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It seems like just yesterday when I sat down to write my first article as your President-Business Manager; it’s been a busy three years. I’ll start this article the same way as my first. On behalf of your elected Officers, Executive Board Members, Unit Officers, and Delegates I’d like to thank you for your support. We can’t do it without you.

I’d also like to thank my staff, our clerical staff represented by UFCW 881, your Business Representatives, Chief/Area Stewards, and Shop Stewards. They all play pivotal roles in the day to day operations of our Local. I’ve tried to assemble a group that brings different viewpoints, experience and skills to the table so all of you are represented fairly and we can become a stronger union.

We’ve spent these past three years doing a lot of clean-up and believe me, we recognize there are issues that still need to be addressed. Much of what we accomplished are things members don’t see: strengthening our finances, updating our antiquated computer systems, and reviewing our contracts, just to name a few. Enough about the past, it’s time to bury it and build upon the foundation we’ve fortified.

I’d like to spend the next three years working on getting all of you more involved. Many members have become more engaged and are making a difference. You all have voices, I need you to make them heard. Your participation makes it easier for my staff to represent you. If you have a workplace grievance, stand behind your steward in letting management know they are being unfair. If your boss is a bully, fight back. Let them know if you pick on one of us, you will have to deal with all of us.

I appreciate all of you who have become involved politically. With the attack on worker’s rights intensifying in Illinois, we must all do our part to avoid the fate our Sisters and Brothers in Wisconsin, Indiana and other Midwest states are experiencing. The other side has seemingly unlimited wealth in their attempt to destroy us. If we all do our part we will have the power to defeat them.

The key to our Union is you! Finding ways to increase members’ participation in our union is one of the biggest hurdles we need to overcome. There is no simple answer. We are all busy, we have families, outside activities, and some are just disillusioned, but together we must find a solution. All options are on the table.

As I’ve said time and time again, we are a strong Local with a proud membership, and we can become more powerful and achieve greater gains by standing together as a united membership. We are all in this together and together we will get things done. Solidarity!
Join Us For a Night of Family Fun!

I’d like to welcome you and your family to “A Night of Bowling and Family Fun” hosted by the Michael A. Kunas Memorial Fund. The fundraiser to assist our Sister Jacqueline Thomas will be at Diversey Bowl in Chicago on Saturday, September 26, 2015.

Please join us! Tickets are only $30 per bowler including shoe rental; non-bowling tickets are $15, both include pizza, pop and a limited open bar. Registration begins at 4:30 with bowling from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Please come out with your loved ones and have a great time with your union brothers and sisters.

50/50 Raffle

We are once again holding our 50/50 raffle. Tickets are $5 or $20 for 5. Last year’s winner won over $3,000!

By Jacquie Fields, Treasurer

City of Chicago 911 OEMC Dispatcher Jacqueline Thomas, who is suffering from a brain debilitating injury caused by West Nile virus, will receive a portion of the proceeds. Her benefits have been depleted, and she could really use our help. This is the truest form of what Michael Kunas stood for, going above and beyond to help those in need, especially fellow Local 21 members.

Get Your Tickets

Contact your Chief Steward or Business Representative to purchase both raffle and bowling tickets or call Barb in the Union Hall at 630.960.4466 ext. 237. We are certain with your participation this benefit will be a memorable event. We thank you in advance for your support.

Early Activism Leads to Presidency

On June 1st Ed Hill retired as our International President. In a brief email to his staff, Hill said, “After much thought and reflection, I concluded it was the right time for the next generation of IBEW leadership to come to the fore.” President Hill helped guide the IBEW forward during tough economic times. Our Union grew as a result of Hill’s innovative organizing, and membership development initiatives, and a commitment to excellence.

Illinois’ very own, Brother Lonnie Stephenson, Vice President of the IBEW’s Sixth District is our new leader. Lonnie started his apprenticeship in 1976 with Rock Island Local 145 as an inside wireman. He became active in his local and was elected vice president in 1984 and president in 1987. Less than a decade later, he was elected business manager, a position he held until his appointment as International Representative in 2002. He became Sixth District VP in 2010.

When the news about Lonnie becoming president started circling around the Local 21 office and other locals most could be heard saying he was a good choice. Over the past few years I’ve had the opportunity to attend various 6th District conferences and I began to think that someday Lonnie might make a good I.O. president. Every time I heard him speak I realized he “got it”, he understood the challenges we faced and no matter what if we worked together we would find a way to get through them. I hope my gut feeling is right.

When hearing the story Lonnie has told about how he started out as an IBEW apprentice and after reading his bio I think there is a lesson we all can learn. The reason for his success is because of his involvement early in his career. I’m sure back then he never thought it would lead to him becoming president and he did it because his mentors taught him the importance of being an active member. We all can’t become president but if we all get involved imagine the great things we all could accomplish.

By Bob Przybylinski, Recording Secretary
Many of you are aware, Illinois’ self-appointed dictator is very busy trying to live up to his campaign promises to take on the state’s “evil, corrupt Union bosses,” but even I didn’t think the Governor would resort to economic extortion to advance his anti-working family agenda. He’s taken his “Turn Around Illinois” initiative on the road to every city, town and municipality. His cohorts are looking to garner local support for such things like Right to Work (for less) and doing away with Project Labor Agreements and Common Construction Wages. He knows he doesn’t have a snowball’s chance in hell of accomplishing these things through the normal legislative process in Springfield due to the Labor friendly super majorities in the State House and Senate.

Most alarming is the way he’s bullying municipalities to hold hearings and pass his agenda. He’s threatening to withhold vital state tax receipts, money used to fund local governments day to day operations (police, fire, schools, public works) if they don’t bow down to his commands.

Newsflash Governor: you were elected to represent the people of the ENTIRE state, not just the chosen few, inner-circle corporate interests that you’ve proven to be so fond of. You are no longer a predatory hedge/equity fund manager, you are a Public Servant now, start acting like one!

Many thanks go out to the true warriors taking the lead in the fight, House Speaker Madigan and Senate President Cullerton and many others. For the most part, we’ve been able to collectively fend off or marginalize the Governor’s insanely radical agenda by attending and voicing our concerns at these town hall meetings. You have no idea how effective the mobilization has proven to be. It shows that anything is possible but only if we get engaged and stand up for our beliefs.

While it absolutely pains me to say it because it goes against every ounce of my being, I’d like to thank the Governor! Not since the late 1970’s when I was a young, punk steelworker just out of high school have I seen the Labor movement so unified in one common cause. During his entire campaign, he stood there giving us all the finger. Now he is dishing out the pain. I guess, sometimes you have to feel it before you truly realize something’s wrong and you must do something. It shouldn’t come as a surprise folks that time is now. It’s time to show him what we’re capable of by returning the favor each and every chance we get!

I hope the message of getting involved and having your voice heard resonates with all of you. Til next time, take care and GOD Bless!
Welcome Lake County 911 Dispatchers

On May 1, 2015 we delivered a petition to the Commissioners of Lake County Indiana asking for recognition of the police, fire and emergency service dispatchers. This action took place after collecting a majority of signatures from dispatchers who want to be represented by IBEW Local Union 21. The dispatchers are currently going through a consolidation of approximately 18 community call centers into one state mandated county dispatch office.

The petition was filed in accordance with county ordinance 1199B that outlines the process for county government employees to organize. We worked with county officials on the election process. I’m proud to say they won their election. The dispatchers are excited about having a voice in their future, especially regarding the consolidation that has been postponed more than once. The dispatchers protect the county’s citizens every day; we look forward to working with the commissioners to negotiate the wages, benefits and working conditions the dispatchers truly deserve.

A big thank you goes out to the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, IBEW Locals 697 and 153 who helped us in our efforts. You can find more information, and show your support for the dispatchers on their Facebook page IBEW21forLakeCounty911.

A Voice Counts

“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful” - Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is a female education rights activist, and she is very accurate in her quote. In every organization, there are those who have a voice and then there are those who want a voice, but are not really sure how to make their voice heard. For those seeking that voice in and out of the work place, Renew 21 would like to offer a helping hand on finding your inner voice.

IBEW 21 has a variety of members who come from all walks of life and not all have union backgrounds. The primary goal for our organization, Renew 21, is to focus on our members, young and seasoned, who seek to have a voice in our Local and want to get involved to make a difference. Renew, which stands for, “Reach out and Engage Next generation Electrical Workers” looks to promote and support that voice. The Renew organization aims to empower and teach the future labor movement leaders the importance of unity, family, community and solidarity.

The Renew and Next Up conferences in March, did just that. I attended with the leaders of Renew 21 and we learned how the labor movement has touched the lives of many of our fellow brothers and sisters both in the IBEW, and those in other unions around the world. Every union is faced with different trials and tribulations that they deal with on a daily basis, however, the commonality among all the organizations is involving young members in the labor movement.

At the conferences we committed an entire day to the community, from replacing light fixtures to marching with fellow Union brothers and sisters for better working wages (Fight for 15). We witnessed young workers stepping up and fighting for what they knew was right. We got a chance to make our voice count and be heard. We listened to a wide range of stories our brothers and sisters shared about their everyday struggles, which included race, ethnicity, gender and age. Things that would have gone unheard, had we not shared our voices.

Renew 21 is urging our young, and seasoned members: don’t let your voices go unheard, step up and be the one who makes that difference. If you are interested in participating in our Local’s Renew 21 organization or you need more information, talk to your designated Renew committee member at your monthly Unit meetings. We will have sign-up sheets at union meetings. Like us on Facebook at RENEW 21.
Navigating JOBS

IBEW 21 members are able to self-nominate for available job openings using the Non-management staffing system in HR Onestop (JOBS). There are two ways to access the website. To apply for a new job start at the HR Onestop home page, do a quick reference under “J” for JOBS (Job Opportunities Broadcast System). Search for non-management jobs and then click the link to Midwest wireline. Otherwise, you can use your home computer and use Access.att.com. You will need your AT&T user ID and your global password.

There are several important things to remember when nominating for an open position.

1. Every employee has their own staffing profile that consists of your work history and some training information. However, individual skills will vary for each employee, so you must update your own personal skill set. I suggest that you review your staffing profile at least annually to update any new skills you have learned over the previous year. An example would be, but not limited to, any formal education courses.

2. When considering applying for a new position or the same job title in a different location you’ll want to look at the Job Brief for important information. The Job Brief lists the “desired skills” along with “testing needed” to get the job. Having the “desired skills” listed on your job profile is key to being given consideration for the new position. For example: You may currently hold a job title and are just looking to relocate to a new location with that same job title. If the desired skills on the job brief don’t match your profile, you may be overlooked.

3. All skills MUST be updated prior to applying for any new position. That is why it’s so important to read the job brief for the new position or location. Updated skills won’t be considered if you have already nominated yourself for the job requisition.

4. The company assigns you points through the staffing process. Most senior employees are given an automatic 25 extra points in addition to the points achieved for having the desired skills.

5. Time on assignment (TOA) is required in your current position before you are able to apply for a new position. Each non-management job title has a TOA associated with it. Time on assignment information is shown in a job brief. It’s good information to learn how long you are required to work in your current position or in the job you are applying for before you can self-nominate again. There are different Time on Assignment requirements for different positions.

6. If you are considering applying for a new position you must also maintain satisfactory job performance.

7. The Staffing process has separate set of Attendance / Tardiness guidelines compared to the existing attendance policy.

An employee can’t have: incidental absences of more than four occurrences or 4 days in the last 12 month period which are not covered under FMLA; two disability occurrences in two years, or three occurrences in five years, or if disabilities equal 10% of the employee’s scheduled work days in the last five years which are not covered under FMLA; more than six tardies of five minutes or more in the last 12 month period.

8. Depending on the number of applications for a position, you may not be contacted to test for the job. As an example, if a job requisition is listed for 3 openings and there are 70 potential candidates for that job opening, AT&T won’t test all 70 nominees. It will start with the senior most qualified candidate to take the test until the three openings are filled.

continued on page 7
I would like to recognize our stewards for their involvement and dedication to our union. At the May Unit 3 meeting, 36 of our stewards attended. It was a great showing and it is truly appreciated; your efforts do not go unnoticed. Your dedication and hard work helps make my job and Chief Steward Mike Andel’s a lot easier.

Finally, a note to our membership...GET INVOLVED! There is a lot going on in our Local. From state politics to organizing efforts, our job as good union members doesn’t stop when we go home for the day. There is always more work that can be done to strengthen Local 2 1. You can start by attending your monthly unit meeting. Show your solidarity in your garages by wearing your union buttons, displaying your union bumper sticker proudly on your company vehicle, and getting together in the morning before the workday starts. Doing these things will make your work location a better place, and make our Local stronger. Our strength is a direct result of our solidarity!

Safety is a major concern in all departments. On the job injuries and motor vehicle accidents are on the rise. We must commit to making safety our number one goal. Monthly meetings are held in all departments to address safety concerns. On a quarterly basis, I meet with the company as part of the joint company/union safety committee. Safety should be everyone’s number one concern.

We’ve had seventeen dismissal panels in our area since October. On a positive note, we successfully returned more than half of the affected members to work. Thanks to Article 12 we have the right to fight for our membership. As our stewards continue to process grievances, we are working to settle them at the second and third steps of the grievance process.

I’ve been appointed to oversee the U-verse preference process. We’ve made positive changes to the agreement and it seems to be working well, allowing over 180 members to move closer to their homes. See your stewards if you have questions on the process. I am now receiving updates when Premise Tech hiring is being done to ensure the process is working correctly. Please make sure to keep your preference choices current.

Navigating JOBS (continued from page 6)

9. Unfortunately, AT&T doesn’t follow up with all of the candidates. You may apply for a job opening and never hear any type of response. If you are curious as to why there was no response, you can reach out to your chief steward or business rep to verify your nomination was received and the reasons why you may have been overlooked.

Document the job requisition number and the date you applied for it. You should also receive a confirmation that your application was accepted for consideration.

Lastly, job openings are only posted for 7 days; the posting date and end date are listed in the job requisition.
On May 20th workers from the Chicago Cortland and Comcast West facilities attended the company’s shareholders meeting in Philadelphia. They informed CEO Brian Roberts about their struggles. They are frustrated by their working conditions and each of them was clear about the financial struggle they are facing because of the company’s bargaining tactics.

One brother expressed, “It has been nearly 2 years since our Cortland contract expired and almost 3 years since my brothers and sisters received our last wage increase, but you sir, have been getting your raises and that’s not right, it’s not right.”

Another worker spoke out, “I love what I do and value what I do, but the lack of respect and concern for us and our families shows that we are not valued. We’re treated like the black-sheep of the family.” Shockwaves traveled throughout the meeting as our members told their stories of personal struggle.

They demanded CEO Roberts to become personally involved. At the conclusion of the meeting, shareholders greeted the workers and encouraged them to not give up their fight. In the past 15 years I have never seen such support from the shareholders. One shareholder blasted Roberts over his pay, estimated at 542 times greater than his workers.

In February, the National Labor Relation Board (NLRB) ruled against Comcast and sustained Local 21’s bad-faith bargaining charge. A bargaining order settlement was reach in March with the NLRB requiring Comcast to bargain in good-faith for a minimum of 6 months. The Comcast West contract expired April 30th, now both units are working under a contract extension.

In unity we stand and in unity we prevail!

OEMC Members Could be Next

So by now, you should be clear on who Governor Rauner is, he’s an anti-worker union buster! This was made very clear in his executive orders to eliminate union rights and his attempt to create right to work zones. After those failures, in May, the Illinois House voted unanimously against a right to work bill.

To be clear, we are very fortunate in Illinois. Unions and other worker family organizations have done a supreme job electing candidates who support legislation that reflects the views of working families, however not all workers share this understanding. Many members voted against their own interests by voting for Rauner.

The governor also supports laws allowing local municipalities and school districts to file for bankruptcy. If that were to happen, government employees like our sisters and brothers at the City of Chicago 911 OEMC Center would be forced to renegotiate their contract/pension agreement; a court appointed judge would have the power to strip pensions and lower wages and benefits. Governor Rauner is making it clear Springfield won’t help Chicago.

Next year will be a trying time for our City of Chicago members in Bargaining Unit 2 as they enter contract negotiations. The bargaining committee won’t be able to get the job done alone. With the tremendous challenges that lie ahead we must be prepared to call our elected officials, picket, and do what is necessary to keep what has been bargained over the last 30 years. If we don’t get involved, we will become like Wisconsin, Indiana, or even Alabama where employees have no rights.

“In the end it’s not the words of our enemy we remember, but the silence of our friends” - Dr. Martin Luther King

Comcast members make their voices heard at the company’s shareholder’s meeting in Philadelphia.

Jerry Rankins, Business Representative
I’d like to thank President – Business Manager Paul Wright for the opportunity to serve Local 21 as a Business Representative. I’m sure it will be challenging, and I’m grateful for the trust he has placed in me. I was very saddened by the passing of former Business Representative Mike McCormick. It is with a solemn and heavy heart that I take up the responsibility for the area that was his for so long. He will be missed.

In a way, it feels like a return to an area that I’ve known for quite a while. In that spirit, let me start my time as a Business Rep with a call for a return to the basics of unionism: safety and solidarity. You have the right to a safe workplace; please don’t allow outside concerns for things such as “numbers” or your boss’s pressure make you cut corners or get distracted from the basic fact that your safety is the number one priority on any jobsite.

A union derives its strength from the solidarity of its members; it’s no surprise that employers will sometimes do what they can to create division. Please take a moment to consider that we shouldn’t allow arbitrary management decisions to divide us. The employees to either side of you are not the ones who make the decisions about work assignments, distribution of overtime, work schedules, rules, or discipline.

I look forward to working with Paul Waters to represent the members of our Local to the best of my ability. I will be seeing you at your locations soon.

Mike Grindle,
Business Representative

I’d like to start by congratulating both Heather Brown and Mike Grindle. With Mike’s promotion to Business Representative, Heather who was recently promoted, will be covering the northern part of my area. I wish Mike the best of luck in his new endeavors. I’m excited to have the opportunity to work with Heather; she’s already demonstrated so much enthusiasm.

With Dennis McCafferty and Heather’s dedication to our membership, and their leadership roles in both RENEW and COPE, our Union is well represented. Their fresh perspectives and involvement with these committees broaden Local 21’s impact on quality of life issues within the labor movement and working class families like ours. They both encourage and welcome your participation in these committees; they always recognize the volunteers who have sacrificed their valuable time. It is because of that desire and commitment that we are growing stronger as a Union.

As a result of the realignment, our next stewards’ meeting will be combined to include both Heather and Dennis’s stewards. Going forward, this restructure will diversify the opinions across the Local, promote open communication and the free expression of new ideas that will help build solidarity!

Local 21 Members help kids from the Mercy Home at the Southside St. Pat’s Parade.
The Haymarket Affair

After the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, in the mid-1800s, it took about 80 years of bloody struggle before workers in the United States won the right to organize and bargain collectively. Since the ascendancy of the Reagan Movement in 1980, it’s taken just 30 years to almost dismantle the U.S. Labor Movement.

On May 1st, people around the world celebrate workers’ rights and an event that happened right here on May 4, 1884. You might not have learned about the Haymarket Affair in high school, even though it happened on the fringe of Chicago’s downtown at Randolph and Des Plaines.

In the 19th century people worked six days a week; long days of 10-12 hours were common. Company owners and the government failed to enforce an 1867 Federal law mandating an 8 hour workday for Illinois and Federal workers. Employers made employees waive their rights as a condition of employment. A national movement rose up.

After two years of planning, the idea of an 8 hour day caught fire. A national day of demonstration was called for May 1, 1886. Organized by Lucy Parsons and others, 80,000 workers marched peacefully down Michigan Ave. Two days later, police gunned down workers picketing at the McCormick Reaper Works, at 30th and Blue Island. This was the seminal event that led to the Haymarket Rally on the evening of May 4th.

Labor friendly Mayor Carter Harrison gave permission for a rally to be held. That rainy, damp night fewer than 2,500 people attended out of an expected 20,000. When little more than 100 people remained, and the meeting was mostly over, 176 Chicago policemen, with repeating rifles attacked the crowd.

A person unknown to this day threw a bomb. It was the first use of dynamite as a bomb during peacetime. Panicked policemen fired recklessly in the dark. Seven policemen were killed, only one attributed to the bomb. Many were shot by their fellow officers.

The response of the ownership class was swift and draconian. Martial law was declared nationwide. A cross-section of labor leaders and known Socialists were rounded up, eight were arrested; some hadn’t been near the rally and others left before the fracas.

The trial was one of the greatest injustices in world history. The Chicago Tribune newspaper offered payments to the handpicked jurors if they convicted the defendants. On August 20, 1886, a sentence of death by hanging was returned against seven of the men, the other received a 15 year hard labor sentence.

Louis Linng was found dead in his cell from an exploded blasting cap the day before the hanging. Adolph Fischer, George Engle, Albert Parsons and August Spies were hung on November 11, 1887. Illinois Governor Peter Altgeld, in 1893, acknowledge the rigged process, pardoned the three men who were still alive, and condemned the judicial process responsible for the injustice.
## UNIT MEETINGS

Get involved—attend an upcoming Union Meeting!

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<td>8101 W. Higgins, Chicago, IL 773-867-0000</td>
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<td>708-687-9323</td>
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<td>495 Airport Rd. Elgin, IL 847-488-9000</td>
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<tr>
<td>IBEW Local #309</td>
<td>IBEW Local #146</td>
<td>IBEW Local #649</td>
<td>4015 Humbert Rd. Alton, IL 618-462-1627</td>
<td>140 S Morrison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>3390 N. Woodford St. Decatur, IL 217-877-4604</td>
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<td>Central City Lions Club</td>
<td>140 S Morrison</td>
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## FRONTLINE

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 21, AFL-CIO

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Comments and articles are welcome and should be sent to the editors. Local 21 reserves the right to edit submissions, and to use items as space allows.

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A Night of Bowling and Family FUN

A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT OUR 911 SISTER JACQUELINE THOMAS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

Registration: 4:30 p.m • 5:30 - 7:30 Bowling

Diversey Bowl • 2211 W. Diversey Pkwy, Chicago

$30/Bowler (includes pizza, pop and shoe rental)
$15/Non-Bowler (pizza & pop)

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RAFFLE TICKETS: 50/50 raffle tickets: $5 per ticket or $20 for 5 (winner need not be present to win)

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The Michael A. Kunas Memorial Fund is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. It has been determined that $17 of your total bowling registration fee of $30 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.