

LIVE WIRE



IBEW 602 NEWSLETTER

3rd Quarter 2025

Message from the Business Manager:

Greetings Sisters and Brothers!

It's been a wild year — five contracts to negotiate and ratify. Whew! I've said it many times before: this is the hardest job I have ever attempted. This year has weighed especially heavy, with so much happening — data centers, outside line construction, SPS issues, and world economics all coming into play.

Eleven years now of giving this job my heart. Each year seems to get harder as I learn more, understand more, and continue working to earn the best for every bargaining unit in Local 602.

We have seven bargaining units: Inside Amarillo, Inside Lubbock, Outside Construction, SPS, Savage, West Texas Building Trades, and Pantex. We negotiate six of those contracts. I've always worked to educate as much as possible, and lately, I've heard some comments that made me think this might be a good opportunity to explain a bit more about how the negotiations process works and the differences between each unit.

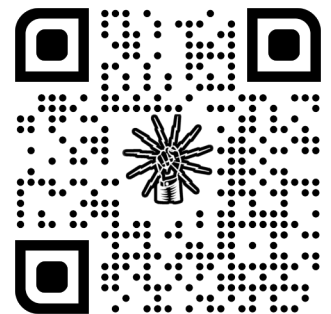
Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Message from the BM
- Asst. BM Corner (3)
- Dues Summary (4)
- Benefit Info (5)
- Service Recognition (6)
- Construction Reports (7)
- Utility (8)
- General News (9)
- Good of the Union (10)
- Apprenticeship (11)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **New Veteran Portal**
(veterans.ibew602.org)
- **Christmas Parties**
Amarillo - Dec. 12th
Lubbock - Dec. 13th
(ibew602.org/christmas)
- **Fresh Shirt Designs**
Arriving in...pg.9
- **Member Spotlight**
Chandra Guest



IBEW602.ORG



Members can lend support to the Brotherhood Fund anytime, which helps brothers and sisters facing unexpected hardships.

venmo
@IBEW602

Use **Venmo** to send your contributions to **@IBEW602** and be sure to include **"Brotherhood Fund"** in the note.



Every dollar makes a difference.

MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER (Cont. From Front Page)

Both of the **Inside Construction** contracts (Amarillo and Lubbock) include CIR (Council on Industrial Relations) — a panel made up of six members from NECA and the IBEW who hear a case when negotiations at the table reach a standstill.

I've heard the frustration from many members about why we can't get data center wages. The reality is that CIR will only bring you up to the national average. CIR exists mainly to help when contractors are lowballing locals during bargaining.

Locals that have large Intel or Facebook projects in their jurisdiction — where those companies pay premium wages to attract a workforce — have tried for years to win those higher rates through CIR, but none have ever been awarded them. We pushed extremely hard in our negotiations, and I did use CIR to raise our contractors to the national average — which came out to about a \$2 increase per year. That's what everyone else around us was getting as well.

I wish there were a way to get those higher wages, but the truth is, no matter who holds the office in any IBEW local, this is the best result anyone can achieve through CIR. That's just a hard truth every business manager learns.

Outside Construction also uses CIR, but in our jurisdiction, contractors aren't paying our scale. They've been paying the scales from other Outside Locals such as 66, 47, 1260, and 769 — which are all higher.

If we had negotiated a \$3 or \$4 wage increase in our contract, it would've meant nothing but a "paper raise." Members wouldn't have seen an actual increase on their checks since they're already being paid overscale.

Instead, we focused on something that would truly benefit everyone — retirement. In this year's contract, we finally secured an increase to the NEAP (the retirement contribution fully paid by contractors) from 16% to 18%. That's something tangible every member gains from this negotiation. It took three contracts to get it, but this year we did.

Savage has Arbitration, which, like CIR, will never award more than the national average. Every business manager is taught by the I.O. that you'll never get a better deal than what you can negotiate at the table.

While we didn't achieve large GWI raises this time, we did secure something extremely rare in this industry — a strong severance package, especially important since Savage is set to close in December 2028.

The **West Texas Building Trades** (WTXBCTC) and **SPS** contracts are the only two that include a strike clause, which makes them the toughest to negotiate.

As a business manager, you work constantly to build solidarity for the day you might have to ask members to stand a strike line. Two key questions have to be answered:

Do we have enough members to maintain at least 80% strike participation?

Can a strike actually hurt the company's ability to do business?

This is where I feel the greatest weight of responsibility. Between contracts and during negotiations, you push membership and committees to show strength — to prove that we can stand together, fight, and demand more than what's offered at the table.

During the process, a business manager must decide when to push and when to protect. If you see 80–90% member fortitude, you push! But if not, you must know when to move from pushing to protecting.

I like to use a racing analogy: you've spent all year preparing your racecar for the championship. Race day comes — is your car ready? If it is, you push the gas. But if the carburetor's off, the transmission's slipping, or the steering's loose, can that car really win? There's no second-place trophy — only winner takes all.

I fully understand the desire to stand up to a company and say, "This won't cut it!" But every decision comes with consequences. A business manager's duty is to protect the membership — usually from company overreach and greed. Sometimes that means protecting even when the membership isn't strong enough to strike.

When I say this is the hardest job I've ever had, these are the moments that define "between a rock and a hard place." Every business manager learns this through trial by fire. Every decision we make, good or bad, has a price that the bargaining unit will pay.

I invite anyone who wants to try this job — come on! The only way to truly understand what I'm saying is to walk a mile in these shoes.

I've always fought with everything I have for the members of this local, and I'll continue to do so until the day I leave this office. Not all decisions are popular. Not all are met with "attaboys." But every single one has consequences — good and bad.

MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER (Cont.)

I take a long look at every decision before I make it. I ask members, I ask I.O. reps, I ask other business managers. There's no training manual for this job — only experience and trial by fire.

After 11 years, I've never felt a harder year than this one.

I wear my heart on my sleeve and believe passionately in this Local — and I always will.

In solidarity,

Robert Melton

Business Manager / Financial Secretary

ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We have grown tremendously over the course of this year — and that momentum continues. In the last quarter alone, our membership has increased by an additional **161 members**. Not long ago, those were **annual** growth numbers. This is a clear sign that our Local is thriving.

Project Updates

- **Rosendin** has been slow to ramp up, but we currently have **just under 100 members** from Local 602 on the project. It's anticipated that by **year's end**, we'll need approximately **400 electricians**, and by **this time next year**, that number will grow to **over 3,000 electricians**.
 - Engineering on the client side has been slower than expected, and Rosendin is awaiting additional engineering work before putting further calls into the system.
- **Cache Valley Electric (CVE)** will be a subcontractor to Rosendin and is expected to begin work shortly after the first of the year. They've taken over the building from Beltline and are moving operations here specifically for this project. CVE will be paying **the same rates as Rosendin** when they begin putting in calls.
- **Other Signatory Contractors** have remained steady, submitting calls as needed. To date, we've successfully **filled every call** that has come through.

Outside Jurisdiction Work

The outside jurisdiction has **exploded** with new opportunities. As of this writing, we've received **over 30 new calls**, and we're working quickly to fill those positions. This surge demonstrates both our growing reputation and the demand for our skilled workforce.

Systems & Staffing

To keep pace with this growth, we've begun **upgrading our internal systems** to manage the increased workload more efficiently. We're approaching the testing phase and expect to have **positive updates by year's end**.

Growth comes with growing pains, and we've **expanded our staff** accordingly — with more additions expected — to ensure we can meet all of our commitments to you, our members.

Looking Ahead

This is truly an exciting time for Local 602. As we continue to grow and strengthen our presence, we're also **inspiring a new generation of electricians** — both experienced hands and brand-new apprentices — to join our ranks. We are proving once again that **IBEW 602 is home to the premier electricians in our industry**.

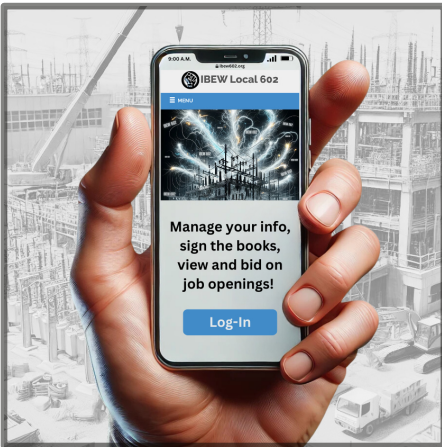
Our future is bright. My hope is that everyone outside our Local recognizes the opportunity to do better in this trade — and chooses to become productive union members of Local 602.

In solidarity,

Bill Bray

Assistant Business Manager

DUES SUMMARY



IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

Please update your info through the member portal or give us a call if you've changed your:

- Address
- Phone Number
- Email
- Beneficiary
- Job-site, Location or Steward, etc.

Amarillo Office:

(806) 376-9945

Lubbock Office:

(806) 744-4062

Fax:

(806) 376-9407

Staff Contacts:

Stephanie Pantoja,

Amarillo/Lubbock Office Mgr.
spantoja@ibew602.org

Malorie Moran,

Amarillo Office Assistant
mmoran@ibew602.org

Janette Martinez,

Amarillo Office Assistant
jmartinez@ibew602.org

Rita Sifuentes,

Lubbock Office Assistant
rsifuentes@ibew602.org

Monica Ramos,

Lubbock Office Assistant
mramos@ibew602.org

International	Current Amount
Per Capita (All Members)	\$24.00
Pension Fund (A Members Only)	\$23.00
Total:	\$47.00

LOCAL UNION PORTIONS:

Classification	Current Dues
Inside & Outside	\$5.50 + above rates(\$52.50)
Metal Trades	\$18.50 + above rates (\$65.50 A) (\$42.50 BA)
Savage	\$39.97 + above rates (\$63.97)
SPS/XCEL	\$82.52 + above rates (\$129.52 A) (\$106.52 BA)

You can pay your dues:

- **In Person**
- Through the Member Portal at **ibew602.org**
- Using the **LaborPower App** (Available on iOS & Android)
- By **calling the Hall**

Payment Fees:

Personal Check - **\$3.25 Flat Fee**

Credit Card by Phone - **3.50% Fee (Min \$2.95)**

Venmo - **1.9% + \$.010**

🕒 Payments made after 7:00 PM ET or on weekends/holidays will process the next business day.

INTERNATIONAL DEATH BENEFIT (A Members)

For Active Members (6+ mos. continuous good standing)

- \$6,250 — Death by natural causes
- \$12,500 — Death by accidental means

For Retired Members

- Minimum of \$3,000

⚠️ *No benefit if dues are more than 2 months past due or payment of death assessments is 30 days or more delinquent.*

If no beneficiary is named, the order of payout is:

Spouse, Children, Parents, Estate

Set-Off Clause: *If pension checks were issued after death and not returned, that amount will be subtracted from the death benefit.*

LOCAL DEATH BENEFITS

Billy B Bryant D402036 (#291)

Initiated on: 08/27/1972

Passed on: 08/30/2025

Aaron Roland 8637527 (#292)

Initiated on: 12/30/2024

Passed on: 09/03/2025

Percy Reid D211151 (#293)

Initiated on: 03/10/1961

Passed on: 09/05/2025

Gary L Ward D402100 (#294)

Initiated on: 04/08/1977

Passed on: 08/19/2025

Anthony Weary 7825095 (#295)

Initiated on: 08/27/1972

Passed on: 09/12/2025

*A death benefit notice was mailed to all participants.

👉 If you did not receive yours, please contact the Union Hall.

LOCAL DEATH BENEFITS

Each name listed on the previous page represents a valued member for whom a benefit was paid, recognizing their standing within the Brotherhood and the legacy they leave behind.

We remember them with gratitude and continue to uphold the values they stood for.

Visit ibew602.org/death-benefits for more information.

The following members are currently more than three (3) death benefits behind.

As stated in IBEW Local 602 By-laws, Article XII, Section 6:

"Any member who is 30 days or more delinquent in payment of death assessments, after being notified by mail, and death occurs, the beneficiary shall not receive the death benefit payment."

This means if something were to happen to you while delinquent, **your spouse, children, or other named beneficiary would not receive the death benefit**, which is currently valued at approximately **\$6,000**. Please review the list below and take immediate action if your name appears. If you have questions about your status or need assistance getting caught up, contact the Hall as soon as possible.

Apprentices

Aguilar, Juan Luis #267
Avila, Isaiah #258
Banda, Matthew #259
Black, Brayden #287
Bounds, Gavin #274
Bowen, Weston #269
Bowers, Nicholas #282
Brinlee, Nathan #262
Burris, Brendan #285
Carlisle, Kristian #286
Celaya, Isaiah #288
Compton, Kason #288
Davis, Paul #286
Deleon Jr, Armando #287
Dickinson, Jayten #284
Dykes, Coleman #274
Elder, Cristian #288
Fish, Adam #286
Gilbert Jr, Owen #286
Goen, Byron #287
Harris, Tristan #286
Hefner, Trenten #286
Hill, Harrison #270
Hudson, Baylen #288
Johnson, Christian #288
Joseph, Trevor #286
King, Nathan #285
Mackey, Luke #287
Martinez, Mark #288
Mendoza, Armando #287
Murphy, Andrew #287
Norris, Timothy #262
Nunn, Ashton #288
Padilla, Nathan #277
Piccolo, Frank #269
Pryor, Deven #269
Richardson, Keahjee #288
Rios, Joshua #252
Ross, Cordell #280
Stavenhagen, Tyson #288
Thompson, Matthew #288
Tovar, Julian #279
Trujillo, Ethan #287
Tummonds, Andrew #282
Valdez, Nicolas #286
Vaughn, Brock #288
Vega, Samantha #288
Wilborn, Kelly #274
Williams, Austin #275

Const. Electricians

Aguinaldo, Adam #274
Baker, Jeffrey #288
Banuelos, Frank #286
Chavarria, Ricardo #280
Chavez, Isaac #285
Davis, Dustin #288
Dompe-Yerger, Jamison #288
Guajardo, Joseph #282
Hall, Ashtin #280
Jaquez, Oliver #274
Karege, Obed #276
Loya, Troy #286
Martinez, Cesar #288
Orosco Sr, Enrique #237
Pacheco, Marco #280
Polite Jr, Roy #280
Rios, Jessie #286
Rivalta, Reinier #287
Rivers, Maison #286
Rodriguez, Yalienis #287
Sanchez, Evan #276
Sanchez, Marcus #287
Scott, Christerfer #288
Spurgeon, Corey #288
Van Gundy, Robert #276
Wells, Kaden #287
Yarbrough, Jonathon #267

Operators

Morelion, Louis #288
Peterson, Randy #284
Schwarz, Mark #287
Solis, Andrew #286
Szilagyi, Jeffrey #286

Groundmen

Mullenix III, Leroy #286

Trans Techs

Cardoza-Olivas, Oscar #288
Gonzales, Ricardo #286
Kimbrough, Justin #287
Mata Jr, Abelardo #288
Mueller, Jamie #286
Navarro, Ezequiel #286
Reyes Diaz, Mario #286
Zarate Nieves, Jose #287

Journeyman Linemen

Auffill, Kevin #254
Bejarano, Adam #269
Brown, Gregory #286
Cooper, Robert #286
Dalman, Joseph #287
Engel, Garret #286
Franks, Chad #286
Hargrove, Timothy #288
Hunsaker, Bryce #286
Pruitt, Randy #288
Reid, Craig #287
Reynolds, Anthony #276
Robason, Nathaniel #280
Rosario, Gerald #282
Solis, Javier Jr. #286
Swanson, Joshua #288
Travis, Garrett #268
Wolf, Christopher #287

Journeyman Wiremen

Avila Sr, John Paul #287
Benitez, Ricardo #288
Bieganowski, Evan #286
Blanco, Adam #269
Brown, Benjamin #288
Brown, Billy #274
Burroughs, Jesse #286
Carter, Talen #288
Castanon, Aurelio #269
Chavez, Josue #288
Chico, Miguel #287
Coursey, Bailey #276
Cunningham, Jacob #286
David, Byron #284
Dominguez, Diego #279
Ellis, Logan #285
Elsaesser, Mason #251
Ester, Jameson #285
Ethridge, Thomas #280
Ferris Jr, Donald #280
Fierro, Nathan #287
Ford, Richard #287
Fuller, Sidney #287
George, Trenton #252
Gomez III, Victor #286
Gonzalez, Carlos #286
Gonzalez Jr, Jaime #286
Gonzalez, Todd #288
Grinie, Eric #265

Journeyman Wiremen

Gutierrez, Brent #286
Healy, Leonard #226
Hendricks, Steven #276
Hughes, David #284
Hunt, Zachary #285
Jahnel, Carl #286
Kilman, Michael #258
Leblanc, Joseph #286
Lopez, Matthew #272
Madrid, Eduardo #263
Martinez, Johnathan #280
McCoy, Robert #287
McLaren, Craig #276
Miller, Moses #250
Mire, David #269
Molina, Blake #263
Morris, Richard #273
Mushrush, Eric #288
Nelson, Landry #261
Noonan, Andrew #251
Norris, Eric #282
Oneal, Jaxton #258
Pennington, Matthew #286
Phillips, Jimmy #286
Purcell, Robert #286
Read, Tristan #286
Rodriguez, Christopher #257
Roland, Treyton #278
Schalau, Waylon #286
Sluski, Cody #288
Smith, Jeff #286
Stanford, Jack #274
Stanley, Coleburn #282
Strohriegl, Patrick #281
Tatom, Kendall #286
Taylor, Robert #288
TeBo, Skyler #276
Thompson, Tairen #267
Tidwell, Brandon #267
Tinoco, Joshua #272
Urbietta, Edgar #269
Urrutia-Ramos, Josue #280
Van Gundy, Abel #277
Van Gundy, Eli #269
Van Gundy, Jonathan #268
Wood, Benjamin #276

2025 Qtr 3 YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

*Please notify the office if your name is missing from the list.

Pins can be:

- Presented at a regular meeting
(Lubbock or Amarillo)
- Picked up at the Hall
- Mailed upon request

50+ year pins come from the I.O. and are mailed separately.

Regular Meeting Times:

Lubbock: 1st Thursday of each month – 6:30 PM
(405 50th St, Lubbock, TX)

Amarillo: 2nd Wednesday of each month – 6:30 PM
(200 S. Fannin St, Amarillo, TX)

We congratulate the following Active and Retired Members on their service milestones!

65 Years Member

Noel, Jerry N. -8/31/1960

55 Years Member

Renfro, Frank A. -7/20/1970

50 Years Members

Austin, Duane E. -8/1/1975
Hersey, Gary A. -7/1/1975
Marcum, Joe D. -9/1/1975
Moore, David J. -8/1/1975

45 Years Members

Hulsey, Carl D. -7/1/1980
Morris, Clayton L. -8/1/1980

35 Years Members

Eyer, Verle D. -7/1/1990
Hamby, Jeffery R. -8/1/1990
Melban, Jerry D. -9/1/1990
Ortega, Rodolfo S. -7/1/1990

30 Years Members

Carr, Mal R. -8/1/1995
Juarez Jr, Hector -9/1/1995
Moore, Jerry G. -9/1/1995

25 Years Members

Cutrell, Tim D. -8/1/2000
Gray, James A. -9/1/2000
Hawes, Kenneth D. -8/1/2000
Latimer, Ralph W. -8/1/2000

20 Years Members

Colburn, John -7/1/2005
Green, Warren A. -8/1/2005
Ivy, Aaron J. -9/1/2005

15 Years Members

Huber, Casey J. -8/1/2010
Jeter, Seth R. -8/1/2010
Wolffington, Lukas G. -9/1/2010

10 Years Members

Beversdorf, Tyson D. -8/18/2015
Cardoza-Olivas, Oscar -9/22/2015
Godoy, Eduardo -8/18/2015
Grier, Chad -8/3/2015
Johnson, Timothy R. -9/10/2015
Martinez-Adorno, Ramon -9/15/2015
Mascote, Rigoberto -7/21/2015
Oliver, Christopher P. -7/24/2015
Reber, Kyle J. -8/18/2015

5 Years Members

Andreas, Garrett B. -9/8/2020
Bonham, Christopher R. -9/14/2020
Caire, Lucas -9/14/2020
Cody, Anthony -8/24/2020
Corley, Farrell W. -8/12/2020
Cosme, Jose M. -8/12/2020
Duplessis, Christopher F. -9/18/2020
Garcia, Daniel -7/6/2020
Hall, Ashtin W. -9/8/2020

5 Years Members

Hamby, Jake R. -7/8/2020
Hargrove, Timothy D. -8/31/2020
Judd, Jason S. -9/28/2020
Kamplain, Jacob S. -8/13/2020
Kirksey, Ben D. -7/8/2020
Lofink, Coty R. -8/13/2020
Malone, James I. -7/8/2020
Martinez, Mario W. -8/11/2020
Martinez, Phillip M. -7/8/2020
McGill, Jaylin K. -8/11/2020
Moran, Jon B. -8/17/2020
Nichols III, Thomas R. -9/9/2020
Peavey, Paul A. -8/13/2020
Pennell, Russell S. -7/8/2020
Reagan, Tatum W. -7/8/2020
Rivero, Alfredo -8/7/2020
Ryan Jr, Richard L. -7/31/2020
Scarlett, Zachary H. -7/8/2020
Spencer, Michael E. -9/17/2020
Vaught, Caleb -9/14/2020



PENSION RETIREMENTS

I.O. PENSION RETIREMENT OPTIONS

(A Members)

Normal Pension:

- Age 65+ with 5+ years continuous good standing
- \$4.50/month per year of service
- \$5.50/month beginning in 2023

Early Retirement:

- Age 62-64 with 20+ years
- 6.66% reduction for each year under 65
- Dues must be paid up until approved

Disability Pension:

- Must have 20+ years continuous membership
- Must provide Social Security Disability Award Letter

NEBF RETIREMENT

Available to vested retiree participants from the electrical industry.

Normal Retirement: Ages 65 & Older

*The current NEBF retirement benefit is \$32 per month for every year of credited service.

Early Retirement: Ages 62–64

Reduced Early Retirement: Ages 60–61

Type of early retirement benefit depends on age, years of service, and time out of covered employment.

 **Call Stephanie 2–3 months before your planned retirement**

INSIDE CONSTRUCTION

ORGANIZING UPDATE

How's it going, ladies and gentlemen?

Work is busy, busy, busy! We've finally got folks out at the data center—and many more are on the way! It's an exciting time to see our local growing, and I can't wait to see just how big we can get.

We've been hitting jobs, doing a lot of training, and staying focused on the mission. This job can be exhausting, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. Every day, we're working to organize the world—one job at a time.

As always, never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or just need someone to talk to.

In Solidarity,
Nick Trevino
Journeyman Wireman
Membership Development Coordinator

NEW ORGANIZER

Hello, brothers and sisters!

My name is Dalan Blevins, and I'm proud to introduce myself as the new inside organizer for IBEW Local 602. I'm truly excited to help spread the benefits of union membership to those who have been left in the dark or misinformed about what the IBEW has to offer. I came from American Electric, with over ten years of experience in the field, so I've had the chance to meet quite a few of you already—but I'm always happy to meet more of our brothers and sisters out there.

A little about me: I'm a father of three, and most of my downtime is spent with my family, enjoying hobbies and activities together. But that doesn't mean you can't give me a call—I'll always do my best to make time to hear your concerns and help however I can.

In Solidarity,
Dalan Blevins
Journeyman Wireman
Membership Development Coordinator

OUTSIDE CONSTRUCTION

The Outside Construction division continues to experience exceptional growth and momentum across our jurisdiction. Work has expanded significantly with the addition of several nationwide contractors who have been granted Master Service Agreements (MSAs) for Oncor and AEP-Texas. These partnerships have led to a surge of distribution reconductor projects, keeping our members steadily employed and our jurisdiction busy.

Helicopter Operations

Helicopter work has become a regular feature of our operations, particularly in the Midland area. Crews are performing skid and long-line spacer installations as well as Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) stringing and clipping—a clear sign of how far our capabilities and scope of work have advanced.

Job Calls & Workforce Demand

The job board remains active with new calls being posted regularly. However, with the pace of growth, positions are sometimes

challenging to fill as calls continue to come in rapidly. There is an especially high demand for Journeyman Linemen and Crane Operators to keep up with the expanding workload. As of October 6, 2025, more than 20 Journeyman Linemen are needed, with expectations that demand will continue to rise weekly. The trend is clear: our jurisdiction is shifting from being heavily non-union to proudly union-strong.

Long-Term Outlook

Substation construction will play a substantial role in our work through 2027, with Dacon leading the charge on projects throughout Midland, Odessa, and the surrounding counties. In addition, JF Edwards Windfarm is set to return on November 1, 2025, promising even more opportunities for our members.

Advancements

Our latest contract went into effect on June 1, 2025, with one of the most notable improvements being an increased annuity percentage—a meaningful enhancement for our members' long-term security.

Efforts are also underway to leverage new technology to improve dispatch efficiency and accessibility. These tools will help streamline operations and provide faster turnaround times for members seeking work.

Community and Brotherhood

The Lubbock Christmas Party is in the works, the date and venue will be announced soon once final arrangements are secured. As we will be providing a meal, please RSVP online at ibew602.org/christmas

As always, we encourage everyone in the field to stay vigilant, prioritize safety, and continue standing up for what is right. Together, we are building not only power lines and substations—but also the future of union construction in West Texas.

Best Regards,
Jeff Johnson
Journeyman Lineman
Outside Construction Organizer

UTILITY

Bullying in the IBEW: Rules and Consequences

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) is built on solidarity, respect, and equality among all members. Bullying, intimidation, or harassment by one member against another violates these core principles and can lead to serious disciplinary action under both the IBEW Constitution and federal law.

IBEW Constitution

Article XXV, Section 1 – Any member guilty of conduct unbecoming a member, or of any act detrimental to the IBEW, may face formal charges.

Article XXVII, Section 1 – Every member has equal rights and privileges in the union, including the right to vote and participate in union activities without intimidation or interference.

➔ **In short:** Bullying another member about how they vote, speak, or participate in union affairs can result in internal charges and disciplinary proceedings.

Federal Protections (LMRDA)

Under the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA):

Section 101(a)(1) – Members have equal rights to participate and vote.

Section 101(a)(2) – Members are guaranteed freedom of speech and assembly within their union.

➔ **In short:** Interfering with another member's right to speak freely or vote independently can also constitute a federal violation.

Consequences of Bullying

If a member is found guilty of bullying, penalties may include:

Reprimand – A formal warning placed on record.

Fine – Typically a few hundred dollars; higher for severe or repeated misconduct.

Suspension – Temporary loss of rights such as voting or holding office.

Expulsion – Permanent removal from the IBEW in extreme cases.

The Disciplinary Process

A member files written charges with the Recording Secretary.

Charges are read at a union meeting and referred to the Executive Board.

A trial is conducted, and the accused has the right to a defense.

If found guilty, penalties are determined and reported to the membership.

The accused may appeal to the International Executive Council (IEC).

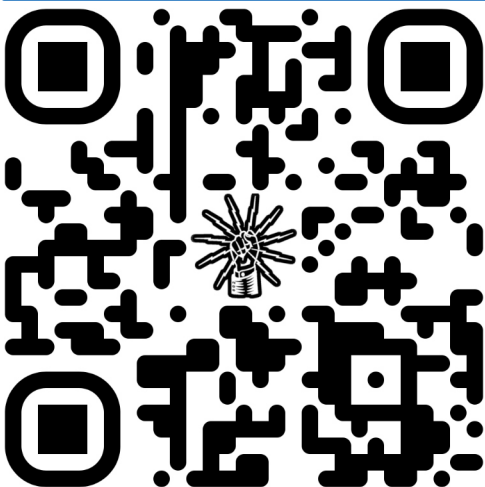
➔ **Bottom Line: Bullying has no place in the IBEW.**

Every member deserves the right to speak, vote, and participate without fear or intimidation. Acts of bullying can result in fines, suspension, expulsion, and potential federal consequences.

Solidarity and respect are the foundation of our Brotherhood—let's uphold them every day.

Until next quarter,
Mike Andrade
SPS/XCEL Representative

DIGITAL UPDATE



Over the past quarter, online engagement for IBEW Local 602 has reached new highs. Since advertising began in May 2025, **website traffic has nearly doubled**—rising from about 4,000 **unique visitors** in March to **more than 7,000** in September. Member portal activity also continues to climb, with more members updating contact info, signing the books, and bidding on jobs than ever before.

Social media and ad campaigns such as “Same Work. Better Pay.” and “Jobs Available” have generated **more than 160,000 views** across **Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn**, driving thousands of visits to **ibew602.org** and boosting new membership interest.

Looking ahead, two major upgrades are in testing: a new **Employer Portal** to streamline dispatch requests and a fully automated **Online Member Application** that enters new members directly into the database while creating completed benefit forms. Both will make joining and working with IBEW 602 faster and more efficient than ever.

GENERAL NEWS

We're proud to introduce the new Veteran Portal, a custom-built web app created to strengthen Local 602's veteran initiatives. This effort is headed by our very own Bill Bray, who serves as the 7th District Veteran Committee Co-Chair.

Through the portal, members can:

✓ Learn about the Veterans Electrical Entry Program (VEEP) – helping service members transition into electrical careers.

👉 Join the 602 Veterans Club – building a strong network of brothers and sisters within Local 602.

🏆 Ensure Veteran Recognition – The IBEW International is preparing a recognition program to honor all veteran members. To make sure no one is left out, all Local 602 members are encouraged to update their veteran status.



Let's honor those who served and continue building our future together.

Visit the new portal today:

Veterans.ibew602.org

NEW HAT & SHIRT DESIGNS arriving this fall.



👕 Availability:

Shirts will be available soon at both the Amarillo and Lubbock locations.

📏 Sizing:

Sizes are first come, first serve, so make sure to grab yours early once they arrive!

💥 Bonus Offer:

Attend a main union meeting and you can purchase your shirt at half price!

Show up, get involved, and show your IBEW 602 pride!

***There is a new coin design in the works as well. Follow us on social media for more info soon...

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Celebrate the Holidays with Your Union Family!

We are excited to invite all members, retirees, and their families to the **IBEW Local 602 Annual Christmas Parties!**

Join us for an evening of **great food, drinks, sweet treats, and festive fun** as we come together to celebrate the season.

🎁 Event Highlights:

Food & Drinks: Enjoy a delicious variety of food and refreshing beverages—provided for all attendees. Both events are **BYOB** for those wanting to add a little liquid cheer!

Family Fun: Every guest who RSVPs will receive tickets for prize drawings in their age division. Kids and adults alike will have chances to win!

To help us plan accordingly, please **RSVP online**. >>>>>
Your response ensures we have enough food, drinks, and holiday cheer for everyone.



Amarillo:

Friday, December 12th
🕒 From 7:00pm - 11:00pm
📍 At Today's Memories
16000 S. Georgia St.

Lubbock:

Saturday, December 13th
🕒 From 6:00pm - 10:00pm
📍 Location TBA

RSVP: ibew602.org/christmas



DID YOU KNOW?

As we approach **November 28**, we honor the day in 1891 when ten courageous electricians came together in St. Louis, Missouri to form the **National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** — the foundation of what would become the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** just eight years later.

From that moment on, our union has stood for **safety, training, solidarity, and dignity for all working people.**

Now, **134 years later**, IBEW 602 proudly carries that same torch — **powering our communities, protecting our members, and lighting the way toward a brighter future.** 🙌

Here's to the brotherhood, to every member who keeps the current strong, and to the next generation of electrical workers who will continue to build on this legacy.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Please join us in welcoming Chandra Guest, who recently took the IBEW Oath of Obligation and became one of Local 602's newest members. We're proud to have you in our ranks and look forward to seeing your growth and contributions in the field.

Welcome to the IBEW 602 family!

Apprenticeship Program Update

From **Paul Salazar – Training Director** (Statistics as of October 3, 2025)

The West Texas Electrical JATC continues to experience steady growth and engagement across our jurisdiction. As of October 3, 2025, there are **175 registered apprentices** currently working toward their Journeyman classification — 142 in Amarillo, 32 in Lubbock, and 1 in Midland.

In addition, **47 individuals are participating in our Pre-Apprenticeship** program (37 in Amarillo and 10 in Lubbock). Of those, **6 are already working in the field** — 5 in Amarillo and 1 in Lubbock — gaining valuable on-the-job experience as they prepare for full registration.

So far in 2025, **50 new apprentices have been registered** (44 in Amarillo and 6 in Lubbock), while 24 have canceled out of the program (18 in Amarillo and 6 in Lubbock). We have also seen **16 apprentices successfully transition to Journeyman Wireman (JW)** status this year, with one apprentice in Lubbock passing the Journeyman Exam.

At this time, 5 individuals are pending registration — 4 in Amarillo and 1 in Lubbock — as they complete the final steps toward entering the program.

Application Overview

Interest in the apprenticeship remains strong throughout West Texas. As of this fall, applications for 2025 are as follows:

- **Amarillo:** 431 applied, 252 qualified, 34 currently on the rank list
- **Lubbock:** 181 applied, 92 qualified, 20 on the rank list
- **Midland:** 53 applied, 24 qualified, with no applicants currently on the rank list

These numbers reflect continued regional demand for high-quality electrical training and skilled labor opportunities.

JATC Facility Expansion

With strong application numbers and continued growth in both apprentice and pre-apprentice participation, the JATC remains committed to providing the best possible training and support for the next generation of electrical workers across the Texas Panhandle, South Plains, and Permian Basin.

Our **facility expansion project in Amarillo** — including additional parking and a new building addition — is nearing completion. This new space will enhance our classroom capacity and hands-on training opportunities, helping us meet the evolving needs of our students and the industry.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers L.U. 602
P.O. Box 143
Amarillo, TX 79105

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Stay Connected with the Labor Power app!



Your **username** is your **Card Number**.

Your initial **password** is your **last name** and the **last four digits** of your **SSN**.

You will be required to change your password on your first login.

IBEW 602
PO Box 143
Amarillo, TX 79105

P: (806) 376-9945
W: ibew602.org

Scan the code below to get a digital version of the newsletter.



Follow Us:



facebook.com/ibew602



linkedin.com/company/ibew-602



instagram.com/ibew602



youtube.com/@theIBEW602