



ON THE WIRE

The Quarterly Newsletter of IBEW Local 104

Spring 2015

IBEW



LOCAL 104

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

Business Manager's Message



Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

It's hard to believe we're almost done with this cold first quarter of 2015 and getting ready for what we hope will be a more temperate spring season.

It was a cold winter and we all did our part to keep New England's power on. Throughout the winter, we restored power that had been taken out by large storms bringing record breaking low temperatures and record breaking levels of snow fall. We can all be proud of the hard work we did for the communities in our local throughout this historically harsh winter. As we come to the end of it, we look forward to the coming of spring's warmth and the new work opportunities it will bring for all of our members.

On a more technical note, I want to remind everyone of the importance of keeping your beneficiary forms up to date. You should fill out your beneficiary forms properly and as soon as possible. You should also have them reviewed yearly and/or with any change of relationship, such as marital status or the addition of any dependents. It is important to properly do this in order that your money goes to your loved ones, and not someone else, upon your passing. Our financial advisors at LPL Financial (timothy.bascom@lpl.com) would be happy to help you think about any aspect of your finances, including, retirement and investments

I also am happy to tell you that our property searches in Massachusetts and Maine are coming to a positive conclusion. For some time, we have been looking to buy new offices for our Massachusetts and Maine branches. For the Maine office, we are looking primarily in the Lewiston area. We look forward to the opportunities that will come from owning these properties, and are proud to be able to make this announcement.

On the business front, I'm proud to report that the work projection going forward is very positive. As you may remember, last year, we successfully negotiated a one year contract with NECA, which brought consistent and quality work for many of our members. We look forward to renegotiating with them for a three year contract beginning in June, and are

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Union Meetings

All union meetings are now held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at both the MA and NH halls and are connected through video conferencing.

Employee/ Office Listing

NH Office:

22 Old Concord Turnpike
Barrington, NH 03825
603-868-1798 Fax
603-868-1143 Phone

Laurie Gowen

Ext. 1200 - Office Admin

Colleen Eaton

Ext. 1204 - Office Admin

Jason Bentley

Ext. 1202 - Asst. Business Manager

OSHE Dept: NH Office

603-868-1522 Fax
603-868-2789 Phone

Julie Morris

Ext. 1201 - Office Admin

ME Office:

238 Goddard Road
Lewiston, Maine 04240

Tim Burgess 207-294-1113

MA Office:

130 West Street
Walpole, MA 02081
508-660-0986 Fax
508-660-3900 Phone

Elise Joyce

Ext. 1100 - Office Admin

Karen Murphy

Ext. 1110 - Office Admin

Hugh Boyd

Ext. 1101 - Treasurer/Asst.
Business Manager

Ryan Demeritt

Ext. 1102 - President

Jim Breare

Ext. 1106 - Referral Agent

Brian Pierce

Ext. 1107 - Business Rep.

Brian Murphy

Ext. 1109 - Business Manager

OSHE Dept MA Office:

508-668-6158 Fax
508-668-5856 Phone

Lauren Dolan

Ext. 1104 - Office Admin.

Kathy Tilden

Ext. 1105 - Office Admin.

Paul Loughran

Ext. 1108 - Safety Director

Sean McNamara

Ext. 1103 - Safety Specialist

Ryan Demeritt

Ext. 1102 - Safety Specialist

Local 104 Legislative Update - March 2015

Once again, Local 104 is being faced with some serious challenges, but also some major opportunities, at the state legislatures. We worked together last year to beat back several legislative initiatives that would have slowed or even completely stopped transmission development in New Hampshire, and we moved ahead on several other opportunities to create new jobs across our jurisdiction. So far, 2015 promises to bring more of the same.

In New Hampshire, we're already fighting two bills in the House of Representatives that are designed to kill the Northern Pass project. The first, HB431 is a clone of a bill that passed the House, but which we killed in the Senate last year. HB431 would force all new transmission lines (with some limited exceptions) to be buried. Should this bill pass, the Northern Pass project – which would create more than 1,200 jobs – would be stopped in its tracks. Luckily, we were able to win a key procedural vote in committee, but the final outcome remains in question.

The second New Hampshire bill, HB626, is also designed to kill Northern Pass by forcing new transmission projects into designated corridors. We were also successful in committee here, buying time to work on the bill and improve it over the summer.

As energy stability throughout New England continues to be a major issue for families and businesses, the need for the new power the Northern Pass would provide will only grow. We're confident support for the project will also grow, but opposition to new transmission lines isn't going away. We'll need to be prepared to step up and advocate vocally for the Northern Pass when the project files for a siting certificate with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. We expect this to happen in the next few months.

In Massachusetts, there will be a new bill, HD3217, which would actually help build the Northern Pass. This bill is in its early stages, but it is designed to provide energy diversity and security for Massachusetts by requiring local utilities to take new steps, including buying new hydropower from Canada. We won some key support from legislators and our fellow labor unions on a similar bill last year, but the legislative clock ran out. HD3217 picks up where last year's initiative left off, and hopefully we can achieve success this year.

In Maine, there are many new bills dealing with transmission and renewable energy, including some that may make it harder and more expensive to connect Maine's bountiful renewable energy resources to the grid. One bill in particular, LD420, increases the fees that developers pay to site transmission lines. We are working with our allies in the Maine legislature to find a way to avoid any new hurdles in siting transmission lines in Maine.

Across Local 104's jurisdiction, there continue to be new bills and legislative initiatives that impact you. We'll make sure to keep you posted on what's happening, so you can continue to be effective advocates for policies that create good jobs for Local 104 members.

Huck Montgomery

Director of Government Affairs



Positive Outlook Predicted for Northern Pass in 2015



After a period of inactivity (at least publicly), developments related to the Northern Pass project are again a hot topic of discussion in New England.

This started on Feb. 2 when the parent company of Public Service of New Hampshire, Northeast Utilities, officially changed its name to Eversource Energy. While not discussed, part of this re-branding effort is believed to be focused on changing the way people think about energy in New Hampshire, which could help build support for the Northern Pass.

The word "utilities" carried a stigma that may have been negatively affecting how New Hampshire residents perceived the Northern Pass project. The new identity, Eversource Energy, carries more positive connotations, synonymous with words like renewable, reliable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly.

"Consolidating our brand was the obvious next step for us as we continually strive to improve energy delivery and customer service to our 3.6 million electricity and natural gas customers across the region," said Tom May, chairman, president and

chief executive officer of Northeast Utilities, now Eversource Energy, in a prepared statement.

And less than two weeks after the name change was announced, officials with Eversource spoke publicly with great optimism about Northern Pass. In a conference call with stock analysts that wrapped up the company's fourth quarter of 2014, Eversource Energy executives explained why 2015 will be a crucial year for the \$1.4 billion project intended to transmit clean, hydroelectric power from Canada to all of New Hampshire and New England.

Although analysts remained cautious, Eversource Executive Vice President Leon J. Olivier outlined an aggressive schedule for Northern Pass over the next 10 months.

"We expect the U.S. Department of Energy to release its draft environmental impact statement in April." If the draft is issued in April, Eversource plans on filing its state application with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee around the middle of the year.



"While we wait for the release of the draft EIS, we will continue to reach out to various constituencies in New Hampshire, including the neighbors of our proposed 187-mile route to understand any concerns they may have and try to address them," Olivier continued. "We continue to project that we will receive both the state and federal approvals in mid-2016 and we'll be able to commence construction in the second half of the year and complete the project in the second half of 2018."

IBEW Local 104's support for this project, and the more than 1,200 jobs it is expected to create during the construction phase, must continue and strengthen this year. Not only will it create good jobs close to many of our homes, but it will also provide a clean form of base load energy for the region that will reduce the cost of utilities.

IBEW Local 104 will continue posting updates related to Northern Pass developments on its blog located on our website: www.ibew104.org/blog. For additional information about the positive benefits Northern Pass can provide, visit the New Hampshire Coalition for Secure Energy: www.nhcse.org.

Training Update

IBEW Local 104 congratulates Jason Lauze on his promotion to Executive Director of The Northeastern Joint Apprenticeship effective February 12, 2015. As of today, February 26th, Local 104 has 163 apprentices which is the most of any area within NEAT's jurisdiction. NEAT is at a point where work is strong and running well throughout the ten state area.

There are significant changes with the installation of new transmission towers at the training yard in Barrington, NH and the development of transmission and tower rescue training. As soon as weather allows, planning and design will continue with the tentative completion of the towers near the

end of 2015. We have additional manpower available from the boot camp that finished the climbing portion of their training this month. Given the amount of work coming our way over the next year or so alone, we will likely need to continue to grow in order to meet the demand for manpower.

Toys for Troops

For seven years, the Plymouth Bristol Central Labor Council (PBCLC) of Massachusetts has put on a toy distribution event for Massachusetts Veterans and their families.

The opportunity for Local 104 to be part of this event is especially wonderful. For years we have contributed to help these families in need that have fought for our freedom. Forty-seven (47) year member and Journeyman Lineman, Brother Ernie Dechene, Recording Secretary, and his wife, Patti, have been strong advocates for the event and have attended it for years. They have always tried to encourage me to go, and this year I made the opportunity happen. What a gift it was to attend.

The opportunity to witness first hand and see how our I.B.E.W. Local, along with other local unions in the PBCLC, can make a difference in the lives of others was priceless. My calendar already has next year's event scheduled. We also had time



to connect with Massachusetts Senator Marc Pacheco (pictured with Ernie and I), a strong advocate for working families in MA only added to the experience of the day.

Fraternally,
Hugh A. Boyd
Assistant Business Manager

Message from Jason Bentley, Assistant Business Manager

Brothers and sisters,

Work is starting to pick up in the northern states as we head into 2015. It is crucial that we man these jobs. Local 104 has fought long and hard to win market share in these states and we must do our best to not only hold what market share we have, but to increase it. With the utilities up here starting to lean toward the IBEW for a large portion of their construction and maintenance, we must continue to be the most productive, best trained and safest workforce available.

Local 104 has entered into a partnership with the University of New Hampshire.

We look forward to telling our story through different advertising campaigns. On January 17th, we had 104 night at the Whittemore Center at UNH that was well attended by Local 104 members and families. It was a great night that saw UNH beat up UMass, 5-2, with 4 goals coming in the third period.

And finally, come out to the union meeting on the third Thursday of the month and take advantage of the video link system.

Thank You,
Jason Bentley
Assistant Business Manager

Business Manager's Message

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hopeful that this will again bring us sustainable workload. There are other good work opportunities on the horizon as we enter the second quarter of 2015. We're constantly working to maintain and grow market share wherever and whenever possible. You can expect additional details about work opportunities and numerous other important updates at our regular union meetings, another reason why it's important to attend as often as possible.

And don't forget to take advantage of the video links available between Massachusetts and New Hampshire. These links will help us keep our Local together as we move forward.

Also, remember that you can now refer out and sign the book at the Maine office.

Finally, I want to close with what is, and always will be, our number one priority: The safety of our members. We all need to remember our training and follow proper safety practices before we start each day and again every time we step out of a truck. Please work safely and look out for every Brother and Sister working with you.

In Solidarity,
Brian Murphy

Submit Your Pictures!

Please submit your photos to photos@ibew104.org so we can share them in the union halls, on our Facebook page and on our website. Please include your name, the names of the people in the picture, where the photo was taken, and with which contractor you were working.

LOCAL 104 SWEARS IN 65 NEW APPRENTICESHIP MEMBERS



On November 22, 2014, Brother Jason Lauze and the Northeastern Apprenticeship Training (N.E.A.T.) conducted a workshop for its 178

indentured apprentices. The workshop was focused on a presentation by Rick Hoogkamp and William Martin of Northline Utilities LLC. The class was on Equal Potential Grounding. All ears were open on the potential hazards and proper industry standards needed for a safe work environment.

At the conclusion of the presentation, BM/FS Brian Murphy addressed the apprentices and reconfirmed the hazards of our trades and explained that no shortcuts are acceptable practices. "We all need to get home safely to enjoy our families. This is a great trade and we need to take care of our brothers and ourselves."

With that said, BM/FS Brian Murphy introduced President Ryan Demeritt who gave words of advice on being a good union member. "We all need to be thankful for our opportunity to be a union member and doing so depends on all of your actions and participation of the Local's meetings and governance."

President Demeritt then asked all 65 apprentices that were not members to come forward to take the oath of the IBEW. It was the largest group to be sworn in at one time in Local 104's 115-year history. "It was an honor and a privilege that I will never forget and I took great pride in witnessing this event."

Congratulations to our new members. Remember you are your brothers' keeper! Be well.

In Solidarity,
Hugh Boyd
Assistant Business Manager

Retirees

The next Retiree's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. at

Angelica's Restaurant
49 S. Main Street, (Rte. 114)
Middleton, MA 01949.

This is a great opportunity for our retirees to get together and catch up. All retirees are welcome.

Please send your e-mail address to boyd@ibew104.org for more information.

Save the Date

**11th Annual IBEW Local 104
Lineman Rodeo & Summer Outing**
August 8, 2015
American Legion, Epping, NH

Union Night at the Fisher Cats
Friday, August 21, 2015
Manchester, NH





IBEW Local 104
22 Old Concord Turnpike
Barrington, NH 03825



ORGANIZER'S MESSAGE

Since our last newsletter, Local 104 has organized numerous lineman/ apprentices from many different non-union line contractors.

Local 104's message of better wages, benefits, working conditions, and structured apprenticeship opportunities is being heard throughout our jurisdiction.

This is reflected in our successfully stripping linemen/apprentices from the

following non-union companies: Cianbro and On Target, as well as signing several new signatory contractors to Local 104.

As we approach the second quarter, I am happy to share that the work outlook is positive. I also want to remind everyone that organizing is a team effort, and that we need everybody to keep their eyes and ears open for organizing opportunities and to pass them along to the union staff, including myself.

I look forward to working for you and with you in the coming months. Let's all do our part to strengthen Local 104's reach by organizing and spreading the Union word.

My door is always open to assist in any organizing efforts. Feel free to contact me at any time.

In solidarity,
Tim Burgess
207.294.1113
burgess@ibew104.org