

100 Year ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

IBEW L. U. 466



100th ANNIVERSARY
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

1914

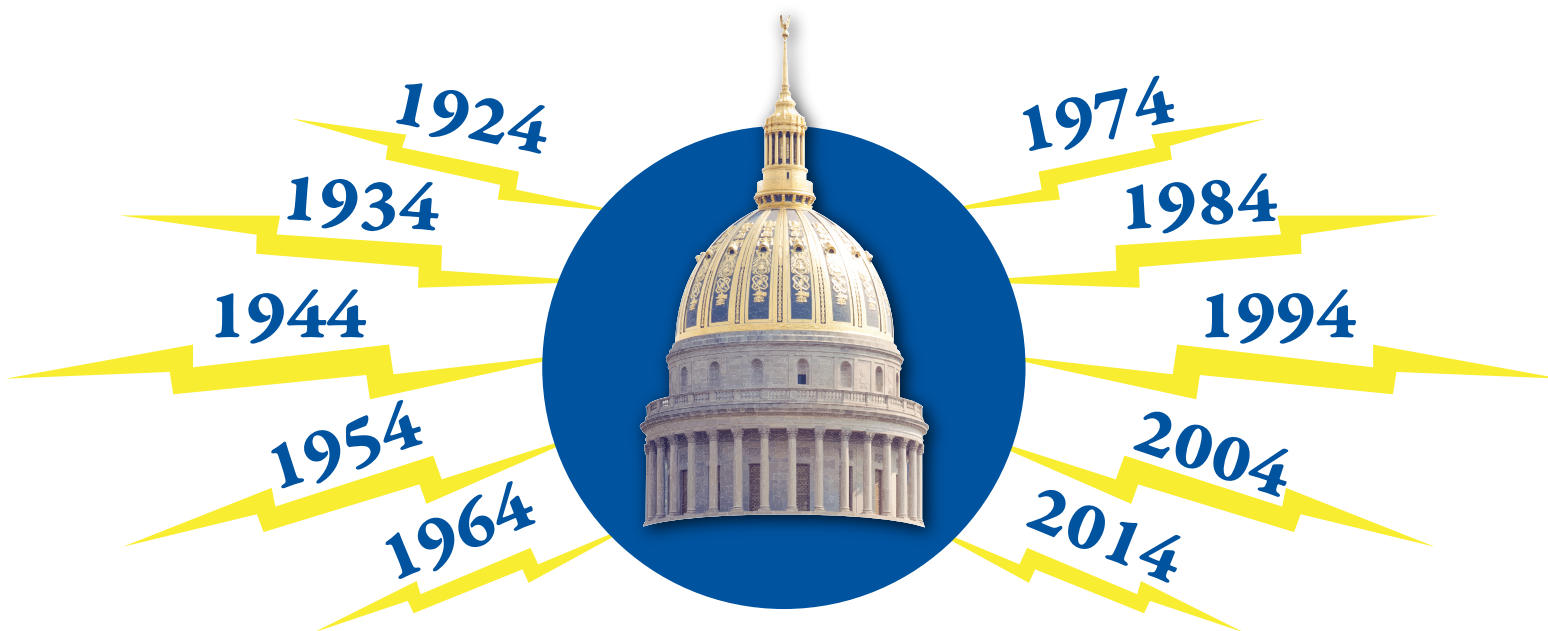
2014

COMMEMORATIVE
Program & History

1914

2014

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF PROVIDING QUALITY ELECTRICIANS



LOCAL 466 IBEW

100th ANNIVERSARY



Brothers & Sisters and Special Guests,

It is a great honor being Business Manager of I.B.E.W. Local 466 as we celebrate our 100th anniversary. As we reflect on the last 100 years, we want to remember the many members who laid the foundation and worked so hard to make this great local union strong throughout the century. There have been many members who have sacrificed their time and energy for this local union, from the original 10 who signed our charter on



January 23, 1914, up to the present-day officers and members. Our members can always be counted on to do anything asked of them if it benefits the Local Union.

The jurisdiction of Local 466 has grown tremendously over the years, including the addition of another Charleston local in 1960, the Beckley local in 1989 and the Roanoke local in 2004. When the members of Local 466 were asked to absorb the counties and membership of these local unions, they did so with open arms; now, these members are an integral part of our local. Today, our jurisdiction consists of 18 counties in West Virginia and 8 counties in Virginia.

Local 466 has been a valuable part of the growth and development of all the cities and counties of our jurisdiction, and will continue to be. There are many landmark projects -- such as the John Amos Powerhouse, Charleston Town Center and the Robert C. Byrd Federal Building, just to name a few -- that our members can drive by with pride knowing they were built with I.B.E.W. electricians. We all have many stories to share about projects and past or present members that should be passed on from generation to generation so our legacy continues to grow. These stories are the character of the Local Union.

I would like to welcome all the members and their guests as well as our special guests to our 100 Year Anniversary Banquet. I would also like to thank you for all of your contributions in helping Local 466 become the great Local Union it is today.

Sincerely,

Joe Samples, Business Manager
I.B.E.W. Local 466

This book was proudly produced by

UNIONHISTORIES
Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions
unionhistories.com

I.B.E.W. Local 466 and Union Histories would like to acknowledge the following for their contributions to the history of Local 466 contained in this book:

I.B.E.W. International Museum, Curtis Bateman, Director

I.B.E.W. Local 466 Retirees Club

West Virginia Division of Culture and History, State Archives

The Culture Center, Archives and History Library

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Layout & Design: Steven Demanett

The history of Local 466 as related by some of the older members is hard to believe in these days of the automobile and truck, but it is told that the Charleston Electric Supply Co. employed union electricians when they first started a good many years ago and the men were moved from shop to job and job to job by horse and wagon driven by a big colored fellow, and that it was nothing for a man and his helper, as the apprentice was called in those days of yesterday, to take a coil of wire and a step ladder and ride a streetcar to the job. Some of our members would take the necessary equipment and go by train into the coal fields and make motor repairs on the job instead of sending them into the shop to be repaired as is done in this day and age.

From “Electricians Local Union 466” 50th Anniversary program book, January 18, 1964

Proven Power Across A Century

The 100-Year History of I.B.E.W. Local No. 466, Charleston, West Virginia

A pair of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers locals existed in Charleston when the calendar turned to the year 1908. Local 256 had been chartered on December 1, 1903, to service outside linemen in the city, and Local 480 had been formed on February 1, 1906, to represent Charleston’s inside wiremen.

Neither would make it through to the end of 1908 as members of the I.B.E.W. Like many locals that year, they would both be declared “defunct” by the International – Local 480 in May and Local 256 in December.

At the time, the I.B.E.W. was entering a turbulent period of its young existence during which a bitter internal struggle resulted in a large number of locals across the nation forming a competing union faction beginning in 1908. Incited by discord between linemen and wiremen, disgruntled office-seekers and a former grand treasurer removed from office in 1907 because of “irregularities,” as *History of The I.B.E.W.* describes, the so-called “Reid-Murphy Split” elected J.J. Reid as its president and J.W. Murphy as its secretary during a special convention in 1908.

With the splinter locals refusing to recognize President Frank J. McNulty and Secretary Peter W. Collins as the true officers of the I.B.E.W., two union conventions were held in 1911. However, a court decision in February 1912 declared that the 1908 convention was illegal and its actions invalid, and the I.B.E.W. 12th convention in Boston in 1913 was attended by nearly all of the locals that had left five years earlier.

Records do not show an I.B.E.W. local operating in Charleston again until after the “Reid-Murphy Split” had ended and the International chartered outside-linemen’s Local 466 on **January 23, 1914.**

The First Few Years

Soon after it was established, Local 466 was designated a mixed-classification local of linemen and inside wiremen. Initially meeting on Friday nights at the Musicians Hall on Capitol Street, the local received guidance and assistance during its early years particularly from the city’s stagehands union.

By 1917, the local’s membership had grown to 37 workers when it sent its first delegate, T. N. Crawford, to the I.B.E.W. 14th Convention.

Bolstering the local’s promising future, early that year the U. S. government announced it would build an armor plant, gun forging plant and projectile plant in the Charleston area – an investment of over \$25 million. “From the way things look at present, it will mean a lot to this local,” Local 466 Press Secretary B. Morgan wrote in the May 1917 I.B.E.W. *Journal*. “There are all reasons <sic> to believe we will need a lot of men here.”

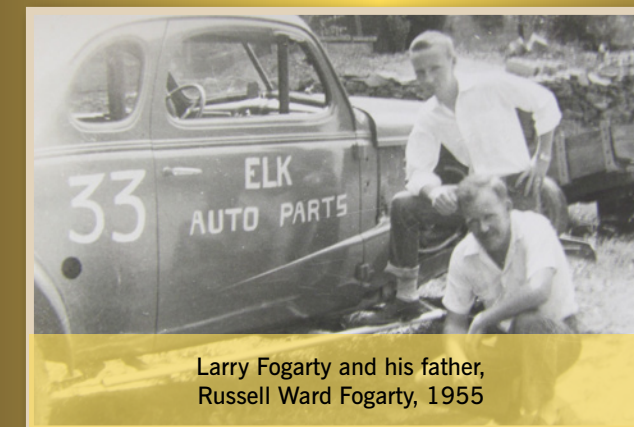
In the meantime, work in the area was slow. However, that situation did not prevent the local from going out on a one-day strike on April 1, 1917, to get a new agreement signed.

Morgan also sent out a warning that month in the *Journal*, which he prefaced by announcing, “I wish to inform all members that Charleston is 100 percent organized.” He went on to caution men who came into the Local 466 jurisdiction that “failing to bring traveling cards ... will not be tolerated.”

The local’s membership expanded from 40 to 140 by October 1918 with construction of the new government powder plant at Nitro, West Virginia. “The job at Nitro is 100 percent organized for us and the conditions are fair for a job of this magnitude,” Local 466 Press Secretary George Kettmann announced in the *Journal* that month.

The local also had an agreement that would expire May 1, 1919, paying its electrical workers 65 cents an hour, time and a half for overtime and

Local 466 Thanks our
Historian, Larry Fogarty



Larry Fogarty and his father,
Russell Ward Fogarty, 1955

The historical account of I.B.E.W. Local 466 contained in this book is the product of the efforts by Larry B. Fogarty, a proud member of Local 466 since his induction on August 16, 1961, and the local’s historian. Larry spent several years collecting and documenting the local’s archives so that future generations may know the local’s heritage.

Larry recognizes the following individuals, to whom this book is dedicated:

Russell “Red” Ward Fogarty (Larry’s father), Local 466 member inducted February 5, 1946; passed away April 24, 1991.

Daniel Lewis “Dusty” Myres (Larry’s uncle), Local 466 member inducted October 1, 1952; passed away July 19, 2009.

Terry Martin Fogarty (Larry’s brother), Local 466 member inducted November 6, 1968.

Terry Martin Fogarty II (Larry’s nephew), Local 466 member inducted 1990.

Russell “Rusty” Ward Fogarty Jr. (Larry’s brother), Local 466 member inducted September 20, 1967.

Raime Jackson Fogarty (Larry’s nephew), Local 466 member inducted May 1, 2004.

Alan W. Myres (Larry’s cousin), Local 466 member inducted June 2, 1971.

Christopher Myres (Alan’s son), Local 466 member inducted April 2, 1996.

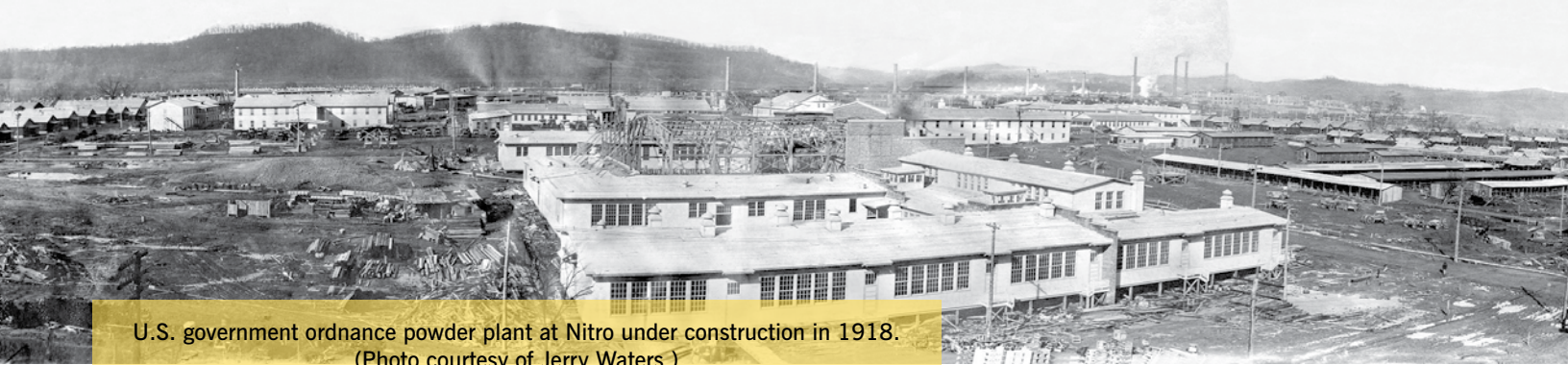
Christopher M. Myres (Christopher Myres’ son), Local 466 member inducted November 1, 2012.

Joseph E. Joplin II (Dusty’s grandson by his daughter Beverly), Local 466 member inducted November 1, 2005.

Raymond K. Moore (Larry’s brother-in-law by his sister Judy), Local 466 member inducted June 17, 1970; passed away March 20, 2012.

All members, past and present, of I.B.E.W. Local Union 466.





U.S. government ordnance powder plant at Nitro under construction in 1918.
(Photo courtesy of Jerry Waters.)

double pay for Sundays. However, contractors were voluntarily paying 75 cents an hour because of the scarcity of men capable of working the jobs.

Members at the Nitro plant would work from 7 in the morning to 6 in the evening with an hour for lunch, making the working day 10 hours long, for which they were paid 12 hours. Saturday afternoons and Sundays paid at double time, so paychecks were up to \$67.20 per week – although the men did have to pay for transportation of \$11 a month or stay in the barracks on the reservation if they chose to do so.

At that time, the local's dues were \$2.25 per month and its initiation fee was \$100, which all members under five years were required to pay.

By May 1, the local had been locked out of four of the largest shops in Charleston for 30 days as each of the shops refused to give its employees an

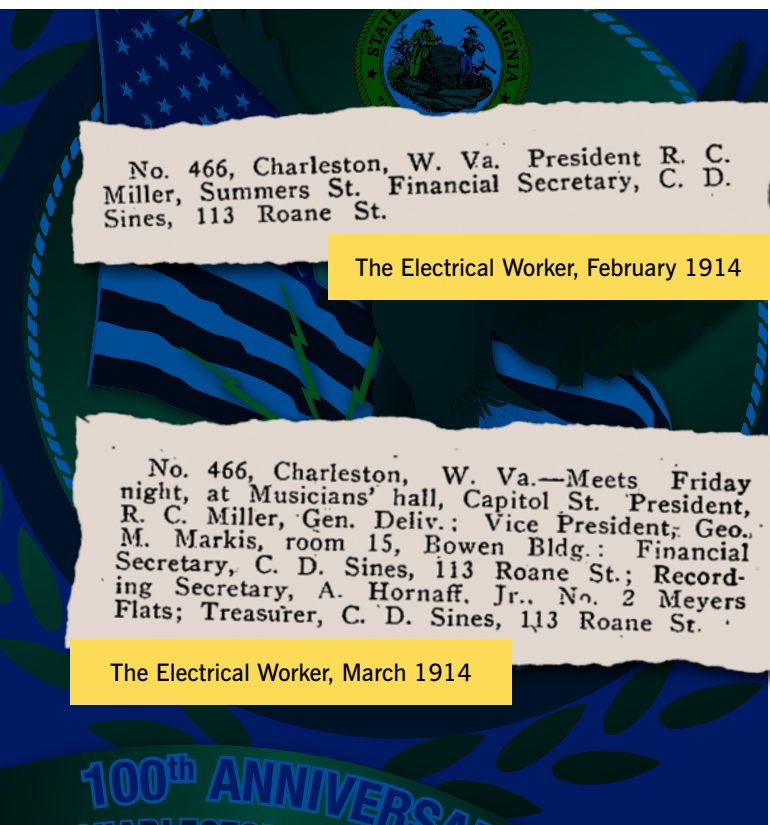
increase from 75 cents to 87-1/2 cents per hour, leaving about 25 Local 466 members out of work. However, a large number of members working at Virginia Power Co., the Nitro plant, the projectile plant and the armor-plate plant were not affected by the lockout.

The local finally reached a compromise with its shop employers on May 1 for 81-1/4 cents per hour with a 44-hour week and double time for overtime. “What we lost in scale we gained in conditions, as our previous agreement called for 40 hours per week and time and a half for overtime,” Recording Secretary William Hebber explained in the September 1919 *Journal*.

Only four members were working at Nitro by that time and 40 men were at the armor-plate plant. Meanwhile, the city's contractors were “not overburdened with work” but keeping about 20 men working, Hebber reported.

Early on and into the 1920s, a good portion of the work also being performed by Local 466 members was in the many area coalfields. However, some members who went into the fields to work in those days would keep their union cards in their shoes “because having a union card would get you fired quicker than not working,” an essay in the local's 50th Anniversary program states.

(At the time, the United Mine Workers of America was a growing force in West Virginia, guided by such labor leaders as Mary “Mother” Jones. But during the “Mine Wars” of the early 20th century, some of the most violent episodes in the state's labor history occurred in the coalfields, according to The West Virginia Encyclopedia.



No. 466, Charleston, W. Va. President R. C. Miller, Summers St. Financial Secretary, C. D. Sines, 113 Roane St.

The Electrical Worker, February 1914

No. 466, Charleston, W. Va.—Meets Friday night, at Musicians' hall, Capitol St. President, R. C. Miller, Gen. Deliv.; Vice President, Geo. M. Markis, room 15, Bowen Bldg.; Financial Secretary, C. D. Sines, 113 Roane St.; Recording Secretary, A. Hornaff, Jr., No. 2 Meyers Flats; Treasurer, C. D. Sines, 113 Roane St.

The Electrical Worker, March 1914

Dupl. Charles Mailed 7/7/19

Charter Application

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
1200 FIFTEENTH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 5, D. C. J. SCOTT MILNE, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

Any ten or more workers who wish to form an Electrical Workers' Union must fill out this form and individual applications, and forward them to the International Office.
Any I. U. so organized shall pay to the I. U. \$5.00 for each "A" member admitted as a charter member, except for those who are under 16 years or over 65 years of age, on whom the fee shall be \$3.00.
The minimum charter fee for "BA" members shall be not less than \$1.00, payable to the International Secretary.

466 Date _____ 19____

We, the undersigned, believing a union to be well designed to improve our intellectual and social condition, and promote our industrial well being and advancement, respectfully petition the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to grant a charter for a union to be located in the
City of Charleston State of West Virginia
and to be installed on the 23 day of January 1914

We pledge ourselves, individually and collectively, to be governed by the Constitution and laws of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Jurisdiction { Type of work covered inside
Territorial _____

Type of Membership Covered by this Application: _____
☐ "A" Combinations: _____
☐ "BA" ☐ "A" & "BA" _____

Address _____
Street _____ City _____ Zone _____ State _____

(State Paste on additional paper if required for more names)

NO.	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS
	J. H. Crawford		
	Frank Carrigan		
	J. G. Miller		
	P. C. Miller		
	J. C. Michaelson		
	D. L. Roberts		
	Cleo D. Sines		
	E. N. Spading		
	P. M. Spradling		
10.	M. W. Young		

I.B.E.W. charter application for Charleston, West Virginia, Local 466, 1914

Between 1919 and 1921, the encyclopedia states, UMW efforts to unionize the mines of southern West Virginia, particularly in Logan and Mingo counties, were marked by “incidents of unusual violence,” including the deadly Matewan Massacre, Sharples Massacre and Battle of Blair Mountain.)

Tough Times: The 1920s & '30s

With little construction taking place in and around Charleston as the 1920s progressed, during which time the South Charleston Naval Ordnance plant was idled, Local 466 experienced plenty of hard times throughout the decade. As a result, it lost the majority of its members to other locals, and those who stayed were only working half-time throughout 1925.

Press Secretary S. A. Waldo still boasted in the February 1926 *Journal* that the local was enjoying “good wages and good conditions.” However, he also added, “At present it looks as though we may have to join the soup line soon unless something breaks loose.”

Hoping to improve that situation by combating nonunion electricians being brought in by contractors, Local 466 in the early 1920s was instrumental in having the City of Charleston establish a licensing program for electricians. But

initially, “the city would grant anyone a license for the money,” according to the essay in the local’s 50th Anniversary program book. The union electricians refused to buy licenses, and it was not until the 1930s that the licensing program was returned to the way it was being used by the 1950s – with full union participation.

By May 1926, Charleston’s general contractors were advocating for a cut in wages for all crafts and had advertised in the local newspapers that there would be a reduction of 25 cents per hour for each trade. The Charleston General Contractors’ Association even notified subcontractors that they would not accept any bids based on a wage scale higher than \$1 per hour; but Local 466 informed its electrical contractors that it would stand firm with its existing agreement and refused to consider any actions affecting its members’ wages.

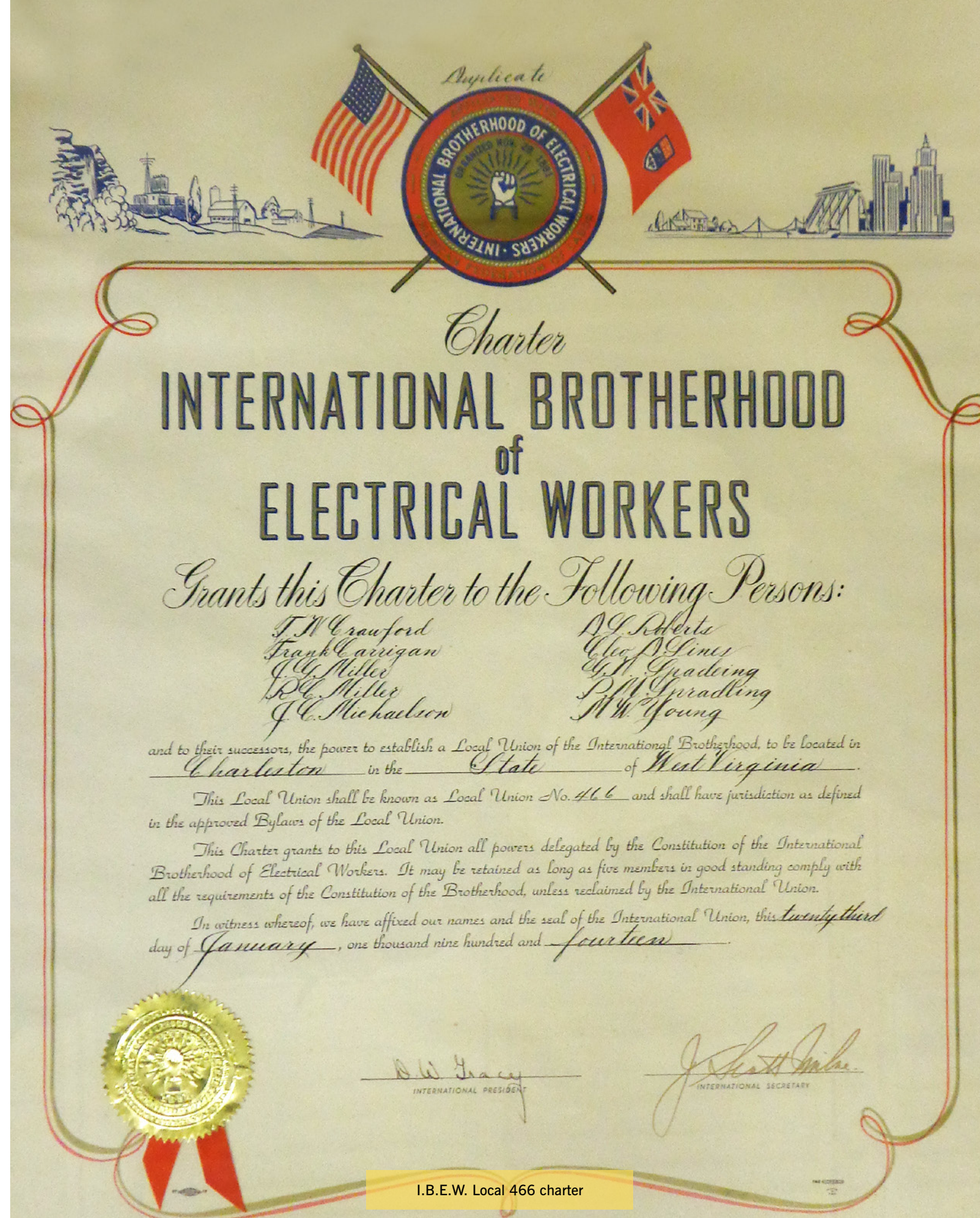
Conditions remained poor into 1927, with Press Secretary S. Courtney Miller reporting in the July *Journal*, “work in this vicinity is very slack. ... We have a number of men who have not worked since May 1, 1926. Several of our Brothers have been compelled to take up other lines of endeavor in order to keep the proverbial wolf from the door.”

The local’s membership had dwindled to less than 35 by 1928, with wages at \$1.25 an hour. A nearby chemical plant, average residential work and a 10-story hotel being built in Charleston barely kept those members busy, according to Press

Continued on page 9



Charleston, 1920 (Photo courtesy of Jerry Waters)



I.B.E.W. Local 466 charter

L. U. NO. 466, CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Editor:

We have been fighting here since our last communication.

Our Governor tried to push a bill through the extra session of the Legislature to keep down labor troubles during the war.

According to the bill all shops would be open and we couldn't strike for any reasons.

No non-union shops could be organized very clever if he had got by with it. The Central Body's and Building Trades Unions of West Virginia nipped it in the bud while it was very young. We have the La France Electric Co. of Toledo, Ohio, working two big jobs in this town and one of them is unfair to our Building Trades Council.

Their Superintendent seems to be laboring under the impression that he can transport Union Electricians in here from Toledo to do the work. We would like to warn any members of the I. B. E. W. from Toledo or anywhere else for that matter not to come here and not deposit a Traveler.

The Charleston Boys have done all their work so far and if we can't do the other job, be cause it's unfair, we wont let any other Union men do it.

The Business Agent from Toledo was down here to try to straighten up the job but we don't know what kind of a report he made. We understand that he was going to try to get it declared open work, but Charleston is 100 per cent organized and when we take a notion for a open job we will open it without any representatives from Toledo or any other place.

But that is enough of troubles, so we will try to spread some joy. We have bought a one hundred and fifty dollar Edison Diamond Disc. Talking Machine and some very much needed furniture and expect to have a nice meeting hall. Everyone here is working now and everybody is well pleased. Every man but one in this union is between 21 and 30 so I guess everyone will register June the 5th.

They have been laying out the buildings here for the Projectile Factory of the Government so I guess they will start to build real soon. The Armor Plate plant wont be built until next year at least.

Wishing all members success, I am,
Fraternally yours,

B. Morgan,
Press Secretary.

The Journal, June 1917

I.B.E.W. Local 466 Business Managers

(The office of the business agent, predecessor of the business manager, was initially a part-time job for Local 466 until Jess Miller took over as business manager on a full-time basis in the 1930s.)

C. D. Sines (Financial Sec./Business Agent)

1914 to circa 1916

R. W. Frincke (Financial Sec./Business Agent)

1917

T. N. Crawford (Financial Sec./Business Agent)

1917 to 1918

George Kettman (Financial Sec./Business Agent)

1918 to 1919

T. N. Crawford (Financial Sec./Business Agent)

1919 to 1922

B. Morgan (Financial Sec./Business Agent)

1922 to 1924

M. P. Greene (Financial Sec./Business Agent)

1924 to 1929

Charles Henderson (Financial Sec./Business Agent)

1930

V. C. Nelson (Financial Sec./Business Agent)

1931

C. T. Haggerty

1932 to 1933

Frank Sevy

1933 to 1935

Jess R. Miller

1936 to 1948

Rudy H. Atkinson

1949 to 1950

Jess R. Miller

1951 to 1952

Guy Hoffman

1953 to 1956

Harry B. Janney

1957 to 1961

Guy Hoffman

1961 to 1968

Charles Kinder

1969 to 1970

Dell Scott

1971 to 1983

John Saunders

1984 to 1991

James Morton

1992 to 2001

Dave Efaw

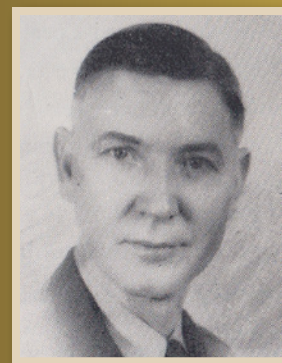
2001 to 2007

David Young

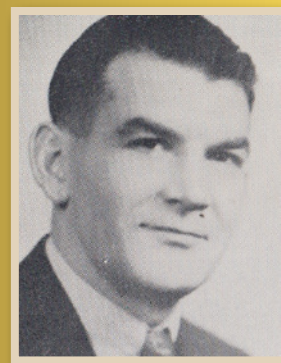
2007 to 2010

Dana "Joe" Samples

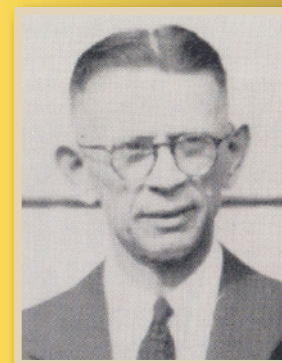
2010 to present



C. D. Sines



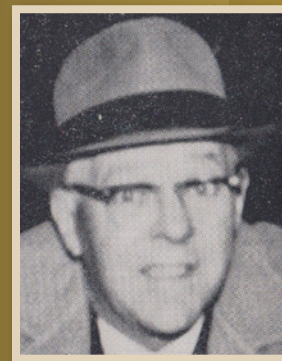
M. P. Greene



Charles Henderson



Frank Sevy



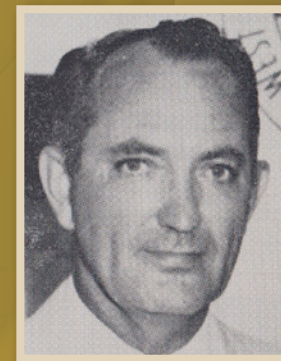
Jess R. Miller



Rudy H. Atkinson



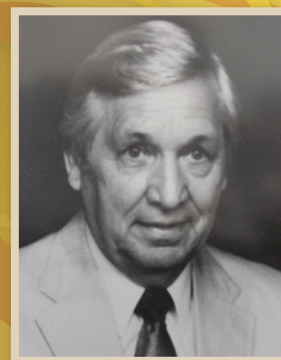
Guy Hoffman



Harry B. Janney



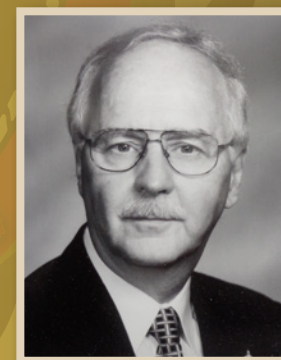
Charles Kinder



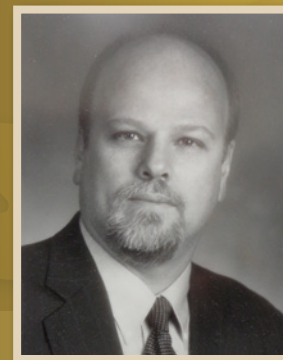
Dell Scott



John Saunders



James Morton



Dave Efaw



David Young



Dana "Joe" Samples

Secretary Bob Keck's column in the April *Journal*.

Its precarious position did not preclude Local 466 from participating in the Charleston Building Trades Council. In fact, the local was part of an April 3 rally held by the State Federation of Labor, in conjunction with the Council and the Kanawha Valley Central Labor Union.

Intent on bolstering its relevance, the local that year began a movement to create a night class in elementary electricity – a “voluntary proposition that has worked up quite a bit of enthusiasm among the boys,” Keck wrote in the January 1929 *Journal*.

L. U. NO. 466, CHARLESTON W. VA.

Editor:

Just a few lines to let you know that L. U. No. 466 is still on the map after being out for 30 days. On May the first we finally got together and compromised on 81¼ cents per hour with a 44 hour week, and double time for all overtime, so what we lost in scale we gained in conditions as our previous agreement called for 48 hours per week and time and half for overtime. We still have four Brothers working at Nitro, but the Government is cutting down on work and have laid off about a thousand men in all departments combined. The armor plate plant is going along smoothly and 466 has about 40 men working out there.

The boys on the cabin Creek job have finally got the scale after about three months wrangling. We have got three men still on that job. The contractors in town are not over burdened with work, but are keeping about twenty men working.

Also wish to say that a bunch of hypocrites and tin horn politicians in town have put one over on a good many union men by closing the Day & Night Bank on July 21, whose depositors were mostly out of the Rank & File and Brothers this is just one more instant where the Capitalistic also is riding the back of the working men and the very same working men are called a Bolshevik for standing for his rights as a working man, but I hope to see the time when conditions will be vice versa. On July 1st, we installed new officers which are as follows:

President, Brother Thurston.

Vice-President, Sullivan, R. S. Webber, F. S. Crawford.

Treasurer, Crawford.

Trustees, Morgan, Reilly, Miller.

The outgoing officers have mostly left town, and must say that our Ex-B. A. Geo. Kettman has left town and is in St. Louis and doing fine. He certainly put up a game fight all around while with us, and we wish him all kinds of luck wherever he goes as he is a cracker jack handling any difficult proposition. Well I will close for the present.

Fraternalty yours,

Wm. Hebber, R. S.

The Journal, September 1919

The classes were held in the city high school.

The local also had been invited to appoint members to the city's Electric League, which was headed by the local's president, Charles Henderson. The League was essentially a roundtable for the electrical industry that consisted of all branches in the field, including labor and management.

Local 466 trudged through The Great Depression with the rest of the country during the early 1930s. It emerged in the latter half of the decade with added promise as President Franklin D. Roosevelt's “New Deal” policies took hold – including the Works Progress Administration jobs program for the unemployed and the National Labor Relations Board, which would be a strong tool for the growth of unions.

“All of our members are now working at construction or industrial work. The industrial plants have given voluntary increases in pay until they are now paying very close to the same as that paid by contractors on construction work,” Press Secretary M.P. Green announced in the December 1936 *Journal*. “We have a real live business manager here who is due a lot of credit for placing a good many of our men in new territory here, which looks to be permanent.”

By that time, the local's membership was growing and it had signed up neon-sign erectors and tube benders within the city. What's more, during the 1930s the local was wiring more residential jobs than nonunion electricians were, while working for contractors such as Schoolfield Harvey Electric.

The local also had a business manager beginning in 1932 with C. T. Haggerty; in 1936, it was Jess R. Miller, who would serve in that position for the next 12 years.

As the decade was coming to a close and World War II was beginning to steamroll its way across the globe, the local grew to nearly 200 members as it signed up companies that had been open-shop and “hard to handle,” Press Secretary J. N. Sturgeon announced in the January 1939 *Journal*.

Meanwhile, Local 466 succeeded in stopping several jobs that were “unfair” to organized labor, including a \$600,000 apartment house that

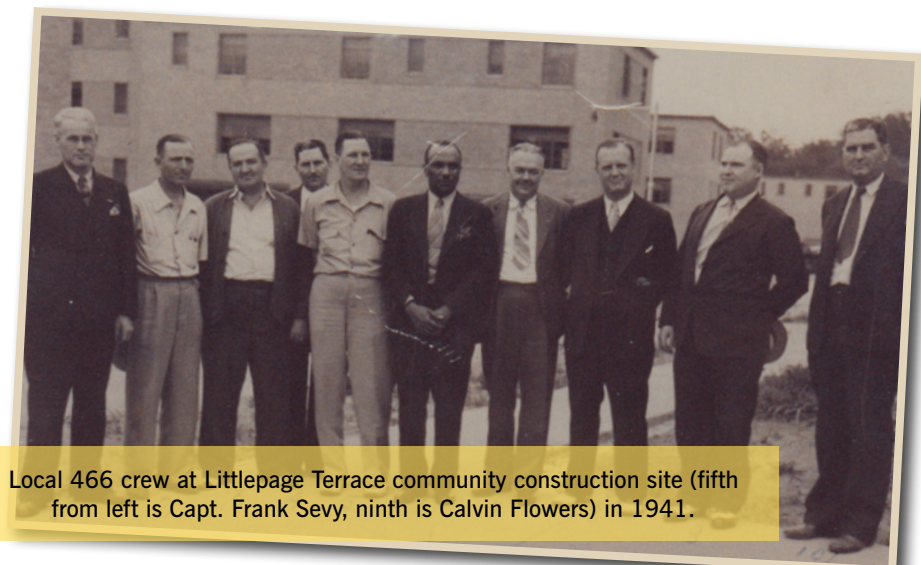


Local 466 members successfully picket a job in 1939.

was under construction. Its members were also working on several school buildings in Kanawha County and a slum-clearance project, and after a building trades strike, the local secured a Viscose Co. chemical plant job at Nitro, rewiring buildings and hooking up lighting.

With most members getting back to work, the resultant atmosphere prompted Sturgeon to write:

“For the amount of work we have gotten straightened up we have a just demand for practically all work of building trades jobs, and through this co-operation we really have been able to accomplish a great deal that we could not control before.”



Local 466 crew at Littlepage Terrace community construction site (fifth from left is Capt. Frank Sevy, ninth is Calvin Flowers) in 1941.

Ups & Downs: The 1940s & '50s

During the Second World War, the war emergency building program brought work to the Charleston area, providing jobs to several hundred Local 466 and traveling I.B.E.W. linemen and wiremen. (The first and largest styrene-butadiene plant in the United States opened in nearby Institute at the time, providing a replacement for rubber for the war effort.) In particular, some members worked in the Naval Ordnance Plant in South Charleston for the General Machinery Corp., helping to make battleship armor-plate and guns for the Navy.

The local also had 35 members who served in the armed forces during the war in many parts of the world.

After the fighting ended, Charleston experienced a significant construction boom that would benefit the local as well as the region. One of the first projects during that period was Kanawha Airport (now Yeager Airport, re-named in 1985 after West Virginia-native U.S. Air Force Gen. Chuck Yeager), which was built in 1947 and involved the clearing of 360 acres on three mountaintops by moving more than 9 million cubic yards of earth.

Other significant projects on which Local 466 members worked during that time included the Union Carbide office building, hydro plant and technical center in South Charleston around 1948;

L. U. NO. 466, CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Editor:

In the last two letters from 466 we told you of the many nice things that the Charleston contractors had promised us. Well, we are getting them, our two leading shops are trying the open shop and are assisted by about twenty so-called general contractors as well as most of the plumbing contractors and a few shops of the other affiliated crafts. As usual the electrical workers and the plumbers are carrying the heavy end of the fight while the carpenters' committee is sitting around the Building Trades headquarters talking about what they are going to do. The worst thing about the whole affair is the fact that most of the carpenters will have to have their wives half-sole their trousers for them as they cannot afford to take them to a tailor. As to the actual status of this lockout there is nothing to say except that our members are standing solid and will continue to do so as we do not think that a twenty per cent cut in wages is in order at this time. Quite a few of the boys are on the street at present, but with the assistance of some of our smaller contractors they are making living expenses so we have not had anyone starve or move into the poorhouse, but I have in my application for a suite of rooms with all modern conveniences.

Thanks for the editorials in the May issue, about the only thing you omitted was nominating General Smelly Butler for membership in the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and Charleston General Contractors Association. He seems to be the high type of citizen that would fit in well with the other members of these organizations.

Thanks, 317, for punching me with the ice-pick to wake me up and also for the bouquet. I believe in signs so I hope you always say it with flowers (the blossom off the corn will be accepted). Say, who is this fellow Pro Tem, he must be a new member as I have never met him.

Well, we are having lots of fun with our city electrical ordinance, the Charleston contractors were so strong for this white elephant and he kicked them the other day and now they have the famous (?) attorney, Mr. Belcher, who made a name for himself prosecuting the United Mine Workers, trying to tie the white elephant so he will not kick anyone but Local 466. We grasped the opportunity when the local contractors put their SCABS to work without city license and had most of them arrested. When we did this the contractors attempted to have the cases thrown out of court, but as it is getting close to election time the Judge would not listen to this plea, the cases were continued for a few days to allow the attorneys for the SCABS to prepare an appeal. We will end up in the State Supreme Court and there we will find out if our city law is any good. We intend to carry this case on up because it is a matter that affects any city in this state as well as our own and we believe that we have attorneys who are capable of proving this law legal.

This is the COG City signing off, Charleston in the Coal, Oil and Gas fields of West Virginia.

WALDO.

P. S. Editor, please do not make a mistake and sign my name J. A. Waldo anymore as J. A. W. does not sound good as the initials of a press secretary.

S. A. W.

The Journal, June 1926

the Glen Ferris hydroelectric power plant; and the silicon alloys plant in Alloy, West Virginia. (The alloys plant was still producing about 30 percent of all the silicon metal in North America in 2000, according to then-operators Elkem Metals literature.)

Always intent on improving the membership's lot, during its April 16, 1947, meeting the local appointed four members to a Benefit Board, which also consisted of local contractors.

The following year, the local stopped working in the midst of a contract dispute with the contractors – during which International Vice President Gordon Freeman ordered the local to submit its argument to arbitration and return to work, according to Local 466 meeting minutes of April 7, 1948.

In June, the local created an Advisory Committee to “assist and advise” the local's officers “on all matters referred to them.” The board consisted of all full-beneficial members who were 55 years of age or older and had 30 years of continuous good standing with the local; each was paid \$6.50 per month.

Training also continued to be a greater focus for the local, and during its January 19, 1949, meeting the local instituted a new rule whereby apprentices would have to attend “sufficient classes of schooling to satisfy (the) instructor that he is ready before being given (the) examination for advancement.”

By March 1957, Business Manager Guy Hoffman reported in the *Journal* that the local had established “a more rigid apprentice training course” and that it was trying to secure a building of its own to

466 Helps Form 938

Local 466 members were instrumental in getting an I.B.E.W. local established in nearby Logan, West Virginia. Thanks in part to their efforts, Local 938 was chartered on November 5, 1942, to represent employees of the Appalachian Power Co.

Thirty years later, Local 938 was amalgamated into I.B.E.W. Local 978 in November of 1972.



Local 466 crew at the Westvaco plant in South Charleston in 1955.

house the training school. The local was also by that time making plans for an electronics course, a welding course for apprentices and journeymen, and a refresher course in modern electricity. (By 1960, with the local's training being operated by a Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee – J.A.T.C. – it was offering a class in basic industrial electronics to its members, and by early 1962, it would start its own electronics school.)

During its May 1, 1957, meeting, the local created a Building Committee to plan the construction of an apprenticeship school and union meeting hall. Up until then, training schools had been conducted in various locations around the city, including a church, Garnet High School and Stonewall Jackson High School.



Local 466 crew at Union Carbide Laboratory construction site, circa 1957, included (l-r) Eddie Anderson, Marion Taylor, Preacher Dean, John Wright, Ikey Lifford, Benney Pristley, a Carbide inspector and “Speedy” Powers.

Work for Local 466 members was “substantial” and brought in “a considerable amount of overtime” throughout the first half of the 1950s, Press Secretary O. V. Spinosi described in the March 1954 *Journal*.

Also during the decade, the local formed its Committee On Political Education – COPE. The committee (which is still vital as Local 466 celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2014) involved keeping the local's membership informed on political news and collecting voluntary donations for political campaigns (as it continues to do).

But employment did slow into and throughout 1955 and 1956 – so much so that Press Secretary Frank Sevy wrote in the February 1956 *Journal* that work was “at the lowest ebb since The Depression,

Leaders in Member Training

In 1962, the Charleston Electricians Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (J.A.T.C.) was chosen to receive the William F. Patterson Memorial Award for “having the best and most efficiently executed training program in the six-state region.” The award was a memorial



Local 466 training facility, circa 2000

to William F. Patterson, the first director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, who was frequently called “Father of the Apprenticeship Program in the United States.”

With the recognition, the Local 466 J.A.T.C. training program, sponsored by the local and the area's National Electrical Contractors Association, was named the best throughout Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina and the District of Columbia. According to an article in the I.B.E.W. *Journal*, the selection was made by the National Labor-Management Committee of the U.S. Department of Labor.

L. U. NO. 466, CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Editor:

Well, Brother International, just a series of grouches this time. Of course, it's just the cycle of events, fall and winter, we feel fine—that is if we ever do feel fine, and then in the spring and summer, what with hot weather and green apples, and a fellow's system goin' bolshevik—well, you know how it is, Dorothy Dixes, Fairfaxes and Ye Editors just have to stand for it.

Firstly, and far from leastly, with your permission, I must inform the clan and industry of the watt-less jolt 466 recently received from the invisible but ever-present hands of the International Office.

It's like this, fellows, hades has been popping around here without actual fireworks for the last couple of years. Though the municipality lays the city streets and pavements, they have been well pressed in place by quite a few organized electricians. We boys, being a thrifty and conservative lot, have time and again drifted to the various chemical plants that are within our reach. We have had fair success at these plants, and they are more friendly than otherwise toward us in spite of the fact that we were instrumental in boosting the electricians from 75 and 80 cents to \$1 an hour. Still, there is one plant, the DuPont or Lazote, which is about 16 miles to the leeward as the crow flies, but only about three-quarters of an hour as the flivver flivs. Really, not a great distance, as our city shops work that distance and beyond even on small house jobs.

Well, every now and then we would get wind of some city slicker with a card coming in and working on that job, but we could never get a definite line on him so as to get him within the four walls of No. 466. Such things frequently happen in all jurisdictions. You, and we, of the smaller locals know how it is. You may rough in a job on a country home or an "estate," then the owner will buy elaborate fixtures from a distant concern who will send in one of their "union on the surface" card men, who will come in, hang the fixtures and get out between a couple of shooting stars, risking a fine of several dollars to evade paying 50 cents of just dues—if you get what I mean.

The Journal, August 1929

L. U. NO. 466, CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Editor:

With the holiday work over we now get down to the old grind with the prospects of having more of our men working in January and February of 1937 than during that period for a number of years.

At the present time we have all of our membership working with only four or five of them on part-time list, the rest at full time.

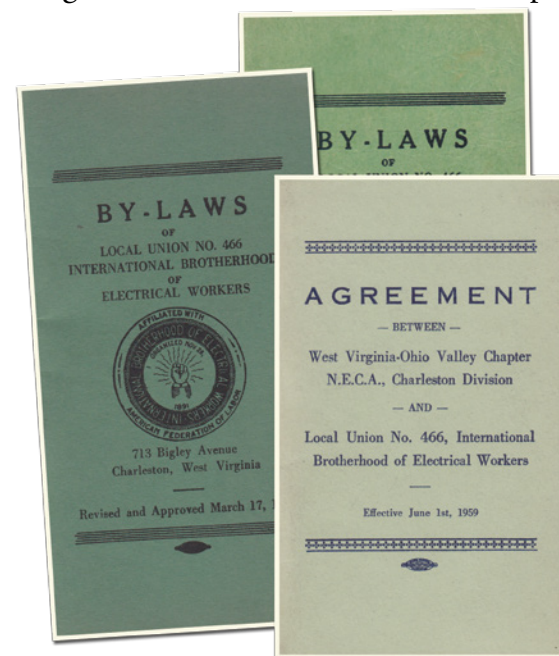
We are expecting to have another large job here in one of our chemical plants that is supposed to be larger than the one just finished late last summer. And with the efficient help of International Vice President Arthur Bennett, I am sure it will be manned by members of the I. B. E. W. I am going to give another invitation to all locals within 100 miles of Huntington, W. Va., to get into our Tri-State Council of Electrical Workers. Contact secretary of either Huntington, Charleston, W. Va., or Portsmouth, Ohio, locals.

M. P. GEENE.

The Journal, January 1937

with about three-fourths of our entire membership either on the road or on the bench." Indeed, many of the local's members were finding work with surrounding locals during the slack period.

A large addition to one of the chemical plants in



the city was still employing members. The local also controlled the majority of the construction work being done in the large plants in its jurisdiction thanks to a "No-Strike and No-Work-Stoppage Pledge" taken by all of the locals in the Building Trades, Sevy explained in the November 1955 *Journal*.

By spring the next year, employees of the area Westinghouse plant were back at work, and the local was preparing for large jobs at two chemical plants to begin in the summer. By March 1957, Hoffman was able to announce that his local was employing out-of-town members for the first time in three years.

Conditions remained good throughout the following year, with Union Carbide's Technical Laboratory construction in full swing and

Local 1890 Merger

I.B.E.W. Local 1890 in Charleston, which was chartered on April 1, 1954, was amalgamated into Local 466 on April 1, 1960.

employing approximately 100 members and Westvaco Division of Food Machinery and Chemical Corp.'s new D.C.C.A. plant having started with around 30 men.

Also in 1958, contract negotiations with management, during which the local asked for but was initially denied a wage increase, went before an arbitrator with the Congress for Industrial Relations. In the end, **the local was awarded a 3-percent wage increase that included a Health and Welfare Plan.**

Another boon to the local – and the city – came in 1959 when the Charleston Civic Center opened its doors. (As the local marked its 100th Anniversary, the Civic Center has been completely renovated and provides the largest meeting and exhibit space available in the state).

Making Strides: The 1960s & '70s

Work was slow for Local 466 entering the 1960s and remained so, for the most part, through the first years of the decade. However, in 1960 there were two jobs in the making that would help unemployment: a new Federal building to be built in downtown Charleston and a new chlorine cell room to be installed for the Westvaco Division of Food Machinery and Chemical plant in South Charleston.

What's more, President Dwight D. Eisenhower had signed the Federal Aid Highway Act in 1956, and Charleston became part of that system in the 1960s when three major interstate systems – I-64, I-77 and I-79 – were constructed, all converging in the heart of the city. During the decade, Local 466 members would help construct the highways (and over the years helped maintain and rebuild them).

Meanwhile, in early 1960 the local's bargaining committee established a separate scale for industrial work for members, with an increase of 35 cents per hour over the previous journeyman wireman wage. Commercial wireman were granted a 15-cent-per-hour increase, and the committee also established a residential wireman's rate with a slightly lower scale "in an attempt to gain work ... being done by nonunion workers," according to Press Secretary Joseph R. Morton in the February *Journal*.

Further increasing its efforts to train its members, by 1961 the local was working to establish an electronics course with West Virginia University. It was also considering working with the Radio Electronic



Local 466 crew at construction of the old Federal Building in Charleston in 1960.

Television School of Cincinnati, Press Secretary Ralph H. Geene divulged in the May *Journal*.

The local would come to represent only inside wiremen beginning on March 6, 1961, when all of its outside linemen were transferred to Local 317 in Huntington, West Virginia.

Later that year, Local 466 "for a change" negotiated for a new contract before its current contract expired, Geene reported in the August *Journal*. The updated agreement called for raises of 12-1/2 cents for the first year and 15 cents the second year.

L. U. NO. 466, CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Editor: L. U. No. 466 has been honored by having 13 of its Brothers to do "battle" for us over a period of 25 years or more. The membership of the union has tried to show its appreciation to these loyal Brothers by awarding each of them with I. B. E. W. 25-year service buttons, which were presented at a short ceremony by President Frank R. Sevy and Business Agent Jesse R. Miller at the regular bi-monthly meeting on December 1.

Brothers receiving awards were: C. E. (Little Buck) Abbott, Charles M. Beasley, Harry V. Craze, Matthew P. Geene, W. T. Hawkins, Charles Henderson, E. R. Hoffman, Frank Keener, S. C. Miller, B. Morgan, V. C. (Tiny) Nelson, Charles A. Riley and Fred P. Simpson. Our local union desires to thank these elder Brothers for their efforts in our behalf in the building of the many industries in the Great Kanawha Valley and Southern West Virginia. We trust that we may have the benefit of their counsel and guidance for many years to come.

The war emergency building program is almost completed in this vicinity, which condition has released several hundred linemen and wiremen to other localities, where they continue to do their bit for the war effort.

We are also very proud of the 35 Brothers who are in the armed services of our Uncle Samuel, in many parts of the world. We wish them godspeed and hope to have them all safe at home again very soon.

EDGAR H. BROWN, P. S.

The Journal, February 1944

Charleston Local Loses Charter Member

L. U. 466, CHARLESTON, W. VA.—E. R. (Kid) Hoffman well known and beloved member of Local 466 passed away from a heart attack at his home in Rutland, Ohio, January 29th. He was working at the Atomic Energy project at Waverly, Ohio, and was in apparent good health when he arrived home from work the night he succumbed to the attack.

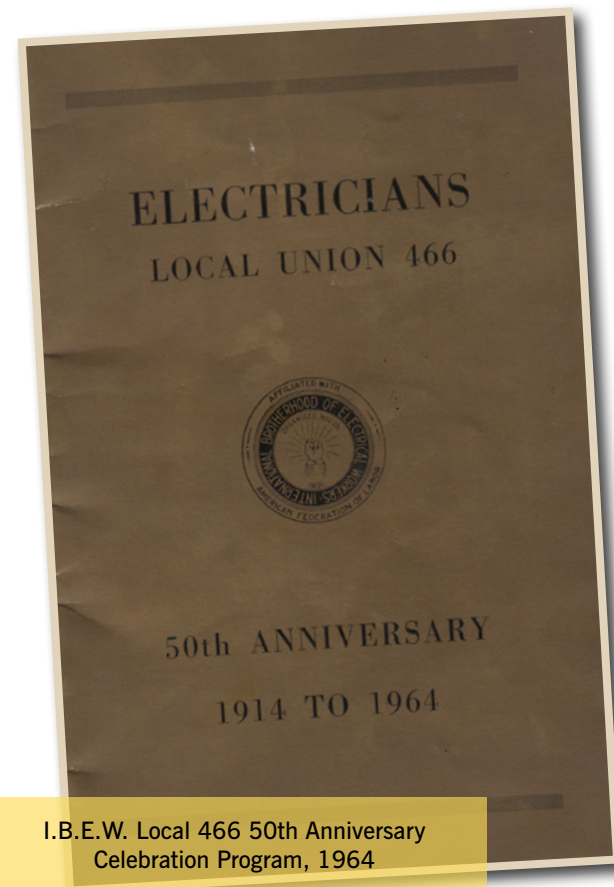
An electrician for more than 50 years, Brother Hoffman was born in Lincoln County June 10, 1886. He was a charter member of Local 667 when it was a linemen's local in Charleston. Soon the local defaulted and the charter was dropped. He then deposited his card in the International Office. In 1918 he placed his card in Local 466 whereby he acquired 36 years of continuous good standing. At 65 he went into retirement, but only for a few months, returning to the active list.

Brother Hoffman lived 68 years and raised a large family. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Gertrude B. Hoffman, four sons and six daughters. Three sons, Fred, Guy and Robert are all members of Local 466, Guy now serving his term as business manager.

To the family of E. R. Hoffman the members and myself wish to extend our deepest sympathy and condolences. Pray, may his soul rest in peace.

O. V. SPINOSI, P. S.

The Journal, May 1954



I.B.E.W. Local 466 50th Anniversary Celebration Program, 1964

By April 1962, the local had established a credit union for its members, who numbered almost 270 later that year. (The credit union itself would reach 164 members by the end of 1970; that year, it also earned the Thrift Honor Award of the National Credit Union Administration for "its success in stimulating savings among small savers.")

The local's wives were busy, too, forming a Women's Auxiliary by 1963. The auxiliary would go on to coordinate countless events for the local, from annual covered-dish dinners and Christmas parties to raffles, crazy-hat contests, rummage sales, bake sales and white elephant sales.

Local 466 celebrated its 50th anniversary on January 18, 1964, with a luncheon in the West Virginia Room of Charleston's Civic Center and a dinner dance in the main arena. The city's own Sam Parish and his eight-piece band provided the music and entertainment.

Meanwhile, work was steady through the mid-'60s, highlighted by construction of a new UPS building in Rand, West Virginia, in 1966.



The local reached a major benchmark in 1967 when it gained its first-ever three-year agreement with its contractors. The contract, which went into effect June 1 that year, included "a good wage increase for each of the three years," Geene announced in the September *Journal*. In addition, the local's Negotiating Committee had secured a total payroll deduction clause for the credit union and a new pension plan.

With work picking up, Local 466 wiremen wired the new, 20-story Charleston National Bank building in downtown Charleston in 1969; the glass-windowed high-rise was occupied by Bank One for years and would eventually become the Chase Tower. That year, the local's members also worked on new buildings constructed in the state government complex on the city's east side.

The work situation in Charleston was still looking "very good" into 1970 with "many jobs going on," Local 466 Recording Secretary W. E. "Bill" McCorey reported in the March *Journal*. The new John E. Amos Power Plant in Winfield, West Virginia, was going



full-tilt with about 10 crews and travelers; members were working at the Cabin Creek Powerhouse; and there were at least three crews at the Monsanto Chemical Plant in Nitro.

(The Amos facility, a three-unit coal-fired power plant completed in 1974, employed up to 500 I.B.E.W. members during its construction. It is owned by Appalachian Power, a subsidiary of American Electric Power (AEP), and was the largest utility in the AEP system entering 2014. It was named after a Democratic National Committeeman from West Virginia.)

Into 1971, the local found additional employment at a new "Water Works" park on the Elk River and with more jobs at the Alloy plant.

However, a dispute erupted at the Amos Power Plant in April 1972 that led to the apparent termination of about 200 electrical workers there by electrical contractor E.C. Ernst of Washington, D.C. At issue was the company's insistence that workers wear new identification tags, which the electricians regarded "as an imposition, because they are already required to wear three other identification numbers," the Charleston *Daily Mail* newspaper reported on April 27 – and Local 466 members had walked off the job before the dispute was settled.

Things slowed for the local into 1975, forcing many members to work out of town during that time. But employment improved by 1976 – although the local was far from full employment – and held steady throughout the rest of the decade.

An \$80 million job to replace the precipitators at the John Amos plant in 1977 and a data-processing center for Union Carbide put more members back to work, as did construction at the Charleston Area

Labor Unions Sponsor W.Va. Radio Program

L.U. 466, CHARLESTON, W. VA.—Hello again all you good people!

Local Union 466 and about 12 other unions affiliated with the Local Kanawha Valley Labor Council AFL-CIO, joined forces and sponsored an all-day labor program over Radio Station WCAW from 10 in the morning to 7 at night, Sunday, December 24. It was very nice to hear union labor being advertised for a change instead of everything else. Secretary of Labor Goldberg sent us a message that was used on the program. Miles Stanley, president of the West Virginia Labor Federation and the business managers of the different unions, participated in the program and furnished other messages for the day-long program.

Some of the Brothers of 466 participated in the ringing of the bells for the Salvation Army's Christmas program again this year. We are hoping to out-do the other groups this year as we did last year. Last year labor received a plaque for collecting more money than any other group during our turn at the bells.

I am sorry to report the death of one of our Brothers, Brother Otto Mondy. Brother Mondy went into the contracting business in 1946 in the Electric Supply Company, of Dunbar, West Virginia, using L.U. 466 members all the time. We also lost another contractor, Raymond Schoolfield, one of the founders of Schoolfield Harvey Electric Company of Charleston, West Virginia. Mr. Schoolfield was retired from the business and living in Florida at the time of his death.

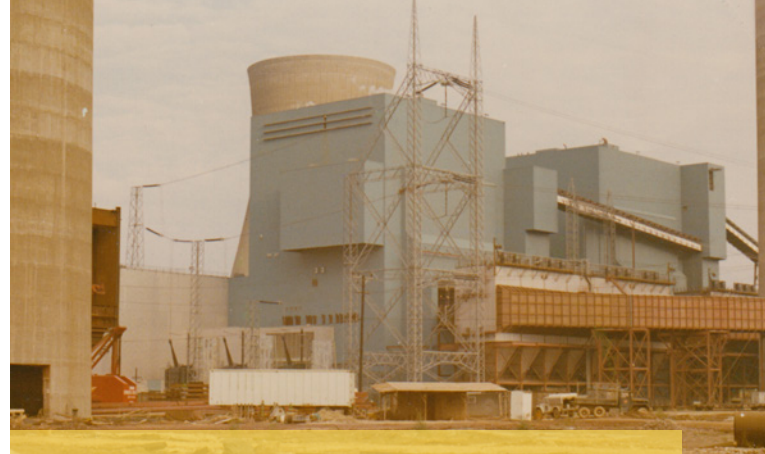
The National Electrical Contractors Association has a new business manager, George Weaver. Mr. Weaver was the manager of the Charleston Marlins baseball team here in Charleston last year. I believe NECA has a good man. He has shown a great deal of interest in our apprentice program, and is very fair in all dealings.

L.U. 466 now has a Credit Union and the following seven members, Brothers Bill Simpson, James Taylor, Bob Alexander, Ralph Beabout Keith Angle, Sam Courtney and Ralph Geene are the charter members.

Enclosed are a few pictures taken at a Thanksgiving dinner dance given by 466 and the electrical contractors for all members and their wives along with the electrical contractors and their wives. You can see by the pictures that we all had a good time and that the food was very good.

RALPH H. GEENE, P.S.

The Journal, April 1962



The new John E. Amos Power Plant in Winfield under construction circa 1970.

Medical Center (CAMC). Projects there included a doctors office building, a 1,000-car parking structure done by Penn Electric Co. and the \$5 million Medical Education Building done by Schoolfield Harvey Electric Co.

Work continued to pick up with a Volkswagen assembly plant in South Charleston and an \$80 million shopping center within Charleston. What's more, for the first time in 25 years, the local was handling 100 percent of the maintenance work at the DuPont plant in Belle, and it was "also getting a good start on maintenance at the Union Carbide plant in South Charleston," Recording Secretary Steve Middleton reported in the November 1977 *Journal*.

By the end of 1978, employment progressed considerably with jobs including St. Francis Hospital, on which the electrical contractor was Dyne Electric; a central machine shop for American Electric Power in South Charleston with Brown Electric as the contractor; and continued construction and maintenance jobs at John Amos.

To close out the promising final years of the decade, the local reach settlement through the Council on Industrial Relations on a new, two-year contract that would run through 1980. The agreement provided a 50-cent wage increase and a 50-cent pension increase, in addition to a 2-cent per-mile boost in travel pay.

Putting Up a Fight: The 1980s & '90s

“Work in our area seems to be holding its own right now, and it doesn't look bad for the near future. Most all of the members are enjoying full employment and will for a while, as warm weather usually brings new projects.”

Local 466 Recording Secretary Steve Middleton wrote of prosperity in the June 1980 *Journal* – and with good reason. The entire local was seemingly on positive footing and gained a \$1.50-an-hour wage increase on June 5 (effective June 1) with a new contract for 1980 and 1981.

The city's new, \$100-million Charleston Town Center shopping mall was under construction and



Local 466 marches in the 1971 Labor Day Parade, led by Business Manager Dell Scott (right) and Assistant Business Manager Joe Wills, left.

New Officers



President Tommy Thompson of Local 466, Charleston, W. Va., left, is shown with Business Manager D. B. Scott, right, and past president Fred Simpson. Brother Simpson installed the new officers.

The Journal, April 1975



The newly elected officers of Local 466

Officers Elected; Members Mourned

L.U. 466, CHARLESTON, W.VA.—The following were elected to serve our local as officers for the next three years: Dell B. Scott, business manager; Tommy Thompson, president; Larry Angle, vice president; James Santrock, financial secretary; Joe Morton, treasurer; Bill Samples, recording secretary; Larry Cook, Executive Board chairman; and Jim Morton, Jim Farry, Sam Christian, and Don Atkinson, Executive Board members.

Local 466 has been deeply saddened during the past year by the loss of 10 of our older members. They were true union men who helped get the conditions we have today. We will miss Frank Sevy, Harry Dean, Lee Holmes, Doc Burchett, Dewey Wills, Orlando Spinosi, Smith Jackson, Karl Calvert, John Cuniff, and Hugh Cullis.

WILLIAM H. SAMPLES, R.S.



Candi Cassis, Local 466 Labor Day Beauty Queen, 1971



Pritchard Electric crew at DuPont plant in Belle in 1980s.

employing Local 466 members while sparking a downtown revitalization that would be in full swing by decade's end. The largest urban-based mall east of the Mississippi River, featuring three stories of shops and eateries, the Town Center would open its doors in 1983 – but not before Local 466 members walked out during the local's first and only contract strike since 1960 and through 2014.

Work was slow at the time, with up to 300 members on the books, and NECA contactors

refused to renew the local's contract, compelling Local 466 membership to vote 151-to-13 on June 7, 1983, to strike the project after the previous agreement expired May 31. Picket lines were set beginning June 13, idling work at the mall for one week before the two sides reached a new, two-year deal on June 21 for a 30-cent-an-hour increase in the first year and a 70-cent-an-hour hike the second year, the *Daily Mail* reported.

Local 466 electricians were also working for Nitro Electric on the new Tri-State Racetrack and Gaming Center, a greyhound-racing track in the town of Nitro. (Today, the re-named Mardi Gras Casino and Resort features a 150-room luxury hotel and casino for which Local 466 members did the wiring when they were added in 2008.)

But after the track was completed in the spring of 1984, work in the jurisdiction again slowed and many Charleston-area people – as well as Local 466 members – were not working. In fact, many of the local's electricians had to again travel to find employment.

In a true sign of the times, Local 466 agreed to a one-year freeze of wages and benefits in February 1985 “in an effort to be more competitive with nonunion workers,” according to a February 21 article in the *Daily Mail*. The local's membership

had voted to extend its current contract, which was to expire at the end of May, for an additional year. (West Virginia-Ohio Valley NECA Executive Secretary Biff Jones told the newspaper, “The contractors and the electrical workers wanted to avoid a repeat of the last contract expiration, in which a week-long strike interrupted work on projects like Charleston Town Center.”)

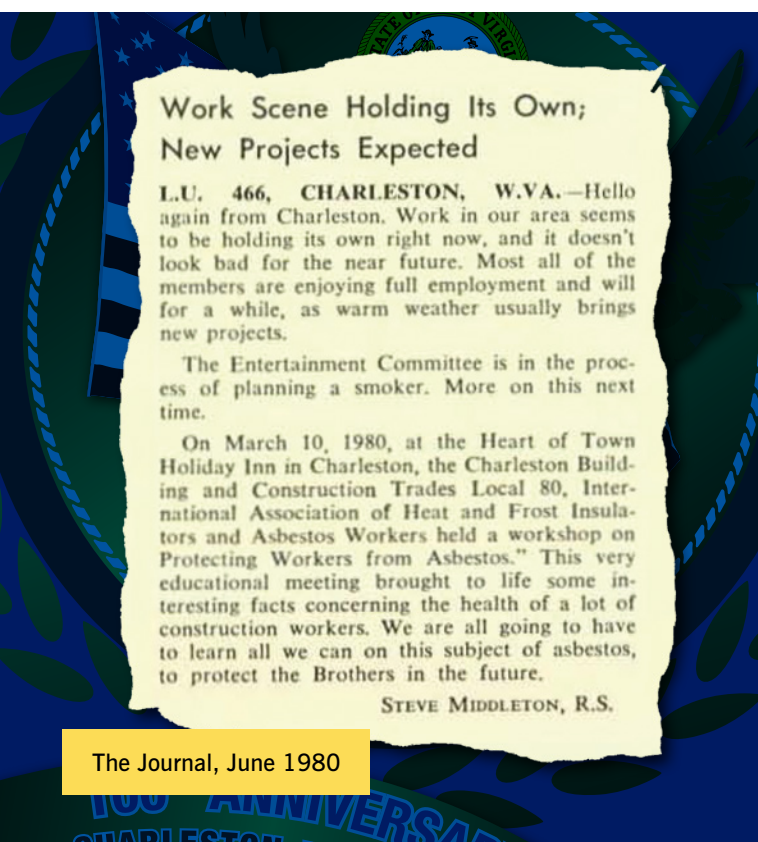
However, throughout the following year and well into 1987, a project at Alloy, an addition at the Kanawha River Power Plant at Glasgow, another job at National Lead and a new process unit at the DuPont plant in Belle would only provide temporary relief of the unemployment and about one-third of the membership was working out of town at one point during that period. Meanwhile, the local's new working agreement provided that most of its work be done at 90 percent wage scale, which Recording Secretary John C. Picklesimer explained in the January 1987 *Journal*:

“This was instituted to give our fair contractors an extra edge in their bidding against an ever-increasing nonunion element. The 90 percent has been in effect for three months now but has had no noticeable effect on increasing jobs for union members. It



Local 466 members during their week-long strike over contract negotiations in 1983.

seems no matter what our price is, nonunion comes in just below us and cuts us out. The general customer who is unfamiliar with the electrical trade places more importance on the bottom-line price than he does on the quality of work being done.



The Journal, June 1980



Locks and dam project in Winfield, circa 1994



Even so, Brother, remember that good quality work is a lasting thing that will prove its value to the customer in fewer maintenance problems and less cost to the customer in the long haul.”

The renovation and revitalization of downtown Charleston began in earnest in the late 1980s and provided the city and Local 466 with a boost. Along with new street-scaping, streets were transformed into an eclectic mixture of restaurants, shops,

businesses and services – many of which the local’s electrical workers helped convert. The Robert C. Byrd Federal Building was among several other new developments that helped growth in the downtown area during the early 1990s using Local 466 skilled labor.

Meanwhile, into the mid-1990s, the local also finished up work at a federal prison project in Beckley, which employed many traveling I.B.E.W. members, and a new state prison in Mount Olive soon after.

Local 466 and several other Building Trades unions then won an encouraging victory during that time when the National Labor Relations

Board (N.L.R.B.) ruled against Tennessee-based contractors Construction Concepts and Oakland Electric Corp., who had built the Hampton Inn hotel in downtown Charleston in the summer of 1995. In a formal complaint, the N.L.R.B. said the companies “have been discriminating in regard to the hire or tenure or terms or conditions of employment of their employees, thereby discouraging membership in a labor organization,” according to the August 16, 1995, *Charleston Gazette*.

Members of the unions, which had picketed the hotel construction site at the corner of Virginia Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, were found to have been denied jobs because of their union affiliation, the *Gazette* reported. In the end, the companies agreed to pay 54 union construction workers \$500 each, according to the newspaper (although the contractors did “not admit to any guilt in the matter.”)

In the aftermath, Local 466 President Gerald E. Troyer exalted in the April 1996 *Journal* that the local’s organizing efforts “are in full swing” – resulting in 13 members each receiving a \$500 check from the nonunion contractors, “who didn’t like to follow federal hiring procedures!”

Soon after, the local (and the region in general) received more good news when on May 16, 1996, Toyota Corp. announced it would build a \$900 million engine plant in Buffalo, West Virginia – which would provide additional employment opportunities for the union electricians.

In the meantime, work was still holding its own throughout 1997, and at one point over 100 I.B.E.W. travelers were in the area, with an additional two large jobs targeted by the local – one at Charleston University and the other an Embassy Suites hotel. As those two projects and the federal building were later completed, the local picked up additional work at the chemical plants in the valley and members were working on the locks and dam project in Winfield.

Local 466 also finished negotiating a three-year

A Club for 466’s Retirees

The Local 466 retirees club was formed May 8, 1989. Brother Moses Cassis, a recent retiree, was instrumental in getting the club started.

Its first officers were Cassis as president, Vice President Fred Willis and Secretary-Treasurer Paul Clark. The club initially held its meetings the first Wednesday of each month, with executive board meetings on the third Wednesdays.

The club was still active when Local 466 reached its 100th Anniversary in 2014.

contract that year – and changed its union meetings from twice a month to once each month.

Troyer reported in the August 1997 *Journal* that the local had made final payment on its new educational facility on Indiana Avenue, proclaiming, “So that building is really ours!” (The local had originally passed a motion on January 8, 1992, to build the new apprentice school on property adjacent to the union hall, eventually planning to spend about \$17,000 from its building fund and \$20,000 from its general fund and

Local Hopes Members Are Home by Christmas

L.U. 466 (i&rs), CHARLESTON, W. VA.—I would like to say hello to all of our Brothers who are on the road and a big thank-you to all our sister locals for keeping most of our members working. Work looks like it may pick up in our area somewhat in the next few months with a job coming up at Alloy and at the DuPont plant in Belle. We hope that with these, and the addition of a couple of smaller jobs on the drawing board, most of our members will be working at home this Christmas.

Well, elections are over, and Business Manager John W. “Bill” Saunders was reelected for another term. We would like to thank Bill for all the time and effort he puts into this local union. Many people think being BM would be a nice office job. Well, just think of a job where it is almost impossible to schedule a vacation with your family, where you work almost every weekend for no extra pay, constantly attend meetings, and are on call almost 24 hours a day. All of a sudden it doesn’t seem so great, does it? Former President Jim Santrock and former Financial Secretary Joe Morton chose not to run for reelection this year, and they will surely be missed.

Well, I had better get this in the mail. Any boxing fans out there drop me a letter in the mailbox, and I will answer as soon as possible. Any wagers on Tyson v. Cooney?

STEVEN A. ALLRED, F.S.

The Journal, September 1986

Local 872 Merger

I.B.E.W. Local 872 of Beckley, which was chartered on December 3, 1935, was merged into locals 466 and 317 of Huntington on November 1, 1989.

Local 466 Recording Secretary John Picklesimer welcomed the new members in the February 1991 *Journal*: “Working together, we can control our jurisdiction better and secure more jobs.”

CHANGES REPORTED

L.U. 466 (I.E.M.&S), CHARLESTON, WV—Local 872, Beckley, amalgamated into our local and Local 317, Huntington. This move brought us many able mechanics and increased our jurisdiction. We extend a hearty welcome to our new members. Working together, we can control our jurisdiction better and secure more jobs.

Bro. John Castle's daughter, Sister Jonni Mullens, presented him his 50-year pin; Bro. Jack Craze received his 50-year pin from his son, Bro. Mike Craze; and Tom Abbott received his 50-year pin from Pres. Tommy Thompson.

We thank the locals which have been fortunate to have enough work to employ our Brothers and Sisters, especially Locals 317 and 968, Parkersburg. We hope we can return the favor one day.

Keep the faith in our ongoing battle against the nonunion element. They may win a few contracts with their cheap price, but their job quality is also cheap and no match for the craftsmanship and integrity our journeymen and women possess.

JOHN C. PICKLESIMER, R.S.

The Journal, January 1991

ORGANIZING IN FULL SWING

L.U. 466 (I.E.M.&S), CHARLESTON, WV—1995 has come and gone, leaving in its path many good things in this local.

We finished up the federal prison project in Beckley, which couldn't have been done without the help of our traveling Brothers.

Work is ongoing at the new state prison at Mt. Olive, WV.

The new federal building in downtown Charlestown is coming out of the ground, and we're hoping that by spring it will be going full swing!

At this writing in early February, we were getting ready for the awards banquet scheduled for March and looking forward to seeing all the Brothers and Sisters, working and retired, whom we haven't seen for many years.

Our organizing efforts are in full swing now. We just had the privilege of receiving \$500 checks for 13 of our Brothers—checks from a non-union contractor who didn't like to follow federal hiring procedures! We didn't get the job, but we certainly dipped into the corporate profits. Good job, Brothers.

I certainly hope all of you Brothers and Sisters make a concerted effort to contribute to your local COPE fund this year. Labor needs a good showing in Congress, so help support those friendly to labor with your dollars to COPE.

I hope you have a happy Easter holiday. And when you get into your vehicle, be sure you and your family buckle up.

GERALD E. TROYER, PRES.

The Journal, April 1996

Local 637 Merger

I.B.E.W. Local 637 of Roanoke, Virginia, which was chartered on September 12, 1933, was amalgamated into locals 466, 26, 50, 70, 317 and 596 on July 1, 2004. With the merger, Local 466 added 94 new members, including apprentices and a maintenance unit at The Greenbrier resort.

borrowing an additional \$20,000 from the credit union for the facility.)

Less than three years after announcing its new Buffalo plant, Toyota on December 11, 1998, celebrated production of the first four-cylinder engine produced at the facility – which many Local 466 members had helped build. *(According to a Gazette article that day, the plant would employ some 800 employees when in full production, initially producing 300,000 four-cylinder engines annually, to be used in Toyota Corollas manufactured in California and Canada.)*

The New Millennium & Beyond

As Local 466 entered Y2K and approached its 100th anniversary, its electrical workers were involved in some of the most prestigious projects in the Charleston area's continued renewal and rebuilding – bolstering the local's own ongoing rejuvenation, as well. In fact, after the first decade of the new millennium, the local's membership was pushing 400 journeymen and apprentices.

In addition to numerous expansions at the Toyota Buffalo plant, which continued into 2014, members were working on many area schools, including Mary C. Snow Elementary in Kanawha County and Buffalo High, Poca Middle and Elementary, Winfield Middle and Elementary, and Confidence Elementary in Putnam County. Local 466 electricians were also employed through the 2000s at the Kureha Chemical plant in Kanawha County and on major environmental upgrades

at the John Amos powerhouse.

The opening of the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston in 2003 was another boon for the city and the local. Up to 70 electricians worked for Pittsburgh-based electrical contractor Rost Enterprises on the project, which Local 466 Business Manager Dave Efaw called “a good sign” in a February 12, 2003, *Gazette* article. *(The center includes The Maier Foundation Performance Hall, The Walker Theatre, The Avampato Discovery Museum, an art museum and The ElectricSky Theater, a 175-seat combination planetarium and dome-screen cinema.)*

Dealing with the demands of consolidation “head on,” as the January/February 2005 *Journal* described, after the local gained four southern West Virginia counties as well as eight counties in Virginia after the dissolution of Local 637 in Roanoke, Virginia, Local 466 opened a new satellite office in the southern tip of the state at Princeton in late 2004. “We now go down to the North Carolina border,” Efaw announced.

Determined to increase union market share down to that state line, the local hired Tom Keatley, a



A Local 466 crew lights the State Capitol building for the holidays in 1995.

former member of the Roanoke local who lived in Princeton, as a business agent/organizer.

While Local 466 has always, throughout its history, responded when the community was in need, it was put to the test in June 2012 when a derecho of severe thunderstorms raked West Virginia beginning on the 29th and lasting for the following three weeks.

With power outages reportedly the worst ever in the state's history, Local 466 members and their I.B.E.W. Brothers and Sisters from surrounding states, including Florida, Ohio and Alabama, worked nearly non-stop to restore electrical service.

The local rose to another challenge again the following year on a different front – this time when Hi-Tech Electric company allegedly fired workers at the Courtyard by Marriott construction site in Charleston for talking to union members about paycheck issues, according to the September 6, 2013, *Gazette*. A complaint filed with the National Labor Relations Board stated, “Hi-Tech Electric Incorporated and/or its agents discharged employees of the company for trying to establish a union with the company. ... Hi-Tech Incorporated questioned and spied on employees during their



Charleston Job Corps Center, 2010

Longtime Friend of Job Corps

Local 466 had always worked with the Charleston Job Corps Center starting in 1965 when it first opened. The local even helped wire the Job Corps' new complex, which opened in 1997 on a mountaintop campus overlooking the city.

(Today, Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training.)



Local 466, Charleston, WV, Bus. Mgr. James L. Morton retired after 43 years in the IBEW.

James L. Morton Retires

L.U. 466 (l.u.s&em), CHARLESTON, WV—Bus. Mgr. James L. Morton is retiring after 43 years in the IBEW and Local 466. Bro. Morton has served as business manager since 1992. He was initiated in 1958 and has served the local union in various offices and committees throughout his tenure.

Along with serving as our business manager for the past nine years, he also served as trustee to the Local Union Pension Fund, Charleston JATC, West Virginia Ohio Valley Health Fund, Charleston Building Trades and vice president of the West Virginia State Electrical Workers Association and Border Line Affiliates. Local 466 has made remarkable progress during the past nine years, and we thank Bro. Morton for his hard work and dedication.

The members of Local 466 would like to convey to Jim and his wife, Patty, the very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

WILLIAM F. RECTENWALD, JR., P.S.

The Journal, August 2001

union activities,” according to the newspaper.

Putting aside their differences with the nonunion workers, Local 466 joined a demonstration at the construction site. “This is not about being union or nonunion. This is about workers’ rights,” Business Manager Joe Samples told the *Gazette*. “We stand for all workers, whether they’re union or nonunion. We want them to have a better standard of living.”

As the local approached its centennial anniversary in January 2014, its own members were employed at locations such as the Bayer Crop Science Chemical Plant project in Kanawha County; the Thomas Memorial Hospital expansion; the New River Community Arts & Science Building in Greenbrier County; the Beckley Transit Authority; the Bluefield Transit Authority; the CAMC Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Charleston; and the new West Virginia Lottery Building in Charleston.

When Local 466 turned 100 years old, its electrical workers were busy providing their skills to projects such as the CAMC Cancer Center; Edgewood Elementary School; the West Virginia Headquarters Building & Allied Health Center of Raleigh County; Arnoldsburg Elementary in Calhoun County; the West Virginia Department of Transportation building remodel; the Glen Lyn Powerhouse and Celanese Plant in Virginia; and the Pioneer Center at Glenville State College in Gilmer County.

A Union Hall of Its Own

During its first half-century, Local 466’s offices had been located in multiple locations throughout Charleston, including four different places on Capitol Street, one on Lee Street, one on the old Kanawha Boulevard, one on Alderson Street, two on Tennessee Avenue and its then-current headquarters on Bigley Avenue. But by 1962, the local had a building committee and was actively trying to find a place for an office, meeting hall and recreation room that Local 466 could call its own.

In 1968, the local moved into its present location at 800 Indiana Avenue. In 1999, the local remodeled the offices and added the meeting hall to it.



Local 466 crew at construction of the Toyota plant in Buffalo in 1998.

Looking to the future, Local 466 realizes among many other things that with the immergence of shale gas, the coal industry has taken a huge hit – and powerhouses are considering converting from coal-fired to cleaner gas-fired boilers. “Talk of billion-dollar natural-gas ‘crackers’ excites everyone in the construction and business communities,” Local 466 President Terry Turley stated. The local, therefore, is beginning to retool to take advantage of the windfalls predicted to come from the shale-gas industry, according to Turley – and at the same time, Local 466 is working toward regaining the small-works projects “that started and sustained the local from the beginning.”



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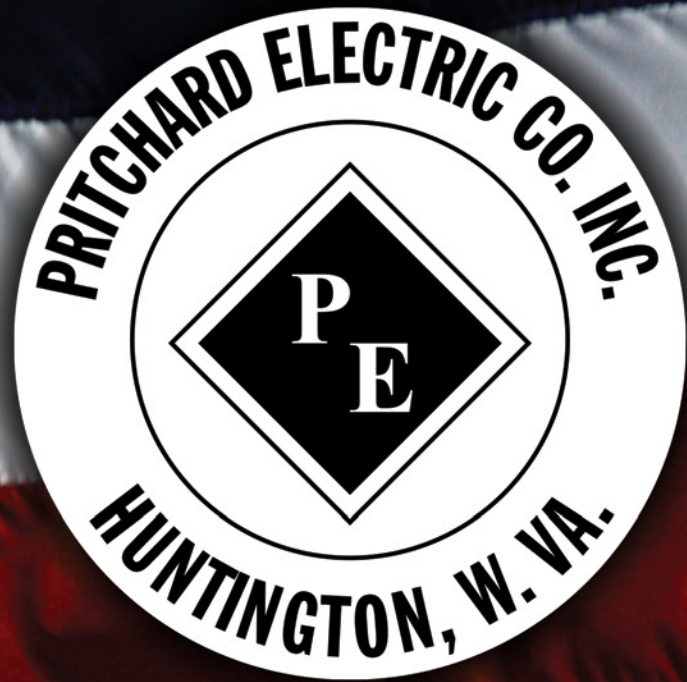
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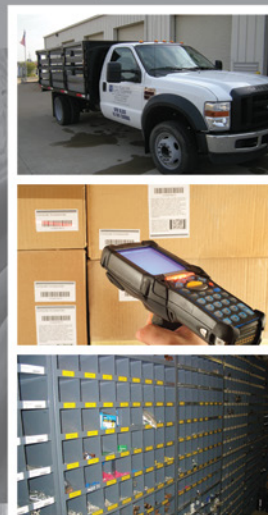
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Butch Frame, every mile makes a memory. Every memory makes a smile. We lived, we laughed, we loved, but the greatest of all is love. **Your Family**

Congratulations I.B.E.W. Local 466 for 100 years of excellent service and dedication.
From the family of David Lee Hardman Sr. (1941-2010), a faithful member for 38 years (1966-2004).

Albert and Jon (Gabe) Dery, proud members of the I.B.E.W., congratulate their Local 466 on its 100th Anniversary.

I am proud and thankful that I was chosen to be a member of Local 466. I am more proud that my son was also chosen. My family is forever grateful. Respectfully submitted, **George A. Ross Sr.**

Paul B. Armstrong Sr. was an electrician in the Army in World War II. He returned home and he and his father, brothers, friend and two sons became Local 466 members. He was also known as the driver who could have any sinner praying. **James Armstrong**

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