

The Midwest Wireman

BY ELECTRICIANS, FOR ELECTRICIANS

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Changes at the IBEW Local 22

Special points of Interest:

- CE/CW Program
- Collective Bargaining
- Davis Bacon & you

“Every advance in this half-century - Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, aid to education, one after another - came with the support and leadership of American Labor.”

-Jimmy Carter

There have been some changes in our front office. After 13 years, Brad Doyle is no longer serving as Organizer for Local 22. We all owe Brad a great deal of gratitude for all his contributions to IBEW 22 / NECA. Brad was instrumental in several successful organizing campaigns. He was key in creating, and servicing Local 22 Area B. He served on our Apprenticeship sub-committee, and he represented the IBEW and working families on several community boards in addition to many other day-to-day duties. Please join me in thanking Brad the next time you see him for all of his contributions!

Foster Weyand joined our staff on July 6th as a Renewable Energy Business Representative. Foster will be assembling a second-to-none renewable energy program encompassing solar, wind, and building management that will designate IBEW Local 22 as the industry leader through out the Midwest. We’re excited for the potential gain to our Signatory Contractors and electricians in this emerging market and will continue to stay on the cutting edge as we head in this direction.

ELECTRIC TV

IBEW Hour Power & Electric TV is a news-style program that covers many of the great projects and programs that our members enjoy.

The Electric TV film crew was in Omaha on June 9th & 10th to shoot footage of Local 22’s Code of Excellence projects at UNO’s Mammal Hall (College of Business Administration) and TD Ameritrade Park Baseball Stadium. We want to send a shout-out of thanks to the members of our Local who participated in making the video. We were honored to have these projects aired on Electric TV.

Visit www.electrictv.net to see our success story and stories of many others across the country.



UNITED WE BARGAIN, DIVIDED WE BEG

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Tricks of the Trade

Threading PVC Coated Rigid Pipe:

When threading PVC coated rigid pipe, it is difficult to keep the conduit from spinning in the threading head or pipe vise which causes the coating to tear off. Wrap a piece of emery cloth (rough side toward coating) to grip coating and keep pipe from spinning.

Tape Measure Note Pad:

For a scratch or note, glue a Formica sample onto your tape measure. You can write things down on it with your pencil and erase it when needed.

Use Stick Ruler To find Degrees:

If you do not have a protractor handy, you can still find degrees by using your stick ruler. Here's how: Open the ruler to 30 inches. Bend the first and second sections of the ruler (at the 6 and 12 marks) so that the 1 mark hits the 23 mark on the ruler. Return the second section so that the level with the rest of the ruler. You now have a 45 degree angle on the first section. Bend at the same 6 and 12 marks, hitting the 1 mark at different numbers for the degree you want:

Examples:

- 30 deg: 1 mark hits 23 1/2
- 20 deg: 1 mark hits 23 3/4
- 10 deg: 1 mark hits 23 7/8

Cause and Effect

What if????

What if the Local 22 membership decided to negotiate a reduction in their wage and benefit package? What impact would it have on you and your family?

Answer:

If IBEW Local 22 electricians negotiated a lower wage package, there would be a domino effect for the rest of the electricians in this area. This happened in the past when Local 22 cut the wages for Residential work. The result was that the non-signatory electrical contractors in the area reduced their employees wages lower than Local 22's Residential wage package.

While wage reductions are always a possibility, having a contract with your employer guarantees the compensation for a set amount of time.

Get on board with the IBEW, and increase your wages and opportunities. United we bargain, divided we beg.

How does Collective Bargaining work?

Collective: A group working together to share a common vision or objective.

Bargaining: A style of negotiation in which the buyers and sellers of goods or services work together to reach an agreement in terms of the quality, price, and timing, of the good or service.

Collective bargaining: The negotiation between employees and employers to reach a clear understanding regarding the rights and responsibilities of each party.

The goal of collective bargaining is to work from the strengths of each party and to reach a *collective agreement* that everyone can abide by. Such an agreement provides the framework for a productive and consistent work environment by addressing issues such as employees pay, working hours, training, health and safety, and rights to participate in workplace or company affairs.

The real strength of collective bargaining is that the parties reach their agreement as a *team*. The productive skills, strengths, and attitudes of the employees are leveraged and combined to become a unit that is stronger than the sum of its parts. The employer then has the opportunity to use that strength and consistency to be more effective in the marketplace. It is a win-win situation that works.

Local 22 is happy to offer collective bargaining classes to any electrician or group in the electrical trade that is interested in learning more about the bargaining process.

Is it time for you to be recognized? Is it time for the real strength of your *team* to be recognized?

The IBEW offers you the opportunity to begin the collective bargaining process.

For more information please contact:

Brett Johnson at bjohnson@ibew22.org 402-980-7596 *or*

Bob Sidzyik at bsidzyik@ibew22.org 402-689-1525



Construction Wireman/Construction Electrician

The Omaha Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training Committee is accepting applications year round for the Construction Electrician/Construction Wireman program. Applications can be filled out on all working Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.; Applications are taken at the Apprenticeship Office, (8960 L Street, Suite 200, Omaha, NE).

THE APPLICANT MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BEFORE AN APPLICATION CAN BE FILLED OUT:

- * Must be 18 years of age.
- * Social security card, or proof of a social security number.
- * Must have a birth certificate.
- * Must have a valid driver's license.
- * Must show proof of high school graduation or GED.
- * Must register with Bart Burshaw of the Nebraska Workforce Development Office. 5717 F Street Omaha NE (Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

AFTER THE APPLICATION IS COMPLETELY FILLED OUT:

- * Applicants will receive a physical examination form that must be completed before the applicant can be sent to a contractor.

The **Construction Wireman** program is a four-year program with five levels that involve testing at the end of each level. If you pass all five levels, you may enter into the Construction Electrician program. A placement test will be given if an applicant has prior verifiable experience, by way of check stubs, W-2s, tax forms, or a letter from previous contractors. Starting pay for a CW-1 is \$10.76 per hour. After 1500 hours, the pay would be increased to \$12.30 per hour, plus benefits. The pay for a CW-5 is \$16.94 per hour, plus benefits. At any time, a person may choose to stay at their current pay period.

The **Construction Electrician** program is a three-year program intended for electrical workers with more than 8000 hours (about 4 years) of verifiable experience. A placement test will be given when the applicant has provided verifiable experience, by way of check stubs, W-2s, tax forms, or a letter from previous contractors. The starting pay for a CE-1 is \$20.02 plus fringe benefits. After 2000 hours and successful completion of the Craft Certification test, the pay will be increased to \$21.56 per hour plus fringe benefits. After 2000 hours as a CE-2 and successful completion of the Craft Certification test the pay will be increased to \$23.10 per hour. Once the person receives a Journeyman's license from the States of Nebraska and Iowa, and successfully completes the final test of the Craft Certification, the Construction Electrician will become eligible for Journeyman Wireman status in IBEW Local 22.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

The CW/CE Program is simply another path for a person to join our ranks. This makes it possible for an individual who is unable to complete an apprenticeship for any reason to still gain and maintain employment and education in the electrical construction industry. This program permits the participant to advance at their own pace and still be a proud member of the best team in the world.

This program is also designed to assist those who have been trapped into "helper" type programs where they are locked in by others. Advancement in this program is NOT an employer's decision. It is not the decision of the Local Union or the Apprenticeship Training Office. Growth and advancement rests clearly with the participant and is limited only by the individual's personal desires, initiative, and ability. If you are motivated, you will progress and you will succeed. No more excuses from employers about not making the profit goals, or putting off your review for another 60 days. If you achieve the goals, you will advance to the next pay-grade. You will make more money.

It is up to you to take advantage of this program and gain the skills and knowledge you need to be successful. By becoming more skilled and advancing your training, you help us all to become more employable, more marketable, and more profitable.



Davis Bacon and You

With the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act there will be a substantial amount of Federal money inserted into numerous, current and upcoming, construction projects. These projects are subject to the Davis Bacon Act of 1931, which means the wages being paid to workers must be paid at the "Prevailing Wages and Benefits."

What does all this mean? According to the Davis Bacon Act there are certain requirements that apply to all of these projects among other things:

1. It is the General Contractor's responsibility to post a copy of the wage decision and a copy of the Department of Labor poster called *Notice to All Employees* (Form WH-1321), with the Contracting Officers contact information, at the jobsite in a place that is easily accessible to all construction workers employed at the project, and the wage decision and poster won't be destroyed by wind or rain, etc.
2. Weekly signed certified payroll reports must be submitted by each subcontractor on the project to the General Contractor to ensure that the correct wages are being paid to the workers.
3. The only workers who can be paid less than the wage rate on the wage decision for their work classification are "Apprentices" and "Trainees" registered in an *approved* apprenticeship or training program. These apprenticeship programs *must* be registered with the Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship recognized by the State. Each apprentice or Trainee must have a letter of certification on record with the Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship.
4. If the ratio of apprentices or trainees to journeymen on the payroll is greater than the ratio in the approved program, the employer will be asked to pay wage restitution to any excess apprentices or trainees. Also, any apprentice or trainee that is not registered in an approved program by the Department of Labor must receive the journeyman's wage rate for the classification of work they perform.

Recently, we have been made aware of Davis Bacon violations by electrical contractors in the area. We are actively investigating these claims and are forwarding the information to the appropriate Federal offices.

Lets get one thing straight, if you are working on a project covered by Davis Bacon, you are to be paid the "Prevailing Wages and Benefits" established in the "Wage determination" that apply to the project. If you are an "Apprentice" or "Helper" and not in a certified apprenticeship training program registered with the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, you must be paid Journeyman wages. The Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship has on file all apprentice's "Certificate of Apprenticeship" letters. If you think that you are not in a registered program contact their Office at (402) 221-3281.

Do not accept any explanation as to why you aren't being paid these wages. These explanations are false! Do not allow yourself to be reclassified as a laborer or any other trade. You are being misused and your federally mandated legal wages are being stolen from you and your family. It is the law!

If you have questions or believe that your company is in violation of the Davis Bacon Act, contact the Contracting Officer for your project, or call Brett Johnson (402) 980-7596.

Drop us a line!
bjohnson@ibew22.org

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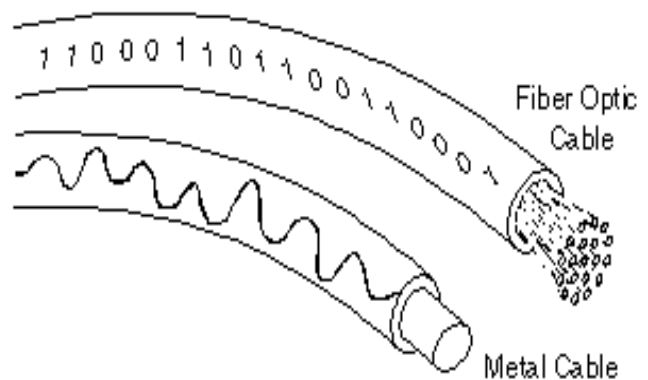
Remember, They Can't Do It Without You!

Fiber Optics

Fiber optics is a technology that uses glass (or plastic) threads (fibers) to transmit data. A fiber optic cable consists of a bundle of glass threads, each of which is capable of transmitting messages modulated onto light waves.

Fiber optics has several advantages over traditional metal communications lines:

- ◆ Fiber optic cables have a much greater bandwidth than metal cables. This means that they can carry more data.
- ◆ Fiber optic cables are less susceptible than metal cables to interference.
- ◆ Fiber optic cables are much thinner and lighter than metal wires.
- ◆ Data can be transmitted digitally (the natural form for computer data) rather than analogically.



The main disadvantage of fiber optics is that the cables are expensive to install. In addition, they are more fragile than wire and are difficult to splice.

Fiber optics is a particularly popular technology for local area-networks. In addition, telephone companies are steadily replacing traditional telephone lines with fiber optic cables. In the future, almost all communications will employ fiber optics.