



IBEW LOCAL 68 NEWSLETTER

Did you miss us?

After more than a year-long hiatus during the remodeling of our local union hall, the Newsletter Committee has finally returned.

As we relaunch our newsletter, here's what we've also included in this edition:

- Committee Updates
 - EWMC ([pg. 10-12](#))
 - WBF ([pg. 13](#))
 - Softball ([pg. 14-15](#))
- Political Report ([pg. 16](#))
- Apprenticeship
 - Learn More, Earn More Program ([pg. 17](#))
 - Charge Pre-Apprenticeship Program ([pg. 18](#))
 - Leadership Council ([pg. 18](#))
- Good of the Union ([pg. 19](#))

HIGHLIGHTS

- LU68 Grand Opening, Renovation & Remodel ([pg. 2-4](#))
- June 2025 Election Results ([pg. 5-8](#))
- 2026 Negotiation Update ([pg. 9](#))



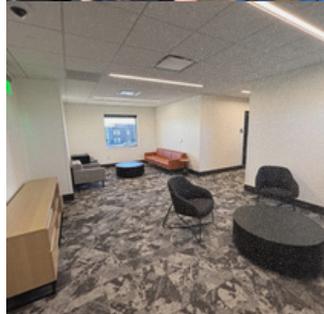
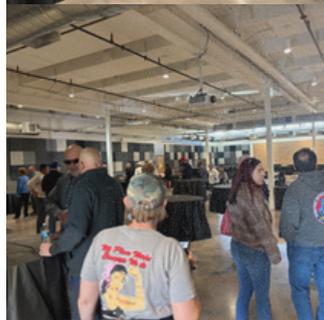
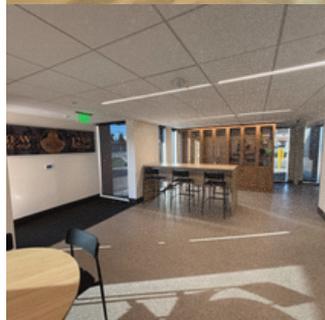
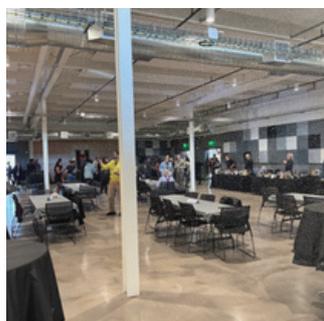
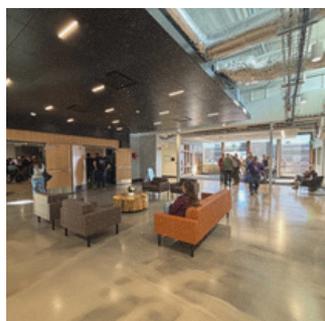
What's New at Local 68!



Business Manager Zack Esquibel, joined by President Deb Tikka, and Business Agent Robert Delgado Sr.

LOCAL 68 GRAND OPENING

After more than a year of much needed renovation and remodeling work, members officially stepped inside the newly refreshed and modernized hall. Updates include new flooring, open ceilings, and redesigned spaces throughout the building. Pictures don't do it justice, but here's a few of the highlights.



A NEW LOOK FOR YOUR NEW HOME AWAY FROM HOME

On Saturday, October 18, 2025, local union leadership welcomed members, industry partners, and friends to celebrate the grand opening of the newly remodeled and renovated IBEW Local Union 68 Hall.

WE LIKE TO GIVE A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING UNIONS AND SHOPS THAT WORKED ON OUR REMODEL:

BAC Local 7

Keeley Masonry Contractors

Carpenters Local 555

GH Phipps Construction Company's,
Heggem-Lundquist,
Wedgewood Cabinetry

IBEW Local 68

Guarantee Electrical

BW Systems

Cosco Fire Protection

North/Western Electrical Corporation

IUPAT Local 79

Heggem-Lundquist

Didn't make it to the Open House? Come by the hall and grab your free challenge coin!



All members who visit the remodeled hall expressed excitement to see the new dispatch and organizing areas, as well as all of the upgrades to the main hall. Here is a great shot of the new podium and backdrop.

With some clever engineering, we have utilized the same overall square footage of the main hall to best maximize the space and improve its utility, making it feel much larger.

The updated bathrooms feature more accommodating spaces with changing tables (in both men's and women's restrooms), welcoming the families of our brothers and sisters with reasonable accommodations for all. The remodel also added new kitchen spaces and a completely new upstairs office area for our local's business agents.



An illuminated IBEW logo now adorns the wall next to the main office, a poignant reminder to all of the light that our solidarity brings to all of our brothers and sisters.

WE LIKE TO GIVE A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING UNIONS AND SHOPS THAT WORKED ON OUR REMODEL:

BAC Local 7

Keeley Masonry Contractors

Carpenters Local 555

GH Phipps Construction Company's,
Heggem-Lundquist,
Wedgewood Cabinetry

IBEW Local 68

Guarantee Electrical

BW Systems

Cosco Fire Protection

North/Western Electrical Corporation

IUPAT Local 79

Heggem-Lundquist

IUPAT Local 419

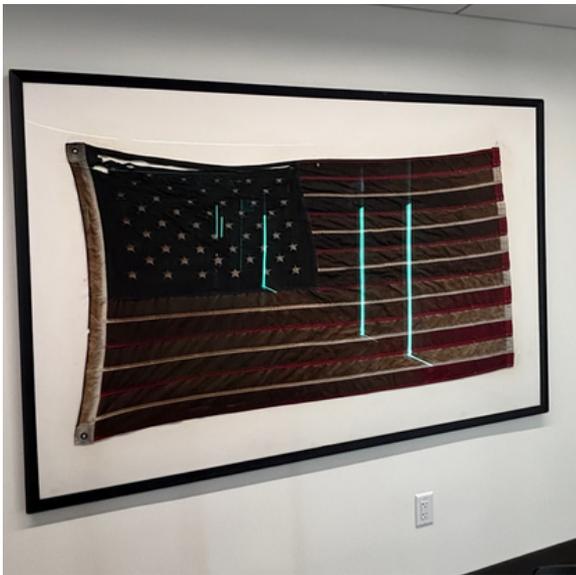
Gary Leimer Inc

IUPAT Local 930

Grand View Glass

Iron Workers Local 24

Total Welding Inc



In perfect juxtaposition to our illuminated logo, the flag from our old local building is framed on the wall—Commemorating the tragedy that occurred here, and reminding us that we will always return stronger from the ashes of misfortune.

For our union family, this upgrade is a well-earned and long overdue reward that reflects the hard work and dedication of our membership and provides a more welcoming and open space for all of our brothers and sisters.

We offer our warmest thanks to those that assisted in the work that went into welcoming us into our new home for Local 68.

UNIONS AND SHOPS CONT.

LiUNA! Local 720
GH Phipps Construction
Company's

Pipefitters Local 208
Tolin Mechanical

Plumbers Local 3
Oracle Plumbing

Roofers Local 58
Central State Roofing

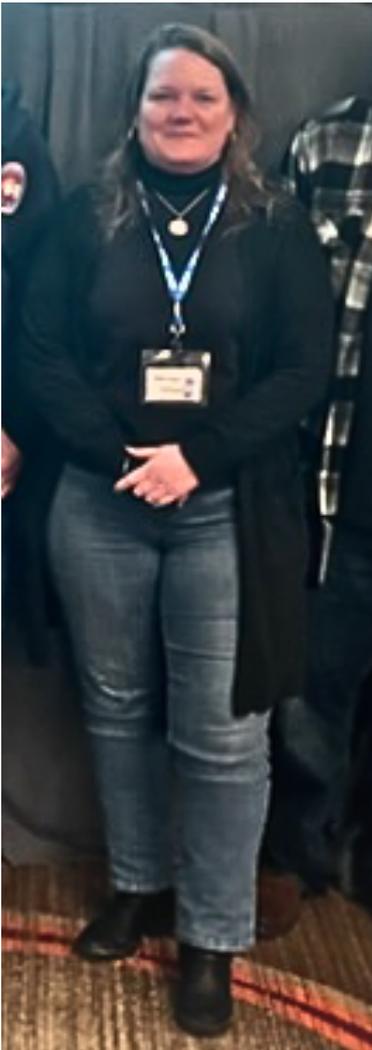
Sheet Metal Workers Local 9
Tolin Mechanical

Sprinkler Fitters Local 669
Cosco Fire Protection



ELECTIONS

**IBEW LOCAL 68 ELECTION
RESULTS JUNE 2025**



Last year, Debbie Tikka made history as the first Elected Woman President of IBEW Local 68.

**IBEW LOCAL 68 LEADERSHIP
OFFICERS**

DEBBIE TIKKA
PRESIDENT

SHAD RAC MCCARTHY
VICE PRESIDENT

ZACHARY ESQUIBEL
*BUSINESS MANAGER/FINANCIAL
SECRETARY*

MIKE KING
RECORDING SECRETARY

MATTHEW BYNUM
TREASURER

**BUSINESS AGENTS AND
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

DENNY GARCIA
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

RICARDO FELIX DOMINGUEZ
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

TRAVIS TRUJILLO
*BUSINESS AGENT/MEMBERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT*

JULIAN AGUILAR
*BUSINESS AGENT/MEMBERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT*

ROBERT DELGADO
BUSINESS AGENT

BRUCE DAHL
DISPATCHER

**See official ballot
results below!**



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 68

VOTING SYSTEM

2025 IBEW Local 68 Officer Election (Amended Ballot)

Official Results

Ballot ending: 06/07/2025 09:30:00 (Mountain)

The ballots were cast and tallied as follows.

TOTAL

President (select up to one (1))

	Total	Percent
1 Debbie (Burdick) Tikka	132	57.64
2 Ricardo Felix Dominguez	97	42.36
Total	229	

Paper Ballots Not Counted

Blank Vote	6
Over Vote	0
Voided	0

Vice President (select up to one (1))

	Total	Percent
1 Shad Rac McCarthy	153	100.00
Total	153	

Paper Ballots Not Counted

Blank Vote	82
Over Vote	0
Voided	0

Recording Secretary (select up to one (1))

	Total	Percent
1 Mike King	185	100.00
Total	185	

Paper Ballots Not Counted

Blank Vote	50
Over Vote	0
Voided	0

Treasurer (select up to one (1))

	Total	Percent
1 Matthew Bynum	178	100.00
Total	178	

Paper Ballots Not Counted

Blank Vote	57
Over Vote	0
Voided	0

Business Manager / Financial Secretary / Delegate to IBEW International Convention (select up to one (1))	Total	Percent
1 Zack Esquibel	189	100.00
Total	189	

Paper Ballots Not Counted		
Blank Vote	46	
Over Vote	0	
Voided	0	

Executive Board (select up to seven (7))	Total	Percent²
1 Tony Pastore	164	71.93
2 Troy Ingalls	147	64.47
3T Damon Jackson	136	59.65
3T Robert Delgado Jr	136	59.65
3T Tito "Big Daddy T" Alemán III	136	59.65
6 Kaleb Stephens	113	49.56
7 Felix Herzog	105	46.05
8 Ross Holmes-Piesco	100	43.86
9 Eric Hassler	95	41.67
10 Humberto SantaMaria	77	33.77
11 William Gilmore IV	74	32.46
Total¹	228	

Paper Ballots Not Counted		
Blank Vote	5	
Over Vote	2	
Voided	0	

Examining Board (select up to three (3))	Total	Percent²
1 Jeffrey Clark	159	87.85
2 Will Elling	153	84.53
3 Felicia Hackney	149	82.32
Total¹	181	

Paper Ballots Not Counted		
Blank Vote	54	
Over Vote	0	
Voided	0	

Building Association (select up to three (3))	Total	Percent²
1 Steven Miller	158	90.29
2 Andrew "Sticks" Swarr	154	88.00
3 Ashton Taylor	141	80.57
Total¹	175	

Paper Ballots Not Counted		
Blank Vote	60	
Over Vote	0	
Voided	0	

Delegate to IBEW International Convention (select up to six (6))

	Total	Percent²
1T Debbie (Burdick) Tikka	102	46.36
1T Jeremy Ross	102	46.36
3 Julian Aguilar	85	38.64
4 Travis Trujillo	82	37.27
5 Tito "Big Daddy T" Alemán III	75	34.09
6 Tony Pastore	74	33.64
7 Ricardo Felix Dominguez	67	30.45
8 Robert Delgado	64	29.09
9 Chris Boardman	59	26.82
10 Bruce Dahl	58	26.36
11 David Trujillo	57	25.91
12 Robert Delgado Jr	56	25.45
13 Ross Holmes-Piesco	53	24.09
14 Troy Ingalls	50	22.73
15 Denny Garcia	46	20.91
16 Dillon Corn	44	20.00
17 Felix Herzog	41	18.64
18 Kaleb Stephens	40	18.18
19 Greg Gard	33	15.00
20 Ross Milan	26	11.82
Total¹	220	

Paper Ballots Not Counted

Blank Vote	11
Over Vote	4
Voided	0

- There were 2102 eligible voters, of which 235 cast a ballot, representing 11.2% of the eligible voters.

- ¹ For ballot questions allowing more than one selection: Number of ballots cast where voter made at least one selection.
- ² For ballot questions allowing more than one selection: Percent of ballots cast (Total¹).

These Official Results witnessed and certified by Kirk Feldkamp, BallotPoint Election Services; Morgan J. Buchanan, Election Judge; Gregory J. Gard, Teller; Dan Hendricks, Witness; and Ben Hintze, Witness.

Kirk Feldkamp, BallotPoint Election Services
witness

signature

Morgan J. Buchanan, Election Judge
witness

signature

Gregory J. Gard, Teller
witness

signature

Dan Hendricks, Witness
witness

signature

Ben Hintze, Witness
witness

signature

Report generated: 06/07/2025 11:03:04 (Mountain)



Negotiations begin Tuesday, March 10th

As most members are aware, our contract between the IBEW and Rocky Mountain NECA expires on May 31, 2026.

In November 2025, business manager, Zack Esquibel, sent a combination of rank-and-file members and union leadership to bargaining training.

A bargaining committee was assembled earlier this year to assist during the negotiations for a revised contract with our industry partners.

The opening letter to begin negotiations were delivered in early February.

Continue to utilize IBEW Local 68's newsletter and/or any IBEW Local 68 resource as a way to stay informed.



Spread the word!

Encourage fellow members to participate in any calls to action from union leadership so we can collectively make our voices heard.



Member feedback is crucial so that your bargaining committee and business manager understand the priorities of the membership going into the 2026 negotiations.

PICK UP A SOLIDARITY T-SHIRT AT THE HALL AND WEAR ON WEDNESDAYS



The Denver EWMC sent out delegates to represent each of their home locals during the week of January 16th-19th 2025 to the EWMC's 35th National Leadership conference in St Louis Missouri. Members participated in a traditional day of service the first day in the greater St Louis metro and spent the remainder of their time in leadership workshops.

DENVER ELECTRICAL WORKER MINORITY CAUCUS

SO - WHAT ARE WE UP TO?



In March 2025 EWMC members partnered up with D&D Power (United Utility Service Company) to build a parade float for Denver's annual Saint Patrick's day Parade.



On May 5th, 2025 members of the EWMC participated in the Cinco De Mayo celebration in the Denver's Westwood neighborhood. Members spoke to people in the community, enjoyed traditional festival dancing, the car show and traditional food.



The EWMC is devoted to creating a more diverse, equitable, inclusive environment that creates a place of belonging and opportunity for all electrical workers. It is a home for those who are typically marginalized within our industry.

The Denver EWMC is a joint charter comprised of members from IBEW Local 68 and Local 111.

The EWMC is constantly working in the community, being a resource in underserved areas and at the same time promoting Union Electrical trades to non-traditional backgrounds.

For general information, visit the EWMC website [here](#).

EWMC CONT.



In late June, members organized other members to join together to work in the Denver's Pride Parade.



In the last weekend of July, the Denver EWMC collaborated with the IBEW Local 68 Softball Committee's annual 8th District Softball Tournament. Members from the EWMC assisted by setting up, planning, and executing the Softball teams event. If you would like to know more about our Softball team and this event, please see [pg. 15](#) for more details.



On Labor day, the Denver EWMC partnered up with Xcel Energy to build a float to highlight the diversity within the union workforce.



In October, members of the Denver EWMC walked in the American Cancer Society's *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk.

EWMC CONT.

On November 22, the Denver EWMC participated in the Annual EWMC day of service.

Members volunteered at the SafeHouse of Denver for various landscaping and Electrical work while other members returned to the Denver Inner City Parish for clean up and painting.



For the last event of the year, Denver EWMC coordinated efforts to build a parade float for the Brighton Parade of Lights.

With the help from Ward Electric Company, the parade float geared a gingerbread house and gingerbread man.





EWMC CONT.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Continued electrical service work at SafeHouse of Denver (*date TBD*)
- March 2026:
Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade
- APRIL 2026:
CESAR CHAVEZ PARADE

JOIN DENVER EWMC @ DENVER INNER CITY PARISH

DICP FOOD BANK

FIRST SATURDAYS FROM 8am - 12pm

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



Contact

 TRAVIS TRUJILLO
TRAVIST@IBEW68.COM
303-356-6971



DENVER INNER CITY PARISH
1212 Mariposa Street
Denver, CO 80204

Ongoing volunteer support at Denver Inner City Parish

Every first Saturday, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.
Click [here](#) for Tuesday–Friday schedule

Contact Travis Trujillo @
travist@ibew68.com



Toward the end of winter, the WBF organized the 24th Annual Bowling Fundraising Tournament. With over a 100 participants, Local 68 members enjoyed a day of fun at Holiday Lanes.

WIREMAN'S BROTHERHOOD FUND

SO - WHAT ARE WE UP TO?



In late August, the WBF hosted the Annual Golf Scramble. The money raised in the fundraiser is used to maintain funding for the sick and out-of-work program.



In late September, the WBF hosted their annual clay shoot. The top shooter shot 93 out of 100.



The Wiremen's Brother Fund (WBF) has been helping sick and injured members for over 60 years!

It is our IBEW objective to to assist each other in sickness or distress.

SOFTBALL



LOCAL 68 SOFTBALL TEAM



The Local 68 Softball team is made up of roughly 40 members and during the fall season they make up about 2 teams. They play league every Thursday night starting in April through October. They are excited to announce that they will be starting a building trades league starting in 2026. See flyer on pg. 15!



Toward the end of July the Local 68 Soft Ball team hosted the annual 8th district softball tournament. Local unions from all over the country participated. They included local unions 12, 68, 98, 111, 113, & 667. Unfortunately, our 68 team did not win but the trophy belt stayed in Colorado and was won by Local 12 Pueblo. The Red Ass trophy was won by Denver's lineside Local Union 111.



In mid-August the Team visited Toledo, Ohio to participate in the 53rd Annual Midwest Softball Tournament, hosted by IBEW Local 8. In 2026, the IBEW LU 68 softball team will have the honor of hosting the 54th Annual IBEW Midwest Regional Softball Tournament and will not host the 8th District Tournament this year.

In October, Local 68 Softball hosted the very first Building and Construction Trade Council Softball tournament. IBEW local 68 & 111 participated, including teams from SMART Local Union 9 and UA Pipefitters Local Union 208.

Local 68 Softball
Call: Steve Miller at (720) 334-6321, or
Julian Agulair at (720) 232-7000

SOFTBALL CONT.



In November the softball team played in the 9th district softball tournament.

COLORADO BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL



SOFTBALL LEAGUE



League will start in late **April**
Games will be played **Friday** nights
between **6pm - 10pm**

Where: La Alma / Lincoln Park
1265 Mariposa St
Denver, CO 80204

Contact Julian Aguilar @ 720-960-3303
or
juliana@ibew68.com



If you are interested in playing or participating, whether you have played before or not, we want you to join us!

No experience is required to join the team, the members are dedicated in teaching new players.

Please contact Steve Miller at (720) 334-6321 or Julian Aguilar at (720) 232-7000 or email him at juliana@ibew68.com

UPCOMING



IBEW MIDWEST REGIONAL
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
MILE HIGH EDITION

Thursday, July 30, 2026
thru
Monday, August 03, 2026

Local 68 Softball
Call: Steve Miller at (720) 334-6321, or
Julian Aguilar at (720) 232-7000



PROVIDED BY JULIAN AGUILAR
(ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER)

HB25-1040 – Adding Nuclear Energy as a Clean Energy Resource

Passed and Signed by Governor

HB25-1130 – Labor Requirements for Government Construction Projects – This bill made a clear definition of what a Project Labor Agreement to help Government entities utilize a PLA during construction.

Passed and Signed by Governor

SB25-165 – Licensure of Electricians – This bill made all Solar work now electrical work and also allowed a path for NABCEP certified installers to use some of their hours towards their 8,000 hours of OJT to become a licensed electrician.

Passed and Signed by Governor

SB25-005 – Worker Protection Collective Bargaining – Also known as the Labor Peace Act

Passed and Vetoed by Governor

SB25-280 – Data Center Development and Grid Modernization Act – A tax incentive bill to help bring data center developers to Colorado, the bill made it out of the Transportation and Energy committee but stalled in the Appropriations committee. Made good connections with data center consortium and working on a similar bill this year. This has prevailing wages and registered apprenticeship utilization attached to it which would make it the first of its kind.

Stalled in Appropriations

This is a brief summary provided by our assistant business manager of the accomplishments and failures of the 2025 legislative session in Colorado.



Read the full IBEW Government Affairs article [here](#).

DJEATC

BIG NEWS FROM THE DJEATC!

Last year, the DJEATC kicked off the **Learn More Earn More Program**. This program is a benefit to the apprentices of IBEW Local 68 that allows them to earn up to 78 college credits through a partnership between the DJEATC, **Metro State University**, and **Emily Griffith Technical College**. These credits can be used toward a bachelor's degree in construction project management. The bachelor's degree requires a total of 120 Credit Hours. Not only can apprentices earn while they learn, but we can now offer the opportunity to attend a university as well – with no debt and benefits to boot!

The foundation of the **Learn More Earn More Program** consists of awarding 45 credits to anyone completing an apprenticeship with the DJEATC. It applies to the **Inside, VDV, and Residential Programs**. In addition to our future graduates, this program is also retroactive for those who have already completed an apprenticeship in the past. **Metro State University** will also award our alumni 45 credits that can be used toward a construction project management degree. If you are interested, contact the admissions office at Metro State University [here](#) to begin your application. Make sure you indicate that you attended the DJEATC and include Emily Griffith Technical College in your academic history.

The next component of the program is the tuition reimbursement plan. The Apprenticeship Committee will automatically cover the cost of enrolling 1st year apprentices in two communications courses, Fundamentals of Oral Communication and Introduction to Organizational Communication. If an apprentice is successful in these two courses, they will be given the opportunity to pursue two to three additional courses in their second year. This process follows year by year until completion of the apprenticeship.

If the courses are completed with a grade of a C or better, the apprentice maintains a score of 80% or better in their apprenticeship classes, and maintains satisfactory on-the-job performance, these 78 college credits can be earned at no cost. The remaining 42 credits needed to complete the bachelor's degree can be earned in as little as a year and a half of continuing education.

This is an amazing opportunity for those that are interested. This opportunity is optional, and apprentices who are not interested do not have to continue taking classes beyond their first year. If you want more information, you can read the following article from MSU Denver [here](#).

We are excited to see people utilize this program, and hopefully, this helps our apprentices earn more by learning more. We want to see long-term value added to our industry and our local by developing talent from within.

LEADERSHIP

A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL

Hello, Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Christian Thielemier, and I am proud to serve on the newly formed Apprentice Leadership Committee, representing the 4th-year Inside Wireman class alongside Dillon Corn. Our Council also includes Miles Lowe and Zane Chebloun (3rd year) and Michael Kriegel, Blake Fruitman, and Adam Trahan (2nd year). We are actively working to recruit 1st-year apprentices to join us.

Our primary mission is to represent the apprentice body and work collaboratively to strengthen the Local 68 apprenticeship program. We plan to achieve this by:

- Keeping apprentices informed with monthly reports and timely announcements about our Union and Apprenticeship program.
- Understanding apprentice needs through direct outreach and communication.
- Advocating for solutions by bringing those needs to the JATC and Apprenticeship staff and working together on improvements.
- Providing mentorship and a listening ear to all apprentices. (See contact information below.)
- Fostering Union involvement by working with Local 68 leadership to get more apprentices engaged.
- Supporting our Apprenticeship's staff by connecting them with volunteering apprentices for school events and programs.

Our Long-Term Goals:

- We are focused on building a stronger future by:
- Increasing apprentice retention and turning out a generation of committed, involved Journeyworkers.
- Working to establish a Union-funded scholarship to reduce the financial burden on apprentices, with the goal of reducing the out-of-pocket cost of the program to \$0.
- Giving back to our communities through skilled volunteer initiatives.
- Promoting open communication and brotherhood among all apprentices.
- Creating a lasting committee structure to ensure apprentice voices always have a seat at the table.

In Solidarity,

The Apprentice Leadership Council



Janice successfully completed our Charge Pre-Apprenticeship Program over the summer and was part of our first cohort to utilize that pathway into the apprenticeship. She started as a first-year apprentice this fall and has been doing a great job. She has had outstanding work reports for her on-the-job training. In addition, she provided an interview to help communicate how the pre-apprenticeship program led to becoming an apprentice in our joint IBEW/NECA Apprenticeship for workforce development programs in Colorado.

INTRODUCING THE NEW APPRENTICE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

- **Christian Thielemier** - 4th Year
Inside Wireman
- **Dillon Corn** - 4th Year
Inside Wireman
- **Miles Lowe** - 3rd Year
Inside Wireman
- **Zane Chebloun** - 3rd Year
Inside Wireman
- **Michael Kriegel** - 2nd Year
Inside Wireman
- **Blake Fruitman** - 2nd Year
Inside Wireman
- **Adam Trahan** - 2nd Year
Inside Wireman

Looking for 1st Year Apprentices!



In August, IBEW Local 68 hosted the annual summer picnic.

Members and family treated themselves to bbq, drinks and Kona ice, as well as a chance to win a prize through a raffle.



In December, the local hosted its first Holiday party for Members and their families in the newly remodeled union hall.

For a lot of members, this was the- first time to be at the local since the remodel.

As per tradition, kids received gifts from Santa while grabbing a bite to eat, having the option of face painting and cookie decorating.



Brother Wayne Shelton won the horseshoe tournament.

Before You Go...

Don't see your committee?

Please reach out to the Local 68 Newsletter Committee at newsletter@ibew68.com

Big Thanks to our Newsletter Committee

August Gummere *Editor*
Apprentice Wiremen

Michael Rhoads *Editor*
Journeyman Wiremen

Dominick Hinton *Writer/ Cofounder*
Journeyman Wiremen
Union Steward
Denver EWMC Member at Large

How Can I Help?

To stay updated on upcoming events and learn how you can contribute to your community, please contact us via email.