International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union # 405

Cedar Rapids / Iowa City | November 2026

This Month in Labor History: The Civil Works Administration (CWA).

According to Britannica, the Civil Works Administration (CWA) was a US federal government program instituted as part of the New Deal during the Great Depression under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was originally slated to be part of the Public Works Administration, but on November 9, 1933, Roosevelt issued an executive order establishing the CWA, to be funded by $400 million from the budget of the PWA. The program was successfully managed by Harry L. Hopkins, the head of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

The winter of 1933 proved an extreme hardship for unemployed citizens, and Hopkins was tasked with getting four million people to work as quickly as possible. November 23, 1933, was the CWA's first payday, and there were a total of 814,511 workers who received checks. By mid-January, 4,263,644 people throughout the country were employed under this program. Many of these workers had previously been on federal welfare. It was estimated that up to 10 million people applied for the open positions.

The CWA ultimately included roughly 200,000 projects around the country, all on public lands. A massive number of infrastructure projects were completed during the CWA's existence. CWA programs created or improved 255,000 miles of roads, 2,000 miles of levees, 1,000 miles of new water mains, 40,000 schools, 3,700 playgrounds and 1,000 airports. In addition to this construction work, many projects created opportunities for teachers, artists, writers, statisticians, landscapers, and more. Wages varied, and were determined by region, local wage levels, family need and type of labor.

Those opposed to the CWA program made claims of fraud and worried that the CWA would impede farm recovery programs because the CWA could pay higher wages than they could, creating an unfair advantage when attracting laborers. Ultimately the program proved to be much more expensive than expected: Instead of costing $400 million, it ran to about 1 billion. Although 80% of the cost of the CWA program went to worker wages, it was expected that the cost would only increase due to workers demanding cost of living increases. Thus, the program ended on March 31, 1934.

Many large CWA projects were left unfinished, sometimes for years. There was a popular resistance to end the CWA. Tens of thousands of protest letters were sent to government officials demanding the continuation of the program. Many who led the CWA, including Hopkins, went to work for the Works Progress Administration (WPA), after its founding in May 1935. The WPA used an employment model similar to that of the CWA and had a significant positive effect on unemployment and infrastructure.

NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 RENEW Board Game Night 6:00 pm	3 RENEW Meeting	4	5 Iowa Women in Trades 6:30 pm	6	7
8	9	10 E-Board Meeting 5:00 pm Women's Committee Benefit Night 5:00pm-7:00pm RENEW Board Game Night 6:00 pm	11 Veterans Day (Holiday)	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 General Meeting 6:00 pm	19 Retirees Luncheon	20	21
22	23	24	25 405 Women's Committee Meeting 4:30 pm	26 Thanksgiving (Holiday)	27 Day After Thanksgiving (Holiday)	28
29	30					

Business Manager Report

Brothers and Sisters of L.U. 405,

We have two raise allocations coming up in the month of November. First, we will have the VDV raise allocation on Thursday, November 12th at 6:00 pm at the IBEW 405 Union Hall. The VDV Unit will be allocating a raise of $2.30. Then, on Wednesday, November 18th at 6:00 pm at the IBEW 405 Union Hall, we will have the Inside wage allocation. The Inside Unit will be allocating a raise of $3.50. We had our quarterly Health & Welfare Trust meeting on October 29th, where it was determined that the hourly healthcare contribution would need to raise $0.25. All of these changes will go into effect on Tuesday, December 1st.

We have been receiving a lot of questions about the Morgan Valley Energy Center lately. Here is an update on where things sit as of now. The Morgan Valley Energy Center rezoning application was voted down at the first reading by the Linn County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, October 20th. This project is a 720 MW natural gas powerhouse that is projected to be a three-year-long project. We are going to need additional power generation for the electric grid to be able to keep building not only data centers, but all forms of new construction. We also need more power generation to help keep the electricity rates stable for customers. Most of us learned about supply and demand in economics class in high school. Without building more power-generating facilities (natural gas, nuclear, solar, wind, battery storage, etc.), we will guarantee that the electricity rates go up for everyone. Interstate Power and Light Company has applied to the Iowa Utility Commission to attempt to override the Linn County decision. The IUC public hearing is at the Radisson Hotel in Cedar Rapids on Monday, December 7th at 10:00 am.

We had the Annual Harvest Party at Bloomsbury Farm on October 17th. It was wildly successful. We had over 550 people who attended this family-friendly event. The only bad thing was that we ran out of food because we underestimated how many people would show up. We will plan for more people next year and get more provisions. This was the first year at the new Sunset Barn, and we had a lot of positive feedback from everyone. It's great for our membership to be able to see one another with their families as a reminder of why we all go to work every day and to put our priorities in perspective.

In Solidarity,

Matt Resor
Business Manager

CONTACT INFO

IBEW Local 405
Phone: (319) 396-8241
E-Mail to Resign:
ibew405@ibew405.org
Website: www.ibew405.org

Cedar Rapids JATC
Phone: (319) 398-3283
Website: www.crejatc.org

Auxiant
Phone: (319) 398-3283
Fax: (319) 866-9889
HRA E-Mail Submission:
405hra@auxiant.com
Tina: Ext. 1208 For:
COBRA Coverage
Rachel: Ext. 6970 For:
Short-Term Disability
Jordan: Ext. 1299 For:
Vision Claims & Safety Glasses
Bill: Ext. 1363 For:
All other questions

Covenant EAP:
(833) 434-1335
Group Code: EAPIBEW22

Milliman:
(866) 767-1212

Wellmark
Health/Prescriptions:
Customer Service:
(800) 524-9242
Group #: 56700
Bob Gilmore: Union Liaison
gilmorer2@wellmark.com

Delta Dental of Iowa
(800) 544-0718
Group #: 1-35517-1

REFERRAL AGENT REPORT

In October, we wrote 100 JW, 31 CE/CW, and 26 VDV Tech/Installer referrals.

Book 1: 20
Book 2: 7
Book 3: 0
Book 4: 0
VDV: 0
Resi: 0

Changes to EWD's cooling system has created additional energy needs and caused schedules to change. Some material for the site has been directed to other states and temporary workers have been laid off. Their current plan is to retain the Book 1 & Book 2 when work is scheduled to pick back up in Spring/Summer 2027.

Winger at DAEC has begun hiring Journeyman to help with maintenance and reinstallation of refurbished equipment. There are some 300 motors and valves waiting to be returned to site. Manpower needs and work hours available will rely heavily on how quickly they're returned.

Local contractors still have calls in for Journeyman. Plenty of opportunities to help out in a service department or on smaller jobs. Maybe some shut downs as we approach the holidays.

In Solidarity,

London Morehouse
#7477713

Retiree's 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!

JATC Training Center News

As reported previously, the Trust had made an offer to purchase a former school property currently owned by Linn County. After the offer was approved by the Linn County Board of Supervisors, the Trust entered a 90-day due diligence period to perform inspections and determine whether the property would adequately serve the needs of the program.

The architects and engineers have completed their analysis of the property. After a thorough review of the issued report, the Trustees voted to withdraw their offer from the County. While the Trustees have discussed other potential possibilities for relocation of the training center, there are no specific properties or sites being actively pursued at this time.

There has been some misinformation regarding individuals working as Construction Wiremen (CW). CW's are not required to apply for an apprenticeship to continue working as a CW.

Due to this misunderstanding, the training center has seen an influx of unnecessary applications, and it is adding to the difficulty of processing applications in a timely manner. Just recently, the training center conducted a scheduled aptitude test where 25% of the scheduled candidates cancelled the day before because they were never actually interested in the apprenticeship program. These last-minute cancellations left us unable to offer those exam seats to interested applicants.

If you are working with a CW who has applied to the program and been interviewed, let them know that they may qualify to be reinterviewed. A CW is eligible for a reinterview provided 90 days have passed since the most recent interview and they have accumulated 450 hours of on-the-job experience.

Once a reinterview request is made and the CW submits the necessary documentation, they will be placed on a waiting list for an interview. Because there are a large number of applicants on the waiting list and more names are being added constantly, CW's are strongly encouraged to request a reinterview as soon as they meet the qualifications.

In Solidarity,
Jebediah Novak
Training Director

MEMBERS IN ARREARS

AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2026

A & B Electric
Roger Steichen

Acme Electric
Marcial Carte
Brendan Drury
Ross First
Elijah Kaine
Ty Russell
Joseph Stewart

Basepoint
Allen Bruce
Jay Crabill

Bilfinger
David Smutz

Cupertino Electric
Dylan Cochell
Brandon Janssen
Keiyon Smith-Allen
Colton Spicer
Alex Tampir
Michael Valentine
Shaka Ware
Tabioka Weeks

Durgin Electric
Trevor Denman

ESCO Electric
Xavier Hansen
Addison Jones
Eric Sweeney
Mitchell Yett

Gerard Electric
Shayn Mason
Darrell Spencer
David Thompson

Hawkeye Electric
Tyler Africa
Derek Dunkin
Trey Gallagher
Austin Hanover
Travis Harre
Jackson Harre
Caden Jondle
Ian Monnahan
Vincent Price
Cameron Springer
Austin Steuhm

J.W. Koehler
Jacob White

Justice Electric
Richard Ainesworth
Kevin Kipp
Aidan Novak
Jack Schwenn
Robby Spencer
Josiah Szabo

Munson Electric
Clayton Carstensen
Michael Feltman
Mike Fisher
Craig Ondracek

Nelson Electric
Jessica Peters
Michael Rinholen
Seth Scott

NTI
Otto Aarhus
Wilguerre Charles
Brett Clark
Christian Ortunio

Premier Electric
Eric Colsch
Gerald Mittan
Paul Myers

Streff Electric
Cameron Shaver

Tech Solutions
Tyler Steinwand

The Baker Group
Jason Burroughs
Tristan Chown
Del Cockayne
Anthony Graper
Shane Kaefring
Froylan Lugos
Michael McMeins
David Nguyen
Benjy Torres
Calvin Voelker
Ryan Zuspann

Trey Electric
Dan Davis
Beau Nelson
Scott Steuhm

Tri-City Electric
Michael Bowen
Adam Dubois
Jacob Fulton
Trent Holub
Onys Jeambat
Ceremy Joseph
Keith Kaiser
Todd Kelly
Kenna Kramer
Gavin Maker
Jose Maldonado Vazquez
Darrell Miller
Chakubuta Omari
Frandie Pierre
Brett Schissel
Cade Schnepp
Brennan Schulze
Cade Stout

Tri-City Electric
Travis Sturms
Sean Wilson
Paul York
Robert Zurcher

Out of Work
Chad Andrews
Ivan Bailey
John Carter-Martinez
Jayden Casey
Todd Catlett
Dallas Grant
Matthew Heubrock
Jahmai Jones
Felipe Marquez Aparacio
Connar Moffitt
Todd Paulsen
Matthew Petersen
Lucas Prokup
Darwin Pulido
Vincent Riso
John Shea
Wilmer Toro

Retractions
Herbert Michael Carson and Paul Pata were mistakenly in the newsletter last month for being in arrears. They have retired and no longer need to pay dues!

IBEW Local 405
1211 Wiley Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

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