

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL 665



100th Anniversary

COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY

1926 - 2026



I.B.E.W. LOCAL 665
**CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
DINNER-DANCE**

**Saturday, June 6, 2026
4:30 p.m. to Midnight**

Registration and Cocktail Reception4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Dinner (Buffet)6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Program, Music and Dancing7:30 – Midnight
(Live Music provided by Star Farm)



WE CELEBRATE A CENTURY BUILT ON OUR VALUES, SOLIDARITY

Brothers and Sisters, Families and Friends:

As we mark the 100th anniversary of I.B.E.W. Local 665, we pause to honor a century of dedication, craftsmanship and solidarity. Since our founding in 1926, Local 665 has stood as a true representation of what excellence looks like in our community. This milestone is not just a celebration of years, it's a tribute to the men and women whose skill, integrity and unity have powered our progress and success.

From the earliest days of electrical work to today's cutting-edge technologies, our members have built more than just buildings and factories – they have built trust, opportunity and a legacy. And even through changing times, we've remained committed to the values that define us: Safety, Professionalism, Accountability, Relationships and Quality.

For a century, Local 665 has stood tall as a symbol of excellence in the electrical industry. Our members have wired the backbone of the City of Lansing and beyond, adapting to every technological shift while weathering economic storms, embracing innovation and building a legacy that continues to shine.

This commemorative book is a reflection of our journey, which has been filled with legacy members, our industry partners and many memories that capture the heart of Local 665. It honors those who came before us. To our retirees, we say “thank you” for laying the foundation. To our active members, “thank you” for carrying the torch. And to our future members, may you find strength in our history and pride in your union.

To every member past and present, “thank you;” your hard work and dedication has connected and powered communities throughout our jurisdiction. Your union roots have kept us strong.

Here's to 100 years of power, purpose and progress – and to the next hundred, may they be even stronger.

God bless the I.B.E.W. and Local 665.

Fraternally,

Aaron Pangborn

Business Manager / Financial Secretary
I.B.E.W. Local 665, Lansing, Michigan

This book was proudly produced by

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Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions
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I.B.E.W. Local 665 and Union Histories thanks the following for their contributions to the local's history presented in this book:

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The 100-Year History of I.B.E.W. Local No. 665

LIGHTING THE WAY FOR LANSING *Across A Century*



Nearly nine years after it was established in November of 1891, the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** (I.B.E.W.) organized one of its locals in the City of Lansing, the capital of the State of Michigan, and chartered it on August 14, 1900, as “mixed” inside-wiremen and outside-linemen **Local No. 140**. But less than a year later, the new local was declared defunct (for undocumented reasons) on May 30, 1901.

That same year, however, the relatively small Lansing was put on the cusp of an industrial and building boom that would be fueled by the birth of the automotive era when Ransom E. Olds relocated automobile production for his Olds Motor Vehicle Company to the city. The impending unprecedented manufacturing growth and rapid construction of housing, schools and factories would quickly transform the government-focused town and its agriculture-based economy into a bustling

automotive center whose downtown area also began to expand upward and outward.

With building activity advancing at a brisk pace, the I.B.E.W. soon organized the city’s electrical workers again, and on January 1, 1903, the union chartered mixed **Local No. 352** to serve Lansing. Over the next decade, the local’s wireman electricians and utility linemen would help power the city’s ongoing industrial and population surge that changed it into one of Michigan’s largest manufacturing hubs.

But shadowing an I.B.E.W.-wide national trend, rifts between its inside and outside members developed within Local 352. Subsequently, the local was one of the numerous lineman locals across the United States that seceded from the union in 1908 and formed their own I.B.E.W., electing James J. Reid as its president and James W. Murphy as its secretary during a special convention that year.

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The first regular meeting of the Executive Board was called to order in the Labor Hall at 7^{PM} Aug 13 1928 by Bro Fox chairman pro Tem to perfect an organization.

The election of a chairman was the first order of Business. Bro's Fox & Egan were nominated. Bros Bartels & Dart were appointed tellers.

Bro Egan received 4 votes, Bro Fox 3. Bro Egan was declared elected and he took the chair.

Nominations for vice chairman were next declared in order. Bro's Fox & Dart were nominated. Ballot being spread, Bro Fox got 3 and Dart 4. Bro Dart was declared elected.

Next in order was election of a Secretary.

Bro. Page being the only nominee it was regularly moved, supported and carried that he be declared elected unanimously.

Regularly moved, supported & carried that "The quorum of this Board be 5 members."

Meeting minutes of the first-ever Local 665 Executive Board meeting held on August 13, 1928.

The so-called "Reid-Murphy Split" was primarily driven by dissension between wiremen and linemen, disappointed office-seekers and a former grand treasurer removed from office in 1907 because of "irregularities" in the union's finances, according to *I.B.E.W. History & Structure*, a chronicle of the union. With the splintered locals refusing to recognize President Frank J. McNulty and Secretary Peter W. Collins as the true officers of the union, two I.B.E.W. conventions were held in 1911; however, a court decision in February 1912 declared the 1908 "Reid-Murphy" convention illegal and its actions void, and nearly all of the locals that had broken away attended the I.B.E.W.'s 12th convention in Boston in 1913.

Soon after, the I.B.E.W. placed two locals in Lansing, reinstating Local 352 in 1915 with jurisdiction of outside linemen only. The union also chartered the new **Local No. 665** on October 19, 1915, to represent the city's inside wiremen.

Just two years later, however, for undocumented reasons the I.B.E.W. merged Local 665 into Local 352 in June 1917. Over the next nine years, Local 352 would continue to again operate as a mixed local serving Lansing.

The union then separated the city's electrical workers again when it re-chartered Local 665 on **June 7, 1926**, and transferred the inside wiremen of Local 352 back into the newly re-established local, which was also assigned jurisdiction over "motormen" who repaired electrical motors and engines. Over the next century, Local 352 would evolve from a linemen's local into a "utility" local representing employees of Lansing's municipal systems, primarily the Lansing Board of Water and Light, while Local 665 would continue to represent the electricians of "Lansing and Vicinity" – as its original charter designated – through to its 100th charter anniversary in 2026 and beyond.

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.



SURVIVING A DECADE OF HISTORIC HARDSHIPS

After being reinstated by the I.B.E.W., by early 1929 Local 665 had been "slowly regaining lost ground for the past two years," as **Press Secretary Homer J. Page** reported in that year's March *I.B.E.W. Journal*, the union's monthly member publication, while Lansing's flurry of major construction continued in the wake of its burgeoning auto industry. As such, the local had increased its membership by 60 percent to about 60 electricians after it signed the city's largest electrical contractor to its union collective-bargaining work agreement.

In addition to work on an abundance of homebuilding and new movie theaters (or



LOCAL 665 CHARTER MEMBERS

These 10 men signed the application for the charter granted to Local No. 665 by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on June 7, 1926, and were subsequently listed on the local's charter.

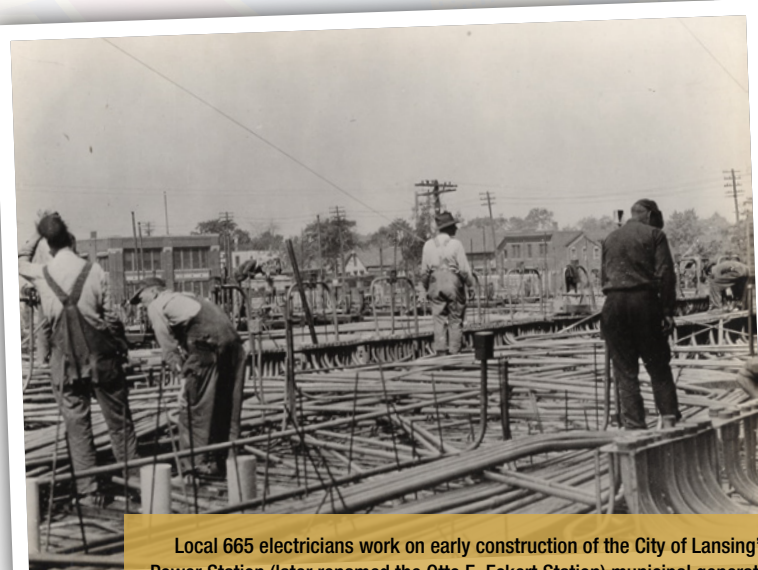
Donald C. Blatt
Cleo G. Fox
Herbert Franson
Royal A. Gaunt
William R. Geddie

Seth Green
Frank Hannula
George S. Robinson
Henry A. Wheaton
W. J. Wilson

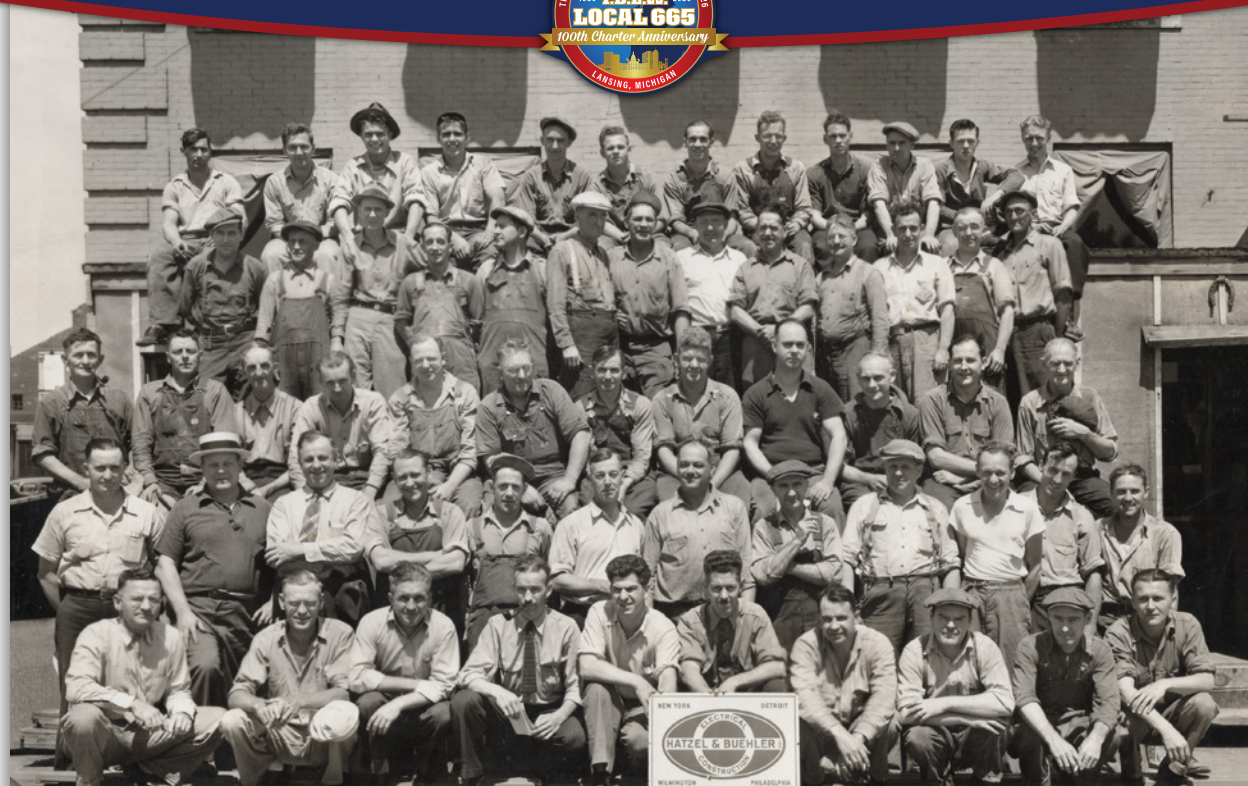
“talkies, as they were called with the advent of motion pictures with sound) in the region, the local's members were employed during that period on expansions for the **General Motors Corporation** (GM) automotive company in its **Olds Motor Works** and **Fisher Body Corporation** plants, which it owned and operated by then. With more than 100 “traveling” I.B.E.W. members from other locals working in the Local 665 jurisdiction to help it staff all of the work, Press Secretary Page was able to declare in the December 1929 *Journal*, “Our local is as healthy as most of them and our executive board is making some plans for a spring drive to get more shops and employers lined up.”

But the Great Depression, the historic decade-long national economic collapse and ensuing societal tragedy that began with the U.S. stock market crash of October 29, 1929 (history's “Black Tuesday”), after which upwards of 25 percent of the nation's workforce was unemployed, hit Lansing particularly hard. With automobile manufacturing plummeting as Americans lost their purchasing power, the city's unemployment rate spiked above the national average as its manufacturing and auto industry suffered, triggering mass layoffs at area factories and virtually halting commercial construction in Lansing.

In the earliest years of the Depression, however, Local 665 members were performing all of the wiring for the new, 23-story **Olds Tower** (now Boji Tower) in downtown Lansing, which has been the tallest building in the city since it was completed in April 1931. Some members were also gaining workhours on an expansion of the coal-fired **Moore's Park Power Station** (later renamed the Otto E. Eckert Station) with a fourth generating unit in 1930, making the 65,000-kilowatt facility that was originally built in 1922 the second-largest municipally owned power plant in the country.



Local 665 electricians work on early construction of the City of Lansing's Moore's Park Power Station (later renamed the Otto E. Eckert Station) municipal generating plant in 1930.



Local 665 members and members of other I.B.E.W. locals pausing while working on construction of the Ottawa Street Power Station municipal generating plant in 1939 are (left to right, bottom row), William E. Trombley, superintendent; A. J. Bartels, assistant foreman; L. Smeltzer; E. Delahunte, timekeeper; J. Brand, drafting engineer; E. F. Hoisington, assistant foreman; William Knight; M. J. Shea; F. Mahoney, steward; and W. W. Mattson; (second row) J. A. Wright, foreman; H. C. Franson; L. F. Rybarsky, assistant foreman; C. F. Ward; H. Klinzing; L. Wells; W. H. Ebauer; A. Groscup; J. Baltimore; H. Megdall; O. Cerruti; and E. Berthold; (third row) C. Clark, J. Snedden, P. Markey, W. A. Maxey, E. McCabe, R. Hartsell, E. B. Driscoll, E. B. Cowdry, E. K. Shattuck, M. A. McDonald, C. D. Low and J. C. Simpson; (fourth row) C. D. Heath, G. W. Robinson, C. Mannel, C. A. Mathias, H. A. Mapes, P. J. Maloy, O. R. Rector, J. J. Miller, J. W. Cawthorne, C. L. Janneck, L. J. Kelley, J. Kenefic and L. J. Dart; and (top row) G. E. Smith, William Trombley Jr., C. Metzger, A. D. Steele, E. Wright, D. A. Fox, R. H. Linsea, William Golding, W. V. Thompson, R. S. Clawson, R. J. Clark and R. Hutchinson.

Regardless, by August 1930 more than 15 percent of the local's membership had been unemployed throughout the year. The accelerating drop in automobile production at plants in which Local 665 members were employed, especially the **REO Motor Car Company** complex operated by Ransom E. Olds, the largest automobile manufacturing operation in Lansing, further hindered the local's worsening employment conditions.

Nationally, as the United States experienced unprecedented economic duress as a result of the Depression, more than 50 percent of the I.B.E.W.'s membership was unemployed at times throughout the country and wages for members who were able to work decreased, according to *I.B.E.W. History & Structure*. Likewise, Local 665 accepted a wage reduction for its journeyman-level electricians down to \$1 per hour in early 1932, after which it agreed to two additional pay cuts later that year,

including a lower scale for maintenance and repair work that was providing nearly all of the local's workhours.

“Things around here are still in the depression stage and very few men are on the job, and those who are, are only on parttime,” Local 665 **Press Secretary Arthur J. Bartels** drearily announced in the November 1932 *Journal*. “The last large job we had is now finished and no more in sight right now.”

As construction remained slow, half a year later Brother Bartels further lamented in the May 1933 *Journal*, “If we happen to get a job that lasts over six hours, we class it as a large job, and if it were not for electric stove services here, which the city light board pays for, things would be a lot worse here, but owing to this a few of the boys get a day or two in every two weeks as that is the way we are working now, those that are lucky enough to work at all.”



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 Great Depression with its series of national economic measures aimed at generating jobs, although its only significant project in Lansing was construction of the John F. Dye Water Conditioning Plant in 1938 and 1939. But the federal government also passed legislation that assisted unions and protected workers’ rights. Among those measures was 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.

Meanwhile, however, the automotive industry provided respites to the local’s unemployment. In particular, beginning in mid-1934 its union electricians helped GM remodel and significantly expand the former

Durant Motor Works plant for use as its new Fisher Body plant, after which the factory would produce passenger compartments and frames for millions of GM vehicles until it was closed in 2005.

While the Depression lingered as the second half of the 1930s progressed, occasional upticks of auto-factory work enabled Local 665 to host I.B.E.W. travelers and sign about 96 percent of the unorganized electricians in Lansing at one point in 1937, increasing its membership to about 150 electricians that year – after not having more than 60 members since it was chartered 11 years earlier. Additionally, the local negotiated a new work agreement with its employing contractors in 1937 that reestablished its journeyman wage scale at \$1.12-1/2 per hour.

Although work slowed again with the completion of larger manufacturing projects



A Local 665 crew working on the new Jenison Field House at then-Michigan State College (later University) in 1939.



Local 665 members (left to right, front row) Donald Fox, Elmer Cowdry, Ray Clawson, Eugene Hoisington and Al Gaunt Jr.; and (back row) Eddie Moore, Al Wright, Sy Clark, Laurence Dart, Frank Mahaney, Hugh Mapes, Pat Markey, Orlie Richter, Pete Malloy and Louis Rybarsyk pose while on a job sometime during the 1940s.

in its jurisdiction, leaving about 26 percent of the local’s members without jobs and another roughly 60 percent working only a few hours each week, the Local 665 electricians were quickly put back to work in 1938 with the start of construction of the new **Ottawa Street Power Station** for the City of Lansing. Wired by union electricians, the first phase of the municipal generating plant would be completed in 1939, after which it produced power until 1989 before being repurposed as an office building in the early 2010s.

Elsewhere, among a slowly growing number of larger projects that were also employing the local’s wiremen in increasing numbers was construction of the **Mason Hall** dormitory at **Michigan State College** – which would become **Michigan State University** in 1955 – opened in 1938. Originally an all-male residence hall, it was part of an expansion to

the school to accommodate its growing student body during that period.

After the local put into effect a new **Accident and Death Benefit** insurance fund for its members in 1938 as workhours were slowly climbing back to pre-Depression levels, Local 665 **Press Secretary J. Ted Williamson** declared in that year’s November issue of the *Journal*, “Happy days are here again for a majority of the boys, for after many months of idleness they are at work again.”

As the tumultuous decade neared its merciful end, although larger jobs in the local’s jurisdiction had been completed and members and travelers were laid off, they were able to find employment with other I.B.E.W. locals around Michigan. The local was also able to successfully negotiate a new wage agreement calling for a 10 percent increase beginning January 1, 1940.



LOCAL 665 UNION HALLS

(All locations are in the City of Lansing.)

Central Labor Hall

231-1/2 S. Washington Ave.

1926 – 1930

Central Labor Hall

407-1/2 N. Washington Ave.

1930 – 1944

Labor Temple

135 N. Cedar Street

1944 – 1956

Labor Temple

501 N. Grand Ave.

1956 – 1968

Plumbers & Fitters Union Hall

5405 S. Logan Ave.

1968 – 1972

Local 665 Union Hall

5205 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

1972 – 2022

Local 665 Union Hall

5710 Ivan Drive

2022 – current



The Local 665 Union Hall at 5205 South Pennsylvania Avenue.

Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. As Lansing industry completely retooled to help supply the nation and its allies with vital military materiel, shifting from civilian production to become a major war supplier, Local 665 electricians helped convert automotive and parts factories that would manufacture millions of shells, tens of thousands of artillery pieces, aircraft propellers and heavy-duty military vehicle components.

Throughout the duration of the war, the local's members were consistently employed while the local regularly hosted travelers from other I.B.E.W. locals as the construction of new plants and the reconstruction of existing ones kept the union wiremen busy with work. Among the facilities that were retooled for wartime production, for example, from 1942 to 1945 workers at the Fisher Body plant produced \$43 million (equal to about \$746 million in 2026) in war products, including key parts for B-29 bomber aircraft and M4 Sherman tanks.

Elsewhere, while construction in Lansing and workhours of Local 665 members during 1943 and 1944 were dominated by World War II defense conversions, in October 1943 Lansing became the world's leading propeller supplier after the Nash-Kelvinator automaker converted major manufacturing facilities

into massive production lines for Hamilton Standard aircraft propellers. GM also had its **Oldsmobile Forge Plant** in the city modified with the help of the local's electricians to mass-produce heavy artillery shells and internal parts for British aircraft engines.

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 Allies and a brief lull in work followed, the local regained strong employment conditions while Lansing's factories were re-converted back for civilian production, **housing** was being built for returning veterans and the city's first-ever strand-steel-reinforced concrete apartment building was being erected. Additionally, construction on the second phase (northern portion) of the Ottawa Street Power Station

got underway in 1945 with scores of union electricians on the project until it would be completed in 1948.

"All of the Brothers who were in the service have now returned safely. They all have gotten their tools out and are helping to provide housing for the veterans here," Local 665 **Press Secretary Spencer C. Mead** subsequently reported in the October 1946 *Journal*. "They are also helping on the conversion of the automobile plants, which has been going on since V-J (Victory over Japan) Day."

But the local's nearly 400 members went on a "pseudo strike" beginning August 12, 1946, to protest the decision of the U.S. Wage Stabilization Board to cancel the wage increase from \$1.62-1/2 to \$1.90 per hour that

WINNING A GLOBAL WAR AND THRIVING AFTERWARD

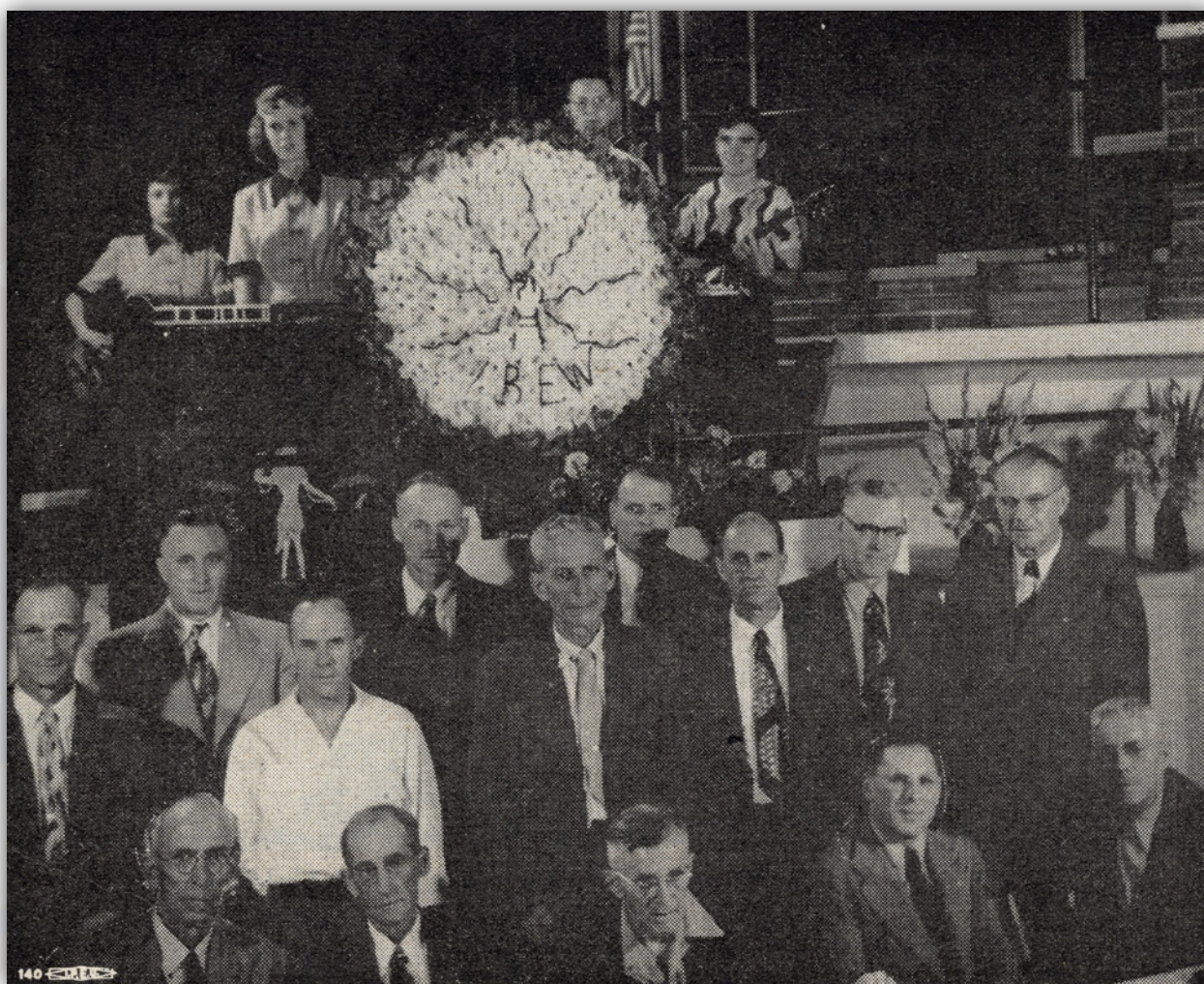
With only "some small building and remodeling going on" in the Local 665 jurisdiction, Press Secretary (and future Business Manager) Williamson was compelled to report in the January 1941 *Journal*, "We are not very busy in Lansing at present. Doesn't look like we will be for some time. If it wasn't for the other locals in this locality we would have several members out of work."

The local's condition – and that of the entire nation – would soon dramatically change when the United States entered **World War II**, which had already been raging in Asia and Europe since 1939, following the surprise attack by Imperial Japan on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor,



The Local 665 electricians crew working on the addition to the Ottawa Street Power Station in downtown Lansing in 1947.





Longtime Local 665 members (left to right, front row) L. Z. Sherman, Leon Battley, W. R. Geddie, Clarence Gaul and A. H. Steele; (center row) Cleo Fox, Harry Smith, Business Manager J. Ted Williamson and Clarence Ainge; and (back row) President J. A. Wright, John Madden, Bill Stolk and Art Bartells and I.B.E.W. International Representative F. M. Harris pose during a celebration dinner for the local's "veterans" held August 26, 1950.

had been granted to the local in a new work agreement with its employing contractors of the **Lansing Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association** (NECA). Two weeks later, the union electricians returned to work on August 26 without a settlement as the board required "rollback of electricians' pay rates to levels prevailing prior to June 30."

Bolstered by ongoing construction of the Ottawa Street Power Station, employment remained steady for the local's membership throughout 1947. Perhaps most notably that year, the local received another wage-scale increase from its NECA employers that put its pay at the same level as the other I.B.E.W.

locals in the state for the first time in Local 665's history.

Construction work in the local's jurisdiction and, consequently, employment for its members then escalated throughout the balance of the decade as Michigan State College began an unprecedented expansion in the late 1940s that transformed it from a small agricultural college into a major research university. A sudden influx of students that caused severe housing shortages forced the school to rapidly construct several large residence halls, which Local 665 members wired, including **Snyder-Phillips Hall** and **Landon Hall**, completed in 1947; **Gilchrist Hall** and **Yakeley Hall**, completed

in 1948; and **Shaw Hall**, completed in 1949 as the largest college dormitory in the United States.

Across the college's campus, other significant projects that employed the local's electricians included the expansion of its **Macklin Field** football stadium (now **Spartan Stadium**) to a capacity of 51,000 attendees after the school was admitted into the Big Ten in 1948. Members also completed wiring the school's original **Electrical Engineering Building** (now the Computer Center) for its opening that year.

"Work is very good now," Press Secretary Mead was able to announce in the September 1948 *Journal*. "We have a lot of out-of-towners (I.B.E.W. travelers) working in this area. We are returning some of the favors that we received when we were shy of work."

Following a brief lull in employment when most of the large projects on which Local 665 members were working were completed, smaller jobs throughout its jurisdiction supplied stable workhours before another deluge of sizable jobs began to provide work for the union wiremen. Those included an expansion in 1949 that doubled the size of the GM Oldsmobile plant to double the production capacity of the brand's revolutionary overhead-valve "Rocket V8" engine.

Given the local's employment situation at the time, Local 665 new **Press Secretary Ken Blackburn** was obliged to explain in the October 1949 *Journal*, "It is rather tiresome to you good Brothers to have us talk so much about Michigan State College and Oldsmobile, but believe me we are mighty happy to have them right here in our own backyard. As a matter of fact, if it wasn't for them, we might not have a backyard. They have, for years, been a steady source of work for our boys and the local is justly proud of their position."

LOCAL 665 BUSINESS MANAGERS

(Local 665 combined its offices of Business Manager – which was initially referred to as Business Agent – and Financial Secretary in 1969.)

Business Agents/Business Managers

<none>	Fred E. Coryell
1926 – 1929	1945 – 1950
William R. "Bill" Geddie Sr.	J. Ted Williamson
1929 – 1930	1950 – 1958
Cleo G. Fox	Deane Battley
1930 – 1931	1958 – 1962
William R. "Bill" Geddie Sr.	Gordon S. Raymond
1931 – 1938	1962 – 1965
Carson W. Murray	Spencer C. Mead
1938 – 1943	1965 – 1966
Carrol H. Van Horn	Keith L. Huyser
1943 – 1944	1966 – 1969
Jessie R. Beckwith	
1944 – 1945	

Business Manager/Financial Secretaries

Dale F. Battley	Scott D. Clark
1969 – 1987	2005 – 2014
George E. Wilson	Thomas J. Eastwood
1987 – 1996	2014 – 2020
William L. Patrick	Aaron M. Pangborn
1996 – 2005	2020 – current

The local finished out the decade with strong employment and an increased wage scale in a work agreement with the Lansing Chapter of NECA that went into effect on September 6, 1949. The new \$2.40-per-hour pay rate for the local's journeymen electricians was awarded by the National Labor Relations Board in an arbitration hearing to settle the local's contract.

REALIZING MORE GAINS, SECURING NEW BENEFITS

The death of five-year **Business Manager Fred Coryell** on April 8, 1950, after an illness shook Local 665 and its membership. In the wake of the tragedy, Brother Williamson took over for Brother Coryell, who



BARGAINING FOR BENEFITS

Local 665 gained its first-ever employer-funded fringe benefit in a work agreement when the local and the Lansing Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) signed a new contract in 1952 that included a **Health and Welfare Plan Fund** that provided healthcare insurance for members and their families funded by contributions from employing contractors based on hours worked by the local's members.

A new agreement in 1964 then established the local's first employer-funded **Pension Plan Fund** fringe benefit to provide retirement benefits for members.

was known for his "fairness among construction company officials," as noted in an obituary in the *Journal*, to lead the local during its ongoing prosperity.

Indeed, the new decade would see Local 665 grow in numbers and influence along with the seemingly nonstop expansion of Lansing's powerful economy, driven by GM, the state government and Michigan State College. As the surge continued to generate significant activity in the region's construction industry, which was also influenced by post-war modernism, rapid suburban expansion and early urban renewal projects, it concurrently supported strong employment conditions for the local – which would even struggle at times to furnish electricians for the tremendous requests for labor made by contractors as the decade and the significant projects in its jurisdiction progressed.

With construction of a new, 1.5-million-square-foot jet-engine manufacturing plant by GM just underway in Lansing and employing Local 665 electricians, in 1950 the local's wage scale increased to \$2.65 per hour in a contract with NECA. Then on January 1, 1952, another pay raise pushed the local's journeyman wages to \$2.75 per hour, soon after which the local's members would work on repurposing and transitioning the new

GM plant they had just completed into an aluminum foundry for the company's Buick-Oldsmobile-Cadillac division.

But perhaps the local's most notable accomplishment in 1952 – if not the entire decade – was the establishment of a first-ever employer-funded **Health & Welfare Plan Fund** as a fringe benefit in its work agreement with NECA to provide members and their families with healthcare insurance. Negotiated by the local's bargaining unit, which members called their "Contractors' Committee," the new benefit initially grouped the local into a healthcare plan with sister I.B.E.W. **Local No. 107** of Grand Rapids, **Local No. 131** of Kalamazoo and **Local No. 445** of Battle Creek to cover a total of approximately 800 union members when it went into effect in 1953.

Meanwhile, employment remained steady when not strong that year and into the second half of the decade, during which time the local was also able to regularly host travelers from other I.B.E.W. locals to work on abundant jobs in the Lansing-centered jurisdiction. With its membership simultaneously growing, reaching more than 180 wiremen before the end of 1957, in the fall of 1956 Local 665 moved its offices and meeting location into the modern new **Lansing Labor Temple** on North Grand Avenue, which the city's building trades funded and erected that year.

Even though work for the local's members slackened in the wake of the devastating Recession of 1958, an economic downturn that disproportionately affected Michigan as the result of a drastic, 47-percent drop in national automobile production, the local was once again able to withstand the slump. Among projects that put union electricians back to work was a surge in school construction, including the new **Everett High School** in Lansing that opened in the fall of 1959, while before the end of the decade GM began to again expand its Olds and Fisher production facilities.

Recovering work in the automotive industry and at Michigan State University would provide consistently reliable sources of employment for the local and, at times, travelers into and throughout the 1960s as well. Notable projects at M.S.U. that supplied workhours for the local's members included construction of the new **Case Hall** dormitory that opened in 1961 and its new **Cyclotron Laboratory**, which launched the university's world-renowned nuclear physics program and featured a pioneering particle accelerator (cyclotron) that accelerated its first beam of atomic particles on October 7, 1965.

Meanwhile, Local 665 gained a historic, two-year work agreement in negotiations with NECA that went into effect on June 1, 1961, with an immediate 15-cent wage increase to \$3.93 per hour and an additional 20-cent raise for the second year of the pact that boosted the journeyman rate to \$4.13 per hour. After that contract expired, the local gained a new, first-ever three-year-long agreement with NECA that called for wage increases of 15 cents the first year and 20 cents each of the next two years.

During that time, many of the local's members were also employed on another expansion to

Continued after following spread.



The first-ever Local 665 bowling team of (left to right, front row) Keith Huyser, Dale Battley and Wayne Knechtges; and (back row) Gene Hoisington, Ed Aiken and Paul Durling pose after winning its league championship in 1962.



Local 665 Training & Education

PREPARING LANSING'S FINEST ELECTRICIANS

“It is our desire to build these young men in character as well as educate them in the trade.”

– Local 665 Press Secretary Ted Williamson introducing the local's new apprentice-training “system,” June 1939 *I.B.E.W. Journal*

Although Local 665 after it was established in 1929 trained aspiring electricians new to the industry through [apprenticeships](#), through which apprentices learned the trade while working alongside experienced journeymen inside wiremen on jobsites, it was not until 1939 that the local first set up its own structured “apprenticeship system” that was managed by a committee of local and contractor representatives. However, the onset of World War II that year in Europe and the United States’ entry into

the war in 1941 halted the local's new training program almost as soon as it was started.

After the war ended in September 1945, later that year Local 665 and the Lansing chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) restarted its [Apprentice School](#) with classes held at the [Lansing Technical High School](#) that augmented on-the-job training. One year later, the local's apprenticeship program was training 15 apprentices.

Local 665 apprentices in the Lansing Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee apprentice class of 1945 to 1949 pose after receiving their graduation certificates in January 1950.



Addressing the need to even more-thoroughly educate its membership, the [Lansing Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee](#) (L.E.J.A.T.C.), which was comprised of an equal number of representatives from Local 665 and NECA – just as it is in 2026 as the local celebrates its 100th charter anniversary – implemented the structured curriculum for a formal, Department of Education certified Apprentice Training Program in 1957. With classes held at the new [Lansing Community College](#), the five-year program remained tuition free and still provided jobsite training for which apprentices were paid wages and given fringe benefits – just as the program continues to provide in 2026.

Over the ensuing years, the L.E.J.A.T.C. worked to improve and enhance its training, including implementing a new, four-year [Electronics Class](#) in 1961 at the college that members would attend one night per week in addition to their on-the-job training. Later that year, the local also set up a [Cable-Splicing School](#) for its journeymen-level members, which was initially taught by [Business Manager Deane Battley](#), to provide experienced members with up-to-date knowledge of the technique.



As the training continued to progress, in February 1975 the L.E.J.A.T.C. held its first [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#) class for all Local 665 members. That course would be the beginning of a progressively increased focus and emphasis on safety training in the J.A.T.C. program that continues in 2026.

Construction of the new [MTEC \(Manufacturing Technology and Technical Training\) Building](#) at Lansing Community College in 2004 provided Local 665 apprentices with an improved, modern environment in which to learn. The facility features state-of-the-art classrooms and labs for the apprentices and offices for the L.E.J.A.T.C.

Providing unsurpassed, certified and paid training to their apprentices for nearly 70 years, Local 665 and NECA supply the electrical construction industry with the most-highly trained and skilled workforce available through the L.E.J.A.T.C., a non-profit educational organization. Additionally, they also continue to provide advanced [upgrade training](#) courses to Local 665 journey-level electricians so they can keep current with the latest advances and techniques in the electrical industry.



Local 665 apprentices (left to right, foreground) Dave Benson, Ron Wick, Charlie Baxter, Jim McCracken, (unknown instructor), (unknown), Berney Spalding, (unknown) and Dale Sawyer; and (behind) Larry Fox, Roger Smith, Wayne Knechtges, Dick Smith, Bob Hall, Dick Heiler and Charles Van Horn pose while donating their time to work on upgrading the Community Nursery non-profit childcare facility on West Main Street in Lansing in 1955.



LOCAL 665 TRADE CLASSIFICATIONS

Local 665 was assigned jurisdiction of **Inside Wiremen** and **Motormen** when it was chartered by the I.B.E.W. on June 7, 1926.

On February 8, 1950, the I.B.E.W. removed Motormen from Local 665's trade jurisdiction.

On May 21, 1964, the I.B.E.W. added **Radio-Television Broadcasting** and **Sound and Public Address** to Local 665's trade jurisdiction.

As of June 7, 2026, the 100th anniversary date of its charter, Local 665 has represented the following trade classifications within its jurisdiction since 1964:

- **Inside Wiremen**
- **Radio-Television Broadcasting**
- **Sound and Public Address**

the Moores Park Power Station, which added a 35,000-kilowatt General Electric generator that was the very first static excitor (a stationary electronic system that provides direct current to the rotor of the generator, enabling it to produce stable, controllable electricity) of its kind in the country. Elsewhere, members were also wiring the new **Owens-Illinois Company**

glass factory at Charlotte, Michigan; an addition to **Lansing General Hospital**; and several of a multitude of new shopping centers and stores, including the **Builders Market** home-improvement retailer on the south side of Lansing.

"All in all, work for our local's men looks very good this summer for the first time in a long time," Local 665 **Press Secretary Wayne C. Knechtges** was able to report in the July 1963 *Journal*.

Then in May 1964, the local's membership voted to use 15 cents of the 20-cent raise it was owed in the coming year through its current work agreement to establish a new, first-ever **Pension Plan Fund** for the local. The employer-funded fringe benefit would ultimately provide retirement benefits to members.

Back out in the field, jobsites supplying union electricians with workhours during the rest of the 1960s, in addition to ongoing GM and M.S.U. expansions, included construction of a major new wing for **Sparrow Hospital** in Lansing that



A Local 665 crew of electricians (left to right, kneeling) Earl Jones, (unknown) and Jerry Vorheis; and (standing) Ron Oberlin, (unknown), Dick Dean, Glenn Coryell, Gordon Berghorst, Jerry Young and (unknown) pose while working on construction of the Fee Hall and Akers Hall dormitories at Michigan State University in 1965.



International Representative Frank Kildau, far right, presents I.B.E.W. years-of-service awards to Local 665 retirees (left to right) Leslie Rice, Hugh Mapes, Eugene Hoisington and Frank Mahaney during a local dinner-dance in 1970.

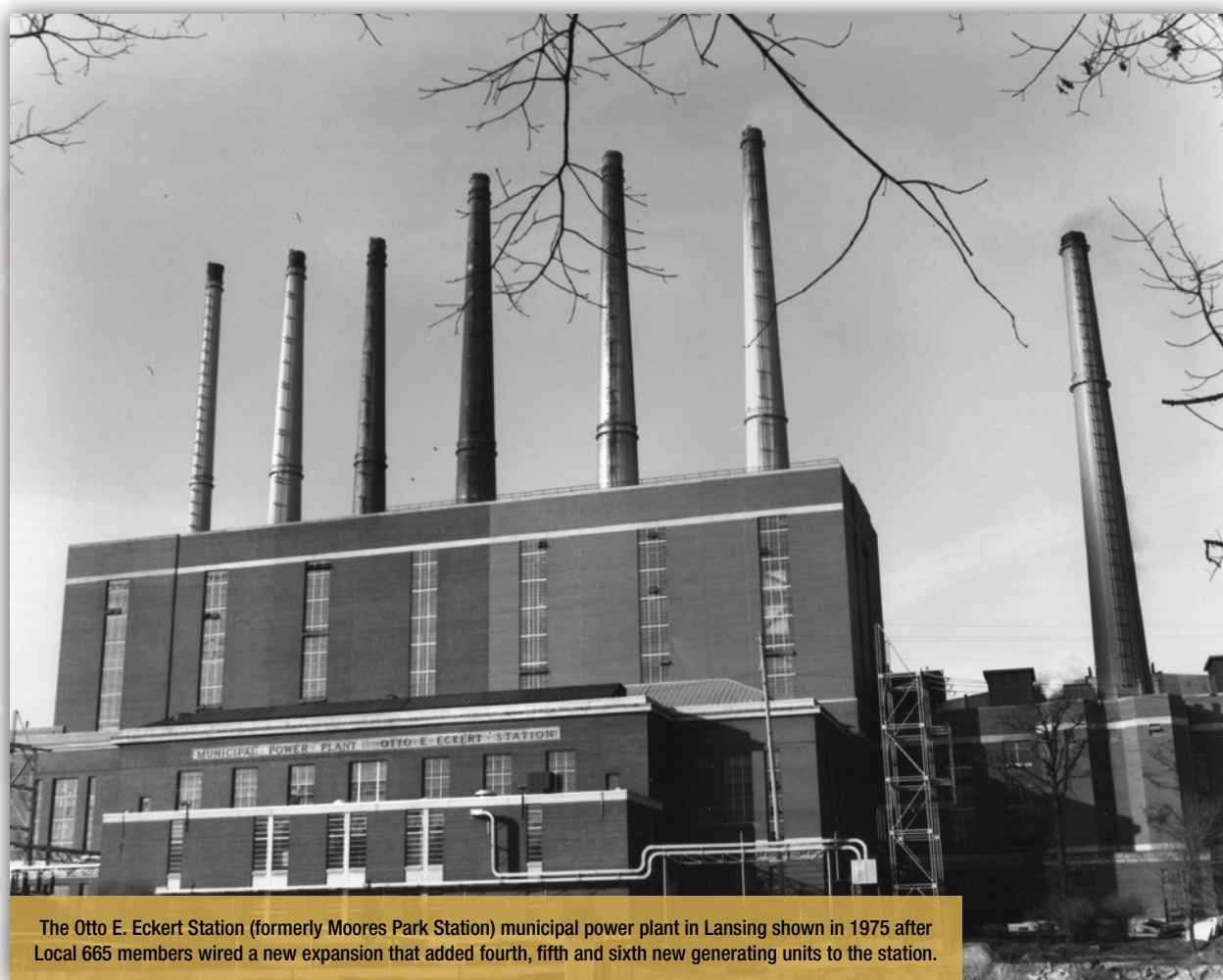
when completed in November 1966 featured the medical center's first intensive-care unit. Local 665 members also wired the new **Liberal Arts and Science Building** at the growing, decade-old **Lansing Community College** in the city's downtown area.

Contract negotiations with NECA also continued to improve and enhance the local's work agreements throughout the remainder of the decade and into the 1970s. For instance, the new, two-year pact ratified by Local 665 and its employing contractors on April 18, 1966, provided a 42-cent-per-hour raise the first year and another 40 cents the second year, increasing the base pay of the local's electricians to \$4.94 per hour and employer contributions for fringe benefits to 26 cents per hour worked – giving the local's journeymen a total compensation package of \$5.20 per hour through May 31, 1968.

ENDURING ADVERSITIES OF THE '70s, '80s, '90s

A massive State Capital Complex building program and significant expansion work at M.S.U. and the GM Oldsmobile facilities in Lansing had been having a very steadying influence on Local 665 employment conditions into the 1970s. However, as those projects began to level off during the earliest period of the decade, regular workhours became so scarce that many of the local's members were forced to travel to the jurisdictions of other I.B.E.W. locals for work throughout the balance of the first half of the decade and well into 1977.

"The work situation in our jurisdiction is still bad," Press Secretary Knechtges announced in the July 1972 *Journal* while more than 100



The Otto E. Eckert Station (formerly Moores Park Station) municipal power plant in Lansing shown in 1975 after Local 665 members wired a new expansion that added fourth, fifth and sixth new generating units to the station.

members were working outside of the local's jurisdiction. "Many men are on the road."

It was also during that time that the I.B.E.W. merged motormen Local 1632 into Local 665 on March 1, 1972. The Lansing-based unit had only been representing motor-repair workers for the 17 years since it was chartered on August 1, 1955, with the assistance of Local 665 officers.

Before the end of 1972, Local 665 also moved into a new **union hall** of its own. The local then dedicated its facility on South Pennsylvania Avenue with a ceremony and open house in February 1973.

The local's employment condition received a much-welcomed boost that year, as well, with

the installation of new precipitators for the six boilers at the Otto E. Eckert Station (formerly the Moores Park Power Station). The project would supply workhours for several union electricians until it was completed in 1977.

Also in 1973, in an effort to generate work in the residential-construction industry, Local 665 and NECA ratified a new **residential agreement** that contained a reduced wage scale of \$6.15 per hour for certain housing and apartment work. The standard inside work agreement that was also negotiated that year increased the local's journeyman wireman pay to \$9.50 per hour that year.

As employment briefly improved at times before deteriorating again in early 1975, during which more than 50 Local 665 members

were unemployed at one point, the local's condition was further exacerbated by a growing incursion of non-union labor into the electrical construction industry within its jurisdiction. The local countered the "open-shop" threats with intensive **picketing** campaigns that garnered some success on jobsites that included a non-union electrical firm being replaced by a NECA contractor on construction of a Sambo's Restaurant on South Cedar Street in Lansing in late 1975.

But with upwards of 90 members on its out-of-work "bench" in mid-January 1976, the local's employment concerns remained. That year, as **Press Secretary Obe Oberlin** described in that June's *Journal*, "quite a few" members had to travel for work as well as any larger projects that could provide substantial workhours continued to elude the local's jurisdiction.

Local 665 Business Manager Dale Buttley was able to report during the local's January 16, 1978, regular membership meeting, however, that "work was very good." By that time, more than 50 travelers from sister I.B.E.W. locals were employed in the local's jurisdiction to help handle a surge of jobs that were centered around the automobile plants and M.S.U., where major late-1970s construction focused heavily on athletics and medical facilities.

Then in 1978, the local and the **Lansing Division, Michigan Chapter, NECA** signed a new, three-year work agreement that went into effect on April 13 of that year. The contract would ultimately raise the local's journeyman wage scale to \$14.61 per hour on June 1, 1980, and contractor benefit contributions of 50 cents per hour to the **Michigan Electrical Employees Health and Welfare Fund**, \$1 per hour to the **Michigan Electrical Employees Pension Plan** and 3 percent of gross labor payrolls to the I.B.E.W. **National Electrical Benefit Fund** (a pension plan established in 1946) until the agreement expired on May 31, 1981.

LOCAL 665 ORGANIZED, ABSORBED MOTOR LOCAL

Local 665 **Business Manager Ted Williamson** helped organize new motormen **Local No. 1632** of Lansing, which the I.B.E.W. subsequently chartered on August 1, 1955. The local was installed on August 29 and then held its first meeting on October 4 of that year.

Guided by Business Manager Williamson, the union motormen signed the city's motor shops and sound system contractors to their collective-bargaining agreement. However, after just 17 years, the I.B.E.W. rescinded the Local 1643 charter and merged the local's members and jurisdiction into Local 665 on **March 1, 1972**.

But the 1980s would prove to be one of the most-challenging periods in the local's history as Lansing experienced a period of industrial transition, led by GM and Oldsmobile shifting from producing large rear-wheel-drive vehicles to smaller models, while its construction sector shifted toward commercial management. What's more, high inflation and interest rates early in the decade stalled commercial and residential building, leading to widespread unemployment among trade union members including Local 665 electricians.

The city's construction unions as a whole subsequently struggled throughout the decade as a result of a severe, early-decade automotive downturn and a broader shift toward non-union contractors throughout the state – which often caused decreasing membership, higher unemployment and declining wages among the organized trades. Additionally, subsequent market shifts curtailed major industrial construction projects that the union building trades relied on for steady, large-scale work, especially in the auto industry.

Mid-Michigan also continued to see an influx of non-union contractors gaining market share as developers sought cheaper labor costs to



Always A Good Neighbor LOCAL 665 SERVES ITS COMMUNITIES

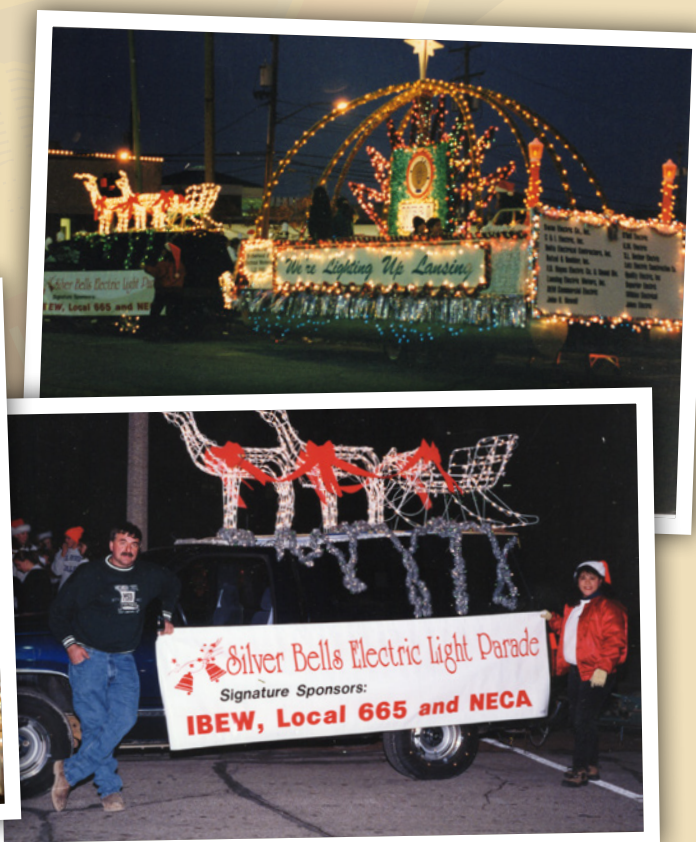
When Local 665 sponsored a **Christmas party for 500 orphans and needy children** on December 19, 1971, at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Hall – complete with a two-hour cartoon show, presents and appearances by Santa Claus and Sparky the Clown – the local was continuing a practice of being a caretaker of its jurisdiction. Its legacy of giving and assisting those in need has since then continued to regularly benefit the Greater Lansing area, its communities and its residents.

From purchasing a bus it donated to the **Lansing Area Boy Scouts** in 1973 to spearheading and volunteering manhours as part of the **Future NetDay'97** program to wire Lansing City Schools in 1997 so students would have access to computers and the internet, Local 665 and its members have consistently answered the call when needed. Since then, among a range of charitable activities, in 1999

Local 665 and the Lansing Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) together sponsor and participate in Lansing's annual **Silver Bells in the City**, a tradition that kicks off each holiday season on the Friday before Thanksgiving with elaborate light displays, the lighting of the official State of Michigan Christmas tree and the **Silver Bells Electric Light Parade** (which the local and NECA specifically sponsor).

Local 665 and the Lansing Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) together sponsor the Capital Area Sportsmen's League annual **Veterans' Shoot**, providing U.S. military veterans with free entry and complimentary lunch for the target-shooting event.

the local helped build and fund the new **Ronald McDonald House** in Lansing, which provides a home-away-from-home for families with children in area hospitals ... in 2000 the local voluntarily wired the **Samarkand Kennels** in Dewitt, Michigan, after it burned down and 65 animals were lost in the fire ... and on many other occasions the local and its members have provided their time, talents and treasures to benevolent organizations such as the **Capital Area United Way**, **Veterans of Foreign Wars' National Military Services** and **Habitat for Humanity Capital Region**, which provides affordable housing for low-income families.



combat the recession. That increase in open-shop workers essentially forced local unions to pivot toward more-aggressive organizing tactics such as picketing, which continued to be heavily utilized by Local 665.

Of course, GM and M.S.U. did provide some relief, in particular when the auto manufacturer built a paint and assembly plants and remodel existing fabrication lines to assemble the Pontiac Grand Am beginning in 1985. The university during the decade erected the Wharton Center for Performing Arts that opened in September 1982 and the 15,000-seat **Jack Breslin Student Events Center** arena that opened in 1989.

Though employment for the Local 665 membership would stabilize to a degree in the 1990s, the local still had to contend with growing non-union competition throughout the decade, which was heightened by the emergence of double-breasted contractors that operated both union and non-union construction companies. The local continued to counter that antagonism by putting its superior craftsmanship on display and with picketing and the use of **salting**, the practice of allowing union members to work on non-union jobs so they can infiltrate open-shop employers and organize their work, for which the local recently adopted a “salting resolution” that permitted members to work for non-signatory contractors for organizing purposes.

Perhaps just as precarious, the state's government also made an aggressive push to weaken union leverage in Lansing and across Michigan during the decade. In doing so, in the mid-1990s the



Local 665 members (left to right, top photo) Bruce Anderson and Alex Brown; (middle photo) Cam Becker and De Ron Peters; and (bottom photo) Dave Huffnagel, Rich Brondyke and Dan McCaige walk picket lines in the early 2000s to protest the use of non-union labor on various jobsites around Lansing.



A Local 665 team that competed in the 19th Annual Lansing All-Trades Softball Tournament in 2008.

State Legislature temporarily suspended the state's prevailing wage law, a move that created thousands of non-union construction jobs and deeply undercut organized labor.

Construction at M.S.U., in another transitional period that saw its focus turn to modernizing facilities for the sciences, regularly put Local 665 members to work during the decade. In particular, beginning in 1999 the local's electricians wired the school's new, six-story, 370,000-square-foot **Biomedical and Physical Science Building** that would be the largest classroom building on campus when it opened in late 2001.

Meanwhile, Local 665 members worked on another high-profile project with construction of the new **Oldsmobile Park** minor-league baseball stadium, which the union building trades secured through a labor-friendly project labor agreement. When completed and opened on April 3, 1996, the 7,527-seat park (now known as Jackson Field) would serve as the home of the minor-league Lansing Lugnuts.

Additional substantial work came to the Local 665 jurisdiction before the end of the decade following a successful community and labor campaign to keep GM from leaving Lansing, after which the company began construction of its new **Lansing Grand River Assembly Plant** in 1999 as its first new construction in the United States in 15 years. The 2-million-square-foot automotive manufacturing factory would replace GM's Lansing Car Assembly, Metal Center and Craft Center facilities when it began operations in 2001 – while significantly contributing to the local's improved employment conditions as it entered a new century and millennium.

CONTINUING TO PERSEVERE WITH THE NEW MILLENNIUM

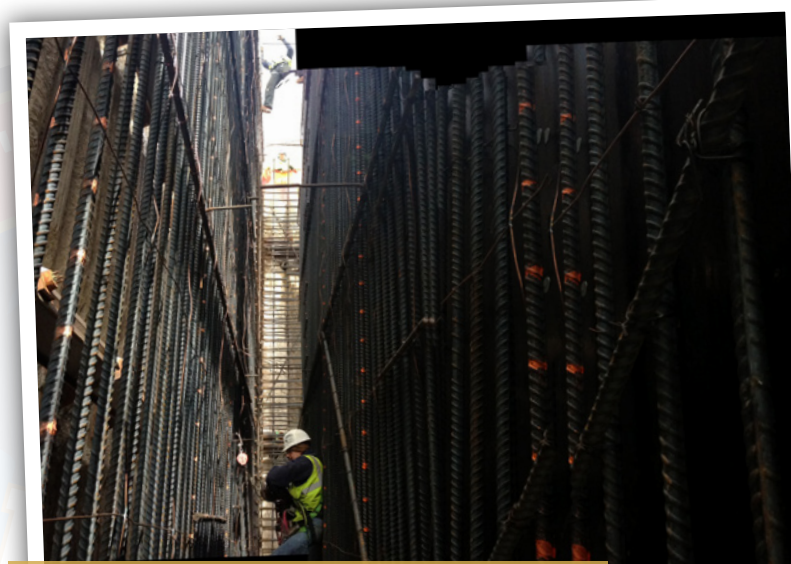
As Local 665 entered the new "Y2K" (Year 2000) Millennium, its electricians were wiring the new **Michigan Hall of Justice** in downtown Lansing's Capitol Complex for its opening in 2002 to house

the Michigan Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and state court administrative offices. The six-story, 280,000-square-foot landmark provided the Supreme Court with a home in a building of its own for the first time.

But Lansing's economy experienced a harsh, extended localized decline with the onset of a national recession in late 2001 that ushered in a prolonged period of severe unemployment for the Local 665 membership. As the effects of the economic downturn lingered in Michigan throughout the first half of the decade, the region encompassing the local's jurisdiction was devastated by the collapse of its domestic manufacturing base and especially the closing of the GM Oldsmobile division in Lansing in 2004, which caused widespread job losses.

The local would subsequently endure some of the highest unemployment among its members in its history, while sister I.B.E.W. locals around the state likewise suffered

similar misfortunes, essentially nullifying travelling employment options. **Business Manager Bill Patrick** even conceded in the local's January 2004 newsletter, "2003 was one of the worst years for construction workers I have seen. ... This was the worst because there was no place to go."



Local 665 wiremen work inside the not-yet-poured walls of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams in 2017 to install copper mesh that would protect sensitive computer equipment from electromagnetic interference generated by the complex's linear accelerator.



Members of Local 665 pose under a maze of their conduit work for Michigan State University's new Facility for Rare Isotope Beams in 2017.



Exacerbating the dreadful conditions as they persisted into mid-2004 was the continued loss of market share and work by Local 665 and I.B.E.W. locals across the state and country to the non-union sector. In turn, Local 665 **President Scott Clark** also lamented in the October 2024 issue of the newsletter, “In the past few years, we have seen the impact of job loss in our local jurisdiction like we have never faced before. Many of our members and fellow Michiganders have also experienced long-term layoffs, under-employment and economic hardships.”

As always, however, the local did not roll over to adversity but instead continued efforts to counteract those hard times and push back against opposition, including sustaining its picketing and salting campaigns. What’s more, many members donated funds to the local to help support members and their families suffering under the financial strain caused by prolonged periods of unemployment.

Among some of the local’s unemployed members who were placed on jobs in downtown Lansing, the union electricians wired the new, 9-story **Boji Group Complex**, consisting of the Capitol View office building and parking ramp, under a project labor agreement beginning in 2003. By that time, some of the local’s members had also wired the new Holt

High School, one of the most technologically advanced schools in the region, after they had identified problems with electrical drawings by a non-union electrical-engineering company, saving the Holt, Michigan, Public Schools district millions of dollars on the publicly funded project.

In the end, the local’s persistence, the trade skills of its membership and the presence of Michigan State University, the automotive industry and the state Capitol within its jurisdiction delivered it from the depths of the economic anguish of the early 2000s. Additionally, the local’s signatory NECA contractors were gaining work at the expanding Lansing Community College while also securing local public-schools projects that would employ union electricians, including construction of the new **Pattengill Middle School** that was the first new school built in Lansing in 30 years when it was completed in 2006.

Perhaps most notably, the start of construction for the new **GM Lansing Delta Township Plant** in early 2004 provided a much-needed infusion of substantial workhours for the local, with about 150 of its members working on the project by that October. When opened in 2006 after being wired by union electricians, the 3.6-million-square-foot facility encompassed



Local 665 retirees and officers (left to right, front row) Business Manager Tom Eastwood, Brian Nowasacki (50 years of service), Don Wood (55), Charlie Fabiano (50), Bill Patrick (50), Horace Hull (55) and Dan Gorman; and (back row) John Damman (50), Conrad Lee (50), Bart Page (50), Dusty Rhodes (50), Fred Russman (50), Harry Knowlton (45), Mike Svendsen (40), Pat Weber (40) and Lawrence Hidalgo (40) pose after receiving their I.B.E.W. Years of Service awards and pins during a ceremony on May 20, 2019.



Local 665 members working on construction of the new McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital in 2019.

a body shop, general auto assembly and the Lansing Regional Stamping plant and was certified as a Gold Certified Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

At M.S.U., a growing amount of work putting the local’s members back to work by the mid-2000s included an addition to the school’s power plant. A host of renovations to the university’s academic, residential and athletic facilities that began during that time as well, which were guided by the university’s “2020 Vision” master plan, further employed many of the local’s electricians.

“For those members working under the (Local 665) inside agreement, the work outlook has changed drastically,” Business Manager Patrick was able to report in the local’s March 2005 newsletter as the employment surge took hold. “Just about everyone who wants to be working is back to work.”

As the recovery continued, signatory NECA contractors secured a vast majority of the school work within the local’s jurisdiction, keeping members busy on school projects during the



The McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital would be completed and officially opened in February 2022.

summer of 2006 in Eaton Rapids, Fowlerville, Howell, Perry and Lansing. Additional jobs that provided workhours for members that year and into 2007 included expansions to Sparrow Hospital under a project labor agreement and the **Ingham Medical Center**; and construction of a state-of-the-art vaccine-production facility at the **BioPort Corporation** manufacturing campus in Lansing.

The nationwide “Great Recession of 2007,” the most severe economic collapse in the United States since the Great Depression,



curbed the local's resurgence as it severely impacted Lansing, which suffered a spike in unemployment and deep municipal budget cuts. However, the Local 665 jurisdiction was shielded from the worst effects of the recession again because of its status as host of the state capital, major automotive industry and M.S.U.

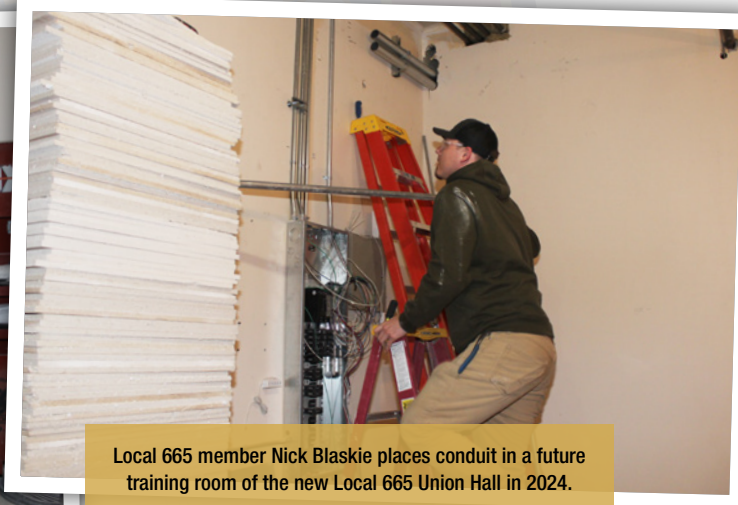
Wiring the new **Accident Fund Insurance Company of America World Headquarters** in the former, 70-year-old Ottawa Street Power Station from 2009 until it was completed in 2011 also kept numerous Local 665 electricians working. The total redevelopment and renovation of the decommissioned 185,000-square-

foot energy plant for the international firm's corporate offices headquarters included adding a 105,000-square-foot extension and a four-story glass atrium.

Emerging from the recession, work in the local's jurisdiction was plentiful enough to provide employment for traveling I.B.E.W. members during much of the first half of the 2010s. As the favorable employment conditions persisted into and throughout the second half of the decade, among the major projects on which union electricians were employed was construction of the new **Sparrow Health Center Lansing**, which



Local 665 apprentice inside wireman Cody Lewis sets a piece of conduit for installation during renovations for the local's new union hall in 2024.



Local 665 member Nick Blaskie places conduit in a future training room of the new Local 665 Union Hall in 2024.



Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333 member Aaron Beers threads a gas pipe in the future meeting room during renovations for the new Local 665 Union Hall in 2024.



The new Local 665 Union Hall at 5710 Ivan Drive in Lansing, into which the local moved in 2022.



included endoscopy and diagnostic imaging facilities when it opened in 2016; installation of the 86,000-solar-panel **Delta Solar** Plant in 2017 and 2018, Michigan's largest tracking solar array, which could provide electricity for 3,300 homes for Lansing Board of Water & Light customers; and construction of the state-of-the-art, 375,000-square-foot **MWC cheese and whey plant** in St. Johns, Michigan, that began processing milk in October of 2020.

Local 665 members also led brothers and sisters of several Michigan-based I.B.E.W. locals who from 2014 through 2017 built the structure for the 500,000-square-foot **Facility for Rare Isotope Beams** at M.S.U., the most powerful rare-isotope accelerator in the world that, after its technical construction was completed and it was made fully functional in June 2022, would allow scientists to study the properties of rare isotopes (variants of chemical elements). Reflecting on the vital role the local's members had in constructing the unique facility as its structural phase was drawing to a close, **Business Manager Tom Eastwood** stated in April 2017, "It's always nice to have large-scale projects come along, but this one has been really unique. It's put a lot of I.B.E.W. brothers and sisters to work, and it's got the potential to leave a lasting mark on science and on this country's technological future."

STILL MAKING PROGRESS TO CENTENNIAL MILESTONE

Local 665, the State of Michigan and the entire United States came to a sudden and somber halt 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 epidemic 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 continued rush of work provided ongoing steady employment for the local's members across its jurisdiction on numerous jobs of all sizes, including a 1-million-square-foot Amazon fulfillment center built in Delta Township over a three-year period before it opened in 2024. Among several projects at M.S.U., union electricians and technicians helped renovate and expand the decommissioned Shaw Lane Power Plant for use as the school's new **STEM Teaching and Learning Facility**, which after it was completed and opened in July 2021 would be an inspiring location for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) students.

Elsewhere, Local 665 members benefiting from increasingly stronger employment conditions were also wiring jobs that included construction of the 10-story, state-of-the-art **McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital** that would be completed in February 2022 with the latest in healthcare technology. Key to their contributions on the 500,000-square-foot facility, union contractors and electricians utilized extensive prefabrication initiatives to decrease costs, increase safety and deliver the highest quality electrical work on the project.

That same year, the local's members finished wiring the new **Delta Energy Park** for the Lansing Board of Water and Light, which was set to become the largest utility in Michigan that generated coal-free power by 2025. The electricians contributed their share of a total 1.4-million union workhours on the project to erect the modern, natural gas-fired combined-cycle generating facility to replace the utility company's coal-fired Eckert and Erickson power stations.

With more small and large jobs materializing for the local and its employing NECA contractors over the ensuing years and into



Local 665 members and Business Manager Aaron Pangborn (far right) pose while attending the annual I.B.E.W. Women's Conference in 2025.

2026, when the local would celebrate its 100th charter anniversary, and the electrical industry continuing to quickly evolve with advancements in solar, smart technologies, electric vehicles and energy storage, the local found itself dealing with workforce shortages – even though it had grown from around 435 members in 2014 to more than 900 electricians, technicians and apprentices in 2025. At one point that year, more than 1,000 I.B.E.W. electricians, including traveling members from other locals, were working through the local to handle the workload in its jurisdiction.

In fact, the local was finally able to renovate and move into the new **Local 665 Union Hall** in 2022 after it had purchased a 7,640-square-foot building on Ivan Drive to replace its cramped former facility but, as **President**

Aaron Nowland told *The Building Tradesman* newspaper, “we have been so busy with work in the area that we haven’t been able to address work at the new hall.” Indeed, burgeoning work and increased membership necessitated the local relocating from its old quarters to the new facility, which provided nearly twice as much space to conduct business, some limited training and union meetings – and a source of pride for the membership.

Continuing to impact its electrical construction industry as well as local construction in general, that year Local 665 joined other unions and signatory contractors to get a local ordinance amendment passed in late August 2025 that more comprehensively determines which contractors will be awarded local construction projects. Prior

to the amendment, publicly funded projects over \$50,000 often went to the lowest bidder, which favored non-union contractors that cut corners and consequently lowered the quality of work done; but the amended ordinance uses a weighted scoring system that takes into account a host of factors, only one of which is cost.

As Local 665 approached its 100th charter anniversary on June 7, 1926, its membership remained busy wiring and connecting its Central Michigan jurisdiction, including construction of the 26-story **Tower on Grand** mixed-use skyscraper in downtown Lansing and a 2.8-million-square-foot **LG Energy Solution battery plant** in Delta Township. The local itself continued working to improve its jurisdiction and conditions for union members, as always, while preparing for the future, with M.S.U. planning \$2 billion in work over the next five years and summertime work on schools looming.

The local also was in the final year of its three-year collective-bargaining agreement for inside wireman and would be preparing to start negotiations for its next contract with NECA in the coming new year. The local also was in the second year of a three-year pact for its collectively bargained sound and communications agreement.

At its century mark, Local 665 looks back at the communities and careers it has built and forward at those yet to come as it will continue to power Mid-Michigan with skill, pride and integrity by training its workforce through its world-class educational programs, which include a five-year apprenticeship for new recruits into the industry. As such, together with their NECA contractors, the local and its members are prepared to ensure that Mid-Michigan is ready for its future, as well, by continuing to provide the high-quality service the community has come to expect from Local 665 highly skilled union craftspeople. ●



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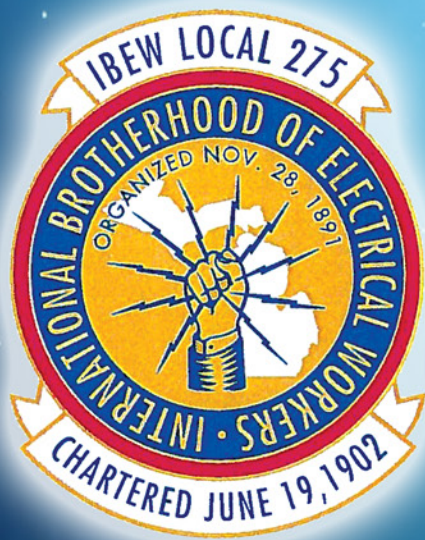


Congratulations **IBEW LOCAL 665** *On your 100th Anniversary!*

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



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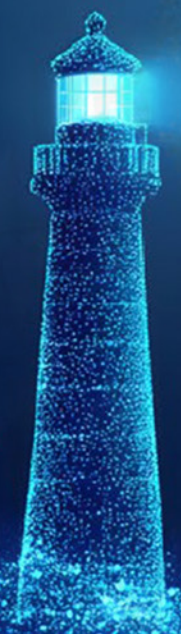


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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM IBEW LOCAL 665 ON 100 YEARS!



Local 17

James A. Shaw

**BUSINESS MANAGER & FINANCIAL SECRETARY
LOCAL UNION NO. 17, IBEW**

(248) 423-4540

17000 W. 12 MILE ROAD
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48076

WWW.IBEWLOCAL17.ORG

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100 YEARS STRONG!

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 557 PROUDLY CONGRATULATES OUR
MICHIGAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF I.B.E.W. LOCAL 665
ON REACHING THIS INCREDIBLE MILESTONE.

HERE'S TO HONORING 100 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT - AND TO MANY
MORE YEARS OF SOLIDARITY, STRENGTH AND BROTHERHOOD.

IN SOLIDARITY,
THE MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND STAFF OF LOCAL 557



IBEW
LOCAL 557
SAGINAW, MI

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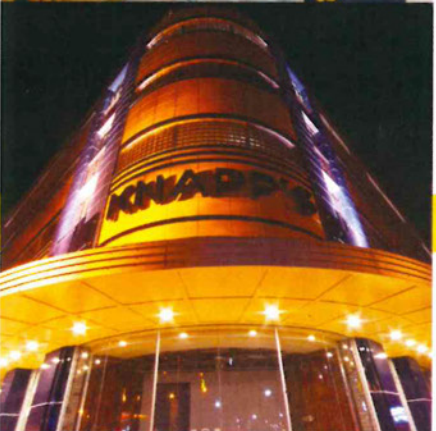


Congratulations to IBEW Local 665
on their 100th Anniversary!

On behalf of the International Brotherhood
of Electrical Workers Local 58 Detroit
Business Manager, James Soosik,
Officers, Membership & Staff we wish
IBEW Local 665 years of continued
success serving Mid-Michigan!

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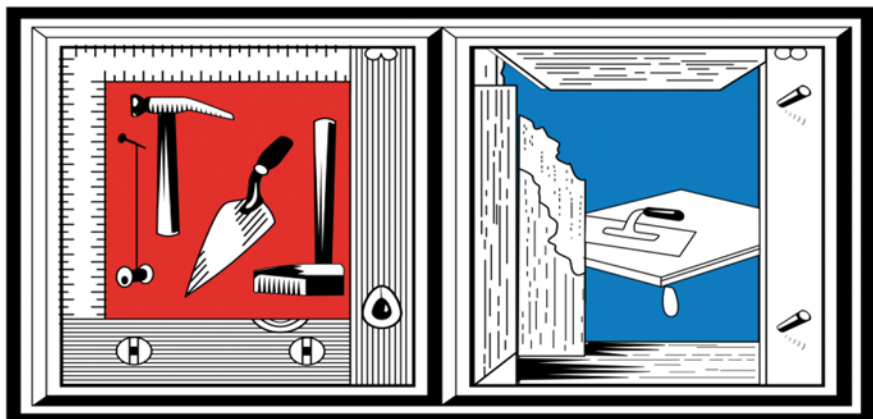
www.michiganbuildingtrades.org

Steve Claywell
Secretary-Treasurer

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435 Washington Square South
Lansing, MI, 48933-2136
(517) 484-8427

Greg Herman
President

DETROIT OFFICE
1640 Porter Street
Detroit, MI 48216
(313) 965-5080



Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 2 Michigan

The members of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 2 congratulate IBEW Local 665 on this 100th anniversary and proudly recognize the hard work, leadership, and union values that have defined IBEW 665 for generations.

Your commitment to excellence, safety, training, and brotherhood has strengthened the labor movement and inspired working men and women throughout the region.

Reaching 100 years is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the dedication of your members, past and present, who have helped build and power our communities with pride and professionalism

As fellow union tradespeople, we understand the importance of standing together to protect fair wages, quality working conditions, and opportunities for future generations. We are honored to celebrate this historic milestone with you and commend the lasting impact IBEW Local 665 has made over the last 100 years.

May your next century continue to be filled with growth, unity, and success.

In Solidarity,

Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
Local Union Local 2

Brett Gierak
President

Chad Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Sean Griffin
Vice Chairman

**THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION 252**



Ryan Husse - Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Mike Cox – President/ Business Representative

Jeff Burdick - Vice President

Lisa Grove - Recording Secretary

Stacie Butler - Treasurer

Geoff Morning – Business Representative

Rick Plisko – Business Representative

James Johnson Jr. – Business Representative

Jeff Burdick – Business Representative

Erik Kane – Organizer

Dan Beck – Organizer

Executive Board

Dan Beck, Jake Church, Geoff Morning,
Rick Plisko, Erik Randall Jr., and Travis Stachlewitz

Examining Board

Dennis Locks, Merrill Collins and Jason Shuster

Offices: 7920 Jackson Road, Suite A, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (734) 424-0978
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LOCAL 665
100 years
1926-2026

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
Michael J. Clemmons, International Vice President, Sixth District

CONGRATULATIONS!



IBEW LOCAL 127



HAPPY 100TH 665!



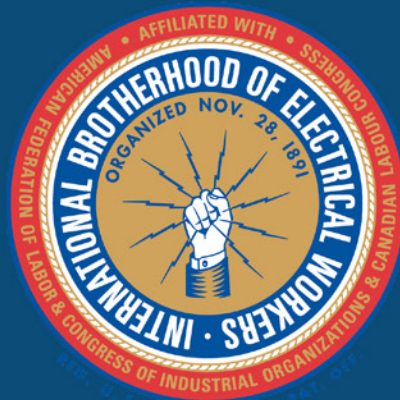
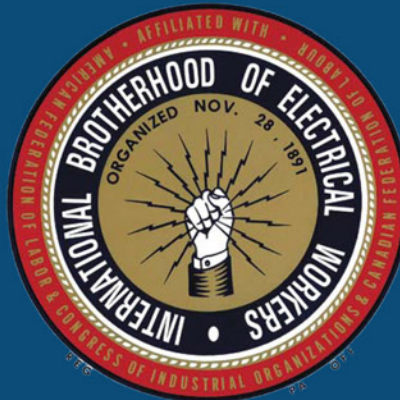
**Congratulations From Your
Tier 1 Brothers & Sisters
at 153.**





IBEW

LOCAL UNION NO. 6



CONGRATULATES

IBEW Local No. 665

*Celebrating 100 Years of Service to
the Sisters & Brothers of the IBEW*

John J. Doherty

Business Manager - Financial Secretary

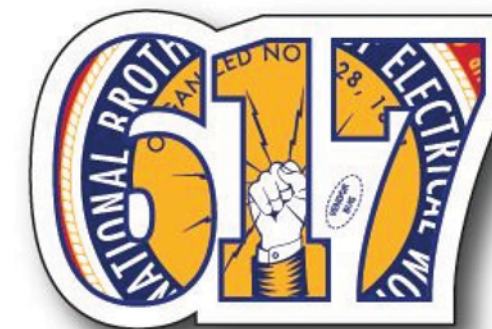
Members, Officers and Staff

Russell Au Yeung, President
Douglas Wydler, Vice President
John Langley, Recording Secretary
Brendan Greene, Treasurer

Edward Del Bonta, Officer
Jennifer A. Kramer, Officer
Christie Peterson, Officer
Rick Medrano, Officer
Mike O'Mahoney, Officer

On behalf of the Members
Officers and Staff of
IBEW Local Union 617
San Mateo County, California

**We Salute & Honor
IBEW LU 665
Congratulations
on 100 Years!**



IBEW LU 617 Proudly represents
San Mateo County Electrical Workers including Electricians
Sound & Communications Workers and the
Electrical Transit Technicians of SFO AirTrain
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CONGRATULATIONS BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF LOCAL 665

CELEBRATING THE PAST 100 YEARS OF

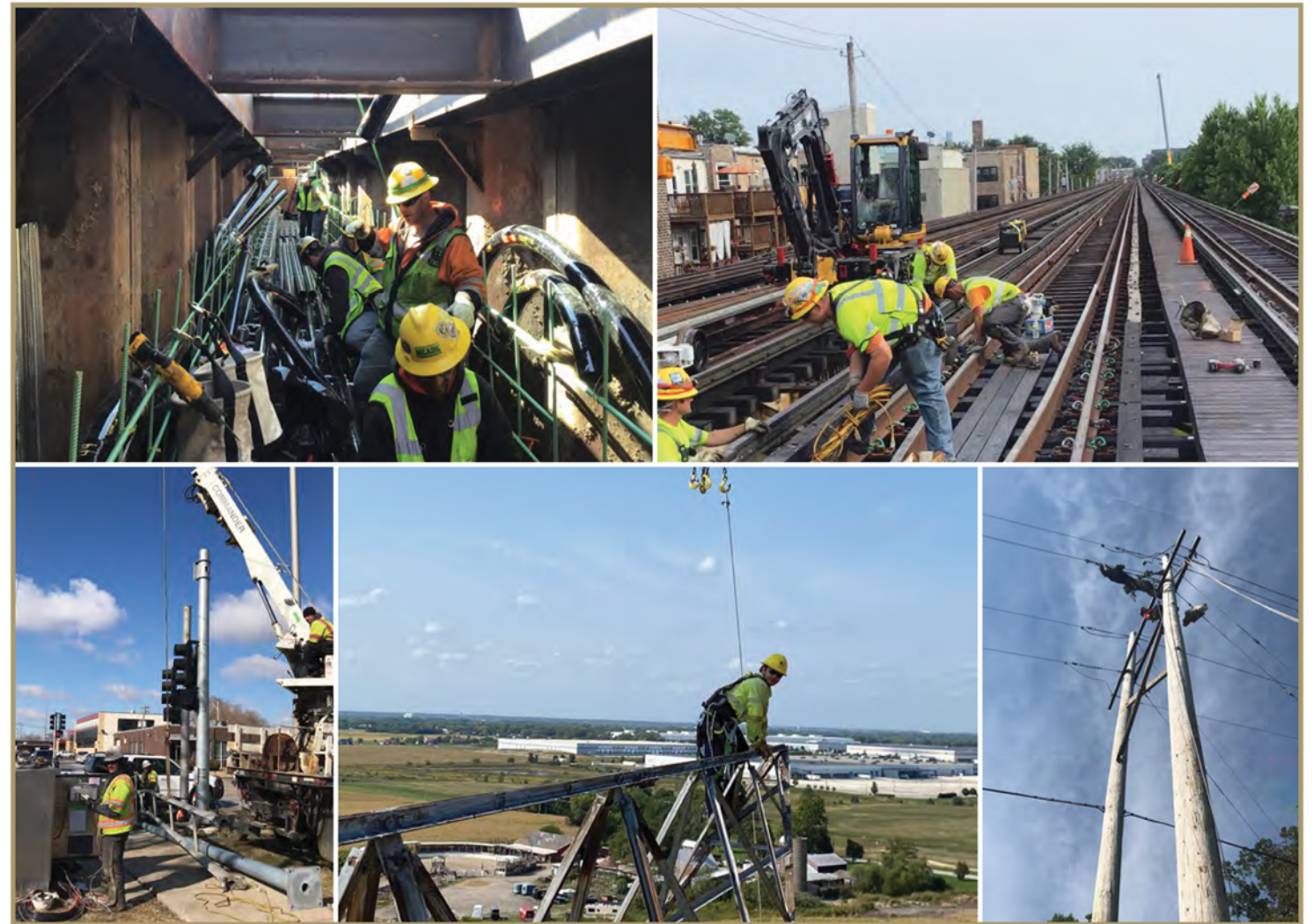


WE JOIN YOU IN HONORING
THE LEGACY WE INHERIT, THE
PEOPLE WHO BUILT IT, AND THE
FUTURE WE'LL CREATE TOGETHER.

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT



SOLIDARITY



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ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGERS

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FROM YOUR FRIENDS IN
I.B.E.W. Local 9

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VISIT IBEW47.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Colin Lavin
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary

Rafael Gomez
President



CONGRATULATIONS, LOCAL 665 ON A CENTURY OF SERVICE!



FROM YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
OF I.B.E.W. LOCAL 948
REPRESENTING GENESEE, LAPEER, & SHIAWASSEE SINCE 1919

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CONGRATULATIONS IBEW LOCAL 665 ON 100 YEARS!



Welcome to the Century Club!

From the Members, Officers and Staff of IBEW Local Union 595

WE CONGRATULATE I.B.E.W. LOCAL 665 ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY!



THE OFFICERS, MEMBERS AND STAFF OF U.A. LOCAL 333
MID-MICHIGAN'S UNION PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS & HVAC MECHANICS

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PROUDLY SUPPORTING OUR
BROTHERS & SISTERS
ON THIS HISTORIC MILESTONE



CONGRATULATIONS TO
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LOCAL 665**
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100 YEARS
OF BROTHERHOOD,
SERVICE & SOLIDARITY!

Celebrating a century of strength, unity, and commitment
to the electrical industry and the communities we serve.

★★★ *Here's to the next 100!* ★★★

FROM YOUR BROTHERS & SISTERS AT
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Financial Secretary

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Brent Misenko, Treasurer
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Michael Cesa
David Watts
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Organizers
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Executive Board
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Business Representatives
Michael Shingary
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PH: 216-621-3060 www.ibew38.org



IBEW LOCAL 445, BATTLE CREEK, MI
OFFICERS, MEMBERS & STAFF CONGRATULATE
LOCAL 665 ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

Officers
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Vice President- Derick Boyette
Recording Secretary- Wanda Secrest
Treasurer- Sam McFadden

Executive Board
Derick Boyette
Kevin Hagelgans
Jerred Morris
Tod Rocco
Patrick Stevens II
Scott Wagner
Sarah Wilson

Office Staff
Business Manager- Lance Dougherty
Business Representative- Travis Arney
Office Manager- Wanda Secrest

Wishing you many years of continued success!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the members and staff of
IBEW Local 665

On your 100th anniversary



IBEW Local 40

Proudly Supporting IBEW Local 665
Congratulations on your 100th Anniversary



Stephan Davis
Business Manager & Financial Secretary
www.ibew40.org | (818) 762-IBEW (4239)



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY!



FROM THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN
BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL

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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

IBEW  **NECA**
LOCAL UNION 246 NORTH CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER
STEUBENVILLE ELECTRICAL LMCC
Committed to Excellence in Electrical Construction

