



The Current

News from IBEW Local 1837

Summer 2019

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Maine & New Hampshire

Emera Maine Seeking PUC Approval of Sale to Calgary's Enmax Corp.

Emera Maine is seeking regulatory approval of its \$1.3 billion sale to Enmax Corp. of Calgary, Alberta. IBEW 1837 has filed for intervenor status in the case now being considered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission in order to be sure that the interests of our members are protected throughout the process. We have also been enlisting the support of the Office of the Public Advocate as well as legislative leaders and have been given assurances that they will support and promote terms that respect the interests of Emera Maine employees.

In a news release, Emera president and CEO Scott Balfour said: "One of our priorities has been to identify a buyer for Emera Maine that has the technical skills, experience and financial strength to assure that our customers will continue to receive high quality, reliable service. Enmax more than measures up on these essential qualities."

IBEW 1837 will also continue our conversations with the Calgary IBEW Local representing workers at Enmax.

"We understand that there are grievances at Enmax related to the use of contractors, so we will be taking a close look at that," IBEW 1837 Business Manager Dick Rogers said. "We think that any company seeking to acquire Emera Maine needs to demonstrate a commitment to adequate staffing and job security for our members, and service to our ratepayers."

More Than 100 New IBEW Members Expected at CMP with New Staffing Agreement



Central Maine Power will add more than 50 new lineworkers under the terms of the new staffing agreement if the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves the rate case. IBEW 1837 has filed to be an intervenor in the case. (File photo)

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local #1837 and Central Maine Power Company (CMP) have agreed to an extension of their staffing agreement, which coupled with a staffing plan submitted to the Maine Public Utility Commission, includes a substantial increase in the number of workers employed at Maine's largest electric utility.

IBEW 1837 Business Manager Dick Rogers has been advocating for increased staffing for several years in discussions with CMP and the Public Advocate's office as well as in testimony before the Maine Public Utilities Commission and the Legislature's Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

"I signed an extension of the staffing agreement that I believe, along with the staffing plan submitted by the company to the Maine Public Utility Commission and once fully implemented, will have the impact CMP's customers and our members deserve, including restoration efforts, new construction/customer service, and safety," Rogers said.

The "minimum" number of Union employees at CMP will increase from 546 to 606. That includes the addition of twelve (12) new line apprentices and four (4) new station apprentices. By 2024, the fully implemented minimum staffing number will be 665.

There was also the establishment of a minimum number of line workers effective immediately. Currently there are 219 line workers at CMP with no minimum. Under the new agreement the minimum for 2019 will be 231 and will increase annually until it reaches 270 (providing that the staffing portion of the PUC rate case is approved). The anticipated addition of 51 line workers is the equivalent of 25 new bucket trucks serving CMP ratepayers.

IBEW 1837 Holds Spring 2019 Steward Trainings

Chief Stewards, Stewards and members seeking to learn more about becoming Stewards participated in IBEW Education Department trainings held in South Portland, Maine, on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. The first day of advanced training was designed primarily for Chief Stewards while the second day of introductory training was for Stewards and members considering stepping up into the role of Steward.

IBEW Education Department Instructor Craig Duffy was joined by IBEW 1837's staff on both days. Surveys taken after the classes indicated a high level of satisfaction among class participants with the quality of the training and an appreciation of the opportunity that was provided. Thanks and congratulations to everyone who took the time to complete these important classes:



Introductory Steward Class

Introductory Steward Training

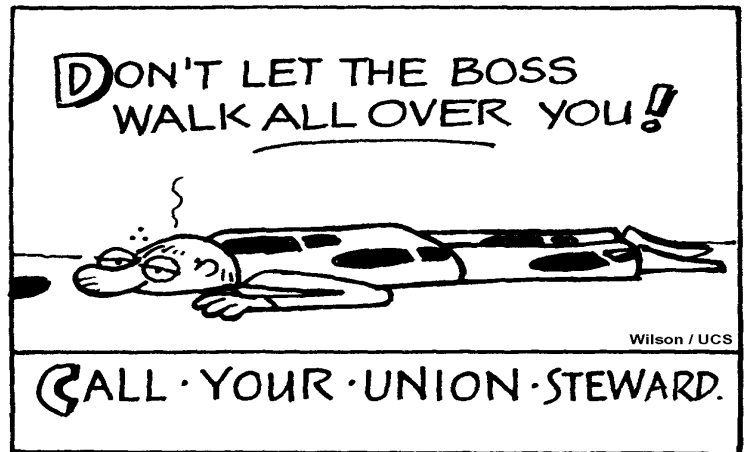
Shauna Offen	NHEC - Warehouse
Brett Stratton	Eversource Energy-Utility Group
Steve Bowman	NH Electric Co-operative
Shawnn Vaillant	Unitil-Capital
Zachariah Bereiter	Eversource Energy-Utility Group
Mark Hitchko	Granite Shore Power, LLC
Joseph Garland	NextEra
Anita Libby	Central Maine Power
Timothy Gordon	Central Maine Power
Timothy O'Neill	Emera ME South
Kevin Worster	Emera ME South
Erin Allee	CMP-CSR
Nathaniel Davidson	CMP-CSR
Rebecca Long	CMP-CSR



Advanced Steward Class

Advanced Steward Training

Bruce Ayotte	Emera Maine
Marc Goodspeed	Eversource Energy-Utility Group
Kathleen Kilroy	Eversource Energy-Utility Group
Joseph DiPrizio	NH Electric Co-operative
Pierre Maurice	WGME-TV
Gregory Fortin Jr.	Central Maine Power
Derek Willette	Central Maine Power
Todd Hatch	Central Maine Power
Mark Penney	Eversource Energy-Utility Group



IBEW 1837 T-Shirts & More!



Members of IBEW 1837 can custom order their own t-shirts, sweatshirts, and baseball caps online from *Exquisite Stitches*. All clothing is union made and/or made in the USA.

There's a wide variety of available logos, items, and sizes available that can be custom stitched by a local company. Go to www.companycasuals.com/ibew to check designs or prices and place your order.

You can also get more information about other logo options and special orders of FR (fire retardant) stitching required in some job classifications by contacting them directly. Please send them an email at Sales@ExquisiteStitches.com or call Judy at 603-401-1263.

IBEW 1837 Partners with Eversource NH for “NEAT,” Northeast Apprentice Line Training Program

IBEW 1837 has partnered with New Hampshire’s largest electric utility to help train the next generation of Lineworkers utilizing the Northeast Apprentice Training Program, or “NEAT.” Eversource will hire nine more new employees for their Apprentice Line Training Program (ALTP) by July.

This training program is modelled after the successful training programs run by IBEW’s Construction Union Local #104, among others. The idea is to have a training program that is of higher quality and more consistent than what was done in the past.

“While this approach is new to the Utility side of the IBEW, we recognize the value it provides to all concerned,” said IBEW 1837 Business Manager Dick Rogers.

In order to be considered, applicants must first complete a two-semester program at Manchester Community College and work one day a week at Eversource during that time. This gives the students a chance to get a taste of line work to make sure that they want to pursue that career path and it also gives the Company an opportunity to see how they perform in a work environment. At the successful completion of the Manchester Community College program, the students will acquire a Commercial “A” License, a pre-requisite for the ALTP.

Included in the 7,000-hour ALTP over 3 ½ years is both classroom and on-the-job training. Students must complete 18 computerized modules and they utilize a computer simulator to learn transformer connections. They spend their first 18 months working together at Legends Drive before being individually assigned to their permanent Area Work Centers, where their training continues.

IBEW 1837 Assistant Business Manager Tony Sapienza recently spoke to 11 graduates of the Manchester Community College program and encouraged them to give strong consideration to moving on to the Eversource, NEAT and IBEW 1837 apprenticeship program.

“It’s easy for these folks to land a position because they’re in high demand right now,” Sapienza said. “I emphasized the benefits of working for a utility and having a union contract that guarantees their wages, benefits and working conditions. It’s a great career and I wanted them to know that.”



James Dolan and Dave Mitchell are in training to be in the next generation of lineworkers in the NEAT program, along with Avery Paulson and Bradley Roth (not pictured).

NH & ME State Legislatures Advance Pro-Worker Bills

In both Maine and New Hampshire, the Senate and House of Representatives in the State Legislatures went into session in January with solid pro-labor majorities. The Maine AFL-CIO and the New Hampshire AFL-CIO worked with their affiliated unions and other allies to advance legislation designed to benefit working people.

In Maine, the legislature has directed the Public Utilities Commission to study the pros and cons of creating a statewide consumer-owned utility and report back by February 15. (Both CMP and Emera oppose the idea.) A “Raise the Bar” bill was approved that requires the PUC to only approve the sale of utilities that have net benefits for ratepayers, including the pending sale of Emera. Another bill improving the Maine Workers’ Compensation system and one requiring most large employers to provide earned paid time off garnered bi-partisan support. Gov. Janet Mills signed these bills into law but disappointed labor advocates by vetoing bills expanding some collective bargaining rights for public sector workers.

In New Hampshire, bills establishing a paid medical leave insurance program, increasing the minimum wage, restoring prevailing wage requirements on public sector projects and increasing education funding, all passed both houses of the legislature. As *The Current* went to press, these bills had already been vetoed or faced a likely veto from Gov. Chris Sununu.

A list of the priority bills for organized labor in each state, a description of each and their final legislative outcome can be viewed and downloaded online at ibew1837.org/2019bills.



IBEW 1837 members on the WGME-TV News Team (seen here in their Portland newsroom) are being honored by the Radio Television Digital News Association in a several categories.



Lisa Bartell has retired after serving on the IBEW 1837 E-Board for many years representing Unit 6, Portland, and in recent years as Local Union Treasurer.



Chief Steward Joe Diprizio congratulates NHEC's Gavin Fogg.



Quick Notes and Announcements

IBEW 1837 Members at WGME-TV to Receive Edward R. Murrow Journalism Awards

Congratulations to our IBEW 1837 News Photographers, Producers and Editors at WGME-TV in Portland as well as our Brothers and Sisters in SAG-AFTRA for being honored with four Edward R. Murrow Regional Awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTNDA). The Portland, Maine, TV station received awards for Breaking News, Investigative Reporting, Excellence in Innovation, and Multimedia. One of the series that received recognition was their reporting on the billing problems at Central Maine Power and the Company's response to them. The Murrow Awards are named after Edward R. Murrow, a journalism pioneer at CBS who set the standards for the highest quality of broadcast journalism.

New Treasurer Appointed at IBEW Local 1837 as Lisa Bartell Retires from Central Maine Power

Many thanks to Lisa Bartell for her many years serving the Union on the E-Board, most recently as Treasurer. Please join us by congratulating Lisa on her retirement from Central Maine Power and thanking Donna Raymond who was sworn-in as our new Treasurer.

Eversource Bucket Truck Rollover

An Eversource NH bucket truck rolled over on Route 101 in Amherst on April 4, injuring two workers including one member of IBEW Local #1837. Both men were taken to the hospital with injuries but were OK and have since returned to work. Crews had been working in the area overnight doing restoration work.

Please Keep Your Union Info Up-to-Date

New mailing address, email address or phone number? Changing jobs or retiring? Please contact the union office with any updates so that we can keep you in the loop with important information about all your Union's activities. Call 207-623-1030 or 603-743-1652. You can also email us at: union@ibew1837.org.

Also, be sure to routinely check your paystubs to make sure that your wages are correct and that your Union dues are being correctly withheld. We hate having to send out bills for unpaid or overdue dues payments.

Congrats to NHEC Lineworker Gavin Fogg

Congratulations to Gavin Fogg, who just topped out as a First Class Lineworker at the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative in April. Brother Fogg is seen at left holding his certificate while receiving congratulations from IBEW Chief Steward Joe Diprizio.



Members of IBEW 1837 and other Maine labor unions met with Gov. Janet Mills on the annual Labor Lobby Day to discuss issues important to working people and their unions.



About a dozen different unions marched in Portland's St. Patty's Day Parade this year including IBEW Local 1837.

Instagram



Maine Union Members Lobby at State House

More than 150 union members gathered on March 14 for the Maine AFL-CIO Labor Lobby Day at the State House in Augusta. In a meeting with the Governor, CMP Lineworker Mark Henderson detailed the staffing problems at Maine's largest utility and their impact on customer service and concerns about worker safety.

Woody Crawford Retires from NHEC

Congratulations to Brother Woody Crawford on his retirement earlier this year. Brother Crawford was the most senior of the NH Electric Co-op's unionized employees and a former IBEW 1837 Steward.

Littleton Water & Light Ratifies 5-Year Contract

IBEW 1837 members at Littleton Water and Light ratified a new 5-year contract extension in December. The collective bargaining agreement includes 2.8% wage increases each year and no other changes in terms or benefits. Congratulations to these members, the only public sector employees represented by our Local.

Eversource Ops Rep A's Organize to Join IBEW

Congratulations to the Eversource NH Rep As in Operations at the Area Work Centers. They organized with IBEW 1837 and won their National Labor Relations Board election in November. IBEW 1837 Chief Steward Kitty Kilroy joined IBEW 1837 Business Manager Dick Rogers and Assistant Business Manager Tony Sapienza in negotiations for their first contract, which was ratified in January. All of these newly-represented workers are receiving increased pay and other benefits associated with their union membership.

Unions Turn Out for St. Patrick's Day Parade

IBEW 1837 and many other unions marched in Portland's St. Patrick's Day Parade this year. Union marchers were greeted by cheers of "hooray for the unions" while Governor Janet Mills looked on and joined in the cheers.

IBEW1837 is Now on Instagram

In addition to our longstanding website and social media presence on Facebook and Twitter, you can now follow IBEW 1837 on Instagram. Our Instagram feed will feature photos of IBEW 1837 members at work and in their communities throughout New Hampshire and Maine. You can submit photos for possible posting by emailing them to matt@ibew1837.org. Please make sure that you have the permission of everyone in the photo beforehand.

Union Meetings Take Summer Break

Union meetings have been suspended for the summer months with most Units resuming their regular meeting schedules in September (with the exception of Unit 6, Portland, which resumes in October). As always, be sure to check the calendar on our website www.ibew1837.org before driving or contact the Union Office.

“Distracted Driving” While Patrolling Lines Raises Safety and Legal Concerns for IBEW 1837 Members

IBEW 1837 recently became aware of the Maine law concerning “Failure to Maintain Control of a Motor Vehicle.” The actual statute is copied below. The Union has had our attorneys, the Maine State Police, and an independent criminal attorney review the law and its possible implications to our members who drive as part of their jobs.

Simply put, you should not be doing anything while driving other than what is required to operate the motor vehicle. In our opinion, that would include patrolling or assessing while driving alone.

We have brought this safety issue and Maine law interpretation to both Emera and CMP. We filed grievances at both companies. Emera had agreed in writing to abide by the law and not have employees/ members patrolling/assessing while working alone and driving thus settling the grievance. Recently, Emera

changed their opinion and has tried to retract their agreement. The Union has filed an unfair labor charge with the National Labor Relations Board. CMP has not agreed and we are headed to arbitration pending a settlement.

While the Union can’t tell an individual what to do, we can inform you so you can make your own proper decisions based on your safety, the safety of other motorists and/or pedestrians and Maine motor vehicle laws. As with any task, it’s your obligation to ask for help if you feel safety is a concern as well as to abide by the law.

If you find yourself in a situation where you must patrol or assess alone, it is your decision whether you think it would be safe to do so. If you are directed to do so by a supervisor and elect not to because you think it would be unsafe to patrol or assess alone and are disciplined, the Union will pursue the matter to arbitration. If, on the other hand, you do not want to risk discipline and decide to patrol or assess alone but feel it was unsafe to do so, please notify the Union and we will file a grievance and then pursue the matter to arbitration. Whatever your choice, the Union is committed to pursuing this matter to arbitration on behalf of any employee who feels it is unsafe to patrol or assess alone unless the Employer rescinds its practice or policy and agrees to assign two employees to patrol or assess for downed lines. The actual Maine law is seen below:



In most states, there are at least two workers in most vehicles that patrol power lines, but Maine has been an exception in spite of a state law that prohibits “distracted driving.”

Title 29-A: MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Chapter 19: OPERATION

Subchapter 2: VIOLATIONS

§2119

§2118. Failure to maintain control of a motor vehicle

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 29-A, SECTION 2117)

1. **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. “Operation of a motor vehicle while distracted” means the operation of a motor vehicle by a person who, while operating the vehicle, is engaged in an activity:

- (1) That is not necessary to the operation of the vehicle; and
- (2) That actually impairs, or would reasonably be expected to impair, the ability of the person to safely operate the vehicle. [RR 2009, c. 1, §18 (RAL).]

[RR 2009, c. 1, §18 (RAL) .]

2. Failure to maintain control of a motor vehicle. A person commits the traffic infraction of failure to maintain control of a motor vehicle if the person:

A. Commits either a traffic infraction under this Title or commits the crime of driving to endanger under section 2413 and, at the time the traffic infraction or crime occurred, the person was engaged in the operation of a motor vehicle while distracted; or [RR 2009, c. 1, §1 (RAL).]

B. Is determined to have been the operator of a motor vehicle that was involved in a reportable accident as defined in section 2251, subsection 1 that resulted in property damage and, at the time the reportable accident occurred, the person was engaged in the operation of a motor vehicle while distracted. [RR 2009, c. 1, §18 (RAL).]

A person may be issued a citation or summons for any other traffic infraction or crime that was committed by the person in relation to the person's commission of the traffic infraction of failure to maintain control of a motor vehicle.

[RR 2009, c. 1, §18 (RAL) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2011, c. 207, §1 (NEW). 2011, c. 654, §7 (AMD). 2013, c. 188, §1 (AMD). 2013, c. 381, Pt. B, §28 (AMD).

As this issue of our newsletter *The Current* was going to press, your Union was also in the process of evaluating distracted driving laws in New Hampshire and we plan to issue an update to our New Hampshire members once that research is complete. In many but not all cases, our represented companies in New Hampshire assign two employees to vehicles engaged in patrolling and assessing lines. But regardless of the number of people in each vehicle, the same principles apply and distracted drivers may be subject to serious consequences in the event of a crash or personal injury accident.

DistractedDriving.gov defines distracted driving as “any activity that could divert a person’s attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety.”

As you should know, OSHA requires that all workers who drive as part of their job have the right to a safe work environment just as they would while performing any other work activity. They are also protected if they are fired or in any way retaliated against for raising safety concerns to an employer, participating in safety and health activities, or exercising their rights under the Act which reads:

“You have the right to a safe workplace. *The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act)* was passed to prevent workers from being killed or seriously harmed at work. The law requires that employers provide their employees with working conditions that are free of known dangers.”



AMERICAN INCOME LIFE
insurance company

Insurance Company Provides Free Accidental Death Coverage to IBEW 1837

All members of IBEW Local 1837 receive free accidental death insurance coverage with no strings attached. That coverage is provided by American Income Life, an insurance company whose staff are unionized and who focus specifically on providing coverage to other union members.

The accidental death insurance benefit they provide – which is increasing from \$3,500 to \$4,000 – requires no action by members of IBEW 1837 to be covered. There’s no need to fill out and return a card included with the American Income Life mailings or to go online to register. The coverage is automatic.

American Income Life also offers life insurance and enhanced accidental death insurance at reduced rates to union members. If you’re interested in learning more, return the card and you will be contacted by an insurance agent from American Income Life. They will call you to try to sell you the additional insurance. That’s their business and how they make money.

IBEW 1837 allows American Income Life to mail their information to our members. We allow them to do so because of the free, automatic accidental death coverage they provide. Your Union makes no money from American Income Life’s insurance sales and we do not allow them to retain the mailing list of our members.

If you have additional questions about the insurance coverage, contact Rosanna Gill at American Income Life directly at 803-443-9644 or regill@aillife.com.



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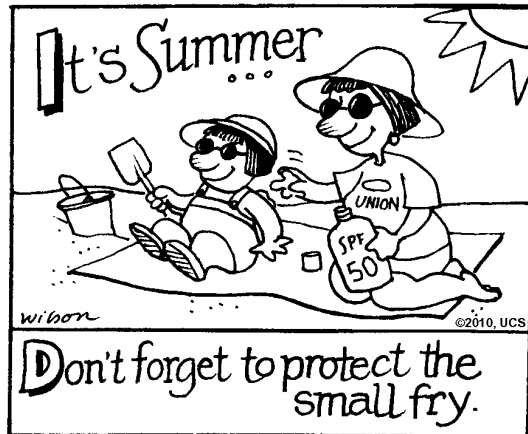
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Vice President - Bob McNeff
Recording Secretary - Kitty Kilroy
Treasurer - Donna Raymond
Business Manager - Dick Rogers
Assistant Business Manager - Tony Sapienza
Business Representative - Renee Gilman
Business Rep. / Current Editor - Matt Beck

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