

The State of Our Union



OCT 2023

Business Manager Message Doug Tansy



I was honored, once again, to participate in the annual Labor Day Parade and Picnic in Fairbanks.

The fact that this is the 39th year shows how deep IBEW union pride runs in

Fairbanks.

I enjoy the solidarity Labor Day brings. It's a formal day to recognize that workers are the backbone of our economy. As a journeyman electrician I love the trades, but I also honor the work that others do to keep our country and state moving forward. Without workers, our economy would collapse and our society would cease to function.

I honor the achievements of the labor movement and all that we've fought for and won. I think it's important that younger generations understand that the eight-hour workday, economic equality, paid sick leave, social justice and improvements to safety and working conditions were fought for by our forefathers and mothers.

For those of you who have never been to Fairbanks, I encourage you to come visit next Labor Day and enjoy the hospitality and camaraderie.

In Solidarity,
Doug Tansy
Business Manager

Labor Day Fun & Solidarity in the Golden Heart City



More than 400 people participated in the 39th annual Fairbanks Labor Day Parade.

Organized by the Fairbanks Central Labor Council (CLC), the event featured a variety of floats and walkers representing local unions. One of the highlights of the parade was the IBEW float. IBEW members who showed up received free t-shirts as a thank-you for their participation in the parade. The Fairbanks Labor Day Parade is an important annual event that raises awareness about the importance of unions and the benefits that they provide to their members and the entire community.



Attorneys Wrap up Statewide Training

The IBEW Legal Department conducted shop steward training sessions in Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Valdez in August and September. Over 75 stewards attended the sessions, during which they received instruction on the essential elements of employment contracts and collective bargaining agreements, with a focus on ensuring that the rights of employees are protected.

Ketchikan News

Brother Jay Rhodes stopped by the Pioneers Home in Ketchikan to deliver an IBEW shirt to retiree Buddy Withem.



Local 1547 wins Outstanding Achievement Award



At the recent IBEW Membership Development Conference in Chicago, Local 1547 was awarded the IBEW Membership Development Outstanding Achievement Award for attaining the largest number of new signatory contractors in one year. Alaska beat out all 50 states.

A big congratulations to our Organizers Paul Robarge and Kyle Kaiser. Pictured are IVP Dave Reaves, Organizer Paul Robarge, International President Kenneth Cooper and Local 1547 Business Manager Doug Tansy.

Congratulations Naknek Electric Association Retirees



Shop Steward Tim Matson presents retiree Darrell Aspelund with a gold pan, recognizing his 47 years of membership with Local 1547 at Naknek Electric Association.



Right: Shop Steward Tim Matson presents retiree Henry "Hank" Hazenberg with a gold pan, recognizing his 43 years of membership with Local 1547 at Naknek Electric Association.



We were happy to welcome a few Alaska Communications employees this morning for a tour of the school! Pictured L to R: Steven Cranford, Joel Stanfield, Blair Christiansen, and Rose Muncy with Alaska Communications; Jeff Tanner, AJEATT telecomm instructor, and Melissa Caress, AJEATT statewide training director.

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APA / IBEW Scholarship Winners Announced



Congratulations to Robert Silveira, Jana Mabie, Garrett Williams (not pictured), Jermaine Winter (not pictured) and Misty Thomas on being awarded the Alaska Power Association (APA) and IBEW Local 1547 scholarship.



The scholarship is for Alaska residents who intend to work in the electrical industry and who are enrolled in an accredited Alaska vocational school such as the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship and Training Trust, the Alaska Institute of Technology, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Community & Technical College, and the University of Alaska Anchorage Technical Vocational Educational Program.

APA is the statewide trade association for the electric utilities that supply power to more than a half-million Alaskans in communities from Utqiagvik to Adak, through the Interior and Southcentral, and down the Inside Passage.



Photos: Top left Journeyman Lineman Ben Simpler and Robert Silveira. Bottom left: Business Rep. George McGuan and Jana Mabie. Top right: Business Rep. George McGuan and Misty Thomas.

Juneau EV Round Up a Success

Florence (pictured below) and Jesse Young, Assistant business Manager of Unit 103 had a blast grilling burgers and hot dogs for the Juneau EV roundup.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the capital city participating in the Drive Electric Week celebrations across the country. More than 100 people attended the Juneau event, according to Duff Mitchell, the event organizer. Juneau has widely been recognized as a leader in the state for its commitment to electric vehicle infrastructure and emphasis on bringing those vehicles to the capital city. He estimated about 800 electric vehicles are currently driven on Juneau's streets.

Thank you to Duff Mitchell from Juneau Hydro Power who let Florence draw the winning ticket for the grand prize!



Member Spotlight: Chelsea Held

IBEW member, Chelsea Held, has been working with AT&T in partnership with IBEW since March of 2007. She also serves as one of the shop stewards with IBEW, ensuring the rights and welfare of her fellow colleagues are protected.

Chelsea is self-taught in working with aluminum, alcohol inks, and resin. Chelsea's art is a testament to her dedication and creativity. All her metal pieces are cut locally in North Pole by Northstar Fabworks. Her beautiful creations can be found at various local establishments in the interior, including Latitude 65 Brewing Company, The Turtle Club, and Arctic Harvest. Chelsea deeply values the support of these businesses, which help showcase her unique artwork to a wider audience.



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IBEW
LOCAL 1547

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**Solidarity at the Fairbanks
Labor Day Parade**

IBEW History

**Member received
pension check
for \$131.96**

In 1968, IBEW Business Manager Tom Hackett, and NECA Chapter Manager George Seaman, negotiated for electrical construction employers to contribute 35¢ an hour into a pension plan for IBEW Local 1547 members.

Not all members were happy about this at the time — many wanted to keep the money on their checks, and a vote was required. Julius Kornfeind, Ike Waldrop, and others lobbied extensively for the plan, and the membership voted it in.

Pattye Taylor (formerly Pattye Anderson) cut the first monthly pension check for \$131.96 in 1969 to Verne McCain, our first retiree. Today, the Trust pays out over \$13,000,000 a month in retirement benefits to over 5,200 retirees and beneficiaries.

As it turns out, the early leaders were visionaries, constructing a plan that has grown in 30 years to become one of the best in the country.



By Kyle Kaiser, IBEW Organizer

US Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training Services, the Honorable James Rodriguez made time to meet with me. We talked about VIPER Transitions and what we are pushing to help make the transitions process more effective.

We introduced him to the veterans going through the 5th cohort of the Veterans Electrical Entry Program (VEEP), and spent a lot of time discussing how to improve the lives of veterans, starting with career placement.

**Improving the Lives
of Veterans Through
IBEW Training**

The increased recruitment of Veterans has been a longstanding goal of IBEW Local 1547. For the success in the integration of Veterans and their families into our Union, we need the support of our Veteran Membership. The ability to track Veteran status was added to membership applications by the International Office recently but it was not previously. Knowing who the Veterans are in our Local will strengthen our ability to support future generations. If you are Veteran, we ask that you identify yourself by completing this short survey



Thank you for your service to our country and your support of our union.