

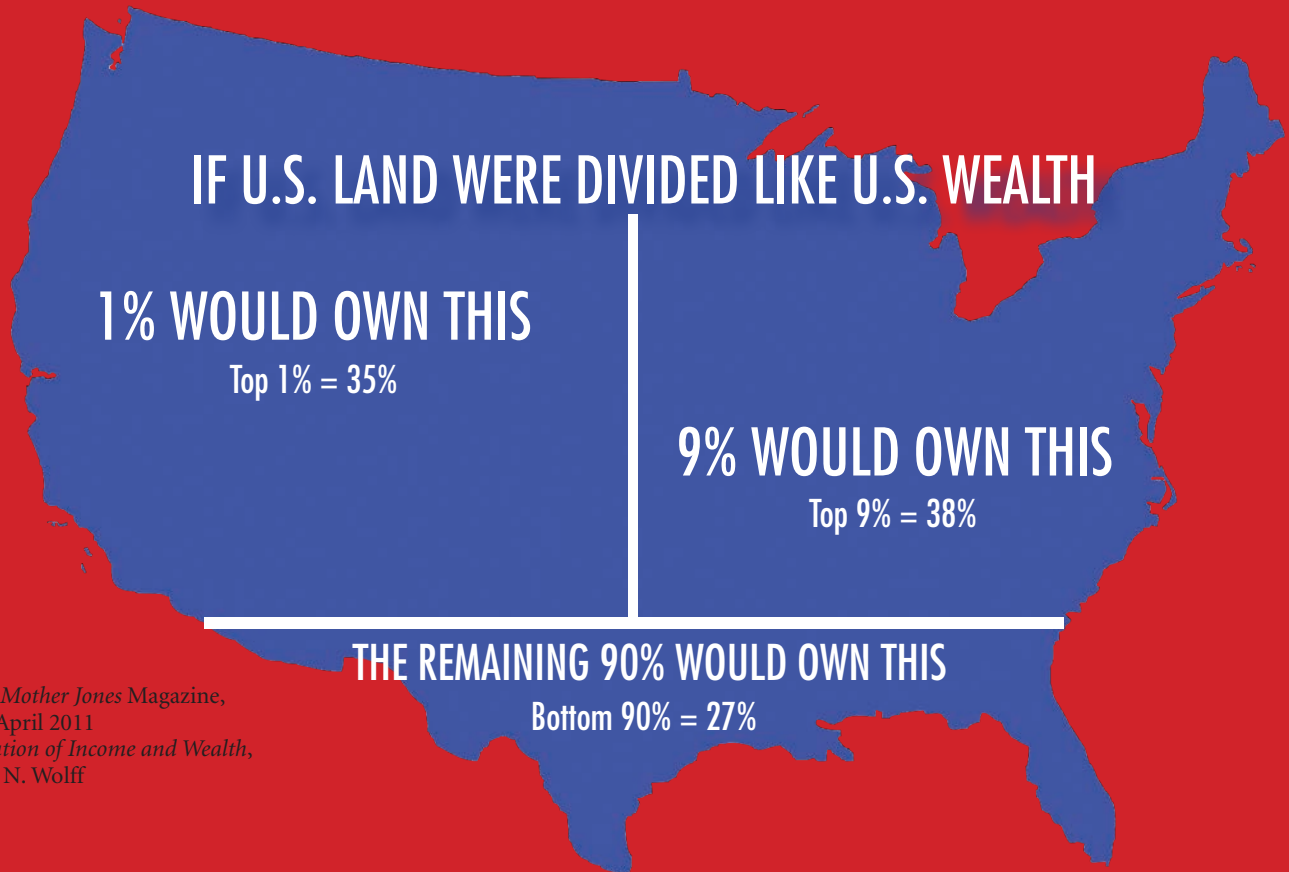


IBEW LOCAL UNION 21

# FRONTLINE

Vol. 17, No. 2  
October 2012

## ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES



Source: *Mother Jones Magazine*,  
March/April 2011  
*Distribution of Income and Wealth*,  
Edward N. Wolff

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Paul Wright - President - Business Manager - Financial Secretary



## A New Beginning

On behalf of your recently elected Officers and Executive Board Members I would like to take a moment to thank you for your support. We are all aware of the challenges that lie ahead. It will take all of us

working together to fight back against the attacks we are facing.

We all must unite and do what it takes to move our Local forward. It is our goal as your leaders to build a sense of community within Local 21. If our sisters and brothers at AT&T, Altura, Avaya, the State of Illinois, Lucent, CenturyLink, Comcast, City of Chicago 911 OEMC, Frontier, Johnson Controls, JULIE, Verizon, and Peoria and Vermillion Counties, have a labor dispute we all share in that fight. If a picket line goes up at one employer we will need members at all employers to join those members on the line. We all must be involved in our Union.

Your new leadership will be truthful and transparent in all of our actions. We'll tell you the facts whether they are good or bad. We won't shy away from telling you news you may not want to hear. We will lead by example.

Since taking office we've been working hard to move Local 21 forward. We've been looking at the way our Local is structured and how it's been operating. We are making changes and will continue to do so in order to better represent all of our members. We are leaving no stone unturned. If we can make sensible cost saving adjustments, we will use those resources to better represent our members and strengthen our Local through organizing. Staff reassignments have already begun. We will continue to make changes until we know we have the right people in the right jobs for the right reasons.

As many of you know, The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers System Council T-3 Chairman negotiated an agreement to extend the AT&T contract. To tell you the truth, I was surprised, as

were many of you, that an agreement could be reached so quickly. All members currently covered by the agreement will see no changes in their wages or benefits, unlike the contract the IBEW membership voted down. AT&T didn't reach deeper into our pockets for higher healthcare costs. They also didn't achieve any of the concessions they would have sought in prolonged negotiations.

I know many members have different opinions on the extension. It's water under the bridge and we must move on because the fight for our new contract began the day it was signed. I'm working with your Officers, Business Representatives, Chief, Area, and Local Stewards and plan on reaching out to you as we prepare for bargaining. The preparation includes developing strong new contract language and putting into action a mobilization plan to unite our membership. I will also be working to build new relationships not only within the IBEW but also with CWA districts whose AT&T contracts expire next year.

I am pleased to tell you we have already implemented a plan to help all members prepare for the day their contracts expire. We are working with Bell West Community Credit Union and they have already established the "You Name It" Club Account so our members can save in the event they need to walk the line.

After many months of negotiations our members working at the City of Chicago 911 OEMC have a new contract. Bargaining with any employer is tough but with the current economy, limited governmental budgets and the attacks public sector workers have been experiencing, I'm glad a deal was finally reached. The contract for our members working at Vermillion County is due to expire on November 30, 2012. It will be interesting to see how that county board approaches negotiations.

*continued on page 13*

## Building Momentum for June 2013

We have been through a time of trial in the last few months. We had a change in leadership for the first time in more than a decade and much of our Local is being remade. Before and since the election there's been a tremendous turnover of long-time representatives through retirements and other moves that were probably necessary. We lost decades of institutional knowledge that goes back to the days of Illinois Bell, times that seem so much better than the days we currently face. It is now time for a new generation to step-up and do the work of our union.

In the time leading up the election, union meetings were packed with folks who seldom attended meetings. As we lurched toward the election our union's political debate spilled onto various blogs and websites viewed and maintained by our members. In some of that web traffic reckless and poisonous opinions were posted, even some misinformation. Unfortunately it was horribly divisive.

The election is over. People, who for years demanded that our officer election and AT&T contract expiration not take place in the same year, now have their wish. On the heels of an overwhelming rejection of a one-year contract proposal by outgoing President and System Council chairman, Ron Kastner, in a move still not understood by many, the newly appointed chairman of the SCT-3 Council executed a one year extension of the AT&T Collective Bargaining Agreement, pushing the expiration date out to 2013.

Ron Kastner is gone and our contract is safe for another year. However, venomous invective is still filling our workplaces, the taverns where we drink and the internet. It's like an old factory site leaching industrial waste into the drinking water. It's below the surface, but it will poison all who encounter it.

When you speak to co-workers in person or on the internet, please take a few minutes to think about how what you say will impact someone who may

not see the big picture or have all the facts. One thing we can all do is to stop blaming the UNION for actions our EMPLOYERS are taking against us. We have to speak with one voice long before next June!

This is not to say that our membership should ever march in lockstep. The hallmark of democratic unionism is many voices joined in a common fight. My position is what's done is done. Rehashing what was done 3 weeks, 3 months or 3 years ago doesn't help us build the momentum or unity we need to face down the Mother of all fights that is coming. We need a union and membership who are looking forward to the ticking clock of June 2013.

Remember the employer is the enemy. Be smart enough to see the great economic forces at work against all men and women who make an hourly wage. But we live in a cocoon provided by our contract while the middle class is evaporating in a sea of globalism and financial misdeeds. We are the bulwark for the rest of America, against those who want to wipe the middle class off the playing field.



IBEW Sixth District Vice President Lonnie Stephenson swears in your newly elected Officers and Executive Board members.



## Fair Contract Reached at City of Chicago 911

In July, after 16 months of contentious contract negotiations, our Union's **911- OEMC** bargaining team reached a tentative agreement with the City of Chicago that was overwhelmingly ratified by our members. The new four-year agreement provides for a 6% wage increase across the progression steps, a \$500 signing bonus, no increase in health-care premiums, and layoff language enhancements. Stern language was added to the contract regarding requests for information. The City now violates the contract if they fail to provide relevant information to our Union.

The bottom line is nothing was lost and gains were made. With a nearly \$600 million deficit, the City's first wage proposal was to freeze the 4.5% step

increase across the progression which would affect 95% of our members in the bargaining unit. City negotiators wanted to eliminate grandfathered double time; they threatened layoffs, reduction of holidays, and changes to the overtime language.

The Local 21 bargaining team was not interested in making concessions and rejected any notions of moving backwards. In the end we didn't get everything we wanted, but despite these tough economic times we still achieved a fair contract. Much credit goes out to our members who were part of the Union's bargaining team and your stewards who do a tremendous job representing their brothers and sisters not only in bargaining, but also on the floor dealing with day-to-day issues.

## Comcast Workers Say "No Justice No Peace"

In May a delegation of Local 21 Comcast workers took their grievances to CEO Brian Roberts at the annual shareholders meeting. In 2011 Roberts's total compensation was over \$32 million. Our members expressed their disappointments over poor working conditions like being exposed to strong-armed robbery on the job while at the same time they are being robbed by their employer by being denied bonus pay they felt they earned.

Shareholders spoke in disgust after hearing our **Cortland** Brother's emotional speech that drove the point home, "...it's one thing to be robbed by thugs while performing my job for you Mr. Robert's, but it's altogether different being robbed by you who I make millions for..."

I feel even though we lost the Cortland bonus arbitration, through a horrible ruling by the arbitrator it does not rid Comcast of its moral and legal obligation to pay the bonus. We have taken this fight back to the Chicago City Council, religious groups and the community at large, to demand the company fulfill its

moral obligation and pay the bonus to its employees. In 2007, the City Council passed a resolution against Comcast, for discrimination and violation of the EEO/AA non-discrimination plan filed with the City. The resolution resulted in bonus language going into the Cortland contract as *me/to* language meaning the Cortland shop should receive the same bonus the non-union shops receive. However, Comcast failed to abide by the contract.

Despite soaring profits, worker loyalty and sacrifice, none of it means anything to Comcast. After 7 months of **Comcast West** negotiations so far very little progress has been made. The extended agreement expired April 30, 2012.

On Labor Day the Workers Holiday, Brother Kevin Beallis and I joined our members and their families at the Wheaton parade. We marched and passed out leaflets educating the public on their right to request an in-house Comcast technician over a contractor.

*continued on next page*

## We are the Frontline

*Frontline!* The name of the IBEW Local 21 newspaper is also the perfect description for our hard working Brothers and Sisters at Chicago's 911 Center (OEMC).

In an emergency it is second nature for people to pick up the phone and dial those famous digits. They seek guidance, comfort, resolution, and above all help. After completing a call, they expect a miraculous resolution from the police or fire department who appear almost instantaneously.

Rarely do the politicians, public or newspapers appreciate the work our 911 call takers and dispatchers perform, yet each and every day our members answer critical calls and dispatch emergency services when lives are on the line. They work tirelessly to ensure the citizens of Chicago are provided with a level of service fit for royalty. We perform under pressure and can't show emotion or falter while fulfilling our duties.

What happens when a 911 call comes in? Once a call is received, the call taker gets the details of the emergency from a sometimes-frantic caller. That is not always easy to do. We are trained to remain calm while getting as many facts as possible. Call takers ascertain what type of services are needed and forward the call to a dispatcher who has the detailed

job of determining the appropriate police or fire resources to send to the location.

Our Police Dispatchers are charged with the task of discerning the information and relaying the information to police officers in the field. Our dispatchers not only assist those affected by the call for help; they are also responsible for the safety of those officers sent to the scene.

It is often a tireless job that goes unnoticed and unappreciated. We work holidays, weekends and miss special occasions with family and friends. We take pride knowing we keep the City of Chicago running smoothly and facilitate the services that help others in their time of need.

When I think "Frontline," I associate the term with my wonderful coworkers who are always there and readily available to assist others. I am proud to be a member of the 911 team as well as a member and Area Steward of IBEW Local 21. Next time you reach for the phone and dial those special numbers think of us and say a word of thanks, it goes a long way.



## Comcast Workers Say No Justice No Peace (continued)

Thanks to all, who made it an enjoyable day. Leaders understand social and economic justice can only be achieved by inserting themselves into the struggle.

Many companies are following Comcast's model of employee relations. They simply don't care about working families. Employees can no longer be apathetic. They must be willing to get involved in the movement where workers are rising up and voicing their displeasure over their treatment by the corporate robber barons. Good workers make good leaders; make sure you are performing your job correctly and

be where you're supposed to be doing what you're supposed to be doing while at work. Off the job we need you to attend union meetings and bring our message back to your coworkers.

**Please vote in the November elections.** Billionaires are pouring millions into campaigns to quiet the voice of working families. They are the 1% and we are the 99%, volunteer to work in a campaign and help get the vote out on Election Day. Your actions can make the difference.

Remember our strength is in our unity. Solidarity!



## It Starts Now

I'd like to start by thanking all of you who supported my campaign and those of my fellow officers, Executive Board, and unit officers. Campaigning and being

given the opportunity to serve all of you is a truly humbling and uplifting experience. We are all dedicated to serving you and making the changes needed to strengthen our Local Union. But we can't do it without you.

Gone are the days of business as usual. We must say goodbye to the divisiveness that plagued us. We can't forget past events because we must apply the lessons we learned. Scratching the scabs and reopening those wounds won't improve our health. It's time to move on.

Many contracts are being renegotiated; others will be expiring by the end of 2013—most notably our contract with AT&T. Preparations need to start today. Awhile back many members trained to become mobilization coordinators others became group coordinators. They worked together on ways to mobilize and deliver important information to our members.

With the many retirements and job transfers some of our members who accepted those roles no longer work in the same locations. We need members to

volunteer to fill these vital positions. Please talk to your steward, chief steward or business representative if you feel it's your time to step up and become more involved in your union.

If you are a mobilization or group coordinator, we need you to rebuild your structures so they reflect the membership changes where you work. The mobilization structure can be used by all members at all employers, not only during negotiations but also to fight back against decisions the bosses make when they have a negative impact on you and your coworkers.

As we come together as a membership, we must also put our financial houses in order in case our livelihoods are put on the line and we need to strike back. I am proud to announce IBEW Local 21 has partnered with **Bell West Community Credit Union (BWCCU)**. They worked with us by establishing a new "club account" for Local 21 members. It's called the "You Name it Account" I'm calling it my strike fund account.

Every paycheck from now until the expiration of my contract, I'll be putting money aside just in case I need it. If I don't need to use it next year, Bell West Community Credit Union said they'd work with me to roll the money I saved in my strike fund account into a higher earning account. In subsequent years I'll continue contributing to my personal strike fund. This "forced" savings will ensure I have money set aside when our future contracts expire. Hopefully, I won't have to touch it until the day I retire.

This agreement with Bell West was just achieved. We'll make more information on the program available to you in the weeks ahead. BWCCU's website is [www.bwccu.org](http://www.bwccu.org). Bell West will work with all of our members—no matter where you live in our jurisdiction. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give them a call.

The keys to our success from today forward are preparation and unity. We may not like having to prepare for worst-case scenarios, but we must because our employers have been prepared for years. We must come together as one. Solidarity!



Comcast Members in Carol Stream hit the streets as contract negotiations drag on.

## It's Scholarship Time!



Will you or one of your children be a college student in the fall of 2013? How does one thousand dollars for tuition or books sound? IBEW Local Union 21 is committed to supporting the next generation of union leaders through our scholarship program. The program is a worthy benefit for all IBEW Local Union 21 members and their immediate family.

The topic for the 2013 scholarship essay is "Why should employees form unions?" Your essay is more than an answer to a question. Your response could possibly change the way labor unions fight for our right to exist in the future.

The scholarship committee will select eight winners based on the completed application package, quality and creativity of the written essay, and applicant's personal resume. Only completed scholarship packages will be considered, so be sure to follow the instructions carefully. All applications must be received by **Friday, March 8, 2013**. Scholarship applications can be downloaded at [ibew21.org](http://ibew21.org) and will be available at all unit meetings. If you have any questions please contact Jacquie Fields at 630-960-4466 ext. 374.

## Members Helping Members

The Kunas Memorial Fund was created by Local 21 to assist selected union families who are in need of financial assistance in times of great hardship. The fund is solely supported by voluntary donations made by IBEW Local 21 members. The objective of this charity is union families helping union families. Next year we will be sponsoring different types of recreational activities as fundraising events.

You can nominate yourself, or someone you know who may be facing a hardship to receive financial assistance from the Kunas Memorial Fund. For more information please contact me via email, [jfields@ibew21.org](mailto:jfields@ibew21.org), or call me in the union office on extension 374. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

In closing, I would like to apologize to Joan Welton, Telecommunications Specialist in Waukegan. She is a member of the IBEW Local 21 Scholarship Committee and I incorrectly listed her last name in the May issue of *Frontline*.



AT&T Gary Premise Techs stand in solidarity during AT&T bargaining.

# WHAT'S NEW ACROSS THE LOCAL?

AT&T★Altura★Avaya★CenturyLink★City of Chicago-911 OEMC★Comcast★Frontier★Johnson Co

Dan Grueneich,  
Business Representative

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★ This summer was a very busy and challenging one for our Local. We held our officer elections and the **AT&T contract** was extended for one year. Congratulations go out to Paul Wright on his election as president.

Following the election, President Wright made some staff changes. We said good-bye to Chief Steward Rick Mobley. Mark Fulcer and I will miss working with him. The North area was split up. Business Representative Mike McCormick and his Chief Steward John Dolsen will now join Mark and me.

We had several technicians go home sick or suffer from heat exhaustion while working during the hot

summer months. Know your limits. Drink plenty of fluids; avoid caffeine which can actually dehydrate you and rest when necessary.

AT&T management continues to hammer technicians for what they call OP78 violations. Don't make the boss' job easy. Most violations involve doors and bins being left open. Take the time to double-check them to make sure they are locked.

Finally, congratulations to all the fine people who retired over the past few months. Enjoy your retirement.

Melanie Probst  
Business Representative

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★ Autumn brings the expiration of the **JULIE** contract on November 15, 2012. Bargaining has begun and will continue until a new agreement is reached. Our members completed their bargaining surveys and their opinions are being considered in

the proposals we are presenting to management. We need the support of all our members to reach a fair contract. I would like to remind everyone to call JULIE at 811 before you put a shovel in the ground. Our sisters and brothers there would be happy to talk to you.

Remember to request a Steward if you are called into a meeting with **AT&T Network or Consumer** call center management. The bosses have been cracking down hard on customer mistreats for both external and internal calls. When dealing with customers reduce your stress by taking a deep breath and remember they are the ones who pay our checks.

The **Network Dispatch Center** (NDC) arbitration over Force Management doing craft work is scheduled for December 6, 2012. I will let you know more as the case progresses.



St. Charles Prem-Tech steward Don Marcus participates in the safety rodeo.



Mike Roach,  
Business Representative



★ It's been an interesting year with contract negotiations, elections, and staff changes. Now that we have a 1-year extension at AT&T, we can turn around and focus on getting ready for next year. Whether it is writing language proposals, mobilizing our members, or saving money in case of a strike we all must do our part to prepare.

As everyone knows we have new officers. I would

like to congratulate Paul Wright, Bill Henne, Jacquie Fields, and Bob Przybylinski. Congratulations also go out to Tim Strutz, Mike Scime, and Eric Slattery for their elections to the E-Board and Ron Kastner on his retirement.

I would like to thank Brian Gee for his years of hard work and dedication when representing our downstate members. I will now be covering the I-72 corridor and south, representing **AT&T** network members, and our members employed at **Vermillion County**. Negotiations will begin at Vermillion County very soon. I know it will be a struggle with all of the obstacles county governments are facing.

Terry Sheehan,  
Business Representative



★ The last couple of months Altura California Steward Bob Kneifel, Jeff Stewart the steward from Virginia and I have been bargaining a new **Altura contract**. Negotiations have been very tough. Management dropped their last best and final offer with

language eliminating our member's rights to perform exclusive bargaining unit work. The language as written would lead to lost jobs. Our Altura members overwhelmingly rejected the company's contract.

Since then management launched an attack on our members. Their actions forced us to file an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). We will keep you updated as the ULP moves through the legal process and as negotiations continue; now with a Federal Mediator involved.

With the retirement of Business Representatives Mike Sacco and Steve Unterfranz, I've been assigned to take care of the **Johnson Controls** contract. I am looking forward to working with our members employed at Johnson Controls.

Some of my **AT&T** representational areas have been rearranged. Paul Waters and I have been assigned to take care of the Westmont, Blackhawk, and Naperville garages, and the premise technicians in Lisle. We are looking forward to working with all our members and stewards at these locations.

Paul and I no longer cover the Bourbonnais and UP garages. Business Representative Byron Bonham and Chief Steward Dennis McCafferty will take over those locations. I know for a fact you are in very good hands.



Paul Cavenaile work an all-nighter repairing a 900-pulp cable hit at 75th & Lemont Road.

# ENDORSEMENTS

## ILLINOIS AFL-CIO ENDORSEMENTS 2012 GENERAL ELECTION

**VOTE NO** on Question 1 (HJRCA 49) to change the Illinois Constitution.

### PRESIDENT

Barack Obama (D)

### CONGRESS

1st Bobby Rush (D)

2nd Jesse Jackson Jr. (D)

3rd Dan Lipinski (D)

4th Luis Guterriez (D)

5th Mike Quigley (D)

6th Leslie Coolidge (D)

7th Danny Davis (D)

8th Tammy Duckworth (D)

9th Jan Schakowsky (D)

10th Brad Schneider (D)

11th Bill Foster (D)

12th William Enyart (D)

13th David Gill (D)

14th Dennis Anderson (D)

17th Cheri Bustos (D)

18th Steve Waterworth (D)

### SENATE

1st Tony Munoz (D)

2nd Willie Delgado (D)

3rd Mattie Hunter (D)

4th Kimberly Lightford (D)

5th Patricia Van Pelt-Watkins (D)

6th John Cullerton (D)

7th Heather Steans (D)

8th Ira I. Silverstein (D)

9th Daniel Biss (D)

10th John G. Mulroe (D)

11th Martin Sandoval (D)

12th Steven Landek (D)

13th Kwame Raoul (D)

14th Emil Jones, III (D)

15th Napoleon Harris (D)

16th Jacqueline Collins (D)

17th Donne Trotter (D)

11th Ann Williams (D)

18th Bill Cunningham (D)

19th Michael E. Hastings (D)

20th Iris Martinez (D)

22nd Michael Noland (D)

23rd Thomas E. Cullerton (D)

25th Corinne M. Pierog (D)

26th Amanda Howland (D)

28th Dan Kotowski (D)

19th Rob Martwick (D)

29th Julie Morrison (D)

30th Terry Link (D)

31st Melinda Bush (D)

34th Steven Stadelman (D)

36th Mike Jacobs (D)

38th Christine Benson (D)

39th Don Harmon (D)

40th Toi Hutchinson (D)

42nd Linda Holmes (D)

43rd Pat McGuire (D)

46th Dave Koehler (D)

47th John Sullivan (D)

48th Andy Manar (D)

49th Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant (D)

52nd Michael W. Freirichs (D)

54th Danny L. Stover (D)

56th William Haine (D)

57th James Clayborne, Jr. (D)

58th Michael J. Bigler (D)

### ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1st Dan Burke (D)

2nd Edward Acevedo (D)

3rd Luis Arroyo (D)

4th Cynthia Soto (D)

5th Ken Dunkin (D)

6th Esther Golar (D)

7th Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D)

8th LaShawn Ford (D)

9th Art Turner Jr. (D)

11th Ann Williams (D)

12th Sara Feigenholtz (D)

13th Gregory Harris (D)

14th Kelly Cassidy (D)

15th John D'Amico (D)

16th Lou Lang (D)

17th Laura Fine (D)

18th Robyn Gabel (D)

19th Rob Martwick (D)

20th Michael McAuliffe - (R)

21st Silvana Tabares (D)

22nd Michael Madigan (D)

23rd Michael J. Zalewski (D)

24th Lisa Hernandez (D)

25th Barbara Flynn Currie (D)

26th Christian Mitchell (D)

27th Monique Davis (D)

28th Robert Rita (D)

29th Thaddeus Jones (D)

30th Will Davis (D)

31st Mary Flowers (D)

32nd Andre Thapedi (D)

33rd Marcus Evans Jr. (D)

34th Elgie Sims, Jr. (D)

35th Frances Ann Hurley (D)

36th Kelly Burke (D)

38th Al Riley (D)

39th Toni Berrios (D)

40th Deborah Mell (D)

42nd William R. Adams (D)

44th Fred Crespo (D)

46th Deborah O'Keefe Conroy (D)

54th Richard Rudd (D)

55th Martin J. Moylan (D)

56th Michelle Mussman (D)

57th Elaine Nekritz (D)

58th Scott Drury (D)

60th Rita Mayfield (D)

61st Ed Erwin (D)

62nd Sam Yingling (D)

63rd Jack Franks (D)

67th Chuck Jefferson (D)

68th Carl Wasco (D)

71st Mike Smiddy (D)

72nd Pat Verschoore (D)

74th Donald Moffitt - (R)

75th Jeremy Ly (D)

76th Frank Mautino (D)

77th Angelo "Skip" Saviano - (R)

78th Camille Lilly (D)

79th Katherine Cloonen (D)

80th Anthony DeLuca (D)

83rd Linda Chapa LaVia (D)

84th Stephanie Kifowit (D)

86th Larry Walsh, Jr. (D)

87th Rich Brauer (R)

91st Jennifer Groves Allison (D)

95th Brad Gillespie (D)

96th Sue Scherer (D)

98th Natalie Manley (D)

99th Raymond Poe (R)

103rd Naomi Jakobsson (D)

111th Daniel Beiser (D)

112th Marleen Suarez (D)

113th Jay Hoffman (D)

114th Eddie Lee Jackson Sr. (D)

116th Jerry Costello II (D)

117th John Bradley (D)

118th Brandon Phelps (D)

Pension constitutional amendment - Oppose

## NORTHWEST INDIANA FEDERATION OF LABOR, CLC. 2012 GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

### PRESIDENT

Barack Obama (D)

### U.S. SENATE:

Joe Donnelly (D)

### GOVERNOR/LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

John Gregg/ Vi Simpson (D)

### SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION:

Glenda Ritz (D)

### U.S. CONGRESS:

Dist. 1: Pete Visclosky (D) (I)

Dist. 2: Brendan Mullen (D)

### INDIANA STATE SENATE:

Dist. 2: Lonnie Randolph (D) (I)

Dist. 3: Earline Rogers (D) (I)

Dist. 5: Deb Porter (D)

### INDIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Dist. 1: Linda Lawson (D) (I)

Dist. 2: Earl Harris (D) (I)

Dist. 3: Charlie Brown (D) (I)

Dist. 4: Greg Simms (D)

Dist. 9: Scott Pelath (D) (I)

Dist. 10: Chuck Moseley (D) (I)

Dist. 11: John Hart (D)

Dist. 12: Mara Candelaria Reardon (D) (I)

Dist. 14: Vernon Smith (D) (I)

Dist. 15: Thomas O'donnell (D)

Dist. 16: Rich Ludington (D)

Dist. 19: Shelli Vandenburgh (D) (I)

(D= Democrat/ R=Republican/ I= Incumbent)

Cut along this line and take this guide with you to the Polls

## The Time is Now!

The 2012 election season is upon us and there is no time to waste. Thanks to the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling, there will be ungodly sums of money spent to fill the airwaves with attack ads designed to spew fear and hatred about not just the candidates, but also the usual wedge issues that have sadly dominated the political debate for far too long.

There will be very few disclaimers saying, "I approved this message" because they will be paid for by cowardly front groups who will hide in the shadows, never having to accept responsibility for their content. The one percenters who truly believe they run the country don't think this is an election; they think it's a fundraising contest and that whoever raises the most money should rule. We cannot allow Corporate America to continue buying, trading and selling off OUR government and assets without any oversight or accountability. ***If ever there was a time for working people to stand up and fight back it is now!***

The National, State and Regional Central Labor Councils of the AFL-CIO and their affiliates are unleashing a massive nationwide Get Out The Vote (GOTV) campaign. The first step concentrates on voter registration. I was shocked to learn approximately 30% of all Union members are unregistered; many have family members living with them who aren't registered to vote. That equates to millions of working-class people sitting at home on Election Day.

Can you imagine the effect their vote would have on the important races? They could turn the tide in our favor when it comes down electing politicians who will make laws concerning issues that matter most to working families.

All this brings us to the final step. Actually VOTING! None of the hard work put in by so many will be worth a damn if you don't cast a ballot. You don't even have to wait until Election Day to do it. Early voting in Illinois begins on October 22nd and runs thru November 3rd. In Indiana, you can vote by

mail-in absentee. You must send in your request to vote absentee by October 29th more information can be found at indianavoters.in.gov.

A list of officially endorsed Illinois, Indiana State AFL-CIO and Chicago Federation of Labor Candidates will be on our website [ibew21.org](http://ibew21.org). We ask that you take the endorsement list to the poles with you on Election Day.

Please remember that no matter what political party you are affiliated with, or whatever issues you hold near and dear, the only way working families win is if you vote for what's best for that Union card in your purse or wallet. When Union members vote, everyone wins!

Every couple of years, I give my Chicken Little impersonation "The sky is falling!" and I do my damndest to convince you "this is the most important election of our lives!" This year I'm just going to leave you with this one thought: If things don't go well for working people on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 it will be the last election that will matter for a long, long time. Get in the fight. It can't get done without you, take care and GOD Bless!



Bob Braynard volunteered up in Wisconsin during the recall elections. Joe Quagliano and Jason Jorgensen both not pictured also headed North with Bob to do their part to fight back the attacks.



## How About You?

Everyone knows this has been an activity-filled year within our Local Union. We began by preparing for bargaining with AT&T as we watched CWA enter negotiations. We elected new officers as our former

leaders retired. As that election was going on we voted down a tentative agreement on one-year contract with AT&T. Within days of our new officers assuming their positions the SCT-3 Council voted to accept an "as is" one-year extension of the AT&T agreement and two weeks later CWA District 4 reached a tentative agreement. As we enter the fall national election season I am pleased to announce we have just filed for an NLRB representation election for the locators working at USIC. Now the real work is before us.

Our new leadership is working hard to build Local 21 into a fighting force. Tough decisions are being made as we prepare for bargaining a new contract with AT&T next year. We are taking a hard look at what it will take to increase resources so we can improve organizing. Our goal is to seek out new targets, run more campaigns and ultimately bring in new members.

Organizing and bargaining aren't just about what the leadership is doing, it's about what members can do to be a part of the process. In organizing this means members getting involved in talking to non-union workers, like those at USIC and Comcast, about the IBEW. For bargaining this means mobilizing now for a fight we know we'll have with AT&T next summer. Your actions are the keys to success in bargaining and organizing. We need YOU to join in and do your part to support our new leaders as they begin to build a new vision for Local 21.

Over the weeks and months ahead you will see your leadership talking to members about volunteering. You will find volunteer forms on [ibew21.org](http://ibew21.org) and at unit meetings, or you can get them from your Business Reps, Chiefs and Stewards. Fill out the form and we will call members as necessary when help is needed.

So what do you say...How about you? How about today? You can make a difference.

## Comcast members send a message at the Wheaton Labor Day Parade.



## You Name It...We Can Do It

Bell West Community Credit Union (BWCCU) is a full service financial cooperative serving over 4,000 members since 1936. BWCCU provides savings, checking accounts, club accounts, loans and a variety of other services. Members own the credit union in the form of shares and each must own at least one share.

IBEW Local Union 21 is a select employee group of BWCCU and all their members no matter where they live are eligible for membership in Bell West Community Credit Union. You can join BWCCU by opening and depositing \$50 in a regular share savings account. Once you join, any family member related by blood or marriage can also become a member of the Bell West Community Credit Union. Once you become a member, you are always a member, no matter where you live or work as long as you maintain a \$50 account balance. You can make deposits in person, by payroll deduction, ATM or check and it's just as easy to make withdrawals.

In response to a request by the leadership of IBEW Local 21, BWCCU worked with them and created the

**"You Name It" Club Account.** After becoming a credit union member, you can open a "You Name It" Club Account with only a \$5 deposit. You must maintain a minimum balance of \$5 in the account and it pays out every August 1st. You may make one withdrawal from the club account without penalty, if you need additional withdrawals before August 1st there is a \$5 Early Withdrawal Fee.

On August 1st of each year a final disbursement of the money you saved in the "club account" will be deposited into a Bell West account of your choice such as a checking, savings, CD, or IRA. If you want you can withdraw the money you saved and use it however you like. You name it we can probably do it.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for one of our programs don't hesitate to give us a call at 708 576-5600. Our website is [BWCCU.org](http://BWCCU.org). We look forward to working with you and helping you prepare for those times when you may need extra savings to get through tough times.

## A New Beginning (continued from page 2)

The relationship we had with management at Altura has turned acrimonious. Our members there rejected the company's last best and final offer after it included language that would have allowed management to take work out of the bargaining unit even after a layoff. We were forced to file charges against Altura with the National Labor Relations Board because we feel they are bargaining in bad faith and they have also taken actions against their employees since they voted down the contract. Negotiations are currently taking place with the assistance of a Federal Mediator.

Vice President and newly appointed Assistant Business Manager Bill Henne has been bargaining the Frontier (a.k.a. MIFA2) contract. From the reports I have seen they have been able to reach tentative agreements on some items. Business Representative

Melanie Probst has just begun negotiations at JULIE and Jerry Rankins is still in negotiations with Comcast for our members working in the Western Suburbs.

Needless to say we've been busy since taking office. It seems like every day our "to do" list gets longer and projects we planned to tackle get changed. As we move forward if you have any questions or suggestions please get them to us. Some of our best ideas come from our stewards and members.

These are exciting but challenging times for IBEW Local 21. We are a strong Local with a proud membership. We can become more powerful and achieve greater gains by standing together as a united membership. I ask that you join me as we write the next chapter in our Local's history. We are all in this together.

## AT&T 2013 Annual Benefit Enrollment

The Annual Enrollment period for AT&T Midwest Active Employees runs from November 5-16, 2012. It will be followed by a correction period, which takes place November 17-30, 2012 at that time you can correct changes you made during the enrollment period.

The company will send three notifications to your company email. The first will be on October 25th to advise you Annual Enrollment is coming. On November 5th you should receive one telling you Annual Enrollment has started. Then on November 13th you will get your last email reminder informing you Annual Enrollment ends soon.

In addition to the company emails you will be sent two postcards. On October 24th a postcard will be mailed to your home address the company has on record and then on October 31st one will be mailed to your work location.

In 2013, there are no changes to your monthly contribution, deductible, annual out-of-pocket maximum, or prescription drug copays. You will not receive an enrollment package in the mail. You can review your Health Plan Comparison Charts, which include your available options, online at resources. [hewitt.com/att](http://hewitt.com/att) or you can call the AT&T Benefits Center at 877-722-0020 to request a mailed copy.

Enrollment can be completed online or by phone. AT&T updated their mobile benefits website to allow you to make enrollment changes from your mobile device. If you enroll online I encourage you to print a copy of your confirmation page for your records.

The Annual Enrollment Periods for Retirees are based on your retirement date. If you retired before January 1, 1993 your enrollment period ended. Your correction period runs from October 20th thru November 2, 2012.

If you retired on or after January 1, 1993 and before June 29, 2009 your enrollment period goes from October 22nd until November 2nd your correction period is November 3rd -16th. For employees who retired on or after June 29, 2009 your enrollment and correction periods will be the same as those for active employees.

It's important for all enrollees to review your current coverage and available options. Don't assume you will default to your current coverage if you make no changes. Your current plan may not be an available option. Taking time to review your options and confirm your elections can save a lot of time and headaches in the future.

## GREAT JOB!

IBEW Local 21 Members Collect over \$745 in cash and donations for International Association of Machinists Local 851 members who were on strike for 15 weeks at the Joliet Caterpillar Plant. After the cash donations were collected Executive Board President Karen McGrady and Recording Secretary Bob Przybylinski went to Dominick's to purchase food and then delivered it to the IAM union hall.

### So what did you buy?

72 Boxes of Pasta  
20 Boxes of Mac & Cheese  
10 Bottles of Ketchup  
12 Bags of Stuffing  
57 Bags of Rice-a-roni  
16 Boxes of Oatmeal

41 Cans of Soup  
53 Cans of Vegetables  
10 Bags of Rice  
12 Bottles of Jelly  
24 Jars of Peanut Butter  
16 Canned Meals

43 Cans of Tuna & Chicken  
51 Bags of Noodle-a-Roni  
36 Boxes of Cereal  
20 Boxes of Jell-O  
12 Boxes of Hamburger Helper  
30 Bags of Au gratin Potatoes

10 Boxes of Crackers  
12 Gallons of Apple Juice  
46 Jars of Pasta Sauce



**Get involved—attend an upcoming Union Meeting!**

	NOVEMBER
<b>UNIT 1</b>	<b>8th - 6 pm</b> IBEW Local #134 600 W. Washington Blvd. Chicago, IL 312.474.4186
<b>UNIT 2</b>	<b>13th - 7 pm</b> Slovak Club 6920 Broadway Merrillville, IN 219.756.5101
<b>UNIT 3</b>	<b>15th - 7 pm</b> Gurnee American Legion 749 Milwaukee Gurnee, IL 847.244.9282
<b>UNIT 4</b>	<b>14th - 7 pm</b> American Legion Harwood Post #5 705 S. Larkin Joliet, IL 815.725.4333
<b>UNIT 5</b>	<b>7th - 7 pm</b> IBEW Local #146 3390 N. Woodford St. Decatur, IL 217-877-4604
<b>UNIT 6</b>	<b>20th - 5:30 pm</b> IBEW Local #193 3150 Wide Track Dr. Springfield, IL 217.544.3479
<b>UNIT 7</b>	<b>19th - 7 pm</b> American Legion Post #141 816 Main St. Mt. Vernon, IL 618.242.4561

## CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 21 RETIREES

Ann Shepich	Sharon Kadlec
Denise Lyles	Steve Unterfranz
Gerard Maher	Karl Bartelt
Gerald Neece	LaDwyna Morrison
Jim McLaughlan	Melanie Dausch
Karl Bartelt	Michael Sacco
LaDwyna Morrison	Patrick Groves
Melanie Dausch	Ronald Kastner
Michael Sacco	Sharon Kadlec
Patrick Groves	Steve Unterfranz
Ronald Kastner	

For your name to appear on this page, a retiree gift application must be submitted. Without it, the *Frontline* editors are unaware of your retirement. You must be a member in good standing for 10 consecutive years preceding your retirement. Stewards can call the union hall to request retiree gift applications.



### In Memoriam

We honor our members who have passed.

Louella "Lou" Byrnes  
Willard "Bill" Sullivan  
Steve Seckendorf  
Greg Geever  
Renee Jackson

Information about attending your closest Local 21 Union meeting can be obtained by contacting the Union office or asking your Steward.

## FRONTLINE



### International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 21, AFL-CIO

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