



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD

of

ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL UNION # 405

Cedar Rapids / Iowa City

January 2025

This Month in Labor History

History Is Happening Today!

The Iowa City and Davenport Starbucks are the only unionized locations in Iowa, both are organized under Starbucks Workers United, both went on strike on Christmas Eve, and so it came to be called “The Strike Before Christmas”. Other Starbucks locations across the country began striking on December 20th as baristas protested “Starbucks failure to bring viable economic proposals to the bargaining table and refusal to resolve hundreds of outstanding unfair labor practice charges.”

According to Abigail Scheppemann, a barista in Iowa City, “Starbucks baristas received raises ranging from \$0.30 to \$0.50 per hour while Starbucks CEO Brian Niccol received a \$113 million compensation package.”

Jen Shearer, the President of the Iowa City Federation of Labor, said these stores and employees at stores across the country have “continued to face hostility from the company at each step of the unionization process.” Shearer also states that “Iowa City Federation of Labor and members of many of our affiliate unions were proud to join baristas on their Christmas Eve picket line, and we’ll be there as many times as necessary until a strong first contract is in place.”

This information was obtained from an article written by Ryan Hansen in the Iowa City Press-Citizen, published on December 27th and updated January 2nd, 2025, titled “Iowa City Starbucks Workers Join National Strike Over ‘Paltry’ Wage Increases” (Hansen, Iowa City Starbucks workers join national strike over 'paltry' wage increases, 2024).

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January 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 Iowa Women in Trades 6:30 pm	3	4
5	6 RENEW Board Game Night 6:00 pm	7 Renew Meeting 6:00 pm	8 E-Board Meeting 5:00 pm	9	10	11 RENEW Blood Drive
12	13	14 RENEW Board Game Night 6:00 pm	15 General Meeting 6:00 pm	16 Retirees Social Club 11:30 am	17	18
19	20	21 11th District Women's Committee Mtg. 6:00 pm	22 Local 405 Women's committee Mtg. 4:30 pm	23	24	25
26	27 Local 405 Women's Committee 4:30 pm	28	29	30		

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BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

Brothers and Sisters of IBEW L.U. 405,

We had our Local Holiday party at the DoubleTree in downtown Cedar Rapids on Saturday, December 14th. While the weather was a challenge this year, the people who were able to make it gave positive feedback about the food, drinks, and other accommodations. As always, it was nice to see everyone and relive our shared memories and experiences from the past. That is always the highlight of this annual event for me. I got a thrill out of seeing retirees telling stories to apprentices that they had never met before. That example of someone you had never met before trying to guide and mentor you not because they personally know you, but because you are a fellow IBEW Member. That proves that our commitment to each other is still strong within our Local and I was so proud to see that illustrated again at our Holiday party.

In keeping with the stronger together theme. We have once again been receiving numerous phone calls from our members on contractual questions. We encourage you to call in if you are in doubt. It is everyone's responsibility working under our collective bargaining agreement (CBA) to follow the contract and our established past practices. An example of past practice would be that we take a 15-minute break in the morning, a 30-minute break for lunch, and a 15-minute break in the afternoon. It may be difficult to say "no" sometimes when you are put in a position to do something that goes against the contract. Just remember that Labor and Management agree to everything in that document.

Beginning January 1st, Dues will increase to \$47.00 per month. There will be another increase on July 1st to \$48.00 per month. The total will be \$570.00 for 2025. With that being said, Local 405 is implementing a new online payment system. Members will login to the dues payment page and will be able to see their current paid through date in real time, and will be able to make payments for the exact amount they owe. This change will take the guess work out of paying dues and will make things more efficient and accurate for the office staff. We expect this new system to go live later this winter or early this spring. We will put instructions on how to create your log in and how to navigate the page, but it should be simple for everyone. And of course, we are always here to help.

In Solidarity,
Matt Resor

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Contact Info

IBEW Local 405:

Cedar Rapids Office Phone:
(319) 396-8241

E-mail to Resign:

ibew405@ibew405.org

Website: www.ibew405.org

Cedar Rapids JATC:

Main Phone: (319) 654-9238

Website: www.crejatc.org

Auxiant:

Main Phone: (319) 398-3283

Main Fax: (319) 866-9889

Vanessa: Ext. 1221 For:

Union Services or HRA

Devin: Ext. 1208 For:

COBRA Coverage

Rachel: Ext. 6970 For:

Short Term Disability

Jordan: Ext. 1299 For:

Vision Claims &

Prescription Safety Glasses

Covenant EAP:

(833) 434-1335

Group Code:EAPIBEW22

Milliman:

(866) 767-1212

Wellmark

Health/Prescriptions:

Customer Service:

(800) 524-9242

Group #: 56700

Union Liaison, **Bob Gilmore:**

gilmorer2@wellmark.com

Delta Dental of Iowa

(800) 544-0718

Group #: 1-35517-1

REFERRAL AGENT REPORT

Since the December General Meeting, we have written 10 Journeyman Wireman referrals, 1CE/CW referral, and 1 VDV referral.

Unemployed:

- Book 1- 76
- Book 2- 7
- Book 3- 0
- Book 4- 3
- VDV- 3
- Resi- 0

It's a new year and a new referral procedure! It has been almost 15 years since the referral procedure has seen any sort of revision. The bulk of the process remains the same, with just a few changes to bring it up to date, more reliable, and easier for our members. The online bid forms are now included in the process. The website is the official job posting now. Internet access is everywhere and in case the phones go down, like during the derecho, we will still be able to list calls and use the referral process. The hours to bid on calls has been expanded. You can now bid on a call from 5:00 pm to 8:00 am via the online form, the recorder, or in person from 8:00 -8:30 am. The new procedures are posted at the Hall and online on the Calls page. If you have any questions, please let me know.

In Solidarity,

London Morehouse, 7477713

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COMMUNICATIONS

Women's Committee

We hope you are having a great start to the new year! The holidays and cold months can often lead to loneliness and depression. We want you to know we are happy to see you and be there for you whenever you need us. Please reach out to any of our committee members! If you don't want to talk to someone you know, remember there is always the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 or you have access to Covenant EAP, with 8 free sessions per year, their phone number is (833) 434-1335, group code is EAPIBEW22. Also available is Doctor on Demand , including counseling, included in your benefits. We are in this together, Brothers and Sisters alike.

Coming up, we have a couple of events that we want you to put on your calendar. January 19th at the Hall, we are making tie fleece blankets for homeless women/ domestic abuse survivors and leftover pieces will be donated to dog shelters for bedding. This is open to everyone so join us at the Hall at 4:00pm. Next, we have rescheduled our painting party for February 1st at the Hall at 4:30 pm. RSVP's are required to cover painting supplies and the pizza. You can RSVP to the office, Leah, or myself. Finally, we are back on track for our monthly meeting on January 22nd at 4:30 pm in the small conference room.

In Solidarity,
Amanda Cooling, Women's Co-Chair
VDV Tech, 7477624

Retirees Social Club

The Retirees meet every third Thursday at 11:30 am for lunch at the Union Station. These lunches are a great way to meet new friends and to re-unite with some old friends that you may have lost contact with since retiring. Stop by the Union Station this month and enjoy some memories!

COMMUNICATIONS

JATC Training Center News

The training center has begun to schedule continuing education classes for 2025, which is the last year of the 2023 Code cycle. To renew their electrical license, each Journeyman Wireman is required to have completed a minimum of 18-hours of continuing education before January 1, 2026; a minimum of 6 of those hours need to be Code-related. All Apprentices are required to renew licenses annually, and that is required to be done before January 1st of each year.

There is currently a Codeology Fundamentals course, and we will soon be scheduling the electric-vehicle charging (EVITP) course. The 18-hour EVITP course will satisfy all CEU requirements for this cycle. At the end of the course, students will sit for the certification exam. When students pass, the LLMCC will refund the course license fee.

Also on the website, we will soon be scheduling a reading comprehension course that is intended to assist construction wiremen to prepare for the aptitude exam. Shortly after that class, a tech math course will be scheduled as well. In general, to qualify to sit for the aptitude test, applicants must have taken and passed one-year of high school algebra (or equivalent). Successfully passing the tech math course is another way for applicants to meet that requirement.

The training center has assumed responsibility for providing OSHA 10-hour and 30-hour training for Journeymen, as well as Construction Wiremen. There is currently a 10-hour class on the website that is scheduled for the first two Saturdays in February, with an additional class in March, if there is enough demand. Individuals that complete the class will be given the opportunity to attend the remaining 20-hours of training necessary to obtain the OSHA 30-hour card if they choose to do so. It is becoming more common on large projects for the general contractor to require everyone to have an OSHA 10-hour card that was issued within the last 3-years; and then requiring foremen and safety personnel to carry the 30-hour cad. NOTE: There are no CEU's awarded for completion of the OSHA courses.

The training center will also be handling First Aid/CPR Training for the membership as well, with a class on the website that is scheduled for January 20th. This will be a blended learning class; one week prior to the class date, students will be emailed a keycode to get access to the online course materials.

The course materials must be satisfactorily completed prior to the night of class, it will take approximately 2-hours to complete the material. On the night of class, students will perform hands-on skills assessments. The first class will be conducted through and outside organization, but we are working to get individuals approved to do the instruction in-house. These courses will be open to both Journeymen and Construction Wiremen. Again, there are NO CEU's awarded for this course.

In Solidarity,
Jebediah Novak,
Training Director

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New Log In Requirements coming for myWellmark®

Protecting member health data is a top priority at Wellmark. That's why we're adding an additional layer of security against unauthorized access, damage or information theft.

Beginning March 1, 2025, Wellmark will require two-step verification for myWellmark access.

Why is two-step verification necessary and how does it work?

The short answer is two-step verification keeps your online health data safe from cyberattacks. When you log in to your myWellmark account, two-step verification helps prove "you are who you say you are."

Beginning March 1st, when you log in to myWellmark, you'll confirm your identity with your username and password plus a system-generated code that will be sent to a registered mobile device or email address.

What you need to do

Set up two-step verification on your myWellmark account today! Simply log in to your myWellmark account and follow a few prompts. If you don't set up two-step verification prior to March 1, you will be prompted to do so the next time you log in.

myWellmark navigation relocated

Beginning December 5th, navigation will look a little different when you log in to myWellmark. Site navigation will now appear at the top of the page with drop-down menus showing what's available in each section of the site.

Questions? Please contact customer service at the number on the back of your ID card.

MEMBERS IN ARREARS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

Acme Electric

Elijah Kaine
Lucas Long
Lowell Meier
Blake Scheer

Baker Group

Aaron Vulich

Basepoint

Randy Buresh
Kimber Willenborg

ESCO Electric

Aaron Pealer

Gerard Electric

Alan Gerard
Hunter Mann
Billy Murphy
Andrew Waite

Hawkeye Electric

Calvin Beavers
Jeffrey Christian
Mark Gallagher
Shanna Graves
Mitchell Kesterson

Justice Electric

Paul Pata

Munson Electric

Michael Feltman
Miranda Lewis

Nelson Electric

Kenneth Templeton

Paulson Electric

Matthew Biewen
Gracy Kennedy

Premier Electric

Andrew Barmore
Eric Colsch
Olivia Croy
Gerald Mittan

Tech Solutions

Tyler Goettsch

Ruyle Mechanical

Jeffrey Steffensmeier

Streff Electric

Kyle Durgin

Tri-City Electric

Arlen Berner
Nicole Eckhardt
Ryan Fairchild
Robert Holden
Jonathan Jardim
Keith Kaiser
Jeffrey Scott
Robert Sumner

Out of Work

Marcus Beard
Lonny Beck
Michael Brinkmann
James Butler
Lonnie Dennis
JoAnn Greene
Dawson Holub
Monte Horner
Nateson Joseph-
Guillaume
David Longoria
Aydan Mahoney
Steven Morrow
Vincent Price
Ricky Ralston
Daniel Rubalcada

Out of Work

David Ruhs
Terry Slaughter
Joseph Stewart
Cody Whittom

Delinquent Members

Charlie Babcock
Adam Burns
Thimothe Charles
Ryan Gaber
James Gerard
Bradley Kientoff
Kelly Kula
Jeremy Lampe
Brent Morris
Felisha Robertson
Travis Taylor
Leslie Todd
Demetri Tyler
Dan Tyne
Martin Van Erdewyk

Dues Increase Schedule

At the last International Convention, a resolution was passed to increase the IO portion of dues payments. This increase will fund an increase to the Pension Benefit Fund from \$4.50 per month per year of membership, to \$5.50 per month per year of membership beginning in 2023. Dues are currently \$44.00 per month. Below is the schedule of dues increases through 2025:

- July 1, 2024: \$45.00 per month
- January 1, 2025: \$47.00 per month
- July 1, 2025: \$48.00 per month

If you have questions about your dues payment or the upcoming increases, please call the Hall, we are happy to help.

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IBEW 405 POKER PARTY!

Whip up a batch of chili and put on your poker face! The Poker Party is back and on Friday, Feb. 21st!

Party starts at 5PM!

\$10 buy in or free if you bring chili!

Prizes for 1st-3rd!

Raffles!

Limited Edition Shirts!



**IBEW LU405
1211 Wiley Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids**



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IBEW LOCAL 405
1211 WILEY BLVD, SW
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52404

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