

LIVE WIRE



IBEW 602 WINTER NEWSLETTER

4th QTR '25 Review / 1st QTR '26 News



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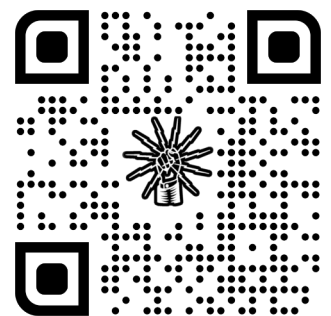
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Message from the Business Manager

Holiday Greetings to all our Brothers and Sisters!

We always write our newsletter at the end of each quarter so we can include the latest data available. I am writing this before Christmas, but I know you will be reading it after the New Year has begun. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year celebration. Family is what the holidays are all about. My family means the world to me, as does our Union family. In many ways, it should truly be called a fraternity—because that is what we are at our core: connected through bonds that are unbreakable, oaths we take for life and hold close to our hearts.

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

To say that “a new year brings changes” is an understatement for this year. *Apocalyptic* better describes the scale of change we are facing. In the past, big jobs have come and gone—but not like what we are seeing now. With the race for technology and the advent of AI data centers, our lives and our Local will never return to what we once called normal. This transformation is reshaping Inside Construction, Outside Construction, and Utility work. Data centers, substations, high-voltage transmission lines—everything is growing exponentially.

Twelve years ago, when I came into the local hall, we had around 1,200 members. Today, we are well over 2,000 and growing fast. To meet this growth, we have expanded here at the hall as well, adding three new office secretaries and four new Local organizers. We started with five staff members; now we have twelve and are preparing to add more. Keeping up with growth is a challenge. Growing pains are everywhere. Every issue is different and requires different solutions. Nothing is easy—it is always an uphill battle for unions—but we will never stop.

I tell members all the time: unions can’t always get you everything you want or what you think is fair, but unions *can* protect you with a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) and benefits that protect your family.

“What does a CBA get me?” and “How does a CBA benefit me?” are two questions I hear often. Guaranteed pay raises on guaranteed dates are something only unions can deliver. If you have ever worked in a non-union setting and had to ask your boss for a raise after years without one, you understand. If you have ever had to pay for your own insurance, you understand. If you have ever been fired for no good reason, you understand.

I was fired once simply because my boss was having a bad day. He told me, “I don’t know if I’m handling this right, but you’re fired.” With a CBA in your back pocket, that does not happen—or your union representatives will be Johnny-on-the-spot to make sure your rights are protected.

No one can make you walk the path—you must choose it. Thirty years ago, in March of 1996, I chose to walk that path. I am sure glad I did. I didn’t get rich, but my family never went without food, medicine, clothing, or a roof over their heads.

Proud to be Union—**YES I AM!**

In solidarity,

Robert Melton

Business Manager / Financial Secretary

ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER’S CORNER

Communication: The Backbone of Local 602

Communication is the backbone that connects the Brotherhood across the Local 602 region—from Amarillo to Midland/Odessa and Lubbock, and across Eastern New Mexico. Every aspect of our work depends on messages that travel clearly and consistently: dispatch calls, safety bulletins, organizing conversations, and bargaining updates with our signatory contractors. When a leader speaks for the Local, the objective is simple—ensure that the apprentice in Claude and the journeyman in Pampa understand the same standard, the same expectation, and the same opportunity.

Good communication in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is about unity, not noise. A single manpower request for a West Texas data center can affect hundreds of families. If that information reaches the field late or unclear, opportunities are lost and frustration grows. Technology has given Local 602 powerful tools—

electronic dispatch, email, and digital platforms—but our craft remains human. That means plain language, care in delivery, and respect for every Sister and Brother.

The most important communication skill remains listening. Across Local 602’s wide geography, members face different realities: long drives, hotel living, and the pressures of a first-year apprenticeship. Real listening means asking what members need before answering. When members feel heard, they engage with the Local. They attend meetings, take calls, and help organize unrepresented shops expanding throughout Amarillo, Midland/Odessa, Lubbock, and the surrounding areas.

Digital communication now carries much of Local 602’s daily workload. Video meetings with contractors like Rosendin, CVE, and other signatories have replaced many hallway conversations. These tools are efficient, but they remove context.

ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER'S CORNER

That is why written summaries of decisions, confirmation texts on call nights, and clear explanations of referral rules are essential. Consistency and follow-through are what keep trust strong across such a large jurisdiction.

Leadership turns vision into action through communication. Assistant Business Managers explain not only what staffing decisions were made, but why they mattered. Transparency strengthens safety culture—members are more likely to follow procedures when they understand the reasoning behind them. Local 602's recent growth did not happen by chance; open communication turned regional investment into organized manpower.

Barriers do exist: multiple generations working side by side, cultural differences, and a political climate that can distract from

shared goals. Overcoming these challenges requires controlled language—much like controlled reps in training—steady, respectful, and effective. Visual reports, continuing education classes, and simple checklists help ensure that critical information reaches everyone.

Communication also protects us during disagreement. Bargaining sessions remain productive when we avoid assumptions and focus on conditions, wages, and overtime rules. Local 602 has thrived for decades because problems were discussed openly on the jobsite instead of being ignored.

Looking ahead, artificial intelligence and expanded digital strategies will continue to reshape how Local 602 communicates with members and the communities we serve. But the destination remains the same: a union member

wearing the IBEW logo.

The future belongs to those who combine new tools with timeless skills—disciplined listening, clear expression, and genuine respect.

Communication in Local 602 is craftsmanship. It builds bridges strong enough to carry change—and power lines strong enough to carry opportunity across West Texas. One conversation at a time, we stay connected, we stay united, and we stay IBEW.

In solidarity,
Bill Bray
Assistant Business Manager

LUBBOCK OFFICE

Happy New Year, Brothers and Sisters!

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jon Rodriguez, and I am the new Assistant Business Manager for the IBEW 602 Lubbock office. I am very excited for the opportunity to be part of a team committed to paying it forward by continuing in the footsteps of those who came before us—individuals who laid the foundation for the opportunities, benefits, and way of life we enjoy today.

I am grateful for the opportunity to support our existing membership while also spreading the word about the opportunities and benefits of union membership to those who may not yet know about the IBEW. I am an inside journeyman with over 15 years of experience in the field, the last eight of which have been spent as a union member working for a union contractor here in Lubbock. I have had the privilege of working alongside some of you and have become acquainted with many others through the JATC apprenticeship, meetings, and scheduled events. I look forward to meeting, working with, and assisting as many of our brothers and sisters as possible.

I was born and raised in Lubbock. I am married, and my wife and I have two wonderful boys. Like many of you, my spare time is spent managing the rollercoaster schedule that comes with parenthood—a role I gladly embrace and would not trade for anything. We are Texas Tech alumni and spend a great deal of time attending sporting events and supporting our Red Raiders. Wreck 'Em!

Our doors and phone lines are open to anyone with questions or concerns regarding Local 602, the IBEW, or the opportunities and benefits of membership. I will do my best to assist you however I can.

In Solidarity,
Jon Rodriguez
Journeyman Wireman
Assistant Business Manager (Lubbock)

MEMBERSHIP INFO



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)

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

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



Use **Venmo** to send donations for the "**Brotherhood Fund**" to **@IBEW602**.

Every dollar makes a difference.

**Venmo not for dues payments.*

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

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 **\$6,200**. 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
Brinlee, Nathan #282
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
Gilbert Jr, Owen #286
Goen, Byron #287
Harris, Tristan #286
Hefner, Trenten #286
Hill, Harrison #270
Hudson, Baylen #288
Johnson, Christian #288
Mackey, Luke #287
Martinez, Mark #288
Mendoza, Armando #287
Murphy, Andrew #287
Norris, Timothy #262
Nunn, Ashton #288
Pryor, Deven #269
Rios, Joshua #252
Ross, Cordell #280
Tovar, Julian #279
Trujillo, Ethan #287
Valdez, Nicolas #286
Vega, Samantha #288
Wilborn, Kelly #274
Williams, Austin #275

Construction Electricians (CE/CW)

Aguinaldo, Adam #274
Chavez, Isaac #285
Davis, Dustin #288
Guajardo, Joseph #282
Hall, Ashtin #280
Orosco Sr, Enrique #237
Polite Jr, Roy #280
Rios, Jessie #286
Sanchez, Evan #276
Van Gundy, Robert #276
Wells, Kaden #287
Yarbrough, Jonathon #267

Operators (HEO / Light Equipment)

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

Trans Techs

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

Aufill, Kevin #254
Brown, Gregory #286
Engel, Garret #286
Franks, Chad #286
Hargrove, Timothy #288
Reynolds, Anthony #276
Robason, Nathaniel #280
Solis, Javier Jr #286
Wolf, Christopher #287

Journeyman Wiremen

Baker, Jeffrey #288
Bieganowski, Evan #286
Brown, Billy #274
Castanon, Aurelio #269
Chavez, Josue #288
Coursey, Bailey #276
Cunningham, Jacob #286
David, Byron #284
Elsaesser, Mason #251
Ethridge, Thomas #280
Mueller, Donald #280
Fierro, Nathan #287
Fuller, Sidney #287
George, Trenton #252
Gonzalez, Carlos #286
Gonzalez Jr, Jaime #286
Healy, Leonard #226
Hendricks, Steven #276
Hughes, David #284
Hunt, Zachary #285
Kilman, Michael #258
Leblanc, Joseph #286
Lopez, Matthew #272
Madrid, Eduardo #263
Martinez, Johnathan #280

Journeyman Wiremen

McCoy, Robert #287
Mire, David #269
Nelson, Landry #261
Norris, Eric #282
Read, Tristan #286
Rodriguez, Christopher #257
Roland, Treyton #278
Schalau, Waylon #286
Stanford, Jack #274
Stanley, Coleburn #282
Strohgrig, Patrick #281
Tatom, Kendall #286
Taylor, Robert #288
TeBo, Skyler #276
Tidwell, Brandon #267
Urbietta, Edgar #269
Urrutia-Ramos, Josue #280
Van Gundy, Abel #277
Van Gundy, Eli #269
Van Gundy, Jonathan #268
Wood, Benjamin #276

CURRENT LOCAL BENEFITS

**Aaron Snyder -
D876316 (#296)**

Initiated on: 01/01/1998
Passed on: 10/23/2025

**Clifford Mynear -
D876275 (#297)**

Initiated on: 03/01/1997
Passed on: 12/03/2025

*A death benefit notice was mailed to all participants.

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

Each name listed above 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.

2025 Qtr 4 YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION



Pins can be:

- Presented at a regular meeting (Amarillo or Lubbock)
- 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!

70 Years Member

Brown, William W. – 12/1/1955

55 Years Member

Flowers, Vernon G. – 12/1/1970

50 Years Members

Hill, Jimmy A. – 11/1/1975
Kelley, Carl R. – 10/1/1975
Mihm, Joseph C. – 10/1/1975

45 Years Member

Holmans, Anthony G. – 12/1/1980

35 Years Members

Brunson, Joe P. – 10/1/1990
Leach III, David D. – 10/1/1990
Patterson, James S. – 10/1/1990

30 Years Members

Chandler, John D. – 10/1/1995
Dietrich, Daryl J. – 11/1/1995
Irvin, Danny L. – 11/1/1995
Waters, Steve W. – 11/1/1995

25 Years Member

Hernandez, Eddie – 10/1/2000

20 Years Members

Benton, Stephen C. – 12/1/2005
Straw, Benny V. – 11/1/2005

15 Years Members

Beauchamp, William C. – 12/1/2010
Celey, Michael J. – 11/1/2010
Compton, Thomas D. – 11/1/2010
Cox, Matthew E. – 11/1/2010
Garrard, Calvin R. – 12/1/2010
Gray, John C. – 12/1/2010
Murphy, James B. – 10/1/2010
Wheelis, Roy T. – 10/1/2010

10 Years Members

Alvarez, Carlos – 10/9/2015
Aranda, Aaron A. – 10/9/2015
Brewer, Derek P. – 11/16/2015
Copley, Jimmy L. – 11/10/2015
Estrada, Paul A. – 11/13/2015
Estrada, Rufus D. – 10/30/2015
Fuller, Trenton D. – 10/9/2015
Hobbs, Terry J. – 10/9/2015
LeBlanc, Joseph A. – 12/23/2015
Lewis, Robert K. – 10/12/2015
Robinson, James – 12/17/2015
Rogers, Dakota B. – 10/12/2015
Silva, Luis G. – 12/17/2015
Torres, Jose – 10/13/2015
Vega, Jose – 11/16/2015

5 Years Members

Bejarano, Adam – 11/23/2020
Brown, Gregory N. – 11/13/2020
Broyles, Christopher D. – 12/22/2020
Cooper, Robert C. – 12/21/2020
Coursey, Bailey R. – 10/6/2020
Crandall, Zachary R. – 10/13/2020
Dean, Stephen M. – 11/13/2020
Dressler, John W. – 10/2/2020
Engel, Garret A. – 11/13/2020
Finney, Ja'Toris L. – 12/15/2020
Forshee, Michael C. – 11/11/2020
Gabriel, David K. – 12/1/2020
Garcia, Gildardo E. – 10/26/2020
Halsel, Cutter G. – 11/24/2020
Harmon, Theophilus J. – 12/15/2020
Magana-Garza, Daniel – 11/23/2020
Moore, John D. – 11/30/2020
Olsen, Dane M. – 11/23/2020
Pennington, Matthew – 11/5/2020
Pilcher, Jared L. – 10/13/2020
Reid, Craig A. – 11/18/2020
Stalder, Kirk R. – 12/22/2020
Williams, Logan B. – 12/15/2020
Wyatt, Garrett R. – 10/9/2020

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

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

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's. To say we've been busy around here would be an understatement. The 602 organizing team has been hitting jobs, ruffling some contractor feathers, and changing people's lives for the better—bringing in new members and securing wages and benefits they didn't even know they were missing.

The projects coming to town have been a huge blessing for both our current and new members. In December alone, we welcomed over 200 new members, and we have no plans of slowing down. I do want to ask something of our seasoned members: please show our new members what it truly means to be a Brother or Sister of the IBEW. Show them what the "B" in IBEW stands for. Those of us in the hall can only do so much—real brotherhood is demonstrated every day in the field. Take the time to show new members the ropes. Teach them our standards of craftsmanship.

Come to meetings and stay involved in the local as much as you can (we know everyone is working long hours). Our goal is for every new Brother and Sister to love the IBEW and remain members long after these projects are completed. Remember, the stronger the IBEW is, the better our wages and benefits will be in the long run.

Just another reminder about RENEW: we will be ramping up even more community outreach efforts. We're doing a great job, but I want the IBEW presence to be recognized throughout the city of Amarillo. We can make that happen—but it takes a team effort. Let's kick this year off strong. Make some money, support one another, and continue building one of the best locals in the nation.

If you need anything or have any questions, never hesitate to reach out.

In Solidarity,
Nick Trevino
Journeyman Wireman
Membership Development Coordinator

OUTSIDE CONSTRUCTION

Brothers and Sisters,

In uncertain times, the world can feel pretty strange. But one thing we can always rely on is each other. Taking care of our families is what matters most, and our union exists for exactly that reason—to make sure our members have the support, protection, and opportunities they need to build a solid life through this trade.

When I first got this job and joined the union, I didn't fully understand what my purpose would be. Over time, that became clear. I get a real chance to help others who are just starting out in the trade, and honestly, that has rekindled my own passion for line work. There's something meaningful about giving back and helping the next generation find their footing.

I'm especially proud of the young men who are choosing to join the union and become linemen today. That decision isn't an easy one. It's a commitment—to their careers, to their families, and to the shared values that define us as union members. They're stepping into a demanding trade with eyes open, and that deserves recognition and respect.

Over the past several weeks, I've also been making regular crew visits—stopping by jobsites, bringing donuts or burritos, and taking a few minutes to check in with the guys. What's stood out to me is how much that presence matters. A lot of members have said they genuinely appreciate seeing someone from the union show up in person. It reinforces something important: the union isn't just an office or a contract—it's people, relationships, and solidarity in action.

More than anything, taking care of our families is what drives us, and our union helps make that possible. We can be proud of the career choices we've made, proud of the work we do, and proud of the brothers and sisters standing alongside us every day.

In Solidarity,
Josh McVay
Journeyman Lineman
Outside Construction Organizer

UTILITY

A Unified Strength for Change

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Chris Thorne, and I have accepted the role of SPS Utility Representative for IBEW Local 602. I am excited to step into this position, bringing with me 14 years of proud IBEW experience and a deep commitment to the values that define our Brotherhood. Over the years, I have worked alongside dedicated members, faced the challenges of our trade firsthand, and gained a strong understanding of what it takes to protect workers' rights and strengthen our collective voice through solidarity. I am honored by the opportunity to serve, advocate, and give back to the membership through this role.

As we move forward together, it is important to remember that the heart of our union lies in the unwavering solidarity of each and every member. Solidarity is not just a word—it is the force that drives our collective power. In times of challenge, it is our unity that ensures we are heard and that our voices remain strong. Whether in the workplace or at the bargaining table, when we stand together, we demand respect, fair wages, and safe working conditions. This collective strength has allowed us to make progress, and it is that same strength that will continue to shape our future.

Our solidarity extends beyond the members of our local union. We stand with fellow workers across industries, communities, and the nation because we know that when one of us is affected, all of us are affected.

Whether advocating for labor rights, equal treatment, or resolving contract disputes, our collective efforts create a ripple effect that reaches every corner of society. The struggles of others are our struggles, and their victories are our victories.

As we continue to organize, educate, and advocate, let us always remember that our unity is our greatest tool. Every victory, big or small, is a testament to what we can achieve when we act as one. Let us renew our commitment to each other, to the principle of strength through solidarity, and to the belief that when we are unified, we are unstoppable.

Chris Thorne
SPS/XCEL Representative

GENERAL NEWS

IBEW Veteran Challenge Coins Available

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is honoring the service of its veteran members through the IBEW Veteran Challenge Coin program. These coins recognize the dedication veterans

bring to both their military service and their work within the IBEW.

Member veterans can request their free challenge coin by completing the form linked on the home page of the Veterans Portal at:

👉 veterans.ibew602.org

In addition to requesting a coin, veterans are encouraged to sign up for the IBEW Local 602 Veterans Club through the same portal. The club helps strengthen connections among local members and supports veteran-focused outreach and events.

All Local 602 members are encouraged to participate and ensure they are counted.



We're officially launching a RENEW Charter and Committee

RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) focuses on strengthening mentorship, leadership development, and engagement among our younger members. As part of this initiative, 602 has created a secure digital portal to support the committee's work, including:

- Meeting documentation
- Committee applications
- Member resources
- Internal announcements
- Private committee tools

RENEW

This new platform provides a modern and organized way for the committee to collaborate and continue building a stronger Local.

Members interested in joining or learning more can submit applications through the new system.

We look forward to the growth, energy, and leadership this committee will bring to Local 602.

 renew.ibew602.org



Q4 2025 Digital Media Overview (Oct–Dec)

During the fourth quarter of 2025, IBEW Local 602's digital platforms continued to support members and hall operations by delivering job information, processing registrations and applications, and expanding online engagement. Activity increased steadily across the quarter, reflecting heavier use of the website, forms, and member-facing tools.

October 2025

- 9,621 unique visitors
- 15,327 total visits
- 71,060 pages viewed

November 2025

- 10,688 unique visitors
- 15,761 total visits
- 77,560 pages viewed

December 2025

- 13,512 unique visitors
- 20,416 total visits
- 89,318 pages viewed

Quarter total:

33,821 unique visitors
619 online employment registrations
351 experience applications
488 member portal job bids



What this means for members:

More individuals are using the website and online forms each month to access job calls, submit applications, and stay informed. Keeping your contact information current and using the online tools helps the hall operate more efficiently for the entire membership.

GOOD OF THE UNION

Record-Breaking Momentum at IBEW 602

The fourth quarter marked a historic milestone for IBEW Local 602, with record-setting meeting attendance and an unprecedented number of new member swear-ins. Meeting after meeting, the hall was filled with brothers and sisters stepping forward—raising their right hands, committing to the values of solidarity, skill, and collective strength that define our union.

This surge in participation reflects more than growth in numbers; it demonstrates renewed engagement and a shared belief in the power of standing together. As we start the year, these record-breaking meetings send a clear message: IBEW 602 is energized, expanding, and moving forward stronger than ever.

DID YOU KNOW?

“Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what we will.”

This labor movement slogan wasn't about limiting a worker's drive or earnings—it was about ending exploitation. Before unions like the IBEW, 10–16 hour days were often mandatory, unsafe, and unpaid beyond straight time. Organized labor established the 8-hour day as the standard, with overtime protections when longer hours are necessary. Today, many IBEW members work 10–12 hour calls—but they do so with negotiated pay, protections, and dignity on the job.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



We proudly recognized **Ronald Jones** for an incredible 55 years of membership and service at our Lubbock Christmas Party. Reaching this milestone represents a lifetime of commitment to the trade, the Brotherhood, and the values that define our union.

Ronald was honored with his **55-year service pin** by Business Manager Robert Melton, alongside Lubbock Office Assistant Business Manager Jon Rodriguez. Moments like this remind us that our strength is built on the dedication of members who paved the way, upheld our standards, and supported generations of workers along the way.

We thank Brother Jones for his decades of service and congratulate him on this remarkable achievement.

Apprenticeship Program Update

From **Paul Salazar – Training Director** ((Statistics as of December 17, 2025))

The West Texas Electrical JATC is growing and staying active across our area. As of December 17, 2025, we have 170 apprentices working towards their Journeyman classification — 148 in Amarillo, 21 in Lubbock, and 1 in Midland.

We also have 78 people in our Pre-Apprenticeship program (70 in Amarillo and 8 in Lubbock). Out of those, 64 are already gaining hands-on experience in the field — 58 in Amarillo and 6 in Lubbock — as they get ready for full registration.

We've brought on several new instructors and plan to hire more in the coming months as our class sizes keep growing. If you're interested, let us know!

New Training Coordinator

Hello everyone, for those who don't know me my name is Jameson Ester. During my time in the field, I discovered a passion for educating our future of apprentices. This led to me being an instructor, then Lead instructor, and now Training Coordinator. My job consists of overseeing the education side of the JATC, which includes everything from student consults to making sure our amazing instructors and apprentices have everything they need to succeed.

My main project so far is revamping the old curriculum and building onto it to provide an education that produces well rounded apprentices. This includes a variety of amazing labs and hands-on practices to make sure our apprentices are prepared for whatever they may face in the field. Now we can't cover everything, but I look forward to continuing the advancement of the school to meet the needs of the Brotherhood.

Our current battle is space and staff, those who have an interest in instructing new generations of our apprenticeship, may feel free to contact me to discuss opportunities.

In Solidarity,
Jameson Ester
Journeyman Wireman
Training Coordinator

4 HRS CONT. ED.

AMARILLO

102 Bowie St., Amarillo, TX 79106

Feb 7, 2026

Apr 4, 2026

Jun 6, 2026

LUBBOCK

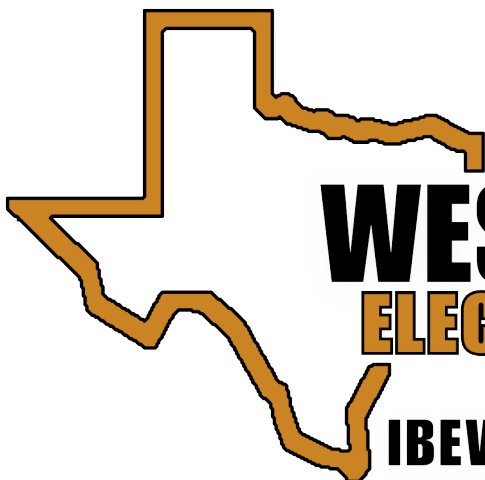
405 50th St., Lubbock, TX 79404

Feb 21, 2026

Apr 18, 2026

Jun 13, 2026

All Classes Saturdays 8AM-12PM



Register Online - ibew602.org/continuing-education

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

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