

# THE TELEGRAPH

February 11, 2010

## Business Manager Update

By  
Tim Brower



### Getting the Work, Getting the Workers and Getting Down to Work

While the economy continues to sputter back to life, Local 424 has found itself in a position where there is simply more work than available members to fill the calls. While this situation may not be last for long we have kept our dispatch office working full tilt calling for and dispatching travelers from across Canada. It shows the ability of our union to meet our employers' needs. I am happy to report that we have finally conquered the red tape surrounding the ability to bring our American Brothers and Sisters north.

In the near future you can expect to see some American IBEW members at our worksites, helping to fill our calls and maintain our market share and superior craftsmanship. 424 members can welcome this help with open arms knowing that, unlike some other trades; our collective agreement will protect Local 424 members when the demand slows. We still need more major projects to come on line to see the return to some benefits we enjoyed during the boom. But there is no doubt that our strategy of getting the work has begun to pay off as we remain in demand and our work remains 1<sup>st</sup> class as exemplified by our Code of Excellence projects.

I can also report that our Job Stewards are hard at work ensuring our success both on-site and off-site. In the first week of February all of our job stewards were invited to meet together with me and our agents to plan our future strategies and hone their own skills. This was the second such meeting following the initial gathering in early December.

Only if we pull together can we identify our strengths and our shortcomings; demonstrating to our clients why we always have been and we always will be the best choice for a skilled workforce. I was overwhelmed by the sincerity and intelligence I saw from our stewards. Over these two day meetings we are asking ourselves the tough questions and agreeing on our direction forward. There is work yet to do but these meetings have convinced me more than ever we are on the right track to get the work and reclaim our market share.

Talk to you stewards and share your thoughts. What is at stake is our collective futures.



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## Membership Development Corner

Over the past couple of months, Business Manager Brower and his reps, including myself, have met with Local 424 stewards on a number of topics. Getting back into the residential market came up on several occasions during discussions around organizing. As I see it there are three major areas to address that will allow us back into this segment of our industry:

The first is training. Residential wiring is a fast paced, tight margin business. But, it's a great place to start your trade. Here you learn basic wiring principles, gain construction experience and develop a good work ethic. What better place for our PACT students to enter the workforce?

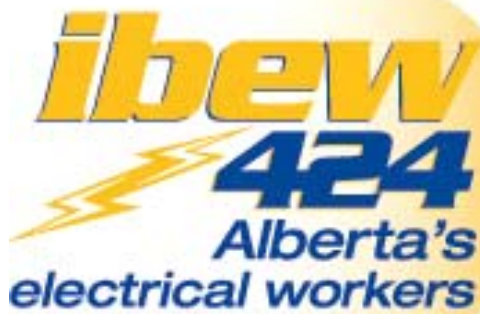
The second is a way for the home builders/clients to recognize the value of using IBEW members to wire their homes. Some IBEW locals in the U.S. have adopted an extended warranty that is called "Plus 5". This program provides for a 5 year guarantee against failure due to workmanship. If the installation and the maintenance of the wiring systems are done by an IBEW contractor beyond the initial first year builders warranty on new homes. Hence the name "Plus 5". This gives the Developer a marketing incentive to use IBEW contractors.

Finally we need to have signatory contractors to work in this segment of our industry. But, should we try to shoe horn existing signatories into a market they are unfamiliar with? Try to organize existing non-union contractors working in the residential market? Or work with interested members who want to build a business in residential wiring?

I would be interested in hearing from any members who have ideas on this topic. You may e-mail me at [ibew424@ibew424.net](mailto:ibew424@ibew424.net).



Thanks to all our stewards who attended the training session in Red Deer. Your commitment to IBEW Local 424 is greatly appreciated.



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## MANPOWER REPORT

This information is for the benefit of our members and is current as of publication.

Contractor	Project	On-site	Status
Chemco/North Pointe	Keephills-PLA-COE	320	Hiring-peak 350-possible nightshift
Chemco	Hardisty-COE	30	
Various Contractors	Scottford-PLA	3100	Hiring-some LOA
Various Contractors	Edmonton-commercial	200	slow
Jacobs	SERP-Syncrude	125	Some hiring-completion 2011 11 & 3 schedule
Various Contractors	Calgary south-all projects	140	Slow-some small projects coming
Fluor Constructors	Kearl Lake-PLA	20	Just starting

## DISPATCH REPORT

DISPATCHED FROM December 21, 2009 TO January 22, 2009

JOURNEYMEN - 607  
 4th YEAR APPRENTICES - 44  
 3rd YEAR APPRENTICES - 67  
 2nd YEAR APPRENTICES - 66  
 1st YEAR APPRENTICES - 23  
 TRAVELERS - 169  
 JOB ENTRIES - 64

REMAINING ON THE OUT OF WORK LIST:

JOURNEYMEN - 1915  
 4th YEAR APPRENTICES - 90  
 3rd YEAR APPRENTICES - 85  
 2nd YEAR APPRENTICES - 115  
 1st YEAR APPRENTICES - 80

# February 2010

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 <i>Lethbridge Info Meeting</i>	3 <i>Med. Hat Info Meeting</i>	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 <i>Red Deer Info Meeting Retirees Meeting</i>	11	12 <i>Initiation</i>	13
14	15 <i>Offices Closed Family Day</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 <i>Unit 3 Unit 4 Meetings</i>	24 <i>Unit 2 Meeting</i>	25	26	27 <i>Unit 1 Meeting</i>
28						

## Monthly Union Meetings

Unit 1-Edmonton(Radisson Hotel 4440 Gateway Blvd. in the Richmond & Victoria room) 9:00 a.m.

Unit 2-Calgary (3615-23<sup>rd</sup> Street N.E.) 8:00 p.m.

Unit 3-Fort McMurray (check job line or website for location) 8:00 p.m.

Unit 4-B.A. Members-Edmonton (4232-93 Street) 7:30 p.m.

## Monthly Information Meetings

Lethbridge (207-13th Street North) 7:00 p.m.

Medicine Hat (954-7th Street S.W. Callahan Inn) 7:00 p.m.

Red Deer-Room (Room 101-5116-47th Street) 7:00 p.m.

## Initiation Classes

Held in Calgary, Edmonton and Fort McMurray-if you are invited you will receive a letter in the mail with location information and time. You must register to attend, as per the letter as space is limited.

## Retirees Meetings

Meeting will be held at the Edmonton Training Centre at 1:30 p.m.

# March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Initiation</i>	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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### Retirees Meetings

Edmonton-Wednesday January 13th at 1:30 p.m. at the Edmonton Training Centre