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LOCAL NO. 72



125th Anniversary

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**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local Union No. 143**



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**TOGETHER
WE WILL WIN**



The membership of Local 520 would like to heartily congratulate our Brothers and Sisters in Waco on providing Central Texas with quality craftsmanship and outstanding unionism. Here's to 125 more!

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO LOCAL 72 ON
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**CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 72
ON YOUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY!**

**From I.B.E.W. Local Union No. 611
Officers, Members and Staff**

D DARYL C. SOWARD
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
of ELECTRICAL
WORKERS •

Best Wishes, Local No. 72!

From Daryl C. Soward, CPA
Proudly serving the I.B.E.W. and its Local Unions

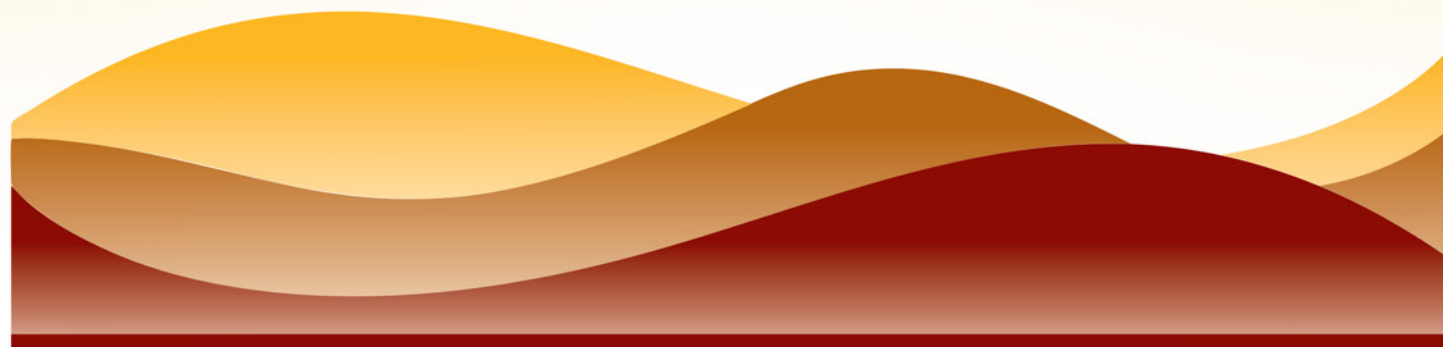
Daryl C. Soward, CPA, performs numerous audits throughout the State of Texas for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, as well as the Communications Workers of America in Fort Worth. We are well versed in Labor Union accounting and compliance issues. Our services include financial statement preparation, audits, DOL reporting, and tax-exempt tax preparation. We offer accounting assistance to all our Union clients throughout the year.

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1897



2022

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CWA
MEMBERS

We are Strong Thanks to the Dedication of Our Past and Current Members

I am very grateful to be the business manager of I.B.E.W. Local Union No. 72 at this very special time in its history. We must thank the founding members who chartered Local 72 in 1897. From its birth, Local 72 has stood strong through wars, the depression and many recessions. Now we are celebrating our 125th year anniversary; that in itself is amazing.

My favorite objective in the I.B.E.W. Constitution reads, "And by legal and proper means to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families, and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship." That's why we are all grateful to be part of the I.B.E.W. and this local union.

As we look to the future, we are experiencing possibly the best work outlook ever. The dedication of our skilled members is showing its rewards in the aspect of the installation of quality work, looking out for the safety of your fellow members, and the growth of our membership through our apprenticeship and welcoming new members through organizing.

While we celebrate our great accomplishments, let us not forget the great members who came before us; we must pass the traditions of this great Brotherhood onto the future generations to carry us for the next 125 years. Together, we live strong and stay union strong.

Faternally,



Craig Miller
Business Manager
I.B.E.W. Local Union No. 72



I.B.E.W. Local No. 72 ***125-Year Anniversary Celebration***

Saturday, April 30, 2022

Noon

Tucker Hall

7767 North State Highway 6 • Speegleville, Texas

A group meal delivered by Rudy's BBQ of Brisket, Turkey, Sausage, Potato Salad, Beans, and New Potatoes will be served.

This book was proudly produced by

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I.B.E.W. Local No. 72 at 125 Years

A History of Powering Central Texas in Solidarity

Since March 2, 1897



“We are new, but we mean business.”

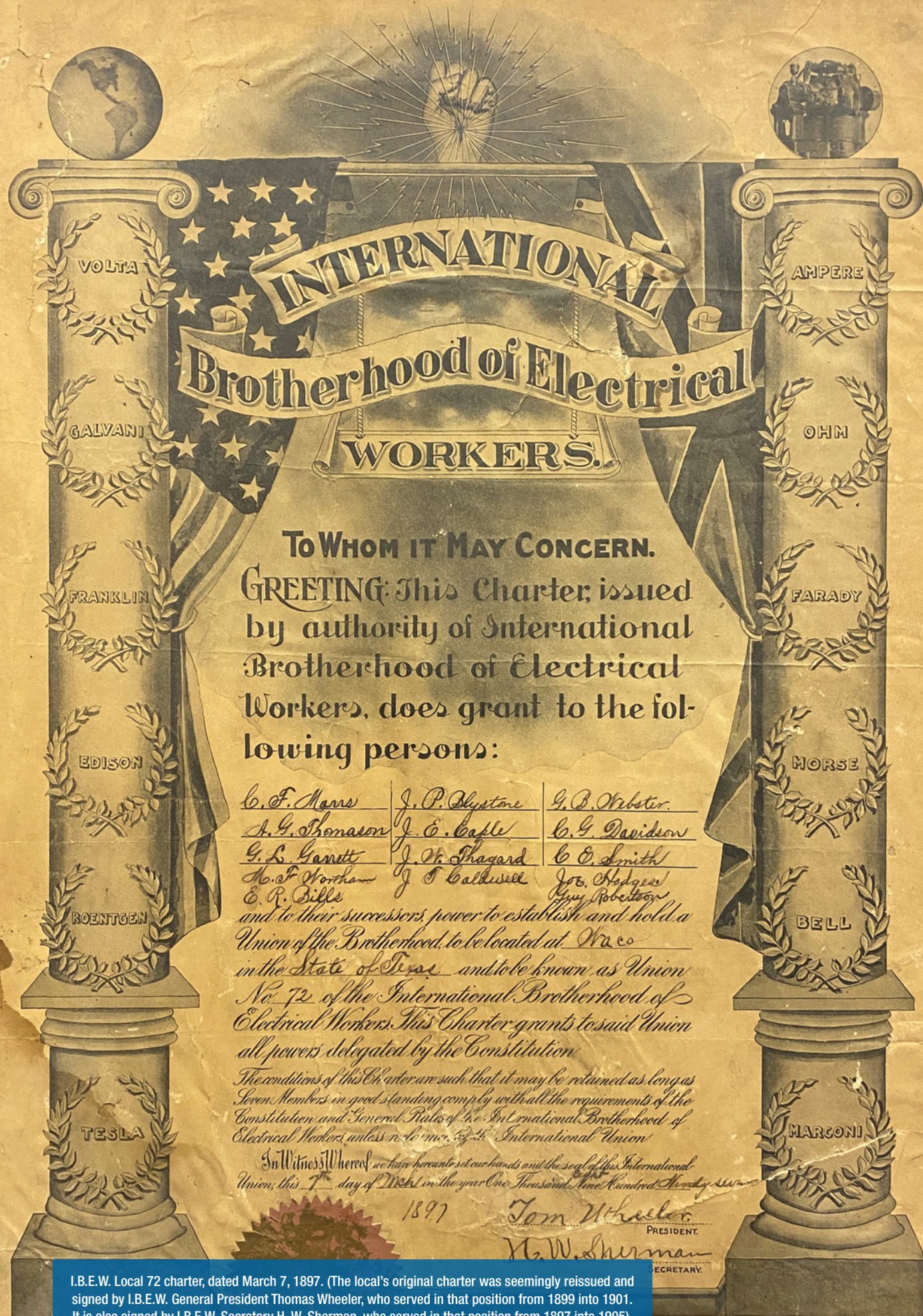
With the City of Waco in a period of financial growth and industrial and commercial expansion during the final decade of the 19th Century, the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers – which would become the International Brotherhood (I.B.E.W.) in 1899 after organizing Local No. 93 in Ottawa, Ontario – chartered Local No. 72 in the city on **March 2, 1897**, to serve its electrical industry and represent its workers. Shortly after the original 14 members received their charter, which was signed and dated March 7, Local 72 press secretary **Brother George R. Lockhart** made the above declaration in the March 1897 issue of *The Electrical Worker*, the union’s official monthly publication.

Jobs were initially scarce for members of the new “mixed” inside-wiremen and outside-linemen local, which met on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the city’s Labor Hall and was mostly composed of outside linemen, as it would be over the ensuing

decade. However, its primary employing contractor, the **Waco Electrical Supply and Construction Company**, would soon take on a large project installing fire and burglar alarms in Dallas and employed Local 72 members on the project and a few others in that city.

Meanwhile, unionism was beginning to take firm hold in and around Waco. To further bolster and support organized labor in the area, many of its local unions, including Local 72, joined the **Waco Central Trades Union** as a means of working together to present a united front on issues important to the labor movement.

But as employment opportunities in Waco slowed dramatically, by September 1897 the 19 members of Local 72 were mostly employed as “travelers” on repair work in other cities through sister I.B.E.W. locals in those towns. Regardless, Local 72 press secretary **Brother M. F. Wortham** was able to report in that month’s *Electrical Worker*, “Most of the brothers keep busy and are doing well, considering the hard times.”



I.B.E.W. Local 72 charter, dated March 7, 1897. (The local's original charter was seemingly reissued and signed by I.B.E.W. General President Thomas Wheeler, who served in that position from 1899 into 1901. It is also signed by I.B.E.W. Secretary H. W. Sherman, who served in that position from 1897 into 1905).

Work within the local's jurisdiction picked up substantially the following year, during which its member linemen were kept busy extending party and one-way lines for the **Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company**. Construction of a new electric-light plant in Waco and projects building new electric-rail lines for the Street Railway Company in the city likewise employed the local's members, most of whom were working for the **Waco Electrical Supply and Construction Company**, throughout much of the year.

Conditions remained strong for Local 72 throughout 1899 while electrical work in and around Waco surged and Southwestern conducted large amounts of construction. Among the major projects on which the local's wiremen worked at the time was construction of the lavish, 3,400-seat **Waco Auditorium** opera house at North Sixth Street and Columbus Avenue, which opened Thanksgiving Day that year.

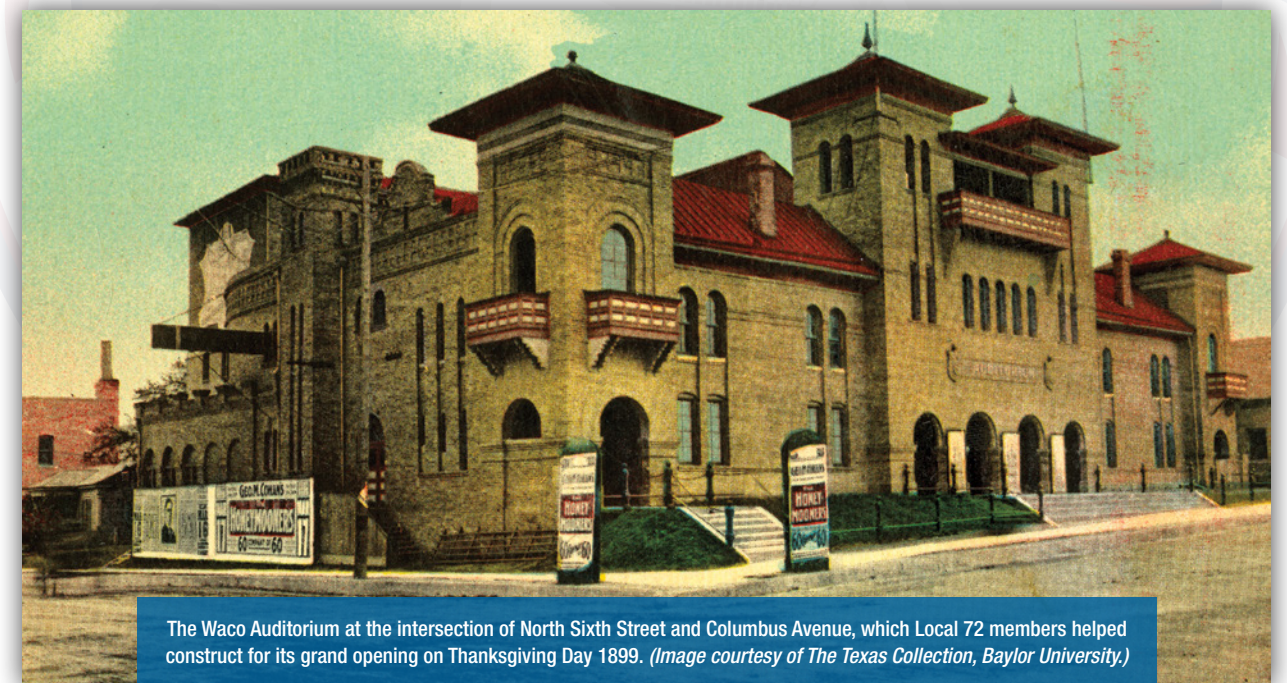
Subsequently, the local continued to grow, and it was even compelled to announce in the

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

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

December 1899 *Electrical Worker*, "Everything is moving along in good order."

Local 72's progress took a dramatic turn, however, after the I.B.E.W. locals in Texas held a convention in Waco in early October 1900 during which they adopted a state-wide wage scale of \$3 per eight-hour workday, which they



The Waco Auditorium at the intersection of North Sixth Street and Columbus Avenue, which Local 72 members helped construct for its grand opening on Thanksgiving Day 1899. (Image courtesy of The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)

LOCAL 72 CHARTER MEMBERS

These 14 men signed the charter granted to Local No. 72 by the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on March 2, 1897.

E. R. Bills

John P. Blystone

J. T. Caldwell

John E. Caple

Charles G. Davidson

G. L. Garrett

Joseph Hodges

Caswell F. Marrs

Guy Robertson

Charles E. Smith

J. Walter Thagard

Archibald G. Thomasson*

George B. Webster

Miles F. Wortham

(*Name is misspelled on the charter.)

presented to their respective contractors on October 15. When the new-wage demand was subsequently rejected by the employers, the locals – beginning with Local 72 – went on a prolonged strike.

Although donations from sister I.B.E.W. locals around the country helped sustain Waco's union electrical workers, in November 1901, after more than a year, the local's members voted to end the strike against the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company. As such, Local 72 was the last I.B.E.W. local in the state to concede to a contractor.

Despite the failed strike, by early 1902 the local's membership was back up to 75 electrical workers, who were representing all branches of the trade in Waco. What's more, the local had members working for every company that was performing electrical work in the city, including both of its telephone companies, Southwestern and the **Independent Telephone Company**.

Employment opportunities declined by 1905, at which time the local's members were primarily performing maintenance work when jobs were available. Regardless, after a trip to Waco, I.B.E.W. Sixth Vice-President J. P. Conner was able to report in that year's February *Electrical Worker*, "Found Local No. 72 in very good condition, taking into consideration the scarcity of work."

By 1906, the local had organized all but a single inside electrician in Waco into its membership, all of whom were working for the four electrical contractors in the city. Underscoring that status, Local 72's press secretary, **Brother Caswell F. Marrs**, was able to declare in the January 1906 *Electrical Worker*:

*"Our local is in a healthy condition
and we claim as true a bunch of boys
as ever pushed a knob or hiked a stick."*

Evolving Through A Rift in the Union

In 1908, Local 72 joined a seceding faction of the I.B.E.W. during a tumultuous period in the union's history. That year, a large number of locals across the nation formed a competing I.B.E.W. alliance during a dispute that would come to be known as the **"Reid-Murphy Split"** after the leaders of the break-away group.

By that time, the rapidly expanding union was being strained internally by several deep divisions within the membership, including foundational issues such as the I.B.E.W.'s



A Local 72 lineman (who was the grandfather of future member Brother Mack Bryant) works from a service vehicle sometime during the early 1900s.

priorities and organizational structure. For example, members on the east coast often disagreed with west-coast members on authority over the union, and highly organized inside wiremen supported steep membership fees and rigorous examinations while outside linemen, who had a much harder time organizing, sought low initiation fees and traveling cards that permitted members to work in locations represented by locals other than their own.

The discord within the I.B.E.W. began evolving into a revolt during the union's 1906 nationwide strike against Bell Telephone Company, which was led by Brother Jim J. Reid, a former lineman from Ohio who had become an international vice president in 1905. When I.B.E.W. General President Frank McNulty, an inside wireman who had also been elected at the union's 1905 convention, refused to take money out of its death benefit or convention funds to support the strikers, the Reid faction

accused the I.B.E.W. leadership of "saving its money for the dead instead of supporting striking linemen struggling to stay alive." Consequently, each side accused the other of corruption, and in some instances the two sides even engaged in physical confrontations.

Driven by the growing conflict and animosity between wiremen and linemen, as well as disappointed office-seekers and a former grand treasurer removed from office in 1907 because of "irregularities," as *History of The I.B.E.W.* describes, the splinter group elected Reid as its president and Brother J. W. Murphy as its secretary during a special convention in 1908. For the next nearly five years, the two organizations – one led by General President McNulty and the other by Brother Reid, claimed to be the true I.B.E.W.

With a large portion of its membership consisting of linemen, Local 72 sided with



The Local 72 float in a Labor Day parade during the early 1900s, with some of the local's female members, who were telephone-company operators, on board.



the seceding Reid-Murphy locals that refused to recognize General President McNulty and General Secretary Peter W. Collins as the true officers of the I.B.E.W.

Local 72 fared well as part of the breakaway group of locals, even hosting 11 workers from other I.B.E.W. locals – all of whom were members of the Reid-Murphy faction – at one point during that time. For instance, construction of several new buildings for the Texas Cotton Palace exhibition facility in 1911 helped bolster employment in the Local 72 jurisdiction, while its linemen working for Home Telephone received a wage raise to \$2.75 per nine-hour day that year.

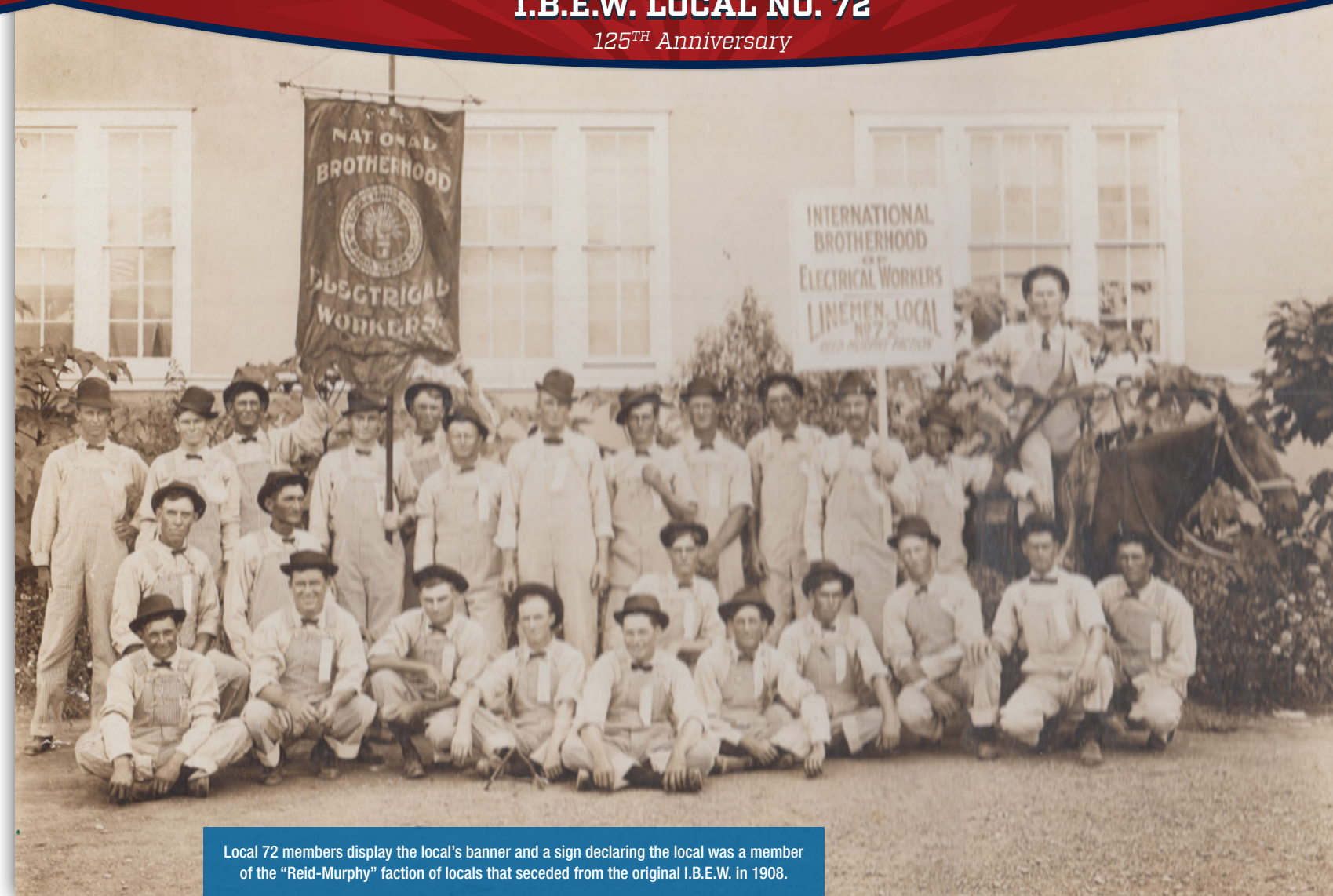
all its electricians would pay \$1.10 “for per capita to put them in good standing for the current month” in the McNulty-led I.B.E.W.

(Shortly afterwards, the McNulty I.B.E.W. chartered “outside” Local No. 478 in Waco on March 24, 1913, for the linemen working in the city. However, the local went defunct early the next year.)

By the time the two sides of the remaining I.B.E.W. chasm met in Des Moines, Iowa, in early 1913 to discuss the complete termination of hostilities, the International Office had already received requests from several more local

But following dual, competing I.B.E.W. conventions held in 1911, a court decision in February 1912 declared the 1908 Reid-led convention illegal and its actions void. President McNulty eventually appealed to American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) President Samuel Gompers, who ruled that the McNulty-Collins administration was the duly-elected representative of the I.B.E.W. The situation was finally settled when a court decision in February 1912 declared a 1908 Reid-Murphy convention was illegal and its actions were void. Then on March 21, a Federal judge in Cleveland recognized the McNulty-Collins group’s claim to all I.B.E.W. assets.

Soon after, Local 72 asked to be re-affiliated with the original I.B.E.W., which reinstated and rechartered the local on July 24, 1912, to represent only inside wiremen in Waco. During a special meeting on September 15, 1912, the local unanimously passed a measure dictating that



Local 72 members display the local's banner and a sign declaring the local was a member of the “Reid-Murphy” faction of locals that seceded from the original I.B.E.W. in 1908.

unions and representatives of District Councils “connected with the seceders” asking to “re-affiliate,” President McNulty later reported in the June 1914 *Journal*. During that meeting, a “Tentative Agreement” to allow the remaining Reid-Murphy locals back into the I.B.E.W. was presented to the leaders of the splinter faction.

The split came to an official end in August 1913 when the State of Ohio Supreme Court ruled in favor of the McNulty-led I.B.E.W. and ordered Reid to stop using the I.B.E.W. name. Immediately afterward, the general president published an invitation to the locals that seceded, inviting them to re-affiliate with no repercussions. More than 100 of those locals ultimately re-joined the I.B.E.W., and nearly all the locals that had broken away attended the I.B.E.W.’s 12th convention in Boston later that year.

Progress Delayed By Historic Events

“Will state that we are 100 percent strong here. Every shop signed up and all inside men are in the local.”

Although electrical work in Waco and throughout the Local 72 jurisdiction had curtailed from levels of the previous two years, press secretary **Brother Gus Erfurth** was still able to make the above report in his letter to the February 1915 issue of the since-renamed I.B.E.W. *Journal*. Nevertheless, that year and during the following years, several of the local’s members were forced to travel to the jurisdictions of other I.B.E.W. locals for employment at times.

(Meanwhile, the I.B.E.W. had chartered Local No. 97 in Waco in 1914 to serve and represent the city's outside linemen, although the local would go defunct sometime in 1923.)

During the late 1910s and throughout the 1920s, however, work for Local 72's member electricians within their own territory was steady, and the local regularly took in new members during that time while also actively policing its jurisdiction. Case in point, at its September 26, 1921, regular general meeting the local asked its members "to report at each meeting whether or not they had worked with non-union men and who they were." In another instance a few years later, the local levied a \$50 fine against a member on February 9, 1925, for "executing a contract (with a contractor) while a member of Local 72, in accordance with our agreement with the electrical contractors of Waco."

Construction of three buildings for the **Waco Public School Board** in 1924 and into 1925 were among the projects that consistently employed Local 72 members during the decade. What's more, the school district would continue to utilize union electricians and other build-trades craftspeople throughout the 1920s.

As positive conditions persisted, in August 1924 the local received a 10-percent wage increase in a new working agreement with its contractors. The pact also called for an additional increase in the future for the city's union electricians.

Then in April the following year, the local saw fit to assign a steward to each one of its contractors' shops in order to monitor working conditions and serve as a conduit between the local and its employers. At that



Local 72 crew of electricians that worked in 1914 at the Texas Cotton Palace in Waco, an exhibition ground built in 1894 and rebuilt in 1910 to highlight the extensive cotton-growing activities in the area. (The Cotton Palace closed permanently on October 19, 1930.)



The Waco Labor Temple at 702 Franklin Avenue, pictured sometime during the 1970s. (Image courtesy of The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)

time, the local's members were working for **Doyle Electric Company, Hodges Electric Company, Votaw Electric Company, The Lane Company, Brazos Electric Company** and **Gee's Electric Company**.

Wielding its growing strength, the local threatened to strike against its contractors on July 1, 1926, if they did not accept a new agreement with an increased wage scale and improved working conditions. After delaying any action until July 6, the following day the contractors succumbed to the union's demands and signed the new contract.

More manhours became available for Local 72 electricians in November 1928 with the start of construction on the new **Atlas-Portland Cement plant** near Waco. Work on the facility continued into 1929, during which time the local appointed a shop steward for the project, and included new mill and office buildings and the installation of one of the largest rotary cement kilns in the world.

While the effects of the **Great Depression**, the economic and human catastrophe that essentially began with the U.S. stock market crash of October 29, 1929 – history's "Black

LOCAL 72 UNION HALLS

Waco Labor Hall

617-1/2 Franklin Avenue
1897 – 1900

Maccabee Hall

6th Street and Austin Avenue
1900 – 1901

Waco Labor Hall

617-1/2 Franklin Avenue
1901 – 1912

I.A.T.S.E. Hall

(International Alliance of
Theatrical Stage Employees)
4th and Washington Streets
1912 – 1913

Waco Labor Temple

729 Washington Street
1913 – 1915

Waco Labor Hall

102-1/2 South Fourth Street
1915 – 1932

Waco Labor Hall

610-1/2 Columbus Avenue
1932 – 1943

Waco Labor Temple

702 Franklin Avenue
1943 – 2000

Local 72 Union Hall

1813 Orchard Lane
2000 – current



The Local 72 Union Hall at 1813 Orchard Lane in Waco.

FIRST FEMALE MEMBERS

As early as 1901, Local 72 counted among its members an unknown number of women who were operators at the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company in Waco.

Sister Susan Fornoff became the first female journeyman-electrician member of Local 72 when she transferred into the local from Des Moines, Iowa, Local No. 347 in February 1984, after which she was initially employed by Tom Cuff Electric Company on work at the M&M Mars Confectionery candy factory in Waco.

Tuesday” – did not immediately affect Local 72, eventually it would take its toll as it continued throughout the 1930s. But first, the local gained a new working agreement with its contractors in August 1930 while it also took in new members that year.

However, as the United States and Canada experienced unprecedented economic stress as a result of the Depression, more than 50 percent of I.B.E.W.’s membership was idled throughout North America and wages for members who were able to work tumbled, according to the I.B.E.W. *History & Structure*. Local 72 ultimately accepted a cut in its wage scale to \$1 per hour for an eight-hour workday beginning on May 11, 1932.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal” legislation in 1933 included a series of economic measures designed to alleviate the worst effects of the Depression, reinvigorate the economy and restore the confidence of the American people in their banks and other institutions. “Organized labor was especially affected by a series of laws concerning workers’ rights enacted by Congress during the early New Deal,” *History & Structure* recounts. “For example, the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 established the Public Works Administration, provided for collective bargaining, and included wage and hour standards.”

New Deal program-funded projects in Waco that provided employment included the \$58,000 Municipal Stadium, which was funded by the Public Works Administration and built between May and October 1936. That year, the U.S. Treasury Department also funded construction of a new U.S. Federal Courthouse and Post Office.

But building-trades work remained slow for Local 72 into 1938, by which time it no longer had a written agreement with the electrical contractors in and around Waco. Its members were still being paid \$1 per hour at the time, although construction of rural telephone lines in the area during the late 1930s not only provided some work but also brought new members into the local.

Supporting a War, Scuffling Afterwards

With **World War II** already raging in Europe beginning September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland, defense-related construction had increased around the United States even before the nation entered the war following the Japanese attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. As work picked up significantly within Texas and the Local 72 jurisdiction as the need for wartime training and materiel quickly expanded – which finally pulled the country and its unions completely out of the Great Depression – the local voted during its December 23, 1941, regular meeting to hire a full-time business manager at \$60 per week “as quickly as he can be released from his present position,” minute meetings recorded. **Brother Roy Howell** was subsequently elected to the position that evening.

Many of the local’s members worked during the early years of the war on construction of the new **U.S. Army Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center** established near Killeen,

LOCAL 72 BUSINESS MANAGERS

Brother William Hodges served as Local 72’s first president and **Brother Joseph Hodges** served as its first financial secretary/treasurer when the local was chartered in March 1897. Over the following 33 years, multiple different presidents headed the local in a part-time capacity before the local first installed a business manager in 1930 to oversee and handle its daily operations.

Tilman S. Cox
1930 – 1932

John M. Blackford
1932 – 1934

(None)
1934 – 1940

Robert M. McKechnie
1940 – 1941

William Roy Howell
1941 – 1943
(Brother Howell was Local 72’s first paid, full-time business manager when he was elected on December 23, 1941.)

Michael E. Dyer
1943 – 1944

H. L. Johnson
1944 – 1947

F. D. Roberson
1947 – 1949

H. L. Johnson
1949 – 1955

Roy B. Johnson
1955 – 1956

T. Clyde Reedy Jr.
1956 – 1958

H. L. Johnson
1958 – 1959

C. C. Maxwell
1959 – 1960

H. L. Johnson
1960 – 1961

J. C. Robinson
1961 – 1965

T. L. Jack
1965 – 1966

J. C. Robinson
1966 – 1973

Tommy J. Davis
1973 – 1977

Ronald P. Cantrell
1977 – 2004

Michael L. Adamson
2004 – 2007

John E. Glockzen
2012 – 2013

Craig W. Miller
2013 – current



Brother Ronnie Cantrell, who served as Local 72 business manager for 27 years, with his wife, D'Mel, taking part in a picket.



Local 72 crew, including I.B.E.W. members from other locals around the country, employed by North Dallas Electric Company that worked on construction and expansion of the new Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center that comprised U.S. Army Camp Hood (predecessor of Fort Hood) near Killeen, Texas, shown here in April 1943.

Texas, beginning in January 1942. Employed by the North Dallas Electric Company on the project, Local 72 electricians helped prepare the facility, which was officially named **Camp Hood**, for the arrival of its first units on April 2, 1942, and its official opening on September 18, 1942. *(The center, which has been continuously used for armored-battle training since its opening, would be renamed Fort Hood April 15, 1950, as a result of its permanent status.)*

Later that year as the demand for workers escalated with the proliferation of the war and the necessity to supply the nation's military, the I.B.E.W. granted Local 72 jurisdiction over **utility workers** in Waco, re-classifying the local as a "mixed trade" local on August 25, 1942. The union also amended the local's charter again less than two years later on April 20, 1944, to include non-beneficial "B" members who could join the I.B.E.W. without paying into and being a part of benefit funds, such as healthcare.

I.B.E.W. **Local No. 119** of Temple, Texas, a mixed inside-wiremen and outside-linemen local that was chartered by the union on February 2, 1928, was merged into Local 72 on January 1, 1949.

The local also in the early 1940s gained a sizable group of workers who had been slot machine mechanics until the machines were outlawed in Texas.

Meanwhile, the local's growing membership was so busy that it voted during its regular meeting on March 10, 1943, to only meet once per month. Additional projects commanding many of the local's manhours included an addition to the **Camp Hearne** prisoner-of-war facility in early 1943 and construction of the new **General Tire & Rubber Company plant** in Waco beginning in late 1944 – which would produce rubber-based equipment such as truck tires, rafts and specialized balloons for the U.S. Army and Navy starting in January 1945. *(According to Baylor University's Waco History project, after the war the company began to switch from military production to consumer- and industrial-based products at the Waco plant and, in November 1945, built its first passenger-car tire there, soon after which 2,500 tires were made at the plant each day.)*

While the end of the war on September 2, 1945, with Japan's surrender (after Germany had capitulated on May 7) was roundly celebrated nationwide, soon after, employment

for Local 72 members within their jurisdiction rapidly dwindled. Manhours eventually became so sparse for lack of work that in September 1946 the local's Executive Board cashed two \$500 bonds to allow the local to continue operating for 90 days.

As the second half of the decade wore on and work remained slack most times, the local worked to generate employment opportunities for its members. In one particular effort, the local and the Waco branch of the **National Electrical Contractors' Association**, the union's employing contractors' group, in early 1948 submitted an amendment to revise and update the city's electrical building code, which was adopted by the City Council on March 2. Then in May 1948, Local 72 adopted a plan to obtain more residential-wiring work in and around Waco, which included decreasing the ratio of journeymen-to-apprentices on a residential job to 1-to-2 and labeling any building with apartments as "commercial" structures.

The local was also able to gain a new contract early the following year after submitting a proposal to contractors for a new wage scale of \$2.37-1/2 per hour and double-time pay for all overtime work.

Then in an effort to consolidate the administration of smaller locals, the I.B.E.W. merged mixed-trade **Local No. 119** of Temple, Texas, into Local 72 on January 1, 1949, expanding the Waco local's jurisdiction and membership as the 1940s were drawing to a close.

From Prime Jobs To Miniscule Work

The onset of several major projects in central Texas significantly boosted work opportunities for Local 72 entering the 1950s. Among those jobs on which the local's electricians were employed beginning in 1951 was construction of the **Lake Whitney Dam Power Plant**, a double 15,000-kilowatt generating-unit power station on the Brazos River that when completed in 1953 provided power for the Brazos Electric Power Cooperative.

Local 72 members also wired the new **Lake Creek Power House** for the Texas Power & Light Company while working for contractor Fishbach & Moore beginning in 1952. The first unit of the gas-generation plant began commercial operation on April 2, 1953, after which the power station in eastern McLennan

Local 72 Training and Education

PRODUCING TRUE CRAFTSMEN FOR CENTRAL TEXAS

From the time I.B.E.W. Local No. 72 was first formed in March 1897, on-the-job training gained while working alongside experienced, journey-level electrical workers has been the primary means for the local's apprentices to learn the electrical trade. Then as now, apprentices were paid while being educated on worksites, earning a wage while learning the craft.

Seeking to improve, enhance and develop the training of the local's apprentices, Local 72 and its employing contractors affiliated with the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) first formed the **Waco Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee** (J.A.T.C.) in 1947. The committee

consisted of three representatives each from the local and the contractors who would work together to oversee the operation and funding of the local's training program.

Subsequently, the J.A.T.C. inaugurated an **Apprenticeship Training Class** on February 26, 1948, in cooperation with the Apprentice Training Service and the Waco public school system. Classes for 16 apprentices were initially held two nights per week for 2-1/2 hours per session. Shortly after the local began providing the class, Local 72 **Business Manager Frank Roberson** reported in the May 1948 I.B.E.W. *Journal*:

"Sincere interest has been manifested (in the Apprenticeship Training Class) not only by apprentices and our membership but by the public at large. It is indeed most gratifying."

The J.A.T.C. soon after transformed that initial training class into a formal, five-year **Apprentice Training Program**. While still centered around hands-on, on-the-job training was augmented with structured classes and laboratory training proctored by journeyman electrical workers held at **Waco Technical High School** (which was renamed University High School in 1954) on Bagby Avenue.

By the 1980s, classes and labs for the Waco Electrical J.A.T.C. comprehensive five-year curriculum (which was briefly shortened to four years during that time) were being held at the Local 72 union hall in the Waco Labor Temple, as well as rented spaces in the city. When the local purchased and moved into its new – and current – union hall at 1813 Orchard Lane in Waco, it also moved its training into a dedicated, fully equipped facility on the property.

From the **Waco Electrical J.A.T.C. Training Center**, Local 72 and its contractors provide apprentices with related classroom instruction while they also work alongside experienced journeymen on jobsites and earn livable wages that escalate as they advance through their apprenticeships. Courses the local's apprentices must complete to become journeyman electrical workers after their five-year education include Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 30-hour Construction Industry Outreach, First Aid/CPR and Leadership Training.

Concurrently, the J.A.T.C. offers upgrade training for I.B.E.W. journeyman members in the central-Texas area so that they can maintain their skills and remain up-to-date on the electrical industry's latest technologies and methods.

County would be built up to a 317-megawatt generating capacity before being retired in 2009.

During that time, the local also gained a new agreement with the Electrical Contractors of Waco on January 7, 1952, that raised its journeyman wage scale to \$2.75 per hour. The contract also put into place a "no-strike" clause that prohibited strikes by the local and instead called for all disputes over the agreement to be settled by a **Joint Conference Committee** of three representatives each from the union and the employers.

That year, the I.B.E.W. also expanded the local's jurisdiction to again include outside linemen as utility work picked up in central Texas.

Although construction slowed briefly in the Local 72 jurisdiction during the end of the first half of the decade to a point at which the local did not negotiate for a new wage scale in its 1954 contract, Local 72 was successful in its organizing during that time. As such, by 1956 the local had units representing employees at several different Texas Power and Light Company plants: **East Waco Unit 72-1** in Waco; **Lake Creek Unit 72-2** in Riesel, Texas; **Collin County Unit 72-3** in Collin County; **Rivercrest Unit 72-4** in Bogata, Texas; and **Industrial Generating Unit 72-5** in Rockdale, Texas, which supplied power to the expansive Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) plant there. The local had also organized workers in the Brazos River Electrical Cooperative, a 4,000-megawatt generation and transmission cooperative that serviced members in 68 counties from the Texas Panhandle to Houston, into **Brazos River Co-op Unit 72-6** in Belton, Texas.

Sluggish construction persisted through much of the second half of the 1950s, leaving the local struggling at times – but always working through its difficulties. In 1957, for instance, during which the local was servicing about 315 members, its Audit Committee examined the local's finances for the first half



The first-ever Local 72 apprenticeship class, which matriculated in February 1948, included apprentices (left to right, front row) Edward D. Athey, future business manager T. Clyde Reedy Jr., Frank Pope, Ben Oppenheim, T. R. Blanton Jr., Sam Stewart and E. Robinson; and (back row) instructor Frank Maddox, William M. "Bill" Peevey, R. L. Johnson, George Binder, Robert Geggenblicher and J. Lester Taylor.

Local 72 organized the **Local No. 72 Electricians Federal Credit Union** in July 1956 to provide its members with banking services through the member-operated financial institution. In 1978, the credit union affiliated with the GENCO Federal Credit Union, which was serving employees of the General Tire and Rubber Company's Waco plant.

of the year “to suggest means to bring this local union’s expenses within its income.” The committee’s proposals to save funds, which it made while also considering they could be executed “without affecting the operations of the local union,” included using “economic judgment” when making phone calls, forgoing attendance to I.B.E.W.-related conventions, suspending the \$6-per-week position of assistant to the financial secretary and not requiring the business manager to travel to regular meetings of the local’s trade units.

As employment continued to fluctuate, many members traveled to work with sister I.B.E.W. locals in the late 1950s in cities including Dallas and Houston.

Before the end of the decade on February 17, 1959, all linemen who had come into Local 72 since it was granted jurisdiction over them just seven years earlier were transferred into outside-linemen-only **Local No. 346** of Arlington, Texas, which the union had just chartered on March 1 of that year. *(Local 346 would be amalgamated into Dallas-based Local No. 59 on April 1, 1979; Local 59 would have its charter revoked on July 20, 1998, at which time all of its members were transferred into newly chartered, mixed-trades Local No. 20 of Dallas-Fort Worth.)* Afterward, Local 72 was again a “mixed” local representing wiremen and utility workers – which it remains at its 125th charter anniversary in 2022.

Roller-Coaster Ride Through The 1960s

As employment continued to fluctuate, many members traveled to work with sister I.B.E.W. locals throughout Texas and the United States in cities including Dallas and Houston during the early 1960s. But in 1960 the lack of work became so prevalent that the local formed a committee “to plan some assistance for unemployed members.”

That June 1, the members of the local’s ALCOA-employees Unit 72-5 in Rockdale left Local 72 to form their own local, which the I.B.E.W. chartered on June 1, 1960, as utility-trade **Local No. 2078**.

With members continuing to struggle to gain consistent manhours, Local 72 raised its working assessment on all members from 2 percent to 3 percent beginning in April 1961. The increased charge on hours worked would help maintain the local financially while many members were not fully employed.



Local 72 crew that worked on construction of the Lake Creek Power Plant in Waco in 1953.

But the number and significance of construction and maintenance jobs in the local’s jurisdiction slowly began to increase beginning in 1963 – and would continue an upward trend through the balance of the decade. Initial notable projects that employed Local 72 wiremen that year included the new Borden Company milk-processing plant in Waco and a new shopping center in the city.

To help boost its newfound favorable conditions, the local in May 1964 increased efforts to organize residential wiremen in its jurisdiction, appointing three members that month to lead the efforts. The local then announced that November that it would be collecting 50 cents from each member for 10 months beginning January 1965 to give to the **Texas State Association of Electrical Workers** “for legislative purposes to further the cause of unionism in Texas.”

Concurrently, construction of a new, \$10-million **Veterans Administration Hospital** in Temple, Texas, beginning in November 1964 employed many Local 72 members. The facility included a 240-bed neuropsychiatric and general medical and surgical centers wired by union electricians when it was completed in 1965. *(The hospital would be renamed the Olin E. Teague Veterans’ Center in 1978 after the Temple-native World War II veteran and U.S. congressman.)*

By 1965, Central Texas’ “bustling, growing economy,” as an article in that year’s May 16 *Waco Tribune-Herald* reported, resulted in work for Local 72 members as new industrial, commercial and residential construction was underway throughout the region. “Business is being expanded; residential building is going fast in many places; government projects are



Local 72 Brother Roy Carter (second from right, front row) receives his 40-year I.B.E.W. Service Award pin from I.B.E.W. International Vice President A. E. Edwards during an awards ceremony in 1954 as other recipients look on: (left to right, front row) J. M. Blackford, 30 years; I. “Dutch” Wilhelm, 40 years; and (back row) R. J. Muckleroy, 25 years; Barton Waters, 25 years; William R. “Roy” Howell, 20 years; and N. R. Noack, 25 years.

everywhere; and schools are being built,” the newspaper declared.

What’s more, that March Local 72 and its NECA contractors settled on a new, two-year agreement that provided two 12-1/2-cent wage increases on February 1, 1965, and February 1, 1966. The raises took the local’s journeyman hourly pay scale to 4.12-1/2 for the first year and then to \$4.25 for the second year of the pact.

Local 72’s members then gained a fully funded retirement **Pension Plan** in 1966 through the I.B.E.W., which had originally established the National Employees’ Benefit Fund (N.E.B.F.) with NECA in 1946. Twenty years later, the N.E.B.F. pension was changed from a flat-dollar amount to one based on a member’s number of service credits, and Local 72 subsequently became party to the retirement benefit.

Work continued to boom in the local’s jurisdiction, keeping members consistently employed on projects including construction of a turkey-processing plant in 1965 for

Plantation Foods (which would be purchased by **Cargill** in 1998); expansion of the Atlas-Portland Cement plant in 1968; projects for General Tire and at the **Pilgrim's Pride** chicken-processing plant in Mt. Pleasant, Texas; and large numbers of smaller jobs and service calls. Throughout much of the latter years of the decade, Local 72 was able to host travelers from sister I.B.E.W. locals, including Local 346, to help handle the abundance of electrical jobs in Central Texas.

Sweet Successes And Sour Patches

The local would continue to make some significant gains during the 1970s, although they were tempered by occasional though at-times challenging setbacks. One early advancement was the local's affiliation in July 1970 with the Texas State

Association of Electrical Workers, an affiliation of the state's I.B.E.W. locals that coordinates political and legislative efforts and facilitates the coordination of union education, training and safety programs.

Abundant work during the first half of the decade included a \$5 million expansion of the **Hillcrest Baptist Hospital** in Waco. When completed in 1975 with the skilled craftsmen of Local 72, the job added new surgical facilities, an emergency-room area and radiological and radio-isotope sections to the medical center.

One of the more-significant projects ever built in the Local 72 jurisdiction using union electricians also began in 1973 with construction of the **M&M Mars confectionery plant** in Waco. "Destined to become the largest candy making facility in the worldwide Mars organization," as an article in the July 23, 1980, Waco Tribune-Herald later reported, the plant began making

Starburst and Snickers candies in 1976 after being wired by Local 72 members.

Subsequently, the Waco M&M Mars plant "was the top site for candy-corporation expansion in the late 1970s and early 1980s," according to the newspaper, much of which provided substantial manhours for Local 72 members. *(According to company literature, by 2018 the plant was producing over 65 percent of all Snickers, 80 percent of all Skittles and all of the Starburst in North America.)*

During that time, the local's membership also obtained one of its most vital assets when the local negotiated for a new **Health and Welfare Fund** benefit in its working agreement with contractors. Funded by per-hours-work contributions by the members' employers, the membership selected a Blue Cross Blue Shield health-insurance plan that went into effect February 15, 1974.

But after the completion of the M&M Mars factory and other larger jobs in the early 1970s, electrical-industry work opportunities waned. As poor employment conditions continued, new **Business Manager Ronnie Cantrell** was faced with a high number of out-of-work members and a local that was nearly bankrupt



Local 72 officers and members and their employing National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) contractors attend a dinner meeting at the Riley Hotel in Waco in March 1955: (left table, clockwise from bottom left) Roy Harper, former business manager John M. Blackford, Frank Roberson, R. J. Muckleroy, future business manager T. Clyde Reedy Jr., Tom Coff, Business Manager Roy B. Johnson, N. R. Noack, Dick Cole, (NECA contractor), Gene Reynolds, Chester Labit, (NECA contractor), George Lane, I. "Dutch" Wilhelm and Barton Waters; (right front table, clockwise from left) Joe Graves, George Dertine, Martin Zapalak, Terrel Warlick, Ben Oppenheim, William M. "Bill" Peevey, Morris Lillard and Tom Davis; (right back table, clockwise from left) Kenneth Waters, Brother Waters, Art Boehme, Ed Young, Leslie Parks, Billy Cooper, C. C. Maxwell and Guy Hines; and (standing, left to right) former business manager William R. "Roy" Howell, Paul Bower, Art Edwards, Red Jenkins, Charles Clark, Ralph Simmons, Ollie Kent, Frank Howell, Pat Stone, W. A. Hurst, George Tadlock, Jim Bounds, Sam Braun, Mack Bryant, Dan Baxter, Charles Whitmire, Red Hill, Red Braziel, Travis Ray, Clifford Clark, Billy Bena and R. A. Dockers.



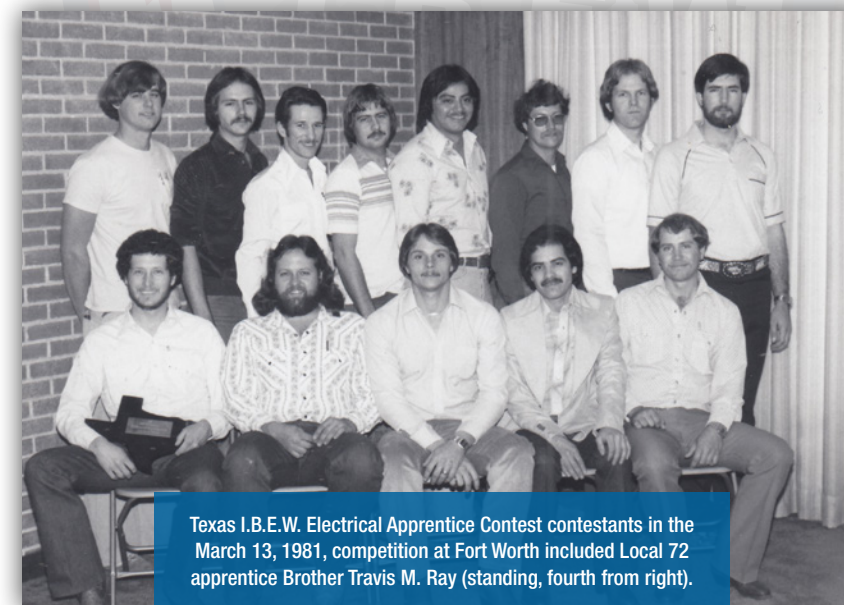
Local 72 members man an informational picket against a non-union contractor on a job in Waco in 1980.

when he was first elected and took over leading Local 72 in 1977.

However, steady work slowly returned to the area, highlighted by another, \$11.3-million renovation and expansion of the Hillcrest Baptist Hospital beginning in 1977 that utilized the local's electricians for enlarging and remodeling patient-care areas and wiring a new cancer center. Elsewhere, Local 72 wiremen were also used extensively for maintenance, expansions and renovations at the **Texas Instruments** facility in Waco and the two power houses in the local's coverage area.

With the local's work situation "the best it has been in a few years," as the Local 72 **press secretary Andrew Irwin** described it in the January 1979 *Journal*, that February the local hired a secretary to work in the office and assist its business manager with daily administrative functions.

But non-union electrical-construction entities were infiltrating the local's



Texas I.B.E.W. Electrical Apprentice Contest contestants in the March 13, 1981, competition at Fort Worth included Local 72 apprentice Brother Travis M. Ray (standing, fourth from right).

jurisdiction at an increasingly alarming rate by that time; in fact, Business Manager Cantrell announced to the local's April 11, 1979, general membership meeting that "a large, non-union contractor is again getting some large jobs in the area." In response, the local picketed many non-union construction jobs to inform its workers and the public, in general, of the shortcomings of non-union labor and employers (such as inferior pay, training and safety practices).

The local was able to end the decade on a high note, however, as work remained ample for its members, and it also negotiated a new, two-year contract with its contractors that increased its journeyman wireman scale to \$10.75 per hour on June 1, 1979, and then to \$11.50 per hour on June 1, 1980, for the second year. It also added a **cable-splicer** classification to the agreement at a pay rate of \$1-per-hour above the journeyman wage.

Local 72 Brother William R. "Roy" Howell, who served as the local's business manager in 1942 and 1943, receives his 55-year I.B.E.W. Service Award in 1991 as a retiree of the union. INSET: Brother Howell works on construction of a new wing for the Hillcrest Hospital in Waco during the early 1950s.



Additionally, the pact further provided a new **Vacation Fund** plan for members. With that new benefit, contractors would withhold 5 percent of each member's earnings and pay it to the local instead, which in turn would place the funds in an account at the **Local 72 Electricians Federal Credit Union**, where it would be held until a member withdrew his portion to fund time off.

Enduring Challenges to End 20th Century Strong

Construction of the 708,000-square-foot **Richland Mall** in Waco and other smaller projects including jobs at the Mars confectionery factory, **Owens-Illinois glass plant** in Waco and power plants in the Local 72 jurisdiction helped keep its members employed into and during 1980. By that year, the local had two power-plant units of its members under its authority, **Unit 72-1** for the Limestone County Electric Cooperative and Lake Creek Unit 72-2.

But once that work was completed, the local began a lengthy period of often-volatile employment of its membership beginning in 1982 – and essentially continuing until the end of the millennium. Early on as depressed construction work in a down economy stifled work for its electricians, the local was able to depend on sister I.B.E.W. locals such as **Local No. 59** of Dallas, **Local No. 116** of Fort Worth and **Local No. 520** of Austin to provide its members with work in their respective jurisdictions.

Some substantial, if temporary, relief came to the local in the summer of 1983 with a project to install scrubbers at the **Limestone Electric Generating Station**, which by late 1984 was employing about 80 union electricians. Later that year, however, the local had to report in the December 1983 *Journal*, "Employment is still a concern in our local, with many men in the books in October."

Negotiations for a new contract with its employing contractors that year were likewise challenging amid the struggling economic conditions. While the local was able to gain a new agreement for June 1, 1983, it did not contain a raise in wages but instead provided a few concessions such as a pay scale for welders, an increase of 50-cents-per-hour worked in contractors' insurance contributions and better crew-structure management pay. What's more, the contract also contained a wage-reopener for June 1, 1984, at which time the local could renegotiate its scale.

Escalating economic hardships in central Texas continued to restrict steady employment for Local 72 in 1985. Conditions were further encumbered by the closure of the General Tire and Rubber Company's Waco plant that year.

Subsequently, Local 72 was one of only two Texas-based I.B.E.W. locals that did not receive a wage increase in new working contracts that year.

As always, however, Waco's union electricians did not succumb to the challenge. Instead, the local and its membership turned some of its focus to key advances in the electrical industry, such as automation, and the local embarked on an intensive **organizing campaign** in 1986 to gain more employing electrical contractors.

Then in 1987, another reprieve came in the form of construction of a modern, new sports-

LOCAL 72 TRADE CLASSIFICATIONS

Local 72 was designated a "mixed" **Inside Electrical Wiremen** and **Outside Electrical Linemen** local when it was chartered by the I.B.E.W. on March 2, 1897.

When Local 72 returned to the original I.B.E.W. after it had joined locals that sided with the "Reid-Murphy" faction that split from the union, Local 72 was rechartered on July 24, 1912, as an **Inside Electrical Wiremen** local.

On August 25, 1942, the union added **Utility Workers** to the local's classifications, making it a "mixed" local again.

On September 8, 1952, the union returned the **Outside Electrical Linemen** classification to the local.

The "Outside" designation was removed from the local's trade classifications on February 17, 1959, and its outside-linemen members were transferred into outside-linemen Local No. 346 based in Arlington, Texas.

As of March 2, 2022, the 125th-anniversary date of its charter, Local 72 has represented **Inside Electrical** and **Utility** classifications within its jurisdiction since February 1959.

and-entertainment venue for Baylor University, the 10,000-seat **Paul J. Meyer Arena**, as part of the \$10 million, 150,000-square-foot **Ferrell Center** that replaced the school's Heart O' Texas Coliseum indoor athletic facility. After groundbreaking for the center on July 1, 1987, Local 72 electricians wired the new facility for its first event, a September 22, 1988, address

Baylor University's new McLane Stadium, which Local 72 members helped wire during construction, shown here during its opening football game on August 31, 2014.





Local 72 crew that worked for Rosendin Electric on construction of the Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation at Baylor University in Waco in 2014 and 2015.

by President Ronald Reagan; a Baylor women's basketball game on November 25; and the first Baylor men's basketball game on November 29. As well as serving as the home court for the school's basketball and volleyball teams, the arena has also hosted concerts and graduation commencements.

Completion of the Ferrell Center also brought with it a return of excessive unemployment among the local's membership that would linger through much of the remainder of the 1980s and the 1990s.

Initially during that time, Local 72 did not negotiate for a wage raise in a new, two-year contract extension in 1988. Also that year, the local met with other smaller locals in Texas and NECA officials to "see what could be done to get a better share of work." Among the contractors' recommendations was a "variability of hours" so that union electricians could work hours other than just 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and improved "portability" of manpower so that a

contractor can use more than one but not more than four electricians from its home local when working in another local's jurisdiction.

Local 72 during its November 1988 general membership meetings also discussed temporarily reducing wages as a way of generating more work and manhours for its members. The following month, as a "one-time experiment" the local voted during its December 14 meeting to reduce its journeyman-electrician wage scale by \$1.25 per hour so that its contractor could win a City of Temple public waterworks project. Soon afterward, the local applied the "target wage" on other jobs, initially resulting in contractors **Hensel Electric** and **Womack Electric** winning a job each using the program.

Regardless, weak employment remained throughout 1989 and into 1990 both in Local 72's jurisdiction and those of many other I.B.E.W. locals, which also stunted traveling work opportunities for Waco's union electricians. With maintenance and upgrade work helping to provide some regular

employment, especially at the two power plants in central Texas and Fort Hood, the local and NECA came to an agreement on a "**Target Scale**" in early August 1990 of \$2 per hour below the regular journeyman wage scale "on jobs decided to be targeted by the local union."

But the local continued to struggle, so much so that Brother Cantrell announced during its October 14, 1992, general membership meeting that "not enough members were working to support the local." In response, the local voted that evening to assess each member \$20 to briefly keep the local financially solvent. However, that November 11, the local only consisted of 102 dues-paying inside-wireman members, only 51 of whom were employed along with 12 apprentices in its jurisdiction at the time.

Beginning in late 1994, the local's efforts and persistence in combating distressed conditions finally began paying dividends that would be rewarded with abundant jobs on projects for the V.A. hospital in Temple, the glass plant, the candy factory and the **Exxon-Mobile Chemical plant**, as well as some government jobs. At long last, Business Manager Cantrell was finally able to report to the local during its December 21, 1994, general membership meeting, "Everybody that wants to work is working."

As organizing remained a priority for the local, early the following year, Brother Cantrell was also able to announce during the local's February 8, 1995, meeting, "The Local 72 work situation is looking real good. All shops are busy and everyone is working." Indeed, for the balance of the 1990s, the century and the millennium, during which Local 72

marked its 100th charter anniversary in 1997, work in its jurisdiction was usually steady and its members enjoyed relatively stable employment – thanks in no small measure to the local's endeavors to gain jobs for its employing contractors.

Prosperity Perseveres Into Local's 125th Year

Local 72 entered the new "Y2K" millennium with high hopes for its future as construction work in central Texas surged – optimism that would be fulfilled as strong employment persisted through to the local's 125th anniversary in 2022. Soon after the local began that period of good fortune, it also purchased its own union hall for the first time ever, moving into the former headquarters of United Rubber Workers of America Local No. 312, which had served employees at the General Tire plant, at **1813 Orchard Lane** in Waco in 2000.

The good times of the 2000s decade were punctuated with abundant work from sources such as the two power plants, where members continued to perform a large amount of maintenance and upgrade work, and Baylor University, including work on dormitories on its campus.



Local 72 crew that worked for Hensel Electric Company on a project at Ascension Providence Hospital in Waco in 2016 and 2017.

The university provided the local with another of its signature projects when its union electricians wired much of Baylor's new, \$250-million, 45,000-seat **McLane Stadium** for the opening Bears football game in 2014. While the bulk of the electrical work went non-union, signatory contractors Parsons Electric from Minnesota and Energy and Automation from Waco won the bid to install the audio-visual system that runs throughout the stadium. Hundreds of televisions, video cameras and speakers from the concourses to the skyboxes and the data boxes that light them up were wired and hung by nearly 40 members of Local 72.

"It would not have been ready for the August 31 opening without the members of Waco, Texas, Local 72," an article in the October 14, 2014, *Electrical Worker* online journal proclaimed. Local 72 **Business Manager Craig Miller** also added, "I am optimistic that our record on this job puts us in position to win away a fair bit of the maintenance and repair work that will likely be needed."



Local 72 retirees Brother Arnold Kroll, Brother Willie Wondra and Brother Ed Matus display their I.B.E.W. Service Awards after receiving them during a ceremony at the local's union hall in 2017.

Employment for the local's 140-members remained robust with additional jobs that included furnace rebuilds and a new scrubber at the Owens-Illinois glass plant, which was making the ubiquitous amber bottles for Coors Light and Miller Light beers. More work came on the Baylor campus, as well, such as construction of the new home for the university's prominent Hankamer School of Business – the \$100 million, 275,000-square-foot **Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation**, on which a Local 72 crew of

about 40 electricians and apprentices worked for Rosendin Electric in 2014 and 2015.

In the following decade, as the local was rebounding from the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that first appeared in the United States in early 2020 and would claim the lives of more than 600,000 Americans, central Texas again boomed with electrical construction in 2021 and early 2022 as the local turned 125 years old. During that time, Local 72 members could be found working at places such as Cargill, Providence Hospital and **McLennan Community College** – much of which the local's members helped build over the previous decades – working on a sizeable number of smaller jobs, as well as Baylor, where union electricians performed about half of the electrical work in 2022 to date.

The local was also able to gain a new, three-year working agreement with the Central Texas Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association that took effect June 1, 2021, and would remain in effect beyond the local's 125th anniversary and through June 1, 2024. Among the provisions included in the pact was continuation of the **Labor-Management Committee** of three representatives from the local and its employers to help settle grievances; and the **Referral Procedure** by which the union is "the sole and exclusive source of referral of applicants for employment" and the employers "have the right to reject any applicant."

Included in the contract, which reiterated working hours for the local's members as being eight-hour days anytime between 6 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., was a new wage scale for the local's journeymen, foremen and apprentices. Effective June 1, 2021, the new hourly journeyman wireman base pay was \$27.55; December 1 it went to \$28.05; June 1, 2022, it will increase to \$29.05; and June 1, 2023, it will increase to \$30.05. As always, foremen and



Local 72 Brother Tommy Davis displays his 65-year I.B.E.W. Service Award in March 2020.

cable-splicers were provided with additional pay, while apprentices were paid on a sliding percentage of the journeyman scale based on their years in the training program.

The agreement further provided a contribution by the employers of \$3.10 per hour worked by members into the **I.B.E.W. Local No. 520** Annuity Plan, which had been amended to allow for the participation of Local 72. Among other provisions, it also called for contributions by employers of a percentage of their payrolls into the **National Electrical Industry Fund**, which funds a pension for all I.B.E.W. members; contributions of \$5.45 per hour into the **Central Texas Health and Benefit Plan** for Local 72 members; and for the employers to deduct and transmit to **I.B.E.W.-COPE (Committee on Political Education)** 5 cents for each hour worked from the wages of each employee "who voluntarily authorizes such contributions."

Local 72 crew that worked for William Charles Electric on a project at the Union Pacific Railroad yard in Hearne, Texas, in 2018 and 2019.



The summer of 2021 was particularly busy for the local, which had more than 90 members working for the Electrical Corporation of America on a new **Amazon Fulfillment Center** in Waco. The local even employed traveling members from other I.B.E.W. locals to man all of the work in its jurisdiction, which also included an expansion job with employer Big State Electric for **East Penn Manufacturing** at its battery factory in Temple.

With its healthy employment conditions, the local welcomed many new members, which resulted in growing its membership by 25 percent over the late 2010s and early 2020s. Subsequently, Business Manager Miller announced in the

December 2021 *Electrical Worker*, “As 2021 comes to an end, we look forward to a prosperous new year with membership growth through organizing and our apprenticeship, giving us the ability to support our growing local contractors and welcome traveling contractors.”

At 125 years since being chartered by the I.B.E.W., Local 72 in 2022 is composed of inside wiremen and is well-prepared to support its membership and contractors, as well assist any group of workers who need to organize a union in their workplace. What’s more, with a new-found confidence and optimism, the local is well-positioned to grow along with Central Texas. ■

Local 72 crew that worked for Electrical Corporation of America on construction of the new Amazon fulfillment center in Waco (and wearing masks for protection against the COVID-19 pandemic at the time) in 2021.



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**Congratulates
Everyone**

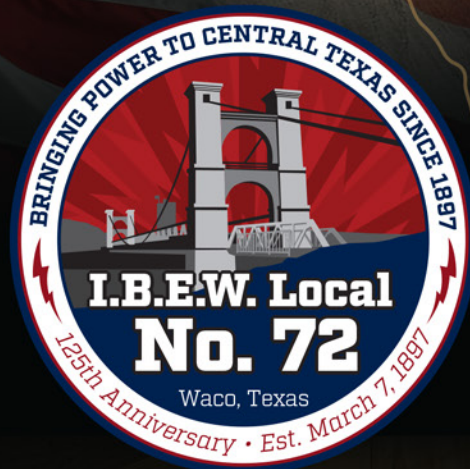
**at IBEW Local 72 on your
125th Anniversary!**

Klein isn't just the name of our company, it's also our family name, so we have to be proud of everything we make. And since we're an American company that's been family-owned and family-run, since 1857, you know you can count on us to be here tomorrow.

As we continue to invest in our U.S. manufacturing, Klein Tools is committed to supporting you with tools that deliver the performance, durability, and precision you need for growth in your community.

Just pick up a Klein tool and you'll know what all the professionals know... when you buy a Klein, it'll never let you down.

**That's why we're the #1 choice
of professional electricians in the U.S.**



***Best Wishes Local 72 with Your
125th Anniversary Celebration***

From

I.B.E.W. Local Union No. 1249

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers • Syracuse, NY

Business Manager Mark Lawrence, Officers, and the Entire Membership



*Serving the outside electrical construction industry of the entirety of
New York State, outside of New York City and Long Island, since 1941.*



HAPPY 125TH and MANY MORE, LOCAL 72!

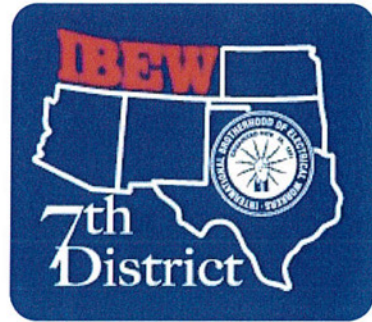
I.B.E.W.



LOCAL 570

From Your Brothers and Sisters in Tucson and Southern Arizona

Chartered July 10, 1907



Congratulations

Officers, Staff and Members of IBEW Local Union 72 as you Celebrate 125 years of service and dedication.

From all of us at the IBEW 7th District

Steve Speer

Jeff Bolin

Javier Casas

Larry Chamberlain

Alan Cutler

John Easton, Jr.

David Galvan

David Gonzales

Frank Grijalva

Trentice Hamm

Roger King

Philip Lawhon

Cesar Martinez

Michael Murphy

Todd Newkirk

Craig Parkman

K.J. Payton

Robert Sample

Will Schenk

Joe Smith

Chris Wagner

SALUTING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF I.B.E.W. LOCAL No. 72 FOR 125 YEARS OF BUILDING CENTRAL TEXAS

Plumbers and
Pipefitters
of
Central Texas
Established 1923



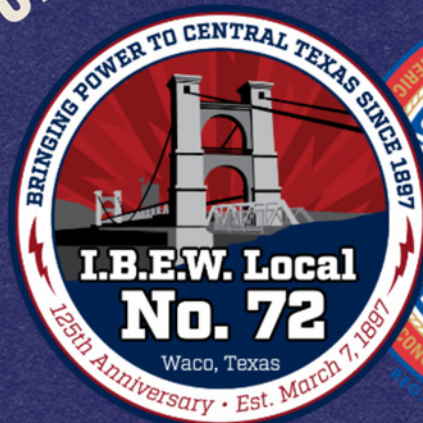
Robert "Chap" Thornton
Business Manager

Victor Schaatt Jr.
Business Agent

Stanton Bridges
President

*Like Local 72, our goal is to ensure the job is done
right the first time, on budget and on time!*

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE TEXAS AFL-CIO



The Texas AFL-CIO congratulates the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 72 on your 125th anniversary. (You don't look a day over 120.) For generations covering nearly the entire history of electrification in Texas, the union has built strong livelihoods and made working families proud. Here's to another 125 years of success!



We Salute IBEW Local 72
as they Celebrate 125 Years!

PROUD MEMBERS OF
TEXARKANA, TEXAS



CHARTERED
OCTOBER 12, 1914

CONGRATULATIONS
LOCAL 72 ON YOUR
125TH ANNIVERSARY!

From I.B.E.W. Local No. 301
The Inside, Maintenance,
Outside and Utility Electrical
Workers of Texarkana

*Thank you for the many
years of Brotherhood!*



BEST WISHES
FROM THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF LOCAL UNION #25, IBEW

KEVIN B. CASEY
Business Manager

JOHN G. GUADAGNO
President

CHRIS CALLAHAN, Vice President
JOSHUA MARGOLIS, Rec. Secretary
JAMES MALLEY, Financial Secretary
RYAN CASEY, Treasurer

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CONGRATULATIONS
ON 125 YEARS FROM
THE OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF



IBEW Local Union 743
Reading, Pennsylvania

Business Manager: Mark Pinkasavage

President / Business Rep: Jason Foster

Business Rep: William Troutman

Training Director: Ed Bernitsky

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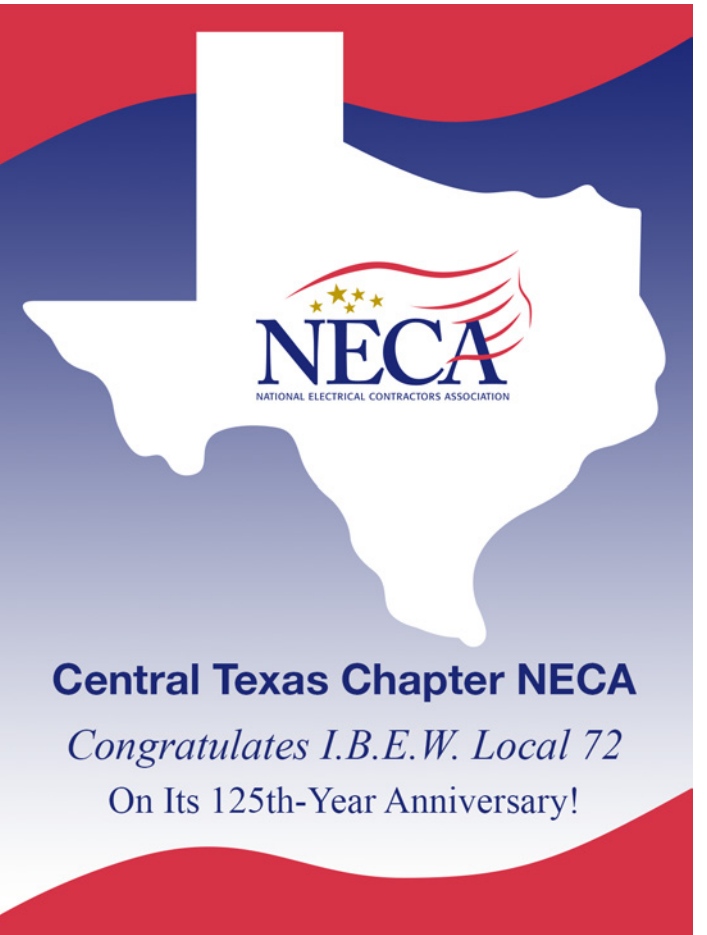
Congratulations Local 72
on 125 Years of Solidarity
I.B.E.W. Local No. 226



Topeka, Kansas

Chartered February 26, 1913

*So proud to stand together for work and family,
The heart and soul that's made this a better place to be.
A voice that speaks to you and me,
Stand with us, say "Union Yes."
We're only as strong as the people who belong,
Their hopes, their dreams, their success.
America works best when we say "Union Yes."*



Central Texas Chapter NECA

*Congratulates I.B.E.W. Local 72
On Its 125th-Year Anniversary!*

