




IBEW LOCAL UNION 21

# FRONTLINE

Vol. 19 No. 1  
September 2014

# Welcome Brothers!

  
DIRECTV



*SlimLine*

## *In this issue:*

Paul's Report	2	Across the Local	8
Kunas Fundraiser	3	Making a Difference	12
Renew 21 Young Members	4	Lessons from the Past	13
DirectSat	5	Retirees	14
You're the Problem?	7	Union Meetings	15

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Paul Wright - President - Business Manager - Financial Secretary

## Doing Our Part...



As we continue to build **our sense of community and help each other**, there is an IBEW 21 family who needs your assistance. On June 28, 2014 our brother Terry Quandt passed away. Terry was an AT&T Marketing

Support Specialist in Springfield, with 24 years of service. He left behind three daughters.

For those of you who didn't know Terry, this is a story that should tear at your heart strings. All three of his daughters suffer from autism; their mom kindly granted me permission to write about the girls. For the past two years, I'd been working with Terry and his union steward Amber Shipman to get him a transfer back to the Chicago area from Springfield. Originally, Terry moved downstate so he could be closer to the facility where his two older daughters were able to get the specialized care they needed. When his daughters "aged out" of that program, they moved back to the Chicago area to continue receiving the assistance they need. I learned from Terry that all his daughters need care but the oldest two require 24 hour assistance. You can imagine the financial impact this type of care costs a family. I was working on finalizing his transfer so Terry could be reunited with his children when I found out he suddenly died.

Terry was unable to reach the longer and more beneficial service date that would have given his family more financial security. Now Terry's family needs our help. The IBEW Local 21 Kunas Foundation will be holding a fundraiser on October 5th to assist the Quandt family and others in need. Treasurer Jacquie Fields has more information on how you can do your part in her article. Please do what you can to help.

**It is that season again.** Yep, you guessed it, General Election Season. You've heard it before, *"This election is the most important one ever."* This is truly one of the most important election cycles in years. All

of our working futures are at stake in the Illinois Gubernatorial race. You can say what you want about Governor Pat Quinn, if it's that he's too liberal or he's too friendly with CUB (The Citizen's Utility Board). You can also claim to be a Republican or a fiscal conservative. I am not judging you on your political views. I am simply stating how important it is to reelect Governor Quinn, he has many good qualities.

Pat Quinn has been a strong friend to Local 21 members. I experienced it first hand when he opened his door to us during last year's Telecom Rewrite. The real issue and problem in this election is Billionaire Bruce Rauner and his already vicious attacks on Working Families. He's waving his Golden Rule Book for all of his rich friends to see. That's right, "The man with the gold, rules!" The ego maniac is trying to buy the election. In his attack ads, what he is really saying is he going to change all the rules to benefit him and his fat cat friends. This is just like what happened in other Midwestern states like Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Missouri. Let's not allow Illinois to suffer this fate. Please vote for candidates who support real working women and men in Illinois. Read Dennis McCafferty's article and then check out International President Ed Hill's video about the importance of the race which can be found on [ibew21.org](http://ibew21.org).

We leveled the playing field and opened bargaining on September 4th, for our newest group of members, workers at **DirectSat** who organized into our Local earlier this year. In July, several DirectSat members attended a weekend bargaining training session. I was very impressed by their turn out and their eagerness, participating on their only day off. They put in a full day learning about bargaining and I feel we learned a lot from them too. You can read more about their hard work and what they have been going through in David Webster's article.

Our Local's young members group **Renew 21** is really starting to take shape. There is a growing interest in this new group and we are excited to see it. Please read Amber Shipman's article to learn more about the group, their plans and how you can get involved.

## Remember Mike... Support IBEW 21 Members in Need



In 2010, IBEW Local 21 created the Michael A. Kunas Memorial Fund to honor the memory of our brother and Business Representative who passed suddenly from a massive heart attack. In Mike's name, the Fund hosts fundraising events to assist members of

IBEW Local 21 who have experienced great tragedy or loss in their lives.

The Michael A. Kunas Beneficiary Committee was formed to select union families as recipients of the Fund which is solely sponsored by voluntary donations. Over the past four years we've been able to aid members who endured major setbacks or losses.

Michael was an avid golfer. Recognizing his love of the game, IBEW Local 21 will be hosting **The Michael A. Kunas Memorial Fund Golf Outing and Dinner on Sunday, October 5, 2014.** It will be held at Glenwoodie Golf Course in Glenwood, Illinois. The Beneficiary Committee, Local 21 officers and staff are asking for your participation to make this event a success.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to our late union brother Terry Quandt's daughters Amber, Ashley and Angela in their father's memory.

Your participation in this outing will make it a memorable event. It will be a great chance to get to know other IBEW Local 21 members and their friends and families while golfing, and at dinner. You will also have a chance to win a prize from the local wide 50/50 raffle.

Purchasing raffle tickets is not limited to the day of the golf outing. Please contact your Business Representative or Chief Steward to purchase raffle tickets, prices are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Winner need not be present to win.

Please join us at the golf outing on Sunday October 5th, tickets for the golf outing are \$100, and include driving range and putting practice, lunch with 2 drink tickets, 18 holes of golf with cart, and buffet dinner with an open bar.

Sign-in and registration starts at 11:30 am, shotgun start golfing begins at 1:00 pm. If you are unable to golf, please join us at dinner which will begin at approximately 6:30p.m. Dinner only tickets are just \$25.

To purchase golf, dinner and raffle tickets please call the IBEW 21 union office at 630-960-4466 ext. 567.

We would like to thank our friends at Scarborough Alliance Group who are sponsoring lunch, as well as our good friend Mike Goldberg from Goldberg, Weisman & Cairo who is generously sponsoring the open bar at dinner.

We look forward to seeing you at Glenwoodie for a special day of golf, dinner and companionship. If you can't make it please purchase some raffle tickets.

**In Mike's memory let's continue to help our IBEW 21 sisters and brothers.**



By Amber Shipman

## Young Members Unite in Renew 21!

How well do you remember 1979? Some of us were young adults, children, or not even born. Thinking back about what was going on 35 years ago; the record of the year was: "Just the Way You Are" by Billy Joel. The national unemployment rate was 5.8%, the average US income was \$16,461, and gas cost 86 cents a gallon. There was an accident at the Pennsylvania Three Mile Island nuclear power plant which released radiation and Pittsburgh beat Dallas in Super Bowl XIII.

Renew 21 is a new charter group of young IBEW 21 members. Our officers are all 35 years old and younger. Renew means:

**Reach out and  
Engage  
Next-gen  
Electrical  
Workers**

What could the "kids" have to offer IBEW 21 members? The answer is A LOT! Renew 21 has some great goals, first and foremost we want to engage our younger union members. We want to educate those members on the labor movement and show them how to get involved in our union.

We are looking forward to planning fun activities to bring together IBEW 21 members of **ALL** ages. We will also get involved in community outreach projects.

Your current RENEW21 board members are Joe Pavlik (President), Amber Shipman (Treasurer) and Heather Brown (Secretary). Joe was a Libertyville Premise Technician until he recently accepted a position as a Customer System Technician in Peoria, Amber works as an AT&T Marketing Support Specialist in Springfield, and Heather is a Premise Technician in the Stewart garage. All three are also Union stewards.

We started the group but now we need your help. We need you to check out our website **renew21.com** and like our Facebook page Renew 21! We are also looking for community outreach activities like assisting an animal shelter, church, youth group, or a similar group. Shoot us an email if you want more information, have an idea, or want to get more involved. Together we can UNITE to do ANYTHING!



KC Coates and Alex Galvan volunteering at the Mercy Home picnic.



Vermillion County Members did a great job collecting school supplies for the Salvation Army. Pictured are Laura Kruger, Will Cornell and Tammy Benson.



## Chalk One Up for the Good Guys!

As you know we spent several months last year building a union at **DirectSat USA**, a contractor for DIRECTV. There are 46 technicians in the Mokena garage who install and repair DIRECTV services. Their organizing campaign started when one worker emailed me after going to [ibew.org](http://ibew.org) looking for information on how to organize.

Management spared no expense to dissuade these workers from forming a union. They held many captive audience meetings. The DirectSat President flew in from Pennsylvania to spread misinformation and outright lies in an effort to scare the workers into believing that they'd be harmed in some way if they voted to be union. Weekly team meetings all had an anti-union message to help spread fear among the workers. Management introduced a new "Sick Day" policy to make techs believe that the company would take care of them, and finally withheld a pay increase to make them believe that voting to be union would hurt them.

The technicians were NOT fooled. They did their own homework and figured out for themselves who was being honest with them. The workers stood together through the company's delays, management's attempt to dilute the bargaining unit, the government shutdown, and the time it takes to for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to conduct an election. Finally, the election was held more than four months after the petition was filed. These guys showed us what solidarity meant to them on election day with their 31-13 victory!

That's half the battle won. We still have to negotiate a contract for our new Brothers. DirectSat management signaled throughout the organizing campaign that they intend to make bargaining difficult, at best.

In the meantime we filed charges for illegal behavior and are working with the NLRB to recover the illegally withheld pay increase; we are representing workers and filing grievances. We have already had some favorable decisions by the Board as we headed into bargaining that began on September 4.

We are also working to increase their bargaining power by organizing the DirectSat technicians in Elk Grove Village (aka Chicago North) and Algonquin. Almost all of the DirectSat technicians have the same issues, they love the work but don't like the way they are being treated.

I'd like to thank all of the IBEW 21 members who helped in Mokena and those who continue to assist us at the other locations. Our new Brothers were impressed that you took the time to help them. You made a difference. Together we will continue to help workers overcome the dictator style relationship they have with management and bring democracy to workplaces at DirectSat USA. Solidarity!



# ENDORSEMENTS

## IBEW 21 COPE ENDORSEMENTS 2014 GENERAL ELECTION

### U.S. SENATE

Richard Durbin (D)

### SEC. OF STATE

Jesse White (D)

### U.S. CONGRESS

1st Bobby Rush (D)

2nd Robin Kelly (D)

3rd Dan Lipinski (D)

### SENATE

3rd Mattie Hunter (D)

6th John Cullerton (D)

12th Steven Landek (D)

15th Napoleon Harris (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)

### GOVERNOR

Pat Quinn (D)

### COMPTROLLER

Sheila Simon (D)

4th Luis Guterriez (D)

5th Mike Quigley (D)

7th Danny Davis (D)

8th Tammy Duckworth (D)

18th Bill Cunningham (D)

24th Suzanne Glowiak (D)

30th Terry Link (D)

36th Mike Jacobs (D)

39th Don Harmon (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 Fran Hurley (D)

36th Kelly Burke (D)

37th Nichole Serbin (D)

38th Al Riley (D)

39th Will Guzzardi (D)

40th Jaime Andrade (D)

43rd Anna Moeller (D)

44th Fred Crespo (D)

45th Jenny Burke (D)

46th Deborah Conroy (D)

50th Valerie Burd (D)

55th Martin J. Moylan (D)

56th Michelle Mussman (D)

59th Carol Sente (D)

60th Rita Mayfield (D)

61st Loren Karner (D)

62nd Sam Yingling (D)

63rd Jack Franks (D)

64th Joel Mains (D)

67th Chuck Jefferson (D)

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

Lisa Madigan (D)

### TREASURER

Mike Frerichs (D)

9th Jan Schakowsky (D)

10th Brad Schneider (D)

11th Bill Foster (D)

12th William Enyart (D)

42nd Linda Holmes (D)

57th James Clayborne, Jr. (D)

68th Carl Wasco (D)

71st Mike Smiddy (D)

72nd Pat Verschoore (D)

74th Don Moffitt - (R)

75th Martha Shugart (D)

76th Frank Mautino (D)

77th Kathleen Willis (D)

78th Camille Lilly (D)

79th Katherine "Kate" Cloonen (D)

80th Anthony DeLuca (D)

83rd Linda Chapa LaVia (D)

84th Stephanie Kifowit (D)

85th Emily McAsey (D)

86th Larry Walsh, Jr. (D)

87th Rich Brauer (R)

92nd Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)

95th Wayne Rosenthal (D)

97th Moira Dunn (D)

98th Natalie Manley (D)

99th Raymond Poe (R)

100th CD Davidsmeyer (R)

101st Bill Mitchell (R)

102nd Adam Brown (R)

103rd Carol Ammons (D)

111th Daniel Beiser (D)

112th Cullen L. Cullen (D)

113th Jay Hoffman (D)

114th Eddie Lee Jackson (D)

13th Ann Callis (D)

14th Dennis Anderson (D)

17th Randall Olsen (D)

18th Cheri Bustos (D)

115th William "Bill" Kilquist (D)

116th Jerry Costello II (D)

117th John Bradley (D)

118th Brandon Phelps (D)

### JUDICIAL

1st App. Ct David Ellis (D)

1st App. Ct. John B. Simon (D)

3rd App. Ct. - Mary Kay O'Brien (retain)

### STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTIONS

Term limits - OPPOSE

Redistricting - OPPOSE

Millionaire's tax - SUPPORT

Minimum wage raise - SUPPORT

Birth control coverage - SUPPORT

Crime Victims Rights - SUPPORT

## NORTHWEST INDIANA FEDERATION OF LABOR, CLC. 2014 GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

### STATEWIDE OFFICES:

Secretary of State: Beth White (D)

State Auditor: Mike Claytor (D)

State Treasurer: Mike Boland (D)

### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

District 1: Pete Visclosky (D) (I)

### INDIANA STATE SENATE:

District 1: Frank Mrvan (D) (I)

District 4: Karen Tallian (D) (I)

District 6: Roxanna Hanford (D)

### INDIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

District 1: Linda Lawson (D) (I)

District 2: Earl Harris (D) (I)

District 3: Charlie Brown (D) (I)

District 4: Deb Porter (D)

District 9: Scott Pelath (D) (I)

District 10: Chuck Moseley (D) (I)

District 11: Jim Metro (D)

District 12: Mara Candelaria Reardon (D) (I)

District 14: Vernon Smith (D) (I)

District 15: Jim Wieser (D)

District 16: Rich Ludington (D)

District 19: Shelli VanDenburgh (D) (I)

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

## ...And They Say You're the Problem

If the March Illinois Primary is any indication, we are all in for one hell of a ride from now until the General Election on November 4th. More money was spent by one person to buy a party nomination than ever before! Despite spending more of his own money than any of us will see in our entire lifetimes, he barely succeeded in buying his coronation while falling pitifully short of even getting a majority of the vote. Hardly the mandate that he was hoping for to legitimize a candidacy that can only be described as another corporate-raiding Wall Street type bully who thinks he can buy his way into office.

Unfortunately, we've seen this type of approach be successful far too many times in the past. We only have to look to our neighbors directly to our north and east (Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan) to see how one bad election cycle can have a profoundly negative effect on the lives of regular everyday working people like us.

What's been puzzling me the most in the last few election cycles is how this type of ideology consistently gets rejected at the national level but somehow takes on a different shape at the state level, especially in our region of the country. What baffles me completely is the trend of working people such as ourselves to vote against what's in our best interests because someone who produces nothing but profits from the buying and selling of other people's hard work has managed to convince you that your life sucks and he's the only one who can fix it.

So while I sit in front of my TV listening to his mindless rants about the Founding Fathers and Union Bosses (I've always considered myself more of a thug) you would think I am amused.

Far from it! This guy is scary because he really believes what he's saying. Definitely not your typical windbag-say whatever you want to hear type like so many of his recent predecessors who snuck in under the radar by promising they weren't here to hurt anybody and then going back on their word.

He really believes that both unions and the people they represent are the problem. He considers the work we do to improve the quality of life, not just for union members, but for society as a whole, to be immoral. If he should get the chance, he would outlaw our very existence.

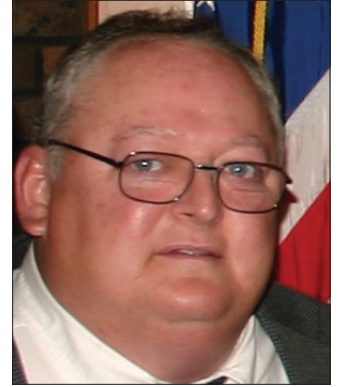
Well, I've got news for him:

**NOT HERE, NOT NOW, NOT EVER!**

Sisters and Brothers, we are rapidly approaching another life-altering, watershed political moment in our great State. We can do what the other side is hoping we'll do—which is very little to nothing or we can get engaged at levels like we did in 2008 when we took control of our destinies and elected the type of representative government that would work for all, not just the chosen, fortunate few.

The other side learned their lesson back then and are out to prove that they can buy their way back in. We cannot allow money to trump mobilization. We have proven time and again that outworking the other side is what wins elections. And while we've been outworking these people our entire lives, it won't be easy by any means. It's going to take an army, are you up for it? I hope so.

Contact me in the Political Department to find out what you can do to help ensure OUR way of life and stay tuned to [ibew21.org](http://ibew21.org) for volunteer updates. Thank you, take care and GOD Bless!



# WHAT'S NEW ACROSS THE LOCAL?

Altura ★ AT&T ★ Avaya ★ CenturyLink ★ City of Chicago OEMC- 911 Center  
Heddington Oaks Nursing Home ★ Johnson Controls

Karen Battisfore,  
Business Representative



## Great Job!

★ Every day we read the papers, watch the news and hear all the horrible stuff going on in the world today. Despite all of the troubles in the world and in our workplaces I am proud of all our members who are

getting involved by volunteering their time and making donations as Local 21 begins its community outreach program.

Many of you stepped up and gave back during our 21 Days of Giving campaigns. In the Chicago North Consumer U-verse Sales office we held a contest for the team who donated the most food items. Pictured is one of our winning teams from the second floor. We celebrated by sharing in a pizza lunch.

During Breast Cancer Awareness month, our members working at the National Credit Verification Center on the fourth floor of 225 Randolph were inspired to give back. Throughout the office they posted colored ribbons associated with specific

cancers, and cancer awareness information including statistics and a list of potential foods that may help in the prevention of cancer.

Many members wore pink on Pink Day, to celebrate cancer survivors and honor those who have passed. Fundraising activities included creating \$2 ribbons; they raised \$255 for the American Cancer Society. Thanks again for getting involved—you are making a difference.



Back Row (l-r) Charles Dale & Kelvin Sams.  
Front row Lorenzo Bond, Monica Jackson, Erica Smith, Chasity Schaeffer, Jenean Smith & Aminat Akeju.

Melanie Probst,  
Business Representative



## Put It Down and Strap it On

★ Everyone should be aware of the Illinois Law regarding cell phone usage while driving. But as a reminder, Illinois is now

one of 12 states to ban the use of handheld electronic devices while driving. You have to use a hands free device or use speakerphone. The use of cell phones in school, construction and work zones, as well as texting while driving have been illegal in Illinois for the past several years.

I was advised by AT&T Corporate Safety there is a new ladder mate strap that must be used with V-Rung and Hook Ladders on suspended strand. We discussed the new strap in safety meetings and that techs were unaware of the new procedure. If you work in a garage and haven't heard about the new strap and procedure please bring it to your manager's attention.

This is my last article; I've retired from AT&T and accepted a position as an IBEW 6th District organizer. I'd like to thank all of you who I've worked with throughout my career in the field and as a Union Representative. It's been a pleasure working alongside all of you.



Byron Bonham,  
Business Representative



## Tuition Aid Changes

★ In 2014 the **Tuition Aid Program and Career and Personal Development Plans (CPDP)** changed. Edcor Data Services will take the place of Acclaris. The

tuition aid amount increased to \$5,250. Although many of management's changes cause us to get upset or ask why, this a positive change for us.

Training and Retraining along with the Career and Personal Development Plan are discussed early in Article 30 of the AT&T contract. CPDP allows for \$3,500 annually and is pre-paid tuition assistance while the Tuition Aid Program is a reimbursement plan

Local 21 has been working with **APT** and the **Sage Group** in efforts to explain how easy it is to use this often overlooked benefit to further your education. Both of these schools will work with a group of members and attempt to hold classes in nearby locations and work around our schedules. They also accept both Tuition Aid and CPDP.

The **Bridgeview linemen** arbitration award was received and all three linemen have returned to work. After many days of hearing and testimony, and many hours of excellent legal counsel, I am happy to report the arbitrator ruled in the union's favor.

The IBEW was founded on the principle of employees demanding a safer workplace. Currently Local 21 representatives are meeting with the company to discuss ways to make AT&T a safer workplace. The communication has been positive and I hope the message continues to spread that we are NOT looking to place blame for accidents, but instead prevent them from happening in the future. Be Safe out there!

Mike Roach,  
Business Representative



## We Won't Forget

★ New contracts have been distributed at **Heddington Oaks Nursing Home** in Peoria. If you haven't received one, please contact your Steward.

I'd like to welcome the Temporary Employees as new members in the bargaining unit. The new agreement now gives you the representation you deserve.

We are currently still in negotiations with the new owners of **Gardenview Nursing Home**, formerly Vermilion County Nursing Home. The bargaining team hopes to have an agreement soon. Mel Probst, Doris Halls, Shirley Moody, and I have been working diligently to secure a fair agreement. We've made good progress on some issues, but many still remain.

After tough bargaining at **Vermillion County**, our members living in Vermillion County need to remember how "well" you were treated by your elected officials and their appointees when you vote this fall.

At **AT&T**, the restructuring of **I&M** continues to be a challenge. In the downstate area not all garages are divided into 3 separate groups; some have 2, and some still only 1. **BAU construction** continues to be very busy with the "Project VIP" build. New projects have been added to PLR in Springfield, while the drafters continue efforts to keep up with final posting created by the build.

At the **Global Billing Center**, Amber Shipman and I are working with management to fix some issues concerning OT and emergency days. Mike Scime, the Stewards, and I will be meeting with the new **Credit and Collections** Area Manager to discuss issues concerning the center. **U-Verse** continues to grow in the outstate area.

Jerry Rankins,  
Business Representative



## The Public Sector Fight

★ This year marks the 30th anniversary of public sector workers gaining bargaining rights to achieve a better standard of living, work-place dignity and respect. They struggled

together to reach their goals. Today, just like our private sector union brothers and sisters, the rights of public sector employees are again under severe attack.

With all the talk about pension reform and budget deficits the billionaire candidate for governor claims to have the answers to fix the Illinois budget deficit. Seasoned politicians are misguiding voters and dividing us with claims that high taxes are caused by union workers and that wage and benefit cuts are the only solutions. Conventional wisdom holds that it's hard to muster up sympathy for public workers, like our members at the **City of Chicago 911-OEMC Center**. All workers deserve respect, dignity, and collective bargaining rights especially at a time when fewer and fewer workers can make ends meet.

Many people don't know that government employees pay into their pension plans but local governments failed to make their agreed to payments. You won't hear that from the billionaire who is backed by anti-union groups like ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) and the Koch brothers. They poured millions into Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan to end public sector bargaining rights. This fight affects all workers; groups like ALEC are supported by union busting companies such as **Comcast**.

Current Comcast **Cortland** contract negotiations are tied up with bad-faith bargaining Labor Board charges. Comcast, the number one cable provider wants government approval to purchase Time-Warner, the number two cable provider for \$47 billion. Yet, Comcast rejects the notion of paying a living wage

to over 85% of its employees. With this purchase Comcast will strengthen their control over our community, our elected politicians, and the media. We simply can't allow that to happen.

The **Comcast West** unit is probably the most despised unit in all of Comcast. Our members' contract will expire on April 30, 2015. We expect an attack but then again, that's nothing new!

Workers from both Cortland and the West unit, along with clergy from Chicago respectfully greeted CEO Brian Roberts at the shareholders meeting. They addressed the "income inequality" between his salary of \$15,000 an hour, compared to his skilled workforce in Chicago of which 85% make less than the annual median income of \$49,000.

The Chicago City Council passed a new resolution last year which bars Comcast from discriminating against workers because they chose to be union members. Prior to approving the resolution, we received support from a majority of the aldermen, who committed to the cause when meeting with our members.

Comcast fought against the resolution. They exerted their political control by threatening to reduce their level of financial support to the aldermen. Many succumbed to pressure rather than standing with the tax-paying workers who live and shop in their communities. One alderwoman was swayed because she was, "*concerned about the possible embarrassment of losing Comcast's funding for her Christmas party.*"

Brothers and Sisters, this is what we are up against and why billionaires run for office. They support anti-working family legislation to increase their own power. The 1% have the money, but we the 99% have the passion and heart for social and economic justice. Let's stand and remember that our strength is in our unity. As we become more informed, we must become actively involved, in our community, churches, and our Union!

Mike McCormick  
Business Representative



## Issues Everywhere

★ In August, our members at **Johnson Controls** rejected a tentative agreement proposed by management although the CWA ratified the same proposal. We

talked with management to reach a new acceptable agreement; they responded with their last best and final offer. The membership voted to accept that offer. Our Johnson Controls stewards contacted technicians to obtain their personal e-mail addresses to keep everyone informed on what was happening. If you didn't give them your information call or email Mike O'Connor or me with your e-mail information so we can make sure all of you have the latest Johnson Controls news.

At **Altura**, we have a few issues going on right now namely the NOC and home phone numbers. I will update you more on them as we work through them with management.

Dismissal panels have been picking up again at **AT&T**. Most of them concern attendance and being where you are supposed to be doing what you are supposed to be doing. The best advice I can give you is, "Please come to work and do your job the way you were trained to do it and always do it safely."

Remember to keep your driver's license updated and make sure you tell your manager if you receive a ticket or if your license has been suspended for any reason. In Illinois, you can check your driver's license status by calling 217-782-2720 when prompted press option 1 and follow the instructions or choose option 6 to speak with an agent.

Make sure you are creating legitimate Helper Tickets and you are doing the right thing. There are still many ongoing issues and concerns with the SD&A and NIBS organizations regarding the implementation and guidelines associated with each group. We are working through them as they come up.



Jim Fleming and Jim Moniak working in Morocco, IN.



Richard Browne removing an old pole in Whiting, IN.



## You're Making a Difference

I'd like to thank all of you who donated and perhaps more importantly gave your time during our **21 Days of Giving** food and back to school supply drives as well as

at the events benefiting the children at Mercy Home. Representatives at the Feeding Illinois Food Banks, Mercy Home, My Joyful Heart, The Salvation Army, and Crittenton Centers are extremely grateful you decided to become involved in our community outreach initiatives. These events are only the beginning.

Our community outreach program is in its infancy. While we are off to a nice start we can do more and do it better. I learned many of you are involved in your communities. It became clear some members and work locations didn't know about our events, found out late or didn't know how to get involved. Better communication will be the first improvement. I'll work on making sure you receive IBEW 21 updates. In the meantime, please talk with your Sisters and Brothers so everyone knows what's going on in our Local.

We'll continue helping people in the communities where we live and work. For projects to be successful, I need your help. First, I need to know what organizations in your areas Local 21 can become involved

with. Right now I only know about a few. We want to involve members in all the areas where we live and work. Please let me know who else is out there that we may be able to assist.

If you have an idea for an event let me know and I will help you make it happen. While you're working I can make the phone calls and do what it takes to help you make it a success. If it is a hit, the next time we might be able to contact other members in your surrounding area to make it even better.

Giving is the easy part. While your donations have gone a long way and I ask that you keep giving, your time can be the most valuable asset for many organizations. I know we're all busy; at times I've struggled to get out and do what is needed. Community outreach means we may have to give up a few hours of relaxation, some time with our families or even a six tour of overtime to help those who are not as fortunate as the working members of our union.

Through our community outreach program we will build solidarity while making a difference in the communities where we live and work.



Deseree Lee Bass and her daughter volunteering at Mercy Home.



In Rock Island our members and Steward Susan Elder gave it their all collecting donations for the River Bend Food Bank.

## Lessons From the Past - Guide Us Forward

What would Dr. King make of Volkswagen employees losing a crucial vote to form a union at the Chattanooga plant? The workers fell 87 votes short of achieving a major victory. After analyzing that fight, it's clear the UAW didn't involve middle class workers or the community in the broader argument of economic justice that the vote for union recognition represented.

Just before he was slain over 300 miles away, in Memphis, Dr. King was engaged in a labor struggle alongside African-American sanitation workers. The February 1968 strike for union recognition began after two workers died as a result of a malfunctioning garbage truck. Twelve days later, in response to inaction by the City of Memphis, 1,300 black men employed in the Public Works Department went on strike. Their demands were: union recognition, safe working conditions and a decent wage.

The Union attempted to strike as early as 1966, but their effort failed because it didn't arouse the support of the religious community or the middle class in Memphis. When Henry Loeb was elected Mayor in 1968, conditions worsened for the workers. Loeb refused to replace dilapidated trucks or pay overtime when the men were forced to work late-night shifts. Sanitation wages were so low that many relied on welfare and food stamps to feed their families.

A particular grounding in civil disobedience and lessons from the Bible about justice were the guiding principles of the Civil Rights Movement. Following a massive sit-in demonstration by the workers, the City Council agreed to a settlement, which the Mayor rejected.

Rev. James Lawson, an ally of Dr. King, along with 150 local ministers, then formed the Community on the Move for Equality (COME). Lawson was an advocate of Dr. King's non-violent civil disobedience. The group vowed to fill Memphis jails to bring attention to the workers plight.

On April 3, in his second visit to Memphis, Dr. King spoke to a dedicated group of sanitation workers, giving his famous Mountain Top speech. On April 8, four days after his death, his widow, Coretta Scott King, led 42,000 people, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and union members, in a silent march through Memphis to honor her slain husband. On April 16th a deal was reached to end the strike, recognize the union and pay a better wage.

As union members we need to reeducate ourselves on events from the past and apply the lessons learned. We must get back to the basics to reignite the Labor Movement. There is no room for self-interest in our Union anymore. We see our employers are pitting worker against worker and we continue to fall for it, like sheep to the slaughter. That has to end.

The Labor Movement is the greatest lever applied to social mobility in the history of America, but it demands discipline, commitment, and real effort. Power never cedes anything just because it was asked. If we want to restore the middle class in America: **WE HAVE TO DEMAND IT!** If it takes sacrifices, then we have to make them.



Our members in Unit 7 were all smiles at their meeting in Central City, IL.

# Buying Your First Home or Considering Refinancing?

Whether you are a young worker or seasoned member perhaps you are wondering what it takes to get started when looking to buy a home or refinance. It's essential to understand there is a difference between how banks, mortgage bankers and brokers may advise you depending on the products they offer. There are so many new mortgage products available today, it is important to speak with someone who has the full array of mortgages to offer you. One such product is FHA's New Opportunity loan which will allow credit scores from 580 to 640.

Like a tailor fitting a person for clothing, everyone's mortgage needs are different and each lender offers you unique skills and experiences. All lenders want to know your employment history for the past two years, bill payment record for the last 6 – 12 months, credit score, down payment, current rent and monthly obligations. This is only the beginning.

My mission is to help union members and their families understand the mortgage process and the different mortgages available. There are so many choices today it can be overwhelming. Knowing if and when you can buy or refinance, how to navigate through a renovation mortgage, buying a HUD foreclosure, or just wanting to figure out when you can re-enter into the mortgage market after a short

sale, bankruptcy, or foreclosure are just some of the questions that arise.

I've worked in the mortgage industry, specifically with unions and their members for the past 18 years. I've aligned myself with Prospect Mortgage because of their service driven culture, variety of products available, mortgage education and their commitment to assist union members. I have a team of Loan Officers ready to help with your mortgage needs. You work hard every day, I want to help you move into the home you've been saving for.

Union members who use Prospect Mortgage when purchasing a home will receive a \$750 Visa card approximately 2 weeks after closing. Members who refinance using Prospect Mortgage will receive a \$500 Visa card.

For more information on benefits I can offer to union members or to discuss your situation feel free to call me at 815-353-1196, or email me at [jody.anderson@prospectmtg.com](mailto:jody.anderson@prospectmtg.com) or visit [myprospectmortgage.com/unionBenefits/jody-anderson](http://myprospectmortgage.com/unionBenefits/jody-anderson). I look forward meeting and getting to know the members of IBEW Local 21.



By Jody Anderson,  
Prospect Mortgage

## CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 21 RETIREES

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.

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Dan Nelson  
Larry Royse

### AT&T Datacom

Paul Hartman  
Donald Allen

### Avaya

Robert Greenlee

### Frontier

Richard Hinton  
Daryl Jacob

### Heddington Oaks

Patricia Jones

### Johnson Controls

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Lynn Byrd  
Alma Castillo-O'Keefe  
Edward Kawczynski  
Scott Geldmyer  
Gregory Clark  
Brian Skuja  
David Flebbe  
Ann Bata

# UNIT MEETINGS

Get involved—attend an upcoming Union Meeting!

	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
<b>UNIT 1</b>	<b>11th - 6 pm</b> IBEW Local #134 600 W. Washington Blvd. Chicago, IL 312-454-1340	<b>9th - 7 pm</b> Park Ridge Veteran's Club 10 W. Higgins Park Ridge, IL 847-825-4588	<b>13th - 7 pm</b> Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N. Knox Ave. Chicago, IL 773-282-7035
<b>UNIT 2</b>	<b>9th - 7 pm</b> American Legion Post #697 18255 Grant St. Lansing, IL 708-474-5906	<b>14th - 7 pm</b> Slovak Club 6920 Broadway Merrillville, IN 219-756-5101	<b>11th - 7 pm</b> Gaelic Park Banquet Hall 6119 W. 147th Oak Forest, IL 708-687-9323
<b>UNIT 3</b>	<b>18th - 7 pm</b> Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites 495 Airport Rd. Elgin, IL 847-488-9000	<b>16th - 7 pm</b> IBEW Local #364 6820 Mill Rd. Rockford, IL 815-398-6282	<b>20th - 7 pm</b> Gurnee American Legion 749 Milwaukee Gurnee, IL 847-244-9282
<b>UNIT 4</b>	<b>10th - 7 pm</b> Lemont VFW 15780 New Ave. Lemont, IL 630-257-9859	<b>8th - 7 pm</b> American Legion Post 5 705 S. Larkin Joliet, IL 815-725-4333	<b>12th - 7 pm</b> IBEW Local #145 1700 52nd Ave., Suite A Moline, IL 309-736-4239
<b>UNIT 5</b>	<b>17th - 5:30 pm</b> IBEW Local # 538 1290 N. Michigan Ave. Danville, IL 217-442-0996	<b>15th - 5:30 pm</b> IBEW Local #146 3390 N. Woodford St. Decatur, IL 217-877-4604	<b>19th - 6:00 pm</b> U.A.W. Local #974 3025 Springfield Rd. East Peoria, IL 309-694-3151
<b>UNIT 6</b>	<b>16th - 5:30 pm</b> IBEW- Local #193 3150 Wide Track Dr. Springfield, IL 217-544-3479	<b>21st - 5:30 pm</b> IBEW Local #193 3150 Wide Track Dr. Springfield, IL 217-544-3479	<b>18th - 5:30 pm</b> IBEW Local #193 3150 Wide Track Dr. Springfield, IL 217-544-3479
<b>UNIT 7</b>	<b>15th - 7 pm</b> IBEW Local #649 4051 Humbert Rd. Alton, IL 618-462-1627	<b>20th - 7 pm</b> Central City Lions Club 140 S Morrison Central City, IL 618-532-9475	<b>17th - 7 pm</b> IBEW Local #309 2000a Mall St. (Rt. 157) Collinsville, IL 618-345-5112

## FRONTLINE



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

1307 W. Butterfield Road, Suite 422  
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Comments and articles are welcome and should be sent to the editors. Local 21 reserves the right to edit submissions, and to use items as space allows.

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# IBEW LOCAL 21

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**CASH RAFFLE!**  
Tickets are \$5 each or  
5 for \$20!

## 2014 Michael A. Kunas Golf Outing

Sunday, October 5, 2014

Glenwoodie Golf Club

19301 State Street in Glenwood, Illinois

11:30 am – Sign in/Registration

Including Hot Dog or Brat lunch & 2 Drink tickets

**(Luncheon sponsored by our friends from Scarborough Alliance Group)**

1:00 pm - Shotgun Start (Scramble)

Numerous Promotional Prizes

**ALSO: Local-Wide 50/50 Cash Raffle (winner need not be present to win)**

Practice putting and driving range included

6:30 pm (approx.) - Buffet Dinner

**(Open Bar sponsored by our friends from Goldberg, Weisman & Cairo)**

**FOURSOME WITH A HOLE SPONSORSHIP: \$500**

**FOURSOME: \$400**

**SINGLES: \$100**

Dinner only \$25/per person

**Call the Hall  
to order your tickets-  
630-960-4466  
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