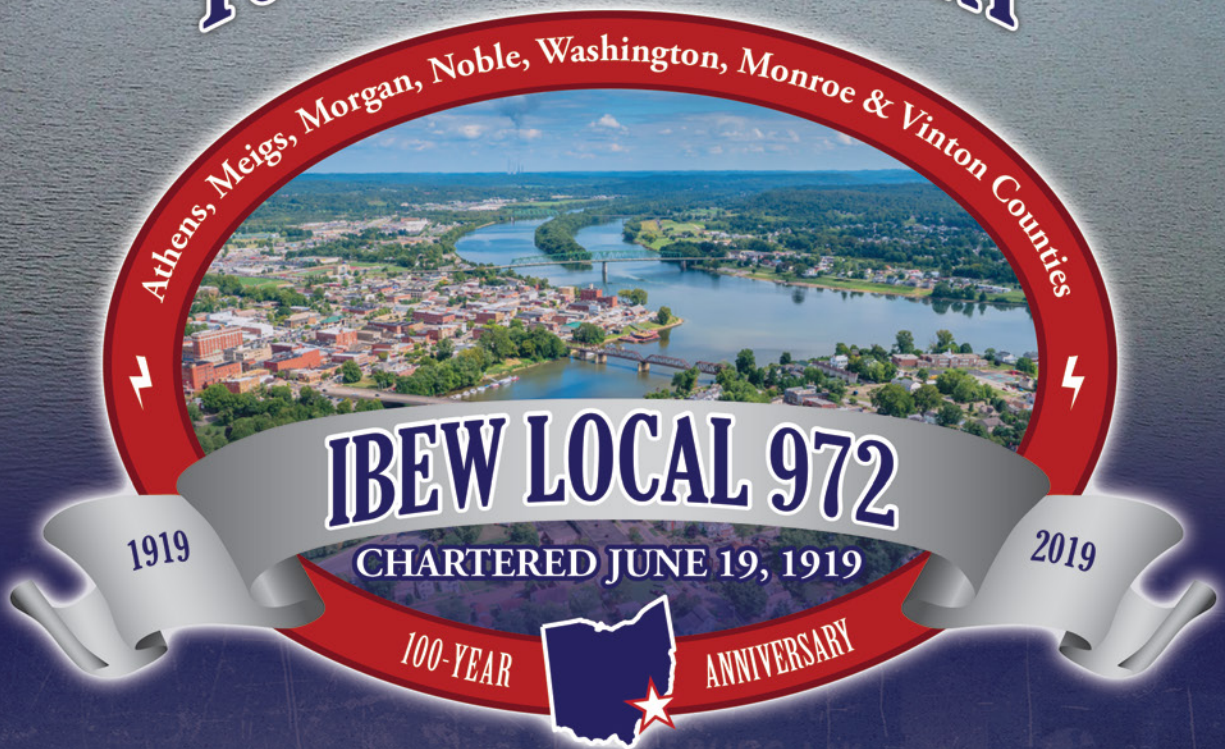


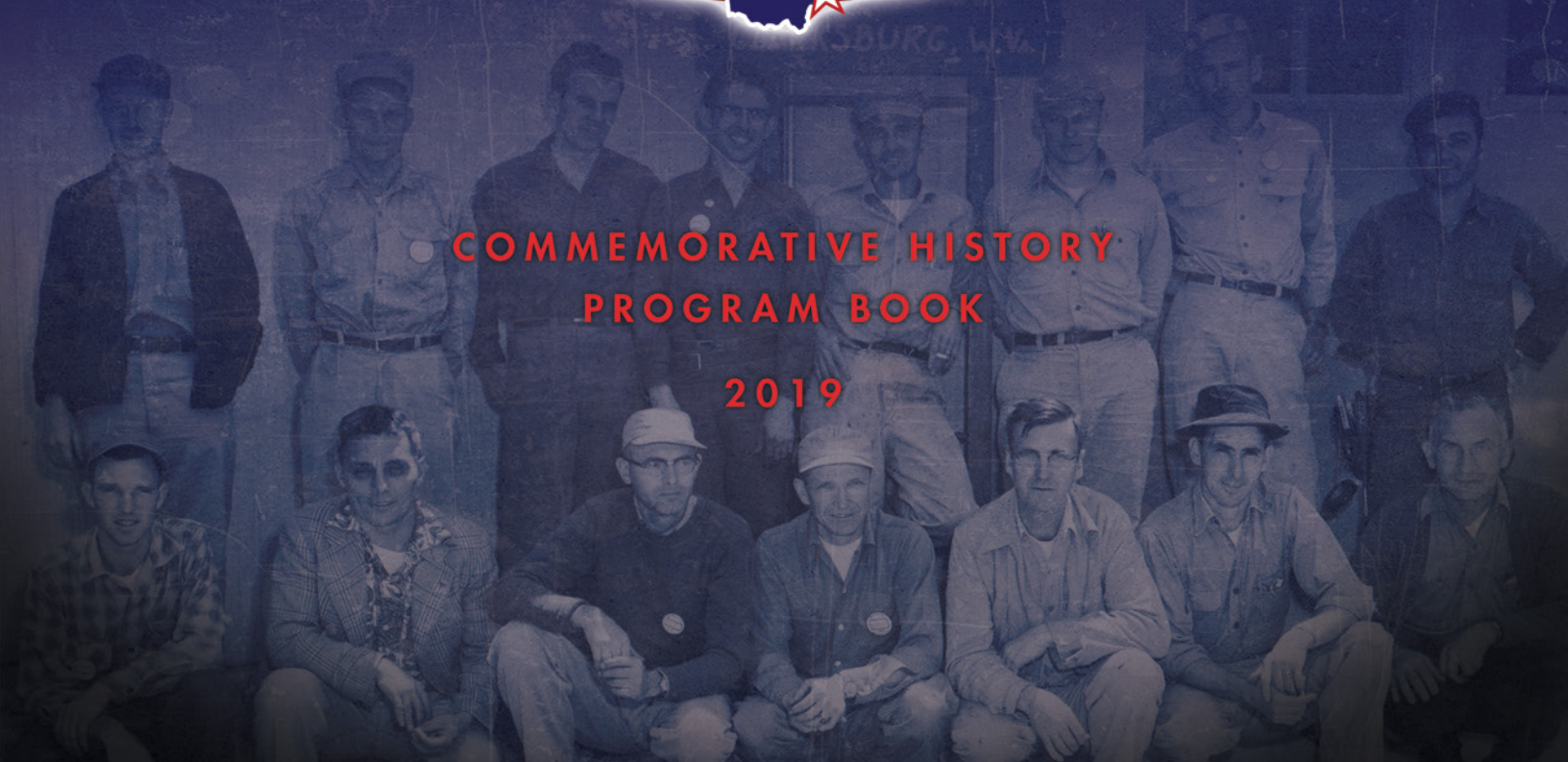
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION NO. 972

100TH ANNIVERSARY



COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY
PROGRAM BOOK

2019



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST 100 YEARS, ELECTRICIANS OF LOCAL 972



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- Architectural Lighting Design
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On Your 100-Year Anniversary**

I.B.E.W. Local No. 1105

Newark, Ohio
Chartered September 4, 1920

Covering the East Central and Southeastern Ohio region of Coshocton, Guernsey, Licking, Muskingum and Perry Counties and the southern parts of Knox and Tuscarawas Counties.

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We wish Local 972 the Very Best in Your Next Century!



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Congratulations to All the Past and Present Members of I.B.E.W. Local 972 on Reaching Your 100th Anniversary! Pritchard Electric Company Sincerely Appreciates the Hard Work, Knowledge, Quality Craftsmanship and Dedication to Safety that are Displayed by Local 972 Electricians. Combined, This has Made You Successful in The Past and Will Pave the Way for Another Successful 100 Years!

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LOCAL UNION 972



100
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating a century of Brotherhood!

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers®

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



I.B.E.W. Local Union 972 – 100th Anniversary Celebration

RIVER CRUISE

Friday, June 21, 2019

Boarding at the Levee in front
of the Lafayette Hotel
101 Front Street, Marietta Ohio.

Boarding.....	5:30 p.m.
Cruise Departure.....	6:00 p.m.
Cruise Returns.....	8:00 p.m.



I.B.E.W. Local Union 972 – 100th Anniversary Celebration

DINNER-DANCE

Saturday, June 22, 2019

Marietta College - Dyson Baudo Recreation Center
215 5th Street
Marietta, Ohio

Welcome Reception.....	5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sit-Down Dinner	6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Presentation.....	7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Live Performance from Velvet Shake, Dancing, Socializing	8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.



GREETING FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER OF I.B.E.W. LOCAL 972

Brothers and Sisters:

Congratulations to the members, retirees and staff of I.B.E.W. Local Union No. 972 on its 100th Anniversary. As we celebrate, may we take a minute to reflect and appreciate those who came before us and the sacrifices they made to bring us to where we are today.

As we look towards our future, I ask that you be proud of your accomplishments and the Brotherhood you have formed. Honor those who have passed the torch to you by being good stewards, and work hard each day to pass union values on to future generations.



Fraternally,

Troy Ferrell
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
I.B.E.W. Local Union No. 972

This book was proudly produced by

UNION HISTORIES™
Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions
unionhistories.com

I.B.E.W. Local 972 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to this book:

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Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson
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THE 100-YEAR HISTORY OF I.B.E.W. LOCAL No. 972 POWERING THE PIONEER UNION ELECTRICAL WORKERS IN THE No

R CITY, MARIETTA, OHIO NORTHWEST TERRITORY'S FIRST SETTLEMENT

“The electrical workers of this city have been planning to organize for some time. They wish to form an organization and gain admission to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America. Everything seems to be progressing satisfactorily and they may soon belong to that organization.”

That report actually appeared in the *Marietta Daily Leader* newspaper on July 27, 1901 – nearly two decades before Local No. 972 would be established and begin its first century of service to Marietta, Ohio. In fact, a “number of electrical workers” had met earlier on June 6 of that year at the electrical shop of B. S. Sprague and “formed an organization for the purpose of securing a charter and organizing a local branch of the International Electrical Workers’ union,” the newspaper reported the following day.

The time seemed right for a local to take hold in the city. The Marietta-Parkersburg area was thriving economically from oil and gas activity and industrial growth, and the city had just completed construction of its first power plant in 1900.

Subsequently, the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** (I.B.E.W.) chartered “mixed” inside-wiremen and outside-linemen **Local No. 195** on July 31, 1901, to organize and serve the electrical industry of the City of Marietta and its surrounding region. The new local initially met every Thursday evening at the “I.B.E.W. Hall” at 195 Fort Square in the city at the confluence of the Muskingum and Ohio rivers.

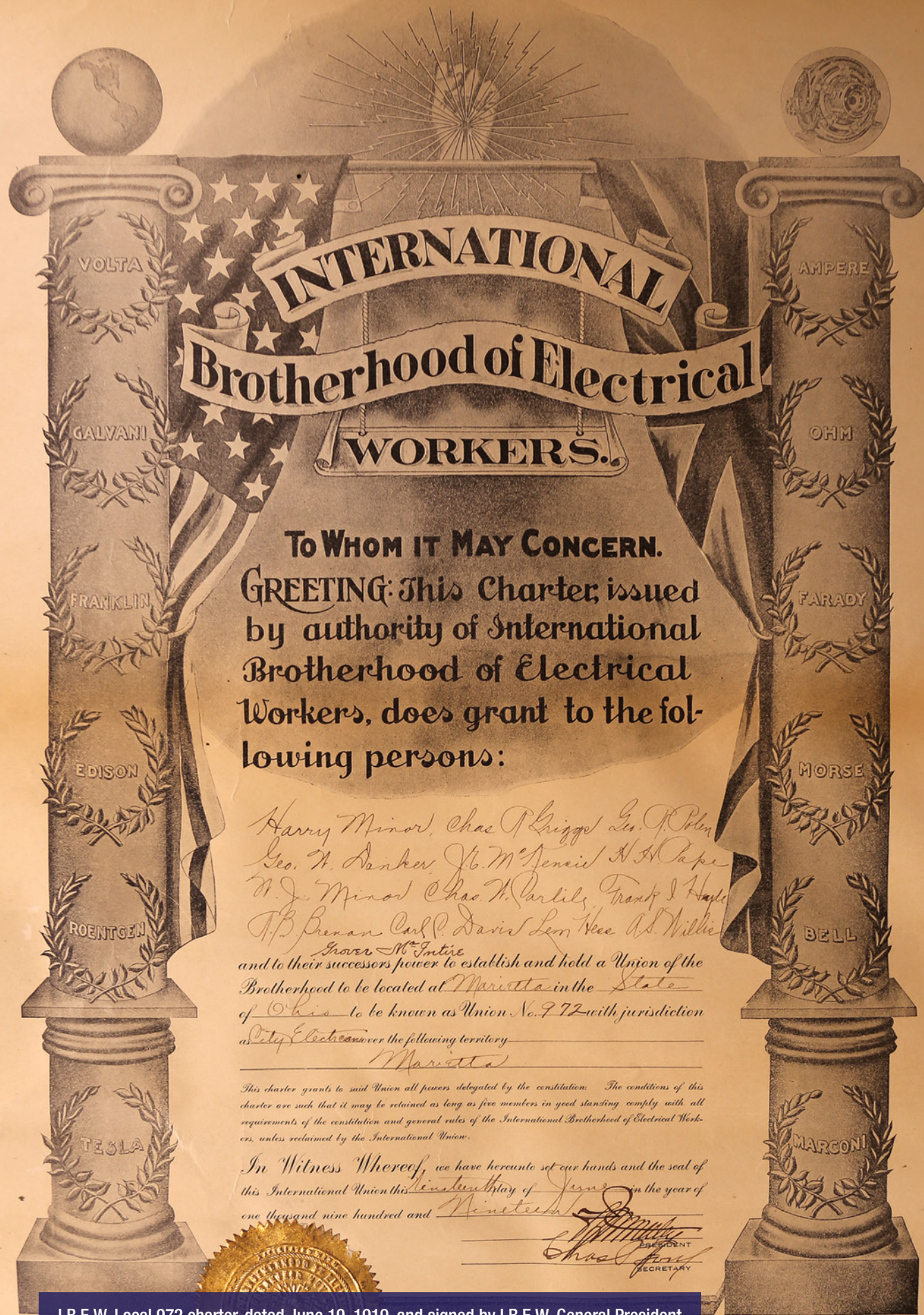
Membership gradually increased at first, with Local 195 Press Secretary C. R. Baker even reporting in a December 9, 1901, letter

to the I.B.E.W. *Electrical Worker Journal*, the union’s monthly publication, “Hardly a meeting goes by without one to three brave lads trying their fortunes with the goat.” But during much of the local’s first year, there was little construction work for the two companies in town that employed union electrical workers.

It was more of the same for the local into 1903, when President A. T. Willey reported in a March 8 letter to the *Electrical Worker*, “No. 195 is at a standstill; nothing doing at all in the under-water city.” (*Brother Willey made reference to the river city’s already notorious history of flooding.*) At the time, only four members were working for the Home Telephone Company (which would be taken over by the Bell Telephone Company the following year), and only two members were working with the city’s street railway company. Meanwhile several members were traveling out of town for employment with other I.B.E.W. locals such as Local No. 168 in Parkersburg, West Virginia (which would go defunct November 30, 1907).

Just one year later, as employment remained stagnant and the use of passenger railways began its decline, the I.B.E.W. declared Local 195 defunct on April 30, 1904, leaving Marietta’s electrical workers without a union to represent them for the next 15 years.





I.B.E.W. Local 972 charter, dated June 19, 1919, and signed by I.B.E.W. General President Frank J. McNulty (who retired that year after serving in the position since 1903) and I.B.E.W. Secretary Charles P. Ford (who served in that position from 1912 into 1925).



Fourteen men, who listed their trade classification as “city electricians” and their address as the “City Electric Light Plant,” signed and submitted a charter application to the I.B.E.W. on June 12, 1919, to re-organize a local union in Marietta. They included a \$14 fee along with their request for submission into the union, on which they named **Brother Harry Minor** as their president.

The I.B.E.W. approved the application on June 18, after which it issued a charter for “city electricians” Local No. 972 of Marietta on **June 19, 1919**. The inside wiremen would also be responsible for a jurisdiction encompassing Washington, Monroe and Noble counties in southeast Ohio.

THE 1920s & '30s: HANGING ON

In a sign of things to come over the next two decades, on July 2, only 10 members paid the \$1.40 monthly union dues and only one new member paid the \$3 initiation fee to join the local that day. For instance, on January 4, 1922, only 11 members would pay the local’s \$2 monthly dues, and on March 7, 1923, only six members would pay the \$2.40 monthly dues.

Indeed, throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Local 972 constantly labored not only to sustain a dues-paying membership but also to survive

at times. Perhaps propelling the local’s struggle to merely subsist in a town of 16,000 residents that had two oil-refineries, 40 manufacturing plants and two daily newspapers by 1922 was Marietta’s apparent standing as a non-union city – in fact, no labor unions of any kind were ever listed in the city’s directory during that period.

While the railroads and streetcars servicing and running through Marietta initially provided some employment to members during the local’s first years, as did the city power plant, the decline of inter-urban railroads by the early 1920s, including the Parkersburg, Marietta & Inter-Urban Railway Company line (although it would continue in some capacity until 1947), depleted that source of jobs. What’s more, Marietta’s electric trolley system would close in 1934.

In that environment, the small local’s membership remained relegated to less than a dozen during the Twenties and Thirties. Throughout the decade, the local’s regular general meetings were, more often than not, brief and little or no business was conducted.

At the height of those early efforts to establish and maintain itself, Local 972 went dormant during the first half of 1921.

But by mid-1921, Local 972 re-emerged with a new set of officers, headed by **Brother Charles S. Davis**, who would serve as the local’s financial secretary into 1930, when he became its business manager (a position he would

LOCAL 972 CHARTER MEMBERS

These 14 brothers are listed on the Local 972 charter application to the I.B.E.W. and the Local 972 charter.

Robert B. Brennan
Charles W. Carlisle
George W. Danker
Earl C. Davis
Charles R. Griggs
Lem Hess
Frank I. Hyde
Grover C. McIntyre
J. E. McKenna
Harry Minor
W. J. Minor
H. H. Pape
George R. Polen
Alvin S. Willis



LOCAL 972 UNION HALLS

Marietta Labor Hall 175-1/2 Front Street

June 1919 into December 1920

(Local dormant, December 1920 into June 1921)

Marietta Labor Hall 175-1/2 Front Street

June 1921 into 1951

Local 972 Office 220-1/2 Front Street

1951 into 1952

Meetings: Labor Hall

Local 972 Office 220 Second Street

1952 into 1953

Meetings: Labor Hall

Local 972 Office 213-1/2 Second Street

1953 into 1956

Meetings: Labor Hall

1953 into 1955

Meetings: 311 Second Street

1955 into 1956

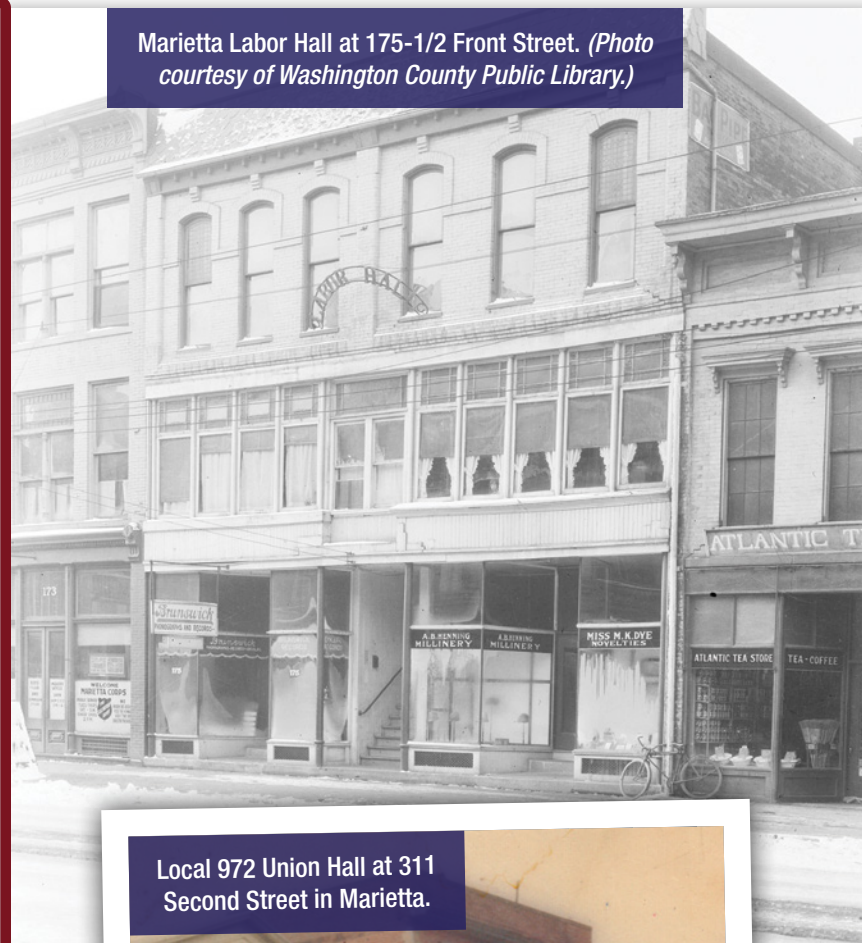
Local 972 Union Hall 311 Second Street, Marietta

1956 into 2002

Local 972 Union Hall 50 Sandhill Road, Reno

2002 to present

Marietta Labor Hall at 175-1/2 Front Street. (Photo courtesy of Washington County Public Library.)



Local 972 Union Hall at 311 Second Street in Marietta.



Local 972 Union Hall at 50 Sandhill Road in Reno.



hold for the next 22 years). Soon after, the local would also join the Marietta Trades and Labor Council, an association of the city's labor unions, in order to improve the conditions of all organized labor in the city.

There were signs as early as 1928 that the local would begin to break out of its slumber. That year, membership reached a new high of 13 at one point, and during its May 2 general meeting, the local voted to pay the dues of **Brother Earl Davis** – a charter member – for the month of May while he was too sick to work.

However, the **Great Depression**, the historic economic and human catastrophe that essentially began with the crash of the U.S. stock market on October 29, 1929 (dubbed “Black Tuesday”), and lingered for nearly a decade, took a heavy toll on the industry-heavy City of Marietta. In turn, as the Depression tightened its grip, Local 972's growth would also remain inhibited throughout the 1930s as it suffered along with most of the I.B.E.W., which saw more than 50 percent of its membership idled by the nationwide disaster.

As such, on January 15, 1930, only two of the local's seven members, **Brother Fred Lynn** and **Brother George Polen**, paid their \$2.50 monthly union-membership dues, while one other member, **Brother Frank Hartman**, was able to make his payment for December 1929. Then on September 17, 1930, the local was notified by the I.B.E.W. International Office that the wage scale for its journeyman electricians was reduced back to 80 cents per hour.

Only five members paid their dues in August 1932. For much of that year, the local also did not have a sitting business manager or recording secretary, while Brother Polen served as financial secretary – the local's lone officer at one point.

While construction work remained scarce in and around Marietta, the federal New Deal



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 the 1899 convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the union's name was officially changed to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.) 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.

programs instituted in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to create a measure of relief for Americans provided some jobs within Local 972's jurisdiction. For example, New Deal programs funded the transformation of College Field at **Marietta College** into the 3,000-seat **Municipal Stadium** (later renamed Don Drumm Stadium) in 1934 and construction of the new **Marietta Municipal Building** in 1935, which included offices for all of the city's departments and a 1,400-seat auditorium.

THE 1940s: FINALLY TAKING HOLD

The City of Marietta's 150th anniversary celebration in July 1938, which included a visit from President Roosevelt on July 8 in honor of the city's founding as the first settlement in the Northwest Territory, nearly coincided with the beginning of Local 972's climb out of its doldrums and into its next, prosperous 80 years. That September, as the Great Depression was nearing its conclusion, the local's membership climbed to 12 dues-paying electricians with a range of I.B.E.W. service time from five months (**Brothers L. A. Hess, George Hess and W. J. Minor**) to nearly 19 years (Brother Lynn).

Members were also provided with more



Local 972 members string Christmas lights for the City of Marietta display in 1951.

employment opportunities during the final years of the 1930s, including construction of the north wing addition to **Lindley Hall**, a residence dormitory for female students at **Ohio University** in Athens, in 1939. The local's electricians also helped build Marietta's new **Water Treatment Plant** on Fourth Street in 1939 and 1940, and they began working with the new **Washington Electric Cooperative**, which a group of farmers organized with funds from the federal Rural Electrification Administration in 1940 to bring electricity to their farms.

By that time, Local 972 had voted in May 1939 to become affiliated with **Ohio State Conference of the I.B.E.W.**, through which the local's leaders would gather with other I.B.E.W. local officers to share statewide industry and political information and knowledge.

The outbreak of **World War II** in Europe and Asia in 1939 and the entrance of the

United States into the conflict following the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, boosted Marietta industry to help supply the war effort. Subsequently, Local 972 was flush with work throughout the war years while converting and maintaining those facilities, including the **Casto Rubber Plant** and the **Remington Rand** typewriter and safe factory, which assembled airplane propeller hubs during the war – and the local's membership began to expand rapidly.

What's more, the growing local's wage scale stabilized and increased during the war and, as a result, the local was able to begin providing fringe benefits to its membership. After the local received a raise to \$1.50 for its journeyman electricians, it voted in January 1944 to assess each member \$1 per month for the first six months of that year to finance an **Insurance Pension Fund** for members.



Following the war, Local 972 maintained its improved condition through the balance of the 1940s as employment remained stable, and in 1948, the local grew to more than 55 members.

Before the end of the decade, Marietta's union journeyman electrical workers were being paid \$2 per hour while foremen and cable-splicers were earning \$2.25 per hour after the local signed a new contract in April 1949 with contractors George Ball, Clarence Rose, Gilbert Schenkie, Earl Spindler and Fred Flynn. The agreement also set wages for the local's apprentices (or "helpers" as they were often called at the time) at six-month increments up to \$1.50 per hour for fourth-year apprentices in the final six months of their apprenticeships.

Additionally, the local's members were earning a 1-percent-of-wages Pension Fund contribution from employers, which was paid into the National Electrical Benefit Fund that was created on October 1, 1946, in an agreement between the I.B.E.W. and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA).

The local's favorable position would even warrant its officers to ask members during their regular meeting on May 4, 1949, to stop doing work "on the side" and to "get behind the contractors that have signed up and help them compete with the contractors that haven't signed up."

THE 1950s: FROM BOOM TO BUST

"Work is plentiful now and will be more plentiful when projected work reaches a more advanced stage. ... If some of you wire-benders care to join us, you might as well bring the wife and kids and settle down for a while."

Local 972 **Press Secretary Charles R. Ladd** was able to make that announcement in the May 1952 **I.B.E.W. Journal** as work for the local's membership boomed during the 1950s, punctuated by an abundance of jobs growing the area's many industrial plants. The expanding



Local 972 members working on construction of Union Carbide Corporation's new Bakelite Division facility in Marietta in 1953 included (left to right, front row) Robert Barr, E. E. Snodgrass, Paul Angert, Denzel Hogue, L. E. "Hap" McMahon, Ralph Mallett and Perry DeLong; and (back row) Carl Masters, William Schneider, John Murphy, William Rider, Albert "Jake" Mallett, H. Donley Smith, Gerald Hamilton and Norv Miracle.



LOCAL 972 TRADE CLASSIFICATIONS TIMELINE

Inside Wiremen

June 19, 1919

Inside Wiremen, Outside Linemen

November 6, 1951

Inside Wiremen, Outside Linemen, Tele-Communications

October 20, 1966

Inside Wiremen, Tele-Communications

November 6, 1975

Inside Wiremen

December 18, 1981

employment opportunities and growth into the new decade even compelled the local to promote its business manager, **Brother Charles Davis**, to full-time status beginning July 1, 1950.

Among the projects on which the majority of the local's members were employed during the first years of the Fifties was construction of the 1.5-gigawatt, coal-powered **Muskingum River Power Plant** for American Electric Power (A.E.P.) near Beverly, Ohio, beginning in 1950. Located on the river's west bank, construction and expansion of the power house would be a strong source of employment and provide countless man-hours for the local's electricians as well as travelers from other I.B.E.W. locals over the next two decades, during which Local 972 members helped build and wire the plant's first five generating units, which would go online in 1953, 1954, 1957, 1958 and 1968. *(The plant's first four units would be decommissioned in 2014 before the plant would be permanently shut down the following year.)*

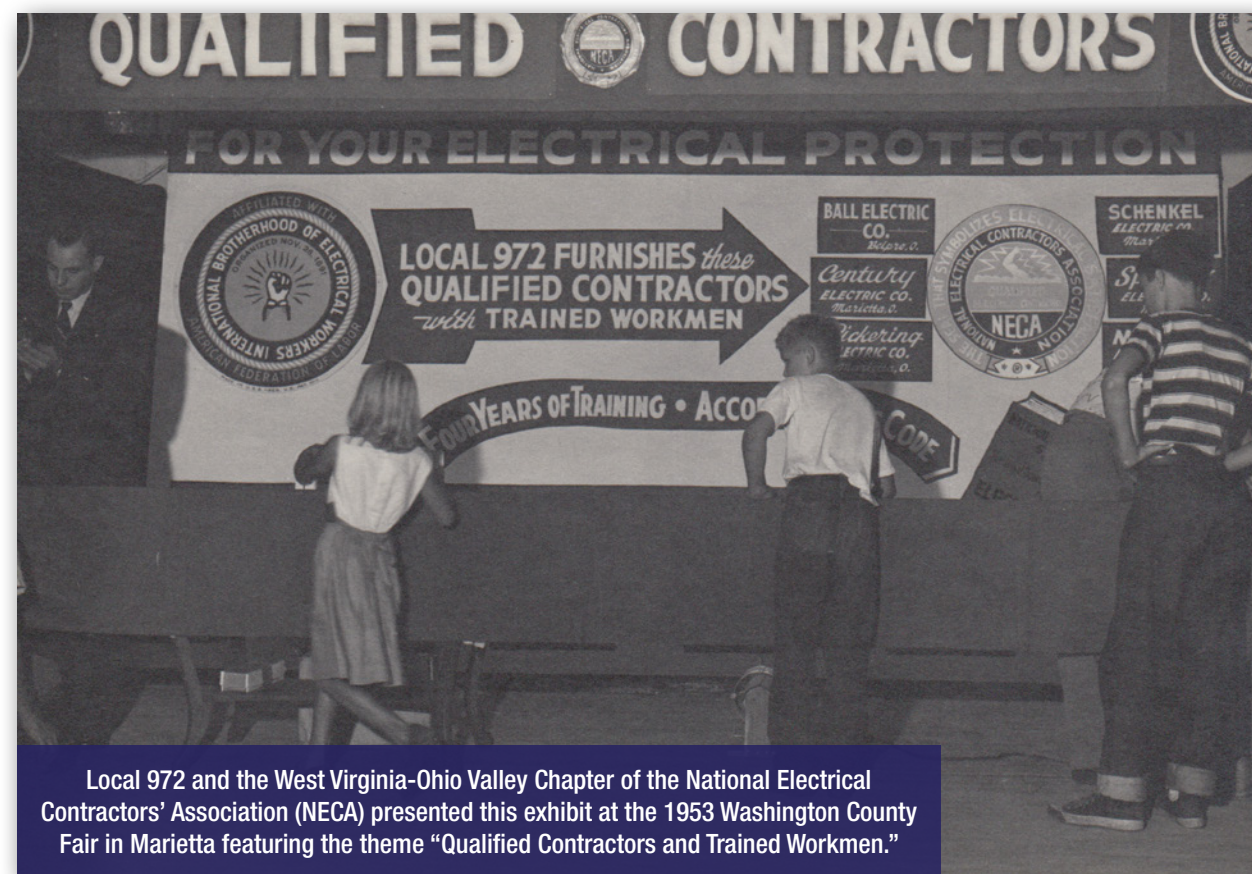
During construction, however, the local would quarrel for several years with I.B.E.W. Local 874 of Zanesville, Ohio, over which local had jurisdiction over the electrical work at the plant before the International Office finally declared on January 5, 1955, that the project was to remain under Local 972's jurisdiction.

As such, the local was to divide the work there equally between the members of the two locals while collecting all working assessments on I.B.E.W. members employed on the project and providing half of those funds to Local 874, as the International had decreed in December 1953. *(Local 874 would be merged into I.B.E.W. Local No. 1105 in 1975.)*

Then in 1951, another substantial source of work was made available to the local when **Union Carbide Corporation** began construction of a \$150-million ferro-alloy plant on its Marietta campus for its **Bakelite Division**. The plant, which was necessitated by a soaring post-World War II demand for those alloys, called for the electricians to install six power units to furnish energy for 17 electric furnaces to process steel alloys and also to furnish power for two additional plants that would process alloys over the next three years.

Meanwhile, with work on those plants and more requiring the services of many linemen in addition to the local's electricians, the I.B.E.W. expanded Local 972's trade classifications on November 6, 1951, to include **outside linemen**.

During that time and throughout the first half of the decade, the local gained even more man-hours from additional major jobs that included construction of the **Cleveland Graphite Bronze Plant** at Caldwell, Ohio, and the **Electro Metallurgical Company** (Electromet) plant for Union Carbide that would manufacture calcium carbide for acetylene production and various metal alloys. More work would also soon become available that year with the start of a \$2-million ferro-alloy plant for **Globe Iron Works** adjacent to the Waterford power plant; the beginning of a 12-month-long project building a booster pumping station for the **Texas Eastern Transmission Company** in the Swazey community of Franklin Township, Ohio; and the start of a \$1-million addition to the **Remington Rand Company** plant in Marietta.

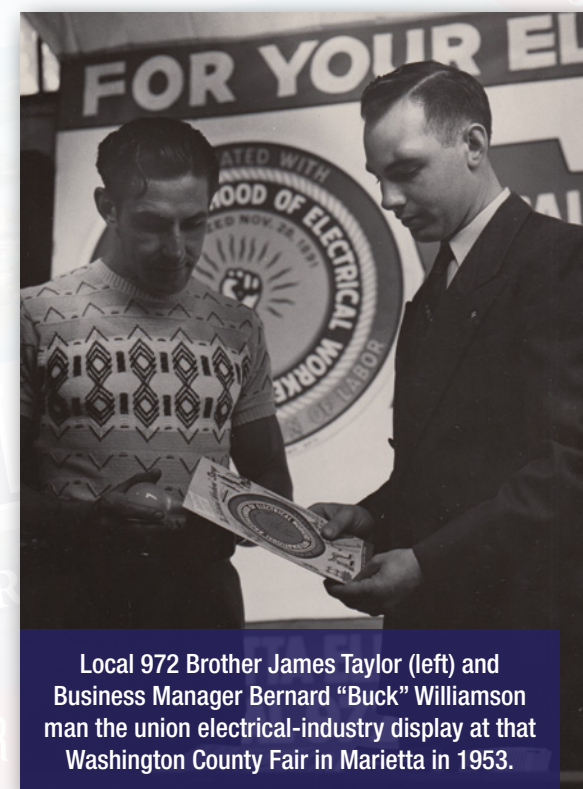


Local 972 and the West Virginia-Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Association (NECA) presented this exhibit at the 1953 Washington County Fair in Marietta featuring the theme "Qualified Contractors and Trained Workmen."

With employment at an all-time high, Local 972 gained a 25-cent-per-hour raise from its employers in the **West Virginia-Ohio Valley Chapter, Marietta Division** of NECA in April 1952 that increased journeyman electrician and lineman wages to \$2.50 per hour. The scale was boosted to \$2.95 per hour in May 1955 and then again in May 1956 to \$3.10 per hour after the Council on Industrial Relations ruled on the new wage in a one-year agreement.

That contract also included a new, reduced wage scale for residential, commercial maintenance and industrial maintenance work to help contractors gain more of those markets. Effective May 26, 1956, Local 972 journeyman members employed in those classifications would earn \$2.75 per hour.

A new, two-year agreement that went into effect April 1, 1957, provided raises for journeyman wiremen and linemen to \$3.20 per hour immediately, \$3.30 on October 1 and



Local 972 Brother James Taylor (left) and Business Manager Bernard "Buck" Williamson man the union electrical-industry display at that Washington County Fair in Marietta in 1953.



\$3.40 on May 1, 1958, for the contract's second year. The residential scale was also boosted in stages to \$3.05 per hour for the final year.

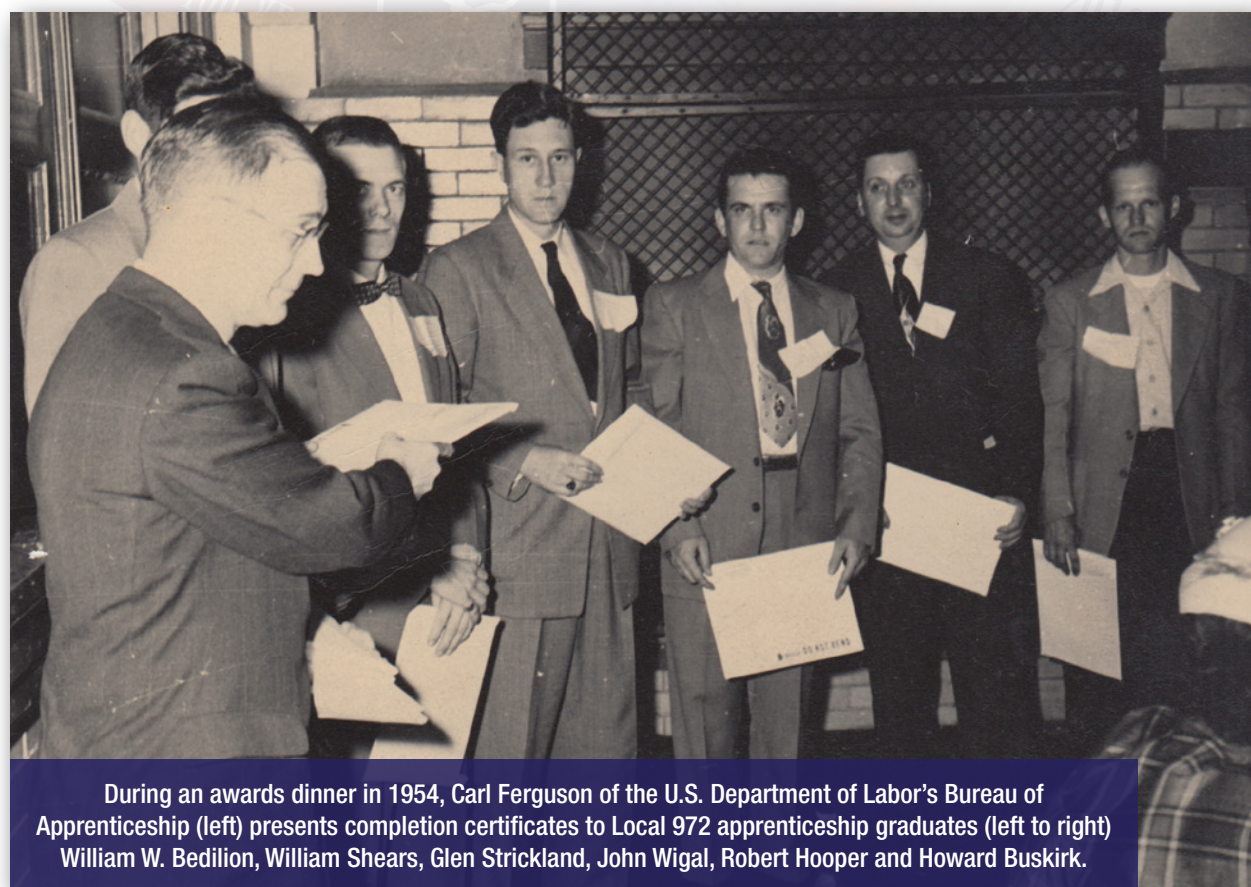
That year, construction also began on a new, \$90-million aluminum smelting plant on the Ohio River in Hannibal, Ohio, for **Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation** under the joint venture **Ormet Aluminum Corporation**, which would employ many Local 972 members. The project included construction of the new, coal-fired, dual 210-megawatt-unit Kammer Power Plant across the river near Moundsville, West Virginia, to power the world's first fully-integrated aluminum plant.

While work for Local 972's members slowed briefly after the aluminum plant was completed in late 1957, employment picked up again the following year with the start of construction on generating units No. 3 and No. 4 for the Muskingum River Power Plant. That year,

the local became so busy that it negotiated an addendum to its agreement with its NECA contractors to establish a **hiring hall**, effective November 1, 1959, through which the local was the "sole and exclusive source of referrals of applicants for employment" – thereby requiring contractors go through the union to hire electrical workers.

But before the end of the decade, after work at the power plant was completed, employment slowed to a virtual crawl within the local's jurisdiction. **Business Manager Neal Boyce** even reported during a general membership meeting in January 1959 that "work is very slow" and then again during an April 1959 meeting that there was "very little work anywhere" as 25 journeyman wiremen were unemployed at the time.

Despite smaller jobs such as school additions and at plants such as Ormet and a manganese



During an awards dinner in 1954, Carl Ferguson of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship (left) presents completion certificates to Local 972 apprenticeship graduates (left to right) William W. Bedilion, William Shears, Glen Strickland, John Wigal, Robert Hooper and Howard Buskirk.



Local 972 brothers (left to right) William Rider, Bernard "Buck" Williamson, Ralph Mallett and Paul Angert man the union electrical-industry information booth at the 1954 Washington County Fair in Marietta.

factory in Riverview, the situation became dire enough that the membership during its May 6, 1959, general meeting suggested that "the (business manager) travel around and talk to the different (business managers) in an effort to get some employment for the members of this local union." Subsequently, into the next decade, many of the local's members were travelling for jobs, including at least 14 Local 972 electricians who were working in New York City.

THE 1960s: BACK TO THE TOP

An increasing number of non-union electrical workers were employed on several jobs in Local 972's jurisdiction during the early 1960s. Concurrently, work for union electricians in and around Marietta

reached an "all-time low" in 1960, **Recording Secretary William Parker** reported in that year's *September Journal*.

The local's members were able to find jobs out of town with other I.B.E.W. locals, but construction work locally and around the State of Ohio remained very poor into 1961. That July, as the downturn continued, 40 members were unemployed at one point.

Regardless, Local 972 gained a new, two-year contract that went into effect June 1, 1961, and would provide raises totaling 35 cents per hour. The pact also called for contractors to contribute 2-1/2 cents per hour worked by each of the local's members into a new **Health and Welfare Fund** that would provide an insurance benefit to the membership.



Employment also picked up suddenly and dramatically that year with the start of a slew of projects that included construction of the **Shell Chemical** polystyrene plant and complex in Belpre, Ohio, that employed Local 972 members into 1962. More work also came from jobs at Bakelite and Electromet; construction of the new Chemistry Building at Marietta College; and construction of the **Belleville Dam** on the Ohio River that would be completed in 1968.

Meanwhile, as employment was increasing, the local's Executive Board during a September 1961 general membership meeting recommended that the local increase the number of linemen on its roster from two to four to handle present and future work.

The local dramatically enlarged after members voted during a special meeting on December 30, 1961, to accept an amalgamation with **I.B.E.W. Local No. 337** of Athens and its 90 inside-wireman members. The International Office made the merger official on April 1, 1962, bringing the southeast Ohio area under a single, more-efficient administration while increasing Local 972's jurisdiction to encompass **Athens, Meigs, Monroe, Noble and Washington counties** and a portion of **Vinton County**.

By September 1962, about 230 union electricians were working in the local's recently expanded area. But the completion of many of the larger projects on which the local's members were working that year, including the Bakelite project that month, triggered a two-year long period of employment stagnation for the local.

The first-ever **Local 972 Scholarship** was presented in 1960 to high-school senior William Hunter, who received \$500 annually to attend Marietta College for four years. To be eligible for the scholarship at that time, a candidate had to be a male high-school graduate who lived in the local's jurisdiction, which encompassed Monroe, Washington and Noble counties.



Local 972 Recording Secretary William Rider stands with Plumbers Union Local No. 168 Business Manager Robert Ward and Ohio Governor Michael Disalle during an event in 1960. *(Brother Rider, who was heavily involved in politics and served as a trustee of the Southeastern Ohio A.F.L.-C.I.O. Council and delegate to the Mid-Ohio Valley Building and Construction Trades Council, was appointed to the staff of Congressman Robert Secrist of Ohio's 15th Congressional District in 1963.)*

Into late 1963, the local had members on its out-of-work "bench" most of the time, and work remained very poor into 1964. Meanwhile, the non-union sector continued making inroads into the industry; for instance, the contract for construction of a new dormitory at Ohio University was awarded to a non-union contractor.

Despite its depressed condition, the local negotiated a new, two-year agreement with its NECA contractors for its jurisdiction that went into effect on June 1, 1963, for a rate of \$4.20 per hour for journeymen the first year. The contract raised the wage to \$4.35 per hour effective June 1, 1964, for the duration of the pact.

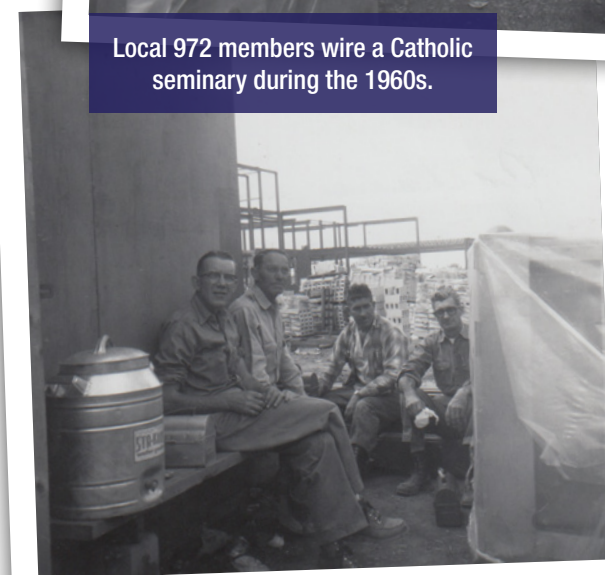
Work picked up again as the local approached the second half of the 1960s, as many major construction projects in the local's jurisdiction remained union and conditions were also good in surrounding areas, including Parkersburg,

West Virginia. An influx of smaller commercial work such as stores, schools and restaurants in the growing Marietta region further expanded employment, as did significant new jobs for the Muskingum River Power Plant and the Ormet, Shell and Union Carbide factories.

Local 972 would also help build the new **Racine Dam** on the Ohio River beginning in 1964, although the I.B.E.W. designated Local No. 317 of Huntington, West Virginia, with jurisdiction over all work on the dam except work done on the Ohio-side river bank, which would be the jurisdiction of Local 972.



Local 972 members wire a Catholic seminary during the 1960s.



I.B.E.W. inside wiremen **Local No. 337** of Athens, Ohio, which was chartered on April 3, 1939, was merged into Local 972 on April 1, 1962, expanding the Marietta-based local's jurisdiction into Athens, Meigs, Monroe and Vinton counties.

The local was flush with man-hours throughout the second half of the 1960s and into the 1970s. Among the jobs that provided work was another Bakelite project in 1965, an addition to the Ormet Aluminum plant in 1966 and construction of the new **Marietta High School** on Academy Drive in 1967.

Installation of the fifth generating unit at the Muskingum River Generating Plant, which would be completed in 1968, also helped keep the local's members working. Notably, the project involved union electricians powering the Muskingum Electric Railroad, an all-electric, coal-carrying rail that shuttled coal from a mine to the power plant in driverless trains – making it the first automated railroad in the United States.

Meanwhile, the local's membership grew when it organized the Television Cable Company of Athens in 1966, after which the International Office added **communications** to the local's classifications, effective November 20 of that year.

By January 1968, about 500 union electrical workers were working on the many various projects in the Local 972 jurisdiction and the

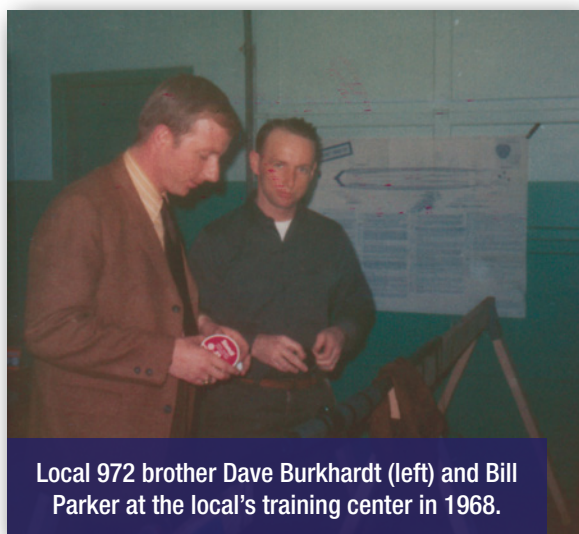
Local 972 celebrated its **Golden 50th Anniversary** with a dinner-dance on May 3, 1969, at the National Guard Armory in Marietta. As part of the evening, the approximately 300 guests heard I.B.E.W. International Representative and former Local 972 Business Manager **Brother Bernard G. Williamson** tell the history of the local.



The little league team sponsored by Local 972 and coached by Brother Wilmer Kuhn (left) and Business Manager Neal Boyce that won the Eastern League championship in 1963.

local's work situation was "very good," as **Press Secretary Jack W. Cline** reported in that month's *Journal*. Those jobs included construction of the new **Willow Island Locks and Dam** in 1968 and 1969, for which the local equally shared the work with I.B.E.W. Local No. 968 of Parkersburg.

When Local 972 celebrated the 50th anniversary since it was chartered with a



Local 972 brother Dave Burkhardt (left) and Bill Parker at the local's training center in 1968.

dinner-dance at the National Guard Armory on May 3, 1969, its membership was enjoying some of the better employment conditions in the local's history. What's more, by that time, the local had grown to 260 members.

THE 1970s: MILESTONE CHANGES

Strong employment for Local 972 continued into the 1970s as industrial and commercial work within the local's area and in nearby jurisdictions escalated. Those jobs initially included an addition to the Shell Chemical facility that employed over 300 union electricians, including many travelers from other locals, and an ongoing expansion of the **Mitchell Power Station** on the west bank of the Monongahela River near Moundsville, West Virginia, during the early 1970s.

The local's wage scale also flourished, with new contracts increasing its journeyman base pay rate to \$7.45 per hour and total pay package to \$9.03 per hour on June 1, 1972, after a 45-cent total hourly increase went into effect that day. As part of that package, members were

receiving fringe-benefit hourly contributions from employers of 30 cents into the **West Virginia-Ohio Valley I.B.E.W. Health and Welfare Fund**; 62 cents into the **West Virginia-Ohio Valley Area Pension Fund**; 62 cents into the **West Virginia-Ohio Valley Area Vacation Fund**; and 4 cents per hour into the **Marietta Joint Electrical Apprenticeship Committee Apprenticeship and Training Fund**.

During that time, outside linemen also gained wage increases through the **I.B.E.W. Fourth District Outside Power Agreement** with the **American Line Builders Chapter of NECA**, which covered all I.B.E.W. locals in Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia and the District of Columbia at that time. Following a Council on Industrial Relations decision that actually decreased wages, the outside base scale was set

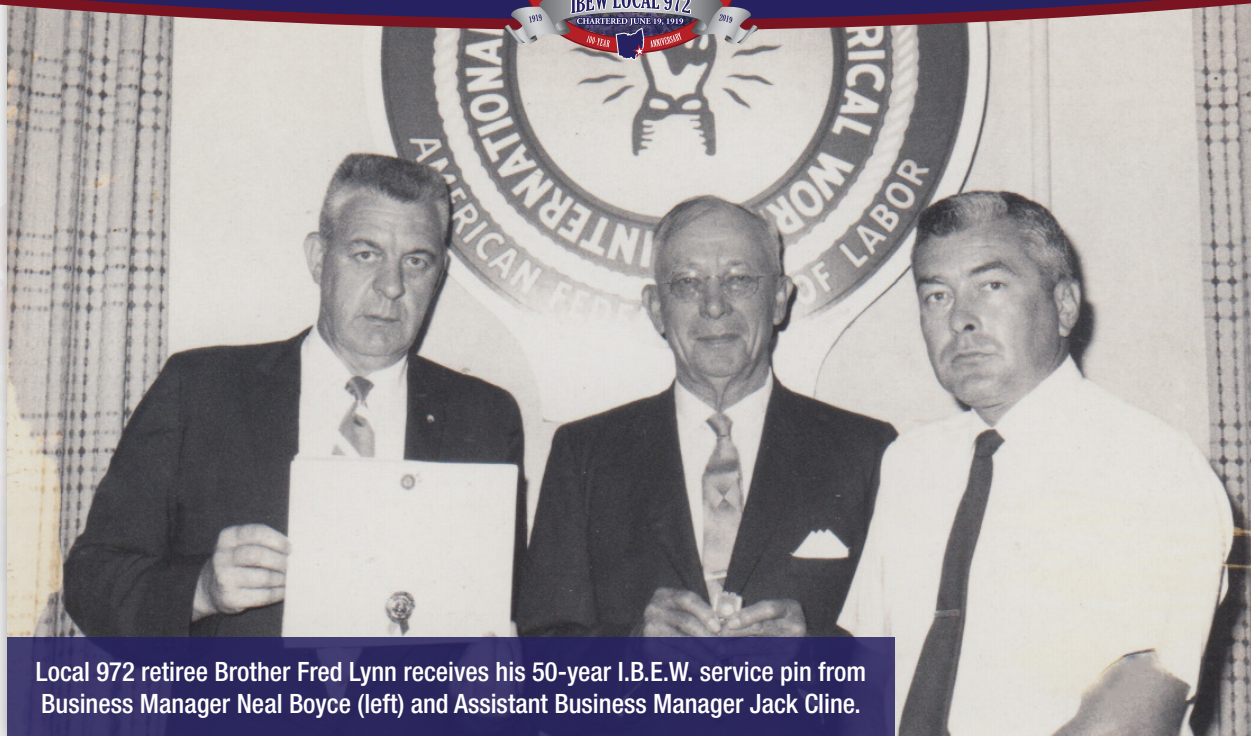
at \$6.92 per hour for journeyman linemen and \$7.24 per hour for cable-splicers beginning August 7, 1972, and remaining in effect until September 1 later that year.

Another new, one-year contract with NECA effective June 1, 1975, raised wireman wages to \$9.45 per hour and inside cable-splicer wages to \$9.70 per hour. Additional hourly benefit contributions were set at 30 cents for health and welfare, 62 cents for pensions and \$1.02 for vacations.

That year, as there had been no significant amount of line work within its jurisdiction for some time, Local 972's outside-linemen members were transferred out of the local and into I.B.E.W. outside **Local No. 71** based in Columbus, Ohio, effective November 1,



Seated at the head table during the Local 972 Golden 50th Anniversary celebration dinner-dance on May 3, 1969, with their wives are (standing, left to right) J. M. Parker, director of Construction-Maintenance Operations for the I.B.E.W.; Local 972 Business Manager Neal S. Boyce; Marietta Mayor John A. Burnworth; Local 972 President William Bedilion; I.B.E.W. Fourth District International Representative B. G. Williamson; and Local 972 Assistant Business Manager Jack Cline.



Local 972 retiree Brother Fred Lynn receives his 50-year I.B.E.W. service pin from Business Manager Neal Boyce (left) and Assistant Business Manager Jack Cline.

1975. Local 972's trade classifications were subsequently amended to cover only inside and communications work.

However, on November 6, the I.B.E.W. increased the local's inside coverage area by adding **Morgan County** to its jurisdiction after Local 874, which had covered the county, was merged into Local No. 1105 in Nashport, Ohio, on November 1.

Work fluctuated for the local's electricians during much of the second half of the 1970s. Non-union elements continued to make inroads and gain some smaller work, and some jobs were stalled at times when other building-trades crafts were engaged in contract disputes and were forced to stop work with picket lines, which Local 972 honored.

Regardless, there were almost always opportunities to work with other surrounding locals in Portsmouth, Newark and Steubenville, Ohio, and Huntington and Wheeling, West Virginia, for members who were willing to travel.

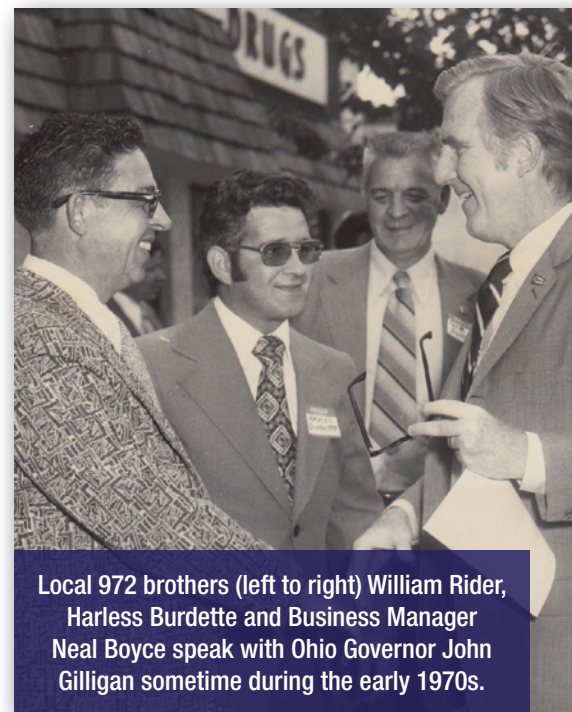
But into 1976, about 50 Local 972 members were unemployed, and early that year several

commercial projects went to non-union contractors. Work also remained slow in the local's jurisdiction into the summer months.

An influx of smaller jobs at sites such as **Athens State Hospital**, the Shell plant, a shopping center in Athens and the Ormet plant improved employment later that year and into 1977, while work availability in surrounding locals remained healthy. As such, Business Manager Boyce informed the local's general meeting in November 1976 that employment was "fairly good."

Those steady conditions, buoyed by smaller jobs and traveling opportunities, persisted for much of the remainder of the 1970s, as well.

A new, two-year agreement to close out the decade raised the local's journeyman wireman hourly rate to \$11.25 on June 1, 1978; \$11.55 on September 1; and then \$12.45 on June 1, 1979, for the final year of the pact. Cable-splicers were provided with raises up to \$12.70 per hour for the second year, and fringe benefits for all members were set at 50 cents per hour for the Health and Welfare Fund, 82 cents per hour for the Pension Fund and \$1.27 per hour for the Vacation Fund.



Local 972 brothers (left to right) William Rider, Harless Burdette and Business Manager Neal Boyce speak with Ohio Governor John Gilligan sometime during the early 1970s.

The agreement also called for contractors to pay 1 percent of their labor payrolls into the **National Electrical Industry Fund**, which the I.B.E.W. and NECA established in their new national agreement in 1976. The fund was set up to essentially help contractors make their bids on construction projects more competitive with bids from non-union companies.

THE 1980s & '90s: ORGANIZE TO Y2K

Local 972 opened the 1980s with a new, one-year contract it signed with the NECA Marietta Division on June 1, 1980, that paid its journeyman wiremen \$13.50 per hour and cable-splicers \$13.75 per hour. Fringe benefits included 50 cents per hour for health and welfare, \$1.50 per hour for vacations, \$1 per hour for pensions and 4 cents per hour for training.

The following year, Business Manager Boyce was able to report to the local's membership during its general meeting that September, "Everyone is working who wants to."

(Continued after the following spread)

LOCAL 972 LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS

A president oversaw the primary administrative affairs of Local 972 during its first decade before a business manager was first elected in late 1928 to perform those duties; the position of business manager was made fulltime in July 1950 and was combined with the position of financial secretary in 1951.

Presidents

Harry Minor
June 1919 into 1927

Fred Lynn
1927 into 1928

George R. Polen
1928 into 1937

Frank Hartman
1937 through 1946

J. W. Minor
1947 through 1948

McRa Davis
1949 into 1951

Dave Cave
1951 through 1952

Ralph Mallett
1953 through 1954

James Taylor
1955 through 1956

Ralph Mallett
1957 into 1961

Arthur J. Perry
1961 into 1963

Ralph Mallett
1963 into 1967

Chester Lowry
1967

William Bedilion
1967 into 1974

Roy Boley
1974 into 1978

Dave Rogers
1978 into 1980

Charles A. Lowey
1980 into 1983

Dave Rogers
1983 into 1986

Charles A. Lowey
1986 into 1995

Steven R. Crum
1995 into 2000

Troy L. Ferrell
2000 into 2011

Joseph Bucey
2011 into 2016

R. Barney Peckens
2016 to present

Business Managers

Earl C. Davis
Late 1928 into May 1929

Charles S. Davis
May 1929 into 1951

Business Manager/ Financial Secretaries

Bernard G. Williamson
1951 into 1957

Neal Boyce
1957 into 1986

William C. Ferrell
1986 into 2000

Steven R. Crum
2000 into 2011

Troy L. Ferrell
2011 to present

Brother Neal Boyce





Local 972 Training and Education

PROUDLY PREPARING AN INDUSTRY-BEST WORKFORCE

During most of the first few decades of its first 100 years, I.B.E.W. Local 972 educated its apprentices (or "helpers") almost solely through on-the-job training. During that time, apprentices learned the electrical trade by working for several years alongside journeyman electricians before they could reach journeyman status themselves.

Local 972 apprenticeship Cable Splicing training class in 1969.



Eventually, the local's apprentices and journeymen were able to supplement their skills with various courses and classwork, although even into the 1950s those educational enhancements were not mandatory or regularly organized. For example, in early 1952 several Local 972 journeyman members and apprentices took advantage of courses such as alternating electricity, shop math and labor relations that were offered at Marietta College as part of its adult education program.

For several years now, Local 972 has operated a **Boot Camp** as a way to familiarize incoming apprentices with many of the aspects of the electrical trade to which they will be exposed while on the job.

The I.B.E.W. and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) established the **National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee** (N.J.A.T.C.), which is now the **Electrical Training Alliance**, in 1947 to expand local apprenticeship programs and increase the number of trained electrical workers in the construction industry.

Just a few years later in 1952, Local 972 and its NECA employers jointly instituted their own formal apprenticeship and training program under the auspices of the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council and the N.J.A.T.C. The program was initially funded by a 1-percent payroll contribution from the local's NECA employers and an equal contribution from the local.

Local 972/Electrical Training Alliance Training Director Daryl Jones teaches a class at the Training Center in October 2018.



Local 972 received its first national **Excellence in Training Award** from the I.B.E.W. in 1996 after more than 50 percent of its membership received skills and upgrade training in 1995.

Local 972 is a partner in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act-funded training program at the **Washington County Career Center** that offers people in poverty a route to a better job. The program is available to youth, adults and dislocated workers who want to develop skills that meet labor-force demands, including those in the electrical industry.

Administered locally by the **Marietta Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee** (J.A.T.C.), the new four-year program consisted of four hours of standardized classroom work one night each week in the local's union hall on Second Street in Marietta, in addition to the traditional on-the-job training. Local 972 journeyman **Brother Ed Ball** was the program's first apprenticeship teacher.

Meanwhile, before Local 972's few outside linemen were moved into I.B.E.W. Local No. 71 in 1975, they were trained through the **American Line Builders Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee** (ALBAT), a cooperative labor-management training program funded and administered by American Line Builders Chapter of NECA and I.B.E.W. Fourth and Sixth districts. The three-year ALBAT program continues to serve eight states, including Ohio.

The Marietta Electrical J.A.T.C. eventually teamed with **Washington State Community College** and relocated its training there in 2001 to provide instruction and classroom and lab space for the apprenticeship and training program. In 2013, the J.A.T.C. began the process of aligning with Northwest State Community College and moved to the Oak Grove Rec Center, Marietta Township Building and the Local 972 union hall.

The Marietta Electrical J.A.T.C. expanded its apprenticeship program to five years in the early 1980s, and it remains a five-year curriculum as Local 972 celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2019. Throughout the course of those five years, an apprentice will earn a living while working on-the-job alongside a journeyman wireman and also attending a minimum of 960 hours of classroom instruction provided one or two evenings per week.

Notably, **safety training** is a primary feature of the Local 972 apprenticeship and training. All members of the local are First Aid/CPR certified and must take a minimum of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour training before reporting to work, while many members opt to upgrade their training to OSHA 30-hour.

What's more, the apprenticeship program not only allows young men and women to prepare for a meaningful and rewarding career, it also provides them with the opportunity to earn an associate's degree in applied science.

Meanwhile, **journeyman upgrade training** has always remained a focus of the J.A.T.C., which coordinates and offers many advanced courses during the year for members to improve their skills for the latest technologies.

The J.A.T.C., now known as the **Marietta Electrical Training Alliance**, purchased a new training center of its own at 27754 State Route 7 in Marietta in 2015. The recent contract between Local 972 and NECA included additional funding for the training program which, along with subsidies from Northwest State Community College, allowed the J.A.T.C. to hire its first full-time training director, **Brother Daryl Jones**, in 2017.

Since then, the Marietta Electrical J.A.T.C. has undergone many changes and much growth. To help move those forward, from 2017 to 2019, the program received over \$107,000 in donations and \$260,000 in grants.

Local 972/Electrical Training Alliance Marietta Training Center, which was opened in 2015, seen here in 2019.





In addition to ongoing employment on smaller industrial and commercial jobs in the area early in the decade, members worked on larger projects including ongoing work on the dams along the region's rivers and upgrades to the aluminum plant in Hannibal – which by then was being operated by Consolidated Aluminum Corporation (Conalco) – and the **E.M. Poston Power Plant** in Nelsonville, Ohio. Then in the summer of 1982, many Local 972 and traveling I.B.E.W. electricians were employed on one of the largest expansions to the Shell Chemical plant.

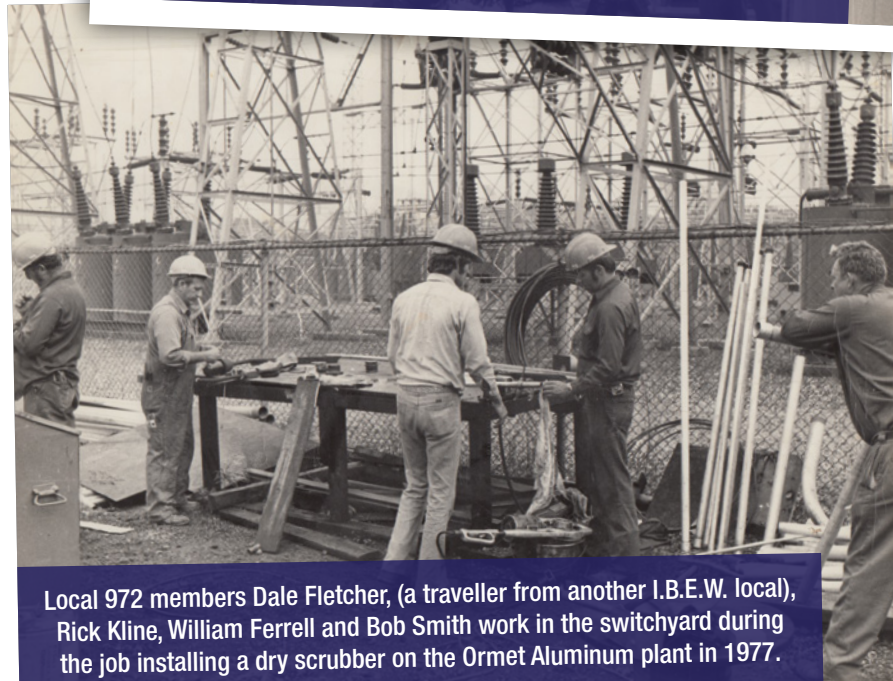
Meanwhile, however, the local's communications members left the local in December 1981, after which it represented only inside electricians (as it does as the local celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2019).

Then in May 1982, as non-union contractors continued their slow creep into the Local 972 jurisdiction and an ongoing national recession and sluggish economy began catching up with the local, it passed a resolution requiring all members take part in picket duty of other "strike-related duties" as they became necessary. While the local has never in its 100-year history been out on a prolonged strike, that June 1982 it did shut down the Racine Dam job for a couple of days to stop power-company employees from doing work the local claimed within the domain.

That summer, with the completion of major work including the Shell expansion and the continuing recession, employment dried up



Local 972 members William Ferrell, Jack Ogden, Junior Robbins, (a traveller from another I.B.E.W. local) and Jim Hogue prepare to set the switchgear during a job installing a dry scrubber air-cleaning system on the Ormet Aluminum plant in Marietta in 1977.



Local 972 members Dale Fletcher, (a traveller from another I.B.E.W. local), Rick Kline, William Ferrell and Bob Smith work in the switchyard during the job installing a dry scrubber on the Ormet Aluminum plant in 1977.

and would remain poor over the next two years throughout the local's jurisdiction as well as the surrounding jurisdictions. Many other locals in those areas were even giving contract wage concessions to their contractors to help spur man-hours.

As the grave conditions persisted into 1984, at one point early that year, 82 of the local's journeymen and nine of its apprentices were out of work. That February, while 74 journeymen and 10 apprentices sat on the metaphorical unemployment bench, Local 972 **President Dave Rogers** reported to the local's



Local 972 Business Manager Neal Boyce, President David Rogers and Treasurer Kenneth Gill during a regular general-membership meeting of the local on December 6, 1978.

membership, "Most areas have the same problems as ours: No work."

With no relief in sight, the local agreed to a new contract that set journeyman wireman base pay at \$16.35 per hour beginning June 1, 1985. But the pact then dropped the scale to \$16.10 per hour beginning October 1 that year, but added the lost 25 cents to the local's Health and Welfare Fund contribution to bring it to \$1.25 per hour.

Work and employment remained poor through much of the remainder of the 1980s and into the 1990s, during which time many of the local's members had to travel out of town for work. Those who remained within the local's jurisdictional area found some consistent work at Shell Chemical and occasional employment on projects such as new shopping centers, renovations to the historic **Washington County Courthouse** and deconstruction of the Union

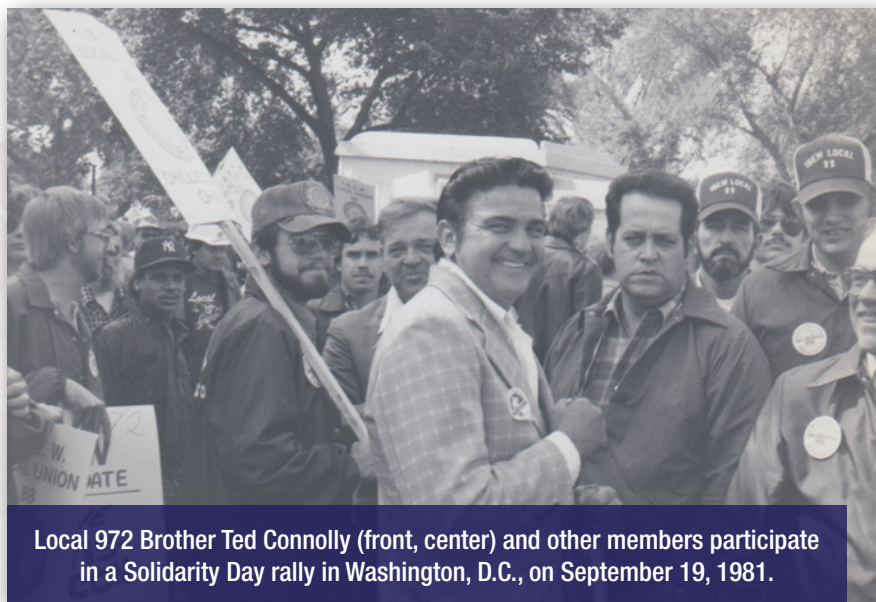
Carbide complex after it was sold and split-up among various companies.

But after reporting in July 1985 that only 60 of its nearly 200 members were working in the area and only 28 were employed with other locals, that September the local authorized its Negotiating Committee to settle a contract



During Local 972's 60th Anniversary celebration at Marietta's Lafayette Hotel on June 9, 1979, members who received their 30-year I.B.E.W. service were (top photo, left to right) Richard Staats, Carl Masters, Business Manager Neal Boyce, James Graham, Norman McCain, Glen Martin and H. Donley Smith, standing with I.B.E.W. Fourth District International Representative B. G. Williamson; and (bottom photo) Harry Gavin, James Taylor, Edgar Fry, Herbert Lamb, Joseph Connolly, Dwight Ferrell, Arthur Ice, Denzel Hogue, Raymond Salster, Ormund "Buck" Lucas, Wilmer Kuhn and James Hogue.





Local 972 Brother Ted Connolly (front, center) and other members participate in a Solidarity Day rally in Washington, D.C., on September 19, 1981.

“in our best interest” that would include a 90-percent-of-wage concession to help contractors gain work.

Continuing to struggle into the next decade, **organizing** became a primary focus of Local 972 in the 1990s in order to recapture its market share and create employment opportunities for its members. To that end, the local created the **Local 972 Electrical Industry Advancement Plan** to fund efforts to target jobs, advertise and organize through an additional payroll contribution from employers. A subsequent resolution pertaining to the Advancement Plan adopted by the local on April 3, 1996, sanctioned its business manager to “authorize any and all expenditures incurred while promoting the organized Electrical Construction Industry within the jurisdiction of Local 972 by such means as Wage supplements on certain jobs, advertising, educational programs,

productivity studies and related activities.”

By that time, the local and the NECA Marietta Division had entered into a one-year contract that raised wireman base pay to \$19.63 per hour on June 1, 1993, and then to \$20.93 per hour for the second half of the pact beginning December 1, 1993, plus an additional \$7.87 for benefits, training and industry promotion. A two-year agreement beginning June 1, 1994,

raised the entire journeyman wireman’s wage-scale package a total of \$1.95 per hour over its duration, all of which was placed into the local’s Vacation Fund, while the residential contract remained the same except for increases to its Health and Welfare Fund.

What’s more, during negotiations for that contract, the local and its contractors further agreed that they would “continue good-faith market recovery efforts.”



Local 972 Brother Richard “Dick” Long (center) is presented with an I.B.E.W. Life Saving Award during the local’s regular general-membership meeting on January 4, 1984, by President David K. Rogers (left) and Business Manager Neal Boyce. Brother Long had pulled two people out of the water after their boat capsized on June 4, 1983, saving their lives.



Longtime Local 972 office secretary Joanna Pitt (shown here on June 19, 1979, during the local’s 60th Anniversary celebration) served in that position from 1956 until her retirement in 1984.

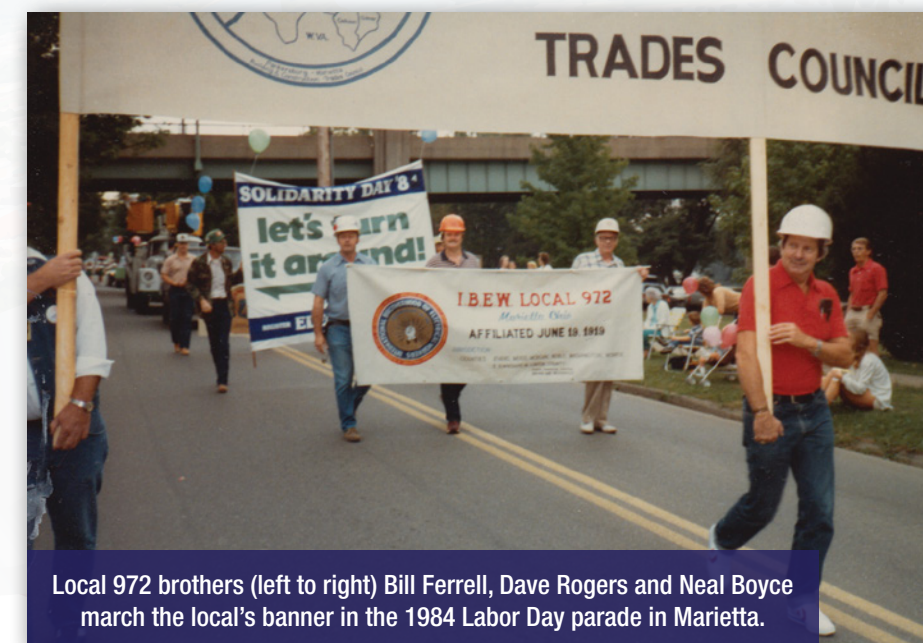
In the aftermath of a devastating explosion at the Shell Chemical plant in Belpre on May 27, 1994, that killed three workers, Local 972 members worked nearly “around the clock” for the following year to help rebuild the facility. (*The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration later determined that a “catastrophic failure” of a 15,000 gallon polymer reactor vessel was initiated by a runaway chemical reaction in the plant’s Kraton-D polymer unit, and the reactor failure and resulting fire caused the “complete destruction” of the unit.*)

Employment picked up dramatically into the second half of the

1990s, bolstered significantly by ongoing work at the Shell plant. As the local was even able to employ several traveling I.B.E.W. members from other locals, **Press Secretary Joe Schofield** was able to declare in the April 1996 *Journal*, “Our organizing efforts continue to be effective.”

Local 972 then gained a landmark three-year inside agreement beginning June 1, 1997, about which Brother Schofield announced in the August 1997 *Journal*, “It is a fair contract that we can live with.” The pact raised the base hourly wage of journeyman wiremen to \$21.38 the first year, \$22.08 the second year and \$22.83 the third year ending May 31, 2000, while total final benefit contributions amounted to \$11.25 per hour worked.

Work continued to hold steady through the summer and into the fall of 1997 as commercial projects were on the rise. However, residential and industrial work were both falling off by that time, and before the end of the year, when work on schools had been completed and “everything came down at once,” as Brother Schofield described in the December *Journal*, a period of “above-normal unemployment” began.



Local 972 brothers (left to right) Bill Ferrell, Dave Rogers and Neal Boyce march the local’s banner in the 1984 Labor Day parade in Marietta.



Newly graduated Local 972 apprentices (left to right) Pat Schoeppner, Dirk Walton, Jim Crider, Bob Jones, Jeff Prunty, Clair Reed, Dana Locke, (International Vice President B. G. Williamson), Mark Schafer, Randy Farley and Tracey Aber at the Marietta Electrical J.A.T.C. recognition dinner on September 14, 1985.

But first, that November, the local's organizing efforts were able to "turn" the project for construction of the new **Noble County Jail** so that a union electrical contractor would perform the work.

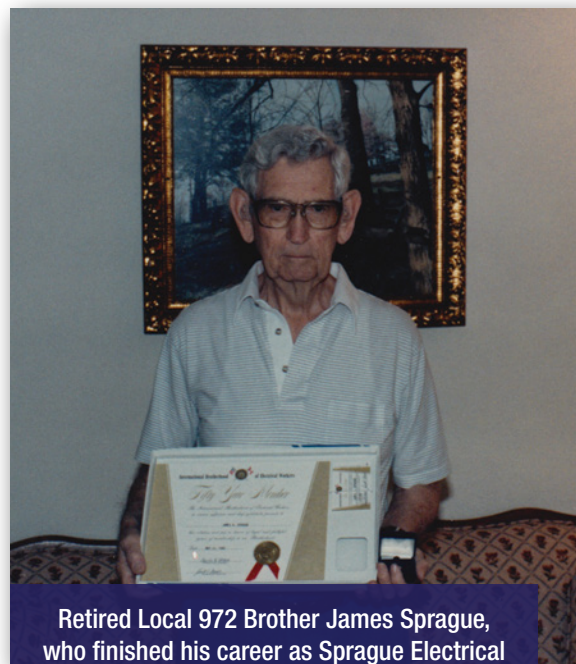
As the century and the millennium approached their simultaneous ends, overall work in the local's jurisdiction remained slow for its 180 members as regular jobs at area power houses, such as maintenance shutdowns, were completed. Although work at Marietta College and Ohio University provided some employment as both schools grew and expanded, the slow regional economy compounded the area's suffering as industry was leaving the entire country. With the local's membership already deprived of those industrial jobs, much-anticipated larger projects within its jurisdiction did not materialize, including an A.E.P. powerhouse in Meigs County and a massive solar field in Noble County.

THE 2000s: STRONG AT A CENTURY

Contract negotiations with NECA during the first months of the new "Y2K" millennium resulted in a groundbreaking, new three-year agreement for Local 972 that needed no arbitration from the Council on

Industrial Relations before a settlement was reached. The pact, which went into effect April 1, 2000, provided for a first-year total pay-and-benefits increase of \$1.15 per hour and second- and third-year wage scale hourly raises of \$1.10 and \$1.15, respectively. The increases were distributed between wages and benefits "as the union membership deems appropriate."

What's more, the agreement also called for the local to pay for the increase in the



Retired Local 972 Brother James Sprague, who finished his career as Sprague Electrical Company, displays his 50-year I.B.E.W. service award that he received on June 7, 1986.

Health and Welfare Fund contribution during the first year. Both the local and the contractors would evenly split any increases in the Health and Welfare for the second and third years that were required to "maintain the existing benefits."

Work remained relatively slow for much of the first years of the 2000s, with regular projects such as maintenance and upgrades at the area's steel mills providing some steady employment opportunities. But in part because of the local's job-targeting efforts, its condition picked back up around 2007, and since that time, the local has seen steady growth in membership while maintaining about 70-percent of the market share in the electrical industry within its jurisdiction.

The shale natural-gas boom of the late 2000s and early 2010s, which was predominant in eastern Ohio where the Utica Shale was one of the fastest-growing natural gas-production areas in North America, also proved to be a boon to Local 972 and helped it get all the way back on its feet. The subsequent construction of multiple oil and gas wells in the northern sector of the local's jurisdiction brought a large amount of work for its members, including installation of pipelines, metering stations and compressor stations.

Many of the local's electricians were also constantly employed on construction of the



Local 972 members, family and friends march in the 2005 Labor Day parade in Marietta.



Local 972 members, family and friends march in the 2006 Labor Day parade in Marietta.

Berne Natural Gas Processing Complex in Monroe County in 2014 and 2015. When completed, the facility contained two cryogenic natural-gas-processing plants (and would help make up for the loss of the Muskingum River Power Plant, which closed in 2014).

Also during that time, Local 972 directed some of its resources into assisting local school districts with passing tax levies that would allow



As a conscientious member of its community, Local 972 has always contributed time, funding and its professional skills to a multitude of charitable and service-related causes throughout its 100 years. Those many benevolent efforts have included working with its employing contractors through their joint Labor-Management Cooperation Committee to coordinate **Toys for Kids** programs and **Christmas for Kids** projects to give needy children in the Marietta-Athens area Christmas gifts in the 1990s and beyond.

Throughout the years, Local 972 has also been involved with and has supported many organizations such as the **Multiple Sclerosis Society**, the **Easter Seals Society**, the **American Red Cross** and The Arc (formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens), while also regularly sponsoring youth teams in the **Marietta Bantam Baseball League**. More recently, the local's ongoing community efforts have included providing labor and equipment to power and light the annual **Marietta Sweet Corn Festival**.

them to construct new schools and update existing facilities. The resulting successes, such as the first levy approved in Monroe County's **Switzerland of Ohio Local School District** in more than 30 years, help put nearly all of the local's members to work for a couple of years on projects such as Switzerland's new **Beallsville High School** in 2012.

Subsequently, work brought on by the natural-gas industry and school construction was so abundant that up to 200 travelers were working within the local's jurisdiction during the two years of construction of the Berne facility plants.

Afterward, however, work slowed in 2017 and into 2018. During that time, some members were kept busy building schools, particularly in those districts for which the local helped get levies passed, but many members were left to wait for more-significant projects to break before employment stabilized again.

Approaching its 100th anniversary in 2019, the year leading up to the local's centennial celebration got off to a slow start, with many members traveling to other locals for steady work. Some found employment in Newark and Columbus at Facebook and Amazon projects, while work was good in many other parts of the state, further helping the membership. At home, among the jobs that would push the local toward full employment, about 20 members have been working at Ohio University and more have been employed at Marietta College as both schools continue expansion and upgrade projects.

Meanwhile, Local 972's strong relationship with its employing contractors of the West Virginia-



Local 972 members participate in solar training at the local's union hall and training center in 2011.

Ohio Valley Chapter, NECA, Marietta Division have resulted in several consecutive contract negotiations that have produced improved three-year agreements each time. Most recently, the contract has provided the local's journeyman electricians with a total wage-and-benefits pay package of \$59.37 per hour.

What's more, the two sides have come to fully recognize the importance of training and have adjusted the agreements accordingly.

As such, since 2015, the contribution from contractors and the local made into their **Marietta Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (J.A.T.C.)** has increased 34 cents per hour (including 4-cents from members' rate increase in June 2018) to 84 cents per hour – allowing the J.A.T.C. to purchase a new training center in 2015 and hire a full-time training director in 2017.

The start of construction in the spring of 2019 on the new **Hannibal Port Power Project**, a natural gas-fueled power plant on the former Ormet Aluminum plant site in Hannibal that closed in 2013, provided the opportunity for all of the local's members to get off the out-of-work list. Once completed in 2021, the 485-megawatt, combine-cycle power-generation station will use local natural gas, sent to the plant by local pipelines, to create energy, and water from the Ohio River to cool its turbines.

Importantly, the pre-qualifying factors considered in selecting the contracting company building the power plant included both the "knowledge and utilization of local skilled labor and a reputation of being a safe and good neighbor in Ohio projects," *The Parkersburg News and Sentinel* reported on November 25, 2018. Mr. Mark Barry,





Political activity, especially through participation in the I.B.E.W. Committee on Political Education (COPE) program, has always been a pursuit of Local 972. That endeavor has become a priority over the past two decades as anti-union political forces have become a more constant and escalating threat to all of organized labor.

Among the many activities in which Local 972 has participated to push back against opposing political influences, in 1997 many of the local's members joined more than 3,000 construction workers to protest a bill restricting prevailing-wage provisions at the State of Ohio capitol in Columbus (although the bill eventually passed). More recently, some of the local's array of political activism has included members walking door-to-door in 2004 as part of the I.B.E.W. "Take Back Ohio" campaign to prevent President George W. Bush's reelection. Then in February 2011, Local 972 members joined protesters at the state capitol to demonstrate against passage of legislation that would strip public workers of their collective bargaining rights (a so-called "right to work" bill) and repeal the state's prevailing wage law, after which the local also used member-to-member phone calls to increase opposition to the bill.

technical and design consultant for the project, even explained to the newspaper, "We received proposals on this about a year ago and we were careful to choose contractors who had worked in the valley before, and we did not pre-qualify any labor-busting contractors."

Before construction began, a subsequent contract with Kiewit Power Constructors and General Electric, which is building the plant, was already signed with the local building trades to work on the project. As such, between 300 and 350 craftsmen could be working on the project at peak time, including a large number of union electricians.

"This area will have no trouble supplying the needed skilled crafts for the project," Bill Hutchinson, business manager for the Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council, of which Local 972 is a member, told the *News and*

Sentinel in November. "It's going to be a nice job, not huge, but with the manpower right now in our area, I don't foresee any problems manning that job."

As I.B.E.W. Local 972 powers that crucial project and others in and around its jurisdiction, the local has come to represent more than 240 union electricians as it turns 100 years old in June 2019. Meanwhile, its market share has increased to more than 70 percent throughout its territory of Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, Washington and Monroe counties and the Vinton County townships of Knox, Madison, Vinton, Brown and Wilkesville – in which Local 972 will continue to work to improve the lives of its membership and the residents of those areas as the local moves into its next 100 years.



Local 972 members install a solar array onto the roof of the Local 972/Electrical Training Alliance Marietta Training Center on November 3, 2018.



Former Local 972 Business Manager William C. "Bill" Ferrell with office staffers Cecilia Woodford (left) and Linda Pottmeyer.



Former Local 972 Business Manager Steven R. Crum (left), who was also business manager of the Parkersburg/Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council, served as a local organizer and president and is currently an I.B.E.W. Fourth District International Representative, stands with former I.B.E.W. General President Ed Hill in 1998.



Local 972 Brother Neal Boyce displays his retirement award during the local's 67th Anniversary celebration in 1986 while surrounded by his wife, Pauline, and family. A memorial plaque dedicated on October 7, 1998, to Brother Boyce, who served as business manager of the local for 29 years until his retirement on July 31, 1986, hangs in the union hall named in his honor and reads, in part:

"Labor never had a better friend or one who gave so unselfishly of himself to the cause of the electrical worker. ... Our members of today and tomorrow will reap the benefits of Neal Boyce's achievements of yesterday."

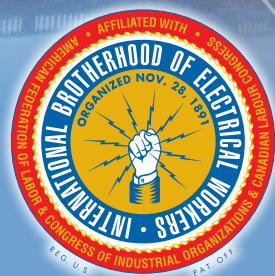


The Local 972 softball team was awarded this trophy for winning the I.B.E.W. 43rd Annual Midwest Softball Tournament Lower Division championship in Toledo in 2014.

Congratulations to IBEW Local Union 972 on Your 100th Anniversary!

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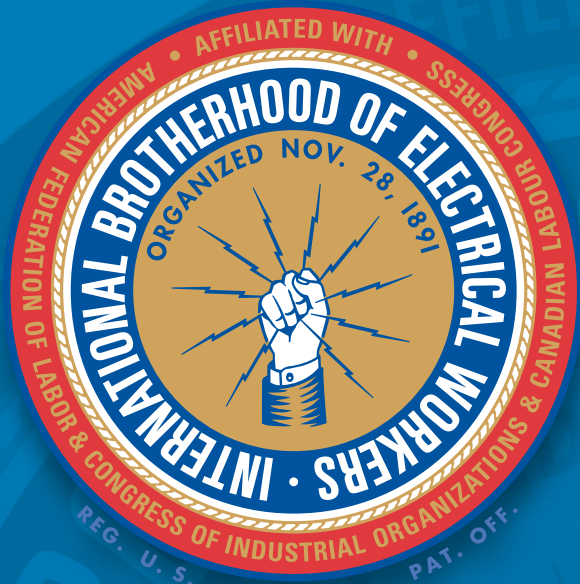
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**HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY
TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF
I.B.E.W. 972**



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Thomas R. McIntyre
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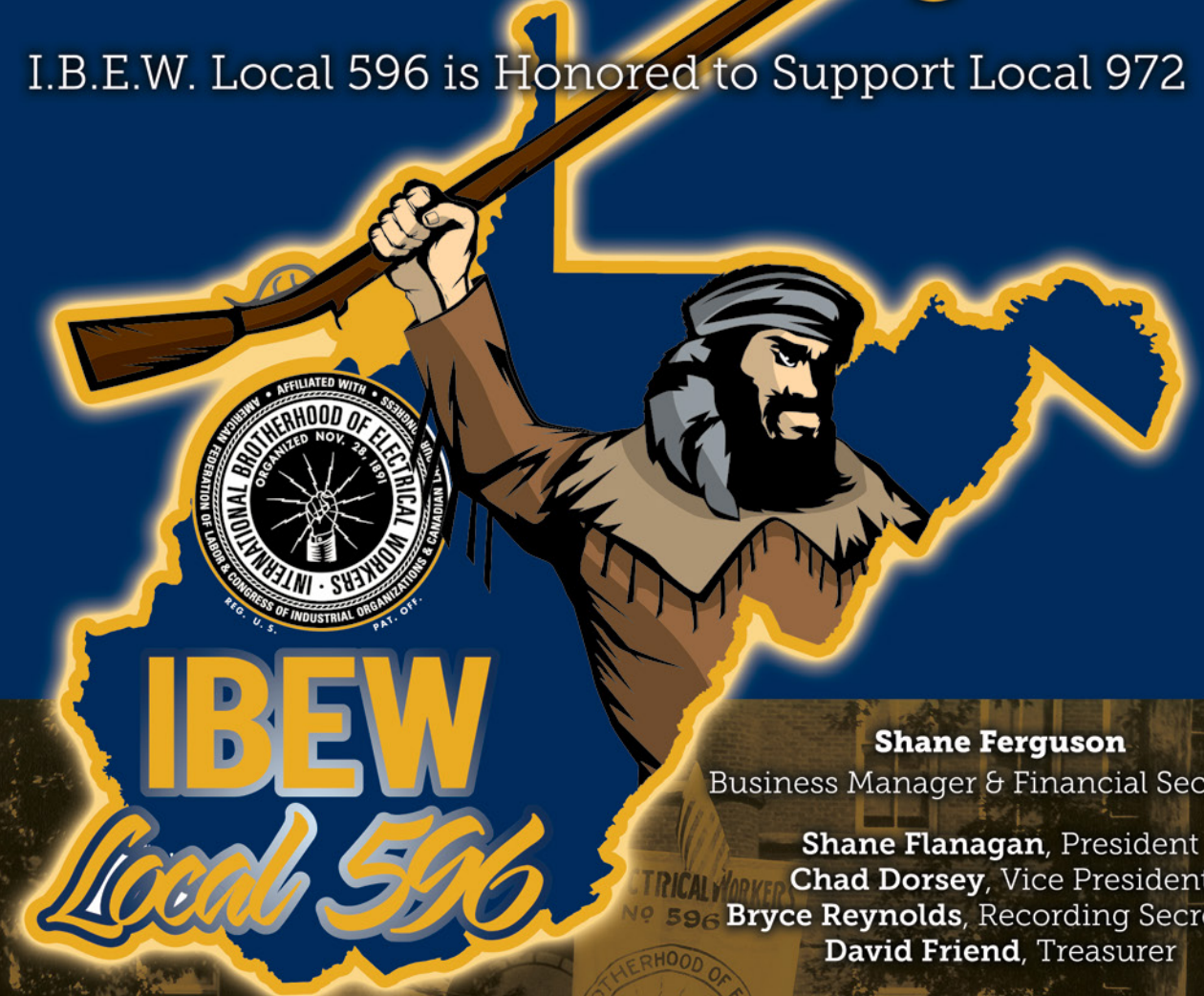
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Happy 100th Anniversary!

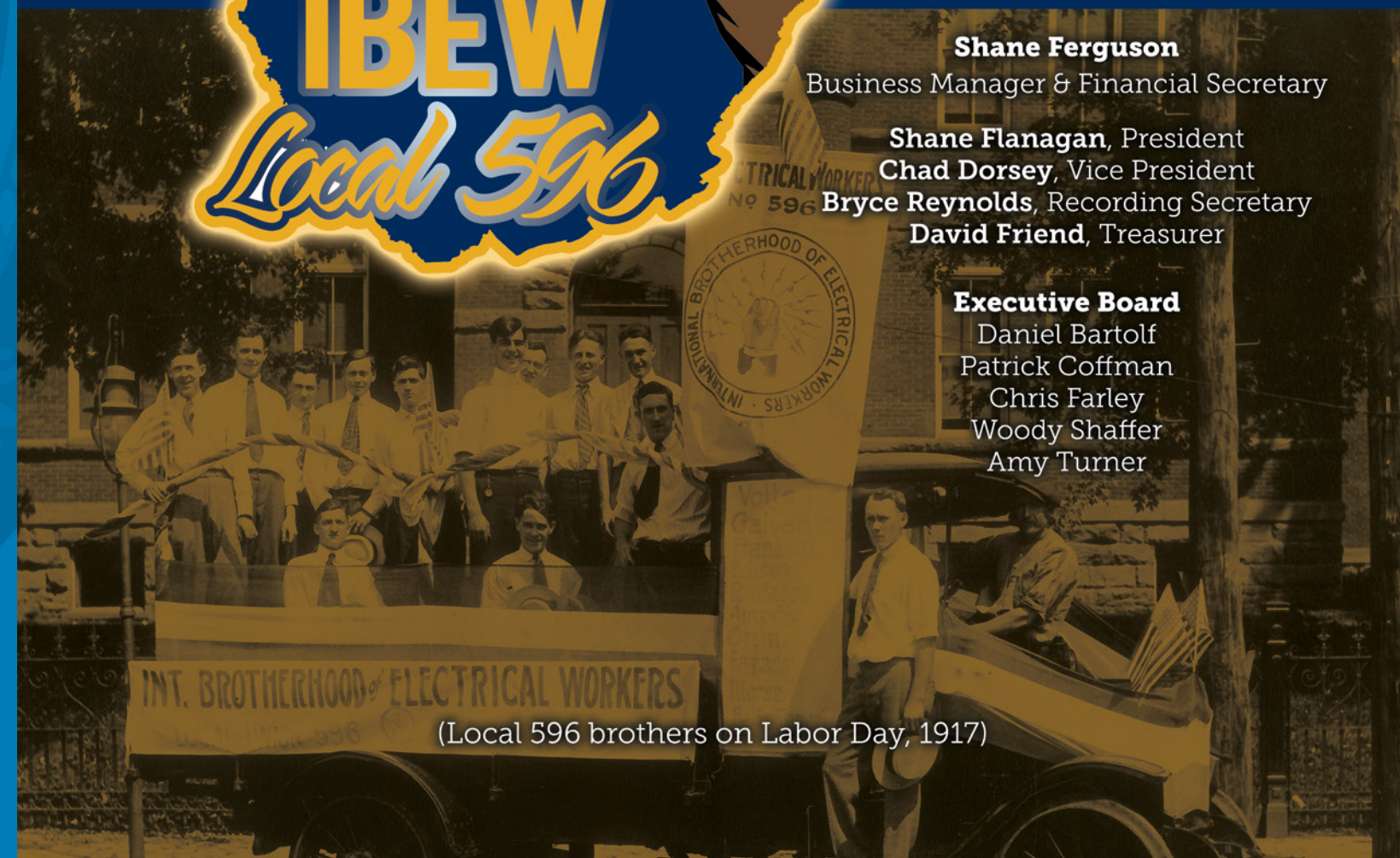
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Officers, Members & Staff
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AKRON, OHIO

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FOR
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To Your Community



The Officers and Members Of
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the years to come.



IBEW Local 234
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Aaron M. Brown, Business Manager
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HAPPY 100th!




Congratulations to LOCAL 972
on your milestone anniversary
from **Local 573**
Business Manager Jack Morse.

IBEW Local Union 595

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Congratulations to
IBEW Local Union 972
on your 100th Anniversary!
Honor Our Past, Organize Our Future!

From the Officers, Members, and Staff of
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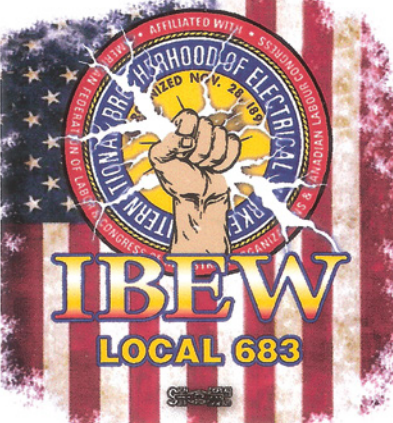


Daniel O. Chivello
Business Manager

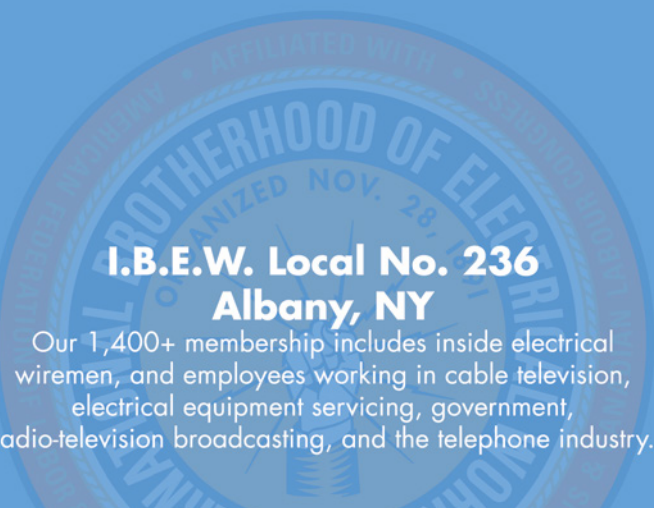
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