



**Brothers and Sisters,**

**This month, I want to emphasize one of our most critical responsibilities – organizing. Organizing is the lifeblood of our union, it's how we grow, strengthen our voice, and secure a better standard of living. The first Object of the IBEW is "To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry..." so take every opportunity to share what the IBEW means to you. We cannot afford to be passive. We have a duty to actively engage unrepresented workers and show them the value of being a part of our brotherhood.**

**The challenges in our industry are real, and our competition is fierce, but when we organize, we build power – not just for us, but those who will follow us. I encourage each of you to take pride in being an organizer. It's not just the job of the Business Manager or the Organizers - it's the responsibility of every member. Together we can make sure Local 379 remains strong and vibrant.**

**To support this effort, we are investing in education and training. Several of our members will be attending Train the Trainer classes to prepare them to teach COMET. This is the IBEW's Construction Organizing Membership Education Training program. It is designed to equip us with strategies to bring new members into the fold. When these trainers return, we will schedule classes to ensure that every member has the skills and confidence to organize effectively and uphold the values that define our union.**

**In addition, I'm excited about the upcoming phone bank hosted by our RENEW Committee. This initiative will focus on reaching out to unorganized workers who have already expressed interest in joining the IBEW. It is a great opportunity for us to connect directly, answer questions, and show them what being part of this union truly means. If you'd like to volunteer and be a part of this effort, please contact the hall – your participation can make a real difference!**

**Remember, organizing isn't just about numbers – it's about building a community that stands for fairness, opportunity, and excellence. Let's all commit to being active, engaged, and united. When we organize and educate, we lead – and when we lead, we win!**

**In Solidarity,**

**Darren B. Helms**

**Card #A139792**

## LOCAL UNION 379 OFFICERS

Business Manager/ Financial Secretary

Darren Helms

President – Kevin Primus

Vice-President – Dwayne Thompson

Recording Secretary – Scott Thrower

Treasurer – Joseph Smith

Executive Board – Kelly Butler, Chairman

Executive Board – Stacey Ballard

Executive Board – Deoma Buford

Executive Board – Anthony Crawford

Executive Board – Doug McDaniel

Executive Board – Madison Ruff

Executive Board – Patrick Currence

Examining Board – Gary Alexander

Examining Board – Michael Schnell

Examining Board – Diego Garcia

Examining Board – Jimmy Ballarano

### IBEW LU 379 Prayer List

**Keep these Brothers and Sisters in your prayers!**



*Kyle Pennington (Toni's Son)*

*Jeff Goodwin*

*Gene Pennington*

*Barry Matthews*

*Keith Meza*

*Robbie Williams*

*Terry Skidmore*

*Jim Schlegel*

*Jennifer Ruff*

*Donnie Keller*

*Chuck Blanken*



- **ADVANCED**
- Brandon Ropp
- Tion Williams
- David Gates
- John Williams
- Adam Johnson
- Clayton Long
- Stephen Izzi

**Recently  
passed  
Brothers and  
Sisters. Death  
Benefits  
should be  
paid through  
#343**



## **"Trabajando Para El Sindicato y Cómo Funciona"**

Registrese para una clase ofrecida a TODOS los miembros. La clase describe todo lo que necesita saber como miembro de IBEW 379. Desde beneficios de seguro, pensión, jubilación e información para oficiales, hasta zonas, "dings" y cómo firmar los libros. Cualquier persona que tenga preguntas sobre cualquier aspecto de ser miembro del sindicato debe asistir a esta clase. La clase está programada para el segundo jueves de cada mes a las 5:30 p. m. desde ahora hasta diciembre. Por favor, llame a Carol al 704-455-4595 Ext. 201 para inscribirse o simplemente ¡preséntese!

Viviana Chairez-8851219

**We are pleased to inform you we have paid out the last 2 out of 3 outstanding Death Benefits to families. We currently owe one Death Benefit to the family of David Gates. LU 379 is committed to its declaration which states we shall "assist each other in sickness and distress." Thank you to our members for keeping true to this cause.**

## *A Message from the Safety Council*

### *Distracted Driving*

It is estimated that 5,500 deaths (about 16% of crash fatalities) and 448,000 injuries were caused by distracted driving last year alone. Motor vehicle crashes being the leading cause of work-related deaths. Too often someone's desire to increase productivity and efficiency to maintain schedules motivates them to make calls or send texts. Please wait until it is safe to do so. Also be aware of school buses as school is in session. Be sure that you stop for school buses properly. See diagram that shows when to stop for a school bus and when you do not. These children need to be safe as they come and go to school.

Thank you, Brothers and Sisters

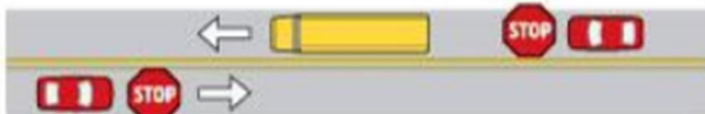
Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season

Kelly Butler

All traffic must stop for a stopped bus, unless it is on a road of four or more lanes with a median or center turning lane. In those instances, oncoming traffic does not have to stop because children will not be crossing the road to reach the bus. Traffic following a bus must always stop with the bus. If in doubt, always stop for a stopped bus.

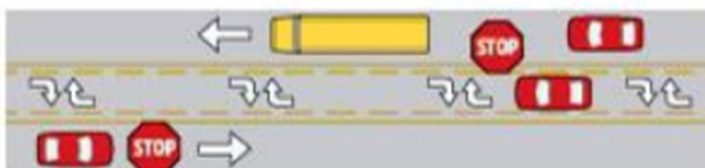
#### **1 Two-lane road**

All traffic from both directions must stop.



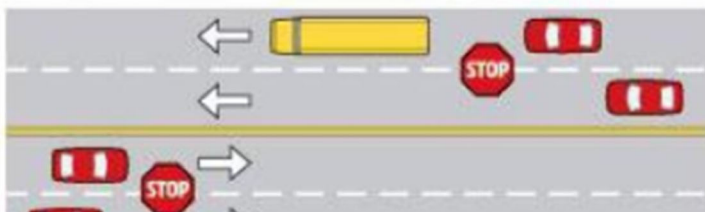
#### **2 Two-lane road with a center turning lane**

All traffic from both directions must stop.



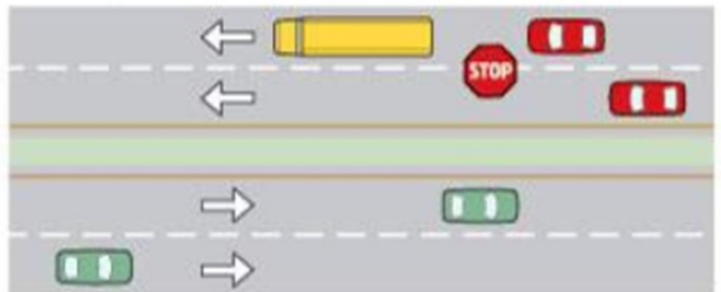
#### **3 Four-lane road without a median separation**

All traffic from both directions must stop.



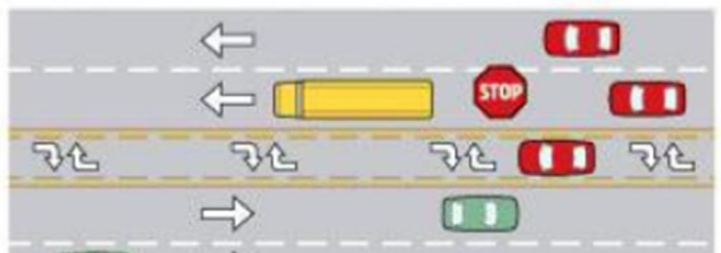
#### **4 Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation**

Only traffic following the school bus must stop.



#### **5 Road of four lanes or more with a center turning lane**

Only traffic following the school bus must stop.







## **Wesley Pearsall**

By Melissa Reyes



Far removed from the construction side of our field, Wesley Pearsall keeps to himself zigzagging between jobs in his service van. But if you ever have the pleasure to meet Wesley, you will meet a passionate member of the IBEW where you may have least expected it.

An organized hand for the last 8 years of his 29-year career, Wesley started his career in his small hometown of Mt. Olive, NC shortly after graduating high school. He recalls nearly all his peers choosing college over the trades and had a feeling there would be a shortage of skilled tradesmen in the future.

In the summer of '96 Wesley began working for Buddy Sutton at Sutton Electric, the longest running shop in town. Buddy, the owner, learned the trade while working on ships during WW2. Their specialty was heavy industrial, and Wesley enjoyed every minute of it, running rigid conduit and wiring motors and controls. His most notable project was a brand-new facility for Cate's Pickles, in need of a new facility after acquiring a contract to supply McDonald's pickles for all their restaurants in North America.

After years of being on the road, Wesley moved to Charlotte with his first wife. Ready to start a family, he was looking for a job with predictable hours. A stranger to the union, Wesley kept a LinkedIn profile where Miller Electric Company found him and reached out. Wesley's first project was at the Charter Spectrum Data Center, where he met LU 379 Steward at the time, Kelly Butler.

On his very first union jobsite, he needed mentoring and Kelly was at the right place at the right time. Even though Wesley worked non-union for 2 decades and was from a small town with little to no union presence, he never bought into the non-union talking points. It also helped his father was a federal law enforcement official represented by the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), where he served as a shop steward. It did not take long for Kelly to sell him on the union, and he joined in July 2017.

Wesley noted that the FMCP insurance convinced him the union was worth joining. Little did he know that insurance would serve him greatly. On January 5, 2018, his first wife gave birth to his two twins, Braxton and Duke, who were born 2 months prematurely. It was an overwhelming time, but he never had to worry about the cost. During their time in the NICU, he recalled seeing other fathers in the NICU calculating, “how much longer they could keep this up before they give up.”

Wesley’s experience was night and day from that of other families. He called FMCP the day after their twins were born to let them know the situation and the agent said to him: “The delivery blew your out-of-pocket out the water. Do what you need to do, if they have a problem, send them to us. We don’t want to hear from you until you hear from us, don’t worry about it.” His family did just that and brought their healthy twins home after two months. He remembered seeing a statement for \$973,000 being paid out to the hospital.

Fast forward and his boys are 7 years old, and as rambunctious as you could imagine them to be. He met his second wife, Leanna, and by living within his means, she can focus on being a homemaker and caring for his kids. He works for Preferred Electric as a service tech, performing 3<sup>rd</sup> party repairs on luminaires and diagnostics for the service department.

Wesley now faces another battle: a recent diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. At first, he thought it was normal wear and tear, but regular visits to an ortho center helped find the issue. Determined to work as long as he can, PECl has been accommodating. He is still willing to do just about anything that doesn’t necessitate an extension ladder.

This is a very personal story, and when asked for permission to share it, he responded with: “If this story convinces one person to join the union, it’s worth as many retellings as I have to give.” When asked what advice he could give to the next generation he stated, “When you’re young, you’re worried about the money, but as you get older, the benefits, insurance, retirement, and working conditions... these outweigh any questions as to whether dues are worth the wage.”

Leanna has health challenges of her own, but she and her husband choose to focus on living their best life with their kids. They love spending weekends riding motorcycles and gardening together. As Leanna says of her husband, “He has a job and does it—as it should be.” It’s a simple reflection of their shared belief that hard work isn’t extraordinary; it’s just what you do.

IBEW 379 thanks Wesley and Leanna Pearsall for sharing your story. This union exists for moments like yours.

# DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2 NC State License CE Credits Class 8:30 AM Via ZOOM w/ Dave Varga	3	4 NC State License CE Credits Class 8:30 AM Via ZOOM w/ Dave Varga	5	6
7	8 <b>Union Meeting 6PM @ The Hall</b>	9 NC State License CE Credits Class 8:30 AM Via ZOOM w/ Dave Varga	10	11 Working Union 5:30 PM @The Hall  NC State License CE Credits Class 8:30 AM Via ZOOM w/ Dave Varga	12	13
14	15 FDS Module 9 6PM @ CETI	16 NC State License CE Credits Class 8:30 AM Via ZOOM w/ Dave Varga	17	18 NC State License CE Credits Class 8:30 AM Via ZOOM w/ Dave Varga  CMLC 7PM@ The Hall	19	20
21	22 NC State License CE Credits Class 8:30 AM Via ZOOM w/ Dave Varga  E-Board 5PM@ The Hall	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29 NC State License CE Credits Class 8:30 AM Via ZOOM w/ Dave Varga	30	31			



## Foreman Development Series

These classes are open to everyone regardless of classification. This will be a chance to catch up any classes that you may have missed.

You need to complete the FDS classes, as well as NFPA70E, and OSHA 30 within the last three years, and First Aid/CPR within the last year, in order to apply for the \$750 class reimbursement.

Check the newsletter calendar and/or the 379 website for dates. If you are interested in any of these classes, please contact Christy at 704-523-7001 for classes at Apprenticeship, or Carol 704-455-4595 Ext 201 for classes at the Hall.

## Greetings from Local 379 Dispatch

We recently received an email from one of OUR 379 Contractors informing us that on all of their upcoming projects, the General Contractors "GC" are now requiring an OSHA card to work on their construction sites... with an OSHA 10 minimum (within 5 years) for all employees & sub-contractors, and an OSHA 30 (within 5 years) for ANYONE in a leadership role, overseeing work; **Foreman & General Foreman (GF), and sub-contractor....** You can't be a Foreman or GF, on that job site, unless you have your OSHA 30.

These General Contractors are: **Holder Construction; Turner Construction; Whiting-Turner; Brasfield & Gorrie, and others.**

You can also take OSHA classes on-line:  
<https://www.oshaeducationcenter.com>  
<https://www.careersafeonline.com/>

*Make sure the on-line OSHA course you take is "OSHA for Construction", **NOT** OSHA for "General Industry"*

Rich Burke card# A124666

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



RENEW needs phone bankers! We'll be reaching out to local non-union electricians interested in the IBEW and connecting them with our organizers.

### Training is provided!

Date: Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Location: 1900 Cross Beam Dr

Time: 9am-3pm

Please bring a smartphone, tablet, or laptop!

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED (PLEASE RSVP)!!!

If you like talking on the phone and you want to see our union grow, please contact Maddi Ruff to RSVP! 980-616-4980



Save the date August 8 2026 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IBEW LU 379



More Information Coming Soon  
Updates at this website  
[bit.ly/3L4C92y](http://bit.ly/3L4C92y)



## Carolinas Electrical Training Institute Update

Are you ready to move up? Do you have the required hours? Sign up now for CW and CE classes to stay on track with your advancement!



### Continuing Education

CETI will be holding continuing education classes for the membership. All the safety classes (First Aid/CPR, NFPA-70E, and OSHA 10 & 30) classes will be held for the apprentices, and once all the apprentices have been through the class, it will be opened up to everyone. If you are interested, please reach out at (704) 523- 7001 to register.

If you are interested in signing up for any of our classes, please call Christy at 704-523-7001. You can also email [adminasst@carolinaseti.com](mailto:adminasst@carolinaseti.com).



### NC State License Continuing Education Classes and Exam Prep

All ZOOM Classes Start at 8:30AM EST

4-Hour Zoom Class \$110 / 5-Hour Zoom Class \$159

(1) 4-Hour Zoom Class & (1) 4 Hour Course \$179

**NEW DATE - Friday January 2nd, 2026 - In person class in St. Thomas USVI  
\$199 for credits in NC, FL, GA, MD. Contact Dave for further details.**

#### In Person Class - St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

Friday January 2nd, 2026, at 8:30am - 12:30pm

4- or 5- hours of In-Person credit & one 4- or 5-hour course.

\$199 minus \$100 deposit \$99 due before class. You can receive 8 hours for NC, 8 hours for OH, 10 hours for MD, and 4 hours for FL. More details to come soon.

*Interested? Please email Dave.*

- Code Book Navigation 1
- Raceway & Box Fill
- Conductor Sizing
- Overcurrent Protection
- Code Book Navigation 2
- Motor, AC, & Transformer
- Calculations
- Dwelling Unit Calculations
- Commercial Calculations
- Advanced Calculations
- How to Take the Electrical Exam

**Exam Preparation Zoom Classes** based on the 2020 & 2023 NEC. Wednesday evenings beginning January 21. Classes run for ten weeks from 7pm to 9pm. Contact Dave Varga for details and special pricing.

[Davevarga@ECP480.com](mailto:Davevarga@ECP480.com)

Code Book Navigation 1	Jan 21
Raceway & Box Fill	Jan 28
Conductor Sizing	Feb 4
Overcurrent Protection	Feb 11
Code Book Navigation 2	Feb 18
Motor, AC, & Transformer Calculations	Feb 25
Dwelling Unit Calculations	Mar 4
Commercial Calculations	Mar 11
Advanced Calculations	Mar 18
How to Take the Electrical Exam	Mar 25

**Highly Recommended - The ECP Super Code Book - Over 43,000 highlights based on state electrical exam questions and answers! This is the key to passing the state electrical exam. \$495 Limited quantity and possible ten+ day lead time.**

All Zoom Classes count as In Person/Classroom hours in NC, FL, OH, MD. All continuing education hours can be completed with Zoom classes.

**Space is limited. Contact Dave to reserve a spot.**



Electrical Continuing Education Zoom Classes Approved CE for NC, MD, OH, GA & FL License Holders Contact Dave Varga directly for the IBEW special discount.

704-919-7841

[Dave@ECP480.com](mailto:Dave@ECP480.com)

[www.ECP480.com](http://www.ECP480.com)



## 'Working Union - How It Works'



'Working Union - How It Works' is a class offered to ALL members. The class outlines everything you need to know as a member of IBEW 379. From insurance benefits, pension, retirement, and officer information, to zones, dings, and how to sign the books. Anyone who has questions about any aspect of being a member of the Union should attend this class. Class is scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 from now through December. Please call Carol at 704-455-4595 Ext 201 to register

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

<b>Kate Kozlowski</b>	<b>Levi Childers</b>
<b>Raymond Mercedes</b>	<b>Daniel Pacheco</b>
<b>Dallas Sharpe</b>	<b>Te'nice Lattimore</b>
<b>Noah Beam</b>	<b>Daniel Lucena</b>
<b>Stephanie Cranfill</b>	<b>Colten Pritt</b>
<b>Tristin Maggio</b>	<b>Philip Wally</b>
<b>Gary Parshall</b>	<b>Ramzi Karkoub</b>
<b>Trenton Seaver</b>	<b>Samuel Valencia</b>
<b>Samuel Jackson</b>	<b>Dawson Kim</b>
<b>Caleb Pettit</b>	<b>Volkan Akkir</b>
<b>Clifford Smith</b>	<b>Mondreas Hall</b>
<b>Dustin Dalton</b>	<b>Victor Reyes</b>
<b>Noah Green</b>	<b>Ahmad Ferguson</b>
<b>David Dahill</b>	<b>Abdula Rashid Mustafaa</b>
<b>Cristian Chavez</b>	<b>Nathan Spears</b>
<b>Kevin Nunes</b>	<b>Mark Deluca</b>
<b>Lillian Beheler</b>	<b>Gavin Dalton</b>
<b>Erikson Corbin</b>	<b>Nicholas Carmen</b>
<b>Patrick Bailey</b>	<b>Dawson Foley</b>
<b>James Goforth</b>	<b>Nathan Quigley</b>
<b>Zachary Goodness</b>	<b>Justin Whitley</b>
<b>Jacob Hinkel</b>	<b>Douglas Braxton</b>

For those who did not know, National Employee Benefits Administrator, Inc. (NEBA) took over the Vacation Fund and Carolinas Electrical Retirement Plan from COMPUSYS. With this change you are now able to set up an account to access several features including:

- Communication Portal
- Plan Documents & Forms
- Work History
- Retirement Plan Transaction History
- Vacation Fund Transaction History
- Digital Retirement Plan Statements

You can contact Members Services toll free at 844-448-0955 M-F 8am-5pm  
Email: [cew@nebainc.com](mailto:cew@nebainc.com)

Members may visit [www.nebainc.com](http://www.nebainc.com) and click on "[Member Login](#)" to register, or simply scan the QR code below



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Local Union 379  
1900 Cross Beam Drive • Charlotte, NC 28217



If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in electronic form instead of paper form, please send an email to [ttroiano@ibew379.org](mailto:ttroiano@ibew379.org) to have your name removed from the mailing list.