



449'er
NEWSLETTER
 2026 Q2 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.

IBEW LOCAL 449 VACATION FUND

Get information on our all-new Vacation Fund! See what steps you must complete to start receiving your new benefit.

FINISH READING ON PG. 2



**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. 3-7



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. 8-9



IBEW Local 449 Vacation Fund

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

With our most recent Negotiations, we added an all-new Vacation Fund to the Inside Agreement! This is a Fringe Benefit for active members working under the Inside Agreement only. Your employer will contribute \$0.25 per hour worked. The \$0.25/hour is not deducted from your wage; it was added on top of the total package. So, this new benefit comes at no cost to the members, but you can choose to self-contribute if you wish, and any self-contributions *will* be withheld from your paycheck. The purpose of this benefit is to help supplement income if you want to take time off of work, but you may use the funds however you wish! There are no spending guidelines.

We've been working with Citizens Community Bank to get the accounts set up for the contributions from your employers to be deposited into. To do this, Citizens Community needs some information from our members.

Please contact the Hall to get a copy of the "All About You" Form for the bank. Once you receive it, fill it out, then send it back to the Hall *with a copy of your Driver's License*.

You may scan in your form and Driver's License and email it to brandie@ibewlocal449.org OR snap a picture and text it to the Hall at 208-339-0469.

Once your form and Driver's License are received, the Hall will send them back to Citizens Community Bank, and they will open your account. When they do, they will email one last form to Brandie, and she will send it to you. This "Account Agreement" Form requires your physical signature. You may sign with your finger on your phone, or print out the form and sign it with a pen. The bank will NOT accept typed signatures or DocuSigns.

Once you sign the "Account Agreement" Form, send it back to the Hall, and you're all done! The account will be open and ready for the employer contributions to be deposited into. Once the first deposit has been made, Citizens Community Bank will issue a debit card for the account. When using it, please keep in mind, that a \$1.00 minimum balance must be maintained for the account to remain open.

If you have any questions regarding the Vacation Fund, the forms, etc. please contact the Hall at 208-232-5263.

Thank you,
IBEW Local 449 Staff

A Message From Our Business Manager

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The local has brought in many new members these last few months. I ask that everyone welcome them in, and teach them the value of being an IBEW member.

The value of the yellow ticket, referred to as the golden ticket, brings you the ability to earn fair wages and health benefits, plus 3 pensions and an annuity so you'll be able to retire with dignity. The golden ticket affords you the ability to work anywhere in the United States with the money following you back to your Home Funds. This means you keep your same health plan and get annuity dollars and credit toward your pensions, no matter where you work.

We all need to be our own stewards, and work to the CBA. Give 8 hours' work for 8 hours' pay. This does not mean 6 for 8, or 10 for 8. Just a day's work for a day's pay.

With the arrival of warm weather, many of you might be considering travelling. Just a reminder of a few Rules of the Road:

1. Always carry a current yellow ticket (dues receipt) with you at all times.
2. Know your ticket number.
3. Always have a current travel letter with you from your home local.
4. Respect and work under the terms of the local agreement where you're employed.
5. Remember that you are a guest and represent your local accordingly...conduct yourself as a professional, you are a Journeyman Wireman.
6. NEVER accept a foreman job unless all locals have been asked first.
7. NEVER get involved in the politics of another local.
8. Once you take a call in another local, remove your name from all other locals except for your home local.
9. NEVER accept a transfer or furlough, it may be in their agreement but you're a guest and you have to hold yourself to the higher standard.
10. Always remember to treat older members with the respect that they're due! They will probably have forgotten more about the trade than you will ever know.

I am very proud to be part of this BROTHERHOOD and am grateful I belong to the greatest labor organization in the world.

Fraternally yours,
Clay Hirning
D579851





ASSISTANT B/A and Dispatcher

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all had a good winter. With spring upon us, the work picture looks good. Chobani in Twin Falls is staying busy, and the Ice Cream Plant in Jerome is in the commissioning stages. On the Eastern side, work is steady with the INL having the bulk of the work. Just remember, most calls at the INL require OSHA-10 within 3 years. Reach out to our JATC for upcoming classes.

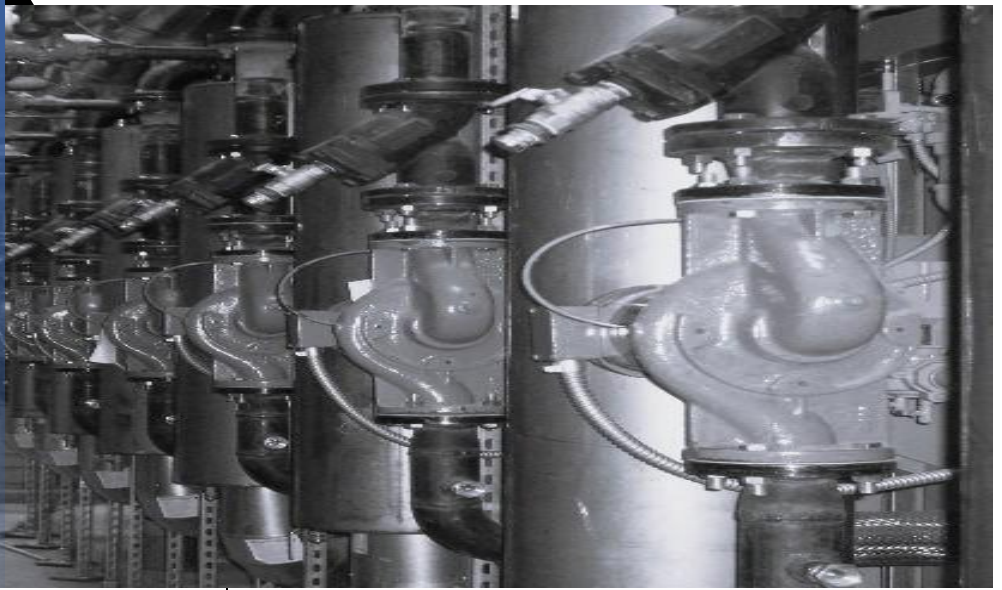
The outside is a little slow, with some Substation work coming around our area in the late spring. The Mountain States Apprenticeship is doing well, with a few apprentice's layoffs. If you are interested in the line side of the IBEW, please reach out to mslcat.org for more information on what type of apprenticeships they have to offer.

I will be attending the 2026 8th District Progress Meeting in April, and the Membership Development conference in June. I will report on all events at our regular union meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30pm.

I would like to say THANK YOU to the Exam Board and all the volunteers that help with testing our new Inside Journeyman members. Just a few final thoughts: For the Brothers and Sisters out on the road, please make sure the vehicle you're traveling in is well maintained. It only takes a minute to check your oil and tires to make sure you're safe.

Fraternally,
Cory Facer
D579694

Organizers' Reports



Sisters and Brothers,

2026 is starting out strong, and it looks like it will stay that way. We had calls for Baker at the Site. Baker picked up the crane work at NRF for the SFPF project, in preparation for the expansion. I'm looking forward to other work. The Dodge report is showing an expansion coming up at the Pocatello Airport that will be going out to bid.

I found this poem from a retired IBEW member from the 1930s that I'd like to share, because I think it will resonate with some of our members:

"The time has come for me to quit. My folks all think it best, for me to put my tools away and take myself a rest. My pliers are old, my spurs are short, and my belt is very thin. I took them to the river bridge, and threw the darned things in. Now after all of this is done, at last I have my wish. I'll stay in bed till I get tired, and then go out and fish. It gives me pain to leave you boys. We've got along so well. The way it grieves my heart to go, my words can never tell. I thank you for the suitcase, a lovely thing to give. All your names I'll keep inside, to the longest day I live. So now I'll bid you boys goodbye. I'll soon be on my way. I'm going where the snow won't fly, and find a place to stay. God bless you all."
- John K. Coyle L.U. No. 648

I thought this poem was cool and I really liked the history of it. Reading something that was written by one of our forefathers was really neat. I think the poem has a really good meaning. It reminded me of seeing our own retired IBEW 449 members get their watches at the union meetings, so I wanted to share it.

Fraternally,
Craig McDonald
D998707

Brothers and Sisters,

Spring is here and we seem to have a good head of steam moving forward. We continue to make progress in organizing both Journey-level workers as well as Apprentices from our competition. This is real progress for us, with some of the new membership being key employees of some of our largest non-union competitors here in the Valley. As always, let's remember to be good mentors and welcome our new brothers and sisters to the IBEW. More skilled workers working union means more share for our contractors, while the competition struggles to man their projects.

We have made a lot of progress with new members, and as we do this, I continue to periodically reach out to non-union contractors without much progress. For some reason, I don't think I'm their favorite person at the moment.

Spring tends to be when the career fairs happen, with one being scheduled for this month at Canyon Ridge. There will be over 900 students in attendance over three grades! I look forward to attending this with Chris, and getting the word out to the next generation.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or comments.

Fraternally,
Dan Green
6250420

IBEW Local 449 President

Hello Brothers & Sisters of Local 449,

Happy Spring! This year is already going by so quickly. As work starts to pick up, I hope everyone is working hard and staying busy. More work also means new apprentices and organized journeyman. I hope we can take the time to make sure we are demonstrating a safety culture. This also allows us the opportunity to show brotherhood and sisterhood by looking out for each other.

I hope to see all the new apprentices and organized members at our monthly meetings in the coming months. These meetings are a great way to see and hear what is going on and coming up for our local. Our meetings are a way to see the formal side of how the local conducts itself, and being a part of it is a way for your voice to be heard. We are all brothers and sisters coming together to continually build on the foundation of the IBEW.

Respectfully,
Jacob Hill
7475646





JATC Training Director

Brothers and Sisters,

There are currently 92 apprentices in the apprenticeship program. The instructors are doing a great job. They have been able to get a higher instructor to student ratio. We had iToolco come in and give a presentation about some of their new products. They also had a lab for wire pulling and knocking holes. It may seem like a sales pitch, which it is for their product, but the more we can expose the apprentices to these different tools, the more efficient they can become. Most of these training partners help design a lot of training for our JATCs.

The JATC received a grant from the Idaho Workforce Innovation Fund. The grant paid for all 4 years of apprentices. We have purchased a new bender, which will allow the apprentices to practice bending the 2.5" and 4" EMT that Wheeler Electric donated to the JATC.

The JATC is getting close to starting the 2026 NEC Significant Changes training. We are currently approved in Montana, Wyoming, and Utah for in person training. Oregon and Washington will hopefully be approved soon. The correspondence class will be coming out also.

If you are working with CWs, encourage them to apply to the apprenticeship. There has been a lot of CWs get in the program. I have seen and worked with a lot of them through the years and they have turned out to be great Journeymen.

Remember, as an Inside Wireman, it is your job to help train and keep the apprentices and CWs safe. The more you teach them, the better they make you, your foreman, and your contractor look. They are the future of the IBEW, the Local, and the contractors in this Local. We need to all work together for each other.

Fraternally,
Chris Lochridge
D721975



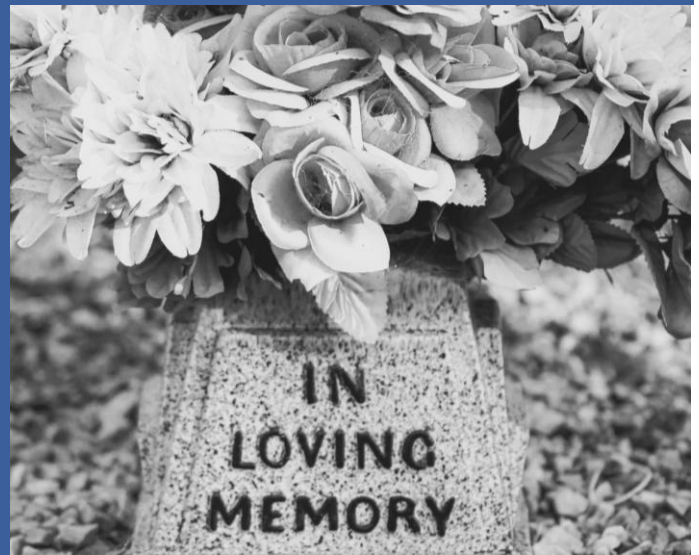
Motorcycle Club Meeting
April 18, 2026 at 10:00a.m.
At Martha's in Blackfoot, ID
We will be planning the rides for the summer,
so if you're interested, please attend!



Leola Duke | Retired 01/01/2026

Glen Gruver | Retired 03/01/2026

Mike Sloup | Retired 03/01/2026



No Reported Deaths Last Quarter

April 2026



S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2 Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 E-Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15 Construction & Maintenance Conference	16	17	18 Motorcycle Club Meeting 10:00 a.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Eighth District Progress Meeting	28	29	30		

May 2026



S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.	8	9
10	11	12 E-Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Hall Closed For Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30

June 2026



S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
31	1	2	3	4 Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.	5	6
7	8	9 E-Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13 449 Picnic at Ross Park
14	15 AFL-CIO	16 AFL-CIO Convention		17	18	19
21	22 Membership Development Conference	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				