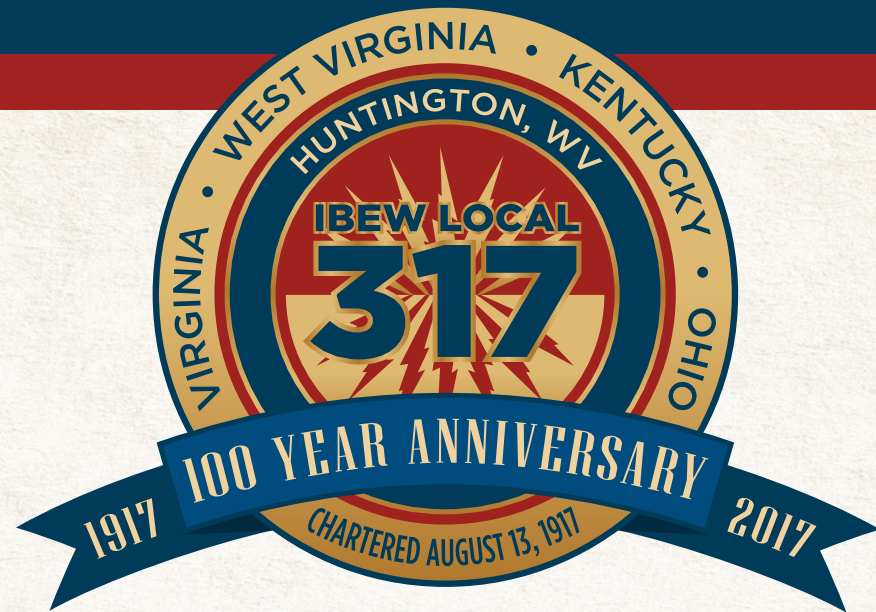


100
YEARS

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY!

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers®

Lonnie R. Stephenson, International President
Kenneth W. Cooper, International Secretary-Treasurer
Brian G. Malloy, International Vice President, Fourth District



I.B.E.W. Local 317 100th Anniversary Celebration Dinner-Dance

July 29, 2017
6:00 p.m.

The Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall
Marshall University
519 John Marshall Drive, Huntington

Sit-down Dinner
Sliced Sirloin Tip Roast • Parmesan Chicken
Au Gratin Potatoes • Broccoli Casserole • Peach Cobbler

Music and Entertainment
Tyler Childers • Price Hill Hustle • Of the Dell • Beggars Clan • Sean Whiting

GREETINGS FROM THE LOCAL 317 BUSINESS MANAGER!

Brothers and Sisters:

I'm excited and honored to join all of you for our Local Union's 100-year anniversary.

What an amazing opportunity to rediscover our roots and celebrate our progress while cementing the foundation for the next 100 years.

Fraternally,

Jim Gillette

Business Manager/Financial Secretary

I.B.E.W. Local 317



This book was proudly produced by

UNION HISTORIES™
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I.B.E.W. Local 317 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to this book:

Curtis Bateman, Manager and Curator, I.B.E.W. Museum

West Virginia & Regional History Center, University of West Virginia

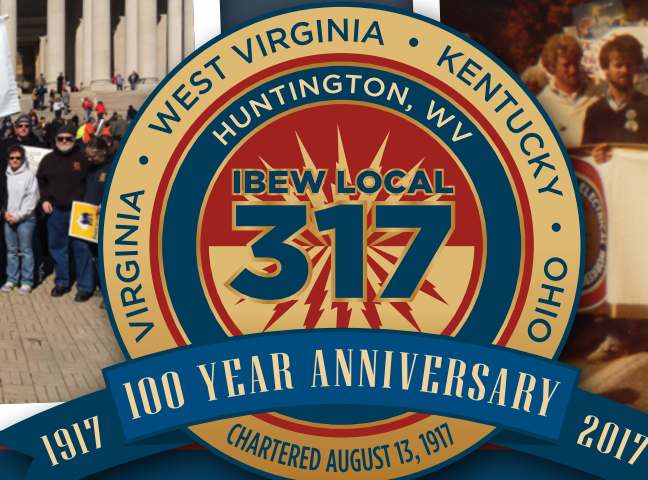
Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson
Art Direction: Andy Taucher
Layout & Design: Steven Demanett



The 100-Year History of I.B.E.W. Local No. 317

A CENTURY-STRONG COMMITMENT TO QUALITY AND BROTHERHOOD

Serving Huntington & The Tri-State Region: West Virginia-Kentucky-Ohio



LABOR'S STRENGTH GREATER THAN EVER

Throughout the article below that blaring headline in the August 30, 1917, *Huntington Advertiser*, West Virginia Governor John J. Cornwell laid out the case for labor's haughty status. As he issued his first Labor Day proclamation the day before, he even declared, "At no time in the history of the state has labor been so dignified or in such demand as today."

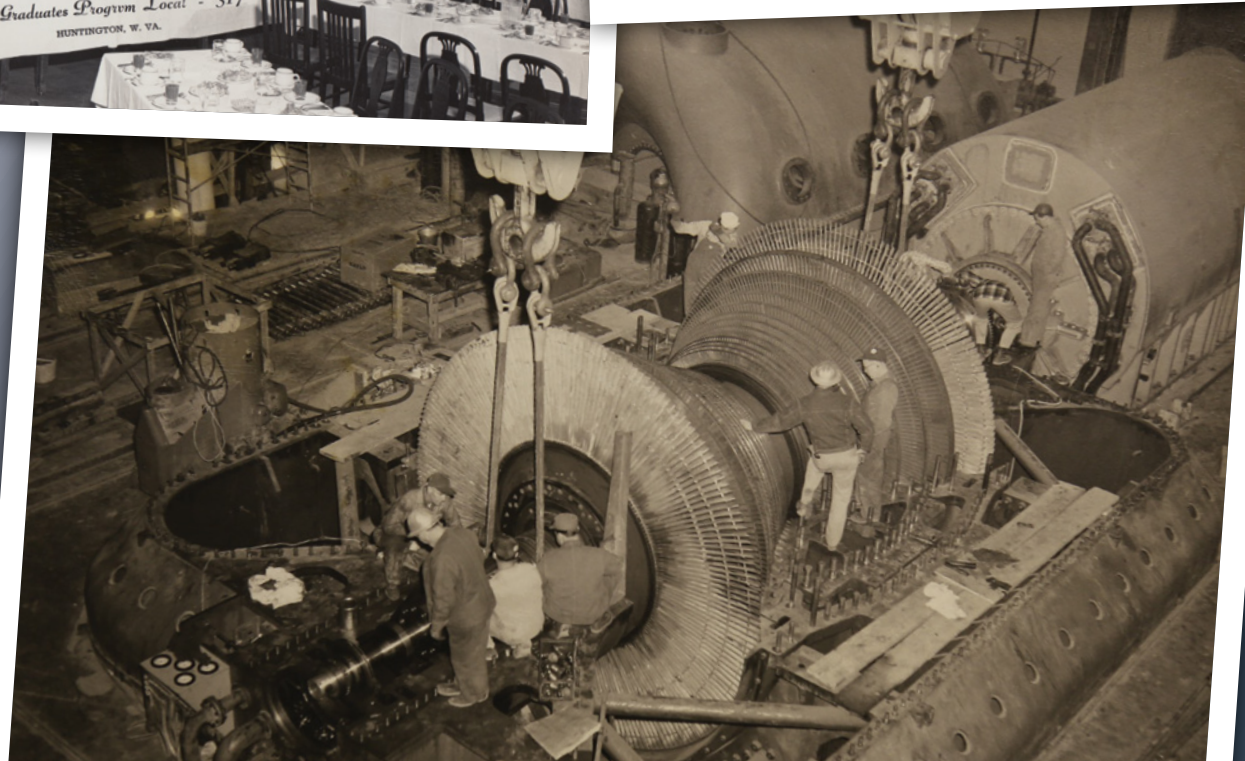
It was in that environment that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.) just weeks before chartered Local Union No. 317 for inside wiremen in the City of Huntington on August 13, 1917.

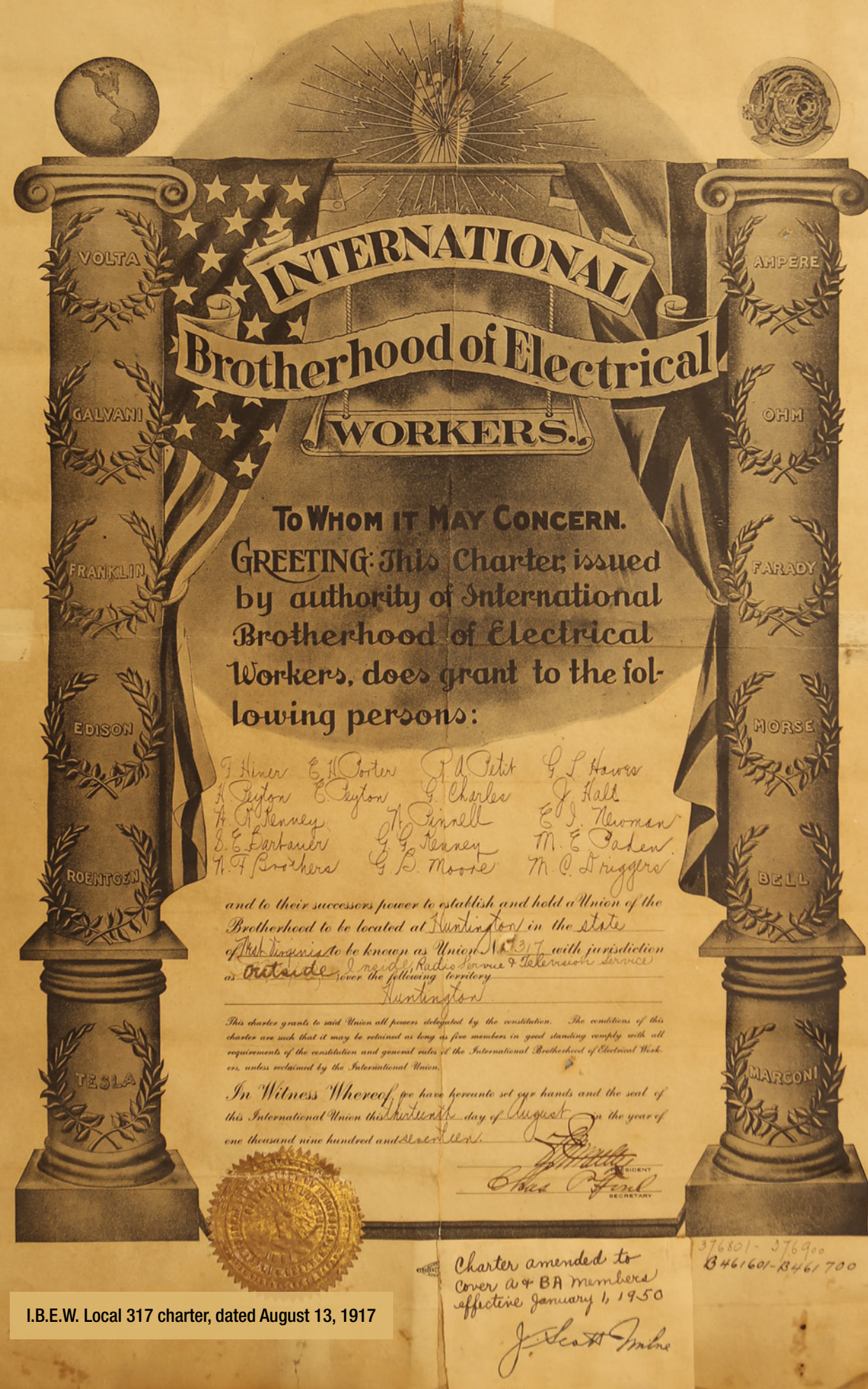
The local would prove to stand the test of

Will Organize Monday Night

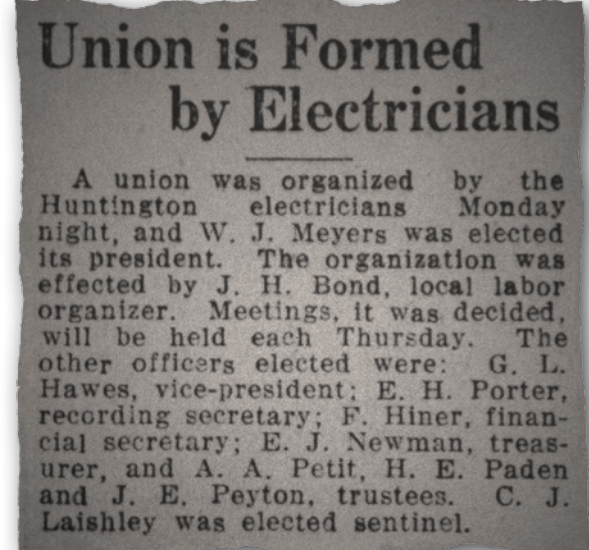
The new Electrical Workers Union of Huntington will be formally organized Monday night, when the seventeen chartered members will meet at Carpenters headquarters. Organizers announces that the charter for the new union has arrived here.

The Huntington Advertiser, August 18, 1917





I.B.E.W. Local 317 charter, dated August 13, 1917



The Huntington Advertiser, August 21, 1917

time, unlike its predecessors. Earlier attempts by the Brotherhood to organize the city's electrical workers had been wholly unsuccessful – Local No. 316 only lasted from September 26 to December 31, 1902, and a decade later Local No. 252 could only hold out from October 1 to December 31, 1912.

When the 17 charter members of Local 317 set out on their journey, after being organized by local labor leader **J. H. Bond**, they did so in earnest during their first meeting on August 20, 1917, in the Carpenters Hall on 3rd Avenue in Huntington. From there, they began a century of service that would be celebrated 100 years later by the brothers and sisters who continue to proudly carry the standard for Local 317.

GAINING A STRONG FOOTHOLD

The early members of inside electricians Local 317, many of whom were initially employed by the **Consolidated Light Heat and Power Company** of Huntington, moved quickly to position the local in a manner that would help ensure its survival. To that end, they chose during that first meeting to assemble every Thursday in a building at 84-

LOCAL 317 CHARTER MEMBERS

- S. E. Barbauer
- N. F. Brothers
- G. Charles
- M. C. Driggers
- J. Halt
- G. L. Hawes
- F. Hiner
- G. G. Kenney
- N. R. Kenney
- G. B. Moore
- E. J. Newman
- M. E. Paden
- H. Payton
- J. E. Payton
- A. A. Petit
- N. Pinnell
- E. H. Porter

1/2 4th Avenue to handle the union's affairs. Just a few weeks later on October 4, 1917, the local appointed a three-member bylaws committee to draw up the rules and regulations of the local, which were subsequently approved during its October 11 meeting.

That month, the local also joined the **Huntington Building Trades Council**, and in January the following year, it affiliated with the **West Virginia State Federation of Labor** (an affiliate of the **American Federation of Labor**, or **A.F.L.**).

Negotiating separately with each individual electrical contractor in the city (which it would do into the late 1940s), Local 317 gained an agreement with the contractors in January 1918. The local unanimously voted during its January 10 meeting that it would "stand by the agreement," which among other provisions stipulated that the contractors could belong to the local and carry union cards.

Before the end of the month, all but two contractors – C & W Electric and McKellen Electric companies – had signed a third draft of

LOCAL 317 LEADERSHIP

Local 317 First Officers, Elected August 20, 1917

W. J. Myers, President
G. L. Hawes, Vice President
F. Hiner, Financial Secretary
E. H. Porter, Recording Secretary
E. J. Newman, Treasurer
C. J. Laishley, Sentinel
A. A. Petit, H. E. Paden and J. E. Payton, Trustees

Local 317 Business Managers

(The office of Business Manager was not established until 1931; previously, several different officers performed the tasks of the business manager.)

R. P. Steed
1931

J. A. Booth
1931 to 1936

H. F. Edwards
1936 to 1938

O. F. "Pete" Smith
1938 to 1946

Charles Spercker
1946 to 1947

T. E. "Jack" Bobbitt
1947 to 1949

A. Charles Singer
1949 to 1954

Henry F. Maynard
1954 to 1956

Thomas B. Wheeler
1956 to 1960

Roy L. Nolte
1960 to 1962

William C. "Bud" Berry
1962 to 1988

Thomas G. Williams
1988 to 1992

William A. Taylor
1992 to 1998

Donald Brent Gary
1998 to 2009

Jim T. Gillette
2009 to current



Local 317 Brother William C. "Bud" Berry, who joined the I.B.E.W. after being discharged from the U.S. Navy on April 5, 1946, having served as a gunner's mate during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942, and throughout the South Pacific theater. A 55-year member of the I.B.E.W. who was Local 317's business manager for 27 years, Brother Berry passed away on October 22, 2004, at age 79.

the contract. But while consistently taking in new members on a weekly basis, the slowly growing Local 317 decided during its March 7, 1918, meeting to increase its wage scale by 50 cents per day and to inform contractors accordingly.

With its members busy out in the field and the local even hosting several traveling I.B.E.W. brothers working within its jurisdiction, the membership voted on June 24, 1918, to reduce meetings to the first and third Fridays of each month.

Then in July, with employment booming, the local notified its contractors that it "shall expect 70 cents per hour and a 25-percent increase on helpers." Work was so abundant at the time, in fact, that Local 317 was forced in September to inform a hotel owner that he could perform his own electrical work until the local was able to furnish him with an I.B.E.W. electrician.

While on paper the local was only chartered for "inside" members, on January 10, 1919, it voted to accept the applications of linemen and to issue them lineman union cards "on authority of the International Office." Later that month, the local declared during its January 22 meeting that it would "offer any assistance we can to help them organize a linemen's union," and soon after, the I.B.E.W. chartered linemen's Local No. 898 in Huntington on February 17, 1919. (Local 898 would be designated as defunct on March 21, 1922, however.)

Meanwhile, Local 317 also continued to look after its inside jurisdiction, and in doing so went out on strike in February 1919 against the Arnold Company after the contractor allowed millwrights to perform electrical work on some jobs. By February 19, the contractor agreed that only the electricians would perform the electrical work and that it would take back the Local 317 men who had gone out on strike.

As strong employment persisted for the local, in June 4 it notified contractors that it was demanding \$1 per hour in wages. Two months later, the ultimatum had not been

met and the local dropped its request to 87-1/2 cents, at which the contractors also balked and countered in early August with a wage offer of 75 cents per hour. The Local 317 membership unanimously voted to reject the proposal and subsequently appointed a strike committee to prepare the local to fight for its request – which apparently was not met in the immediate aftermath.

Later that year, the still-growing local moved its offices into Homrich Hall in the city, where it would continue to hold its meetings and conduct its business for the next four years.

ENDURING INITIAL HIGHS & LOWS

Situated on the eastern edge of downtown Huntington, Marshall College, which the West Virginia Legislature would elevate to university status on March 2, 1961, was already a primary employer of Local 317 electrical workers by the 1920s. In fact, in July 1920 the local approved of its members working at the college for their "old" wage scale – and that relationship between the union and the school would develop and sustain through the local's 100th anniversary in 2017.

5-31-17-100

Local No. _____

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

(Date) Sept 20 1917

The Local was called to order at 8 P. M., and opened in due form.

G. L. Hawes President, in the forum.

The following *pro tem.* appointments were made: _____

The official roll call resulted as follows:

President - - <u>Absent</u>	Treasurer - - <u>Absent</u>
Vice President - <u>Present</u>	Financial Secretary <u>Absent</u>
Recording Secretary <u>Present</u>	Foreman - - _____
First Inspector - _____	Second Inspector - _____

Minutes of last meeting were read and _____

*Obligation of Joseph William Wallace
And Election of H. E. Paden was Elected F.C. whose
office was declared vacant by reason of being absent
of four weeks*

Minutes of Local 317's September 20, 1917, general meeting

Initially in 1917 and for its first several years, Local 317's initiation fee for new members was \$10.

Meanwhile, Local 317 remained vigilant in safeguarding its employment elsewhere – to the point that in July 1920 the local wrote I.B.E.W. International Secretary Charles P. Ford to inform him that the local “will not allow Ashland (Kentucky) to start a local at the present time.” By that time, many of the local's members were working at the plants in

1917

President } Curry - 1111 - 5
Keeney - 1111 - 8
Friel - 1 - 1

V. President } Friel 111111 - 7
B. L. Pett 111111 - 6

Rec. Sec. } R. A. Pett
J. A. Booth - 111111111111

Treasurer } Kennedy - 1111
R. A. Pett - 1111111111 - 10
B. L. Pett - 1

Fin. Sec. } Kennedy 111111111111
B. L. Pett - 1

Busi Mgr. } R. Friel 1111 - 4
R. A. Pett 1111 - 4
J. A. Booth 111111 - 6
Curry

Ex. Board } L. Laishley - Curry
Friel - Kennedy

Local 317 officers vote tally, 1933 (with Brother H. E. Keeney winning president and Brother J. A. Booth winning business manager and recording secretary positions).

that town just to the west along the Ohio River, where that year the Armco Steel Corporation began construction of a large steel mill that when completed in October 1923 featured a continuous rolling method to produce steel sheets, the first of its kind in the nation.

The protest went unheeded, however, and on August 24, 1920, the I.B.E.W. chartered Local No. 1103 for Ashland. It would go defunct not even two years later on April 30, 1922.

As the “Roaring Twenties” progressed, conditions became difficult for Local 317 as employment waned in the region. Meeting in the Plumbers’ Hall by July 1923 and in various locations over the next several years, that August 16 the local agreed to work in Ashland for a lowered 90-cent-per-hour scale. What’s more, during that meeting, the local further agreed that its members should “go to work where they can for as much as they can get.”

Another strike against a contractor in November 1924 put more men off of jobs for a short period. The local did do its part by assessing members who were working a fee to help those who were striking.

As the glut continued, the local was forced in early January 1925 to request a loan of \$200 from its sister local in Charleston. By the end

STATEMENT

HUNTINGTON CENTRAL LABOR UNION
P. O. BOX 883
HUNTINGTON, W. VA. Jan 14 1935

Electricians # 317

November and December Dues @ 60 120

2-5-35
check 1043

Chas. L. Pett FINANCIAL SECRETARY

ARTICLE V.
Section 1. The revenue of this organization shall be derived from a per capita tax of two cents per member per month from each affiliated organization, provided no organization's tax shall be less than sixty cents per month. No other means of raising funds shall be permitted without the approval of a majority of all delegates present after laying

Dues receipt for Local 317 membership in the
Huntington Central Labor Union, January 14, 1935.

COOK PRINTING CO.

of the month, membership declined to just 33 members, several of whom were working in Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Railroad shops by that time.

Local 317 held stable in those challenging times, even continuing its ongoing effort to have electrical inspections approved in the City of Huntington. That, too, proved to be a daunting task – by November 1926, with inspections still not mandated, the local even took the issue before the fire department’s Fire Prevention Bureau.

Jobs in Ashland provided a measure of relief to the local by the mid-1920s, although the

local did decree in March 1927 that members would work on one job in that city “regardless of conditions.” Subsequently, employment picked up dramatically for Local 317, and by May 1927 its situation had improved to the point where it demanded a new wage scale of \$1.25 per hour from contractors.

While the local did not receive the raise, the following year on May 1, 1928, wages were increased to \$1.25 per hour for both the local’s journeyman electricians and its cable-splitters. Work remained abundant, too, throughout its jurisdiction, and within Huntington that year the local’s members helped build the modern, 900-seat Stand Theatre on 4th Avenue while other members continued to find employment in Ashland and elsewhere.

SURVIVING AND GAINING STRENGTH

By all accounts, Local 317 was in a strong financial condition on the eve of the Great Depression, the historic, worldwide economic catastrophe that officially began with the stock market crash of October 29, 1929 (history’s “Black Tuesday”). In fact, during its August 24, 1928, general meeting, the local changed the expiration date of its agreement from November 10, 1928, to May 10, 1929. Then during the local’s September 24, 1928, meeting, it passed a motion allowing any “one or two members” to borrow \$500 from the local to help take care of an “old house.”

Local 317 Apprenticeship & Training

A HISTORY OF PREPARING THE BEST ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Since its formation in 1917, I.B.E.W. Local 317 has instituted on-the-job training to educate its apprentices to become journeyman electrical workers. At 100 years old in 2017, the local still incorporates 8,000 hours of on-the-job training, in addition to related classroom and lab work, in its five-year apprenticeship program.

Initially, however, apprentice training consisted solely of learning the craft while out in the field working beside a journeyman electrical worker. But in early 1939, Local 317 began to recognize the need to expand its education of apprentices (or "helpers") and, to that end, agreed to work with Huntington's "trades school" within the city high school, which was providing an electrical worker course.

In October that year, Local 317 voted to enroll its apprentices in the night trades school – although apprentices had to pay their own tuition if they were working. However, the local would refund the fee of any member who earned a passing grade and had a 100-percent attendance record.

Those initial efforts to expand and enhance member education have transformed over the years into the [Huntington Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee \(J.A.T.C.\)](#) Program. The five-year curriculum consists of 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and over 900 hours of classroom instruction, conducted in the local's own state-of-the-art training facility.

The Huntington J.A.T.C. is comprised of a committee of six trustees, three of whom are management members representing the [West Virginia-Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association \(NECA\)](#) and three of whom are labor members representing Local 317. The J.A.T.C. is an affiliate of the electrical training ALLIANCE (formerly the National Electrical J.A.T.C.), which develops uniform industry training standards that are used nationwide.

In September 2002, the Huntington J.A.T.C. moved its training facility into the former Wesco Welding building, which the local

completely renovated, at [1850 Madison Avenue](#) in Huntington. The J.A.T.C. then more than doubled its size in 2010 when it expanded into a building across the parking lot at [1816 Madison Avenue](#).

Local 317 outside wiremen are simultaneously trained through the [American Line Builders Joint Apprenticeship and Training \(ALBAT\)](#) program, which was established in August 1958 by the I.B.E.W. Fourth and Sixth districts. Today, ALBAT covers eight states: West Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Washington D.C., Maryland and Michigan. Its ALBAT Area Joint Committee is comprised of eight representatives, four from the I.B.E.W. and four from NECA; the committee meets quarterly to review and establish the various policies, rules and regulations of the ALBAT program.

In addition to on-the-job training, ALBAT apprentices also receive related classroom instruction.

Local 317 training center, 2017



The Local 317 J.A.T.C. Apprenticeship Training Program was awarded the national [Excellence in Training Award](#) at the I.B.E.W. Fourth District Progress Meeting in 2008, signifying that the local's training center was providing journeyman education classes to more than 75 percent of the local's membership.

Even as the Depression took hold throughout the country on its way to inflicting chaos through much of the 1930s, Local 317 membership held in the low 40s into and throughout the early months of 1930. What's more, in March 1930 the local, which by that time had moved meetings to the [Central Labor Hall](#), put a night shift on a Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad job to work seven hours for eight hours pay, and it was also making plans for a banquet at the Spring Valley Club – although those plans were discontinued a week later.

But on March 11, the local did approve hiring a full-time [business manager](#) for "as long as the local sees fit." That day, it also approved paying \$12 for any member who wished to attend electrical-trade school.

That year, the local already had a lineman's agreement in place for the "outside" electrical workers in its jurisdiction. Then in 1931, the I.B.E.W. officially amended the local's trades classifications to cover inside wiremen and outside linemen, designating No. 317 as a "mixed" local to provide the city's linemen with union representation for the first time since Local 898 was disbanded in March 1922.

As the effects of the Depression began to encumber Local 317, its membership would eventually shrink to just 22 members-in-good-standing in September 1932. Meanwhile, the local put its new business manager on a temporary \$50-per-week salary, and in February 1932 it asked the I.B.E.W. International Office if the local could use its funds "for the benefit of our unemployed members."

To further assist its membership, the local also decreed in April: "That any member unemployed and who has not earned at least \$25 per month be allowed dues by the local dating back 60 days from the time he was laid off."

Although membership and work opportunities continued to decrease at an

West Virginia Ordnance Works facility near Point Pleasant in Mason County, 1942.



alarming rate, Local 317 held to its union principles. As such, in November 1932 the local rejected an “open shop” proposal that would have permitted unemployed members to seek their own employment.

As conditions worsened and membership dropped to 20 in January 1933, the local declared in February that no member would be permitted to work more than 24 hours per week so that all members had more opportunities to work. Facing a wage cut proposed by contractors in April, the local instead offered to work shortened 6-hour days.

Regardless of its condition, Local 317 remained diligent even through the lowest points of the Depression years. For instance, in April 1933 the local presented the city engineer with a proposed electrical ordinance for Huntington, and that June the local called on the city’s power company to recommend that only union contractors do its electrical work. In March 1935, the local even advertised its union contractors in the local newspaper.

In another attempt to alleviate the local’s fiscal burdens, the Local 317 Executive Board ruled on November 1, 1933, that the salaries of all local officers be reduced to \$3 per month. They further decreed that the salaries would “remain in effect for the duration of economic necessity.”

However, the local only counted 14 dues-paying members by late December 1935 as the Depression persisted.

Among many other activities and efforts, the federal government’s New Deal programs and its **Works Progress Administration** (WPA), which created thousands of public works projects around the country, helped pull the nation and Local 317 out from the depths of the economic despair. Among the projects in and around Huntington in which the local’s members were involved was the construction of a dam.

Additional employment for the local was provided during the second half of the 1930s with work on several private projects, including the Chesapeake and Ohio hospital and office building, a McCrory’s department store, a building at the Spring Valley Country Club and a permanent facility for **Marshall College High School**, which was a division of Marshall College (*and is now Jenkins Hall on the Marshall University campus*). During that time, the local also worked on a building for the **Stella E. Booth Business School** in Huntington.

With the economy and local construction industry beginning its recovery, the Huntington Building Trades Council, which had disbanded during the Depression, was re-formed in late 1937. Local 317 re-affiliated with the Council almost immediately, drawing a check of \$5 on December 7, 1937, to pay its entrance fee into the organization.

GROWING WHILE FIGHTING A WAR

Local 317 members did not report to work on Wednesday, August 31, 1938, while the local was in the process of strained contract negotiations with its contractors, who the evening before failed to attend a meeting with the local. After another meeting on Wednesday evening as the electrical workers remained idle, nine contractors signed the new agreement with the local the very next morning of September 1.

The Huntington local was also facing

opposition on other fronts at the time, as the I.B.E.W. local in Lexington, Kentucky, was claiming jurisdiction over the construction of a **federal prison** in Ashland. After settling that issue, on January 18, 1939, Local 319 placed a picket on a glass works factory in Kenova, West Virginia, to protest the use of non-union labor there.

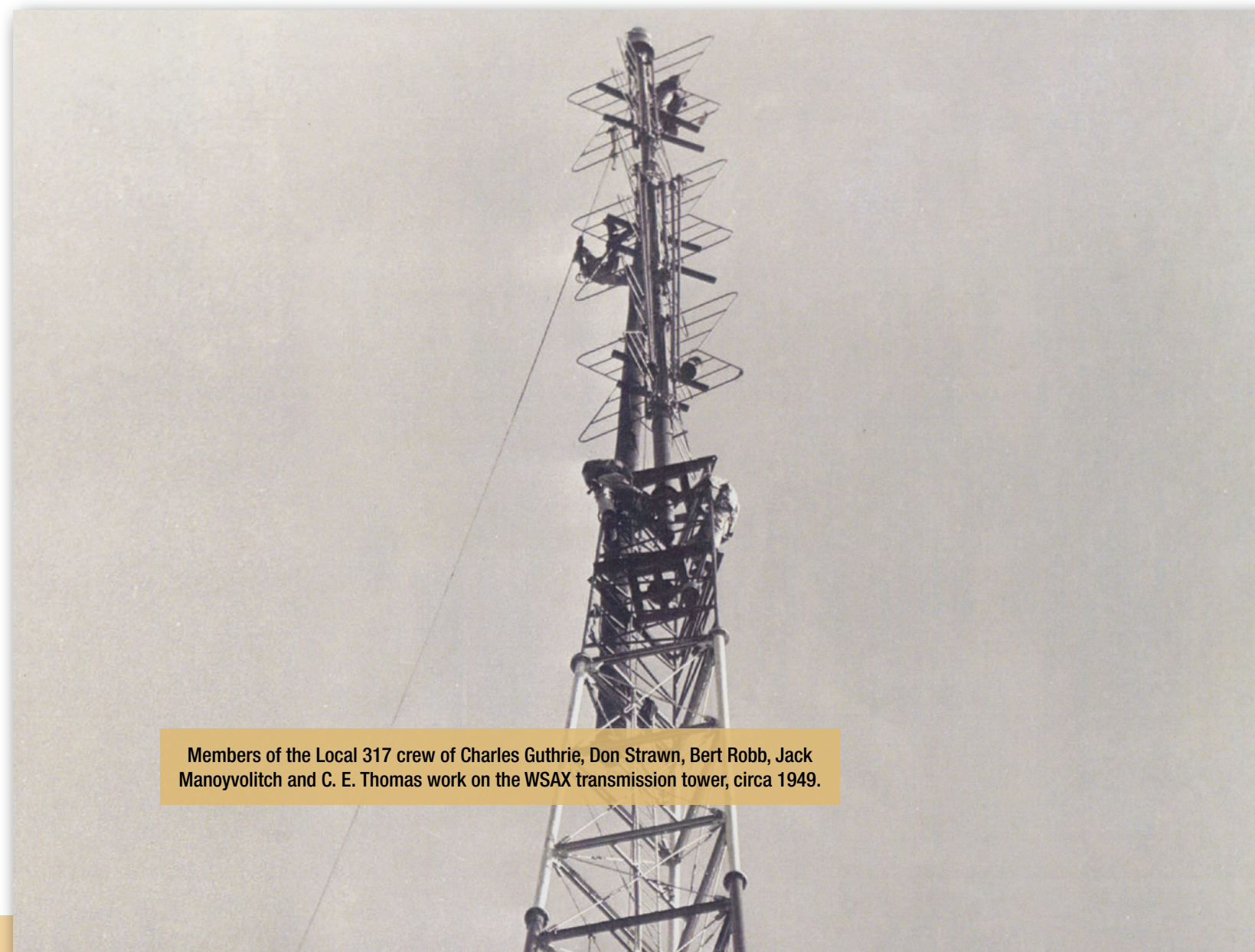
Regardless, work continued to increase for Local 317. Additional projects on which the local’s members were employed by early 1939 included a distillery in the Huntington neighborhood of Guyandotte and ongoing WPA projects such as a therapeutic center for the Morris Memorial Hospital for Crippled Children in Milton. That year, the local also

helped complete a state-of-the-art expansion of the **Huntington Veteran’s Administration (VA) Medical Center** on Spring Valley Drive (which when built in 1932 was the first VA hospital in the state).

Still focused on the welfare of its members, Local 317 then created a **Death Benefit Fund** in February 1939, into which each member would pay \$3.

The very next month, the local again was compelled to protest another proposal to organize a local in Ashland.

Into 1940, with World War II already waging an ocean away in Europe, Local 317 remained busy on many projects, including a new housing



Members of the Local 317 crew of Charles Guthrie, Don Strawn, Bert Robb, Jack Manoyvolitch and C. E. Thomas work on the WSAX transmission tower, circa 1949.

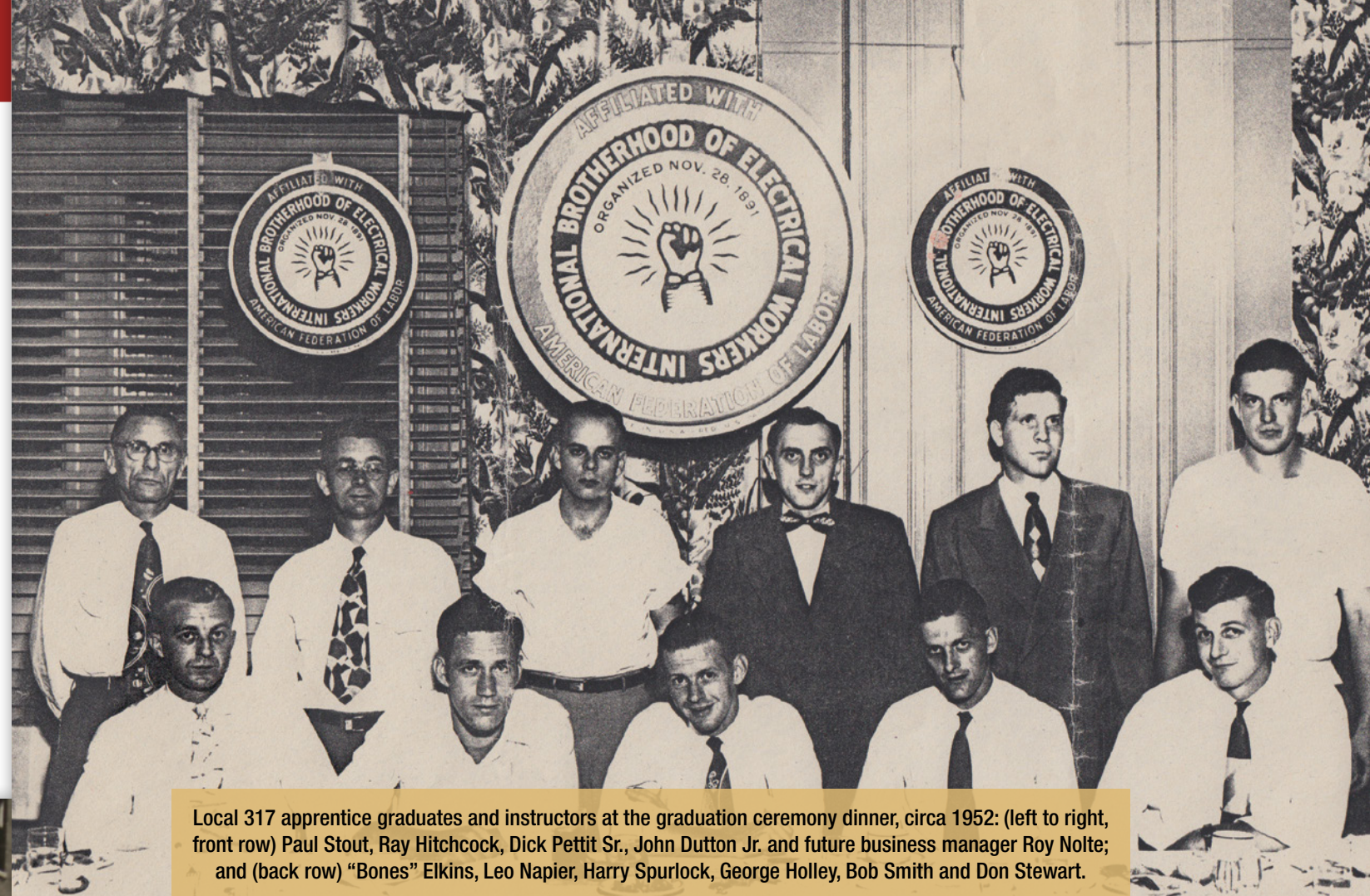
development in Huntington, and had an agreement with seven separate inside contractors. That year, the local also put a **Hospitalization Plan** into effect for its members.

With its membership rapidly climbing and by the fall of 1941 numbering over 60, the local sent its first-ever official delegate to an I.B.E.W. convention that year, with **Brother Cloyce E. Smith** attending the union's 21st international conference in St. Louis. Back home, the membership was kept busy on projects that included the **Buckeye Ordnance Works** plant in South Point, Ohio – for which jurisdiction was officially awarded to the local over the Portsmouth, Ohio, I.B.E.W. local in February 1942 – that would manufacture ammonium nitrate explosives for the coming three years.

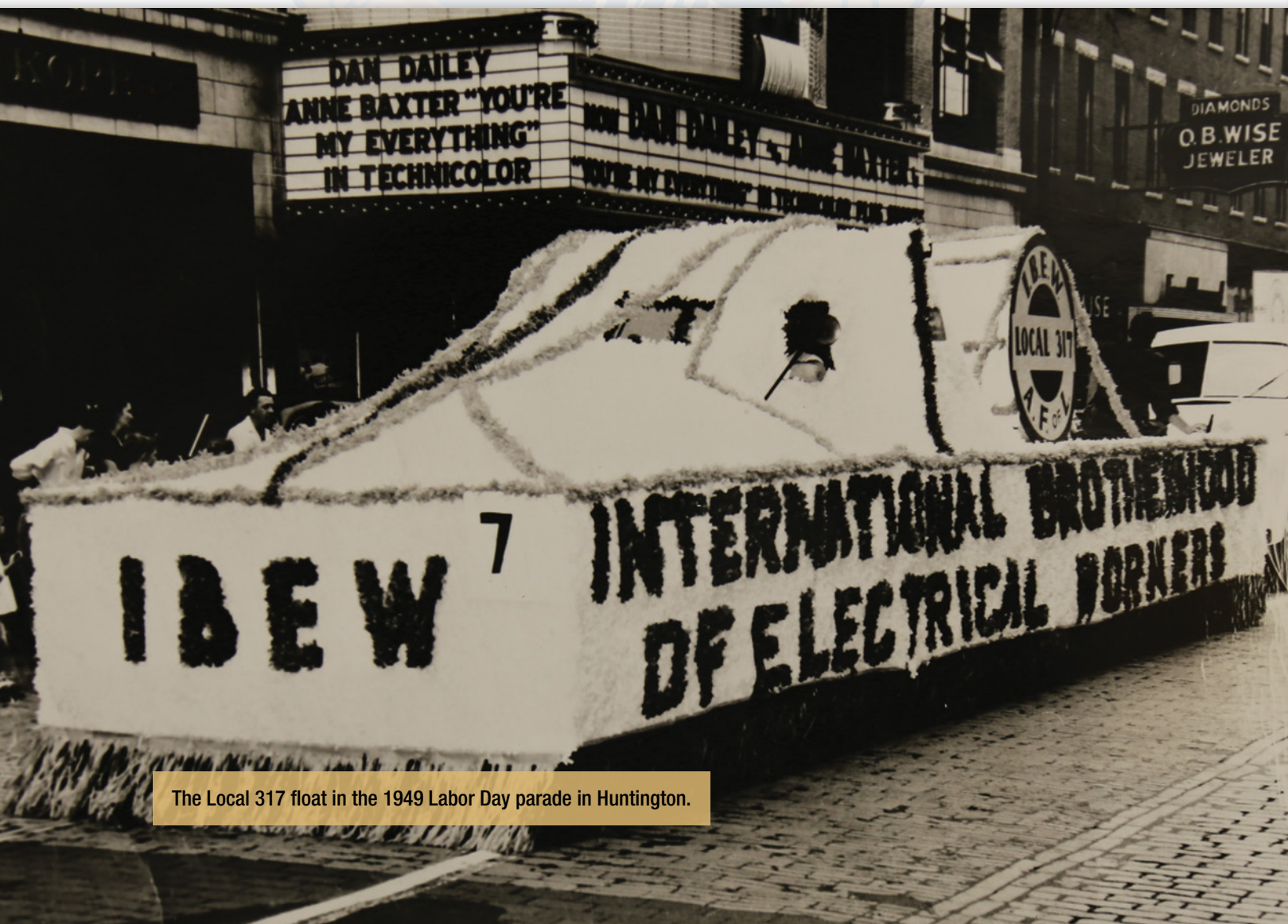
Among many other jobs, including Armco

in Ashland, members were also working on the \$45 million West Virginia Ordnance Works U.S. Army ammunition manufacturing plant in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, that would operate for three years beginning in 1942. (That year, the I.B.E.W. organized **Local No. 950** in Point Pleasant, issuing its charter on November 3, 1942, as strictly an “A” local for “marine and maintenance electricians” – which was likely done to break a perceived “stranglehold” that the union believed Local 317 had on the job.)

As work and membership continued to increase, as it would throughout the war years, the local voted on July 7, 1942, during its general membership meeting to restore the business manager's salary to \$125 per week. A year later in August 1943, after the United States had officially entered the war following the December 7, 1942, Japanese attack on



Local 317 apprentice graduates and instructors at the graduation ceremony dinner, circa 1952: (left to right, front row) Paul Stout, Ray Hitchcock, Dick Pettit Sr., John Dutton Jr. and future business manager Roy Nolte; and (back row) “Bones” Elkins, Leo Napier, Harry Spurlock, George Holley, Bob Smith and Don Stewart.



The Local 317 float in the 1949 Labor Day parade in Huntington.

the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the local appointed a committee of three to “investigate buying a home for Local No. 317.”

It was not until May 1944 that the local purchased a property, closing the deal on June 22. After thoroughly remodeling the building, the local later that year moved from its former location in the Central Labor Union Hall to the new **I.B.E.W. Building** at 1253 3rd Avenue, where it would remain until 1964.

The local's linemen also won a new, two-year contract that was approved by the National War Labor Board on July 28, 1944. The agreement provided journeyman linemen with a \$1.50-per-hour-wage rate, while foremen were given \$1.65 per hour, fourth-year apprentices \$1.35, third-year apprentices \$1.25, second-year apprentices \$1.15 and new apprentices \$1.05 per hour.

ENJOYING AN ERA OF PROSPERITY

After the official end of World War II on September 2, 1945, Local 317 inside wireman members gained a new contract in November of that year for a \$1.64-1/2 per hour wage. By that time, the union was negotiating with a single representative of all its contractors: the **West Virginia-Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)**.

Meanwhile, the local reported during its November 6 meeting that Local 950 in Point Pleasant had 34 members who were behind at least three months on their union dues. However, Local 317 tabled a discussion on merging with the local.

Back in Huntington, many Local 317 members went to work in 1946 on a new automobile parts factory being constructed by the **Houdaille-**

Local 317's charter was amended on January 1, 1950, to cover both "A" members (who may work for various contractors and pay into the I.B.E.W. Pension Fund) and "BA" members (who work for a single employer and negotiate benefits with that employer).

Hershey company in a former U.S. Army plant building at 900 West 9th Street that was being used by the U.S. Air Force as a warehouse. With the help of the union electrical workers, the Detroit-based company ultimately opened an auto bumper plant that was reportedly the largest such facility in the world.

It seems the only thing that slowed Local 317 during the second half of the 1940s was a materials and supplies shortage in mid-1946. Even so, in June that year, the local reached a membership of 250 journeymen and apprentices.

Before that number expanded to over 320 in mid-1948, the local's inside men received another raise in a new contract beginning June 1, 1947. The pact provided a wage of \$1.87-1/2 per hour to journeymen.

The local's growth continued during the following year, as well. Specifically, with the West Virginia Ordnance Works facility closed down since 1945, Local 950 of Point Pleasant was finally amalgamated into Local 317 on June 1, 1948.

With strong employment most often the norm through 1949 and into the new decade, Local 317 was focusing much of its energies on political activity at the time. "We are sponsoring and stressing the importance of political action to all our brothers, as we believe the success of our future depends on our knowledge and action in casting our votes," Local 317 Press Secretary J. E. Smith wrote in the I.B.E.W. December 1949 Journal magazine.

Undeniably, the local packed political clout, as it numbered over 470 members in the fall of 1950.

Although larger jobs in its jurisdiction dried up as the 1950s began, many smaller jobs kept unemployment low when not non-existent, and several Local 317 members who were willing and able travelled to other locals around the country for work. Steady work returned

ELECTRICIANS SENIORITY LIST			1-20-55
116	Howard Daugherty	Crane Operator	8-12-19
682	Fred Gibbs	Crane Operator	9-26-27
403	Sterlie Stevens	Electrician-Construction-Maint.	3-13-39
845	Girard Fowler	Electrician-Construction-Maint	7-21-41
457	Earl McHenry	Electrician-Construction-Maint	12-2-47
43	Donald Sturgeon	Crane Operator	12-22-47
876	Henry Hoschar	Crane Operatbr-Electrician	8-28-50
183	Orlando Hoschar	Electrician	7-2-51
515	Homer Graham	Crane Operator	6-30-52
532	Earnest Rainey (Service)	Electrician Learner	5-26-53
577	Arvil Sims	Electrician	6-9-53
825	Earnest Davis	Electrician	7-20-53
422	Leverett Shaver	Electrician Learner	10-5-53
508	George Ross Kapp	Electrician	10-12-53



Local 317 members working on construction of the Alpha Portland Cement plant in Ironton, Ohio, in 1956: (left to right, front row) J. Thomas, D. Powers, J. Admas, T. Crossan, F. James, I. Elkins and D. Turley; and (back row) L. Napier, E. Clendenin, K. Blankenship, L. Jones, W. Terrell, J. Hatfield, K. McDaniel, J. Smith and W. McDaniel.

locally by mid-1951 when several large jobs broke within the local's jurisdiction, including Armco plant additions in Ashland and an Allied Chemical plant in South Point.

As large jobs in the area continued, by June 1952 the local had over 800 members (up from around 50 just 15 years before). Despite the expanded membership, the influx of work left the local short of men to handle all of it. Brother Smith even reported in the October 1952 Journal that the local's office staff was so busy that its "very pleasant" office girl had to post a warning sign that read, "Private Conversation Limited to 3 Seconds."

While the "booming" construction sustained throughout 1953, the local even signed its first "Radio and Television" contract that year. It also reached new agreements with NECA for June 1, 1953, that gave journeyman wiremen \$2.85 per hour in wages and journeyman commercial linemen and cable-splicers \$3.10 per hour.

With the construction of the coal-fired Kyger Creek Power Plant in Cheshire, Ohio, which would be completed in 1954, the local's call for additional help continued throughout early 1953. All of its members were working full time and many were employed overtime

during much of the year and particularly over the last several months, when at times the weekly working schedule for many members consisted of seven 9-hour days.

Another new contract agreement beginning June 1, 1954, raised wages for inside wiremen to \$3 per hour.

There was little let up during the later years of the 1950s for Local 317. Throughout the balance of the decade, its members remained busy with work, as the Ashland Oil Refining, Armco Steel and Alpha Portland Cement companies each enlarged their respective output capacity over that time.

After having been denied a Health and Welfare Plan by local contractors for the previous several years during contract negotiations, Local 317, Local 968 of Parkersburg and Local 466 of

In May 1952, Local 317 inside wireman members petitioned the I.B.E.W. International Office to separate the "mixed" Local 317 into two locals, one for its inside men and one for its outside linemen. The request was ultimately denied.

Huntington was host to the official merger proceedings of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor and West Virginia Industrial Union Council into the West Virginia Labor Federation, A.F.L.-C.I.O., on November 22, 1957, in the Huntington Auditorium (after the two national organizations had merged in 1955.)

Charleston banded together in late 1958 to lobby for the benefit. After submitting the issue jointly to the Council on Industrial Relations, the locals were granted a plan later that year, at which time Local 317 numbered over 600 total "A" and "BA" members.

ENERGIZING ITS JURISDICTION

After a brief lull in employment entering the 1960s, construction of the Big Sandy Power Plant in Louisa, Kentucky, highlighted another run of large projects for Local 317 that kept its members and many travelers steadily employed for several years. Along with the coal-fired electricity-generating facility, Armco Steel was using five contractors to build a new open hearth and the International Nickel plant in Huntington and

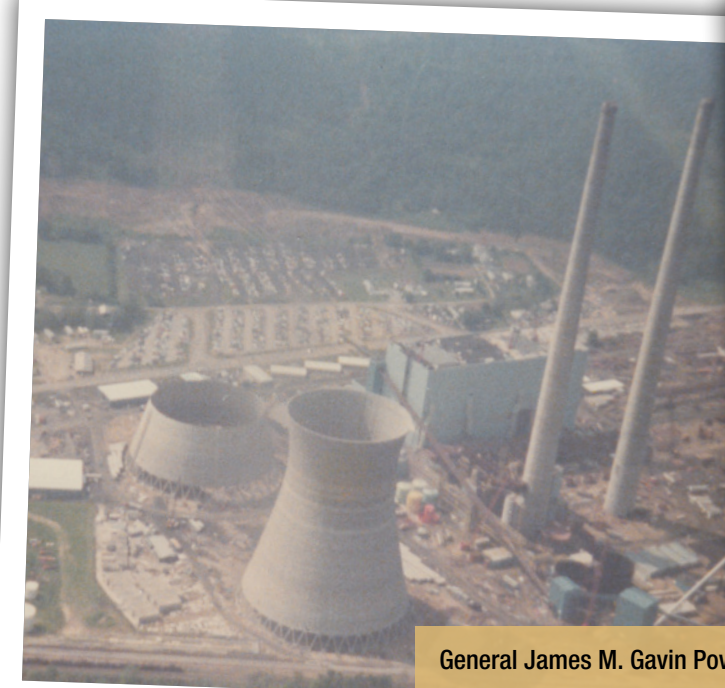
the Alpha Portland Cement plant were both expanding.

Perhaps most unique of them all was Big Sandy, whose 260-megawatt Unit 1 went online in 1963 while featuring the first natural-draft cooling tower in the Western Hemisphere. Next was its Unit 2, which went online in 1969 as the first in a series of five 800-megawatt units installed on the American Electric Power (AEP) system in a four-year period. *(Unit 2 would be closed in 2015 while Unit 1 was converted to burn natural gas.)*

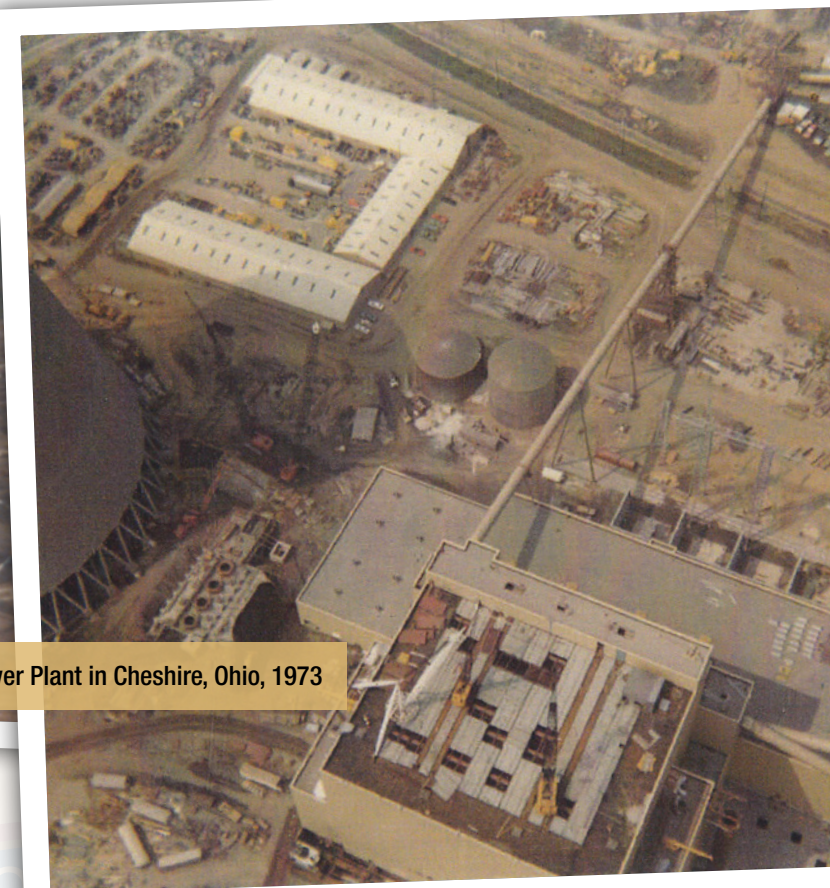
Subsequently, Local 317 ballooned to nearly 1,000 members, including nearly 400 "BA" workers in 1964. Accordingly, that year the local moved into a larger union hall and office building at 550 Adams Avenue (where it would remain for the next 40 years).

Even more work was provided to the local's members at the expanding Marshall University during the decade. Perhaps most notably, Local 317 wired the school's new, \$3.4 million Student Center beginning in 1968 and its new, \$750,000 Communications Center home for three major areas of the school's Educational Television and Radio department, both of which

The union hall at 550 Adams Avenue in Huntington that Local 317 called "home" from 1964 to 2004.



General James M. Gavin Power Plant in Cheshire, Ohio, 1973



were completed for the fall 1970 school year.

With all members and several travelers working, the local's inside-wireman pay scale for the year beginning June 1, 1968, was at \$5.40 per hour. Additionally, the electricians were also provided with 15 cents per hour to their Health and Welfare Plan, 10 cents to their Pension Plan and 9 cents to their Vacation Plan.

Outside line work for the local was also very good during the balance of the 1960s. In addition to several large jobs, the local's linemen built one of the largest switch yards on AEP property, a 765,000-kilovolt station, during that time.

However, Local 317 reported in the November 1968 *Journal* that "everything is not as rosy as it might seem" with AEP. The local was continually fighting the company, which at the time was in the process of taking the local to court "to try to break the fabrication clause in the working agreement."

Large jobs primarily involving plant

expansions and substations, in addition to projects to install 220 miles of 765-kilovolt transmission lines, kept the local and travelers busy into the 1970s. In particular, the local had jurisdiction on the year-long construction of Baker Station, the first commercial 765-kilovolt substation to be energized in the United States. Built adjacent to the Big Sandy Power Plant for the Kentucky Power Company, the station went online on May 1, 1969.

Construction of a second energy-generating

Seven members with total assets of \$35 started the Local 317 I.B.E.W. Federal Credit Union, a member-owned savings and loan corporation, in December 1960; by October 1961, the credit union had 180 members and over \$15,000 in total assets.

Local 317 members participate in a labor rally and march in the capital of Charleston, West Virginia, in 1976.



facility in Cheshire, the **General James M. Gavin Power Plant**, beginning in 1970 created even more work within the tri-state area, ultimately employing 3,100 building-trades craftsmen. That year, the local's membership reached nearly 1,200 as the 2.6-gigawatt supercritical coal-fired power station, which would be part of the AEP

system, got underway. When Gavin's two units were placed into service in 1974 and 1975, respectively, it was the largest coal-fired power facility in Ohio and one of the largest in the nation.

During that time, Local 317 added "utility" to its classifications in 1973 as more of its members were doing work for utility companies.

That same year, new contracts raised commercial-line lineman wages by 51 cents per hour and wireman wages by 45 cents per hour. (Power agreements were still being negotiated with the **American Line Builders** by the I.B.E.W. Fourth District for all locals within the district, including Local 317)

As most major projects were completed before the end of the decade, the local's membership decreased to below 700 in 1978. However, consistent work remained for all members, and employment held up into the 1980s.



Local 317 members working on a Wayne Supply Company job in 1979, with a jobsite Christmas tree in the background, included (left to right, front row) Burf Wheeler, Roger Broughton, Dave Davidson, Bill Stall and Larry Hammonds; and (back row) Jim Bradley, Gary Faulkner, Rusty Cremeans, Jeff Davidson, Dave Spears and Marc Wells.

PRESSING THROUGH HARD TIMES

Inflation and a significant, nationwide economic recession hampered work for Local 317 during the early 1980s (as it did for unions across the country). A boost in inside work was provided with construction of the new, 150-retailer **Huntington Mall**, an enclosed shopping center in the Village of Barboursville that opened in 1981 as the largest mall in West Virginia.

With the new decade, the local and labor in general were also forced to confront an ever-growing anti-union sentiment pervading the nation and the state capitals of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. To that end, Local 317 joined in a massive rally at the State Capitol in Frankfort, Kentucky, in June 1980 to protest legislation that would "cripple" workmen's compensation, prevailing wage and other laws that help working people. It would be an undertaking that the local would repeat many times over the coming decades in all three of the state's capitals.

An arbitration decision did provide the local another measure of relief in August 1980. The Arbitration Board awarded the local a \$1.50 -per -hour raise for the contract that was being negotiated with contractors.

But as **Press Secretary Curtis Hamilton** reported in the January 1982 *Journal*, the work picture remained "bleak" into 1982. In fact, the local took in 12 new apprentices for the new year but was unable to put any of them to work.

Regardless, even in those difficult conditions, Local 317 still held its annual picnic for members and their families in 1982, which was well-attended and featured rides and entertainment for young and old attendees. What's more, the local's membership actually grew that year to over 730 members by the fall.

Business Manager William "Bud" Berry confirmed in his "B.A.'s Corner" in April

1982 that the local was still experiencing an employment "problem." However, it did win another arbitration decision for its contract, gaining a \$1.80 per hour raise, including 25 cents for the Health and Welfare Fund.

Shortly after, the local on June 29, 1982, voted to change its medical insurance benefit from the West Virginia-Ohio Valley Health Welfare Fund, under which the local was self-insured, to the **Outside Electrical Welfare Fund**. The switch increased the local's major medical coverage and added dental and eyeglass coverage at a reduced cost.

Through the next three years, the dire work situation persisted to the point where



A Local 317 Executive Board in the 1980s: (left to right, front row) R. L. Dawson, Raymond Webb and Bob McCully; and (back row) Marshall McComas, Tom Arthur and John McComas.

Brother Berry declared in the February 1986 *Journal*, "I, as well as the members of the local union, after 20 years of steady employment, never dreamed we would be faced with the unemployment the local is presently experiencing." He reiterated in the April *Journal*, "1985 was not a good year for employment and 1986 looks very much just as dismal."

Faced with those meager conditions, many Local 317 members traveled for work during the mid and late 1980s. In fact, most members who were willing to travel were employed much of the time with sister locals.



Richardson-Wayland highline project, 1994



With a new decade, the “telephone” trade classification was added to the Local 317 jurisdiction on January 10, 1990.

Even more significant, the local’s work situation had turned around dramatically and by fall of 1990 it was employing about 650 people with only a couple dozen wiremen on the out-of-work book. Outside work was promising for the rest of the year, according to **Press Secretary Mark Singer**, while maintenance work for the local was strong in many area plants. However, the local was losing a great deal of new construction work to non-union workers, and even Marshall University was using non-union, out-of-town workers to build its new stadium.

I.B.E.W. Local 317 RENEW (Reach out and Energize Next-generation Electrical Workers) is a group of young electrical workers inside the local who work to get members 35 years and younger active in the local union, to enlighten others on the benefits of the union and to have fun while giving back to the community.

Regardless, as the decade progressed, the local was able to maintain full employment of its members more often than not, as well as up to 100-plus travelers at times. Major jobs in the area included a “scrubber” installation at the Gavin Power Plant to clean its emissions, expansion of the **Goodyear** plant in the area and more upgrades at Armco Steel.

To help counteract the non-union element in its jurisdiction, many Local 317 members completed fiber-optics in 1995, which would help them to gain work they had not been doing.

For the following year and throughout most of the remainder of the 1990s, employment remained good, with **Shell Polyester** and area electric plants also undergoing projects.

To top off the strong run to the finish line of the decade, the century and the millennium, the employees of the **Licking Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation** voted on December 11, 1998, to join Local 317.

MARCHING THROUGH A CENTURY

Some of the linemen and utility workers of **I.B.E.W. Local No. 101** in Somerset, Kentucky, were merged into Local 317 on May 1, 2000. The remaining members of Local 101, which was chartered on October 1, 1977, joined Local 369 of Lexington and Local 2100 of Louisville.

Out in the field, Local 317 joined other trades in October that year for daily informational pickets at a power plant being built along U.S. 52 by Constellation Energy with out-of-state labor. “We’re still pushing for local jobs for local people,” **Business Agent Warren G. “Bossy” Spry** said at the time.

But by mid-2000, Local 317 was nearly 700 members strong and had been bestowed with a large amount of commercial work. That year, the local had ongoing projects at Alcom, St. Mary’s Hospital, **Cabell Huntington Hospital**, the Bio-Tech Center at Marshall, Wayne Elementary School, Westmoreland Elementary School, Racine locks and dam and Huntington Internal Medicine Group, as well as several smaller projects.

Throughout much of the first decade of the new “Y2K” millennium, the local also had ongoing maintenance and turnaround crews at the Gavin, Mountaineer, Sporn and Louisa AEP generating plants. Additional continuous jobs employing Local 317 members included a project at AK Steel (formerly Armco) in Ashland that had 90 electricians on site six days per week in 2005.

Outside work also held steady throughout the mid-2000s, thanks in large part to a 765-kilovolt line that **PAR Electric** and Dillard Smith were building with over 200 workers. The line was approximately 90-miles long with about 330 steel towers.

The busy local also moved to a new union hall and offices at **1848 Madison Avenue** (where the local resides as it celebrates 100 years in 2017) in 2004.

The next year, the local won a new, three-year inside contract that began on June 1, 2005. Total hourly wage and benefits increases for journeyman wiremen were \$1.33 the first year, \$1.48 the second year and \$1.64 the third year. What’s more, a total 10-cent increase went into the Training Fund while a new **Local Labor Management Cooperation Committee** was established with 2-cent-per-hour contributions from both the members and the contractors.

More work for the local in the coming years and leading up to its 100th Anniversary included Coal Grove schools, **Spring Hill School**, New Haven Elementary School, Point Pleasant Junior and Senior high schools, **Marshall University Forensic Science facility**, an addition to Cabell Huntington Hospital and several small jobs.

Strong commercial and industrial work also continued in the Local 317 jurisdiction through the late 2000s. Industrial projects included the Kerosene Desulphurization unit at **Marathon Ashland Petroleum** and a scrubber project at the Mountaineer Power Plant.

However, the industrial and commercial fields were slow for the first couple of years of the 2010s as several large jobs remained on hold, including a new coal gasification plant and the planned upgrades to several coal-fueled power plants. In 2013, work continued to be relatively scarce in the jurisdiction, putting many members on the book for extended periods and sending some on the road to provide for their families.

Regardless, the brotherhood remained strong, as it always has, while Local 317 hosted many events for its members that year, including a trap shoot, dinner dance, family picnic, softball team and golf scramble. “These and other events have given the members some solidarity even if they are not able to be on a jobsite,” **Press Secretary James Stacy** proclaimed in the January 2014 Electrical Worker.

While outside work was steady thanks to several line-improvement projects, inside

1917 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 2017

work was still recovering slowly into 2014. Later that year, industrial jobs thinned out the unemployment books a few times, but nothing long term had been discussed for some time.

But two years later, while on the verge of reaching its century mark, Local 317 was strong and numbered over 970 members in mid-2016. However, Local 317 and organized labor throughout the state was forced to again defend on political and legal levels their collective rights and existence.

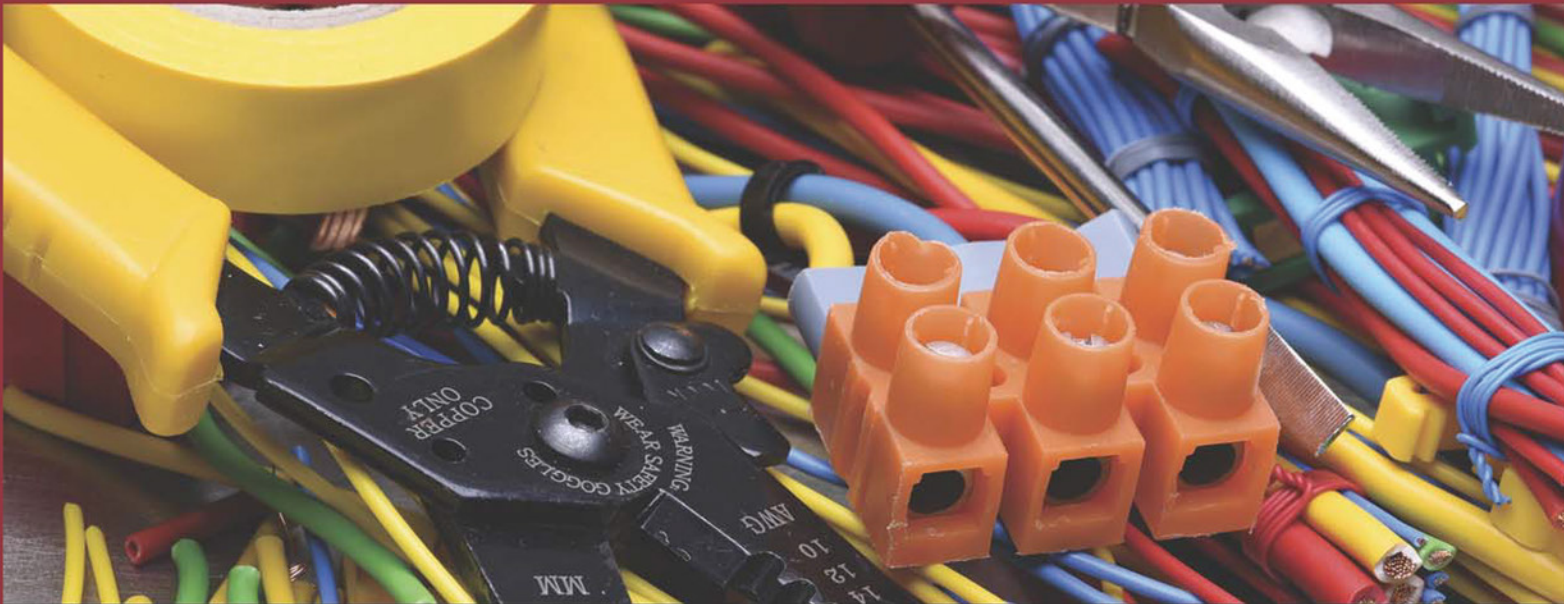
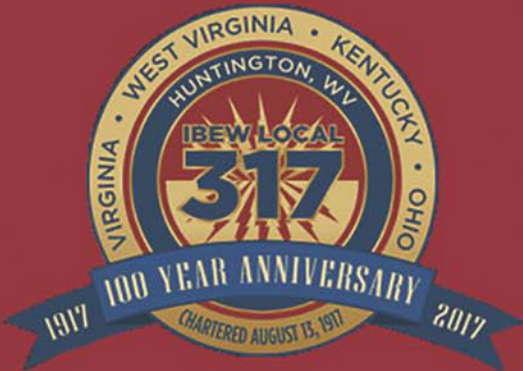
In June 2016, Local 317 was one of six I.B.E.W. locals with jurisdiction in West Virginia that filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the so-called “right-to-work” law that was passed by the state’s Republican-controlled General Assembly earlier that year over Governor Earl Ray Tomblin’s veto. Other parties who filed suit against the law, which essentially allows workers who do not join a union to benefit from union representation without paying dues, included the Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Organized labor received a measure of relief – if only temporary – when on August 10, 2016, Kanawha County Circuit Judge Jennifer Bailey issued an injunction that prevents the law from being enforced until the court makes a final decision, noting that unions could suffer “irreparable harm” if there law were enforced before the conclusion of legal proceedings. The issue has still not been resolved as Local 317 marks its centennial year in August 2017.

However, the state legislature, controlled by Republicans in both the West Virginia House and Senate for the first time since 1930, also repealed the state’s prevailing wage laws during its 2016 session.

Nonetheless, at 100 years old, Local 317 has grown and expanded both in size and influence. In 2017, its jurisdiction encompasses the West Virginia counties of Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo and Wayne; the Kentucky counties of Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, Pike and Rowan; and the Ohio counties of Gallia and Lawrence.

Congratulations IBEW Local 317 on a Century of Service



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Local 317 union hall and offices, 2017



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Congratulations

to All the Past and Present Members of I.B.E.W. Local 317
on Reaching Your 100th Anniversary!



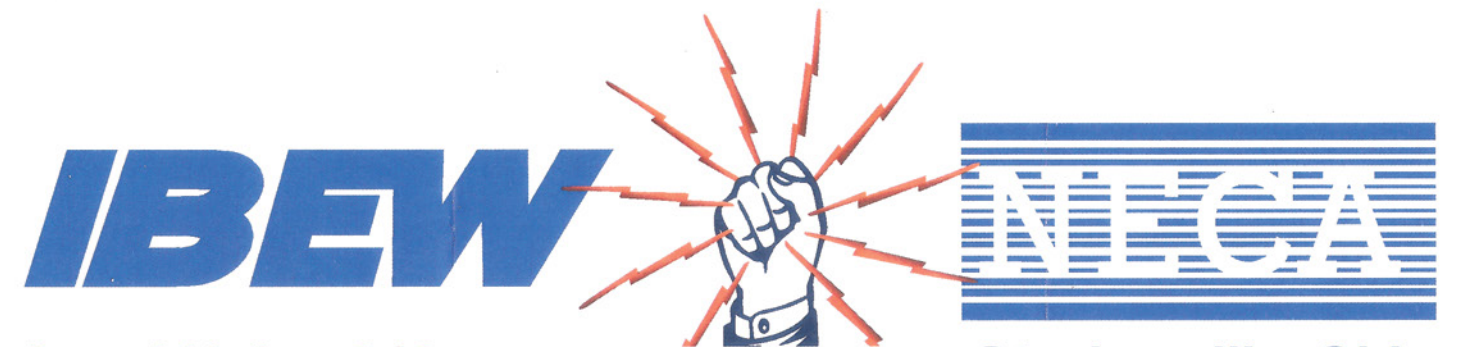
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... Let's Keep Working Together and Supporting Our Customers and Each Other This Way Through the Next 100 Years!

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***Congratulations
Local 317!***

Congratulations

**I.B.E.W. Local 317 Members
On Your 100 Years of Service**



**I.B.E.W. Local 611
Wishes You Many More Years of Success!**

Congratulations Local 317 on 100 Years!




Congratulations

LOCAL 317

On Your 100th Anniversary

From the Officers, Members, and Staff of
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To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
GREETING: This Charter is granted by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, does grant to the following persons:

J. Hiner	E. H. Porter	J. A. Petit	G. L. Hawes
A. Peyton	E. Peyton	G. Charles	J. Hall
A. A. Kenney	M. Pinnell	E. J. Newman	
S. E. Larkauer	G. G. Kenney	M. E. Caden	
H. F. Brothers	G. B. Moore	M. C. Triggers	

and to their successors power to establish and hold a Union of the Brotherhood to be located at Huntington in the state of West Virginia to be known as Union No. 317 with jurisdiction as outside inside Radio Service & Television Service over the following territory Huntington.

This charter grants to said Union all powers delegated by the constitution. The conditions of this charter are such that it may be retained as long as five members in good standing comply with all requirements of the constitution and general rules of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, unless reclaimed by the International Union.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and the seal of this International Union this thirtieth day of August in the year of one thousand nine hundred and seventy.

[Signature]
Secretary