

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



I.B.E.W. Local 1439 Newsletter

2nd Edition, 2023

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The song “Don’t Blink” is for real. It seems like yesterday I started my career at Union Electric. That’s what we were called in 1988! My first job was a laborer at Union Electrics Country Club. It was awesome. They had a great ball field where employees from different work groups would play against each other on a regular basis. It also had an outdoor movie theater, rides for the kids and a dance hall for adults.

That’s where I met Pete and Paul the caretakers of the country club. They would talk to us about the dozens and dozens of jobs you could bid on and what they entailed. Pete had been a lineman in St. Charles, and after talking to him, I knew what I wanted to do for my career. 3 years later, after a stop in motor transportation, I started my overhead apprenticeship.

Back in the early 90’s St. Charles was considered way out of the area. They called it the island. The group was very small, and they were very tight. They had family functions all the time. That’s what I grew to like about working at Ameren and the Union. Groups that got to know each other and their families, always seemed to enjoy work.

One of the first things my lead lineman told me was to get involved in safety committees and go to union meetings. It turned out to be great advice! I’ve really enjoyed my career being a lineman, going to rodeos, and especially training apprentices. That was truly the most rewarding part of my career. Being a part of the union really helped me make so many great friends over the years.

I would really like to thank Jeremy and Chad for bringing me into the office as a Business Representative over the last couple of years. They are great friends that are compassionate, caring, intelligent, and really have your best interest in mind as Business Manager and President. And with Eric and Mike you’re in great hands going forward. Thaks for the ride! And don’t blink or you’ll be next! Thanks, Billy

Billy Howle

IBEW Local 1439

Business Representative

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1439 NEWS



By: Jeremy Pour
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
JeremyP@ibew1439.com

Brothers and Sisters:

It has been an incredibly busy summer for all our members. Every bit of our territory has been touched by non-stop storms and outages. I want to thank each of you that spent your time away from family and friends and spent the summer doing your part getting the lights on. I know missing ballgames, pushing vacations back or just missing the weekend barbeque is not easy but it is greatly appreciated. Hopefully we have a calmer fall and everyone can catch their breath a little bit.

As you saw on the front page of this edition Billy Howle has retired. I would like to take a moment and thank Billy for his service to IBEW 1439. Billy has served in many capacities during his time in the Union, apprentice trainer, steward, executive board, Vice-president, President and Business Representative. When we meet with new Pre-apprentices and Banked apprentices Billy would always talk about getting involved in the Union and man did he. He was unabashedly proud of the 'Island' (St. Charles) and took great pride in the group and relationships he fostered while out there. For me personally Billy helped my get into the role of vice-president in 2013 then gave me guidance when I came into the office in 2017. We have become friends over the past 10 years and his transition into the office gave me great support as I took over for Business Manager Mueller in 2019. So if you see Billy around the Island holding a red solo cup in his hand he is not looking for spare change just a little Seagram's if you have it. Go ahead and hang up the handline Billy and enjoy retirement, you deserve it.

As we transition in the Union office I am proud and excited to have Mike Arnold joining us as our new Business Representative. Mike comes from a strong union family and has been active in 1439 his entire career. I know Mike will do a great job representing the members of 1439. His duties will include Fleet services, Overhead, Substations, Telecommunications, Traveling Operators and Trouble. He will be attending all the upcoming union meetings with myself or Eric, the next meeting you are at please take the time to introduce yourself to him.

We are quickly approaching the end of summer which means fall activities. One new activity for 1439 will be the fall festival/trunk or treat on October 28th. I hope that each of you can attend this event and if you have children be sure to bring them along. We will be having activities for the kids, a trunk or treat in the parking lot, food, t-shirts for all that attend and even a costume contest for the kiddos. This event is replacing the labor day picnic that we normally have, it will be a great opportunity for families of 1439 to get together have a little fun and build some union solidarity.

Again, thank you to all for what has been a tough and busy summer. Please continue to work safe each and every day.

Jeremy

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

If you have moved, changed your email or phone number please contact the Union office (314) 644-6111 or local.1439@ibew1439.com to update your contact information.

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**Trunk
OR
Treat**

SATURDAY OCT 28th 2-7 pm

IBEW 1439 FAMILY EVENT

KIDS COSTUME CONTEST 5 PM

FOOD, TSHIRTS, GAMES, PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME & MUCH MORE!

**LOCAL 1439 HALL
2121 59TH ST.
ST. LOUIS MO. 63110**

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Business Manager's Report

Alliant:

- Made a proposal for 2.0 pay while on storm work.
- Working on a healthcare analysis to try get better medical.

Ameren:

- Medical premiums are going down plus a \$35 rebate each month in 2024.
- Maintenance medication moving to CVS only.
- Still working on FMCP being the health insurance for Ameren members.
- Getting a new date to meet on FR allotment.
- New agreement in Meter for a Pre-apprentice program.
- Met with superintendents to discuss ARCOS issues.
- Double time grievance for Potosi and Hayti is moving forward.

Liberty:

- In discussions for Retiree medical changes.
- Waiting on the company's response for Parental leave time.

City of DeSoto:

- Got a termination rescinded.
- Starting contract negotiations.

City of Potosi:

- Working on pay issues.

This is a brief rundown of issues within each bargaining unit. Any questions please reach out to myself, Mike or Eric.

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Benefits for Union Members

\$500 lender credit available towards closing costs and prepaid items with Unsung Heroes Program.

UNsung HEROES

- \$500 lender credit available for union trade workers
- Helping union members build wealth through real estate and home ownership

FHA

- Low down payment
- Down payment assistance options
- Income limits apply

MHDC/IHDA

- Down payment assistance options
- Fixed rate mortgages
- Income limits apply

USDA RURAL HOUSING PROGRAM

- No down payment with closing cost financing available
- Fixed rate mortgages
- Income limits apply

VA

- No down payment
- Fixed rate mortgages
- No monthly mortgage insurance



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ELECTRICAL WORKERS
MINORITY CAUCUS

MEET & GREET

SEPT. 20. 3:30-8 PM



RAFFLE TICKETS \$10 IN ADVANCE OR AT DOOR

50/50 RAFFLE ✦ FRIENDS ✦ FOOD & DRINKS

HENRY MILLER MUSEUM

2726 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING DR, 63106

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RENEW

(Reach out and Engage the Next Generation Electrical Worker)

&

Membership Development Report

By: Eric Wilkinson Organizer/Business Representative

Brothers and Sisters,

In August, I had the opportunity to attend two conferences for the local. Both were very informative. Not only do I get to learn while in the conferences or in the training that goes along with them, but also in all the conversations that are had with Brothers and Sisters from all over the country and Canada.

I accompanied 1439's RENEW President Tony Leeker, Jr to the National RENEW Conference. Seeing all the younger Brothers and Sisters from so many diverse backgrounds was extremely inspiring. It gave me a fresh sense of hope for our organization. In the conference they touched on the basics of running a committee and the need for younger members to be involved. There were breakout sessions about having the younger members involved in their communities, local elections, organizing, and being more active in their local Union.

The other conference was the Membership Development Conference. This is the largest yearly conference held by the IBEW. The focus of this conference is organizing and growing the IBEW both internally and externally. Before the conference started, there was a three-day training session called ARC, Assessing and Running Campaigns. The interaction with the trainers and the other participants was informative. During the session we discussed effective plans, labor laws, quality messaging, and digital tools to use.

There were three days of conference. Each day having breakout sessions that offered information on a variety of topics. One of the breakouts was a class on ActionBuilder. This is a program to aid and assist in organizing campaigns. It helps keep track of information with a lot of detail, such as each campaign's progress, individual workers support of the campaign, and mapping of prospective organizing sites.

Another breakout was called "The Art of Organizing". They based this class on an ancient book called "The Art of War". They highlighted 27 steps out of that book to help with the "war" of organizing. That was one of my favorite breakouts by far!

The last breakout was on NLRB updates. With a labor friendly administration in office, that has helped the labor board become more friendly to organized labor. The biggest win with was the firing of Peter Robb, a lawyer who is pro-business and very anti-labor. With that firing and the appointment of more labor friendly people, it has helped swing the pendulum to the side of labor.

With the knowledge I acquired at these two conferences, I hope to help make not only Local 1439 a stronger local but to make the IBEW a stronger organization for our current and future members. Stay safe and I hope to see you at the next meeting!

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Blue Hat Report



**Blue Hat
Brandon Shortt**



**Blue Hat
Aaron Mehrtens**

Areas of Emphasis

- Stressed importance of Situational awareness when arriving to a jobsite.
- Eyes of Path/Work while Driving, encouraged the use of a spotter while backing.
- Proper PPE
- Mental Health
- Share Good Catch/Near miss events
- Have emergency contact information up to date

Crew Concerns

- Crews expressed frustration with pressure to produce ESRT
- Focus 5/Eyes on Path/Mind on task initiative being on pause
- FR clothing allowance, prices, quality/craftmanship
- Positive: Cleanliness of facilities has improved.

Partnerships in the Field

- New PVD did not alert when old one did, getting with standards to ensure proper programming
- Storm support July 1-18.
- July 29-31 Storm support; Metro, NEMO and CMD
- Worked with regional dispatch to create Emergency Phone #
- Attended/Facilitated a discussion at Substation West all employee meeting.
- Collaborating with coworker to answer questions about grounding and gloving policies.
- GWP discussion with groups.
- MHFA Planning
- First Aid kit discussion
- Distributed weekly Blue Hat meeting starters
- Joint safety board meeting
- Communication team/Focus Five Initiative



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Member News

Memoriams

Eugen Diers
Dan Roth
Ronald Potthoff
Bernie Emms

Retirees

Tim Luley
Joseph Schmid
James Lange

New Members

Brent McClain
Rafael Mendez
Easton Otten
Jake Schodrowski
Adam Prange
Tim Schumacher
Matt Watkins
Daniel Theiss
Steven Petty
Nathan Keller
Bryce Schumer
Scott Mays
Robert Hays
Logan Gentges
Tyler Reinke
Mathew Moore
Nathanael Adrew
Chad Housman
Wayne Eiting
Jacob Folk
Tyler Dockins
Caleb Sullivan
Richard McGee
Glenn Meyrose
Atticus Durnin
Mitchell Ruether
Anthony Hodges
Brian Layton
Austin Rea
Ryan Vogt
Brock Eddings



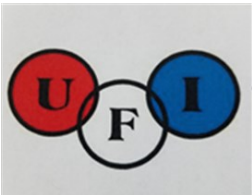
Meet Mike Arnold

Business Representative

Hello, brothers and sisters! I am excited to start in the position of business representative and be of assistance to you all. For those of you whom I have not met yet, let me give you a brief rundown of my labor history.

I started with Ameren in 2009 as a banked apprentice and began my first stage overhead apprenticeship that fall. I topped out in May 2012, spending time in Dorsett and Franklin County. In the Spring of 2013, I joined the metro trouble department and remained until the fall 2019. During that time, I was the steward for Dorsett trouble. I took a bid out to St. Charles overhead, then another bid to St. Charles trouble, where I was assistant and eventually shop steward again. I also participated in the negotiation committee for our current contract and was on the Executive Board for the St. Charles seniority group.

I hope to serve you all well and look forward to seeing you at the next union meeting soon. If you need anything please contact me at 314.769.4222 or Mikea@ibew1439.com



Contact Matt Kopecky, with Union Financial the advisor for IBEW Local 1439 to help you construct a strong financial plan.

314.495.9166

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
9.19.23	Jefferson Mtg	4:00	Knights of Columbus
9.21.23	Hayti Mtg	3:00	Operating Center
9.26.23	Franklin Mtg	4:00	Union Park
9.28.23	Kirksville Mtg	4:00	Operating Center
10.02.23	Executive Board	4:00	Local 1439
10.03.23	St. Louis Mtg	4:30	Local 1439
10.12.23	Butler Mtg	4:00	Operating Center
10.18.23	DeSoto Mtg	4:30	Pagolinos
10.24.23	St. Francois	4:00	Hub Pubs
10.26.23	Caruthersville/Malden	4:30	TBD
10.28.23	Fall Festival	2-7	Local 1439
11.06.23	Executive Board	4:00	Local 1439
11.07.23	St. Louis Mtg	4:30	Local 1439
11.14.23	Jefferson Mtg	4:00	Knights of Columbus
11.15.23	St. Charles Mtg	4:00	Knights of Columbus
11.21.23	Franklin Mtg	4:00	Hagies
11.28.23	Potosi	4:00	Elks
12.04.23	Executive Board	4:00	Local 1439
12.05.23	St. Louis Mtg	4:30	Local 1439
12.07.23	Keokuk/Fort Madison	4:30	Charleston Board of Trade
12.12.23	Jackson/Sikeston	4:00	Operating Center
12.15.23	Christmas Party	12-12	Local 1439
12.19.23	Hayti	3:00	Operating Center
12.20.23	Desoto	4:30	Pogolinos