

# 876 NEWS

March 2020

## Business Manager

Chad Clark

## Officers

**President** Dave Nelson

**Vice President** Gerald Cornell

**Recording Secretary** Brian Erickson

**Treasurer** Daniel Fredricks

## Business Manager's Report

Hello Brothers and Sisters,  
I would again like to thank the members for the continued support. Through your efforts the Union Hall is now paid off, saving Local 876 membership roughly \$120,000.00 in interest payments by paying it off early. Local 876 is also looking good to hit our financial goals before the projected time frame. 876 members also approved funding for our RENEW Committee. That allowed us to host our first Recognition Dinner back in November. It was held at the Soaring Eagle Casino in a formal setting, and allowed us to show how much we appreciate our retirees, along with being able to have a graduation for our new Journeyman. The dinner was well received. I was honored to be able to take part. In February, due to all the issues revolving around the new online system that ALBAT is now utilizing, Local 876 Executive Board officers along with myself went down to the NECA and National Training Alliance to voice the concerns from the membership. This was one of the most useful conferences we have attended

up to this point. This was a real learning experience not only about the apprenticeship, but also learning about many of the new initiative and technologies rolling out soon and how it can impact the industry. The ALBAT Trustees also appreciated the feedback and learning ways they can improve the program. The Negotiations for the 6-876-A outside power agreement for March 23<sup>rd</sup> have been canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our April 8<sup>th</sup> date is yet to be determined. Multiple other negotiations have been put on hold per the Covid-19 pandemic also. Please be safe while out working brothers and sisters.

## Health Reimbursement Account

Employer contributions into your Health Reimbursement Account are at the rate of \$0.20/hr. under the 6-876-A agreement. Your HRA must accumulate \$100.00 to trigger your BENNY CARD to be issued. If you think you should have received your card or lost it, call them @ 877.282.8665.

## Sworn In

Since January of 2019, we have had 286 new members that have come to the hall to swear in at the general membership meetings. Congrats to all the new members and we welcome you to come to future meetings.

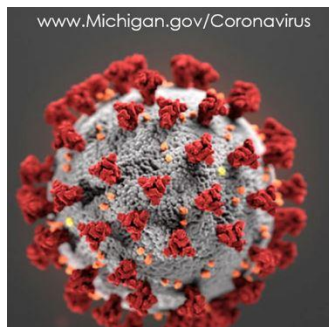
## Lineman's Rodeo

IBEW Local 876 would like to congratulate its members, who competed in the National Lineman's Rodeo. Thank you to everyone that competed. It shows that you are proud of what you do and who you are. We had local Brothers come in 4<sup>th</sup> place, in the Contractors Division. Brother Steven Albert, Brother Jeremy Polash, and Brother Joe Hyrkas.

Congratulations on a fantastic finish on a National Level.

## Covid 19

There has been a lot in the news about the corona virus. This must be the most coverage in history about any virus, most reports about the health and economic impacts from it. Unfortunately, the corona virus has had a lot of political bias in the news coverage of it on both sides of the media. Some reports created a toilet paper panic while other reports made it sound like a hoax. It is important to note that we (us as Americans) have experts on these issues. They're the ones that told us social distancing was necessary, that schools needed to close, and stay in place orders needed to happen. The point here is we need to listen to our experts. Although our news views may differ, we still need to be our brother's keeper. If you feel ill, Please Stay Home. Do what is necessary not only to protect your families, but also the families of your coworkers. If we all do what is needed, our experts tell us that we will buy time to defeat this virus. Let's do what the IBEW does best and succeed in this fight.



## Renew Committee

Back in November, we had our first recognition dinner for the IBEW Local 876 membership. The renew committee would like to thank everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the dinner. You made this a great event and with all the positive feedback this event is here to stay. We have included the list of invitees from the 2019 dinner. If you were on the list and were unable to attend, you can get ahold of Stacy at Local 876 to be placed on the list for availability for the 2020 recognition dinner. It will be a first come first serve basis, as space will be limited.

<i>Apprenticeship Graduates &amp; Retirees</i>			
<b>Apprenticeship Graduates:</b>			
Kevin Abdella	December 2018	Alex McDougall	February 2019
Ryan Bischof	July 2019	Brandon Newman	May 2019
Eric Booms	February 2019	Jacob Oakland	May 2019
Jacob Bragenzer	May 2019	Seth Olrich	June 2019
Samuel Braun	October 2018	Adam Palmer	September 2018
Gerrit Buist	March 2019	Kyle Parker	October 2018
Jeremy Byrnes	July 2019	William Parmelee	February 2019
Mitchell Byrnes	July 2019	Dennis Pecynski	March 2019
Bill Cavness	August 2018	Daniel Pietila	May 2019
Dakota Clary	January 2019	Erik Pipponen	February 2019
Thomas Cvengros	September 2018	Jordan Piper	January 2019
Robert Deleon	December 2018	Zackrey Rank	November 2018
Richard Drake	February 2019	Tyler Reader	November 2018
Timothy Dunham	December 2018	Lance Schaedig	November 2018
Ian Ebe	December 2018	Steven Schwartz	November 2018
Jason Ekins	December 2018	Norbert Seleski	March 2019
Brian Erickson	December 2018	Jon Shillington	March 2019
Bryton Foster	December 2018	Ethan Shoemaker	October 2018
Samuel Graham	March 2019	David Sidener	November 2018
Matthew Haskin	April 2019	Adam Snider	December 2018
Richard Heath	May 2019	Nicholas Swogger	April 2019
Randy Jaroniewski	April 2019	Steven Swogger	December 2018
Charles Johnson	February 2019	Zachary Thiel	August 2018
Andrew Johnson	April 2015	ian Thomas	May 2018
Zachary Knight	April 2019	Travis Thompson	November 2018
Dustin Kovac	August 2018	Zachary Tyll	December 2018
Matthew Krause	December 2018	William Watt	July 2019
Brian Krueger	April 2019	Dennis Webster	May 2018
Joshua Langlois	October 2018	Tim Wieber	May 2019
David Leach	December 2018	Joel Wilson	March 2019
Bradley Malburg	November 2018	Chadd Woodworth	July 2019
<b>Retirees:</b>			
Gerald Boss	March 2002	Thomas Loodeen	December 2012
Carmen Campbell	January 2019	Daniel McHugh	February 2019
Larry Capra	February 2019	Paul Merrifield	August 2018
Robert Clark	August 2018	Stuart Muscott	August 2017
Walter Gerst	October 2018	Thomas Payne	July 2018
Melvin Griswold	October 2018	Lansing Rease	March 2016
Clifford Grubb	May 2019	Ralph Robb	October 2018
Jay Hoffman	September 2018	Ralph Smith	February 2019
Joe Jeluso	October 2015	David Sundholm	April 2019
Thomas Kennedy	February 2019	Robert Verhaar	April 2019
Eugene Kittel	August 2009	Wayne Wright	April 2014

## Dispatcher Dave's 2 cents

Good day Brothers and Sisters,

As you all are aware of the situation our country is going through currently, work has slowed down considerably. With the influx of manpower on the books, it is important to keep up on your resign date. If there is a job posted and you don't take it there will be strikes added. 3 strikes and you roll to the bottom of the list. We are being told that work will pick up by August, and it will remain strong through 2021. So be patient, stay safe, and we will all be back to work soon. In the event of a storm call there will be a mass text sent out to all who are on the books. Respond to the number provided. Thank you, stay safe!

Dave Nelson

Job Hotline: [989-304-2002](tel:989-304-2002)

## Mike's Minute

Brothers and Sisters, one of things we need to address is the participation from our Journeyman on the evaluation processes we have in place. We hear a lot of comments about the evaluations process. Some will have an apprentice fill out their own eval; some will pass the responsibility on to the next person. Or, some always give negative feedback to weaponize the form to the point the committee will start to investigate it and an about face happens, because they are a good apprentice. The evaluation is the system that we have in place and we need our journeyman to buy in. Like it or not the evaluation is our process. If we keep ignoring or abusing the evals, we are not helping anyone. If an apprentice needs to focus in certain areas tell them. If an apprentice is doing well again let them know. Letting everything go until problems happen is not the solution. As time goes on things change and with

the changes, we need our Journeymen to help us. Now that evaluations are done online, we need our Journeymen to adapt and help these apprentices to be successful.

## ALBAT Graduates

Ryan Bischof	Michael Hinkley
Clay Bowen	Michael Kuz
Jeremy Byrnes	Kaleb O'Conner
Mitchell Byrnes	John Polash
Robert Carpenter	James Reid
Damian Dudek	Matthew Rhode
Robert Goodall	Shane Sherman
Onious Hargrove	Brain Trempe
Max Herrmann	William Watt

Congratulations to our Brothers and Sisters for completing their apprenticeship programs.

## Death Benefit Fund

The Death Benefit Fund is currently at #553. If you are not up to date on your death benefits, or if you are unaware of where you are at, please contact the hall. Don't let yourself fall behind.

## Vote From Home

Are you and your family registered to vote? Do you want to vote from home, permanently? One form can do both, and you can do this on your phone. You will need to log onto [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote), click on "Register" and follow the instructions. It only takes a few minutes. We also have the paper form at the IBEW LOCAL 876 Union hall, an **example has been attached to end of the newsletter**. The last date to register for the November election is October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If you have any questions, contact: Phil Barnett at 616.446.0924

## Achievement Award

The members on a few occasions have reached out looking to acknowledge an apprentice they have working for them. We believe it is a good idea also. So, we would like to have our **Journeyman send in submissions for outstanding apprentices**. The candidates should meet the normal criteria, like having a positive attitude, ability to work well with others, shows up to work on time, etc. Above all those things, shows pride in their work, and gets the job done correctly the first time. We also believe an award should go to the teacher as well. So, we would like our **Apprentices to nominate their Journeyman**. Need to meet all the criteria from above. More so to be recognized for the ability to communicate effectively, for strong leadership skills, and for treating everyone with respect. One Journeyman and one Apprentice per year will attend the recognition dinner to receive acknowledgement for the achievement. To send in your nominations, please email us the person you would like to nominate along with a statement as to why you believe they deserve the award. Also include a picture of projects, or information of community volunteer time. That the individuals have taken part in as well. Send nominations to: [slehner@ibewlocal876.org](mailto:slehner@ibewlocal876.org)

## Organizer's Corner

The number of Tree trimmers that IBEW 876 represents continues to grow! Chad Clark was successful in negotiating a Tree Trimmer classification at Lowell Light & Power, they are hiring two Trimmers through us. Davey Tree used our current contract, and with our assistance, was able to secure a contract with the Lansing Board of Water & Light. Davey will be putting on ten Trimmers there. On a similar note, the Lansing Board of Water & Light is hiring four "in house" Trimmers that will be represented by IBEW LOCAL352.

## Obituary Column

*It is with our deepest sympathy we Report the passing of the following Members.*

Fay Kerr	- May 2019
Ronald Hughes	- August 2019
Brian Wightman	- September 2019
John Fredricks	- October 2019
Brian Kiter	- November 2019
Justin Nickel	- December 2019
Clyde Corbett	- December 2019
Albert Hale	-March 2020
James Rollins	-March 2020



*Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of each of these members. They will be sincerely missed.*

## Rich's 906 News

Hello Brothers and Sisters from the UP, Work has been steady up here, but will probably see a small slow down with load limits likely coming on before long. The turn of the New Year brought the Eastern UP a very nasty ice storm, that required many crews from all over Michigan to help with the restoration. Thank you to all that assisted with Alger Delta Co-op and Cloverland Electric Co-op during these tough conditions. Workload for the summer looks good with many projects to start as soon as the weather breaks. Our crews on the Garden windmill project as well as MJ on ATC property have made good progress all winter. Also, Xcel Energy looks to have work in the UP in the coming months. The City of Escanaba will enter contract negotiations soon. I look forward to our next visit!

Richard Crane  
C: 989-289-3923

## From the Front Office

We hope everyone had a great Holiday season. We are very busy here at the Union Hall, with year-end tasks and everyday duties. We are also short staffed with Shelley being out on disability; because of this, we ask that you use the online dues payment system. To pay your dues whenever possible at <https://members.ibew876.workingsystems.com> You may still send in a check or money order. Thank you to those that are already diligently using the online system. If you don't know how to use the online system, please give us a call and we will forward you the instructions.

Sincerely,  
Memory, and Stacy

## Shoen's Spot

Brothers and Sisters, there are a few things I would like to touch base on for this Newsletter. First thing, if any of your information has changed please keep the Hall updated. There is a lot of mail returned to the hall because of bad addresses. Also, if things change in your life, like a death of a love one, just got married, just got divorced, and your beneficiary needs to be changed, make sure to do so. That being said, please remember if your beneficiary is a minor (under 18 years old) that money goes to their legal guardian. That means that they may not see anything when they reach adulthood. Your beneficiary doesn't have to pay or help pay for your final expenses. I'm sure there is not one member out there that wants to put that burden on their family when they can do it themselves. Unfortunately, I have seen this happen more than once. So, keep your local up to date on your changes. There has been a lot of rumors flying around lately. If you hear something that sounds like bull, call the hall, educate yourself, get the

truth and spread that (THE TRUTH). We are not in high school anymore. Let's be adults.

## Acknowledgement



On February 16<sup>th</sup> around 9a.m. Mark Bryngelson, a member of Local 876 was taking his son fishing. While waiting at a train crossing, a car came around Mark's car and the gates, that were down. The vehicle was then struck by the train, causing the woman to become trapped in her car. Luckily, Mark was able to pull her out of the car through the rear door, before the flames were able to get to her. She ended up with a few broken bones. Mark has checked up on her and she is making a good recovery. Thank you, Mark, for stepping up when it matters.

## Beneficiary Changed?

Please be sure that you know who is designated as your beneficiary. If there have been any changes in your marital status or if you have any questions as to who is designated as your beneficiary, please contact the Local Union Hall. In the event that a member passes away, please contact the Local Union Hall and we will walk you through the steps that need to be taken to ensure that appropriate benefits are paid.

## Round of Meetings

At this time the round of meetings are cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

---

*We value your input. If you think a topic should be discussed in the newsletter, please contact Mike Cornell at the hall.*

**616-784-1133 ext. 100**

---

**instructions**

If you have a Michigan driver's license or state ID card, **you can register to vote online**. Start the process at Michigan.gov/Vote.

Complete this form to register to vote or update your registration information<sup>1</sup>.

- 1** Please print all information clearly using black or blue pen.
- 2** Sign the form.
- 3** Mail or drop off the form to your city/township clerk.

Find your city/township clerk and more information at Michigan.gov/Vote.

Phone number/email provided will be used for official election purposes only.

<sup>1</sup>Name changes must be completed at an SOS branch office.



The voter registration deadline is **15 days** before election day, **IF** you submit this form through a voter registration drive or deliver it to a county clerk or secretary of state office. If you mail the form, it must be postmarked at least 15 days before the election.



**You can register any time up through Election Day by going to your city or township clerk office with residency verification.**

If you have a Michigan driver's license (DL) or state identification card (SID), you must use the same address for voter registration and DL/SID.

This form will also change your DL/SID address. You'll be mailed a sticker with your new address to put on your DL/SID.

If you have never voted in person in Michigan and choose to submit this form by mail or through a voter registration drive, **review the instructions on page 1**. You might need to provide additional ID.

More instructions can be found on page 1.

**State of Michigan Voter Registration Application**  
and Michigan Driver's License/State Identification Card Address Change Form

**qualifications**

- yes  no I am a United States citizen.
- yes  no I am at least 17.5 years old and will vote only after I turn 18.

**!** If you are not a US citizen, DON'T complete this form

**Michigan-issued driver's license/Michigan-issued state ID card #**

□ - □ □ □ □ - □ □ □ □ - □ □ □ □ - □ □ □ □

If you don't have a Michigan-issued driver's license or Michigan-issued state ID card, provide the last four digits of your Social Security number:

X X X - X X - □ □ □ □

I don't have a valid Michigan-issued driver's license, a Michigan-issued state ID card, or a Social Security number.

**personal information \*required information**

last name\* first\* middle suffix

□ □ - □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □  male  female

date of birth\*

address where you live - house number & street name\* apt/lot #

**MI**

city\* zip

( )

phone email

mailing address (if different than where you live) city state zip

**Complete to join permanent absent voter application list:**  I want to vote absentee in all future elections. Automatically send me an application for every election.

**signature**

I certify that:

- I am a United States citizen.
- I am a Michigan resident and will vote only after I have lived in my city or township for at least 30 days.
- I am at least 17.5 years old and will vote only after I turn 18.
- I authorize the cancellation of any previous registration.

The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be subject to a fine or imprisonment or both under federal or state laws.

**X**

signature date