



# LOCAL 529

since 1947

SUMMER 2024

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



*New members being sworn in at July membership meeting*

## BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Murray Palmer

### General Information

### Jill of All Trades

### 2023 Pension Performance

6.1%

### Member Benefits & v-Care

### Organizer's Report

After a very long lull here in Saskatchewan it seems things are ready to pick up again! There are a few large projects happening in late 2024 to early 2025 which I am optimistic we will be a part of future work. I've been meeting continuously with BHP and Chemco and we seem to be making good strides in the right direction; Chemco is also digging in hard for the Aspen/Wolverine station.

Work in B.C. has begun to slow and some of our members are back home after working on various projects in the 993 jurisdictions. Some are still actively working in Vancouver on a Hospital and in Northern B.C. on a school project.

The Ontario local has been steady for the past year and we've had a handful of members working in Sarnia, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

Manitoba will have some hospital projects coming up this Fall and into next year so there could be an opportunity to travel into 2085 should they need help. The wastewater treatment plant in the city of Winnipeg has been declared a HOT site. It has been awarded to a CLAC contractor after 2 years of union negotiations therefore they are asking for support on their stand to have no union workers on that Project.

We are looking at providing QEW training at the office soon. Chrissie will be completing a Train- The-Trainer course in Regain as soon as the new course material is available. This has been in the works for a while now and the intention is to reduce costs for training by providing the training locally.

The All-Canada Progress Meeting will be August 11 - 16 in Newfoundland. I am preparing for that and anticipating a good turnout of all the business managers there. It will provide a good opportunity to get some insight on the rest of Canada and see where we may be able to send travelers.

Please let us know if you have any changes to your personal details such as phone number, email, or mailing address! I hope everyone is having a great summer.



## 2024 Annual Golf Tournament

The golf tournament took place at Rosthern Valley Golf Course on July 20, 2024. We had 14 people come out and enjoy the day on the course.

We thank our contractors and union partners for their generous donations that allowed us to award prizes to everyone in attendance.

The golf championship went to current Business Manager, Murray Palmer, President, Rachel Siltala, and IBEW friends Tom Korchinski, and Matt Siltala.

Congratulations to the winning team!

## Jill of all Trades

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, current Local 529 President, Rachel Siltala and Membership Organizer, Chrissie Caprani were invited to participate as instructors for the first ever Saskatoon Jill of All Trades event.

Jill of All Trades (JOAT) was launched by Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in 2014 to introduce young women in grades 9 through 12 to the possibilities of a career in the skilled trades.

Through gender-specific programming and mentoring opportunities like Jill of All Trades, the college assists and encourages women to pursue careers in under-represented and non-traditional occupations.

By 2026, Jill of All Trades plans to expand to 25 institutions across Canada and 20 across the U.S., delivering more than 120 events.

The event was covered by CJWW 600 click the link below to read more:

<https://www.cjwwradio.com/2024/05/09/jill-of-all-trades-at-saskpolytech-in-high-demand-as-teens-consider-the-trade-s-for-a-career/>



# Membership General Information:

Membership meetings are held on the **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00** pm at the LU529 Hall at Unit 10-3703 Kochar Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Our current membership is **208** strong!

Check out savings available to union members at [www.unionsavings.ca](http://www.unionsavings.ca) :



As a union member, IBEW members have access to savings through Union Savings. For more information, go to [www.unionsavings.ca](http://www.unionsavings.ca)

## Reminders:

**Notary Public Services** available to Members *Free of Charge*!

Check out **IBEW Swag** on our [Website](#) or drop by the Hall.

We are currently out of Challenge Coins and **accepting design ideas!**



The Pensioners Coffee Club - meets weekly at Fuddruckers on 8<sup>th</sup> Street - Tuesday mornings at 10 am.

In *Sadness*, we report the passing of the following IBEW LU 529 members in 2024.

- ❖ Dennis Pady - Passed January 22, 2024, Initiated in 1964
- ❖ Raymond Moyer - Passed January 6, 2024, Initiated in 1978
- ❖ Donald Slade - Passed February 6, 2024, Initiated in 1976
- ❖ Catherine Davis - Passed Feb 2024, Initiated 2020

Every second of every day, IBEW members touch so many lives across the country. But it's not just about electrical construction and repair. It's about enriching the communities in which we live, work, and play

## Congratulations!

### NEW Journeypersons:

John Alcorn, Jarret Biro, and Riley Yasieniuk



### NEW Retirees:

Larry Dimen, Dave Sondershausen, John Fast, and Kelly Shanofer

### Extending a warm Welcome! to all our newest Local 529 Members:

Andrew Merritt, Joseph Dodoo, John Macaspac, Tyson Bessey, Kylie Bell, Horace Holt, Yoandis Lopez, Zachary Wasylyshen, Jonathan Eder, Brennan Hatcher, Lucas Stadnyk, Blair Vany, Delten Winterhalt, Cole Bruce, Chelsea Depeel, Ryan Kirilenko

# Coughlin Benefits:

Coughlin is our Pension & Welfare Benefits Plan Administrator - Winnipeg office

## Coughlin Web Portal:

<https://www.coughlin.ca/en/portal.aspx>

As of January 1, 2024, **v-Care On-Demand Healthcare** will be added to IBEW529 Health & Welfare Benefit Package.

You can access this option by downloading the TELUS V-Care App and using your Coughlin Group # and Certificate # to create a user profile

## Features:



- ❖ Unlimited virtual consults via secure text and video chat 24 /7
- ❖ Convenient, bilingual primary and mental health care
- ❖ New and refill prescriptions, specialist referrals and lab requisitions
- ❖ Health record on the platform, with updates sent to your family doctor with your consent.

## When to use:

Avoid non-emergency visits to the emergency rooms...

- ❖ Infections, rashes & skin irritations
- ❖ Anxiety & depression
- ❖ Stomach & digestive issues
- ❖ Cough, cold & flu
- ❖ Weight loss counselling & smoking cessation
- ❖ +much more!

## 2023 Local 529 Defined Contribution Pension Plan performance was 6.1%

The Health & Welfare trust fund, Board of Trustees sent out a mailer in April of this year and below are several highlights of plan revisions:

### Non-working self-pay provisions:

Effective June 1, 2024, following depletion of your hour bank (12-month max), if applicable, a non-working Member may self-pay for full coverage up to a maximum of 60 consecutive months.

Self-pay coverage \$140/month.

### Retiree Coverage:

Effective June 1, 2024, a member is considered retired when they attain age 55 or older and has met one of the following criteria:

- ❖ Transferred funds out of the Pension Trust Fund
- ❖ Indicated in writing their retirement from the trade
- ❖ Elected retirement in writing from the Health & Welfare Plan.

Retiree Self-pay coverage \$130/month.

If you elect Retiree coverage, the choice is reversible, full active coverage will resume if you return to work, however, once your hour bank is depleted (at full active coverage), you will return to retiree coverage to age 75.

# Organizer's Report, our Objectives:

The first objective of the IBEW Constitution states; "To Organize All...", which is simply an understanding of the law of supply and demand.

The third objective of the IBEW Constitution states; "To Cultivate Feelings of Friendship...", which is simply an understanding that to organize the workers in the industry they must first trust what we have to say. 70% of the workers in the electrical industry who are unrepresented do not know us or trust us.

Most of these workers know of us, and probably have some perception of what we stand for. If the unrepresented workers in the industry completely understood who we are and what we are about, they would all join right away. They would know that solidarity leads to better wages and more secure work. Too many of our existing members do not understand this, and only belong to the IBEW so they may work a job covered by an IBEW agreement. Not understanding our mission, these same members do not support or participate in organizing. Their level of thinking is completely opposite from our founding father's plan to build a movement, then enjoy the benefits of that solidarity.

Every local must continually analyze their standing in each sector of the electrical industry. The locals must educate their members with this knowledge and then engage their participation to develop action plans to strengthen their market share in each sector. These action plans must include strategies to organize the workers, the work, and the employers. These action plans must also account for the different cycles within the industry. The action plan is designed for a period where there is an abundance of work and may not work during times of heavy unemployment.

# Organizing in Local 529

The last few months have been an interesting adventure, from hitting the road and watching Jansen Potash Mine develop, to talking to road crews that must stand in the heat all day for shitty pay and bad pension and benefits.

My constant battle with trying to organize the unrepresented workers and gaining trust from contractors has been a steady daily task. I won't give up, as all the efforts go towards building a more secure future for all of us.

I have been able to start providing new members with a more robust union orientation, and code of excellence training prior to dispatching. All 529 members represent our local and our values when on job sites.

I will be excited to start rolling out the new QEW and COMET courses come the Fall, which will be available to our membership Free of Charge! It is a priority to provide our members with the proper training needed for their own personal growth as well as the guideposts to represent Local 529 proudly and professionally

I am always a phone call away to any member needing questions asked or just to have your voice heard.

Together we can grow and make our Local better!



Code of Excellence Training -  
Q1 2024



COMET & LEAP Train-The-Trainer, Edmonton- Q3 2024



Trail Board Training - Q2  
2024



Years of Service Pin

