



449'er
NEWSLETTER
 2026 Q1 Edition



WELCOME

On behalf of all our staff, thank you for reading the 449'er Newsletter and welcome to the IBEW Local 449 brotherhood! We're glad to keep you informed about the goings-on and events happening at Local 449 with this Quarterly round-up.

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!
 To keep the newsletter & website updated, we're in desperate need of photos of our union members out on the job. Contact the Hall for more information!

WORDS FROM OUR OFFICERS

Hear from our Business Manager, Assistant Business Manager, Organizers, Local 449 President, and JATC Training Director!

FINISH READING ON PGS. 2-6



BENEFIT GUIDE

Having trouble accessing your benefits online? Our handy new Benefit Guide can help!

(Currently only for members who have 8th District Health, Pension, & Annuity. LineCo coming soon!)

FINISH READING ON PG. 7-8



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Read about exciting announcements, wish your brothers luck in their retirement, or send condolences to your brothers who have passed away.

FINISH READING ON PGS. 9-10



A Message From Our Business Manager

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this Newsletter finds you and your families healthy and well. Happy New Year to all! I hope you all had a great year in 2025.

2025 was a big year for the local. We negotiated and ratified 5 agreements; Fall River CO-OP, Lost River CO-OP, Trees LLC, VDV, and the Inside Wireman Agreement. We accomplished small wins in every contract! I would like to thank all the negotiating teams for their help. Cory and myself couldn't have done it without you.

While we reflect on our past year, and think of resolutions for the new year, I would like to take the time to remind us all of the obligation we all have taken as written in the Constitution.

"I, [Clay Hirning], in the presence of members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, promise and agree to conform to and abide by the Constitution and laws of the I.B.E.W. and its L.U.'s. I will further the purposes for which the I.B.E.W. is instituted. I will bear true allegiance to it and will not sacrifice its interest in any manner."

As we have brought in several new members this past year, it is important that we pass on the knowledge someone has given us and extend the feeling of Brotherhood and a sense of belonging to the greatest organization in the world.

I would like to congratulate our new Journeymen who graduated last year. Drew Arnold, Jerry Baird III, Tucker Beach, Broderick Bibbs, Maddox Breshears, Jordan Cook, Jose Flores, Trenton Fried, Jeremy Glascock, Burhan Hetemi, Jason Makay, and Tyler Starley. I hope 2026 brings prosperity to all.

Fraternally yours,
Clay Hirning
D579851





ASSISTANT B/A and Dispatcher

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health, good spirits, and looking forward to the new year.

The work picture for the upcoming year looks promising, with work projected in the Twin Falls area to stay strong. On the Eastern side, work is slow. I'm hoping that the INL and our surrounding areas will pick up this spring. I will do my best to keep you all informed of the up-and-coming work at our union meetings (1st Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the Hall in Pocatello or Twin Falls.) Or, give us a call at the Hall.

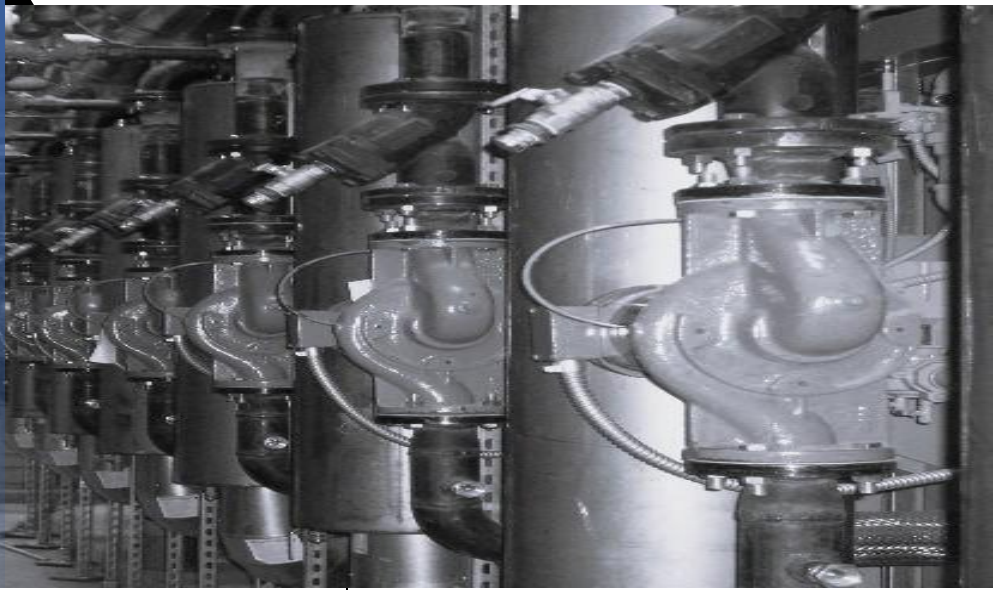
I would like to take a moment and say congratulations to our newly turned-out Brothers and Sisters from the Apprenticeship! For all our new members, take the time to register on our website and get logged into your benefits through the website. It will help you keep track of your health insurance, PCA, pensions, and annuity. I also just want to remind everyone that Local 449 has a Death Benefit Fund that you can participate in. If you would like more information, please reach out to the Hall at 208-232-5263.

When we speak of safety on the job, we most always talk of eliminating the possibility for slips, trips, falls, strains, and sprains. How often do we talk about eliminating fatigue? Fatigue can impair concentration and decision making, leading to errors that might have been avoided. As members, regardless of your position within the chain of command, we need to make sure that breaks are taken regularly, and that schedules are realistic. No project is worth risking a life.

Stay safe out there!

Cory Facer
D579694

Organizers' Reports



Sisters and Brothers,

I hope everyone had happy holidays. With 2025 in the books, and looking forward at our projected work picture, we need to take a hard look at our internal and external organizing. In the last 5 years, the JATC has turned out 75 new Journeymen, but about 85 Journeymen have retired. Our local needs your help! Please talk to every open shop hand you know, and let them know about the union and what we have to offer.

I'd like to remind everyone about the LMCC Incentive Program. Any qualified State licensed Journeyman electrician, VDV Tech, or experienced apprentice, who becomes a member under the Commercial/Industrial Agreements will receive a monetary incentive. This helps Local 449 organize new Journeymen, VDV Techs, and experienced apprentices/installers so we can staff all the current and future work in our jurisdiction and thus maintain and grow our market share. The summarized terms of the Incentive Program are as follows:

- \$1,000.00 will be paid to qualified State licensed Journeyman electricians after the new member works for an IBEW Local 449 signatory contractor for 4 months/600 hours.
- \$750.00 will be paid to Idaho State registered apprentices with over 4,000 State of Idaho verified work hours and VDV installers after they apply to the JATC program and work for an IBEW Local 449 signatory contractor for 4 months/600 hours.
- The new member must remain a member in good standing throughout this time-period. New members who have previously been members of the IBEW don't qualify.
- If the new journey-level member states that a current IBEW Local 449 member referred them to join Local 449, the current member will receive \$250.00 after the new member works for an IBEW Local 449 signatory contractor for 1 month/150 hours.
- If the new apprentice-level member states that a current IBEW Local 449 member referred them to the JATC for direct entry, the current member will receive \$150.00 after the new member works for an IBEW Local 449 signatory contractor for 1 month/150 hours.
- To receive the referral incentive, the current member must be a member of good standing of IBEW Local 449. The current member can't be a staff member of IBEW Local 449, any other IBEW local, or a contractor.

If you have any questions, please contact the hall.

Fraternally,
Craig McDonald
D998707

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. 2025 was a great year for our local. As I write this, Local 449 stands at an incredible 792 active members! Growth from East to West, across our entire local, has been great this year. It's been one of the best years in over a decade, and I look forward to continuing our outreach to local high school students through job fairs and in-class presentations in 2026.

2026 should be a great year as well. With more projects on the horizon, and with the manpower impact that we have had on several non-union shops, that should by all means equal more market share and more work.

Many of the local non-union shops took major losses in workforce this year, and I hope that inspires them to sit down with us to discuss the benefits of becoming a signatory contractor. I plan on reaching out to each of them again this spring to see if we can gain some traction with our new found leverage.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or suggestions. I wish you all a happy new year with growth and prosperity for our local.

Fraternally,
Dan Green
6250420

IBEW Local 449 President

Hello Brothers & Sisters of Local 449,

Happy New Year! I hope the holidays treated you well. I wanted to thank the members that showed up to the November monthly meeting to help ratify the agreement and help allocate the new wage increase. We were also able to allocate the Vacation Fund, which is a huge stepping stone for our local. I truly appreciate the turnout we had for that meeting in both Pocatello and Twin Falls. The recognition of our members stepping outside themselves to help these allocations shows true character and realization of the importance of these allocations and meetings.

One goal I have for this upcoming year is for the new apprentice class and newly inducted apprentices to learn what our brotherhood really means, and the importance of being involved in the local. Helping our new brothers and sisters learn some of these core values will strengthen our whole local. As members of Local 449, we need to do our part and help them understand, as it will brighten our future. Thank you all for all your hard work and dedication.

Respectfully,
Jacob Hill
7475646





JATC Training Director

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that everyone had a safe Christmas. The apprenticeship is doing well. We have a full-time instructor, Cody Hugie. With the help of our part-time instructors, they and Cody have come up with new ideas to start implementing the ETA's new curriculum. I know that with all the changes, it has been hard on the classes that have recently graduated. They went from a 5-year to a 4-year school and went from school every 6-8 weeks, to the first week being 40 hours, then 16 hours once a month.

The JATC has also grown this year. When I started, there were 84 apprentices. We now have 92 apprentices, which means that we have grown by 10%! I hope that this trend continues. We need to increase the apprenticeship if we want to survive as a Local.

A spring Continuing Education schedule will be coming out soon. The new NEC Code cycle is 2026. It will take some time for the states we reciprocate with to have the class approved, therefore the schedule will have To Be Determined (TBD) where the code classes would usually be.

Thank you to all the Journeymen and contractors for helping our apprentices and JW be trained and employed. It takes all of us to teach the men and women that are going to be our future. REMEMBER: Your actions will speak louder than your words. They will learn how to be, or how not to be, through them.

Fraternally,
Chris Lochridge
D721975

IBEW Local 449 Benefit Guide

Brothers and Sisters,

This guide will assist you in accessing your benefits online. Please feel free to call with any questions.

Note: All instructions are based off of the desktop view. If you are using a mobile device, things may look a little different!

Local 449 Website

Visit our website at <https://www.ibewlocal449.org/>

This is your hub for all things Local 449! On our website you will be able to pay dues, sign the books, see available job calls, view agreements & meeting minutes, access all the important links for health, annuity, & pension, and more!

Start by selecting “Register” at the top of the screen to create a login for our website. This will ensure that you have access to all member-only features. To do this, you will need your member number (found on your dues receipt).

Note: You do *not* need to be logged in to sign the books, view job calls, or access the Important Links section of the website.

8th District Health

Go to the Local 449 website, scroll down to “Important Links” and select “[8th District \(Health/Pension\)](#)”.

Once on the 8th District website, select “Health Care” toward the top of the screen. Here you will find the 8th District phone number, as well as links to the following:

[Hello Heart](#) (Free Blood Pressure Monitor & Heart Health Kit)

[Sword Health](#) (Free Virtual Physical Therapy)

[Sav-Rx](#) (Prescription Benefits)

[Anthem Dental](#) (Dental Services)

[Included Health](#) (Free 24/7 Virtual Urgent Care & Mental Health Care)

[Cigna](#) (Medical Provider Network)

[Doctor on Demand](#) (24/7 Telehealth Benefits)

[Labor First](#) (Retiree Health)

[WEX Health – PCA Account](#) (PCA Card)

[Blomquist Hale](#) (Counseling & Mental Health Services)

If you continue scrolling, you can read additional information about Hello Heart, Sword Health, Medical Benefits (Cigna), Prescription Benefits (Sav-Rx), Dental Benefits (Anthem Dental), Vision Benefits, Doctor on Demand (Telehealth Benefits), Labor First (Retirees/Medicare Participants), and the Member Assistance Program (Blomquist Hale).

IBEW Local 449 Benefit Guide

8th District Pension

Go to the Local 449 website, scroll down to “Important Links” and select “[8th District \(Health/Pension\)](#)”.

Select “Pension” toward the top of the screen. Here you will find the 8th District phone number, as well as an overview of the 8th District Pension Plan. There are also some links to important resources such as AARP, the IRS, Medicare, Social Security, Veterans Affairs, etc.

If you have never logged into the 8th District website before, select “Create an Account” at the top of the screen, and follow the instructions. If you already have an account, simply sign in.

Once logged into the 8th District website, click “My Benefits”, then select “Pension Benefits”. This will allow you to view your total accrued benefits and your pension history summary, including your employer contributions. We recommend checking this at least twice a year to catch any errors, clerical or otherwise.

Annuity

Go to the Local 449 website, scroll down to “Important Links” and select “[Empower \(Annuity\)](#)”.

If you have never logged into the Empower website before, select “REGISTER” on the right side of the screen, and follow the instructions to create a username and password. Or, you can download the Empower mobile app! If you already have an account, simply sign in.

Once logged into the Empower website, you will be able to view your balance and see your year-to-date contributions. You can also view where your annuity is invested, and see its rate of return. Depending on your personal finance goals, you can also change your investments from here.

Most new hires will automatically be contributing into a Day One® retirement fund. By clicking on the fund name, you can view the Fact Sheet for more information about that investment’s risk and growth. There are several other funds available with varying rates of return that you can move some or all of your assets into. This will allow you to diversify and customize your retirement goal, should you so choose.

Contact Us

We hope this helps in navigating your new IBEW benefits. If you have any questions, or would like to set up a time to go over your benefits in more detail, give us a call at 208-232-5263.

Thank you,

IBEW Local 449 Staff



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers®

RENEW

Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers

Calling all members ages 35 / & under!

Join the RENEW Discord using the link below:

<https://discord.gg/v3qB3H4Yrq>

This is where we will communicate for most RENEW events (Brotherhood nights, poker nights, Smash Bros tournaments, community volunteering, etc.)

For any questions/issues, email RENEW President Jeremiah Schilz at schilzjer@gmail.com with the subject line RE: RENEW



Pat L. Oneida | Retired 11/01/2025

Mike L. Miera | Retired 12/01/2025



No Reported Deaths Last Quarter

January 2026



S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1 Hall Closed For New Year's	2 Book Re-Sign	3
4	5 Out - of - Work	6 Book Re-Sign	7	8 Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.	9 Book Re-Sign	10
11	12 Book Re-Sign	13 E-Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	14 Book Re-Sign	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026



S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5 Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.	6	7
8	9	10 E-Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	11 Union Days	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day!
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026



S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5 Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.	6	7
8	9	10 E-Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Happy St. Pattie's Day!	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

US Department of Labor
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation



Medical Benefits Identification Card
JOHN DOE

Case Number: 000123456789
Pharmacy BIN: 87654321
DEEOIC Group ID #: OWCP1222

No Co-Pay/No Deductible
Verify Eligibility and Coverage at:
<https://owcpmed.dol.gov/>

MISUSE OF CARD PUNISHABLE BY LAW

Attention Energy Workers!

You May Qualify for Free Medical Care Services

We at Haven Specialty Home Care not only provide private duty care, but we also support those who have fought for our country and worked in the nuclear industry.

As an approved US Department of Labor medical provider, if you have been awarded this medical card through the EEOICPA program, then you are eligible for free medical benefits

If you have not yet applied, we can assist with the process. You may potentially qualify for monetary compensation and medical benefits.

Meet your Idaho Team!



Jenetta Sereno
Community Liaison
(208) 807-6500



www.havenspecialtyhomecare.com



Danielle Garcia
RN, Director of
Nursing