



**IBEW**

**LOCAL 1555**

*December 2022*

*Next Union Meeting:*

***Wednesday  
December 7,  
2022***

***96 Norwood Ave.  
(In the basement)***

**6:30 PM**

*Chase the Ace Draw:*

**\$550**

*Remaining Cards:*

**29**

If you have any suggestions or any other announcement you would like to see in the next newsletter please email:

[jason@ibew1555.ca](mailto:jason@ibew1555.ca)

**From the Business Manager**

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Party this year which we plan to do every year.

2022 was certainly eventful. Our local fought very hard and signed a new Collective Agreement which saw a wage increase of just over \$5.00/hr over 3 years. We did this by sticking together and being involved.

Our local has brought in new members and made relationships with new signatory contractors which will help move us forward for years to come. Our membership numbers have increased even with 1555 members retiring and without 1 or 2 major projects employing a large portion of the local. This is an important step towards creating steady employment and stable income and benefits for our families.

IBEW 1555 can keep building on the successes of 2022 and do even better in 2023 so let's keep up the involvement and hard work.

All the best to our members and their families over the Holidays.

**In solidarity,  
Jeff Morash**

For those savvy with social media a new Facebook Group has been created for Local 1555. To join please click on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/241285856606179/?ref=bookmarks>

**Union Administration: Office Hours**

UNION OFFICE HOURS.  
8:30-4:30 pm (Mon-Thurs.)  
8:30-3:00 pm (Friday)

Phone: 506-857-3228

**Holiday Office Hours:**

**Friday Dec 24 8:30-12:00**

**The office will be closed Dec 26- Jan 02, 2023.  
Regular office hours will start: Tuesday,  
January 3, 2023**

**Good of the Union**

**Saturday, December 17, 2022** we will be holding our **Christmas Party at LEGENDS at the Moncton Coliseum (map included\*\*\*)**

The event will take place from 5 pm until 11 pm. Tickets are \$20 each adult. Free food and 2 beverage tickets for every adult. Retirees welcome.

Children are free. There will be a toy under the tree for the children!

Tickets are available at the office now!!

**New Hire Grant**

Canada's Building Trades Unions (CBTU) is administering a federal grant to unionized contractors to incentivize new hires. Companies are eligible to receive up to \$20,000/fiscal year (year end March 31) for new apprentices. Contact the office for details.

**Work Report**

**Current Employment**

<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>J/W</b>	<b>Apprentice</b>
Ainsworth	8	2
Al's Electric	4	
Black & McDonald	14	3
GJ Cahill		
Craig Smith Elec.	2	2
Controls & Equip.	6	
East Current	9	3
Gardner	2	
Gil-Son		
Melco Electric	3	1
Memco	5	
TJ Electric		
Total Electrical		
Zell Electric		1
Trade School		3
<b>TRAVEL</b>	<b>J/W</b>	<b>Apprentice</b>
Sarnia	4	

**Current Membership: 138**

**LOOKING FOR WORK**

<b>J/W</b>	<b>Apprentice</b>
17	3

**Local 1555 Structure:**

**Business Manager/Financial Secretary:** Jeff Morash

**President:** Jeff Phillips

**Vice-President:** Mike Read

**Treasurer:** Andy Welling

**Recording Secretary:** Willame Field

**E-Board:** Darren Cormier, Jason Hamilton, Billy Read

**Apprentice Rep:** Willame Field

## 75th Anniversary: S.W.A.G Update

**Challenge Coins\*** have arrived! They're real and they're spectacular.



\*see end of newsletter for history and rules.

Each member is entitled to one free coin. Any additional coins may be purchased for \$10.

They're now available at the office.

**Hoodies** have also arrived and are available for purchase at \$50 each.

### **Project Updates:**

#### **Closing**

Shediac Pension Centre CNP – Major HVAC Upgrades – November 30  
RFP – Harper Hall Renovations October 5  
Atlantic Science Enterprise Centre – Enabling Works 1 – Earthworks and Exterior Improvement – November 28  
New Household Hazardous Waster Building – Berry Mills – January 28, 2023

#### **VUBIZ Training**

Your local has prepaid for courses covering subjects from WHMIS 2015 for Workers, to Back Safety to Basic Finance to VuKidz courses and more. Several of them are authored in French.

[IBEW Union Savings \(vubizlearning.com\)](http://vubizlearning.com)

The courses will be available to you and your friends and families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until April 30, 2025. You can take and retake them as often as you want.

### DECEMBER 2022

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

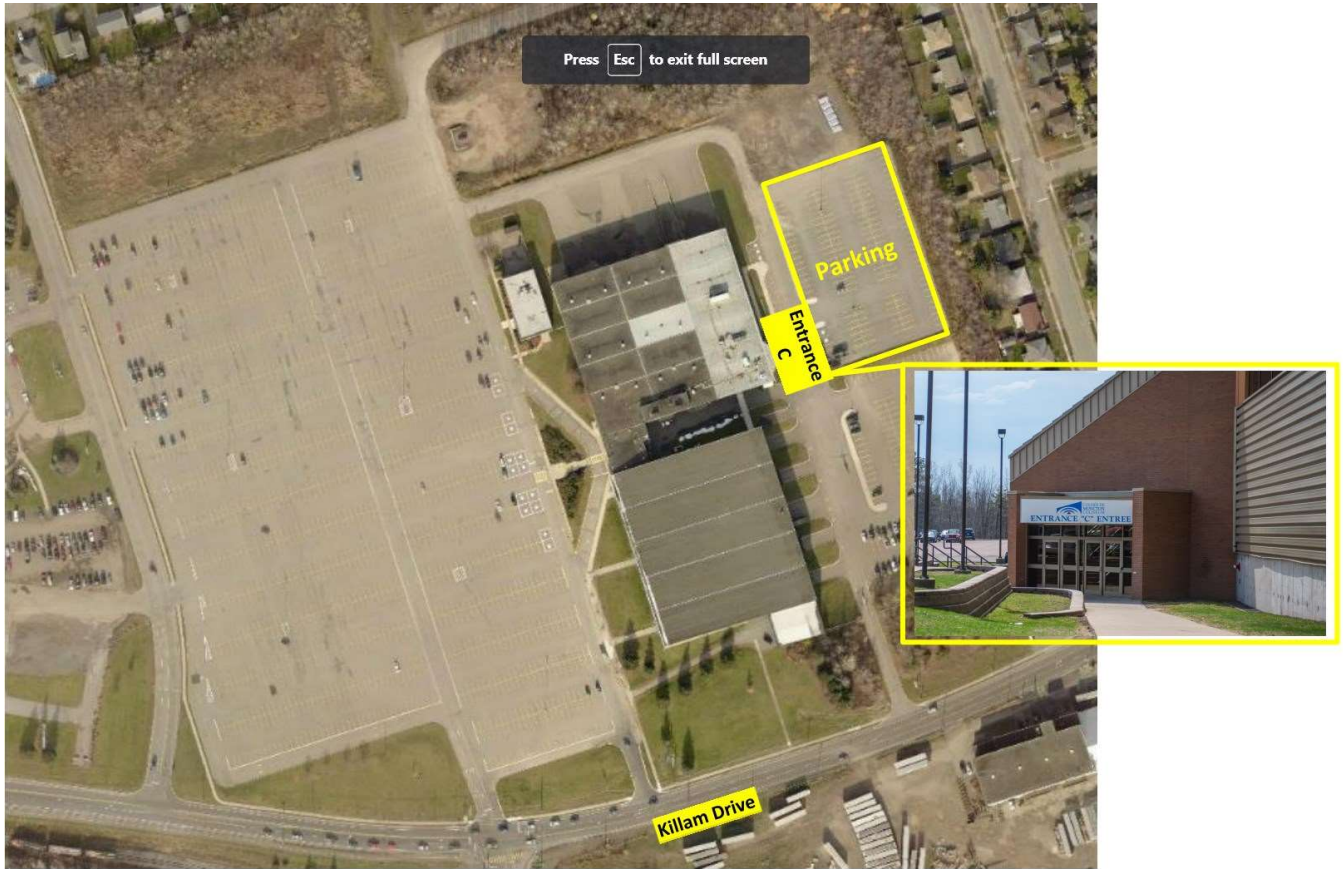
7 REGULAR MEETING  
17 CHRISTMAS/75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY  
21 E-BOARD MEETING  
25 CHRISTMAS DAY  
26 BOXING DAY  
31 NEW YEARS EVE

#### Apprentice Resources:

- [Apprenticeship Incentive & Tuition Rebate Program](#)
- [Canada Apprentice Loan Program](#)
- [Apprenticeship Grants](#)
- [Building Trades Bursary](#)

We are pleased to be able to offer tutoring to our members for Block Release training and IP (Interprovincial Licence) refresher preparation. Any questions ask Jason: 506-874-5548

**\*\*\*Map to Christmas/75<sup>th</sup> Party\*\*\***



## IBEW LOCAL 1555 – NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2022

The following is a list of Licensed Electrical Contractors that are signatory to IBEW Local 1555. They hire IBEW 1555 Journeymen and Apprentices and pay Union Wages and Benefits. These Union contractors do residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, maintenance, communications and service work. If you know someone who needs an Electrical Contractor please direct them to one of these Union Contractors!

**Ainsworth:** <https://www.ainsworth.com/>

**Al's Electric:** 506-387-4018 <https://www.alselectric.ca/p1.htm>

**Black & McDonald:** 506-858-5688 <https://www.blackandmcdonald.com/>

**(GJ) Cahill:** 506-693-1921 <https://www.cahill.ca/>

**Controls and Equipment:** 506-857-8836 <http://controleasequipment.com/>

**Craig Smith Electric:** 506-878-7126  
<https://www.facebook.com/CraigSmithElectric/>

**East Current Electric:**

**Donovan Associates:** 506-696-8356 <https://donovanassociates.ca/>

**Gardner Electric:** 506-830-8500 <http://www.gardnerelectric.ca/>

**Gil-Son Construction:** 1-855-450-5254 <https://www.gilsonconstruction.com/>

**Melco Electric:** 506-875-2511 <https://www.facebook.com/MelcoElectric>

**Memco Controls:** 506-854-2496 <http://www.memcocontrols.com/index.php/en/>

**Pivot Systems:** 506-466-5127 <http://pivotsystems.ca/>

**TJ Electric:** 902-835-4840 <https://www.tjelectric.ca/>

**Total Electrical Solutions:** 506-849-2280 <http://totalelectsolutions.com/>

**Zell Electric and Renovations:** 506-869-1521 [Zell Electric and Renovations | Facebook](#)

## **History of the Challenge Coin\***

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy young men who left colleges such as Yale and Harvard in order to enlist in the military. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered solid bronze medallions embossed with the squadron emblem for every Member of his squadron. He carried his medallion in a small leather sack about his neck. Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the lieutenant's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire during a mission.

He was forced to land behind enemy lines, where he was captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck.

He was eventually taken to a small French town near the front lines where he managed to escape during a night bombardment. During the attack, he donned civilian clothes and fled without personal identification. After escaping, the brave pilot succeeded in avoiding German patrols until he reached the front lines.

With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land and stumbled into a French outpost. Unfortunately, the French in this sector had been plagued by German saboteurs, who sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him.

Just in time, the American remembered his leather pouch containing the bronze medallion. He showed the medallion to his wouldbe executioners. When the French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion, they gave the pilot enough time to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him, they gave him a bottle of wine.

Eventually the pilot made it back to his squadron, where it became a tradition to ensure all Members carried their medallion or coin at all times.

This was accomplished through a challenge.

A service Member would ask to see the coin. If the challenger could not produce his coin, he was required to purchase a drink of choice for the Member who had challenged him.

If the challenged Member produced his coin, then the challenging Member was required to pay for the drink.

The tradition continued that way for many years while surviving Members of the squadron were still alive. In some cases, a coin can be earned meritoriously for a job well done. Regardless of how they are acquired, the history of the challenge coin remains a part of military tradition, and servicemen/servicewomen will continue to display them proudly for years to come.

Unions around the world have recently embraced the concept and found the coins to be an excellent means of team building and creating a sense of brotherhood and belonging.

IBEW Local 1007, out of Edmonton, Alberta had the first coin of its kind in Canada.

### **Challenge Coin Rules**

1. Rules of the coin game must be given or explained to all new coin holders.
2. The coin **MUST** be carried at all times. You can be challenged for it anywhere, any time. You must produce the coin without taking more than one step or an arm's length to produce it.
3. When challenging, the challenger must state whether it is for a single drink or a round of drinks.
4. Failure to produce a coin, for whatever reason, results in a bought round or single drink (whatever the challenger stated). This type of transaction could be expensive, so hold onto your coin. Once the offender (coinless challenger) has bought the drink or round, they can't be challenged again.
5. If all the challenged produce their coins, the challenger loses and must buy drinks for all respondents. This too can be expensive, so challenge wisely.
6. Under no circumstances can a coin be handed to another in response to a challenge. If a person gives their coin to another, that person can keep the coin – it's theirs! However, if a person places the coin down and another person picks it up to examine it that is not considered giving, and the examiner is honour-bound to place the coin back. The examiner can't challenge while they hold another Member's coin. After negotiating a "reasonable ransom", the examiner must return the Member's coin.
7. If a coin is lost, replacement is up to the individual. A new coin should be acquired at the earliest opportunity – losing a coin and not replacing it doesn't relieve a Member of his/her responsibilities. This is especially true if your fellow Member's know that you traditionally carry a coin.
8. The coin should be controlled at all times. Giving a coin to just anyone is like opening a fraternity to just anyone. It is an honour to be given a coin, let's keep it that way. A given or awarded coin is of more personal value than a purchased coin.
9. No holes may be drilled in a coin.
10. The above rules apply to anyone who is worthy to be given/awarded a coin, has a purchased coin or who is a known coin holder.

**EXCEPTIONS:** There are no exceptions to the rules. They apply to those clothed or unclothed. At the time of the challenge you are permitted one step or an arm's reach to locate your coin. If you still cannot reach it – SORRY ABOUT THAT!