



# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 5 NEWS & VIEWS



VOLUME LII

IBEW Local 5 Meeting Hall, Training Center, And Headquarters Building 5 Hot Metal Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2355

FALL 2025



## BEAVER STADIUM BEGINS ITS TRANSFORMATION



Photo credit: gopsuports.com



Photo credit: gopsuports.com

Beaver Stadium, the iconic home of the Penn State Nittany Lions football team, is undergoing a sweeping \$700 million revitalization that promises to redefine the game day experience while preserving the grit and tradition that fans hold dear. With completion slated for the 2027 season, the renovations are already reshaping the stadium's infrastructure, accessibility, and atmosphere while maintaining the historical significance and traditional noise level fans expect from 100,000 plus attendants.

The most dramatic transformation is happening on the stadium's west side. The renovation includes upgrades to the lighting, restrooms, state-of-the-art press box, and expanded concourses, as well as adding premium seating options like luxury suites and climate-controlled club sections.

The project also includes a new LED lighting system, enhanced sound system, and a 4K resolution scoreboard.

The stadium layout is being reworked for better accessibility, with escalators and elevators being added. Fans can also expect

improved Wi-Fi and ADA-compliant access points throughout the stadium.

Despite the ongoing construction, Penn State will continue to host football games at Beaver Stadium for the 2025 and 2026 seasons. Temporary seating and facilities will be implemented, particularly on the West side, to accommodate fans. The athletic department anticipates maintaining a seating capacity of over 100,000 throughout the renovation period.

While some fans express mixed feelings about the temporary state of the stadium, most are excited about the long-term vision and the enhancements the renovation will bring to the game-day experience. The project signifies a commitment to maintaining Beaver Stadium's status as a premier college football venue and a vital asset for Penn State University.

Local 5 contractors as of publication include Lighthouse Electric on the lighting and power and Dagostino Electronic Services performing all the technology upgrades.



Lighthouse Electric:

L to R back to Front: Josh Cameron, Ron Hertzler, Greg Young, Jacob Fye, Joe Baylor, Joe Walls, Karson Fields, Pat Treese, Kraig Bowser, Jared Meeks, Jake Pennington, Marty Gezi, Mike Pastore, Doug Brown, Monte Michelangelo, Todd Dale, Matt Gebrosky, Allen Beranty, Liam Feathers, Ben Arnold, Aubrey Ryan, Dean Lippert, Connor Hann, Andrew Lee, Melvin Lee, B.J. Barnes, Dave Wes, Mike Jaap, Vinny Lanzoni, Dustin Miller, Kirk Schroll, Todd Himes, Art Poorman



Dagostino Electronic Services:

L to R: Timothy Gray, Scott Merkwa, Chelsea Schlegel, Jared Burfield, Brian Pollock, Steve Umstead, Brad Weymer, Mike Hazlett, Scott Sweeney



## Corner by Tom McIntyre



I hope all the members and their families had a great summer and enjoyed the season. I would like to thank all of the members, family members and guests that came to Idlewild Park to enjoy our annual "Denny Miller Family Picnic" in June. The weather was absolutely perfect. It was sunny and warm but not as hot and humid as we had to deal with in the past. I also wanted to thank all of you who marched and attended our annual Labor Day Parade event on September 1st. It was also another perfect weather day as we had a fantastic turnout of members, retirees, family members and invited guests. I do believe that we had the largest marching group on that day, but we will wait and see when the Labor Council announces the awards for the parade. I would also like to thank our many volunteers for both Labor Day, the Idlewild Family Picnic and more. These brothers and sisters always step up to try to make these events the success that they continue to be.

The work picture in our jurisdiction remains very good. Even with the Pittsburgh International Airport projects winding down with a grand opening probably in early November of this year, there is still a lot of work to be performed prior to completion. The UPMC Presbyterian Transplant Center continues to take manpower as we have several contractors on site and another doing the pre-fabrication of certain areas off site, this project is to have substantial completion sometime in 2026. The Beaver Stadium project continues to proceed with a levelling off period while the Penn State football season is in full swing.

As I have been saying every month for the past several months at the Friday night union meetings that we are transitioning a bit from a lot of commercial work to a large increase in our industrial work opportunities. Currently, we have some compressor stations progressing; namely, the Imperial Compressor Station in McDonald, Grahek in Claysville, and Harmon Creek in Washington County. We also have some outages in our coal fired power houses currently ramping up at Seward, Conemaugh and Keystone. As everyone is aware now, the Homer City Power project is moving forward with several electrical contractors on site currently. Kiewit is the construction manager and self-performing a portion of the electrical work while we have another two contractors on site wiring trailers among other temporary connections. Also, United States Steel is moving forward with its upcoming additions and improvements to its Mon-Valley Works facilities. The Nippon commitments are coming true, and the design process is ongoing. We will keep you all up to date as more information becomes available.

November 4th is Election Day and although this is not the juicy, nasty, controversial election that we have grown used to, it is a very important one. No matter what your political views may be, we must vote "Yes" on all of the state-wide judicial retention votes to help protect our rights as workers. The facts are that this administration has already rendered the N.L.R.B. powerless, defunded OSHA, banned project labor agreements on federally funded projects including the United States Department of Defense and cancelled the rights of seventy-five percent of federal employees represented by a union to engage in collective bargaining. Whether you support Donald Trump or not, we all need to vote "Yes" for these judges retention because other than Governor Shapiro, they are our only backstop to protect our rights as union workers. I could add much more to this administration's negative actions towards workers but will stop here. Please vote for the Local Union No. 5 endorsed candidates listed in this edition of our fall newsletter.

I hope to see all of you at our annual holiday parties in December and remember that the outlying parties now begin at 7:00 p.m.

Remember to work safely and have a great holiday season.

## MEET YOUR AGENT

### Buddy Franklin

Recording Secretary  
Assistant Business  
Manager



Alfred "Buddy" Franklin, Recording Secretary and Assistant Business Manager, is a proud third generation IBEW Local #5 member. In June of 2002 he began his career in the electrical industry as an apprentice, where he gained extensive experience in a variety of commercial and industrial facilities. After completing his five-year apprenticeship, he topped out as a Journeyman Wireman/Technician in June 2007. He was appointed as a delegate of the North Central Pennsylvania Central Labor Council by President Eicher, was involved in various volunteer projects and political campaigns in addition to overseeing numerous projects, including significant hospital and container glass plant upgrades.

Business Manager Dunleavy appointed him as Membership Development Representative for the northern and eastern counties of IBEW Local #5 to replace veteran organizer Thomas O'Donnell in March 2009. In this role he was trained at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies with a specific focus on organizing and negotiations. In the decade that followed he worked on numerous campaigns to help secure more work opportunities for the members of IBEW Local #5, better wages, benefits, and working conditions for unrepresented workers throughout the jurisdiction. He was a founding member of the 3rd District "3DYC" young worker committee, created by International VP Siegel. On July 1, 2019, he was appointed Assistant Business Agent for McKean, Elk, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, and Jefferson counties by then Business Manager Dunleavy, expanding his responsibilities further. During this time, he was a member of the workforce development board for North Central Pennsylvania, a delegate to North Central PA and Central PA Building Trades Councils and managed the renovation and expansion of the John F. McIntyre Training Center.

In January 2022, Buddy was appointed by the Local 5 Executive Board to serve the remainder of the vacated Recording Secretary term. Concurrently, being appointed as a trustee on both the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) and the Labor-Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC). He assumed the role of Local #5 PAC Chairman and began managing the Welfare Benefit Plan Sick and Disability program. He was elected to a full term with Business Manager McIntyre's team the following year. In the fall of 2023, he was recognized with an additional appointment as a Labor Trustee for the IBEW Local #5 Pension, Healthcare, Deferred Compensation, and Wage and Fringe Funds where he is able to work on improving the benefits for all Local #5 members and their families alongside the five other trustees; Business Manager McIntyre, former Business Manager Dunleavy, Jim Ferry, Todd Mikec, and Joe Rios.

## HOLIDAY PARTY LOCATIONS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH**  
Following meeting at 8 p.m.

**Local Union No. 5 Hall**  
Southside

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**  
Doors open 6 p.m.  
Dinner at 7 p.m.

**Slippery Rock Golf Club**  
106 Ralston Road  
Slippery Rock PA 16057

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**  
Doors open 6 p.m.  
Dinner at 7 p.m.

**Cedarbrook Golf Course**  
215 state route 981  
Belle Vernon PA, 15012

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH**  
Doors open 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner at 7 p.m.

**The Copper Cork Event Center**  
512 Arnold Avenue  
Clearfield, PA 16830

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH**  
Doors open 6 p.m.  
Dinner at 7 p.m.

**Blair County Convention Center**  
1 Convention Center Drive  
Altoona, PA 16602

CONGRATULATIONS!

IBEW

ORGANIZER OF THE YEAR

BILL GARNER



2026 ANNUAL DUES:\$712.40

WOMENS COMMITTEE PICNIC



RENEW NEWS

Renew volunteers give back to Local 5 Retirees!

Nathan Slivka (not pictured), Zach Podish and Sheehan Aitken helped Mr. and Mrs. Karpan with their spring cleanup, weeding, mulching and pressure washing

Shane Letchford and Rob Davide helped Wayne Happe with weeding and yard work



20% off Betsy Ann Candy



Use code: IBEW at Betsyann.com

2025 Scholarships Are Awarded

Jake Conroy

Olivia Fallon

John Wolfe

Mackenzie Wray

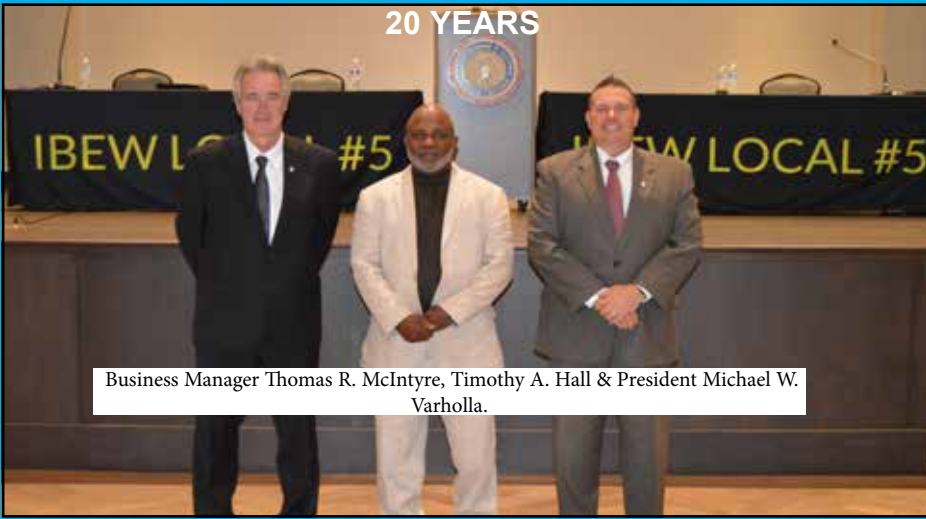
Applications for the 2026 scholarships will be available from September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 Those who are eligible are high school seniors who are sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of Local #5 "A" members. Complete eligibility rules and applications can be obtained by mail, from:

N.E.C.A.  
5 Hot Metal Street, Suite 301  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2357



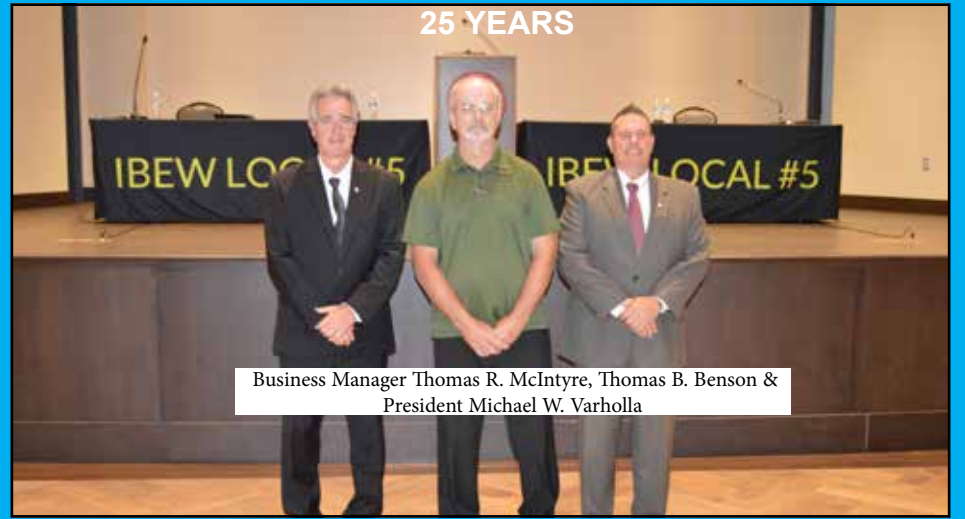
# Retired Member Service Pin Ceremonies

20 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Timothy A. Hall & President Michael W. Varholla.

25 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Thomas B. Benson & President Michael W. Varholla

30 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Brian M. Rae, James B. Copley, Jeffrey E. Pomponio & President Michael W. Varholla

40 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Elizabeth A. Low, Ronald F. Etheridge, James W. Gilbert, Frank J. Rodgers & President Michael W. Varholla

45 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Vincent G. Thearle, Timothy B. Perkosi, Michael T. Karbowsky, Donald J. Rahuba & President Michael W. Varholla

50 YEARS



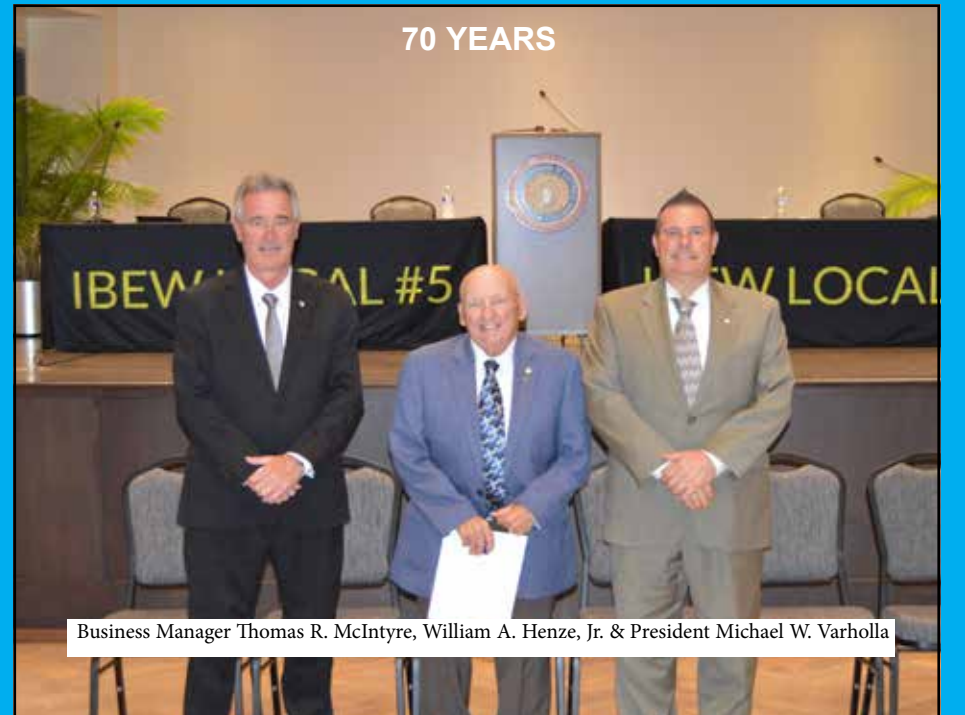
Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, John F. Hirt, Michael J. Berta, Raymond J. Kikel & President Michael W. Varholla

60 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, Kenneth E. Wagner, Robert C. Atkinson, Joseph E. Stalder, Robert A. Tarase & President Michael W. Varholla

70 YEARS



Business Manager Thomas R. McIntyre, William A. Henze, Jr. & President Michael W. Varholla

# Retired Members 20 To 70 Year Service Pin Recipients

## TWENTY YEAR PINS

Frank J. Buccieri	Jason A. Corrie	Timothy A. Hall	Donald R. Horne	Mark A. Yetter
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## TWENTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Arthur A. Antonella	Charles J. Bucek	John G. Dornetto	Gary M. Fox	William E. Larue	Daniel F. McGinley	Michael J. Shemerdiak
Thomas B. Benson	Michael J. Carey	Jesse D. Elsesser	Terry L. Gearhart	Christopher A. Lepore	Robert K. McKee	David L. Stahlman
Charles T. Berner	Stanley W. Clark	Robert A. Falconer	Kenneth D. Hamlin	Carolyn I. Libert	Robert D. McKnight	Walter R. Stout
Craig S. Bittinger	John J. Comito	Domenico Folino	Edward W. Jeffreys	Stephen S. Marshall	Leroy R. Park	Robert A. Venatta
Kenneth A. Bolin	Stephen A. Crelli	Mark S. Forbes	Thomas J. Kelly	Darrack M. McCrea	William P. Petrocsko	David M. Williams
	Wayne A. Dagostino		Walter A. Kern		Donald J. Selapack	

## THIRTY YEAR PINS

Charles P. Baccino	Kevin D. Crable	James P. Jackson	James N. Nayock	William C. Robinson
William M. Bailey, Jr.	Edward J. Dermont	Gerome T. Kohlmeyer	Lawrence A. O'Connell	Gary J. Sadler
Kenneth R. Baker	Dennis C. Fedorchak	Robert M. Koscianski	Lanny R. Pack	Brian C. Schrecongost
Steven C. Baltich	John N. Feola	Ronald C. Kozarian	David A. Pellegrini	Thomas E. Shelton
Louis H. Biter	Martin H. Francken	Eric J. Kuzo	William R. Plummer	Daniel J. Sufak, Sr.
James H. Brown	George M. Fullerton	William E. Lindsey	Jeffrey E. Pomponio	Gary C. Ulrich
Mario A. Carcella	Daniel B. Harnish	Philip E. Lint	Paul J. Quevy	Michael W. Winas
James B. Copley	Kim E. Henderson	Thomas Mardula	Brian M. Rae	Gregory R. Young

## THIRTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Edward Agliardo	Thomas A. Hall	Jeff W. Humbertson	Wayne W. Linden	Samuel Prosser
Randy P. Barie	John J. Hazel	Larry James	Walter J. Mentzell	Joseph S. Scassera
Rodney Barnes	Candace A. Hemmis	William J. Leicher	Edward J. Munzek	Scott A. Turnbull
Phillip R. Douglass	Robert R. Hoffman		Gary A. Palombia	Michael A. Wilber

## FORTY YEAR PINS

David F. Clapper	Robert V. Glass, III	David W. Linden	Joseph Mitchell	Paul M. Secosky
Ronald E. Dillon	James L. Hastings	Elizabeth A. Low	James R. Mongelluzzo	Bradley A. Thompson
Jerry L. Emerick	William J. Hohman	Charla M. MacDonald	Edward M. Reinhardt, Jr.	Russell A. Timco
Ronald F. Etheridge	Glenn J. Hursen	Cindy Mehal	Frank J. Rodgers	William A. Tomlinson
James W. Gilbert	James E. Jiles	Robert J. Mesina	Rex A. Rodgers	Michael K. Vereneck
Giulio A. Gimiliano	Edward N. Kinsey		Greg T. Rost	Kenneth A. Watt

## FORTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Joseph E. Beley	Daniel F. Hoelzeman	Robert C. McClelland	David P. Primrose	William V. Sniegocki
Robert F. Cole	Kevin J. Hollinger	Gary A. Miller	Donald J. Rahuba	Richard L. Snyder
Charles B. Cypher, III	Timothy C. Hutcheson	Gary Napolitan	Paul L. Reinert	Vincent G. Thearle
William H. Griffith	Gary A. Ivers	Robert W. Pekney	Mark A. Runco	Thomas J. Tyszkiewicz
Michael L. Hays	Michael T. Karbowsky	Timothy B. Perkoski	James W. Sipe	J. Dennis Watters
Edward R. Hockenberry	Robert E. Lydon		James R. Slater	Lamont Woods

## FIFTY YEAR PINS

John R. Astare	John R. Harris	William R. Keller	Clifford E. Mack, Sr	Albert J. Turkovich
Michael J. Berta	John F. Hirt	Raymond J. Kikel	Alfred L. Onstead	Dennis R. Weiss
John P. Carson	John A. Hyre	Robert E. Landowski	Thomas W. Strang	

## FIFTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Alan M. Ackley	Frederick B. Corbin	Charles H. Robison	Frederic I. Schaut	Carl J. Spehar
Joseph V. Bettwy	James W. Long		Jerry A. Shelander	Clyde E. Stewart

## SIXTY YEAR PINS

Robert C. Atkinson	Hugh Hardy	Dana R. Miller	John R. Rose	Robert A. Tarase
John I. Corbin	Lavern H. Henning	Maurice J. O'Donnell	James G. Shemerdiak	Kenneth E. Wagner
	James H. Keefer		Joseph E. Stalder	

## SEVENTY YEAR PINS

William A. Henze, Jr.		Paul M. Karpan		Charles H. Telban
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# Denny Miller Family Picnic



## PICNIC BINGO COMMITTEE

Chairman	Buddy Franklin
Co-Chairman	Thomas McIntyre
Co-Chairman	Michael Varholla

## BINGO COMMITTEE

Michael Berta	Shane Letchford
Laura Bustamante	David Mazza
Nathan Butler	Stephen Morrocco
Skylar Clemente	Ronald Moye, Sr.
Jim Crispell	Casey Roche
Rick Dobnak Sr.	Paul Rusiewicz
Ron Ewing	Ed Staley
Rachel Hienz	Annika Szczymbak
Travis Hienz	Matt Vinglish
Edward Hursen	Tim Wisyanski
Brian Krug	

## GOLF COMMITTEE

Jim Berger	William Garner
Josh Berger	Joseph Glassbrenner
Chris Bradley	Chris Gualazzi
Norman Brice	Ken Morris, Jr.
Leonard Collins	Ronald Moye, Sr.
Ronald Dunleavy	Jerome Rebholz, Jr.
Aaron Eicker	Paul Rusiewicz
Dennis Eicker	Paul Rusiewicz Jr.
Daryl Ezell	James Saeler
Todd Freund	Nathan Slivka
	Matt Zyra





2025 PICNIC WINNERS				
ADULT RAFFLE WINNERS				
Linda Harbeson	Mike Allen	Heather DePalma	<u>GOLF Winners</u> Steve Gromley Matt Himber Don Rahuba Credit Union Winner Lyndsey Barrowman	
Donald Thomas	Kandi Francia	Nick Ishman		
Angela Mikolowsky	Kate Pelkofer	Patty Provenzano		
Karen Robb	T. Kostovny	Josh Campbell		
Dave Butler	Lisa Clawson			
CHILDREN RAFFLE WINNERS				
Girls 0 - 3	Girls 4 - 7	Boys 0 - 3	Boys 4 - 7	
Libby Barie	Rooney Nystrom	Jordan Rydbom	Jaxon Burkett	
Julia Shay	Mackenzie Megarry	A Ionzo	Justin Crossley	
Madison Powell	Jenna Weaver	Nox Rivera	Harrison Zinkham	
Willow Petrilli	Mahon	Steven Cromley	Ben Walsh	
	Kennedy Lubawski		Rodrigo De La Cruz	
Girls 8 - 11	Girls 12 - 16	Boys 8 - 11	Boys 12 - 16	
Ava Morgan	Mahon	Nicholas Furguele	Carson Butter	
Lydia Long	Karma Arsenault	Messiah J	Carter Krause	
Hanna Fedorchak	Brianna Stearn	Parker McGaughey	Mahon	
Layla Siler	Oaklee Stossel	Milo Tokarski	Jayce Jenkinson	







# Local No. 5 Endorsed Candidates

2025 General Election

Tuesday, November 4th



Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## “YES” ON ALL COURT RETENTIONS

Justice Christine Donohue-Supreme Court  
Justice Kevin M. Dougherty-Supreme Court  
Justice David M. Wecht-Supreme Court  
Judge Michael Wojcik-Commonwealth Court

**SUPERIOR COURT**

**Brandon Neuman**

**COMMONWEALTH COURT**

**Stella Tsai**

### ALLEGHENY COUNTY

**SHERIFF**

**Kevin Kraus**

COUNTY COUNCIL DIST. 1  
COUNTY COUNCIL DIST. 3  
COUNTY COUNCIL DIST. 4  
COUNTY COUNCIL DIST. 8  
COUNTY COUNCIL DIST. 9  
COUNTY COUNCIL DIST. 12

Kathleen Madonna-Emmerling  
Lissa Geiger Shulman  
Patrick Catena  
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis  
Aaron Adams  
Bob Palmosino

COMMON PLEAS  
COMMON PLEAS  
COMMON PLEAS  
COMMON PLEAS  
COMMON PLEAS  
COMMON PLEAS  
COMMON PLEAS

Dan Miller  
Amanda Green-Hawkins  
Julie Capone  
Heather Schmidt Bresnahan  
Anthony Deluca  
Quita Bridges  
Jaime Marie Hickton  
Matthew V. Rudzki

### PITTSBURGH

<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Corey O’Connor</b>
<b>CITY COUNCIL 2</b>	<b>Kim Salinetto</b>
<b>CITY COUNCIL 4</b>	<b>Anthony Coghill</b>
<b>CITY COUNCIL 6</b>	<b>Daniel Lavelle</b>
<b>CITY COUNCIL 8</b>	<b>Erika Strassberger</b>

### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

<b>05.2.13</b>	<b>Joseph Pero</b>
<b>05.2.14</b>	<b>Dan Olaz</b>
<b>05.2.18</b>	<b>Candace Seymour</b>
<b>05.2.26</b>	<b>Beth Mills</b>
<b>05.2.28</b>	<b>Oscar Petite</b>
<b>05.3.17</b>	<b>Jack Kearney</b>



## LEGAL COUNCIL REPORT



JOSHUA BLOOM & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

### OUR PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, our Supreme Court is comprised of seven (7) Justices. On Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, three (3) of those Justices, Justice Christine Donohue, Justice David N. Wecht, and Justice Kevin M. Dougherty, will be on the ballot for their Retention election. As I.B.E.W., Local No. 5's legal counsel, I strongly recommend that everyone votes **"YES"** to retain Justices Donohue, Wecht, and Dougherty.

Over the years, I have practiced in front of Justices Donohue, Wecht, and Dougherty and have worked with them personally on various boards and committees that operate under the Courts jurisdiction. I can tell you that each of them recognizes the need for unions and appreciates the specialized training, skill, and hard work done by Local 5's members and how important they are to our Commonwealth. These three (3) Justices understand and have deep compassion for the complex legal issues that working families face.

The Supreme Court is the highest Court in Pennsylvania and will decide many crucial issues. One of these issues is whether it is lawful in Pennsylvania for public entities to enter into project labor agreements (PLAs) with construction unions including Local 5. PLAs are collective bargaining agreements that require all contractors to utilize workers from the construction unions to perform the labor on their construction projects. PLAs have been used by public entities on many jobs including Heinz Field, PNC Park, PPG Paints Arena, Pittsburgh International Airport Modernization Project, the David Lawrence Convention Center, the PA State Police DNA Laboratory, the August Wilson Center, the CCAC building projects, and several others throughout Western Pennsylvania. Many of the nonunion contractors have filed lawsuits asking the Courts to prohibit public entities from entering PLAs with construction unions and it is likely that the Supreme Court will decide once and for all whether PLAs continue to be valid in Pennsylvania. It is my opinion that keeping Justices Donohue, Wecht, and Dougherty on the Supreme Court will be the difference in protecting Local 5's ability to enter into Project Labor Agreements on large publicly funded construction projects in Pennsylvania, thereby securing the work for your membership and the best value for the taxpayer.

There are also several other issues that we need Justices Donohue, Wecht, and Dougherty to remain on the Court to decide. The PA Prevailing Wage Act, the requirement that contractors pay the prevailing wage (the union wage) on publicly funded construction projects, continues to be under attack from non-union contractors who want the standard of pay to decrease for construction workers in Pennsylvania. The Court also routinely decides workplace injury issues, workers' compensation issues, and unemployment compensation issues among many other important issues affecting Local 5 members.

In short, the Retention election on November 4th, 2025 is crucial to protecting the rights of Local 5 and their families. Please make sure that you and your families vote **"YES" to Retain Justice Donahue, Justice Wecht, and Justice Dougherty.**

## Veterans News

### VA Contract Terminations: An Attack on Workers and Unionism

On August 6, 2025, the VA announced the termination of nearly all collective bargaining agreements covering the vast majority of its workforce. This sweeping action impacts roughly **80% of the VA's 450,000 employees**—more than a quarter of whom are veterans themselves.

This is not just a blow to VA workers. It is a dangerous precedent that strikes at the very heart of unionism. When an employer, especially one of the largest federal agencies in the nation, can unilaterally erase the rights of organized workers, it threatens the stability, dignity, and protections of every union member in America. This is only the latest step in a systematic and undemocratic attack on all forms of dissent—beginning with the firing of Inspectors General across the federal government, continuing through arbitrary budget cuts, and now culminating in the gutting of collective bargaining rights at the VA.

**Why This Matters:** Unions at the VA—AFGE, NAGE, NFFE, NNOC/NNU, SEIU—have long fought to secure basic protections for frontline staff: fair scheduling, safe staffing ratios, whistleblower protections, and grievance procedures that give workers a voice. Removing these rights doesn't "streamline" government—it muzzles the very people who are closest to the work. And let's be clear: these targeted attacks have never been recommended by any service organization, committee, sub-committee, or working group. They are meant solely to stifle dissent and silence the voices of the very people on the front lines of veteran care.

The VA has claimed this move will free up resources and improve accountability. Yet the reality is that collective bargaining has never stood in the way of improving care. **There is always room for improvement at the VA**—whether in staffing levels, resources, technology, or policies that help ensure timely, high-quality services for veterans.

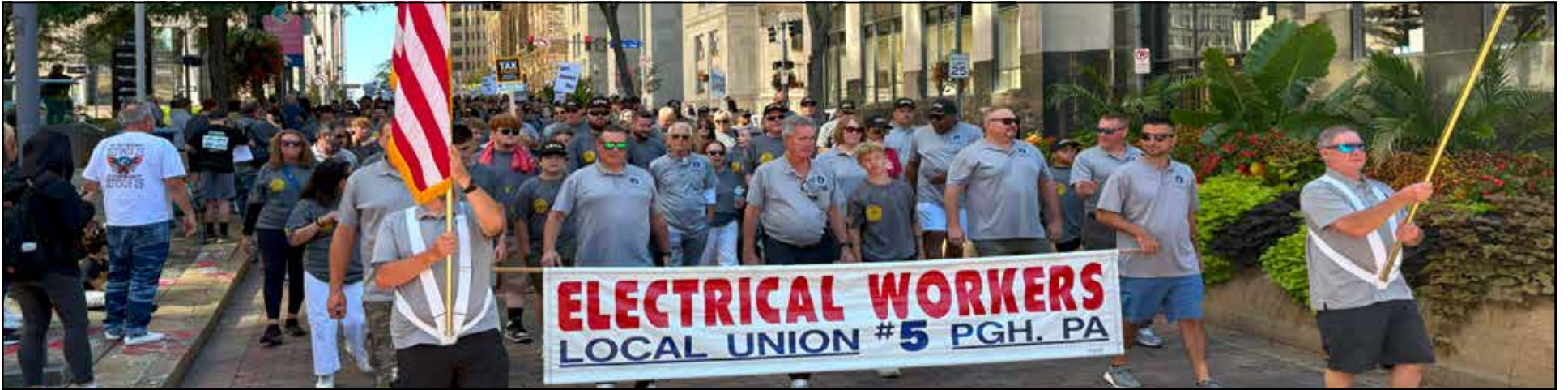
**The Bigger Picture:** This action is not happening in isolation. It is part of a broader pattern across federal agencies, where contracts at FEMA, EPA, and USCIS have also been erased under the same executive order. Together, these attacks signal a coordinated effort to dismantle union power in the public sector and to intimidate workers into silence.

IBEW Local #5 recognizes that an injury to one is an injury to all. When VA nurses, doctors, custodians, electricians, and administrative staff lose their right to collective bargaining, it doesn't just harm them—it weakens every union's ability to protect its members.

**Where We Stand:** Local #5 reaffirms its solidarity with VA employees and all working people who fight every day for fair wages, safe working conditions, and a voice on the job. We will always stand in solidarity with our veterans and with the men and women who provide exceptional care to them at VA facilities across the country. These anti-union, anti-worker, and anti-veteran attacks stand in direct contrast to who we are.

But make no mistake: this is what you get when you vote for the Trump/Project 2025 agenda (page 82). An agenda that silences workers, undermines veterans, and threatens the very foundation of collective bargaining in this country. Stand with your union. Stand with VA workers. Stand up for democracy in the workplace.











# TV Talk

By Jim Ryan

## Broadcast Work Is Changing Fast—Don't Let It Leave Us Behind

As new technology centralizes and automates production, the only way to protect wages, safety, and standards is to organize every workplace where these jobs are being created.

### A New Kind of Broadcast Hub

Two new facilities in the broadcast and media industry show us just how quickly our work is changing and why organizing remains as urgent as ever. In Centennial, Colorado, the Mountain Media Center has emerged as a massive hub of broadcast activity. This 315,000 square-foot complex, purchased and redeveloped by Mobile TV Group, is being designed as a one-stop shop for live production. What once required dozens of technicians traveling to stadiums and arenas is increasingly being centralized into a single location. Control rooms, replay stations, graphics, audio, playout, and other operations that used to happen on-site are now possible from Denver and are expected to expand further as the facility comes online. Companies such as VID30, EVS, Ateame, and Colorado Arts Productions are establishing operations at MMC, signaling that this shift is not an experiment but the new direction of the industry.

### Embedded Cameras and Remote Replays

Closer to home, COSM's C360 facility in Cranberry Township is building the capture systems that make this consolidation possible. Their miniature wide-angle cameras—installed in pylons, hockey nets, corner walls, and even inside race cars—are able to replace multiple staffed cameras with a single embedded unit. With their “Auto-ISO” and “Time Machine Replay” technologies, producers can create multiple angles and instant replays remotely, with little need for the number of operators once stationed at every venue. These systems are deployed across major broadcasts, particularly in the NFL, NHL, MLB, and NASCAR, and they are being integrated into Cosm's new immersive sports venues and streaming platforms.

### What This Means for Workers

These innovations do not erase the need for workers, but they fundamentally change the shape of the work. Instead of large crews traveling from venue to venue and setting up full-scale production trucks, companies are investing in centralized control rooms and automated camera systems that reduce the number of hands on the ground. The jobs that remain are increasingly technical, requiring expertise in networking, IP video, and software-driven workflows rather than solely traditional camera operation or audio engineering. In other words, the work is shifting from being dispersed and event-based to being concentrated in hubs and reliant on new skill sets—transforming not only how the job is done, but also who gets called to do it and under what conditions. The companies driving this transformation are investing heavily in these changes for one reason: to cut costs. They see an opportunity to cover more events with fewer workers, and they are spending millions to make it possible. Without unions, these employers will decide—on their own—what wages to pay, how many hours technicians must work, what skills are demanded, and whether benefits are offered. The result is a race to the bottom: more short-term contracts, fewer full-time jobs, stagnant pay, and little concern for health and safety on the job. What happens in one facility does not stay there; once these standards are lowered in one place, they spread across the entire field, weakening conditions for every technician in broadcast and live production.

### The Case for Organizing

That is why it is critical for us to organize. Technology will not slow down, but we can make sure workers are not left behind. Organizing new facilities and adapting to emerging technologies means securing fair wages and benefits for new classifications, ensuring proper staffing levels for quality and safety, and protecting against outsourcing and unstable contract work. Most importantly, it means that workers have a seat at the table when the industry decides how live media will be produced in the years ahead.

### How Members Can Help

Moving forward depends on us. If you have knowledge of new workplaces where this kind of technology is being used, if you've worked in remote production settings, or if you know people employed in these operations, we need to hear from you. Sharing information about these jobs helps us map the workforce, identify leverage points, and build campaigns that ensure the future of broadcast work is union work.

The bottom line is clear: as broadcast technology centralizes and automates, the best protection for workers is solidarity. We cannot wait until the jobs are gone or degraded. The time to organize is now. If you have information about new facilities or technologies changing the way media is produced, reach out to the Local today. Together, we can make sure the next generation of media work belongs to the workers—not just the corporations.

## 2025 GOLF CLUB

It's been a great season and hope to see you next year! To be put on the mailing list, contact us at:

**[ibewlu5golfclub@gmail.com](mailto:ibewlu5golfclub@gmail.com)**







**teg** INTERVENTIONS

Coping with alcohol and substance abuse is a difficult experience. For family, friends, loved ones and co-workers, it is often a confusing and heartbreaking time. It is important to know that you are not alone, and help is only a phone call away.

Call today for a confidential consultation  
TEG Interventions: Tim 724-413-9709



**JOURNEYMAN UPGRADE AND  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
CLASSES ARE STARTING  
SOON!**

**REGISTER HERE:**



## REMINDER TO FOREMAN!

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR FOREMAN  
REPORT ON THE 1ST OF THE MONTH!**

<https://ibew5.org/foreman-report>



## EXPLORERS POST UNIT #5

EXPLORERS POST UNIT #5

WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN US, TO LEARN

MORE ABOUT BECOMING A UNION ELECTRICIAN

OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

5 Hot Metal Street, Suite 100, Pittsburgh 15203 RSVP to:

[rachelhienz@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelhienz@yahoo.com)

I.B.E.W. L.U. #5 is working with the Boys Scouts of America to help young students "Explore" being an electrician. If you know of a student interested in exploring or would like to volunteer, please reach out to Rachel Hienz.



**SHOP LOCAL 5 MERCHANDISE AT OUR  
NEW STORE!**



## LifeSolutions

Member assistance  
program (MAP)



**Life can be challenging. Get the peace of mind you deserve.**

**LifeSolutions<sup>®</sup> MAP can help you balance work and personal needs to become healthier, happier, and more productive. Our private and confidential resources and support are inclusive of all populations, including older adults, new parents, diverse individuals, LGBTQIA+, veterans, those with disabilities, and others.**

### Work with an expert

#### Coaching/Counseling

- Confidential sessions in person, by telephone, or via video
- Expertise in family issues, anxiety, depression, grief and loss, drug and/or alcohol concerns, and more
- 24/7 phone support for immediate help
- Professional and personal trainings on a variety of topics, including resilience, stress, substance use disorders, mindfulness, and grief and loss

#### Disruptive event management

- 24/7 support to develop a response plan
- On-site group and individual services, plus follow-up for those showing acute distress
- Help with recovery, resilience, and self-care strategies for IBEW 5 member

#### Services for life stressors

- Free, 30-minute legal consultation and up to 25 percent off the attorney's fees post-consultation
- Free, 30-minute telephone consultation with a financial professional

#### Safe Journey

- Call a transportation service when you are concerned about getting home safely
- Get reimbursed for up to two, one-way rides per year (maximum of \$50 per ride)

#### Web-based resources

- **RxWell app**—Personalized program that allows you to learn tools and techniques for in-the-moment relief from depression, anxiety, and stress
- **Skill Builders**—Personal and professional self-paced courses
- **Downloadable legal forms**—Wills, bills of sale, and powers of attorney
- **Monthly wellness webinars**

[Lifesolutions@upmc.edu](mailto:Lifesolutions@upmc.edu)  
+1 855-209-8762 (TTY: 711)

**To access the Work-Life section of our website, go to [lifesolutionsforyou.com](https://lifesolutionsforyou.com), click Login, and enter your company code.**

Your company code is: IBEW5



**workpartners**

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# JATC NEWS

Another hot summer has passed and the JATC will soon be busy with apprenticeship and upgrade class activities. There are many remarkable changes in the facility both physically and academically that have created a new energy. You can feel it when you enter the building; seasoned instructors are ready to embrace new ideas and direction developed by both the local JATC and the Electrical Training Alliance. Newer, and in many cases, much younger instructors are excited to begin their journey in the development of talented apprentices and future journeypersons. Join us sometime for a tour of the building; explore some of the new and upgraded equipment we have and possibly sign-up for a class!



THE NEW VIRTUAL CONSTRUCTION LAB WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE COMING DAYS. THE EXPERIENCE WILL OFFER A LOOK INTO OUR NEW REALITY THAT INCLUDES 3-D MODELING, LAYOUT AND PRE-FABRICATION. THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE CHANGES THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE.

Everyone probably knows by now that the JATC is moving to a four-year program that promotes a new more practical approach to classroom instruction paired with more hands-on, and lab opportunities. Our JATC Committee has worked tirelessly to mold this program into a streamlined, efficient and industry leading program that fits the needs of our entire jurisdiction and customer base. As mentioned previously, there is a new energy because of these changes and the energy is contagious.

NEW FLOORING, PAINT AND FURNITURE THROUGH-OUT THE FACILITY. THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE PHYSICAL CHANGES THAT SHOULD IMPROVE MEMBERSHIP MORALE WHILE IN THE TRAINING CENTER.



To meet the needs of our industry the IBEW and its local unions have increased the size of their apprenticeship classes and launched an organizing campaign that seeks out the best talent that our area has to offer. The IBEW Local Union #5 organizing team has worked to make the transition into our ranks as seamless and painless as possible all while educating these individuals in what our organization has to offer. Many of the newly organized individuals didn't realize the many benefits that we enjoy; excellent pay scales, healthcare, retirement plans, educational opportunities and more! Most importantly, these men and women are able to live a more dignified lifestyle and enjoy a new respect for their efforts on the job.

We recently spoke with Cole Marian, a newly organized member who displayed the skills, knowledge and other positive attributes needed to be a member of the IBEW. Cole spoke about his Local 5 Business Agent, explaining that the agent took interest in him, visited several times, saw his potential and encouraged him to think about the opportunity in front of him.

Cole took that opportunity and is currently enrolled in upgrade classes working to become a journeyman wireman. He has suggested that all of the instructors wanted him to succeed and encourage him to be his best, making the process much more effective. This encouragement becomes evident on the job when individuals like Cole are welcomed on the jobsite and supported for their efforts.

It's a team effort that includes all parties; the officers and agents in Local Union #5, the apprenticeship including its Committee, Directors and Instructors, and all members of this great organization. Whether you came through the apprenticeship process via application or organization, the program serves everyone and we welcome all members to participate. Cole is the type of individual that the IBEW Local Union #5 is looking for, and we wish him, all apprentices and journeypersons the best in all of their endeavors.

*I COULDN'T BE MORE GRATEFUL AND BLESSED TO BE IN THE POSITION I'M IN. THE CONTRACTOR I WORK FOR HAS TREATED ME GREAT, AND I TRULY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES I'VE BEEN GIVEN.* -COLE MARIAN



## IBEW Local 5 Riding Club

2025 IBEW East Coast Ride



As fall approaches we will still be having a few motorcycle rides please reach out to Casey Roche [croche@ibew5.org](mailto:croche@ibew5.org)

## WPANECA Electrician Emergency Support Program

The **WPANECA Electrician Emergency Support Program** was created in 2018 to lend a helping hand to IBEW electricians and their families in the face of emergencies. We've proudly been able to do that over the past few years. In 2022 alone we awarded over **\$6500** in aid and helped support 3 different IBEW Electricians who needed our help during their most challenging times. What we build together as **NECA/IBEW** is truly a team effort. We want you to know that we are here to **HELP YOU** when you need it most. We want to make sure electricians in Local 5 understand that the EESP is a confidential, safe place to seek financial assistance in the face of an emergency.

Please visit [www.wpaneca-electrician.org](http://www.wpaneca-electrician.org) to learn more





# Retiree Picnic 2025



## I.B.E.W. LOCAL #5 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

LIMITED TIME VEHICLE LOAN SPECIAL  
AUGUST 1 THRU OCTOBER 31, 2025  
NEW VEHICLES AS LOW AS 4% FOR 5 YEARS  
USED VEHICLES AS LOW AS 4.75% FOR 4 YEARS

By being a I.B.E.W. LOCAL No. 5 member  
you are eligible to be a member of the I.B.E.W. LOCAL #5 FCU.

We are located in the I.B.E.W LOCAL NO. 5 BUILDING ON THE 2ND FLOOR

DUES PAYMENT – If you have funds on deposit at the credit union you may call our office, request your payment amount and we will make your dues payment to the Local No. 5 office.

PHONE: 412-432-1152  
FAX: 412-431-4659



Hours of Operation  
**Monday & Thursday**  
9am -7pm  
**Tuesday & Wednesday**  
9am-3pm  
**Friday**  
9am -NOON



# AROUND OUR JURISTICTIION



Hatzel & Buehler at Hitachi  
L to R: Carl Thomas, Ed Hiles, Mike Dipofi, Shaun Wallace, Chuck Dempsey, Trevor Graham, Brad Nelson, Dra Radusewicz, Joe Forcina, Dave Bonetti



Clista Electric, Mare Solutions & Tail Industries at University of Pittsburgh Recreation and Wellness Center



Miller Electric at CMU  
L to R: Eric Ben Cardone, Shawn Berta, Chris Matson, Luke Russman, Rick Kifer, Steve Weltner, Kris McKee



Kostovny Electric at Grist Brewing  
Sean Bogesdorfer, Nathan Vickinovic, Billy Barker



Sargent Electric at Moon Area School  
L to R: Sam Jones, Nick Kolupajilo, Justin Weasenforth, Sam Barone



Pevarnik Brothers Inc. at Amazon Coraopolis  
L to R: Cody Macy, Chris Thompson, Robert Catone



Airport Terminal Modernization Project



PSSI at Acrisure Stadium  
L to R: Ron Moye, David Piontek, Michael Vitanza



University Electric at Homer-Center School  
L to R: Keith Ishman, Eric Rodgers, Cameron Thomas



Sargent Electric at Pittsburgh Fire Station 8  
L to R: Andrew McBrier, Mike Borella, Colton Cooper, Christian Glaspey



Clista Electric and Dagostino Electronic Services at Acrisure Stadium



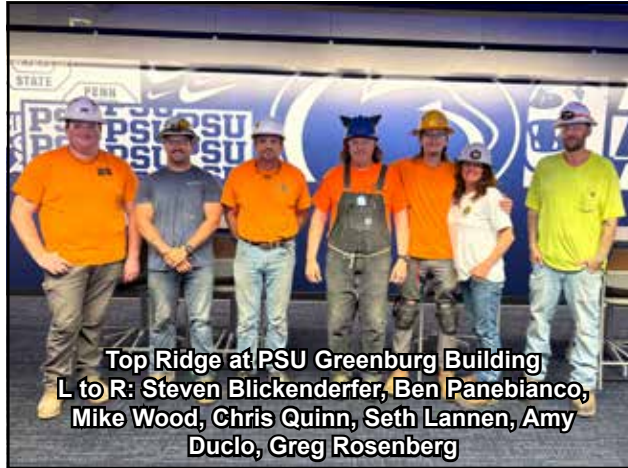
Ferry Electric at Acrisure Stadium  
L to R: Jeff Soles, Dan McKenzie



# AROUND OUR JURISTITION



**Biter Electric at Penn Cambria School**  
Katie Rainey, Jake Fairbanks, Jared Adams, Brennen Keating, Jon Lee, Dan Lee



**Top Ridge at PSU Greenburg Building**  
L to R: Steven Blickenderfer, Ben Panebianco, Mike Wood, Chris Quinn, Seth Lannen, Amy Duclo, Greg Rosenberg



**Sargent at Jefferson Hospital**  
L to R: John Kutzfara, Michele Nalepa, Mason Clements, David Nalepa, Kaleb Reckley



**L. Cannon at Jefferson Hospital**  
Cody Galioto, Adam King, Megan Leary, John Bopp



**Right Electric Freeport WWTP**  
Will Cassidy, Dave Nolf, Hunter Seybert, Seth Rob



**Penn-Ohio PA DOT Maintenance facility-Kittanning**  
Jason Garia, Chad Booher, Kurt Schuhler, Zachery Mailliard



**Wellington Power at AGH**  
Back row: Matt Sinkus, Lonzell Coles, Anthony Bortle, Bob Gmys, Mark Garcia, Jayce Hundertmark, Hayden Callen, James Ragland, Chuck Lynch  
Front Row: Dean Crusan, Michael Haley, Sean Kehrer, Bailey Rollage, Dylan Malush, Chris Marsh, Julius Romano, Tim Cowan, Dean Hohn



**Lighthouse at AGH**  
Brittany Posey, Nate Torgent, Aiden Tomko, Bendan Miller, Glen Henning, Rege Ricketts



**Precision, Scalise and Bluestone at AHN Jackson Center**  
L to R: Logan Gregory, Kody Witt, Pat Tevis, Chris Donovan, Wayne Colteryahn, Misty Rees, Bri Spell, Ean Ragland, Mike Patterson, Darren Gelzhiser, Thad Donaldson



**Biter Electric at PSU Classroom Building**  
Luke Guenot, Bruce McGregor, Joe Smith



**Sargent Electric on Pittsburgh Street Lighting**  
Zachary Williams, Tyler Kelch, Ethan Heinz



**Sargent Electric at Moon Area High School**  
L to R: Nick Kolupajlo, Josh kuna, Brendan Weil, Justin Weasenforth, Jon Lippert, Sam Jones



**Schultheis First Student EV chargers N Side**  
David Ely, Brent Stiles, Harry Depetro, Derek Baker





## BEST WISHES TO PENSIONERS

The officers, and members of Local 5  
congratulate these newly retired members and  
wish them a long and healthy retirement:



Gregory E. Flaus  
Richard A. Kepchia  
Gerald S. Kopach  
Joseph A. Pennington  
Scott P. Straynick  
Peter P. Hric  
Gilbert R. Orchard  
George C. Piper  
Scott M. Sheridan  
William P. Willochell  
William R. Curry  
Robert A. Funtal  
James S. Volzer  
James P. Capelli  
James L. Darr  
Joseph A. Fedyshyn  
Patrick J. Frank

Robert P. Gallagher  
John A. McIntye  
Mark S. Rodgers  
Leonard J. Verdetto, Jr.  
Thomas E. Weber  
Terry D. Young  
Donald A. Younkins  
Carl D. Fosbaugh  
David S. Merchant  
Jeffrey P. Rouda  
Ricky P. Shultz  
Daniel J. Kenney  
Darrell D. Shick  
John J. Shrum  
Stven P. Smolko  
Mark R. Szymanski

Anyone interested in joining the Local #5 Retirees Club should contact:  
Mr. Tim Perkosi @ 412-860-4033

**It is very important to notify the Local  
Union promptly of any mailing address  
or phone number change!**

## BENEFIT INFORMATION

**IBEW LOCAL 5 OFFICE: 412-432-1400 or Toll Free 1-800-225-IBEW**

Judy Elkanich: Pension applications, deceased member notification / information, beneficiary changes, scheduling of appointments with the Business Manager, "Honorary and Participating" withdraw information..

Cate Eichner: Highmark, Security Blue, Freedom Blue, Pensioners \$10 Dental and Optical Premium and Maintenance assessments.

Courtney Steingraber: Dues payments and inquiries, change of address notifications, and BA Member information and "Military Card" requests.

**National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA): 412-432-1155**

Chris Cottrill: Scholarship information.

**JATC Apprenticeship Office: 412-432-1145**

Lisa McManus: Apprenticeship information.

**W.P.E.E. Pension Fund: 412-432-1156**

Pension benefit calculation inquiries and questions; W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund death benefit beneficiary updates; and Workers Compensation pension and insurance benefits.

**W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund 412-432-1130 or Toll Free 1-800-382-1428**

All insurance-related questions, including Hospital, Emergency Department, Medical/Surgical, Major Medical, Dental and Vision; Pensioners Dental & Optical Claims.

**Secretary of Funds: 412-432-1128 or Toll Free 1-877-782-1817**

Beneficiary changes, ERTS, contractor contribution information, benefit hour information, vacation check inquiries.

**W.P.E.E. Deferred Compensation and Sick and Disability: 412-432-1144**

Deferred Compensation, Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) withdrawal, and Sick and Disability benefit inquiries.

**Central Data Services (CDS): 412-432-1125 or Toll Free 1-877-782-1410**

Pension benefit calculation inquires and questions; W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund death benefit beneficiary updates; and Workers Compensation pension and insurance benefits.  
All other fund-related questions.

**IBEW Local 5 Federal Credit Union: 412-432-1152**

Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM to Noon

**IBEW LOCAL 5**  
**5 Hot Metal Street**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2355**

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## IN FRATERNAL MEMORY

### Deceased Retired Members

Ronald R. Sell April 11, 2025  
Daniel C. Sadler May 13, 2025  
Roy P. Beitle May 18, 2025  
Francis May, Jr. June 11, 2025  
Robert B. Ergler, Jr.-June 25, 2025  
Willard G. Booth July 2, 2025  
John R. Barczak July 3, 2025  
Paul J. Malecki July 6, 2025  
David C. Kronenwetter July 24, 2025  
William G. McGowan July 26, 2025  
Lawrence L. Barger August 1, 2025  
Frank A. Gaus, II August 4, 2025  
Julius Bertoni August 8, 2025  
Dennis P. Ging August 17, 2025  
Albert R. Johnson August 24, 2025  
Larry N. Sillaman-September 11, 2025  
Paul M. Karpan-September 22, 2025

### Deceased Active Members

Steven J. Stalder June 3, 2025

All Business Agents can  
be reached at:

**(412) 432-1400**  
**1-800-225-IBEW**

## Business Agents

Kirby Christie	Ken Nagel
Jim Crispell	Tom Platt
Daryl Ezell	Jim Ryan
Buddy Franklin	Ben Steinmeyer
William Garner	Michael Varholla
Natalie Jackson	



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Phone: 412-432-1400 www.ibew5.org FAX: 412-432-1499



Business Manager - Financial Secretary ..... Thomas R. McIntyre  
President ..... Michael W. Varholla  
Vice President ..... William C. Garner  
Recording Secretary ..... Alfred "Buddy" Franklin  
Treasurer ..... Natalie N. Jackson

### Executive Board

Michael W. Varholla, Chairman  
William C. Garner, Secretary

Paul R. Rusiewicz  
Christopher Gualazzi

Kenneth F. Morris, Jr.  
Mathew E. Vinglish

### Examining Board

David J. Mazza

Ronald E. Moye, Sr.

Casey J. Roche