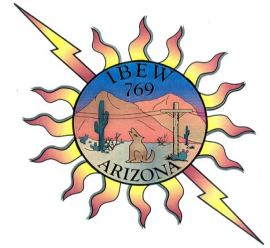




The News Letter

September 2019



**International
Brotherhood
of
Electrical
Workers
LOCAL UNION
769**

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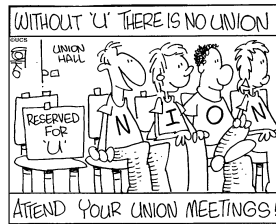
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Hall will be closed Friday, August 30th, and Monday, September 2nd in celebration of our day; Labor Day.

Happy Labor Day!

**September 8th Sunday
AT THE UNION HALL:**

9:30 A.M.
Executive Board Meets
10:00 A.M.
Examining Board Meets
12:00 Noon



REGULAR UNION MEETING

September 9th — Monday—7:00 P.M.
DIRECTV Union Meeting in Gilbert @ The Union Hall.

September 12th — Thursday—7:00 P.M.
Mohave Unit Meeting in Kingman @ The La Quinta Inn.



OSHA 10 E-T&D
September 20th @6:00 pm and
September 21st @ 7:00 am.

Check your certifications! Must attend both days of the class to get the certification.

October Meeting

Southwest Service Administrators, Inc. (IBEW Local 769 Management Pension Plan) will be present at our October Regular Union Meeting to explain the web based service they provide our participants and discuss how best to utilize the service.



Wilson / UCS

MEMBERS INFORMATION

New Members

A—Groundman—Brandon Lopez, Nathaniel Adams, Dakota Harold;
Traffic Signal—Ronald Kirkendall, Antonio Kirkendall, Timothy Hicks;
Apprentice—Chandler Norbeck;
Travel Card—Jose Valencia (387); Jimmy Wasdin (676); Dennis Jordan (1245).

I.B.E.W. SERVICE PINS

The following members will be recognized for September meetings:

-CONGRATULATIONS-

Active: 30 years—Shawn Bomar; **25 years—**Tim Dixon; **20 years—**Billy Daniel, Rick Jones, Charles McKnight, Ron Thweatt; **15 years—**Chad Bean, Brandon Karlowicz; **10 years—**Brandon Beach; **5 years—**Andrew Jones, Temo Rodriguez, Guihereme Siqueira.

Mohave Unit: 15 years—Nicholas Lyon.



Daniel Rideout, a Journeyman Lineman, passed away 8/11/19. He was 53 years old and a 14 year member.

We are currently on Death Benefit #247

- DISPATCH -

The books are as follows:

Journeyman Lineman:	Book 1 — 0
	Book 2 — 1
	Book 3 — 0
	Book 4 — 0
Operators:	Book 1 — 4
	Book 2 — 2
	Book 3 — 2
	Book 4 — 0
Mechanics:	Book 1 — 1
	Book 2 — 0
	Book 3 — 0
	Book 4 — 0
Groundmen:	Book 1 — 1
	Book 2 — 1
	Book 3 — 9
	Book 4 — 64
Journeyman Tech:	Book 1 — 1
	Book 2 — 1
	Book 3 — 0
	Book 4 — 0

Washington, Tennessee Harden Penalties for Assaults on Utility Workers

Rick Luiten didn't have to rely on abstract statistics or second-hand anecdotes when he testified in favor of Washington state's new law imposing tougher penalties on people who assault utility workers.

The journeyman lineman and Seattle Local 77 executive board member described escaping in his truck after a man ordered his dog to attack, and more recently being confronted by a man with a gun

when he and his crew had to cross private property to replace two power poles.

"He was very agitated and threatening with me as I explained what we were doing," Luiten told the House Committee on Public Safety earlier this year. "Eventually I was able to calm him down, but I was very concerned for the safety of my crew."

Other IBEW members also spoke, urging lawmakers to add utility workers to the state's "aggravating circumstance" law, which increases penalties for assaulting police officers and other public servants.

Save for a single "no" vote in the Senate, the Legislature passed the bill unanimously. Local 77 political director Sean Bagsby credits the relationships that IBEW and its utility partners built, winning support from 100 percent of the Republicans in the Statehouse and all but one Democrat.

A similar law now extends first-responder protections to utility workers in Tennessee, raising maximum fines for assault to \$15,000, six times the previous maximum of \$2,500.

"The way it's worded, it covers any employee," in a situation that escalates to assault, said Quentin Tanner, assistant business manager at Nashville Local 429. "It could be the customer service person at the front desk and someone is mad about a bill."

Local 429 Business Manager Randy Clark noted past incidents in Tennessee eerily akin to what Luiten experienced: a customer siccing pit bulls on a utility crew, a man putting a shotgun to a meter reader's head.

States with comparable laws on the

books include New York, Ohio, Alabama and Missouri. In Tennessee and Washington state, IBEW activists were determined to succeed in 2019 after earlier attempts fell short.

"The very nature of our industry is dangerous, even before you introduce additional hazards such as weather, terrain, uncontrolled pets, and potentially angry and violent persons," Bagsby testified in Washington.

More quietly, but no less effectively, Local 429 and Tenth District staff were making the same kind of arguments across the country.

In partnership with the Tennessee Electrical Cooperative Association and utility plant managers, they'd pushed for a bill in 2018. While one Republican senator sponsored the legislation, another shut it down. Tanner said it had more to do with the bill's wording than its principles.

This year, supporters kept it simple, seeking to insert "any identifiable employee of a utility or contractor of a utility" into existing law governing aggravated assault.

When it came to the sales pitch, however, IBEW leaders made a strategic decision to stay on the sidelines. They wanted to ensure that anti-union politicians in deep-red Tennessee wouldn't let their views interfere with badly needed protections.

The bill passed 98-0 in the House and 27-5 in the Senate.

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