ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 146 DECATUR IL.

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⭐Regular Union Meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting at 6:00PM⭐

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I am happy to report that work continues to remain strong throughout our jurisdiction, with several projects keeping our members busy and additional opportunities on the horizon. The remainder of 2026 looks strong, and 2027 is shaping up to be just as promising

The Illinois EPA has officially approved the final permit for the 418 MW Broadwing Energy Center in Decatur. This is a significant milestone for the project; as initial construction is already underway, the final IEPA permit now clears the way for vertical construction to begin. Archkey/Sachs has been awarded the initial temporary power work and expects to bring on a handful of electricians in the near future to get started on their portion of the project.

The $50 million Heritage Behavioral Health project has been awarded to Bodine. The project will be completed in three phases, with an anticipated completion timeline of approximately two and a half years. The new science building at Eastern Illinois University has also been awarded; however, the overall project costs have exceeded the construction budget for the project. The university is currently working with the state to secure the additional funding needed to cover the shortfall. Initial reports are encouraging, and it appears the State and EIU are making progress toward an agreement to secure the additional funding needed to cover the difference.
Renewable energy projects continue to provide significant work opportunities throughout our jurisdiction. The Spring Creek Solar Farm is expected to significantly increase manpower after the first of the year, with JF Electric handling the electrical portion of the project and 3 Phase Electric performing the PV module sets. The Shelby NW project, with Van Ert Electric, will also need additional manpower to bring the project to completion by early 2027. The Glacier Moraine Solar project is expected to begin ramping up shortly, with JF Electric serving as the primary electrical contractor. Hercules Solar Farm in Fayette County has been progressing slowly but is still anticipated to get moving in the near future. Additionally, we have met with another solar developer to discuss plans for approximately 250 MW of additional solar development across several areas of our jurisdiction. The developer would like to get these projects underway sometime in 2027.

The 41st IBEW International Convention concluded at the end of September, with several notable changes approved regarding Per Capita and the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) over the next five years. Beginning July 1, 2027, monthly Per Capita, that is paid to the General Fund, will increase by $1 each year for five consecutive years. The PBF contribution will also increase beginning July 1, 2027, with a $1 increase on that date and an additional $1 increase on July 1, 2029.

Effective Date:	7/1/2027	7/1/2028	7/1/2029	7/1/2030	7/1/2031
Per Capita:	$25.00	$26.00	$27.00	$28.00	$29.00
Pension Fund:	$24.00	$24.00	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00
Total:	$49.00	$50.00	$52.00	$53.00	$54.00

With these increases, there are several benefits that members will see as a result of the changes approved at the International Convention. Effective January 1, 2027, members retiring after December 31, 2026, will receive a normal pension benefit of $5.50 per month for each full year of continuous "A" membership, dating back to the beginning of your initial qualifying year. This represents an improvement over the changes approved at the 2022 Convention, which provided a $5.50 monthly benefit increase for each year of continuous good standing in the "A" membership, beginning in 2023 and continuing through your retirement date.

In addition to the PBF increase, International Death Benefits will also increase effective January 1, 2027. The normal (natural cause) death benefit will increase from $6,250 to $6,750, while the accidental death benefit will increase from $12,500 to $13,500. The minimum death benefit for members who retire under the normal, early, or disability pension provisions will also increase from $3,000 to $3,250.

The Fall Health & Welfare and Pension meeting has recently wrapped up, bringing several updates regarding our benefit plans. The Pension Plan's overall financial position remains strong. The increased hours being contributed to the plan has helped it maintain solid financial footing. If the Pension Plan continues to achieve its assumed rate of return, the projections are that the Plan could reach fully funded status by 2029–2030. The Pension Trustees voted to approve the continuation of the 600-hour rule for 2027, under the same conditions that were in place for 2026.

On the Health & Welfare side, the Trustees approved increases to the Base, Alternative, and Single Alternative plans to help keep pace with rising healthcare costs. Effective June 1, 2027, the Base Plan will increase by $0.25, the Alternative Plan by $0.15, and the Single Alternative Plan by $0.10. The Base Plan will also see additional increases of $0.25 on June 1, 2028, and June 1, 2029.

These increases are necessary to address the continued rise in medical and prescription drug costs, along with a substantial increase in high-cost claims. To put this into perspective, during fiscal year 2025, the Fund had three claimants with expenses exceeding $1 million, totaling $4.7 million, and another 13 claimants with expenses between $500,000 and $999,999, totaling $9.1 million. With two months still remaining in this fiscal year, the Fund has already had five claimants exceed $1 million, accounting for more than $5.7 million in claims, and 21 claimants with expenses between $500,000 and $999,999, totaling $14.7 million. Combined, these increases represent an additional $6.6 million in claims compared to fiscal year 2025. Covering this additional $6.6 million in claims would require more than 745,000 man-hours of work alone.

Despite the increase in costs, we were able to make several improvements to the Plan's benefits. The dental maximum will increase to $2,000 annually from the previous $1,500 per year. Additionally, the Fund has adopted TruHearing as its hearing benefit provider, increasing the available benefit to $1,650 from $1,250 per ear every five years.

We also improved the coverage provisions for members who use a CPAP or BiPAP machine. Members may now obtain a replacement machine in less than five years when medically necessary, provided the request is approved through the Fund's utilization review process.

I am happy to announce that the Apprenticeship officially closed on its new training facility on October 16! This is a major step forward for our training program and the future of our Local. Work is now underway to finalize the building design, with the goal of beginning construction as soon as possible. Our hope is to have the new facility completed and ready to welcome the Fall 2027 apprenticeship class.

I would also like to remind everyone to take a moment to make sure your death benefit payments are up to date. This is one of the most meaningful ways we can help support our fellow members and their families during some of life's most difficult times.

I want to wish all of our members and their families a safe and happy holiday season!



Justin

In Memoriam

Rodney D. Reed passed away on September 30th, 2026. He was a 47 year member of the IBEW.
Russell "Leroy" Cain passed away on October 4th, 2026. He was a 61 year member of the IBEW.

May we offer our condolences to the family and friends of our brothers and sisters.

May we always cherish the memories.

Announcements

October 31st — **Bailyn & Tabby Richards Married (Son of Lynn Richards)**



November

Tuesday 3rd Retiree's Lunch
Tuesday 10th Union Meeting 6:00PM
Thursday 19th JATC Meeting 4:00PM
Tuesday 24th E-Board Meeting 5:00PM

December



Tuesday 1st Retiree's Lunch
Saturday 5th Local #146 Christmas Party
Tuesday 8th Union Meeting 6:00PM
Thursday 17th JATC Meeting 4:00PM
Tuesday 22nd E-Board Meeting 6:00PM

10th-16th DON'T FORGET TO RE-SIGN







2026 Holidays

The Union Office, METC and Credit Union will be closed in observance of the following holidays.

Thanksgiving Day	**Thursday, November 26th**
Veterans Day (in lieu of November 11th)	**Friday, November 27th**
Christmas Eve (Union Hall closing at Noon)	**Thursday, December 24th**
Christmas Day	**Friday, December 25th**
New Year's Eve (Union Hall closing at Noon)	**Thursday, December 31st**
New Year's Day	**Friday, January 1st, 2027**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

DON'T FORGET

The $30 Death Benefit Assessment is due by December 31st, 2026

IMPORTANT

UPDATE Beneficiary

It's always a good idea to review your beneficiary designations after a major life event, such as marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child. Regular reviews are also a wise decision simply because you may have changed your mind since first naming your beneficiaries.



IBEW Local #146
Annual Family Christmas Party
Saturday, December 5th, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

This event is open to **all** IBEW Local #146 members, apprentices, retirees and their immediate families. Children up through age 17 *in attendance* will receive a gift card.

Come celebrate the Spirit of Christmas in the Spirit of Brotherhood.

We ask that you complete the below confirmation and return it to the Union Office no later than **Monday, November 30th.**

(Please Print)

Member: _____

Spouse/Significant Other: _____

Total # of adults over 18 years of age: _____
Total # of children under 18 years of age: _____

List names and ages of all children attending under 18 years of age.

Name	Age	Name	Age

You may RSVP via phone or email as well. Please include the number of attending and ages if applicable.

(217) 877-4604 Ext. 5 **Sarah@ibew146.com**

Job Referral Bid Line Open - 4:30PM to 7:00AM

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