

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
I.B.E.W. LOCAL 7, SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

*125th Anniversary*

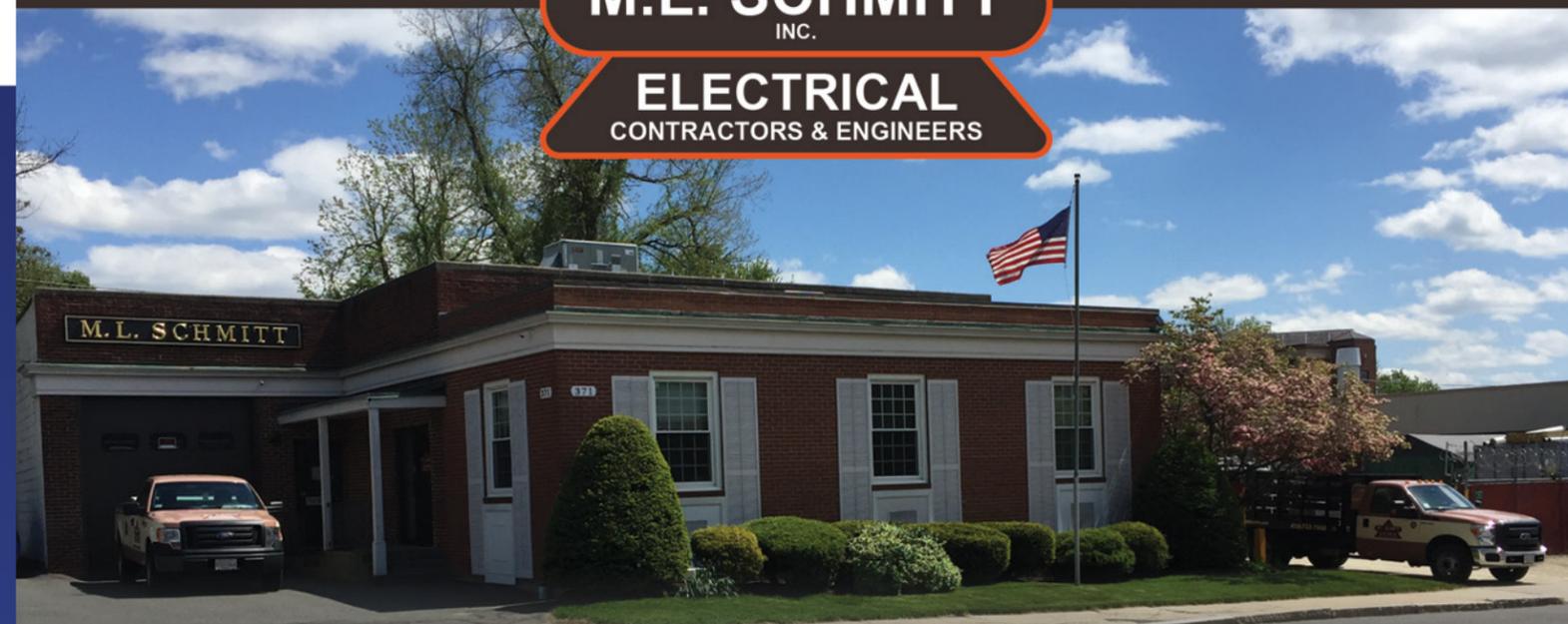


*125-Year Anniversary*

1893 - 2018

**COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY BOOK**

Congratulations to IBEW Local 7 on 125 years!  
*We've been with you since 1906.*



**CONGRATULATIONS IBEW LOCAL 7 ON 125 YEARS!**

**M.L. SCHMITT, INC.**

371 TAYLOR STREET, P.O. BOX 2070, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101 | 413.733.7868

*THE AREA'S PREMIER ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS SINCE 1923.*



**Congratulations on  
125 Years  
of Solid Work!**

# KECHES LAW GROUP

“When you’re hurt and can’t work,  
we get to work for you”



508-822-2000

KechesLaw.com

*Congratulations*  
**IBEW<sup>LOCAL</sup>  
#7**



*Zenith American Solutions is proud to recognize the Anniversary of The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Springfield, MA., thank you for 125 years of service.*



### Zenith American Solutions

Supporting working men, women and their families since 1944!  
We can manage all of your benefit plan administration needs!



Zenith American Solutions  
33 Eastland Street  
Springfield, MA 01109



Zenith American  
SOLUTIONS®



zenith-american.com  
linkedin.com/company/  
/zenith-american-solutions/

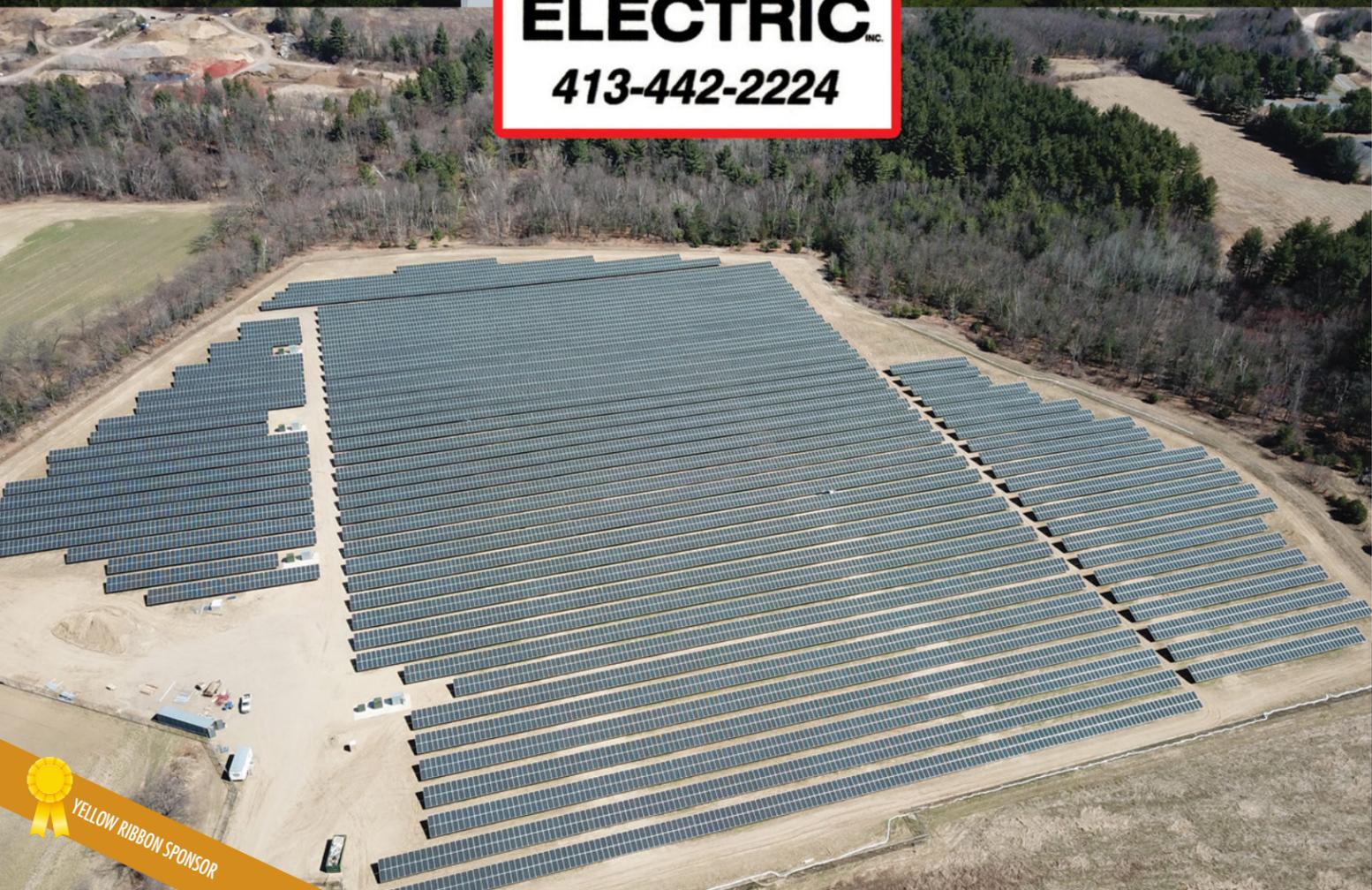
BLUE RIBBON SPONSOR

BLUE RIBBON SPONSOR



**CONGRATULATIONS  
LOCAL 7 ON 125 YEARS**

**RYAN  
ELECTRIC**  
413-442-2224



 **YELLOW RIBBON SPONSOR**



**125** YEARS

1893 2018



**CONGRATULATIONS  
IBEW LOCAL UNION 7**

Your IBEW family joins in celebrating  
125 years of brotherhood

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,

Lonnie R. Stephenson, International President  
Kenneth W. Cooper, International Secretary-Treasurer  
Michael P. Monahan, International Vice President, Second District

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



## THE OFFICERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION No. 7

**DAN D'ALMA**

Business Manager/Financial Secretary

**KEVIN O'DONNELL**

President

**CRAIG FOSTER**

Vice President

**CHRISTOPHER BREDA**

Recording secretary

**MARK KUENZEL**

Treasurer

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**ERIC ASHLINE**

**ERIC ASHLINE**

**COLIN BOONE**

**JAMES HOULIHAN III**

**ANTOINETTE WHITCOMB**

### EXAMINING BOARD

**ROBERT WILSON**

**GEORGE FOURNIER**

### BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

**PAUL GOUR**

**ROBERT WILSON**

*A Message of 'Thanks' from The Business Manager*

## LOCAL 7 BUILDS UPON OUR LEGACY FOR THE SECURITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

Brothers and Sisters,

The 125th Anniversary of I.B.E.W. Local No. 7 is a testament to the unwavering sacrifice and dedication of numerous generations of local I.B.E.W. families, who realized that receiving a virtuous education in the craft, safer working conditions in the field and a livable wage in exchange for a quality day's work was only achievable through the security, organization and leadership provided by the I.B.E.W.

A great debt of gratitude is also owed to the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and other contractors signatory to I.B.E.W. Local 7 this last century and a quarter for recognizing and committing to purchase the productive man-hours our highly skilled workforce has been able to provide. I.B.E.W. members must be ever-more vigilant in ensuring this I.B.E.W./NECA partnership remains the preferred choice of both our current and prospective customers into the future.



I would also like to thank the ownership and management of the new CRRC Springfield rail car plant for their commitment to Local 7 labor for the construction of the plant and the labor for assembly of next-generation subway cars for America's large cities.

To all of the past and present officers, fund trustees and volunteers of this local union, your dedication to the cause and time away from your families is recognized today and every day. On behalf of the membership, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation.

We enjoy the benefits of I.B.E.W. membership today because those I.B.E.W. Local 7 members before us ensured future generations received the same opportunities they, themselves, had received. It is incumbent upon all of us to "further the purposes for which the I.B.E.W. is instituted, bear true allegiance to it and not sacrifice its interest in any manner" so that future generations receive the same opportunities we, ourselves, have.

Dan D'Alma, Business Manager  
I.B.E.W. Local No. 7

This book was proudly produced by

**UNION HISTORIES™**  
Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions  
unionhistories.com

**I.B.E.W. Local 7 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to this book:**

Curtis Bateman, Manager and Curator, I.B.E.W. Museum  
Longtime signatory contractors Collins Electric and M. L. Schmitt Electrical  
Springfield History Library & Archives, Wood Museum of Springfield History  
University of Massachusetts Amherst W.E.B. Du Bois Library, Special Collections

Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson  
Art Direction: Andy Taucher  
Layout & Design: Steven Demanett



# The 125-Year History of I.B.E.W. Local No. 7

## A CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO POWERING WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS



**J**ust over a year after the **National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** was born on November 21, 1891, the union chartered “mixed” Local No. 7 on **January 16, 1893**, to represent the inside wiremen and outside linemen of Springfield, Massachusetts. (The Brotherhood would change its name to the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** – I.B.E.W. – in 1899 after it organized locals in Canada.) From its nine charter members, initially led by **President W. J. Condon**, Local 7 grew quickly while meeting the first and third Mondays of each month in Winkler’s Hall on the city’s Bridge Street.

Linemen were the backbone of the new local, as most members were outside electrical workers while only one or two of the local’s members were inside wiremen at first. In fact, nearly seven years after Local 7 was organized, its press secretary would note in the November 1899 I.B.E.W. *Electrical Worker Journal*, “Much credit is due the outside men for the struggle they made to build up our local.”

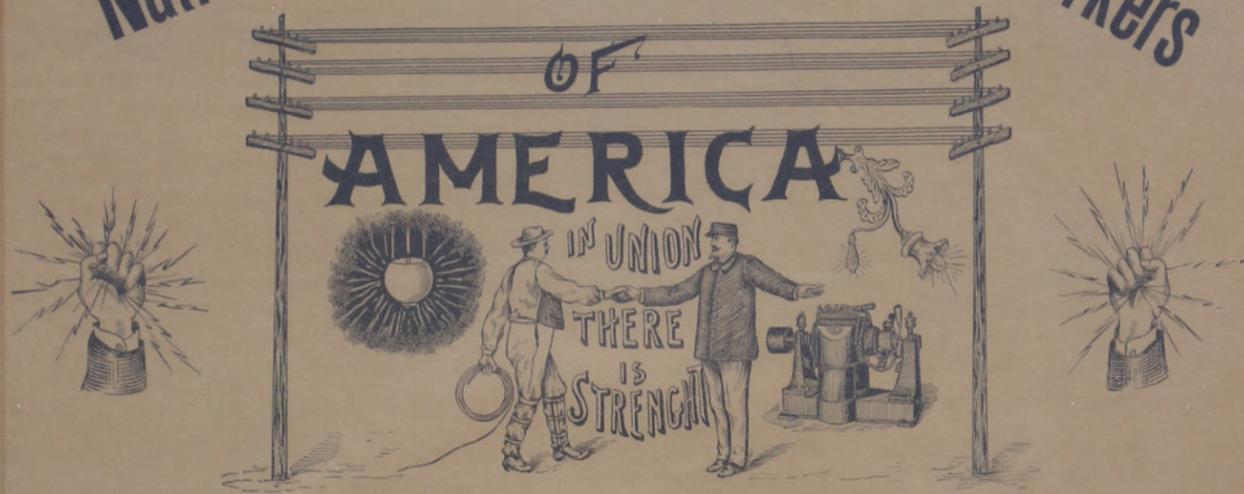
Although work for the fledgling local was slow

at first, by April 1893 all of its members were working for employers such as the **Springfield Electric Light Company**. The immediate future looked promising, as well, with plans to build a new water-powered electric-generating plant for the light company about seven miles out of the city in Indian Orchard and to extend the city’s street railway another 16 miles in the works, while the city’s telegraph company was going to rebuild its facilities.

Early on, Local 7 also affiliated itself with the **Central Labor Union** in Springfield, which had been formed in 1890.

Hopes for the city’s union electrical workers were further boosted when in July 1893, the Electric Light Company announced plans to bring electric lights into homes, which up to that point had been lighted by gas or oil. *The Springfield Republican* newspaper even ran a news story at the time informing residents of the benefits of electricity and the process involved in electrifying the “city of homes,” by which Springfield was known.

# National Brotherhood Electrical Workers



## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

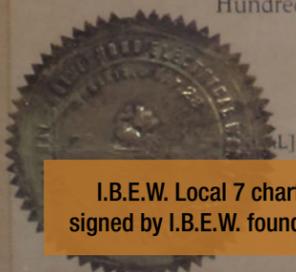
GREETING:---This Charter issued by authority of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, does grant to the following persons:

<i>J. W. Hoyt</i>	<i>F. Hyatt</i>	<i>Richard Grace</i>
<i>W. J. Condon</i>	<i>L. H. Cameron</i>	<i>W. Goodwin</i>
<i>Vito Gherardi</i>	<i>Chas. W. Flood</i>	<i>Halter Loughton</i>

And to their successors, power to establish and hold a Union of the Brotherhood to be located at Springfield in the State of Massachusetts and to be known as Union No. 7 of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. This Charter grants to said Union all powers delegated by the Constitution.

The conditions of this Charter are such that it may be retained as long as Seven Members in good standing comply with all the requirements of this Constitution and general rules of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers unless reclaimed by the National Union.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands and the seal of this National Union, this Sixteenth day of January in the year of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Three.



I.B.E.W. Local 7 charter, dated January 16, 1893, and signed by I.B.E.W. founder and first president Henry Miller.

*H. Miller*  
PRESIDENT.  
*J. J. Kelly*  
SECY-TREAS.



Local 7 continued to develop over the next several years to the point where its press secretary, **Brother H. B. Rust**, reported in the June 1896 *Journal* that the local was “in a very healthy condition.” Indeed, at the time, most all electrical workers in the city were members of the local and all union men were working, and those who were unable to work because of an injury or sickness were provided with \$4 per week by the I.B.E.W.



I.B.E.W. founder and first president Brother Henry Miller reportedly went without food and other necessities and instead used his earnings to travel the country to organize local unions in various cities after he and a small group had officially formed the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers during a convention on November 21, 1891 in St. Louis. (At the 1899 convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the union’s name was officially changed to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.) Brother Miller passed away on July 10, 1896, while working as head lineman for the Potomac Electric Power Company after he was shocked, fell from a ladder and died the next morning from a concussion; he was only 38 years old.

Before the end of the 19th Century, after fighting an “uphill battle” to gain a foothold, the local was “crowned with success” in October 1899 with a new contract from the electrical contractors that granted “journeyman wiremen a fair day’s wages for a fair day’s work” of 33-1/2 cents per hour, the local announced in the November 1899 *Journal*. What’s more, by that time almost all of the inside wiremen of the city were members of the local – which had been dominated by linemen – and work for all of the

union electrical workers throughout the year was brisk and had kept them employed.

With its condition flourishing, the Local 7 press secretary was able to wax poetically in the May 1899 *Journal*:



Local 7’s first president, Brother W. J. Condon (bottom row, far right), at the second annual convention of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Chicago in 1892.



## I.B.E.W. LOCAL NO. 7 CHARTER MEMBERS

These are the nine men who applied for and received the Local 7 charter in 1893.

John F. Hoyt  
W. J. Condon  
Gilio Gherardi  
F. Wyatt  
S. F. Cameron  
Thomas Flood  
Richard Grace  
W. Goodwin  
Walter Houghton

*"Through the intelligent efforts of these gentlemen and their devotion to the cause of organized labor, it is we who this evening sit here and enjoy the fruits borne of the untiring efforts of these people, who did so found this organization."*

75th Anniversary Committee, I.B.E.W. Local No. 7, 1968

*"No. 7 has been very much awake and has been adding new lights to its circuits, so that now we have a very good load, all up to candle power. We have had to cast out a few burned-out lamps but I suppose all locals have this same trouble."*

## EMPLOYMENT STRONG AT CENTURY'S TURN

Into the new 20th Century, work was good in and around Springfield and all Local 7 members were employed. However, the local went on strike in May 1900 to win a raise from \$2.40 for a 10-hour workday to \$2.50 per day and the nine-hour workday. The local was still agitating for the eight-hour day and hoped hosting the New England conference of the I.B.E.W. in September 1900 would bolster those efforts by helping to organize the roughly 30 electrical workers in the city that were not yet a part of the brotherhood.

A new city law passed that year requiring that

all overhead utility lines be put underground was a boon to the local's lineman, although inside work slowed by the fall of 1900. Three miles of wire would be laid by the Electric Light Company each year until the project was complete, providing the local's outside men with a steady source of future employment, and the **Western Union Telephone Company** would put all of its wires underground while the city was also placing fire-alarm wires underground.

When the local's inside contract expired on September 30, the local's wiremen again went on strike the next day, a Sunday, for a total of four hours before contractors signed a new agreement. The primary issue with the employers was car fare for the employees traveling to and from jobs, while the electricians were primarily protesting that contractors objected to wiremen going into business for themselves without providing their employers with a year's notice.

Local 7 remained in a "very prosperous" condition the remainder of the year and into 1901 when its electrical workers went out on strike again in June that year. The local's press secretary described the harrowing situation produced by the strike in the July 1901 *Journal*:

*"The strike is still on and reports say the union is giving the companies lots of trouble. At the United Electric Light Company, only one union man, L. Smith, stayed in, and he is scabbing for fair now. The rest are little boys who are anxious to learn the trade. It is quite a sight to see them work; everyone wants to be boss, and they say the climbers bring the spurs home nights to practice with them."*

As the strike continued into July, all of the local's linemen traveled out of town to work with other I.B.E.W. locals, leaving non-union "scabs" to man the telephone company's jobs, while the

inside wiremen stayed busy with projects in and around town. Meanwhile, a large contractor in Holyoke, Massachusetts, signed an agreement with Local 7, allowing the members of the town's former **I.B.E.W. Local No. 94**, which had gone defunct in December 1900, to become members of the Springfield local.

After the inside wiremen of Local 7 and the contractors signed an agreement that would be

electrical-fixture men, as some of the fixture firms in Springfield were not union. As a result, the local further announced in regards to signing those companies, "Indications now point to a successful issue, which will help some."

Also during that time, the **United Electric Light Company** had "gotten wise" and began using double teams of two electrical workers



The Indian Orchard Manufacturing Company building on Front Street in the Indian Orchard section of Springfield was wired by Local 7 members working for signatory contractor Collins Electric during the early 1900s.

in place through October 1, 1902, the local's members remained fairly busy throughout the year, as there was more outside work than the local's linemen could man.

Employment remained strong for the union electrical workers into early 1903, and the local reported in that year's March *Journal* that "all the brothers have been pretty well employed all winter, with fair prospects of a good, lively spring and summer." The local was also hosting some rather lively meetings involving the city's

for all jobs, further boosting the local's employment opportunities.

Just as the City of Springfield's union electrical industry was prospering, so too were its other building trades. In fact, the **Springfield Building Trades Council** on May 1, 1903, held a ceremony during which it formally attached the union label to the new Liberty Brewing Company's building on Liberty Street – indicating that the building is entirely the work of union men, including Local 7 members.



# LOCAL 7 UNION HALLS AND MEETING PLACES

**Winkler's Hall**  
Bridge and Water streets  
July 1893 – March 1896

**Theatre Block, Room 30**  
April 1896 – May 1897

**Barnes Block, Room 14**  
394 Main Street  
June 1897 – December 1900

**Steam Power Building, Room 306**  
33 Lyman Street  
January 1901 – July 1901

**Winkler's Hall**  
Bridge and Water streets  
August 1901 – January 1903

**Court Square Theater Building,**  
**Room 219**  
February 1903 – 1907

**Forbes & Wallace Department Store**  
**Building**  
1414 Main Street  
1907 – 1915

**Colonial Building**  
525 Main Street  
1915 – June 1917

**Moose Hall**  
19 Lyman Street  
July 1917 – May 1920

**Central Labor Union Hall**  
21 Sanford Street  
April 1920 – August 1961

**Springfield Labor Lyceum Building**  
26 Willow Street  
September 1961 – August 1979

**Local 7 Union Hall**  
655 Page Boulevard  
September 1979 – September 1990  
**\*Meetings held at 32 Stevens Street**  
September 1983 – September 1990

**Local 7 Union Hall**  
185 Industrial Avenue  
October 1990 – present



The Court Square Theater Building during the early 1900s, in which Local 7 held its meetings during that time. (Image from the Library of Congress, Detroit Publishing Company Collection.)



The Forbes & Wallace Department Store Building, shown circa 1910, in which Local 7 held its meetings from 1907 into 1915.



## REBELLING AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL

A growing rift within the I.B.E.W. would manifest itself within Springfield beginning in mid-1907, when inside-only **I.B.E.W. Local No. 566** was formed in the city on July 1. By September, the new local had grown to about 70 members, all of whom were employed by the abundant work in the area – although the local would go defunct in December 1908 while Local 7 continued to claim inside jurisdiction in the city.

Nationally beginning in 1907, the I.B.E.W. endured a bitter internal struggle during which a large number of locals across the country – including Local 7 – formed a competing faction of the union. The resulting “**Reid-Murphy Split**” (after the two elected leaders of the breakaway faction) was essentially driven by discord between the union’s linemen and wiremen, disgruntled international office-seekers and a former international treasurer removed from office in 1907 because of “irregularities,” as *History of The I.B.E.W.* recounts. The conflict boiled over that year when a dispute between International Secretary Peter Collins, an inside wireman from Boston, and International Treasurer Frank Sullivan, a lineman from Cleveland, came to blows in the International offices, further widening the already deep rift between inside and outside members of the I.B.E.W.

Subsequently, Sullivan called on **James J. Reid**, an I.B.E.W. District Council president and fellow lineman, to unseat current I.B.E.W. **President Frank J. McNulty** and **Secretary Peter W. Collins**. Reid enlisted the support of lineman leaders across the country to protest what he described as the “incompetence of President McNulty.”

Almost the entire membership of Local 7 favored the election of the officers slated by the Reid-Murphy faction, and the local was one of the original organizations against the Murphy-Collins administration that filed for a

When first chartered in 1893 and until at least 1904, Local 7 was a “mixed” classification local with jurisdiction over *inside wiremen* and *outside linemen*. During the “Reid-Murphy” split within the I.B.E.W. beginning in 1908, Local 7 (which sided with the Reid-Murphy rebelling faction of locals and seceded from the original union) would become an inside-only local and remain inside only after it returned to the I.B.E.W. when the split ended in 1913 – and remains an inside-only local as it celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2018.

special convention to be held in October 1908. During that initial gathering of seceding locals, they elected Reid as their president and **James W. Murphy** as their secretary.

A minority of Local 7’s wireman members, however, refused to become affiliated with the Reid organization and retained their relationship with the McNulty-Collins I.B.E.W. Those 14 members were then organized into the new, inside **Local No. 643** on June 22, 1909, as a rival to Local 7 – by the terms of its charter, Local 643 became the “recognized” organization in the city and, as such, would be the only organization in Springfield that would have a right to “transact business” as an affiliate of the I.B.E.W.

During that time, Local 643 also organized the city’s telephone operators, all of whom were women, into Sub-Local No. 643.

As the conflict persisted into the following years, Local 7 on October 2, 1911, went on strike against the city’s contractors after giving them a required 60-days’ notice that the local wanted to renegotiate the current wage scale in the contract under which the local had been working since 1907. The union was seeking a raise from \$3.25 to \$3.60 for an eight-hour day of work.

However, another primary cause of friction between Local 7 and its employers was a clause in the agreement that provided that the contractors only employ Local 7 electrical

1893 - 2018



workers. Meanwhile, the contractors claimed the local's members were violating the terms by working for employers who had not signed the agreement.

What's more, as the *Republican* reported in an October 3, 1911, article, the contractors "desired to have the old schedule stand until the two factions of the electrical workers became united again," as Local 643 had only 20 members at the time while Local 7 contained the "majority" of electrical workers in the city. The "insurgent wing" had become so strong, in fact, that steps were being taken to unite the two groups "and the local contractors desired to have this union affected" before they negotiated a change in the agreement – although Local 643 was not involved in the strike.

President McNulty eventually appealed to American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) President Samuel Gompers, who sanctioned the McNulty-Collins faction as duly-elected delegates of the I.B.E.W.

The matter was finally settled when a court decision in February 1912 declared the 1908 Reid-Murphy convention illegal and its actions void. Soon after on March 21, a Federal judge in Cleveland, Ohio, recognized the claim of the McNulty-Collins group to all I.B.E.W. assets.

The March 26, 1912, *Republican* noted that, according to the Federal judge's decision, Local 7 became an "outlaw organization" in the I.B.E.W. But the local was too strong to be banished, much less torn disbanded, and Local 643 was subsequently declared defunct on December 31, 1912, leaving Local 7 as the lone I.B.E.W. representative in Springfield.

By the time the two sides of the national I.B.E.W. split met in Des Moines, Iowa, in early 1913 to discuss the complete cessation of hostilities, the International Office had already received requests from several local unions and representatives of District Councils "connected with the seceders" asking to "re-affiliate,"

## LOCAL INTELLIGENCE FAVORS M'NULTY FACTION.

### ELECTRICAL WORKERS' CASE.

### LOCAL NO 7 BECOMES "OUTLAW."

Official Recognition Given by Court to McNulty-Collins Faction to Which Local 648 Belongs.

Headline in *The Springfield Republican*, March 26, 1912.

President McNulty revealed in the June 1914 *Journal*. During the meeting, a "Tentative Agreement" to allow the Reid-Murphy locals back into the I.B.E.W. was further interpreted for the leaders of the split.

Nearly all of the locals that had broken away attended the I.B.E.W.'s 12th convention in Boston in 1913 – although Local 7 did not send a delegate. The local also did not attend the next convention in 1915 but would send **Brother Harry J. Nolan** as a delegate to the 14th convention in 1917.

## REUNIFICATION BRINGS NEW DEMANDS

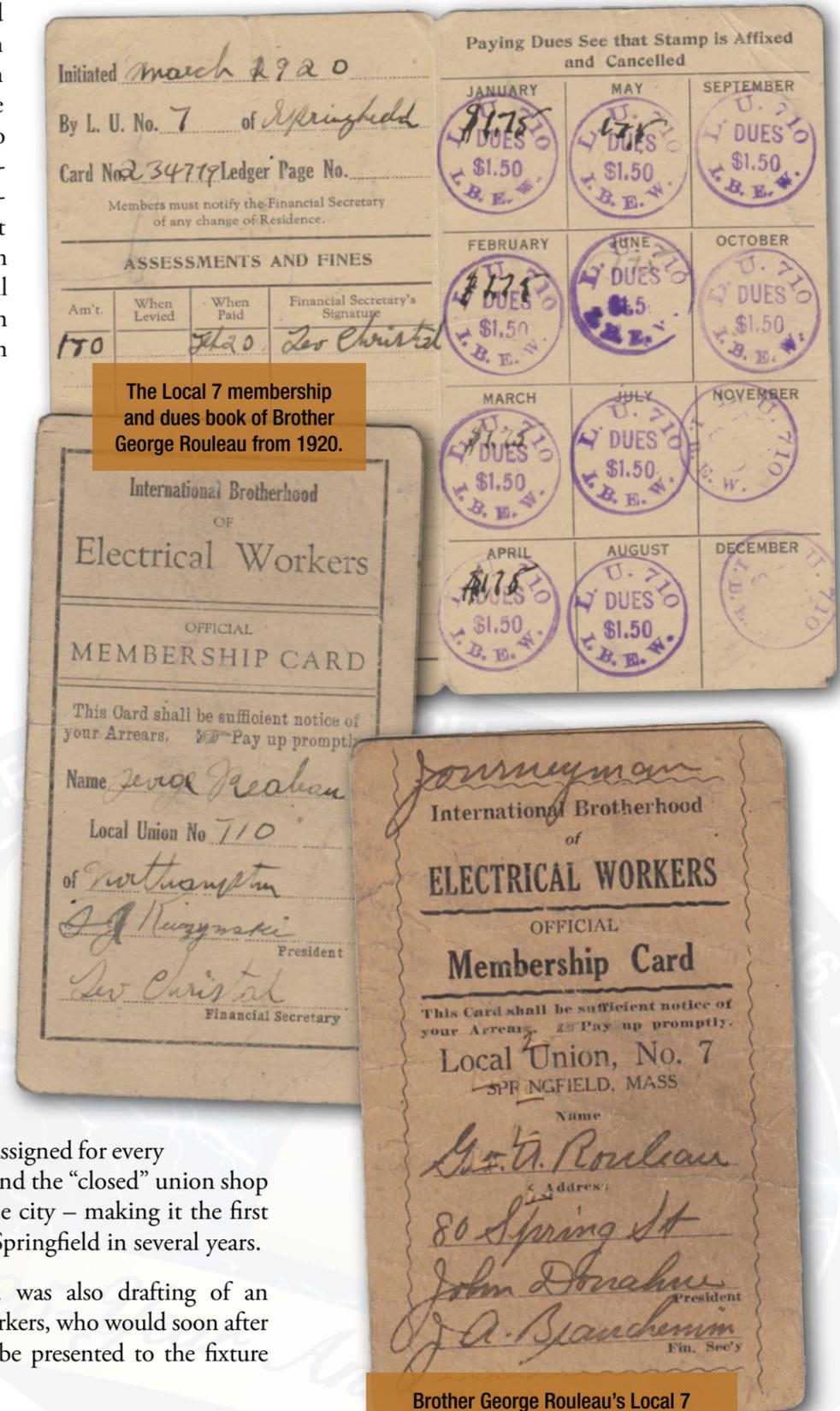
Soon after all of the city's union electrical workers were reunified into Local 7, growing the local to nearly 150 members, the union in early September 1913 demanded a new contract from the five or six large and nearly 20 small electrical contractors for which its members were working. The local, which represented the large majority of electrical workers in Springfield, was seeking a written contract for better wages amounting to a weekly increase of \$3.08 to \$23 per 44-hour week and improved working conditions.

The membership held true to its threats and on September 8 walked out on strike while demanding the increase from 43 cents to 50 cents per hour for eight-hour weekdays and four-hour Saturdays. By midnight that night, however, seven contractors – three small firms in the city, two in Westfield and two in Boston – had agreed to the new scale and 43 members were given raises amounting in some cases to as much as \$3.08 per week.

Later that month, the Building Trades Council voted on September 16 to endorse the electrical workers strike, assuring the support of the other building trades unions in the city. This included the other trades refusing to work where non-union electrical contractors had secured a contract.

After being on strike for two weeks, the wiremen of Local 7 won their \$4 per eight-hour day in a new, one-year agreement. The pact also provided that one "helper" (or apprentice) be assigned for every two journeymen and a job and the "closed" union shop be instituted throughout the city – making it the first closed-shop agreement for Springfield in several years.

Meanwhile, the I.B.E.W. was also drafting of an agreement for the fixture workers, who would soon after be taken into the local, to be presented to the fixture contractors of Springfield.



The Local 7 membership and dues book of Brother George Rouleau from 1920.

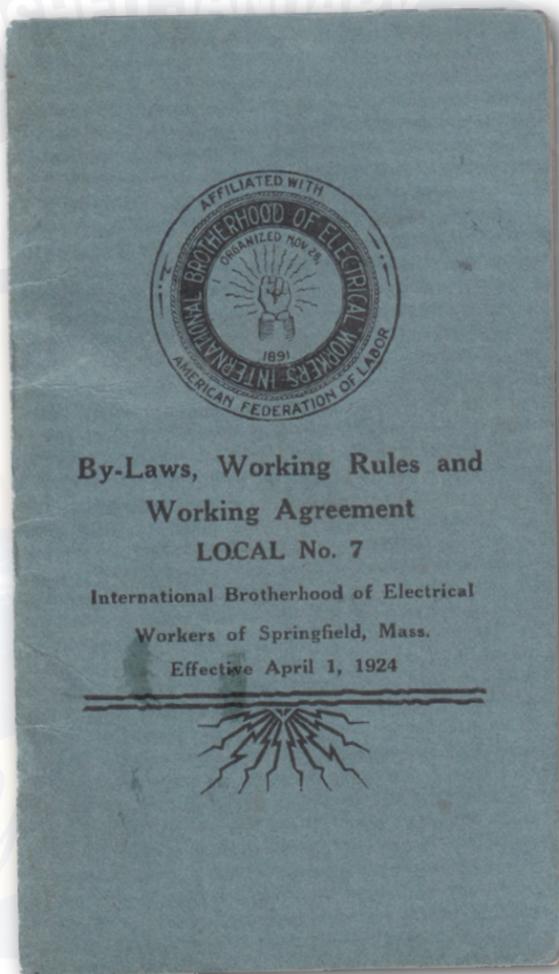
Brother George Rouleau's Local 7 membership and dues book from 1921.



However, friction had remained within the mixed inside/outside Local 7 and the city's union electrical industry, and on September 8, 1914, the I.B.E.W. chartered a new mixed local, **Local No. 241**, for Springfield while that month designating Local 7 solely as an inside-wireman local. During an initial meeting of Local 241 on September 27, its charter was officially installed to represent linemen and apprentices, cable splicers and helpers, switchboard operators, station men, meter men and all inside telephone and telegraph men.

Local 241 struggled over the ensuing year to take in members while Local 7 was able to gain another new contract in October 1914. As such, the mixed local was defunct before the end of 1915 and Local 7 was again also representing linemen by 1916.

But a new **Local No. 160** was chartered by the I.B.E.W. on April 5, 1916, and Springfield's linemen were again transferred out of Local



7. While the new local would not last to the following year, another new charter was issued for outside lineman **Local No. 293**, which would survive until July 1922.

Even without the linemen, inside-wiremen Local 7 continued to grow along with Springfield into the 1920s, at which time the local's journeymen were earning 95 cents per hour, and by 1921 the local numbered around 200 members. Early that year, however, the electricians and the other building trades were forced to take a 10-cent-per-hour wage cut as construction work stagnated in the wake

of an economic recession during 1920 and the first half of 1921.

The local was given back the 10 cents in a contract reached in late 1922 and effective January 1, 1923, returning the hourly scale to 95 cents. That year, the local also became signatory with **M. L. Schmitt Electrical** (*with which it remains signatory as the local celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2018*).

It took a four-week-long strike by Local 7 in late 1923 to gain a new contract, before which the local had demanded a raise in journeyman wages to \$1.12-1/2 per hour from January 1 until May 1, 1924, and then to \$1.25 per hour until May 1, 1925. In the end, after a "display of cooperation and the owners wanting their

buildings" as the Local 7 press secretary explained in the February 1924 *Journal*, the union unanimously adopted a "fair proposal" from the **Electrical Contracting Associates of Springfield** for an increase in wages to \$1.05 per hour from January 31 to February 18, 1924, and then a wage of \$1.12-1/2 per hour until May 1925.

The contract also set the minimum rate of wages for first-year helpers at 50 cents per hour and 60 cents per hour for second-year helpers.

With the City of Springfield practically 100 percent organized into early 1926, the union electrical workers' wage scale remained \$1.12-1/2 cents in another new agreement that would expire on May 1, 1926. What's more, the local was "fairly prosperous" during the year, **Press Secretary I. S. Gordon** reported in the November 1926 *Journal*.

Although work was comparatively dull for much of the following year, construction of an outside switching station beginning in early 1928 for the United Electric Light Company of Springfield on the west side of the Connecticut River that runs through the city helped to

Local 7 held its first official annual clambake – which it still hosts every year – in 1926.

greatly improve employment. As part of the project, Local 7 members, who were working for **Stone and Webster**, laid cables on the river bed and installed a 66,000-volt switch board with 110,000 volt spacing.

But the very next year, the local was again forced to strike beginning April 16 for two days before reaching an agreement with contractors. The union had sought a 12-1/2-cent raise in wages to \$1.25 per hour in a one-year contract, but about 40 percent of the electrical contractors had refused to grant the increase or allow an agreement in writing – a condition that employers had been promised for the preceding two years.

Not long after that issue had been settled but with the nation on the brink of the most severe economic collapse in its history, Local 7 was in a stable condition and had bolstered its ranks by early fall 1929 to 151 members.

The Local 7 crew working for Stone & Webster on construction of an outside switching station for the United Electric Light Company in Springfield in 1928.



Local 7 did "her bit in a patriotic sense" during *World War I*, as several of its members served as soldiers and sailors in the U.S. Armed Forces. Meanwhile, on the home front, the local voted in the spring of 1917 to keep its members who were in the service "in good standing" with the I.B.E.W. by paying their dues.



## ENDURING AN HISTORIC CHALLENGE

“Today, work and wages are withheld from great numbers of our members who stand among the seven millions of unemployed, wondering and waiting for some hope, some in despair, for the possible day’s work, and the possible day’s pay. It sure is a tough sight to see the men of all trades in the day room, men of all trades that had a smile on their faces and were neat and clean, and now they look so sad and unshaven and clothes hanging on them, hating to go back home to the family with that same old cry, nothing doing yet.”

Local 7 Press Secretary Edward Mullarkey, November 1931 Journal

While Local 7 suffered – as did many other construction locals throughout the country – with the outbreak of the **Great Depression**, the longest, deepest and most widespread recession of the 20th century during which unemployment in the United States reached 25 percent, it was able to stave off the more devastating effects for some time.

In the months after the historic “Black Tuesday” Wall Street stock-market crash of October 29, 1929, triggered the depression, the local did experience a jump in unemployment and several members had to travel to sister I.B.E.W. locals for work. The local also voted on September 9, 1930, to shorten its work week from 5-1/2 days to just five days to provide more opportunities for work – if not hours – for individual members.

The local’s new business agent, **Brother Charles Caffrey**, also had to confront the Springfield police and fire departments because some of their men were performing

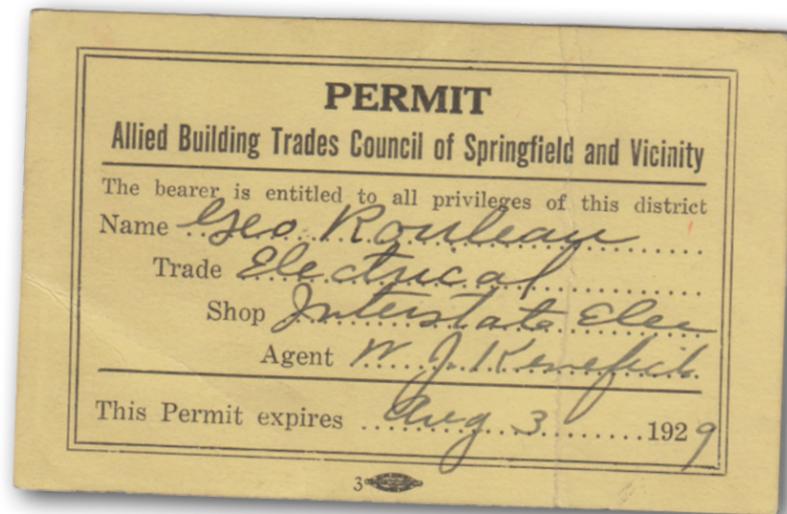
**STRIKE IS OVER;  
ELECTRICIANS GO  
TO WORK TODAY**

Headline in *The Springfield Republican*, April 18, 1929.

electrical work in their off hours. While the chief of police concurred with the union and guaranteed policemen would not take work away from Local 7, the fire chief was not so agreeable and refused to make such a promise.

Meanwhile, the city was building a new trade school in Local 7’s jurisdiction, for which students were allowed to perform all of the exposed electrical work. Brother Caffrey appealed to the mayor and city council to have unemployed union electricians finish the job, and soon after, the balance of the work was appropriated to Local 7 members.

But construction of a large hydro-electric power plant and dam about 25 miles outside of Springfield in the Town of Granville, Massachusetts, helped keep all of the local’s members working throughout the year and well into 1931. In fact, all of the electrical work for the **Cobble Mountain Hydro-Power Station**, including switchboard work, was performed



A truck used by Local 7 signatory contractor Collins Electric, circa 1930.

by Local 7 members working for the **Interstate Electrical Company** of Springfield, with Local 7 **President Arthur Illig** serving as general foreman on the job.

Once finished, the new dam would turn two 13,620 kilovolt-amp (kVA) and a 5,760 kVA generators. Water that traveled through the dam would also then be piped the roughly 25 miles to supply the city.

By 1931, after Cobble Mountain had been completed, unemployment hit Local 7 hard and by that time, members were seeking some system of work sharing to supply any relief. During the local’s regular meeting on April 6 that year, members were “fighting mad to find some way to help the brothers who are on their last legs,” Brother Mullarkey reported in that month’s *Journal*, with one member offering 10 percent of his salary to help the cause and another suggesting the local run a dance or a smoker to raise funds.

The United Electric Light Company would help keep some electricians working that year with planned service changes on most buildings in the city, increasing the entrance to 110-220 voltage, and factories were to be updated with the company paying half the cost. But most of the work was installing a few boxes, caplets and plugs while elsewhere members were mostly briefly employed wiring and remodeling houses.

Some members were also able to work on the **Bowles Airport** in Springfield, lighting the field around the facility, while some others were employed constructing a switchyard for **Western Massachusetts Electric Company**. However, contractors had refused to put employees on a “stagger” system that would spread hours among more workers, so by September 1931, as Brother Mullarkey stated in that month’s *Journal*, you could “count on your fingers the brothers who are getting full time.”





United Electric Light Company substation No. 7 in Springfield under construction by Local 7 signatory contractor M. L. Schmitt on June 10, 1930.

Then on April 1, 1932, contractors mandated a cut to the wage scales of Local 7 and all building tradesmen in Springfield. The electrical workers' pay was decreased by \$17.50 per week by the **Master Electricians' Association**, while some other trades were reduced from \$13 to \$10 per day and others dropped from \$10 to \$8 per day.

Another material – and psychological – blow came in December that year when the Springfield Chamber of Commerce announced it would not sponsor the annual Christmas decorations along Main Street, taking more badly needed jobs away from Local 7.

Work remained nearly non-existent throughout 1933, 1934 and 1935 for the local's electricians, and the jobs they could find were mostly smaller renovations for stores and businesses but nothing to provide stable, full-time employment. Some members were able to work on projects generated by the **Civil Works Administration** (C.W.A.) and

the **Public Works Administration** (P.W.A.), jobs programs under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" plan to revive the economy, including an addition to the **Technical High School**, although the work was usually basic and pay was well below the union scale for skilled tradesmen.

Mother Nature provided the most substantial – if temporary – break in the unemployment when for two weeks beginning March 11, 1936, snowmelt and heavy rains inundated the Connecticut River Valley and caused the most destructive flood ever on the Connecticut River. Afterwards, Springfield's union electricians were kept busy around the clock, working day and night for about two weeks to help repair the damage, much of the work involving live lines while standing in hip boots in dirty water. Brother Mullarkey even reported in the July 1937 *Journal* that he had only 24 hours of sleep during the first week of



Electric generators installed by Local 7 members at the new Cobble Mountain Hydro-Power Station in the Town of Granville in 1931. (Photo courtesy of Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, formerly City of Springfield Water Department prior to 1996.)

the flood and "practically all of the Brothers were in the same ratio."

Although work ebbed immediately after cleanup efforts were complete, the following year provided Local 7 with much-enhanced working conditions, during which most members worked full time while the local experienced its best year since 1929. With the relationship between the union and its contractors also improved, the local began a new, one-year working deal on June 1, 1937, for a daily wage of \$11 for eight hours and a 40-hour week.

There was very little new construction work, however, as it was mostly alterations to shops and businesses that kept the electricians busy for some time.

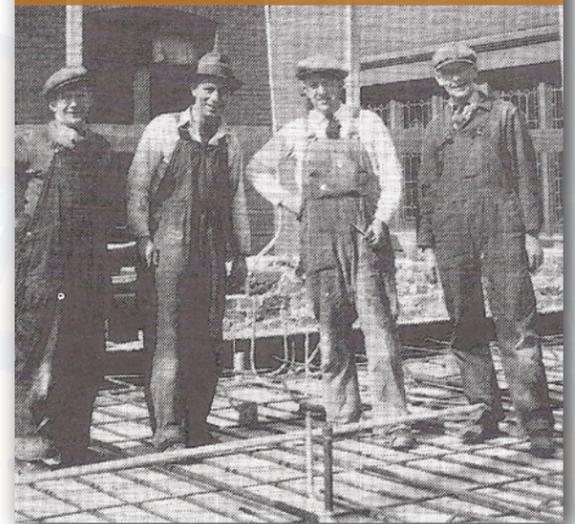
But weather again made its impact known to Local 7 and Springfield when a devastating hurricane struck New England in 1938. In Springfield, electricians working on the **Eastern States Exhibition** spent the next few weeks trying to salvage the work they had started, while elsewhere there were plenty of unemployed brothers to handle the aftermath of the storm.

Even as the Great Depression was nearing its end in 1939, by that time the precarious financial situation in Springfield had put labor conditions at a standstill. Indeed, the "City of Homes" was facing a slowdown in population growth, declining industrial base and shrinking property values.

What's more, the lack of work caused by the depression was compounded by rapidly changing technology in the electrical industry, such as the introduction of BX cable, which would result in less conduit being cut, threaded and bent, and fewer solderless connectors. Consequently, the electrical labor on jobs could be cut nearly in half, lowering the cost of labor while increasing the cost of materials.

But as the challenging decade of the 1930s was coming to a close, all of Local 7's members were working, although they were employed mostly on small projects that did not promise to last very long.

Local 7 members working on construction of the new Technical High School in Springfield, a federal government "New Deal" Public Works Administration project, in 1934.





## FULL RECOVERY WITH ANOTHER WAR

As World War II raged beginning on September 1, 1939, in other parts of the world and was creeping closer and closer to the shores of the United States, economic recovery across the country and in New England was in full swing by 1940, pulling the nation out of any lingering effects of the Great Depression. Defense contracts were being awarded throughout Massachusetts as the country prepared for war, and at the General Electric plant in Pittsfield, the **Navy Ordinance Building** was just coming out of the ground with union electricians providing skilled labor for the project.

Local 7 Brother Andrew Shoppey was serving aboard the *U.S.S. Honolulu* light-armored cruiser in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during the Japanese sneak attack on the U.S. Naval base there on December 7, 1941, after which the United States entered the war. Moored in the Naval station, the *Honolulu* suffered minor hull damage from a near miss during the attack. (Twenty years later in 1961, Brother Shoppey returned to Pearl Harbor for a reunion of veterans of the attack; at the time, he was sergeant-at-arms of the Pearl Harbor Attack Veterans Post No. 1.)

At the time, colleges in the region were also undergoing major expansions and many of the area's older buildings were being remodeled for new concerns, providing Local 7 with more employment. One of the oldest factories, the **Dwight Mills** in Chicopee, Massachusetts, which had been idle for many years, employed 10 union electricians to install the largest lighting system for a factory in New England. The project included the mounting of more than 25,000 fluorescent lights for illuminating work benches and offices for **The Sickle Company of Springfield**, which took over a floor of the building.

In Springfield, a \$1-million trade school was the biggest job in the city employing the local's

members, and some of its electricians were also busy on a large office building for the **S. and C. Merriam Company** at the time. With those projects and more, Springfield was experiencing one of its biggest building booms since before 1930, with the construction program for 11 months of 1940 topping \$3 million.

A jurisdictional dispute broke out between Local 7 and Local 707 of Holyoke over construction of the new **Northeast Air Base**, which was soon after renamed **Westover Field** (and was again renamed the Westover Air Reserve Base in 1948), in Chicopee in anticipation of the war. I.B.E.W. International Vice President John Regen settled the matter, stating in a February 23, 1940, letter, "The Northeast Air Base shall be constructed under the jurisdiction of Local 7 of Springfield with the provision that the members of Local 707 of Holyoke shall be given preference as to employment on this job when Local 7 of Springfield calls for outside help."

After the job finally got underway, electrical contractors from all over the country and traveling I.B.E.W. electricians from locals in Hartford, Providence and New York, as well as many Local 7 members, took part in the project. The job would steadily employ members and travelers well into November 1941.

Then in late 1940, **Collins Electric Company** (with which Local 7 had been signatory since 1906 and remains signatory as the local celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2018) installed the first fluorescent lighting system in the world at the **Springfield Armory** using Local 7 electrical labor. During World War II, the company would also rewire most of the armory, which needed to be modernized quickly for the war effort, with the union electrical workers.

With employment stabilized, the local held a clambake in August 1941 for the first time in several years. "The outing was a sure sign the depression is over as far as the electrical workers

of Local No. 7 are concerned," Business Manager Caffrey declared afterwards.

In another sign that the recovery was just about achieved, the **Eastern States Exposition** in Springfield that September had its largest attendance in many years. With Collins Electric overseeing the electrical work for "New England's Great State Fair" (known locally as "**The Big E**"), the local had difficulty supplying men for the job – even though it was only for one week – and had to rely on traveling brothers from Pittsfield's **Local No. 284** to have the exposition center ready for the largest agricultural event on the eastern seaboard.

Following the official entry of the United States into World War II after the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the busy wartime economy would keep Local 7 members well-employed during much of the conflict. By 1942, in fact, the local was bringing men out of retirement to help staff the influx of defense jobs, such as military housing, while many travelers would also find constant employment within the Springfield jurisdiction.

As defense work continued through 1942 while the war spread in the European and Pacific

## GROUNDBREAKING INSTALLATION LIT ARMORY FOR CRUCIAL WAR WORK

As the nation began to ramp up military production during the early years of World War II, Local 7 members working for contractor **Collins Electric Company** in late 1940 installed what was the first continuous-strip fluorescent lighting in the United States in a new building at the Springfield Armory. The weapons plant was the primary center for the manufacture of U.S. military firearms from 1777 until its closing in 1968. (Today, the site is preserved as the *Springfield Armory National Historic Site*, Western Massachusetts' only unit of the national park system.)

The vital, trailblazing project employed new, 100-watt, 5-foot fluorescent lamps in **Building 104**, which would mass-produce the M-1 "Garand" Rifle, "a powerful new weapon in the impending war against the Axis powers," National Park Service literature states. The large, state-of-the-art production facility, a city block in length along Magazine Street with 135,000 square feet of floor space, was expected to double daily production of the M-1 by the following summer.

Following the fall of France in May 1940 to Nazi Germany, Building 104 was designed, engineered and erected within three months and its new milling shop was ready in February 1941. The revolutionary, 100-watt fluorescent lighting was used because designers felt "the new factory should have the best possible lighting for its precision work."

Lighting of the 480-foot-long and 190-foot-wide factory manufacturing floor was composed of 60 arrays, with each bay lighted by three continuous strips of two fluorescent reflectors, each strip consisting of six reflectors with two 100-watt lamps. The installation was subsequently completed well ahead of schedule by Local 7 electricians.

"The results have been so satisfactory that scores of engineers from all over the United States have visited the factory to inspect it," an article from the time reported, "and their comments would indicate that this type of lighting will probably be very generally used in the near future."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "seeking to encourage this build-up at the armory," according to the National Park Service, visited Building 104 on October 30, 1940, during which John Garand, inventor of the M-1, personally presented him with a completed rifle just off the assembly line. The Springfield Armory would go on to produce over 4.5 million M-1 rifles.

Springfield Armory Building 104 after it was completed in 1941 with new, continuous-strip fluorescent lighting installed by Local 7 members working for Collins Electric, the first such installation in the country. (Photo courtesy of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site.)





theaters, Brother Mullarkey was compelled to write in that year's *December Journal*:

*"Our business manager hopes he will not see another year like it, for the contractors had him running bow-legged trying to supply men. He has the graveyard all emptied."*

Strong employment persisted on the home front throughout the war years. After the global conflict ended on September 2, 1945, the work situation remained good for Local 7, which numbered more than 150 members in mid-1946, despite the dramatic reduction in defense work.

Soon after the United States entered World War II, Local 7 members joined in the "Win-the-War" Parade in Springfield on April 19, 1942, described as the "biggest labor parade in the east." Almost the entire local marched in the two-hour-long procession among about 15,000 other participants, with Local 7 President Arthur Illig serving as color-bearer.

In October 1942, Local 7 appointed a committee to send gifts to all of its brothers who were serving in the Armed Forces during World War II and asked all members at home to send letters and gifts to those in service to "help cheer them up this Christmas."

At one point in 1943, Local 7 had purchased more than \$30,000 worth of War Bonds, which averaged out to about \$200 per member.

The following year, work began in September 1947 on the new **West Springfield Power Plant** for the Western Massachusetts Power Company on the banks of the Connecticut River, a job that would keep roughly 60 Local 7 electricians and several more I.B.E.W. travelers from other locals employed until its completion in 1950. The 45,000-kilowatt, steam-powered electric-generating station, for which Local 7 men installed over 85,600 feet of conduit, required 1 million man hours of labor to complete before it officially went online on January 18, 1950.



Brother Charles E. "Charlie" Caffrey

Local 7 Business Manager Charles E. "Charlie" Caffrey, who was also president of the Springfield Central Labor Union from 1932 to 1942, served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. Injured in Germany, Brother Caffrey was confined to a wheelchair but continued to serve as business manager upon his return to Springfield until 1950. He passed away on October 26, 1974, at age 76.

Meanwhile the local gained a new contract with the Contractors' Association beginning June 1, 1949, that set the journeyman scale at \$2.35 per hour. The local's work situation would also remain positive and all of its members would continue to enjoy full employment for the remainder of the decade.

### CONTINUING ITS TREND UPWARD

**E**ven after the West Springfield Power Plant was completed in January 1950, major work at the **Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company** headquarters building in Springfield and the construction of several housing projects in the city helped keep Local 7 members consistently working into 1951. The local would remain busy throughout the early years of the decade on several other larger jobs, as well.

The insurance company project included rewiring the entire facility to upgrade it to a four-wire, three-phase electrical system, installing seven miles of fluorescent lighting to replace the old incandescent lighting and installing some 1,200-horsepowers' worth of air conditioning equipment. In addition, a new service building and two wings, each four stories high and measuring 60 feet by 120 feet, were built onto the rear of the main building before the project was completed in January 1951.

Before then, the local had also won another raise in a new agreement to \$2.50 per hour starting December 15, 1950.



The electrical crew working for Local 7 signatory contractor Hatzel & Buehler at the U.S. Rubber Company Fisk Plant in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, in 1944.

Less than two years later, the local then received the largest pay increase it had ever been granted at one time when contractors agreed to a raise of 23-1/2 cents per hour to put the journeyman wireman hourly rate at \$2.73-1/2 beginning June 1, 1952. The new contract also marked the first time the Local 7 sat in agreement with a chapter of the **National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)**, as the 14 Springfield contractors had recently organized into the **Western Massachusetts Chapter of NECA**, with contractor M. L. Schmitt as its first president.

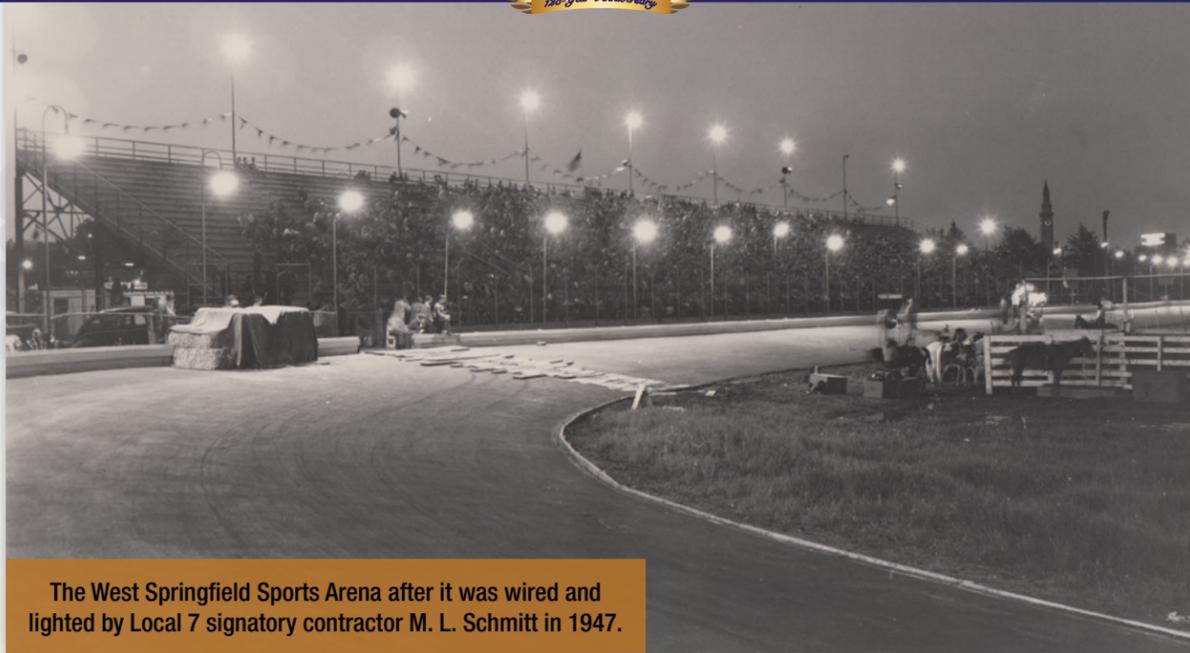
That year and through 1953, the local's members were kept busy on several major projects, including construction of the new **Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company** building on Boston Road that was completed in 1952. Just as that project was ending, Local 7 members were already at work on construction of the new **Springfield**

**Municipal Hospital**, which would be completed in late 1953.

Local 7 electricians working for the **Springfield Electric Company** also wired the city's first T.V. station early that year when U.H.F. station **WWLP** was erected on top of Provin Mountain. As part of the project, the **Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECo)** took an 800-volt, three-phase, 60-cycle line up the side of the mountain to a transformer tank adjacent to the station, where the voltage was stepped down to a 120/208-volt system and fed to a 2,000-amp cubical inside the transmitter room.

After having agreed not to demand a new wage in a new contract with NECA the previous year, on June 7, 1954, the local won an hourly raise of 21-1/2 cents, effective June 1, for its 242 members. The wage boost brought the electrical workers' hourly rate to





The West Springfield Sports Arena after it was wired and lighted by Local 7 signatory contractor M. L. Schmitt in 1947.

\$2.95, which the June 8 *Republican* reported “restored (Local 7 members) to their former position in the wage scale in relation to the other skilled trades.”

As part of its next new contract, Local 7 negotiated for its own **Health and Welfare plan**, which was instituted on January 1, 1957, with a 15-cent-per-hour contribution from employers. The local’s membership would begin to enjoy the program’s benefits on November 13 of that year, which included payment for most all medical fees and costs of medicine, \$1,000 in life insurance, \$1,000 additional



Local 5 Brother William F. Cavanaugh (center), a past president and recording secretary of the local, receives his 50-year I.B.E.W. service pin from International Representative William Steinmiller (left) and Local 7 Assistant Business Manager William Wylie during the local’s clambake in 1949.

death and dismemberment insurance, a \$25 weekly disability income benefit and a new type of hospital, surgical and medical insurance in the Comprehensive Medical Benefit Plan. Having previously been party to the **National Employees Benefit Agreement** between NECA and the I.B.E.W. since September 3, 1946, Local 7 was the first group in Western Massachusetts to adopt the new insurance plan.

Meanwhile, employment remained strong in the local’s jurisdiction well into 1957, with many out-of-town I.B.E.W. electricians working in Springfield during the mid-1950s. But as the local waited for construction of a planned atomic power plant to begin, work slowed by the end of 1957 and some members were compelled to travel out of town for work.

Finally in 1958, construction began on the **Yankee Rowe Nuclear Power Station** in Rowe, Massachusetts, providing the union electricians of Local 7 and Local 284 with a strong source of employment over the next couple of years. When completed in 1960, the 185-megawatt, electric pressurized-water plant located on the Deerfield River was the first nuclear power plant built in New England. (*Yankee Rowe would be permanently shut down on February 26, 1992.*)

Just as Yankee Rowe was getting underway, Local 7 signed a new, two-year agreement with its NECA contractors on May 27, 1958, that awarded journeyman electricians a total of 40-cents in hourly raises over the life of the contract. While bringing the hourly wage for the local’s 280-some member electricians to \$3.57-1/2 on June 1, 1959, for the following year, the contract also provided for travel expenses and continued the contactors’ 15-cent hourly contribution into the local’s Health and Welfare program.

### PROSPERITY, PICKETING, PAY RAISES

**T**he introduction of the new decade proved to be very good for Local 7, as employment was abundant during the first years of the 1960s with constant work at Westover Field air base; a modernization program at the **Monson State Hospital**, including a new 2,300-volt main service install; and construction of the 200-room **Schine**

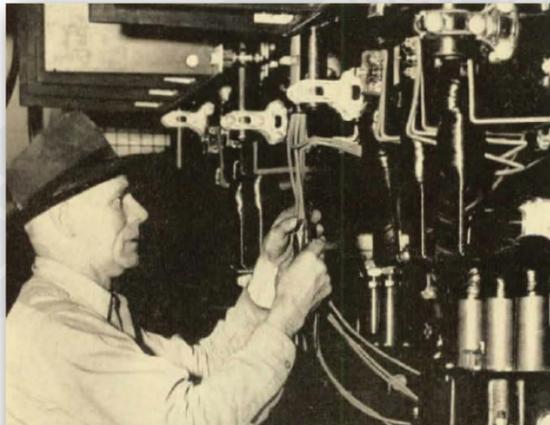
**Hotel**, the largest and most modern hotel in Western Massachusetts, and the new **Ursuline Academy**. Ground was also broken in April 1960 on a new, \$6 million rail-truck postal center, which would be the most modern postal terminal in the country, and new offices for the Western Massachusetts Electric Company, both of which would utilize the skills of Local 7 electricians.

Then on June 1, 1960, Local 7 accepted a new, two-year pact with NECA that called for a 32-1/2-cent total hourly wage increase. As part of the agreement, the local’s roughly 275 electricians would receive a 17-1/2-cent hourly hike immediately and another 15 cents on June 1, 1961, bringing their rate to \$3.90 plus 15 cents per hour for Health and Welfare – although the local still did not have a vacation benefit.

Major expansions as part of the greatest period of development of the **University of**



The Local 7 crew that built the new West Springfield Powerhouse for the Western Massachusetts Electric Company during the late 1940s included these members and some travelers from other I.B.E.W. locals lined up during their lunch hour in 1949: (front row, left to right) H. Busha, S. L. Nehez, C. W. Erhardt, J.S. Adama, W. E. Harland, E. A. McCarthy, E. A. Mullarkey, F. Barrilla, R. K. Conley and J. B. Sullivan; (second row) G. B. Johnson, T. N. Varelas, J. Frame, J. T. Donohue, J. W. Rurak, S. B. Kiely, J. D. Nelson, J. D. Beaudry, President and General Foreman Art M. Illig, Stone & Webster Supervisor G. Mair, R. C. Illig, A. R. Illig, M. Shea, G. E. Dow, A. E. Morris, G. L. Baker, J. R. Little, J. W. Bernard and A. Toon; (third row) R. H. Williams, A. A. Donnellan, W. G. Egan, R. O’Connor and William Wylie; and (fourth row) T. P. Murray, F. Garelli, A. M. Jansen, F. F. Hoffman, V. V. Goldberg, B. T. O’Connor, F. Paul, C. Jensen, L.F. Gauthier, W. J. McAullife, A. J. Shopey, H. T. O’Connor, R. D. Gour, W. J. Sullivan, D. J. O’Flynn, R. J. Footit, A. A. Lajoie, Stone & Webster print checker G. Hodgson, J. Filion, J. R. Little Jr., R. W. Johannis, L. A. Miller and J. Babyak.



Local 7 Brother Bill Donohue connects secondary wires from current transformers mounted on new oil switches at Belchertown State School powerhouse after the local installed new generators in the school in 1952.

## MEMBER WAS CITY'S LONGEST-SERVING MAYOR

Local 7 Brother Daniel B. Brunton, "one of Local 7's popular working members," was first elected mayor of the City of Springfield in 1946. He would go on to serve six terms over the next 12 years until 1957, the longest tenure of any other mayor in the city's history at that time.

Described as "one of Springfield's most colorful and controversial political figures," Brother Brunton also served in the City Council before becoming mayor and was named to the state Health, Welfare and Retirement Trust Funds Board after his time as mayor ended. Born in Springfield, he attended Armory Street School and graduated from Technical High School, after which he trained to be an electrician at Trade High School before being employed by Local 7 contractor Collins Electric Company for the next 25 years.

The new Parker-Millbrook elementary school was officially named the Daniel B. Brunton Elementary School in 1958 after the former mayor, who was a strong advocate for education while in office.

Brother Brunton passed away on January 31, 1966, at age 64.



Brother Daniel B. Brunton (Photo from the Springfield History Library & Archives.)

Massachusetts at Amherst, the state system's flagship campus, began in 1960 as its multi-campus structure emerged. Local 7 members would perform much of the electrical work for the university while working for contractors including M. L. Schmitt Electrical, which was a primary electrical contractor on much of the work. Throughout the 1960s, key projects wired by Local 7 members included construction of the Southwest Residential Complex beginning in 1964; Morrill Science Center, Lederle Graduate Research Center and the Whitmore Administration Building in 1966; and Herter Hall in 1969.

In the meantime, all of local's 225 members were busy with work throughout 1961 and into the following years, even before a \$15 million expansion of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company building began to employ union electricians after work commenced in February 1962. Additional jobs became available at that time with construction of the new, 13-story Charlton Apartments, which when completed would be the largest all-electric apartment building in New England.

In that environment, employment was strong in 1962 and 1963 while help was often "at a premium," as Press Secretary Ray Penniman announced in the July 1962 *Journal*.

With its current contract set to expire, the local reached agreement with its contractors on a new, three-year contract on May 31, 1962, that provided a 15-cent hourly wage increase for each year to boost pay beginning June 1, 1965, to \$4.20 per hour. The contractors' contribution to Health and Welfare also remained in the agreement, but the local's 250-some members still received no vacation pay or paid holidays.

However, the raise in the second year beginning on June 1, 1963, would go toward the electricians' new Pension Fund to provide retirement

Local 7, aware at the time of the importance of the reciprocal agreement by which I.B.E.W. locals earmark a portion of a traveling worker's pay to the benefits in his or her home local, signed its first reciprocal agreement around 1960 with sister Local 707 of Holyoke, Massachusetts. (Local 707 would soon after be merged with other locals to form Local 36.) "Local 7 recognizes our traveling Brothers' plight by sustaining his health and welfare plan," the local explained in the May 1981 I.B.E.W. *Journal*. "We make sure that every hour he works, the money that is set aside for his pension gets to his local. This is crucial to our Brothers' well-being."

benefits to members. Under the plan, the first 15 years credit would be given to members employed by a contributing contractor, and with a full 30 years of credit, a pensioner would get approximately \$70 per month. (Under the plan just 20 years later in 1983, Local 7 members could retire at age 61 and received \$9 per month for every year worked.)

Even during those prosperous times, Local 7 remained vigilant in protecting its jurisdiction and the union electrical industry. To that end,

Local 7 held its first official annual Christmas Party on December 11, 1960. More than 200 children of the local's members attended the event in the Labor Lyceum Building.

for example, the local picketed a project at Porter Lake in Springfield's Forest Park (one of the largest urban, municipal parks in the United States) until June 11, 1963, when the contractor, Reuba Construction Company, who had been using non-union workers and paying them below union wages, signed a contract to employ only union electricians.

The following year, the local staged an informational picket beginning December 11, 1964, that disrupted the start of construction by the first firm to be awarded a contract for the city's downtown North End urban-renewal area, which planned to use its own non-union electricians for work on the proposed \$350,000 building. After just a couple of days, the picket line at the site of Standard Photo Service was called off after the company agreed to contract



Local 7 retirees who received their 50-year I.B.E.W. service pins and graduating apprentices mingle, circa 1960: (front row, left to right) Matty Sullivan, Frank Giblin and Doug Chevalier; and (back row) John Hosmer, Tom Collins, Fred Lewenczuk and Jim Longwill.



1893 - 2018



Local 7 members Jack Bradley, Bill Lyons, Ed Kowal and Jim McNaughton at work in the new photo lab wired by the local at the Westover Field Air Force Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts, in 1960.

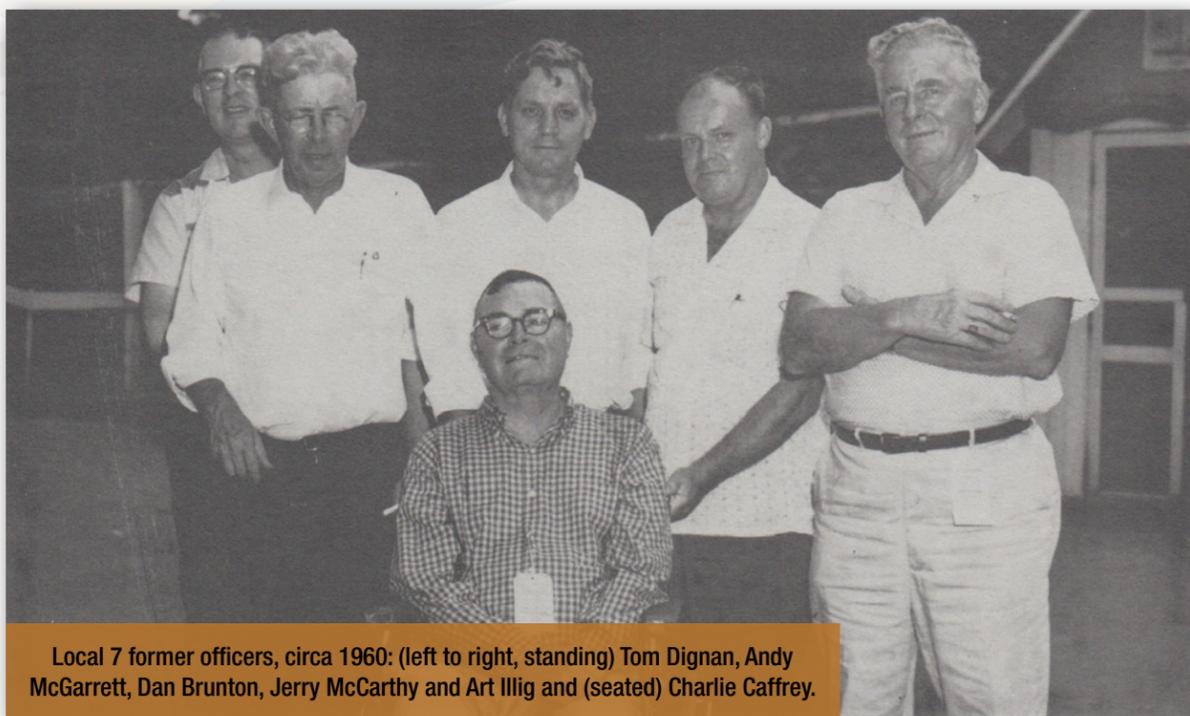
during the traditionally slow winter months. Completion of larger projects such as the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance addition in 1965 was quickly supplanted by work on jobs including ongoing urban renewal, \$5 million in industrial park construction in 1966 and a \$35 million downtown shopping mall and \$30 million in hospital additions in 1967.

electrical work with union-signatory **Butler J. Harland Electrical Company**.

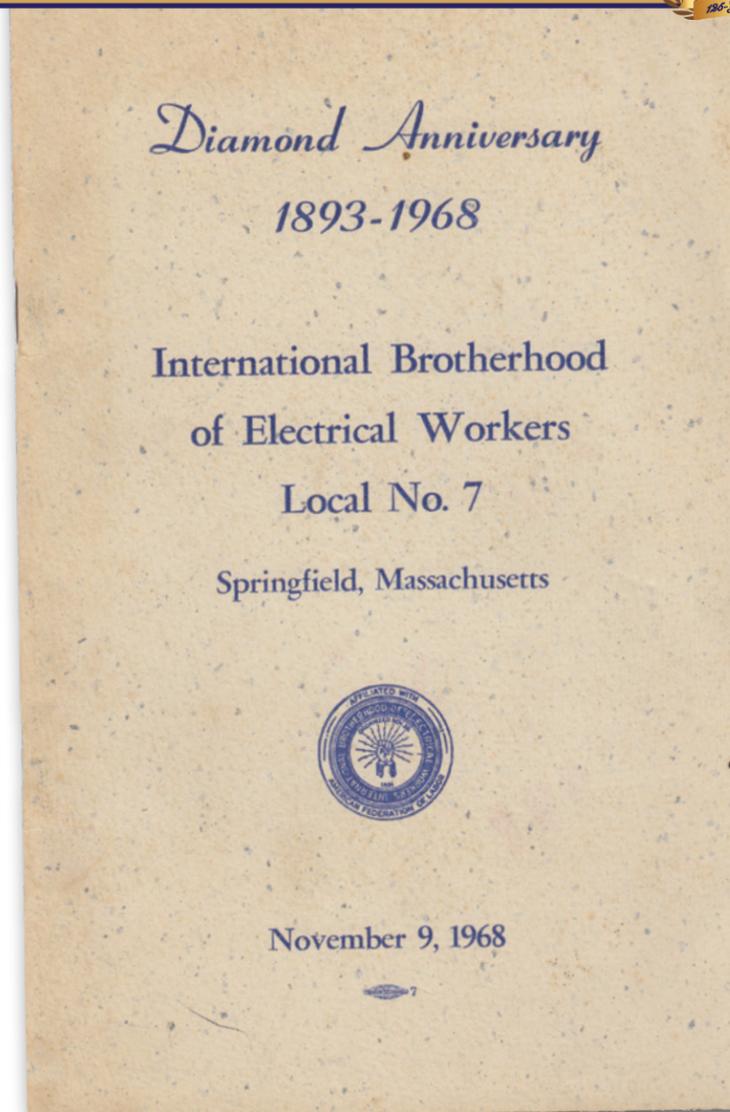
With the beginning of about \$10 million in planned construction in urban renewal underway in Springfield and several projects in progress elsewhere in the Local 7 jurisdiction, employment was extremely strong throughout the mid-1960s – and even

The local also signed another new three-year agreement with NECA that began August 23, 1965, at a scale of \$4.30 per hour. Raises would bring the hourly pay to \$4.40 on January 1, 1966; \$4.60 on June 1, 1966; and then \$4.80 on June 1, 1967, for the ensuing year.

For the first time, the union and its contractors also negotiated into the contract an **Apprenticeship and Training Fund**, into which



Local 7 former officers, circa 1960: (left to right, standing) Tom Dignan, Andy McGarrett, Dan Brunton, Jerry McCarthy and Art Illig and (seated) Charlie Caffrey.



while major projects that year and into 1969 included a new, automated printing plant for the Springfield newspaper; a new post office; several dormitories at various colleges; the new, \$50-million **Baystate West Mall/Valley Bank Tower/Marriott Hotel complex** downtown; and multiple shopping centers that accounted for a large portion of the local's employment during the final years of the 1960s.

### FROM BOOM TO BUST IN THE '70s

**E**ach of Local 7's more than 280 members remained gainfully employed into the 1970s as a large portion were also working for Collins Electric on construction of the new **Bear Swamp Hydro Power Station** on the Deerfield River in Rowe and Florida, Massachusetts, beginning in 1968 until its completion in 1974. Once online, the station could produce about 600 megawatts of power for up to six hours, and it could ramp from zero to full output in just three minutes while holding up to 3,000 megawatts of energy that could be discharged over a period of five hours.

Local 7 electricians working for Collins Electric also completed the 29-story, **Baystate West/Valley Bank/Marriott** project in 1970, which for a time was Springfield's answer to the decline of its center city.

Ongoing expansion at the University of Massachusetts was also keeping union electricians occupied – as it would throughout the decade. Key projects on which Local 7 members would work during the 1970s at the burgeoning Amherst campus included the 28-story **W.E.B. Du Bois Library** tower in 1973 (the tallest academic research library in the world) and the **Fine Arts Center** in 1974.

Meanwhile, beginning in 1970 the local began attempts to gain a **residential agreement** with contractors to cover much of that work, which had been going non-union. "We have found it to be a difficult and time-consuming job, but we are hopeful of having the program

the employers would contribute 5 cents per week for each Local 7 employee working for a NECA contractor, while the local would pay an equal sum into the fund. The money would be used to subsidize the joint training program of the union electrical industry in the local's jurisdiction.

As the end of the decade approached, Local 7 was flourishing as Springfield's downtown revitalization continued to play a large part in the increased construction activity that was employing I.B.E.W. electricians. In 1968, Local 7 members wired the major portion of the electrical work at the "Big E,"



Local 7 first formed an Athletic Association during the summer of 1976, which would go on to organize a golf tournament that fall and ensuing years as well as oversee other sports activities for the local's membership, including its softball, volleyball and bowling teams.

working successfully in the near future,” Local 7 Press Secretary John J. Connors wrote in the August 1970 *Journal*.

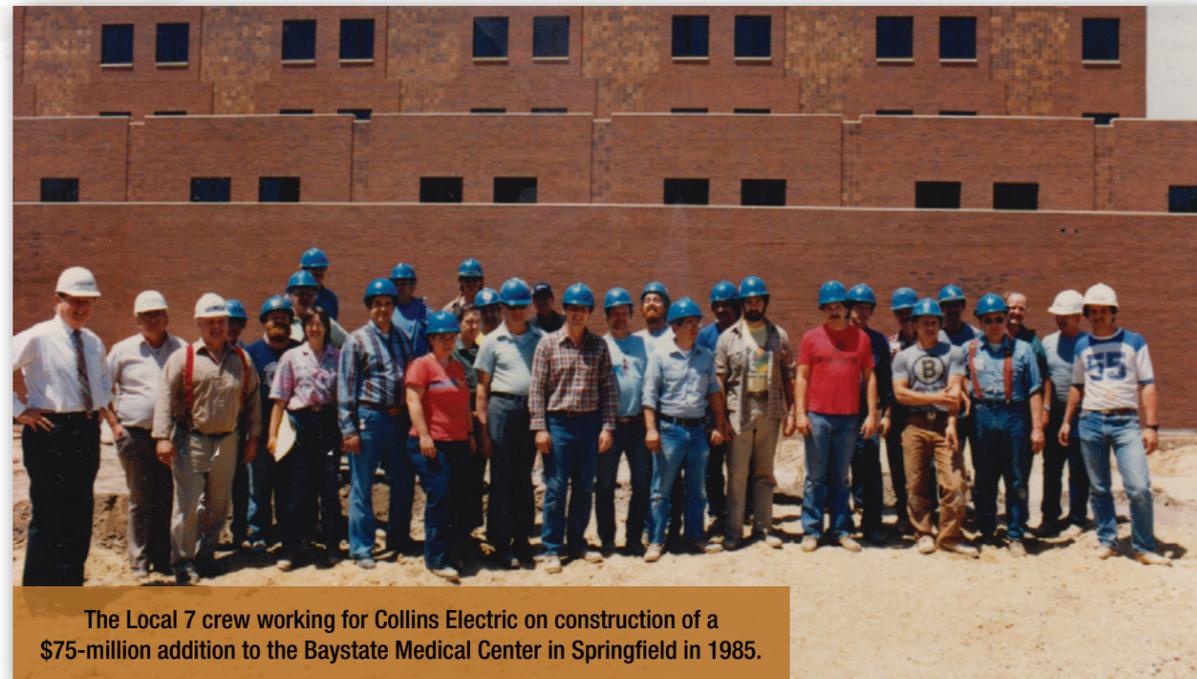
The local was eventually rewarded for its persistence when in April 1972 the membership passed a residential agreement that had been negotiated with contractors. New Press Secretary Francis X. Neylon Jr. was then able to proclaim in the July *Journal*, “Our local hopes that this agreement will help us to alleviate the non-union problem and scab competition in the Western Massachusetts area.”

After eight years of full employment, in early 1973 Local 7 experienced a significant lag in work that left 15 members on the out-of-work “bench” for an extended period of time. Much

of the setback was the result of the worsening non-union “problem” in the Springfield area, as Brother Neylon labeled it – although Local 7 and the Central Labor Union were “combating the non-union element on all fronts.”

In July of that year, the first phase of a proposed \$53-million sewage-treatment plant to be built at Bondi’s Island in Springfield was let out to bid, but the lowest bidder was a non-union shop. When the City Council met on July 16 to vote to accept or reject the bid, the Building Trades Council and the Central Labor Union organized a rally in front of City Hall during which labor leaders and city officials spoke to a crowd of approximately 1,000 that included many Local 7 members to let the council know labor’s position against the lowest bidder. As a result of the demonstration, the job was given to a union contractor.

But during late 1973 and throughout the first months of 1974, the work picture in the Local 7 jurisdiction remained poor. During that time, the local had an average of 25 members out of work, while Brother Neylon wrote in



The Local 7 crew working for Collins Electric on construction of a \$75-million addition to the Baystate Medical Center in Springfield in 1985.

the April 1974 *Journal* that there was “no relief in sight.”

The local’s nearly 300 members would enjoy full employment again later that year and into 1975, and some travelers would also be put to work within the jurisdiction, as jobs such as the sewage-treatment plant and a new, medium-size bulk-mail facility being built in Springfield. The postal job was employing approximately 65 men and would continue for another year.

The non-union incursion persisted, however, and by June 1977, 105 journeymen and seven apprentices of Local 7’s 250 membership were unemployed – and the majority of those men had been out of work for about a year and a half. Fortunately, many members were able to travel to other I.B.E.W. locals for work during those hard times.

Regardless, the situation became so precarious for the I.B.E.W. in Western Massachusetts that Local 7 was faced at the time with the possibility of merging with Local No. 1500, a manufacturing local in Chicopee. The membership in June 1977 voted against the merger “by a very large margin,” and Local 1500, which had been chartered on April 10, 1946, instead was merged with manufacturing Local 1040 of Hartford, Connecticut, on May 1, 1977.

Some relief came locally for Local 7 with construction of the 34-floor Chestnut Park apartment building that year. Members working on the job were employed by Collins Electric.

Unemployment would reach 40 percent into 1978, however, and would remain high with no

## THE CHARLES H. STAGNARO AWARD

Every year beginning in 1976 and only during certain years recently, Local 7 has presented an award to one of its members in honor of Brother Charles H. “Charlie” Stagnaro, who was killed in January of that year while working in a transformer vault. A member for more than 35 years, Brother Stagnaro served on the local’s Executive Board and on every one of the local’s committees at some time.

“In remembrance of a loved and respected Brother, Local 7 has established the Charles H. Stagnaro Award to be presented to the member most resembling Charlie in dedication and professionalism,” the local announced in the March 1977 *I.B.E.W. Journal*.

The first recipient of the honor was Brother Jeremiah P. McCarthy Jr., who was forced into early retirement because of an injury. Afterwards, however, he established the Central Labor Union Credit Union for the benefit of all organized tradesmen in the greater Springfield area and served as coordinator for the Local 7 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (J.A.T.C.).

### Charles H. Stagnaro Award Recipients

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jeremiah P. McCarthy Jr., 1976 | Joseph C. Breda, 1996          |
| Roland L. Lussier, 1977        | Giancarlo Mariani, 1997        |
| Philip E. Collins Sr., 1978    | (Not awarded 1998)             |
| Edward M. Sullivan, 1979       | John R. Lyons, 1999            |
| Thomas Dignan, 1980            | Joseph Eisenberg, 2000         |
| John Connors, 1981             | Paul Fillion, 2001             |
| Charles Melville Sr., 1982     | (Not awarded 2002, 2003, 2004) |
| Thomas P. Collins Jr., 1983    | Fracis Marcella, 2005          |
| Thomas J. Brunton, 1984        | Gary Brennan, 2006             |
| John J. Brunton, 1985          | Steven Sanders, 2007           |
| Harry Zimmerman, 1986          | Dave Noyes, 2008               |
| Albert Bailey III, 1987        | John Schutt, 2009              |
| Robert J. Illig, 1988          | William A. Collins, 2010       |
| Thomas Murphy, 1989            | John Dakers Jr., 2011          |
| Walter J. Groll, 1990          | John Schutt, 2012              |
| Raymond Penniman, 1991         | George Fournier, 2013          |
| John J. Collins, 1992          | (Not awarded 2014)             |
| Donald D. Soule, 1993          | Maureen Carney, 2015           |
| William E. O’Connor, 1994      | (Not awarded 2016, 2017)       |
| Bruce A. Rackliffe, 1995       |                                |

sign of a respite for the remainder of the year as work remained slow. Into the final year of the decade, that unemployment rate persisted and many members were traveling as the non-union element became much stronger in the area – and the I.B.E.W. even lost electrical construction work within the buildings of the New England Telephone Company and the North East Utilities, whose employees were members of the union.



Local 7 held its first official annual family picnic on July 30, 1977, at Forest Park's Camp Seco. The day included pony rides, swimming, sack races, softball throw contests, softball and basketball games and a watermelon-eating contest.

## COMBATING ANTI-UNION FORCES

After four years of hard times and with work still erratic although slightly improved into late 1980, Local 7 Business Manager Robert Illig appointed an assistant business agent, Local 7 President Douglas Blanchard, to “go after the non-union element and organize the area.” To carry out the local’s program to fight the non-union electrical contractors in its jurisdiction, each member was then assessed \$30 and the local hired a labor lawyer.

The aim of the ambitious program, which was set up by Brother Illig and former president Brother Tom Collins, was to make non-union electrical contractors’ cost of operation equivalent to or near that of union contractors. “We are going to force the non-union contractor to abide by all the laws and regulations set up by the federal and state governments,” Press Secretary John A. Farina declared in the February 1981 *Journal*. “We are going to absorb some of their key men and organize the customers.”

Subsequently, into 1981 the local’s work picture continued to improve and all members were fully employed throughout the year while the local also hosted several I.B.E.W. travelers. Construction of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company’s oil-fired, 500-megawatt power plant and switchyard

The Local 7 Retirees Club was formed in February 1980. Sixteen retirees joined the club at its first meeting.

in Ludlow, Massachusetts, and work at the General Electric transformer plant in Pittsfield helped employ Local 7 inside wiremen.

With several tall buildings being built downtown at the time and even the 10-year-old Baystate West complex undergoing interior renovations, by late 1981 some Local 7 retirees even took up their tools again to help out.

Meanwhile, Local 7 in June 1980 had initiated an Annuity Fund to supplement retirement benefits for members. Under the plan, \$1.50 was being contributed by the employers and the local for each hour worked within the local’s jurisdiction.

The local’s organizing plan was undoubtedly beginning to produce results by the spring of 1982. For instance, Goodless Electric Company, one of the largest non-union electrical contractors in the area, had joined the local’s growing list of electrical contractors.

Despite its best efforts, though, Local 7 could not deter the substantial infiltration of non-union construction sector into its jurisdiction. With a substantial number of members again back on the bench, in May 1982 the local picketed the construction site of a new Friendly’s restaurant in West Springfield to protest the use of a non-union electrical contractor that did not “conform to community standards for wages and fringe benefits” – although the demonstration was relatively unsuccessful.

As unemployment continued to increase and many members were traveling, Local 7 by mid-1982 formulated a new “residential” wage rate to gain more work on apartment and condominium buildings and also offered area contractors a new service agreement. That new tool would assist with organizing as the majority of the non-union construction industry pertained to service work, and non-union contractors were reluctant to give up that work when they were being organized.



Local 7 brothers who marched in the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in 1986.

All of organized labor within the State of Massachusetts at that time also had to contend with the anti-union Associated Building Contractors (ABC), and in 1983, union labor including Local 7 went on the offensive to defeat an ABC-backed bill in the state legislature that would seriously weaken the state’s Prevailing Wage Rate Act. (In 1914, Massachusetts became the sixth state to enact a prevailing wage law.) That latest attack on the Massachusetts construction industry resulted in the mobilization of organized labor’s forces that culminated on April 13, 1983, when Business Manager Illig led a delegation of Local 7 members into a packed auditorium at the State House in Boston, Massachusetts. As a result of that unified response and the aid of labor-friendly state representatives and senators, the bill was overwhelmingly defeated.

Work also picked up in the second half of the 1980s and would remain steady for the balance of the decade as the local enjoyed full employment for an extended period for the first time in years. Notably, members working for Collins Electric were employed beginning

in 1985 on a \$75 million Baystate Medical Center expansion that included two six-story patient room wings and an emergency area, which would be one of the local’s largest ongoing projects.

The local’s electricians also wired the new Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame building adjacent to Route 91 and the riverfront in Springfield in 1985.

Then on July 4 of that year, ground was broken for the Monarch Insurance Tower in the center of downtown. The long-awaited, \$118 million addition to the skyline was the largest construction project ever in the City

I.B.E.W. Local No. 284 of Pittsfield and Local No. 36 of Northampton were amalgamated into Local 7 on August 1, 1988, giving Local 7 jurisdiction over all of Western Massachusetts. Local 284 was organized and chartered on June 12, 1916, and Local 36 was formed on May 1, 1969, when Local 161 of Greenfield, Local 707 of Holyoke and Local 710 of Northampton were merged together.



Local 7 crew working on a Phoenix Mutual Insurance Company job for Hass Electric in 1988.

of Springfield and employed many Local 7 members to wire its 12-story Sheraton hotel, 26-story office building and retail and parking space for its grand opening in 1988.

Also in 1985, the local gained a new, 20-month contract that provided a 10-percent raise overall and flexible starting time to accommodate

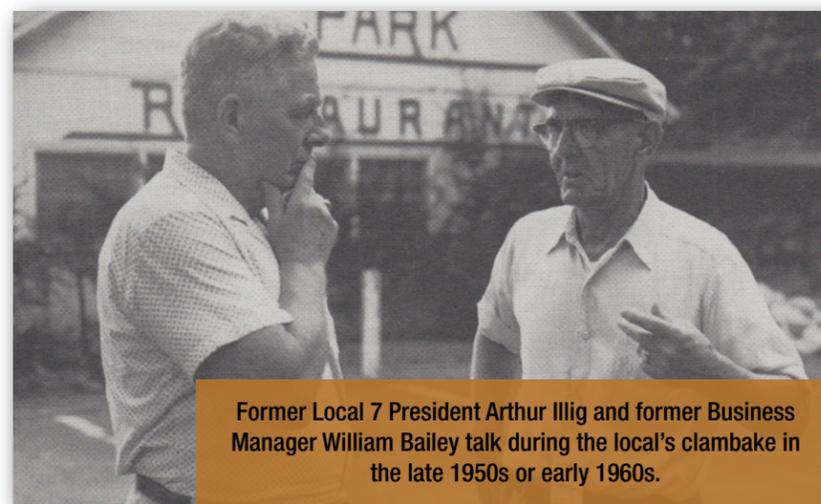
the 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. requirement of some general contractors. The membership almost unanimously approved the contract.

Into the second half of the 1980s, Local 7's roughly 280 members enjoyed a "boom time of construction" in Springfield, as **Press Secretary Steve Sanders** described it in the January 1988 *Journal*, that was dominated by the Monarch Place project. Even after the skyscraper – the tallest in the city – and hotel were completed, some travelers were able to remain working within the local's jurisdiction.

Before the end of the decade, Local 7 and its sister I.B.E.W. locals in Western Massachusetts were made to contend with a difficult and often bitter merger of three fiercely independent locals that was mandated by the International Office of the union. Pittsfield's Local No.



Local 7 Brother Lee Pilon stands outside the local's new union hall on Industry Avenue in Springfield in 1990.



Former Local 7 President Arthur Illig and former Business Manager William Bailey talk during the local's clambake in the late 1950s or early 1960s.

284, which had been chartered on June 12, 1916, and Northampton's **Local No. 36**, which had been formed on May 1, 1969, when locals 161 of Greenfield, 710 of Northampton and 707 of Holyoke were combined, were duly amalgamated into Local 7 on August 1, 1988.

In the end, the merger more than doubled the membership size of Local 7 and gave it jurisdiction over all of the western portion of the state, while consolidating union resources and management in the region.

That year, the union electrical workers and organized labor again had to defend a legislative attack on the state's Prevailing Wage Law, this time from the ABC-incarnate "Fair Wage Committee," which had collected the signatures necessary for a referendum to be on that year's election ballot. Union construction workers and their supporters took to the streets on November 8, 1988, and stood in front of polls, while bumper stickers, road signs, advertising and education carried the message supporting prevailing wages – all of which paid off as the referendum was defeated.



Brother Philip E. Collins

## LOCAL 7 BUSINESS MANAGERS

Before 1930, when a business manager was first elected, Local 7 was primarily operated by its president, with assistance from a business agent. Local 7's first president beginning soon after it was chartered in January 1893 was Brother W. J. Condon, and Brother Arthur M. Illig served as president from 1925 until 1958.

### Walter J. Kenefick

January 1930 through December 1930

### Charles E. Caffrey

January 1931 through January 1944

### William G. Bailey

February and March 1944

*Appointed by the Executive Board when Brother Caffrey went to serve in World War II.*

### Louis Laliberte

March 1944 through October 1945

*Appointed by the Executive Board when Brother Bailey fell ill shortly after being appointed.*

### William G. Bailey

November 1945 through June 1946

### Charles E. Caffrey

July 1946 through July 1951

### William J. Wylie

August 1951 through September 1959

*Passed away while in office on September 13, 1959.*

### Walter G. Egan

September 1959 through October 1965

### Philip E. Collins

November 1965 through October 1977

### Robert J. Illig

November 1977 through September 1989

### John J. Collins

October 1989 through September 1992

### Douglas Bodman

October 1992 through January 2000

### Robert E. Lague

February 2000 through April 2006

### Daniel D'Alma

May 2006 to current

1893 - 2018 Anniversary



## ENDURING THROUGH HARD TIMES

**A** lingering recession, state and federal budget cuts, an adverse political climate and wage and benefit regulations that favored non-union workers condemned Local 7 to an extended period of crippling unemployment over the early years of the 1990s. During that difficult period, about one-third of the local's nearly 700 members were without work at one point in 1990; many members had not been employed for a year by September 1991; and work remained stagnant as the local approached its 100th anniversary in 1993.

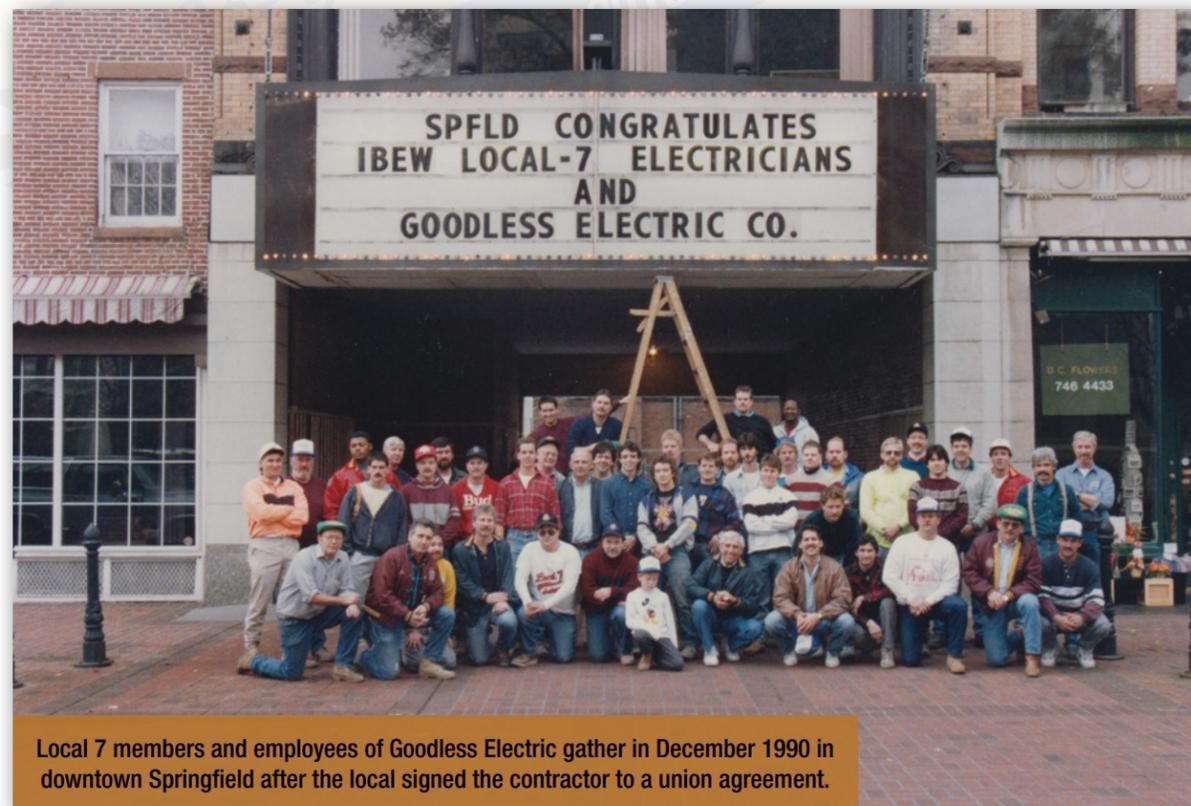
The local did, however, move into its new headquarters and union hall building at 185 Industry Avenue in Springfield in late 1990 (where it still resides 25 years later in 2018).

With large non-union contractors moving into the Local 7 area and winning projects

Local 7 Sister Maureen Carney, at the time one of only seven women among the local's approximately 700 members, in September 1991 became the first female teacher in a construction program at Smith Vocational Technical High School, where the Local 7 training program conducted classes at the time.

that traditionally went to union labor, Local 7 and its NECA contractors adopted a **Market Recovery Program** in mid-1991 to compete with non-union bids. The program would allow contractors to make more-competitive bids on projects while a Market Recovery Fund subsidized union wages.

But the unemployment became so severe by November 1991, at which time 200 electricians were out of work and 90 of those members had completely exhausted their unemployment benefits, that Local 7 set up a food bank for members at its headquarters. Funded by the Massachusetts A.F.L.-C.I.O., the food-



Local 7 members and employees of Goodless Electric gather in December 1990 in downtown Springfield after the local signed the contractor to a union agreement.



(Left to right) Local 7 President William McCarthy, I.B.E.W. International Secretary-Treasurer Jack F. Moore and Local 7 Business Manager Douglas Bodman at the head table during the local's 100th anniversary celebration on March 20, 1993.

in the former Milton Bradley toy company's office building on Maple Street.

Regardless, the local kept up its guard against non-union intrusions. In one resultant incident, Local 7 members in mid-April 1995 picketed the construction site of a new, \$6.5-million warehouse being built on Industrial Drive in Springfield for Coca-Cola U.S.A., which was paying non-union electricians on the job \$12 to \$14 an hour without benefits, whereas the union electricians would earn \$18 to \$20 an hour.

distribution effort was also coordinated by the Community United Way of Pioneer Valley – and would last into the following year.

Glimpses of economic recovery in 1993 gave renewed hope to Local 7, as did improving relations with its contractors. A new dialog between the local and the Western Massachusetts Chapter of NECA would strengthen their alliance and put both union management and labor in a better position to take advantage of the economic recovery that was close at hand.

Robust union construction activity, particularly on new public schools in the region, during the second half of the 1990s and into the early 2000s pulled Local 7 out of its employment funk. Projects on which the local's members worked in 1994 and 1995 included the new, \$14-million **Milton-Bradley Elementary School**, which the city opened

During that time, Local 7 and other union trades were regularly on the front line of the debate over the proposed construction of the **Berkshire Power Plant** in Agawam, Massachusetts. After much public deliberation, through which organized labor consistently displayed its support of the project, Berkshire Power Company began building the \$180-million, 229-megawatt, natural-gas generator in 1997.

Before construction began, the **Pioneer Valley Building Trades Council**, for which Local 7 **Business Manager Douglas Bodman** was president at the time, settled on a union-friendly Project Labor Agreement (P.L.A.) with Berkshire Power that stipulated local organized labor would be used on the project, which would be completed in 2000. (The plant was sold 18 years later to Tenaska, an independent energy company based in Omaha, Nebraska.)

(continued after following spread)



# A History of Workforce Education

## FURNISHING THE BEST TRAINING TO LOCAL 7 APPRENTICES & JOURNEYMEN

Since it was first organized in 1893, Local 7 has strived to provide the highest-quality training through apprenticeships to qualified individuals interested in a career in the electrical industry. From the day it was chartered, the local has supplied on-the-job, hands-on, paid apprenticeship training to prospective electrical workers within its jurisdiction so that they are educated while working side-by-side with Local 7 journeymen.

The local eventually established and initiated a more formal apprentice-training program in 1941 – the same year the I.B.E.W. created its National Apprentice Standards. Having earlier formed the Springfield Joint Electricians Apprenticeship Committee of contractor representatives from the Master Electricians of Springfield and Vicinity and Local 7, the group formulated an “Electrical Apprenticeship Plan,” which acknowledged, “It will take many years to develop it properly, but it is necessary to build that way if we are to combat many of the unfortunate conditions of the trade.”

The 13 “features” listed in the plan to set “a basis for an approved apprentice training program” included establishment of a four-year apprenticeship of 576 hours of related school instruction at the Springfield Trade School, as well as shop training “in all branches and units of the electrical industry.” The plan also set wages for apprentices: 40 cents per hour for first-year apprentices, 50 cents



During a Local 7 apprenticeship training class in 1960, instructor Jerry McCarthy explains blueprints to apprentices J. Brunton, J. O'Connor and J. Lyons.

for second-year, 60 cents for third-year and 75 cents per hour for fourth-year apprentices.

Meanwhile, changes in technologies quickly required the upgrade training of the Local 7 workforce, so in 1945, Local 7 started a Committee on Education to help educate the local's journeyman electricians. Some of the early upgrade training provided through the Joint Electricians Apprenticeship Committee included a welding class (since many jobs were welding outlet boxes to supports instead of bolting them) starting in the fall of 1949 – which attracted so many members that the local initially held two separate classes.

Then in 1953, Local 7 embarked on a new Apprenticeship Training Program that involved standardized training on a statewide basis. With the new direction, the local's training would include subjects that were better-suited for apprentices while providing more-uniform instruction at the Trade School, where all apprentices were required to attend classes two nights per week for a total of 150 hours per year.

A more-secure funding mechanism for workforce



A Local 7 apprenticeship training classroom, circa 1950s.



Senior-year apprentices attending class in 1960 included (left to right) N. Lussier, E. Gosselin, (instructor Irving Weiner), R. Gilbert, R. Pease, K. Pike and W. Groll.

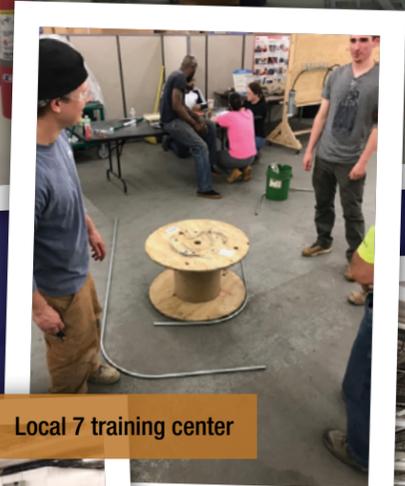
training was finally put into place with the new, three-year contract negotiated between Local 7 and the Western Massachusetts Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) in August 1965. The agreement established an Apprenticeship and Training Fund into which all employers would initially contribute 5 cents per Local 7 employee per week, and the local would pay an equal amount into the fund. (Today, contractor and union contributions continue to fund the union's training of its workforce.)

At 125 years in 2018, Local 7 enrolls 123 apprentices in its training program, nearly double the number from just a couple of decades earlier, after having graduated a class of 18 early in the year. Operated by the Springfield Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, hands-on and classroom instruction is held in the J.A.T.C.'s own training center, a 6,500-square-foot facility on Cottage Street in Springfield that the J.A.T.C. has been renting since 2016 as it searches for a center to purchase and combine with the Local 7 union hall. The J.A.T.C. had previously held classes at the Smith Vocational Technical High School.

The five-year apprenticeship program is taught by seven instructors, with classes including pipe-bending, motor controls, fire alarms, safety, and rigging and hoisting. Apprentices attend classes two nights each week from September to May each year as they also work in the field to gain hands-on experience – while they are eligible for the many benefits of being a Local 7 member, such as health

insurance, disability benefits, pensions and an annuity.

Meanwhile, Local 7 and the J.A.T.C. continue to provide upgrade training to its journeyman electricians to help ensure they are up-to-date on the industry's latest trends and technologies so that they remain the most productive electrical workers in the region.



Local 7 training center



1893 - 2018



## STAYING VIGILANT TO MOVE FORWARD

A recession with the new “Y2K” millennium slowed work dramatically, and Local 7 experienced some lean times again over the first few years of the 2000s.

During that period, however, the local gained a new, three-year contract with the Western Massachusetts Chapter of NECA that would begin on July 1, 2002. The agreement put the initial new wage scale in a “Zone I” that consisted of Hampden County at \$26.60 per hour and in a “Zone II” that consisted of Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire counties at \$24.88.

Increases in five steps over the ensuing three years provided total wage raises of \$4.01 per hour for Zone I and \$5.73 per hour for Zone II. Contributions each year for both zones to the local’s Health and Welfare Fund were set at \$3.40 per hour worked, for the Annuity Fund at \$3, for the Pension Fund at \$1.85

and for the J.A.T.C. Training Fund at 40 cents per hour, while the contract also funded additional benefits.

After 2005, work would become and remain steady again for a few years. An abundance of construction and expansion at higher-education institutions in the region, including **Smith College** in Northampton, the University of Massachusetts and **Springfield College**, helped provide members with a stable source of employment during that time.

However, in January 2007, Local 7 did have to file a complaint with the state Division of Professional Licensure after unlicensed electricians were used to complete a \$92.9 million dormitory project on the University of Massachusetts-Amherst campus. The local and other building trades had picketed the four-building, 864-bed apartment-style project in early 2006 to protest the use of non-union workers.

Another downturn in the economy and, subsequently, in the construction industry during the late 2000s that lingered into 2011 throttled work opportunities. The slump would again batter Western Massachusetts’ organized building-trades sector, leaving about 35 percent of the 5,000 union construction members in the region out of work by late 2009 and 120 of Local 7’s 450 members unemployed in January 2011.

But the local, along with other building trades, once again remained determined to improve its condition. As such, the local actively and publicly supported favorable construction issues and proposed projects, such as approval in February 2008 by City Council of a P.L.A. for a \$296 million expansion to the Baystate Medical Center.

Local 7 electricians employed by **City Lights Electric**, **Collins Electric** and **Universal Electric** would help build the center’s Hospital of the Future in three phases, which included construction of a seven-story building and was completed in 2012 – providing a needed respite from unemployment. *(The Construction Institute saluted Baystate Medical Center’s Hospital of the Future with a 2012 Pride in Construction “Project of the Year” award.)*

Among other activity during 2009, the local showed its support for state legislation to permit casinos to be built in Massachusetts. It also gave its endorsement and public voice for a Springfield “responsible employer” ordinance that was approved by City Council in June 2009 to require contractors to give 35 percent



Local 7 brothers Don Judge (left) and Tim Aldrich demonstrate at a Springfield School Committee meeting for the upcoming new Roger L. Putnam Vocational-Technical Academy high school project in 2009.



Local 7 brothers (left to right) Dave Noyes, Dave Broska and Kevin O'Donnell demonstrating at the Putnam Vocational-Technical Academy project meeting.



Local 7 members (left to right) Robert Wilson, Paul Gour, Dave Pandoli, Ron Hill, Mike Bradley, (unknown) and Dan Sullivan demonstrate outside a Massachusetts State Legislature committee meeting in Boston on the proposed expansion of the Baystate Hospital in Springfield in 2007.

of the jobs on municipal projects worth more than \$250,000 to city residents.

Two years later while seeking another major project to help alleviate the ongoing high unemployment, in January 2011 the local and other construction unions continued to push for passage of a law allowing casinos in the state and one specifically in Western Massachusetts – efforts that would soon be rewarded.



## WELL-SITUATED FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

**B**y 2010, the number of significant solar-energy installations had begun to dramatically increase throughout Massachusetts after the union electrical industry lobbied the state to pass the **Massachusetts Green Communities Act**, which provides incentives to install solar-powered electricity-generation arrays. With its immediate availability of a large, well-trained workforce that would be needed for only a short period of time, Local 7 quickly benefited from the resultant surge of solar projects in its jurisdiction.

Early multiple-megawatt solar jobs in the region installed by the local's members included the 1.8 megawatt **Silver Lake Solar facility** in Pittsfield for WMECo during the summer of 2010, on which electricians were employed

by the **E.S. Boulos Company**. It was the first Green Communities Act in the state for a utility company and New England's largest solar array when it went online in October 2010.

Members then worked for **Henkels & McCoy** in 2011 on the photovoltaic project in Northfield Mountain. The following year, Local 7 built the 1,686-module, 360-kilowatt solar array at Massachusetts Mutual's headquarters on State Street while working for Collins Electric and began work on a 13,000-panel, 3.9-megawatt **Cottage Street Landfill** photovoltaic site for WMECo – New England's largest array of solar panels when complete in 2014. (Cottage Street would combine with WMECo's completed facilities on Goodwin Street in the Indian Orchard section of town and one in Pittsfield to nearly double the company's solar-energy output to a total of about 8 megawatts.)



The Local 7 crew that worked for E. S. Boulos Company to install the Western Massachusetts Electric Company's photovoltaic "solar field" at Silver Lake in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, during the summer of 2010.



The Local 7 crew that installed the Cottage Street solar field on a capped landfill on Cottage Street in East Springfield for the Western Massachusetts Electric Company in 2011.

Elsewhere, improving employment was further enhanced when Local 7 electricians wired the **Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center** from October 2011 until November 2012. The high-tech computing facility in Holyoke, a joint venture of the University of Massachusetts system, MIT, Harvard, Boston University and Northeastern, would provide data-crunching capabilities to support research at those institutions and others.

After a tornado ripped through the area in 2011, Local 7 was also called upon to help replace the destroyed **Cathedral High School** for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield. Working for M. L. Schmitt on the project, the new educational facilities were a fusion of technologies, including items such as environmentally friendly "green" LED lighting and USB hubs for students.

The local also helped repair Springfield College's tornado-damaged **International**

**Hall** while working for Collins Electric. The completed job was recognized in 2012 by the Associated Subcontractors of Massachusetts as its "Project of the Year-West."

Green-friendly wind-power projects were likewise employing Local 7 members at the time, including the **Hoosac Wind Power Project** wind farm on Crum Hill in Monroe and on Bakke Mountain in Florida, Massachusetts. When completed in 2012, the 19-turbine wind farm was the largest in Massachusetts, with a total installed capacity of 28.5 megawatts – enough electricity to power 10,000 homes annually.

With school construction work strong for building tradesmen, employment conditions kept improving during the early 2010s, although unemployment in some local construction unions in Western Massachusetts was running as high as 25 or 30 percent. Among those educational projects on which Local 7 members worked was the University of Massachusetts



The Indian Orchard solar field installed by Local 7 members on Goodwin Street in the Indian Orchard section of Springfield for the Western Massachusetts Electric Company in 2011.

at Amherst's new, \$186.5-million residential and teaching building for the **Commonwealth Honors College** in 2012.

As employment continued to surge, Local 7 and the regional union construction industry received the major construction projects for which they had been hoping for some time. Together with the recently completed expansion of the Baystate Medical Center, they would be the largest economic development projects of the previous 30 years, according to the *Republican* newspaper.

First was the new **MGM Casino** on Main Street in Springfield's downtown-South End area adjacent to Interstate-91, which would

employ nearly 300 I.B.E.W. electricians after work commenced on March 2015. Scheduled to open in September 2018, the \$960 million casino comprises parts of the restored, 11-story State Building built in 1929 to include offices and a marketplace, as well as the restored, historic Springfield Armory and the Union House hotel, in which both presidents James K. Polk and James Buchanan stayed.

Thanks in part to the skilled electricians of Local 7 and the highly trained craftsmen of the other union building trades, MGM Resorts International was able to announce it would open its Springfield casino ahead of schedule on August 24, 2018. Some of its top attractions



Local 7 brothers working for Universal Electric at the Baystate Medical Center Phase Two Expansion Project in 2014, wearing pink shirts in support of Breast Cancer Awareness, included (left to right) Barry Dorman, Rich Robinson, Chris Lagoy, Mark Burrows, Brad Lord, Corey McKenna, Sam McGrath, Nathan Pilon and Sean Busha.

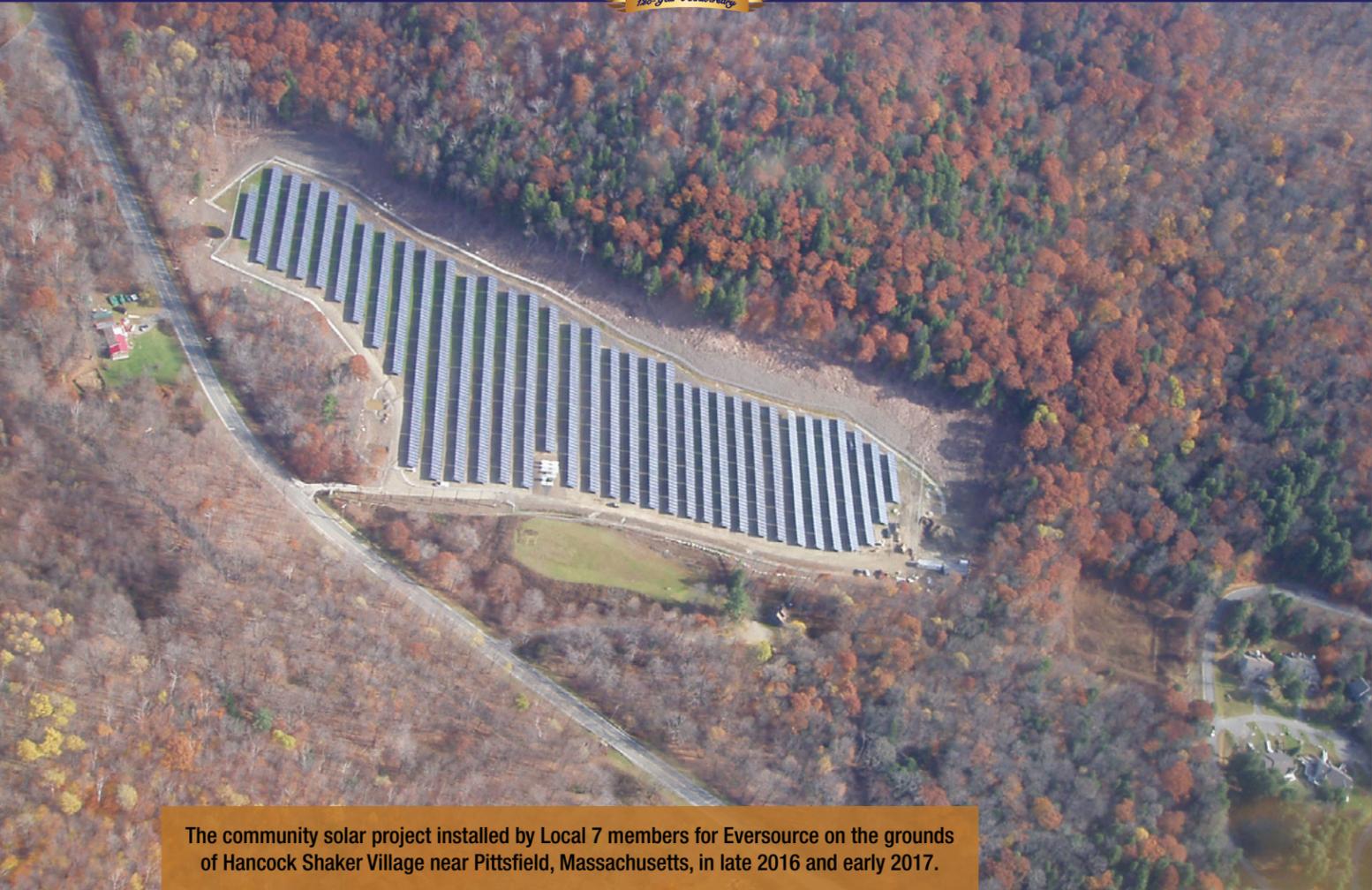
will include the 125,000-square-foot casino gaming floor, a five-story boutique hotel with 250 rooms and three eateries, as well as the South End Market on site.

Then in September 2015, Chinese-owned **CRRC U.S.A. Rail Corporation**, a subsidiary of the world's largest manufacturer of railroad cars and locomotives, broke ground for construction of a \$95-million subway-car factory in the former Westinghouse Plant on Page Boulevard in Springfield. The 100-percent union job was the largest industrial investment in greater Springfield in generations, according to the *Republican*, and would also employ dozens of I.B.E.W. electricians working for Universal Electric.

In addition to construction jobs, by October 2017 Local 7 had a dozen members on the CRRC payroll within the plant – a number



Local 7 members who worked for Collins Electric to wire the 100th annual "Big E" Eastern States Exposition fair in West Springfield in 2016 included (left to right) Dennis Broulliard, Andrew Collins, Brian Rivers, Jake McGrath, Rob Walker, Dan McCarthy, Chris Behnk, Matt Jenkins, Tiger Bouley, Dave Macri, Bill Boone, Andy Judd, Colin Boone, Nick Lane, Steve Bukowski, Justin Lesko, Carlos Restre and Sean Cox.



The community solar project installed by Local 7 members for Eversource on the grounds of Hancock Shaker Village near Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in late 2016 and early 2017.



The Local 7 baseball team of 1915.

Local 7 has fielded a baseball or softball nine in local competitions at least as far back as 1915, when the local's baseball team won the Building Trades League title that year. More recently, in addition to local softball leagues, since 1974 Local 7 has entered a team in the annual Long Island I.B.E.W. Softball Tournament, winning the tournament's coveted "Brotherhood Trophy" for its display of brotherhood in 1980 and 1999 and the "C" Bracket Championship in 2012.

area as part of a large-scale, \$94 million project before the station, which was built in 1929, was reopened in late June 2017.

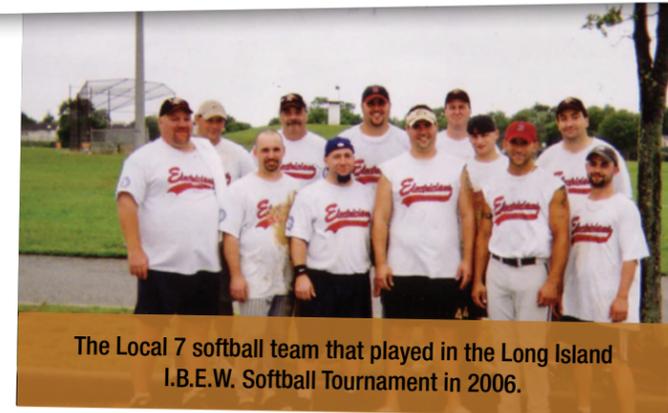
With the CRRC and MCM Casino projects in full swing and a large amount of other significant construction in Springfield and Western Massachusetts underway, Local 7 enjoyed very strong employment as it approached its 125th anniversary in January 2018.

Solar projects also continued to inject the local with man-hour opportunities, including multiple arrays at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst during 2016 that brought over 5 megawatts of renewable energy to the campus. The projects included installation of over 14,600 solar panels on the roofs of five existing buildings and on new canopy structures built on two existing parking lots.

Local 7 members then built a community solar project consisting of three separate arrays installed on the grounds of Hancock Shaker Village in late 2016 and early 2017 to provide power for Eversource customers throughout Western Massachusetts.



The Local 7 softball team that played in the Long Island I.B.E.W. Softball Tournament in 1979.



The Local 7 softball team that played in the Long Island I.B.E.W. Softball Tournament in 2006.



Local 7 members (left to right) Dwan Miller, Tien Huynh, Chris Webb, Scott Tremblay, Peter Cswertek, Mike Ross, Lou Severino, (Springfield Mayor Dominic Sarno), Tammie Vancini, Matt Simard and Bob Gromosky prepare to depart from Bradley Airport on a trip to China in 2017 to train for the CRRC rail-car assembly plant that would be built in Springfield that year. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Brother Severino told *The Republican* newspaper in October. "I learned the technology. I learned about the culture of CRRC."

that will eventually swell to more than 50 at the union-run shop. Production at the plant of 284 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority subway cars for Boston's "Orange" and "Red" lines began in February 2018.

Meanwhile, in May 2015, signatory-contractor M. L. Schmitt was chosen as the electrical subcontractor for the long-awaited **Springfield Union Station** renovation project. Local 7 employees would help restore the vacant, old train-and-bus depot in the city's Metro Center



## LOCAL GIVES BACK TO ITS COMMUNITY

Local 7 has always strived to be a good neighbor, answering the call when asked to donate services, goods or funding to charitable and community organizations and causes in Springfield and Western Massachusetts.

Among the more prominent contributions made by Local 7 over the years was a \$1,000 donation for construction of the new *Children's Medical Center of Boston* in 1950. Just three years later, the local gave its time and skills to help construct a new building at the *Bonnie Brae Girl Scout Camp* in East Otis, Massachusetts.

As the local continued to serve its region over the next several decades, among the projects to which it donated electrical services and funds was construction of a new *Laughing Brook Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary* in Hampden, Massachusetts.

More recently, Local 7's commitment to its community has not diminished, to say the least. In 1989, for example, the local's electricians donated time to wire the new air conditioning system in the 98-year-old *Academy of Music theater* in Northampton, Massachusetts (which was owned by the city).

The following year, Local 7 saved Christmas in Springfield when members joined forces with contractors Goodless Electric and Collins Electric to provide the labor and wiring for *Christmas lighting* in Springfield's Court Square Park. The city had earlier announced that it did not have the funds to put up and maintain the lights.

Meanwhile, beginning in 1990, Local 7 members also voluntarily rigged up lights and set up the sound stage for performers for the *Celebrate Holyoke* festival.

Giving has continued even more recently with, among many other efforts, the local's participation in *Toys for Tots*. In 2011, for instance, the local's membership donated \$1,100 to purchase bikes for the U.S. Marine Corps program to distribute toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.

Then in 2012, Local 7 joined three other building-trades locals to donate about \$37,000 for construction of the new *Caring Health Center* clinic in Springfield, which would offer improved healthcare access for low-income residents.

Of course, these are just a small sample of Local 7's volunteer work within the community. Most recently, the local continues its efforts through programs that have included the Marine Corp League in Westfield, Boy Scout Camp Moses in Russell, a pavilion rewiring project at the Ludlow Fish & Game Club, lighting of the Spec Pond ballfield in Wilbraham, and ballfield lighting projects at Sadie Knox and Powder Mill schools in Westfield.



Local 7 members Chris Paluck and Bill Horgan collected \$1,100 to purchase bikes and sleds for the Toys for Tots program in December 2011 and were assisted with transporting the gifts by apprentices Matt Lucey and Matt Jenkins. Pictured are Brother Jenkins (left), Brother Lucey (second from left) and Brother Paluck (right) with Highland Bike Shop employees.

Among the local's many projects on which the local's electricians were working in the second half of the 2010s, perhaps none was more nationally notable than construction of *The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum* on the Springfield Museums quad in 2017. The first national museum dedicated to children's author and illustrator and Springfield native Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, was wired under Collins Electric.

Of course, as it has for decades, Local 7 also wired the Eastern States Exposition in the fall of 2017 – one year after it wired the 100th Big E while working for Collins, which wired all 99 pervious fairs, as well.



After 125 years of rousing highs and challenging lows as it helped build up Springfield and Western Massachusetts, Local 7 in 2018 remains committed to the advancement of wages, benefits and working conditions of all electrical workers in its jurisdiction. As such, the local has stayed dedicated to organizing all of the area's electricians and technicians into the I.B.E.W. so that the union can best advance the interests of workers within the electrical industry.

What's more, Local 7, working alongside its NECA contractors, continues its longstanding commitment to ensuring its members are the most highly trained and productive wireman in Western Massachusetts. Preserving and adhering to the I.B.E.W. "Code of Excellence" and focusing on apprentice education, Local 7 has positioned itself to remain a powerful force in the region's building and construction industry well into the future.



The current Local 7 union hall on Industry Avenue in Springfield, 2018.

Building a Bright Future for Boston, the U.S. and Beyond

LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT,  
TEAMWORK AND SERVICE  
HELP BRIDGE THE WAY TO  
CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE

The Officers and Members of IBEW Local 103 Pay Tribute

Congratulations on your 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## IBEW Local Union 7

### Executive Board

Philip DeCola  
James M. Fleming  
John G. Kelly  
Bernard N. Sharpe, Jr.  
Jeffrey M. Sheehan  
Keith J. Stearns

### Examining Board

William R. Daniell  
John A. Dondero, Jr.  
Brian J. O'Connor  
Brian P. Sharpe  
Bryan P. Sisson

**IBEW**  
LOCAL UNION 103

www.the103advantage.com

### **Louis J. Antonellis**

Business Manager

### **Robert S. Sheehan, Jr.**

President

### **Frank Aikens**

Vice President/Business Agent

### **Chuck Monahan**

Financial Secretary

### **Kevin W. Monahan**

Treasurer/Business Agent

### **Richard Monahan**

Recording Secretary

### Business Agents

Richard L. Antonellis, Jr.  
Kenell C. Broomstein  
Jay Frasier  
Tim Long  
David O'Laughlin  
Donald Sheehan  
Brad Vinton  
Gary Walker



256 Freeport Street, Dorchester, MA • 617-436-3710

# IBEW LOCAL 6

WE SALUTE OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS AT

## IBEW LOCAL 7



FOR YOUR 125 YEARS  
OF DEDICATED SERVICE

### **John J. Doherty**

Business Manager-Financial Secretary

Members, Officers & Staff

Michael V. McKenna, President

Jeff B. Hawthorne, Vice President

Mary M. Cordes-Hutchings

Recording Secretary

Stephen C. Passanisi, Treasurer

Russell Au Yeung, Officer

Douglas J. Wydler, Officer

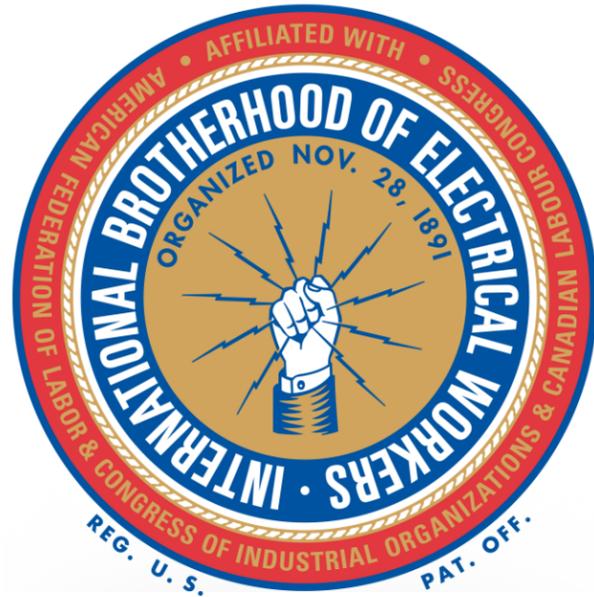
Carlos U. Salazer, Officer

David McCarroll, Jr., Officer

Anthony C. Sandoval, Officer

*Congratulations Local 7 on your  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

## **IBEW LOCAL UNION 90**



### **SEAN W. DALY**

Business Manager / Financial Secretary

### **ROBERT WOYTOWICH**

President / Business Agent

### **STEVE ASPLUND**

Vice President

### **CHRIS WININGER**

Recording Secretary

### **DAVE GORAL**

Treasurer

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Kenneth Marshall Greg Camputaro  
Jay Hourigan Paul Costello Thomas Ryan Jr.

2 North Plains Industrial Road Wallingford, CT 06492  
Phone: (203) 265-9533 Fax: (203) 265-9422

# **CONGRATULATIONS TO**

## **I.B.E.W. LOCAL 7**

### **ON YOUR**

# **125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



## **I.B.E.W. LOCAL 96**

**242 MILL STREET**

**WORCESTER, MA 01602**

Thomas J. Maloney, Business Manager  
David C. Martinelli, President  
Michael A. Stearns, Vice President  
Keith P. Fontaine, Treasurer  
Andrew J. Turcotte, Recording Secretary

Justin P. Beauregard, Executive Board  
Kevin M. Fitman, Executive Board  
Robert J. Ray, Jr., Executive Board  
Mark P. Valois, Executive Board

# Making a difference

We celebrate your commitment to Western Massachusetts for over 125 Years!



## Gerald Chasin

Managing Director - Investments  
Senior Institutional Consultant  
Senior Retirement Plan Consultant  
516-745-8964  
gerry.chasin@ubs.com

## The Chasin Group

One Jericho Plaza  
2nd Floor  
Jericho, NY 11753-1680  
516-745-8800  
800-333-7707

[ubs.com/fs](http://ubs.com/fs)



# Congratulations to IBEW Local Union 7 on your 125th Anniversary!!



The Skilled Electricians of  
IBEW Local Union 26  
Power Washington, DC,  
Maryland, and Virginia.  
Build it Right, Build it Union!

## From the Officers and Members of IBEW Local Union 26

BUSINESS MANAGER.....GEORGE HOGAN  
PRESIDENT.....TOM MYERS  
VICE PRESIDENT.....LARRY GREENHILL, SR.  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....JOE DABBS  
RECORDING SECRETARY.....RICH MURPHY  
TREASURER.....MELVIN CHERRY



**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY!**

The Officers and Members of  
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**  
**LOCAL UNION 488**  
Bridgeport, CT



PETER F. CARROLL  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

RICHARD L. DABROWSKI  
President

WILLIAM T. COLE, III  
Treasurer

ANTHONY M. SOTER  
Asst. Business Manager

TRAVIS E. GERALD  
Vice President

JEROME C. WHITE  
Recording Secretary/Organizer

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

ANTHONY CAVALLI  
PATRICK DRISCOLL  
KEVIN DUBOIS  
DANIEL MCINERNEY

ROBERT NITSCHKE  
JOHN ROMAN  
ANTHONY SOTER  
CARL STEVENS

**KRAKOW, SOURIS & LANDRY, LLC**

Attorneys at Law



Aaron D. Krakow

Christopher N. Souris

Thomas R. Landry

---

*Representing unions and their members  
throughout New England*

---

225 Friend Street  
Boston, MA 02114

[krakowsouris.com](http://krakowsouris.com)



# LAPINSKI ELECTRIC INC.



## Lapinski Electric and IBEW Local 7...

*Working together to keep America moving since 1953.*

Lapinski Electric is a regional force in all aspects of the electrical industry including private, state, federal, and design-build projects. We specialize in projects serving the transportation network such as site construction, roadway lighting, traffic signaling, airport lighting, controls and instrumentation.

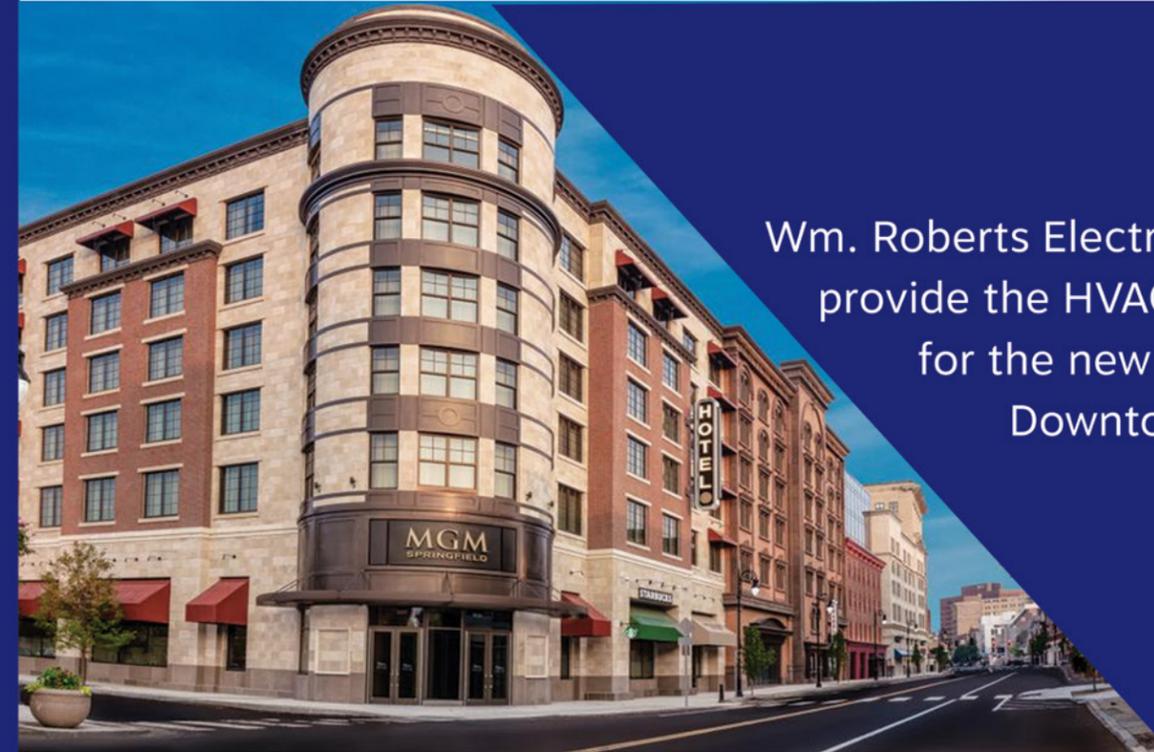
- Electrical Construction
- Project Management
- Design-Build Site Construction
- Roadway Lighting
- Sports Lighting
- Traffic Signaling
- Airport Lighting
- Railroad
- Renewable Energy
- Fire Alarm
- Motors
- Controls and Instrumentation
- Facility Maintenance

[lapinskiinc.com](http://lapinskiinc.com)

## Wm. ROBERTS ELECTRIC

*Congratulates IBEW Local 7  
on 125 years of service*

*A member of Local 7 for over 30 years.*



Wm. Roberts Electric was proud to provide the HVAC control wiring for the new MGM Casino in Downtown Springfield.

Wm. Roberts Electric Co., Inc.  
7 Railroad Avenue  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
Electrical contractor specializing in control work.

Office: 413-596-2868  
[dennis@williamrobertselectric.com](mailto:dennis@williamrobertselectric.com)



A NECA member contractor for over 25 years



**CONGRATULATIONS  
IBEW LOCAL 7  
ON YOUR  
125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
FROM  
THE MASSACHUSETTS  
BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL**

Francis X. Callahan, Jr.  
President

Jeff Sullivan  
Vice President

Louis A. Mandarini, Jr.  
Secretary/Treasurer

35 Highland Avenue, Malden, MA 02148 – Tel: (781) 321-6282 / Fax: (781) 321-6287



*Universal Electric Co Inc is proud to celebrate  
the 125th Anniversary of IBEW Local 7!*



Universal Electric Co.  
79 Wayside Ave  
West Springfield, MA 01089

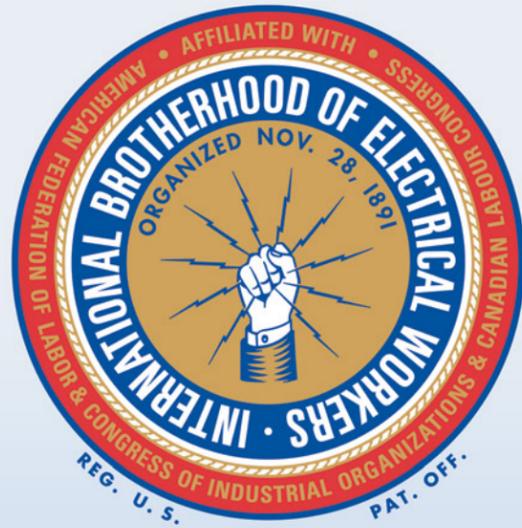
Phone: 413-788-9473

Fax: 413-788-0874

[www.uecma.com](http://www.uecma.com)

*Best Wishes I.B.E.W. Local 7  
For Powering Western Mass Another 125 Years*

**I.B.E.W. Local No. 99**



**Providence, Rhode Island**

*Your Brothers and Sisters in New England!*



Congratulations  
IBEW Local 7  
On your 125th Anniversary Celebration



*IBEW Local 613-Atlanta, Georgia  
Kenny Mullins, Business Manager  
Kevin Swanson, President  
David Lawson, Financial Secretary*

*Congratulations on 125 years of service to your members!*



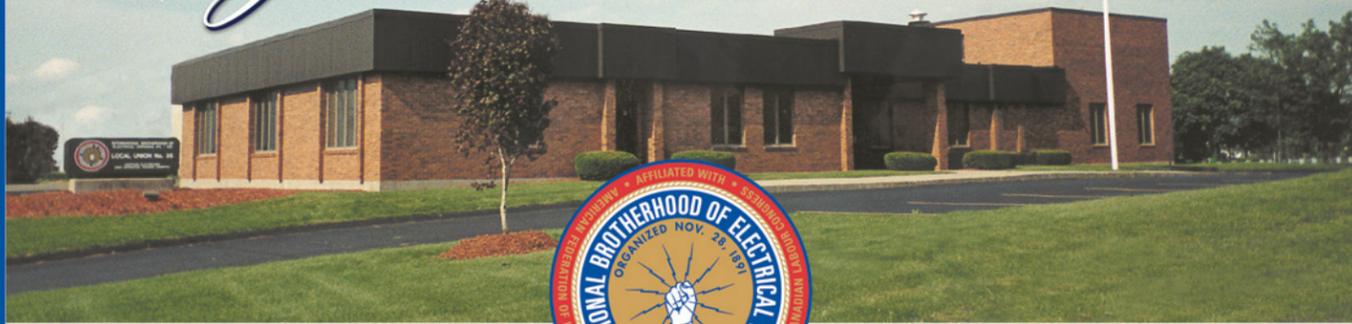
*Best wishes for your continued success*

**Novak | Francella**  
LLC | CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

BOSTON | CONNECTICUT | NEW YORK | PHILADELPHIA | WASHINGTON, DC

[www.novakfrancella.com](http://www.novakfrancella.com)

*Congratulations* I.B.E.W. Local Union 7



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
**LOCAL UNION NO. 35, AFL-CIO**

Bruce A. Silva, Business Manager & Financial Secretary

**CONGRATULATIONS IBEW LOCAL 7  
 FROM THE OFFICERS OF LOCAL 104**



**SPRINGFIELD, MA**

*Business Manager Mike Langone, Business Agent John Blanchard,  
 President Bill Prince, Vice President Mitch Mascowski,  
 Treasurer Pat McGaffigan, Training Director Steve Bradley*

*Congratulations*  
 IBEW Local 7 on Your 125-Year Anniversary!



**IBEW LOCAL 567**  
 Portland, Maine

[www.ibew567.com](http://www.ibew567.com)

*Congratulations on 125 years*

*from*

*International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

*Local Union 429*



*Local Union 429*

*2001 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37210*

*Randy Clark*

*Business Manager/Financial Secretary*

<i>Dayton Layne</i>	<i>Executive Board</i>	<i>Joseph Bailey</i>
<i>President</i>	<i>Craig Pruitt (Chairman)</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
	<i>Jason Nesbitt</i>	
<i>Cameron Bennett</i>	<i>Mark Poole</i>	<i>Kim Sansom</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Phil Hayes</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
	<i>Quentin Tanner</i>	
	<i>Brent Eswine</i>	

**CONGRATULATIONS**

*Local Union 7*

*125th Anniversary*

**OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF  
 I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 540  
 CANTON, OHIO**

**Aaron Brown**  
*Business Manager*



# CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 7

**Best Wishes On Your 125th  
Anniversary!**

**From the Members, Officers & Staff of  
IBEW Local #570**



# CONGRATULATIONS ON 125 YEARS!



IBEW Local Union #743  
20 Morgan Drive  
Reading, PA 19608



**CONGRATULATES  
LOCAL #7 ON 125 YEARS**

### Patrick Lavin

Business Manager/Financial Secretary  
7th District IEC

**Tyrone Chamois** • President  
**Ron Baker** • Vice President  
**Greg Vetter** • Treasurer  
**Shane Sullivan** • Recording Secretary

### Executive Board

Dave Aguon • Chris Avila • Terrance Bynum  
Larry Lopez, Jr. • Richard Paul  
Willie Rios • Michael Slye • Hipolito Tavarez

### Examining Board

Tim Billman • Scott Knudtson • Casey Lavin

[www.ibew47.org](http://www.ibew47.org)  
600 N. Diamond Bar Blvd • Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
909-860-4239



PROUDLY SUPPORTING OUR HEROES



**IBEW Local Union 595**  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Alameda County • San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties

Established in 1907 – Over 100 Years of Service

Congratulations to  
**IBEW Local Union 7**

on your 125th Anniversary!

**Honor Our Past, Organize Our Future!**

From the Officers, Members, and Staff of  
IBEW Local 595 • Dublin, CA

**Daniel O. Chivello**  
Business Manager-Financial Secretary

**Brian Stewart**  
President



**Accounting • Bookkeeping • Payroll • Audit  
Representation • Individual, Corporate and  
Partnership Taxes**

### Robin L. Wdowiak

Public Accountant  
Enrolled Agent

[Robin@ajefinancial.com](mailto:Robin@ajefinancial.com)

588 Center Street, Ludlow, MA 01056  
Phone: 413-589-1671  
Fax: 413-583-8134

[www.ajefinancial.com](http://www.ajefinancial.com)



*Congratulations Local 7!*

From

**Bruce O'Brien Electric Service**

*"Every Job a Pleasant Experience"*

*Best Wishes,  
Local 7!*

**NORTHERN ELECTRIC**

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL

**CRAIG S. LITTLE**

PHONE: (413) 789-2690

31 SYLVAN LANE • FEEDING HILLS, MA 01030

MA LIC 15039A

CONGRATULATIONS  
ON YOUR  
125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY LOCAL 7!

**Worcester-Fitchburg**  
Building and Construction Trades Council





## Congratulations!

Thank you for your support of our new lighting distribution company located in Chicopee.

413-888-1996

[www.ionlightingdistribution.com](http://www.ionlightingdistribution.com)

## I.U.O.E. LOCAL 98

Philip C. Chaffee  
Business Manager/President



2 Center Square  
E. Longmeadow, MA 01028  
413-525-4291  
800-449-4241

Happy  
125th Anniversary,  
I.B.E.W. Local 7



Southern New England  
Electrical Testing, LLC



### CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 7!

Zap Electric, Inc., is a commercial and industrial electrical contracting company.

For any electrical work,  
contact our office at  
(413) 567-2228.



International Brotherhood  
Of Electrical Workers  
Nassau-Suffolk Counties

### BEST WISHES FROM THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL UNION #25, IBEW

Kevin B. Casey Business Manager      John G. Guadagno President

Ed O' Brien, Vice President  
Godfrey N. King Jr., Rec. Secretary  
James Malley, Financial Secretary  
Ryan Casey, Treasurer

### LONG ISLANDERS SERVING THE ELECTRICAL NEEDS OF LONG ISLAND SINCE 1932

370 Vanderbilt Motor Pkwy  
P. O. Box 18033  
Hauppauge, NY 11788-8833  
(631)273-4567 Fax (631)273-4773



electrical contractors, inc.

### CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 7

from

### LYNCH ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

A Full-Service Electrical Contractor Serving the Entire Western Massachusetts Area

Commercial - Industrial - Residential

[www.lynchelectricalinc.com](http://www.lynchelectricalinc.com)

### HAPPY 125th ANNIVERSARY I.B.E.W. LOCAL 7 !!

Fraternal Wishes for Your Continued Success

*Western Mass Proud!*

### Berkshire County Building and Construction Trades Council

President Timothy S. Craw  
Financial Secretary Herbert R. Scholz  
Community Liaison Michael Filpi



CONGRATULATIONS

IBEW LOCAL UNION 7

ON

125 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO UNION MEN AND WOMEN

IBEW Local Union 223  
475 Myles Standish Blvd.  
Taunton, MA 02780

Web: [www.ibew223.org](http://www.ibew223.org)

David W. Fenton  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary



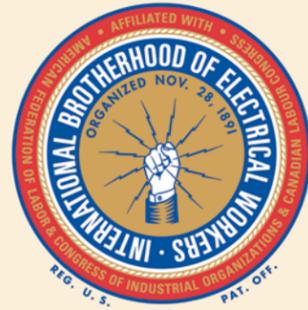
*Cheers to Local 7  
on Your 125th Anniversary!*

We are a full-service electrical contractor serving customers  
in Springfield and the surrounding areas.

Residential - Commercial - Industrial

[hselectricco.com](http://hselectricco.com)

*Congratulations I.B.E.W. Local 7  
on your 125th Anniversary!*



**From your Brothers and Sisters  
at I.B.E.W. Local 490**

Denis Beaudoin Sr. - Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Daniel Woods - President

Joshua Warmoth - Secretary

James Lukeman - Treasurer

UNION HISTORIES™

[unionhistories.com](http://unionhistories.com)



Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions

Union Histories hails Local 7 for  
125 Years of Service to Your Members,  
Contractors, Industry and Community!

We were honored to serve you in producing  
this book for your anniversary celebration.

[unionhistories.com](http://unionhistories.com)





# THANK YOU TO OUR BLUE RIBBON SPONSORS



Zenith American  
SOLUTIONS®

EST. 1923

**M.L. SCHMITT**  
INC.

**ELECTRICAL**  
CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS

**Collins Electric**  
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS AND ENGINEERS

**KECHES LAW GROUP**

