



AMALGAMATED MAY 1, 1994

# LOCAL 15 UNITY NEWSLETTER

UNION NEWS AND INFORMATION TO YOU

April 2021

## Service Date Issue

IBEW Local 15 became aware last year that changes had been made to some of our member's service dates, thus reducing their service time credit. The changes appear to focus primarily on employees who were previously given service credit for time spent as a temporary employee. These changes were made without notice to employees and only showed up on seniority list publications. Upon becoming aware of the changes, IBEW Local 15 filed a grievance regarding this matter, and submitted a request for in-

## **General Wage Increases**

About one-hundred and seventy-five members of IBEW 15 working for the fossil generation company NRG Energy, Inc. will see a 2.5% general wage increase (GWI) beginning the first day of April under the terms negotiated in their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Also, over 4900 members of IBEW 15 working for Exelon,

Business Services Corporation (BSC) and ComEd will receive a 2.5% raise on April 1<sup>st</sup> based on the terms negotiated in their Collective Bargaining Agreement. The shift premium is based upon the 'A' rate, per Article IV, Section 4, and will increase by seven cents to \$2.78 hourly for the hours specified in Section 4.

formation to the Company asking for the details of all such changes that were made and the impact to any service-related benefits (such as vacation, etc.). The grievance is currently at Step 2 of the grievance process, waiting for the Company to provide the requested information.

As a reminder, employees should be checking their service and seniority dates each time a new seniority list is published and should be reporting any service time inaccuracies or changes which impact them

to both HR and their local Union representative.

**HAPPY EASTER FROM  
LOCAL 15!**

### CONTENTS:

<b>Unit Meeting Calendar</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Nuke News</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Box Structure ReOrg</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Commute Allowance</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>IBEW Scholarship</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Virtual Meeting</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Vote</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Stewards</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>In Memory</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>COVID19</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Retirements</b>	<b>6</b>

**BUILD BACK  
BETTER WITH  
UNIONS**  
PASS THE PRO ACT  
AFL-CIO

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**866-832-1560**

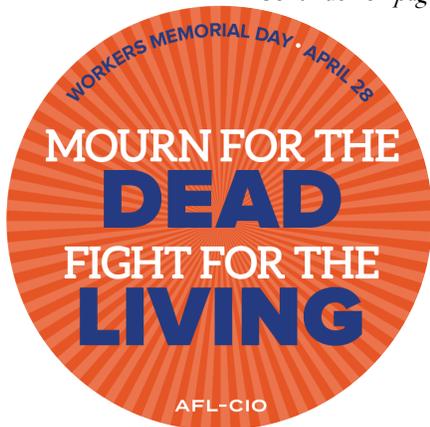


**Nuclear Industry News**

During a virtual panel discussion sponsored by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Arshad Mansoor, president and CEO of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), highlighted the importance of nuclear generation to the resilience of the U.S. electric power system.

He cited the performance of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) nuclear power plants during the recent Texas winter storm that led to massive power outages. Mansoor also expressed confidence in the potential for new and emerging nuclear energy technologies to support continued grid decarbonization. Mansoor said “The resiliency of nuclear power plants, the diversity that nuclear power plants bring is something we cannot lose in the near-term as we transition to this low- to no carbon grid,” “We need to value reliability. We need to value resiliency; we need to value inertia and not just value kilowatt-hour. Our largest source of carbon-free energy today comes from the U.S. nuclear fleet. We at EPRI are looking into digitalization, modernization of existing and future nuclear plants. We’ve got to bring it to a place where it’s more affordable.”

*Continued on page 4*



**Feel Sick? . . . . .  
STAY HOME!**

**April - Calendar**

1	First Thursday	<p><b>DIXON UNIT MEETING</b> 6:00 PM American Legion - 1120 W. First St. Dixon</p> <p><b>ELMHURST UNIT MEETING</b> * ** 6:30 PM American Legion - 310 W. Butterfield Rd Elmhurst</p>
6	First Tuesday	<p><b>NORTHERN UNIT MEETING</b> 5:30 PM American Legion - 749 Milwaukee Ave Gurnee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Consolidated Elections Early Voting Has Started for Local Offices, School Boards</p>
7	First Wednesday	<p><b>POWERTON UNIT MEETING</b> 4:00 PM <b>PACE - 300 McLean Street</b> * Pekin **</p> <p><b>JOLIET UNIT MEETING</b> 5:30 PM Stone City VFW - 124 Stone City Drive Joliet</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1931 - The Davis-Bacon Act became effective. The federal law orders contractors on federally financed or assisted construction projects to pay wage rates equal to those prevailing in local construction trades</i></p>
8	Second Thursday	<p><b>ROCKFORD UNIT MEETING</b> 5:30 PM Holiday Inn - 7550 E. State Street - Rockford</p>
14	Second Wednesday	<p><b>KINCAID UNIT MEETING</b> 3:45 PM South Fork Building - 124 Central Avenue - Kincaid</p> <p><b>CHICAGO UNIT MEETING</b> 5:00 PM IBEW 134 - 2227 S. King Drive Chicago</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>1865 - Abraham Lincoln fatally shot by Confederate sympathizer</i></p>
28	Wednesday	<p style="text-align: right;">Workers Memorial Day</p>
		<p style="text-align: right;">* President M<sup>c</sup>Goldrick Will Attend ** Vice-President Phillips Will Attend</p>

Monthly Newsletter of  
**IBEW LOCAL 15**



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[www.ibewlocal15.org](http://www.ibewlocal15.org)

— OFFICERS —

- Terry McGoldrick**  
 PRESIDENT  
 BUSINESS MANAGER  
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY
- Bill Phillips**  
 VICE-PRESIDENT  
 SENIOR ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER  
 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
- Lisa Sims**  
 RECORDING SECRETARY  
 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
- George Longoria**  
 TREASURER

— EXECUTIVE BOARD —

- CHAIRPERSON  
**Kathy Flynn**  
 CLERICAL DIVISION
- Brian Daniels**  
 GENERATING NUCLEAR DIVISION
- Ian Hacker**  
 GENERATING FOSSIL DIVISION
- Mike Keating**  
 COMMERCIAL DIVISION
- Vinnie Rochotte**  
 COMMERCIAL DIVISION
- Russ "Rudy" Ruettiger**  
 AT LARGE
- Tom Tibbles**  
 CLERICAL DIVISION

**Nuclear Clerical  
 Box Structure  
 Reorganization Agreement**

After many delays, among them a pandemic and plant closure announcements, IBEW 15 has come to an agreement on the Nuclear Clerical Box Structure Re-Organization Agreement with the Company. The discussions with the Company did take some time but a finalized agreement was achieved. Our Stewards also gave us feedback that assisted in the development of the agreement.

A few of the items accomplished are keeping excess employees resulting from Project Legacy staffing reductions in their respective stations, re-engaging the DCC as a lead clerk as it has been in the past, and departments organized by functionality. The implementation of the agreement needs to be completed by June 1, 2021. The date was decided on to allow flexibility for the stations which are in outages additional time for implementation. Due to the pandemic and social distancing concerns, Terry McGoldrick and Bill Phillips, who supported the agreement, agreed to have a rollout done with our Stewards at the IBEW 15 office to maintain safety protocols. Michael Freeman, Assistant Business



**ATTENDEES LEFT TO RIGHT:**  
 AMBER LANNING (CHIEF STEWARD-LASALLE),  
 JANET GAUDET (STEWARD-QUAD CITIES),  
 SHERRY WOLF (CHIEF STEWARD-BYRON),  
 CECILIA ORSINI (CHIEF STEWARD-DRESDEN)

Manager/Clerical Business Representative and Fabian Vela, Clerical Business Representative led the rollout on February the 26<sup>th</sup> for the Stewards to communicate it to the clerks at their respective stations and prepare as stations implement the agreement. Vice-President Bill Phillips also addressed the group on the newly signed agreement and gave an update on Nuclear legislation and the positive feedback given by politicians after touring Byron and Dresden.

**ComEd - Exelon**

**Commuting Allowance Increases**

The Per Diem and Commuting Allowances are re-evaluated every year for members employed by ComEd and Exelon covered by the 2-25-2014 Memorandum of Agreements. The Per Diem is based on the CONUS rate for the applicable year while the Commuting Allowance is based on the consumer price index CPI-U table from December to December of

the applicable year.

Only the Commuting Allowance increased for 2021.

The current Per Diem rate of \$151.00 for round trip miles in excess of 129 miles will remain the same through March 31, 2022.

The Commuting Allowance has increased 1.4% from December 2019 to December 2020 resulting in the new Commuting Allowance table effective April 1, 2021:

DIFFERENTIAL ROUND TRIP MILES	INCREASE	COMMUTING ALLOWANCE
1-14	15¢	\$10.81
15-49	21¢	\$15.43
50-69	30¢	\$21.61
70-89	38¢	\$27.79
90-109	47¢	\$33.95
110-129	55¢	\$40.12
130 and up	-	\$151.00

## IBEW Founders' Scholarship

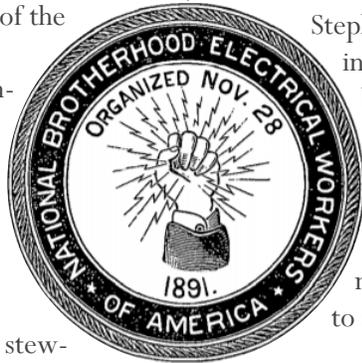
### *Awarded Only to IBEW Members*

The IBEW Founders' Scholarship honors the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned. Applications for the IBEW Founder's Scholarship (form 172) are available at the IBEW website

[www.ibew.org/FoundersScholarship](http://www.ibew.org/FoundersScholarship)

All IBEW members who have been in continuous good standing for four years preceding May 1<sup>st</sup> of the scholarship year in which they plan to apply are eligible for the IBEW Founders' Scholarship. Please note, a member on honorary withdrawal during the aforementioned period will not be eligible to participate. Spouses or children of IBEW members are not eligible for the IBEW Founders' Scholarship.

Union Plus has a scholarship that is available for IBEW members as well as their spouses and dependent children. Visit the Union Plus website [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org) for more information about other scholarship opportunities.



The award is for \$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in an approved field. The maximum distribution is \$24,000 per person over a period not to exceed eight years.

International President Lonnie Stephenson encourages all interested eligible members to participate in Founders' Scholarship Program and asks to make the opportunity known to your fellow members and urge them to apply.

### First Virtual Site Visit

IBEW Local 15 Assistant Business Manager/Business Representative Michael Freeman and IBEW Local 15 Business Representative Fabian Vela held the Union's first virtual site visit with Call Center employees on Feb-

ruary 25, 2021.

With the majority of the Call Center employees working remotely and most of the monthly Unit meetings having been canceled since the pandemic began, this was the first time many of the remote workers had a chance to interact with Union representatives. The idea for the virtual visit came out of the desire to stay in touch with our members during a period of time when the pandemic has created numerous logistical issues with trying to do so. The virtual site visit involved an open Teams invite that was sent out to all call center employees, allowing them to drop in and out during their breaks or lunches as well as before or after their shifts. Most of the questions asked focused on the status of remote working beyond the pandemic period as well as the Exelon announcement on the split off of the generation segment and its possible impact on our members. IBEW 15 is planning on holding similar type virtual visits with other work groups in the future.



candidates for these local offices.

Election Day is Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup> when the polls will be open from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm. Contact your local election authority for more information or go to [Illinois Elections Board](http://Illinois Elections Board) website which contains links by county or jurisdiction.

# ELECTION DAY TUESDAY APRIL 6

**Slow the Coronavirus Spread. . . STAY SIX FEET APART!**

**New Member**



IBEW 15 Sister Mindy Himes, who works at Vistra’s Kincaid Generating Station, is the Recording Secretary for the Kincaid Unit Meeting.

**All Hands Meetings at Nuclear Plants**

IBEW 15 leadership and Exelon Generation executives visited four of the five nuclear stations represented by Local 15 in March. Plans are to meet employees at LaSalle Station after their refueling outage is completed. The goals of the visits were to reach out to as many employees as possible and give updates on the work being done with state legislators to pass comprehensive energy legislation this spring that would help stop Byron and Dresden from premature closures and to discuss the recent company announcement that they intend to split the company into two separate companies.

The group visited many of the departments directly and performed an “all call” to communicate with as

many employees as possible, there was also a question and answer session during each meeting.

**Stewards**

The following IBEW 15 members have been appointed as Stewards and Chief Stewards.

- VERN MOSS III in System Meter Shop at Commercial Center.
- GLADYS NEGRON promoted to Chief Steward for the Call Center at Lincoln Center-Oakbrook.
- GREGORY WRIGHT in Underground Department at Chicago South.
- MICHAEL O’CONNOR promoted to Chief Steward for the Underground Department at Chicago North and South.
- JASON KURT in Substation Construction Department at Maywood.
- MICHAEL QUIRK promoted to Chief Steward for Smart Meter Operations at Chicago North and South.
- ROBERT FORTE for Overhead Department in Streator.
- SHERMANN THOMAS for Substation Operations at Jefferson TSS in Chicago North.
- ANTHONY SCUMACI for Substation Construction at Crawford TSS in Chicago South.
- ANDREW HENDERSON for Overhead Department in Rockford.
- THOMAS REISS for Overhead Department in Pontiac.
- LUCAS DRYSDALE for Radiation Protection Department at LaSalle Station.

**Nuke News**

*Continued*

The panelists explored the challenges to grid resilience, including the increasing frequency of severe

**In Memory**

— **CARLISLE MAGNE** —  
Retired Member  
Mechanical Maintenance Byron  
March 2, 2021 - Age 73

— **MATTHEW C. POLE** —  
Active Member  
SSC Mechanic Chicago North  
March 15, 2021 - Age 33

— **SCOTT GORDON** —  
Retired Member  
Radiation Protection Byron  
March 20, 2021 - Age 64

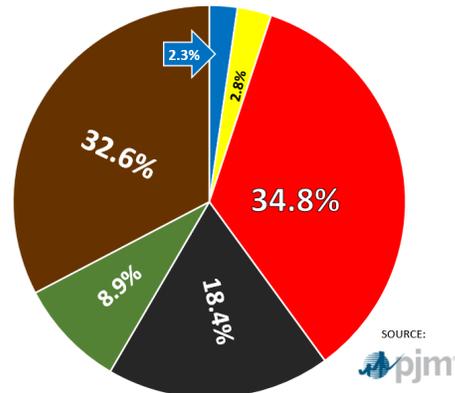
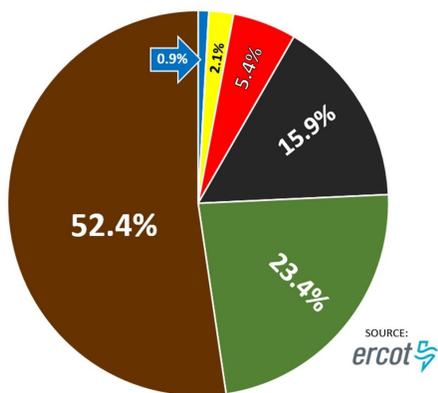
— **PLEASE** —  
**SEND NOTIFICATION OF AN  
IBEW 15 MEMBER’S DEATH TO:  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
KEITH MULLIN  
[MULLIN@IBEW15.ORG](mailto:MULLIN@IBEW15.ORG)  
630-515-0869**

weather events, cybersecurity threats, a growing number of distributed energy resources (DER), and a rapidly changing energy supply mix that advancements in nuclear generation can help to resolve. The DOE’s Kevin Lynn said the department is working with EPRI on “building a better understanding of what independent system operators (ISOs) see as some of their challenges over the next five to 10 years from a technical perspective, and how can we work with EPRI and other partners to inform our research and help address those challenges.” Duke Energy’s Roberts said utilities and other power providers are prioritizing resilience and emphasized the importance of “integrating everything from fuel planning to customer behavior.”

# RETIREMENTS

Congratulations and Thank You for Your Service - from Your IBEW Local 15 Sisters and Brothers

Name	Job Classification	Location	Service Date
WENDY FRIANT	Operating Clerk II	Operations	February 1981
KENNETH APPLGATE	Sr. Maintenance Electrician	LaSalle	September 1982
RONALD KELLETT	OH Electrician	Rockford	March 1988
DANIEL DURBIN	Nuclear Equipment Operator	LaSalle	June 1988
HENRY MEDINA	Senior Material Handler	Chicago North	September 1988
DIANNE BEHRENS	Central File Clerk	Quad Cities	May 1989
PAUL ZETTERGREN	Chemistry Technician	Braidwood	June 1989
JEFFREY MULLINAX	OH Crew Leader	Bradley	July 1989
KEITH HARRI	Nuclear Station Operator	Dresden	June 1990
HOWARD GALLOIS	Chemistry Technician	Braidwood	October 1990
PETER LUDWG	OH Electrician	Rockford	February 1991
PATRICIA GAMMON	Central File Clerk	Quad Cities	June 1991
CLIFFORD STEINER	Equipment Operator Nuclear	Quad Cities	July 1991
CARL CHRISTENSEN	OH Electrician	Bolingbrook	September 1991
MICHAEL TARRANT	OH Crew Leader	Joliet	March 1992
JOSEPH UPHAM	OH Electrician Special	Libertyville	December 1996
CAROL DOYLE	Customer Service Representative	Lincoln Center	February 2018



## 2020 Generation Sources

PJM includes all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia. ERCOT covers most of Texas.

## COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 is still a very real hazard for IBEW 15 members while the risk of infection is worsening. Since the beginning of the pandemic until March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 715 Exelon Nuclear employees in the state of Illinois have

contracted COVID-19. At ComEd there have been 725 cases and 110 cases at BSC. Remember to take the necessary precautions now more than ever as the recent variants are spreading through the nation.

As of March 24th, the [Illinois De-](#)

[partment of Public Health](#) reported that COVID19 has caused over 23,800 deaths in the state and the [Centers for Disease Control](#) recorded more than 540,500 deaths across the United States.

**Slow the Coronavirus Spread . . . . WEAR A MASK!**