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The State of Our Union

AUG 2023



Fun times at the Ketchikan picnic.



Fun times at the Cordova picnic.

Alaska awarded nearly \$2 billion in federal funding for broadband

Alaska has been awarded nearly \$2 billion in federal funding to connect Alaskans in both urban and rural areas. The funding will be used to improve broadband speeds and reliability in areas that already have some level of service.

The funding comes from a variety of sources, including the President's Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and the Telecommunications Infrastructure Program.

The Alaska Broadband Office will oversee the distribution of the funds. The office will work with telecommunications providers, tribal governments, and local communities to ensure that the funding is used effectively. The BEAD program is a major component of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was passed by Congress in November 2021. The program provides \$42.45 billion in funding for broadband infrastructure.



Help for Apprentices with School Age Children

Every year NECA/IBEW provides backpacks with school supplies to IBEW apprentices with school age children. If you are an apprentice with school age children contact the hall in your area or contact Dora Wilson at dwilson@ibew1547.org or 907-777-7225. We will need your name, number of children and grade levels of each child.

Business Manager Message from Doug Tansy



I'm excited to be the new Business Manager of IBEW 1547 and look forward to working on your behalf. I grew up in rural Alaska and love the outdoors.

I also had a knack for fixing things, and when I took apart my first radio, I realized I wanted to learn more about electricity. I joined the IBEW apprenticeship program and quickly realized that I had found my calling. The work, the people, and the sense of accomplishment I felt in the early days helped me know I was in the right place.

I'm honored to be able to serve as Business Manager at this time in Alaska's history. With millions of federal infrastructure dollars being invested in Alaska, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build out what our state needs to succeed.

I'm looking forward to working with each of you as we continue to build our union and create a bright future for the next generation.

In Solidarity,
 Doug Tansy
 Business Manager

On the job in Anchorage



Lineman Keith Douglas (c) and Foreman Mark Jones (r) with Apprentice Cole Mesick working on bore tie-ins on an Alaska Directional telecomm project in Anchorage.

Suicide Prevention Help is on the way

As many of you know, several of our members have faced mental health challenges and committed suicide in recent years. The Trust Fund has added mental wellness services through Teladoc. There is NO COST to you for live video or phone sessions with a licensed therapist or psychiatrist. Schedule an appointment at teladoc.com, download the app, and click on Mental Health or call (800) TELADOC (835-2362). (Not available to Medicare Prime Retirees.) Did you know that 1 in 5 adults

battle mental wellness challenges each year? Now you can get mental wellness care by video or phone, any time from wherever you are, through Teladoc.

Teladoc's licensed therapists and psychiatrists are available to help you with all of your mental wellness challenges, whether big or small, such as: managing your emotions in stressful situations, managing depression, handling relationship issues and family problems, controlling your anxiety caused by work or personal issues, working through past trauma and overcoming burnout.

If you are in a crisis right now, call or text 988 or text TALK to 741741

New Leadership Sworn In



Newly elected Executive Board members were sworn in by outgoing 1547 President Vince Beltrami. Congratulations to (l to r) Tucker Harper (Unit 103), Cache Carr (Vice President), Cecil Colley (President), Tim Estesen (Unit 102), Doug Tansy (Business Manager), Eric Runyan (Unit 101), Laura Bonner (Secretary), Hans Hubbard (Unit 104) and Spencer Ruhl (Treasurer). Exam Board Committee members - Melissa Lee (Unit 101), Alycia Rahlfs (Unit 102), Von Danskin (Unit 104), James Cheatham (At-Large) will be sworn in in October.

Juneau Member Spotlight Brenon Littlefield

Apprentice Wireman, Brenon Littlefield was a camper before he started working at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp with his family's company Eagle Wolf Electric. Brenon began going to Camp as a kindergartner when he still lived year-round in Sitka and continued coming back every summer to attend even after moving to Juneau. At Camp, he participated in many music classes, including Sonic Boom, a class taught by his uncle Ed Littlefield, another former camper and long-time SFAC teacher.

Now, he has returned to campus to help work on the electrical system in Whitmore, one of the residential buildings on campus. "It's been surreal walking back through now and reminiscing and walking around the halls and looking back to when I was a student."



Local 1547 Team Takes First Place



Team IBEW took first place for the 2023 little league minors division, ages 8 – 10, in Ketchikan. The team finished the season with a record of 17-0. The coaches on the team are all current or past IBEW members. Coach Bruce Johnstone is an inside wireman, Coach Kevin Heaton works for the City of Ketchikan, and Coach Joe Nall was a member before he moved to a management position. IBEW has sponsored little league teams in Ketchikan for over 20 years.

Ketchikan Street Maintenance Crew



Clayton Hancock, Chris Riley, John Fain, Duane Galloway, Sean Griffin and Wilbur Young hard at work in Ketchikan.

Anchorage Hall Adds Security Steps

A trespasser, who was under the influence of a controlled substance, entered the Anchorage Hall and threatened to assault staff members. Fortunately, he was contained until the Anchorage Police Department arrived and arrested him.

A very sincere thank you to those staff members who immediately jumped into action to stop the trespasser. Until we have a permanent solution to improve security at the Anchorage Hall, the front and side entrances will remain locked during normal business hours and guests will be let into the building by a staff member.

Signage will be posted on each entrance door with instructions on who to call to access the building. We deeply apologize for this inconvenience and are working to find a solution that makes access to the hall convenient to members but also safe for our staff.

Organizing Blitz a Success

For the 2nd year in a row, Local 1547 held an organizing blitz. IBEW members from across the 9th district came to



Alaska to join local 1547 members to talk with non-union wireman

across the state. The group broke into three teams covering Anchorage, Fairbanks and the MatSu Valley. The blitz last year was held in Anchorage and Juneau.

The three teams spoke to hundreds of non-union electricians about the benefits of being organized.



A big thank you to the International office for sending volunteers: retired IVP - John O'Rourke; IVP - Dave Reaves; IO Rep. Marcie Obremski; International Lead Organizers - Justin Puaoi, Bob Oedy, Mark Meyer, Rick Thompson, Ray Lister, Tony

Ruiz; Regional Organizer Coordinator - Bob Brock; District Organizing Coordinator - Greg Boyd; State Organizing Coordinator - Justin Dillman, Eric Hayes, Claude Johnson, Rustin Johnston, Kail Zuschlag; Local 112 - Rylan Grimes, Cody Hamann; Local 73 - San Gilbrecht, Jason Benway; Local 280 Steve Denton; Local 46 - Ryan Smith, Neal Holm, Mark Davis.

Another big thank you to our Local 1547 volunteers: Doug Tansy, Danny Gillette, Marrisa Bowlin, Tim Brannan, Carrie VanDeHei, Diana Ruhl, Ryan Andrew, Casey Ptacek, Tim Willis, Naomi Hewitt, Brad Ruhl, Bob Clay, Amanda Earhart, Olivia Lynn, Ree Kissinger, Kyle Kaiser, Paul Robarge, Tim Estesen, James Gengler, Jeff Croll, Kris Sissek, Pam Cline, Charlee Ruhl, Erin Kittredge, Cindy Tipton, Nathaniel McCormick, Ted Swanson, Lee Silva, JC Casquejo, Scott Gephardt, Jon Jensen, Jack Keisor, Dennis Knebel, Rob Sun, Gene White, Charlie Breitenstein, Laura Davis and Jesse Young.



On the job in Fairbanks



B&B Journeyman Tylor Osborn and Apprentice Alexander Henderson prepped the final piece of the scoreboard for it to be lifted with the boom truck and installed on the top of the new Fairbanks Goldpanners scoreboard. The new scoreboard was completed and functional in time for the Union Night at the Ballgame hosted by the Fairbanks Central Labor Council and the Fairbanks Goldpanners. With dimensions of 28.5 feet high and 36 feet wide (almost 1,026 square feet), the new display will be a welcome sight to spectators.

