IBEW Local 110 News Letter
April 2026
1330 Conway St
Suite 110
St. Paul, MN 551106

The 110 Wire

A Message from Business Manager
Doug Suchanek

Sisters and Brothers,
Welcome to Spring 2026! The work outlook for Local 110 remains strong, with our contractors and NECA expecting continued opportunities throughout 2026 and into 2027, once we get through this temporary slowdown as the META workforce bottoms out. We currently have over 100 JW out of work and more disappointing is the 80 apprentices laid off. We are pushing our contractors to use these apprentices to help secure more work by using the ratios they have available to compete.

For electricians under the Inside Agreement, the 2026 wage benefit increase will take effect on May 1. You can find details on your updated wage benefit package by logging into our website and checking the secure documents section. Additionally, the 2026 LEA Agreement wage benefit increase will go into effect on July 1.

With a record year of work hours in 2025, we exceeded the required work hours to trigger a drop in our inside agreement members working dues. As outlined in our bylaws, working dues were reduced to 3%, effective January 1, 2026.

Meta Data Center started in March 2024 and looks to wrap up Phase 1 this fall. This was our first of hopefully many Data Centers to be built in our jurisdiction, but we may need your help in our communities to educate our neighbors, families, and friends on the positives of building these projects vs the negative dis-information being spread by the “Not in my backyard” movement using scare tactics to block development.

We also are going to need your support at the ballot box this fall and at the State Capital. Our license continues to come under attack at the legislature, and we may need members to mobilize to hearings to make our voices heard when these bills start to get legs. Thanks to all who came to our Day on the Hill event. We had a great turnout and the folks at the Capitol definitely took notice!

In the business office, we are looking for a member who may possess IT support, networking, social media, and website development skills. If you have that skill set, please contact me in the business office.

Additionally, if you want to receive updates on upcoming events, contract news, surveys, or newsletters, please share your email and/or cell phone number with our business office.

We continue to work on a better platform to be able to text all our members with notifications for meetings, dues, contract votes, etc.

There is also an email distribution list for funeral notices & celebration of life updates—let us know if you'd like to be added.
Our Retirees Club meets monthly—if interested, contact April Pettis in the business office for more information.

Benefit & Pension Updates
Healthcare remains the top priority for our Union Benefit Trustees, who continue working toward solutions to manage costs. We were fortunate to only have to add $.25 to our hourly contribution this year. The trustees are also going to market to get pricing to possibly make a return to BlueCross for our Healthcare if the numbers are right and it makes sense to do so.

The Trustees successfully negotiated a pension accrual increase and issued a 13th check to retirees again in 2025. We will meet in October to determine if the pension numbers support another $3 increase to our accrual rate for retirement. Trustees also negotiated to lift the cap on pension accrual so now you will be able to earn more than 1 pension credit if work hours over 1800. Details coming in a future mailing from Wilson McShane.

Many of you have already submitted your information to PDA. They are a vendor your trustees hired to conduct an independent audit of our Health plan enrollees. This was done with the encouragement of our attorneys to verify who is in our Health plan. We have North of 6,250 people on our insurance and the purpose of this audit to compare what Wilson McShane has on record for enrollees compared to what PDA finds. Please follow the instructions in the mailing. They want to have the survey done by June or July. We will let you know the results in a future mailing. We know it is a pain, but it is necessary.

The trustees were also successful in negotiating some really impactful retirement healthcare benefit improvements. This new discount will be applied to not only new retirees, but also for the current retirees, so in the near future, Wilson McShane will go back and recalculate our current retirees' premiums using the new discount rules. Trustees increased the early retiree discount for their insurance premium so not only will the discounts come faster, they will also max out at 96% at 32 years instead of the current max of 90% discount at 42 years of service.

For the regular retirees that are on our Medicare supplemental coverage, we also negotiated significant increases in their discount as well. Their current max discount of 66% at 42 years of service will now max out at 85% discount at 32 years of service. Additionally, for the Medicare group, the trustees elected to not pass along the $88 per month increase in their monthly premium for the entire year of 2026, saving single retirees $1,056 or $2,112 for couples as you switch to individual insurance coverage when you transition off of our early retiree insurance that has family coverage. As a reminder, you can also submit your Medicare part B premiums to Wilson McShane, and they will reimburse you out of your eligibility bank or your SUB/ME account pre-tax. This all needs to be programmed so Wilson McShane will notify the members when it will all roll out.

You likely received a letter from Wilson McShane describing a Supplemental pension plan change, moving our Supplemental Pension from Wilson McShane to Milliman, who is the recordkeeper for our 401K program. This needed to happen as our current Supplemental pension is in a monthly valued platform and we need to update that fund to daily value, much like your 401K. This project has been in the works for several years and is finally nearing completion. When they go live, you will see your traditional 401K, then below that will be a line for your current supplemental balance, and then a new line for any new supplemental contributions going forward from our go live date. *Those supplemental balances will be invested together but tracked separately to comply with IRS rules. You can now also roll in previous employers traditional 401K and or ROTH money from qualified plans. *The supplemental pension money will continue to be trustee directed for now and the trustees may offer the option of participant directed in the future.

PFMLA. IBEW110 negotiated with NECA and came to an agreement to have our contractors contribute an additional $.16 per hour to our health plan. This is strictly to cover your medical premiums as required by the MNPFMLA, when you are approved for MN Paid Family Medical Leave.

*Please make sure you notify Wilson McShane that you have gone on MN PFMLA. You may qualify for additional benefits thru our benefit program and will help Wilson McShane so they don't use your eligibility bank for medical premiums when you are on paid leave.

Watch for a notice of our bi-annual *Retirement Seminar* coming this fall.

Stay Safe & Utilize TEAM Resources

As we move into summer, stay safe and take care of yourselves and your families. Remember, TEAM, our confidential employee assistance program, provides various services, including:

- Counseling
- Patient advocacy
- Nutrition & wellness
- Work/life balance support
- Referrals

TEAM is free for Local 110 members and 100% confidential. If you need assistance, contact 1-800-634-7710.

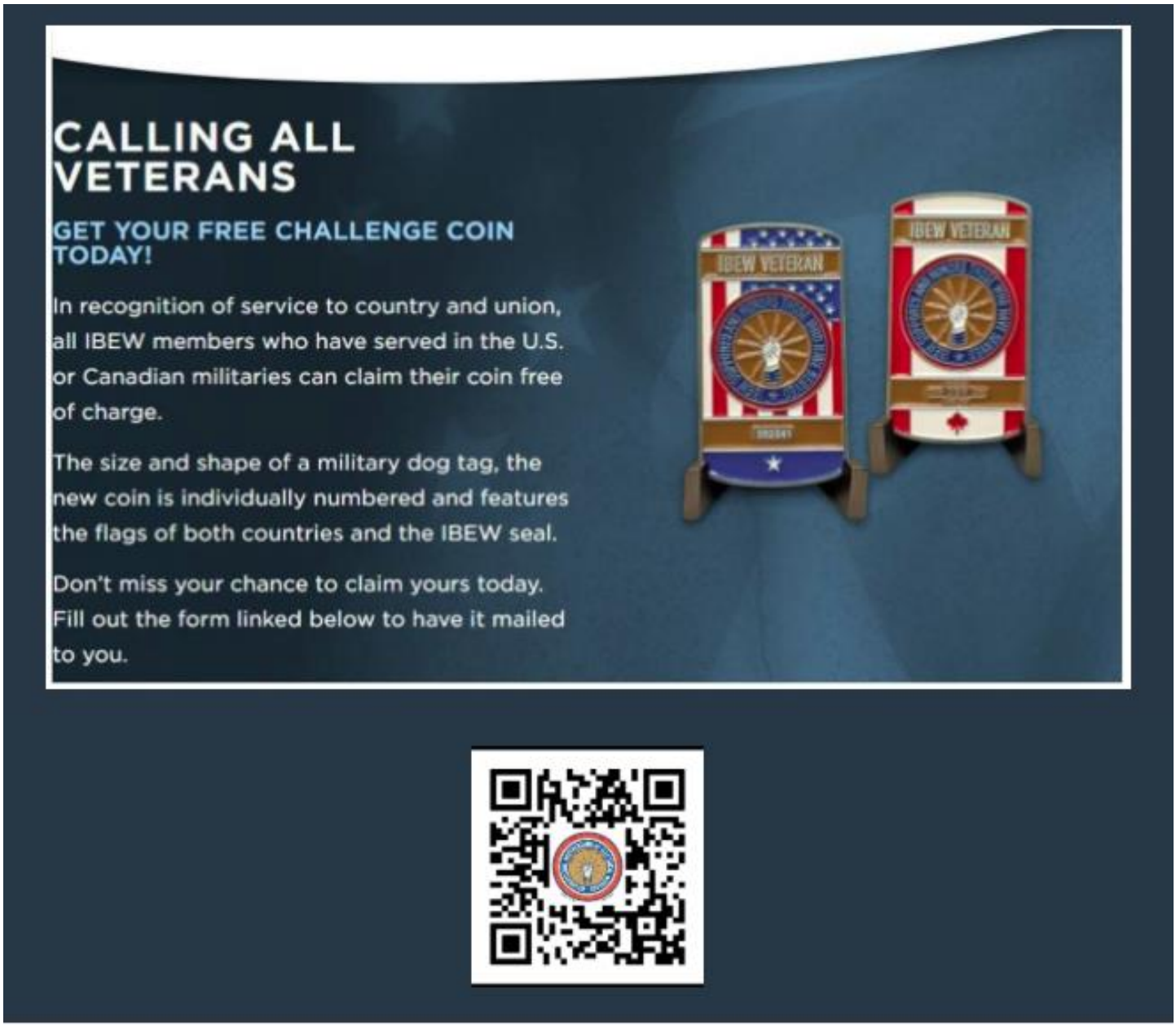
Looking forward to seeing you all at the summer picnics!

In solidarity,

Doug Suchanek

I.B.E.W. L.U. # 110

Business Manager/Financial Secretary



Presidents Post:

Work Outlook & What's Ahead

Work across the jurisdiction has remained steady to start the year. Since New Year's, we've had around 200 members on the bench, with roughly 50% being apprentices, and calls continuing to come in at a slower than expected pace.
We expect that to change soon. As Minnesota highway restrictions lift, typically in late April or early May, weather depending many projects that have been waiting should begin to move. That's when things traditionally start to pick up, and we're optimistic the same pattern will hold this year.
One of the most common questions coming into the hall right now is about data centers specifically, when the next one will break loose in our jurisdiction. The honest answer is, it's uncertain. Many of these projects are tied up in non-disclosure agreements, limiting what can be shared. On top of that, some developments are facing local resistance, slowing approvals and timelines.
But here's the reality, if even one major data center gets underway, it could significantly change the outlook for the next few years.
We've seen it over the last couple of years, large-scale projects drove strong employment, with 2025 reaching the 3 million-hour mark! That kind of work translates directly into solid wages and real financial stability for members of IBEW Local 110 and their families.

Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML)

Minnesota's Paid Family & Medical Leave program is now in place, and it's important members understand how it works.
PFML provides paid time off for:

- Your own serious health condition
- Caring for a family member with a serious health condition
- Bonding with a new child
- Certain military-related needs

The benefit allows for:

- Up to 12 weeks for your own condition
- Up to 12 weeks to care for a family member
- Up to 20 weeks total in a year

The program is funded through a 0.44% payroll deduction, which is a state-required tax taken from wages only. This applies to all workers and was not negotiated locally.
In addition, IBEW Local 110 and NECA Twin Cities negotiated a $0.16 per hour employer contribution above and beyond the 2026 increase to the total package.
This contribution helps support continued health coverage for members on approved PFML leave, preserving your medical bank while you're away from work.
It's important to understand:

- The $0.16 does not go into individual eligibility banks
- It goes into the pooled Health & Welfare Fund to support coverage for members using the benefit

If you qualify for PFML, you may also be eligible for temporary disability benefits through Wilson McShane, depending on your situation.

You contribute to these benefits every hour you work, so if you're unable to work due to injury or illness, use them. They are there to help protect you and support your family when it matters most.

May 1 Wage Increase – Check Your Pay

Effective May 1, 2026, members received a $4.59 per hour total package increase. After allocations, this resulted in a $3.26 increase on the check, bringing the total to $60.06 per hour.
Now comes the important part:
Make sure you're actually getting it. Do not assume your pay is correct, verify it.
Payroll errors are most common when increases hit. Some contractors implement changes immediately and accurately. Others take a little longer. That's just the reality of it. If something doesn't look right, address it right away.
A small issue caught early is easy to fix. Left alone, it can turn into weeks or months of underpayment that takes time to sort out. At the end of the day, no one is going to watch your paycheck closer than you.

You earned this increase. Make sure you're getting every dollar of it.

Work is building, opportunities are coming, and the strength of this local continues to be its members. Stay informed. Stay engaged. And look out for each other.

That's how we keep moving forward together.

In Solidarity,

Logan Beere
President/Assistant Business Manager

For the upcoming Union election, the polls will open on June 16th at 6:00 AM and close at 6:00 PM. Ballots will be counted in the boardroom. The deadline for absentee ballots to be received in the PO box via the US Postal Service is 1:00 PM on June 16th.
Once you receive the nomination mailing, please reach out to the Election Judge with any questions. The Election Judge also wants to highlight that, due to mailing rules regarding election information, there is a limited window for candidates to submit their letters or resumes. This period is from after the nominations on Tuesday, May 19th, until 1:00 PM on Friday, May 22nd. The Election Judge encourages members to begin preparing their candidate letter/resume early.
This information, along with more details, will be mailed to all 110 members in the coming weeks.
In Brotherhood,
John Peick
Election Judge Local 110
Phone number 612-889-7010

Northern Representative Report

- Work activity across the northern area is beginning this spring season at a slower pace than anticipated, though we expect momentum to build as the season progresses.
- The final Cambridge meeting before the summer break is scheduled for **May 7**. Members are encouraged to attend and stay informed.

- A **wage increase** will take effect on **May 1**.
- There may be **volunteer opportunities** available at the **Veterans Camp**. Additional details will be shared as opportunities are confirmed.
- Members who pay **a full year of dues** are eligible to receive a **free challenge coin**. Please see **Zoë in the front office** for more information.
- We are closely monitoring several **potential projects in the northern region**. Updates will be provided as developments occur.
- The **Lakeview Hospital project** is officially underway.

Let's Talk about Data Centers

Brothers and Sisters,
We want to provide an important update on what's happening with data center projects in **Farmington and across our jurisdiction.** Large-scale projects like the proposed Technology Park in Farmington and Cannon Falls represent the potential for **thousands of union jobs**, including an estimated **500 electricians on a single project**. These are the types of projects that provide long-term stability and strengthen our position as a union, especially as we head into future negotiations.

Right now, those jobs are at risk.
A small but organized group is pushing city officials to require **additional environmental reviews**, even though area-wide studies have already been completed and approved. These efforts are designed to reopen public comment periods and **delay projects by months or even years**, often forcing developers to reconsider or walk away entirely.

We are already seeing timelines shift from **Spring 2026 to 2027—or beyond.**
That kind of delay makes it nearly impossible for contractors to plan and manage manpower. For our members, that means **lost opportunities, longer layoffs, fewer local job options, and work that may leave our jurisdiction altogether.**
Let's be clear:
The IBEW supports **strong environmental standards and sustainable development**, and we expect every project to meet or exceed those requirements.
But there is a difference between responsible review and using the process to **delay and block projects—putting billions of dollars in investment, and thousands of union jobs, at risk.**
These data centers will be built. The question is: **which state, which community, and whose members will benefit from them?**
We encourage all members to stay informed.
Please email **DATA CENTER** to info@ibew.org
to get on our rapid response list for projects at risk and how you can help.
In the meantime, reach out to your elected officials and share what these projects mean for working families, local economies, and the future of our trade.
In solidarity,
Kyle

The Organizers Report

Brothers and Sisters,

At IBEW Local 110, the strength of our union goes far beyond the jobsite—it lives in the time, effort, and heart our members dedicate to supporting one another and our communities.

We want to take a moment to sincerely thank all of our volunteers who have stepped up over the years. Last year, we saw record participation, and the Local is extremely grateful for the generosity of our members. Your commitment does not go unnoticed—it is truly appreciated.

As a reminder, we ask all volunteer event coordinators to please submit a list of participants following each event. Keeping accurate records ensures that everyone who gives their time is properly recognized—especially as we prepare for the Summer 2026 Volunteer Appreciation Night at the St. Paul Saints game.

Volunteer event sign-in sheets can be picked up at the Local 110 union office from any staff member. Once completed, please return the sheet to the office, or submit it by text or email to Aaron.

As we gear up for another busy summer construction season, our organizers have been actively partnering with other locals across the state to increase the visibility and presence of the IBEW. From door knocking to jobsite visits, we are continuing to highlight the strong reputation of our union and the high-quality training we provide.

A key focus right now is reaching non-union contractors many of whom are looking to take part in the growing opportunities coming to Minnesota. We are working to show that growing with the IBEW is the best path forward for both contractors and workers alike.

We also want to thank the members who continue to reach out with tips and leads. The message you share with others, at home or at the job site, especially when you speak about the benefits of being union goes a long way.

Thank you again for everything you do. Please stay safe.

Respectfully,

Aaron Johnson and Matt Stueber

Political Update

This year's Day on the Hill was a tremendous success, with more than 450 IBEW members participating. It was especially encouraging to see so many apprentices step up and engage in the political process. Together, we met with legislators to advocate for the issues that directly impact our members' economic well-being: bonding investments, maintaining a strong electrical licensing system, and supporting data center construction.

With the Minnesota House currently tied and the Senate separated by just one vote, meaningful movement on any issue will be challenging. That's why our collective presence and advocacy remain so important.

Endorsements

Our endorsement process will begin in earnest after May. We wait to see how legislators vote on our priority issues before making any decisions. As always, our endorsements are based solely on economic issues that affect our members and our work.

IBEW 110 does not endorse in statewide elections—those decisions are made by the State Council of IBEW Locals. We only endorse in races within our jurisdiction.

Data Center Developments

Several cities have begun considering delays or restrictions on new data centers and hyperscale projects. This is a clear reminder that the officials you elect make decisions that affect your job opportunities every day.

Before people get worked up about water or energy usage, it's important to understand the facts. One of the most common misconceptions we hear is that "data centers use millions of gallons of water for cooling." That may be true elsewhere, but not for the facilities built in our region. Here, data centers use closed-loop systems that rely on glycol and air for cooling—one of the reasons Minnesota is such an ideal location for these projects.

Contractor Policy Changes

We have filed grievances against contractors who have installed driver-facing cameras in company vehicles and used them for disciplinary purposes. Any policy that affects working conditions must be negotiated with IBEW 110 before implementation.

If your contractor is making changes to workplace policies, please notify the hall so we can review them and ensure they comply with the contract.

In Solidarity,

Brian Winkelaar

Business Representative

LEA

The work outlook remains steady, with the META project in Rosemount and several other larger projects getting underway, it should remain steady throughout the summer and fall.

We had a dues increase at the beginning of the year, going from 1% of your gross income to 1.5%. Please make sure the right amount is being deducted from your paycheck to avoid a negative balance.

We continue to look for people with the PLT license, if you know of anyone working non-union with their license and may be looking to improve their career, please have them reach out to me.

We are currently in negotiations with Johnson Controls Security Solutions and hope to ratify a new agreement soon. We also have two grievances we are working through NECA.

We have a general Membership meeting on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00PM at Local 110 hall. You must have current dues receipt to attend. I hope to see you there. We are always for volunteers for many of our committees' events, please let me know if you are interested.

In Solidarity,
Paul Augustine
LEA Representative

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Monday of every month - Retirees Meeting
3rd Tuesday of every month - General Membership Meeting
5/20, Wednesday - Blood Drive
7/25, Saturday - Local 110's Summer Picnic
9/23, Wednesday - Blood Drive
10/9, Friday - Bingo for Brotherhood
10/30, Friday - Harvest Festival

A Message from the JATC

April 13-17 is finals week at the JATC with 355 apprentices testing. Finals week has traditionally proven subject matter mastery for the year and the culmination of 30 weeks of apprenticeship training.

The JATC and Local 110 recently conducted the 2026 SkillsUSA competition in partnership with Local 292 and vendor sponsors with high marks going to St Cloud Tech for the industrial motor controls competition and DCTC for the residential wiring competition.

We have recently began providing our Apprentice Work Evaluations in electronic format, please take the time to fill out the request honestly and accurately and please review with the apprentice if possible. This information is not only helpful to the apprentice in letting them know what areas they are doing well in and areas for improvement, but also for the JATC in the same manor.

St Paul JATC Homepage

Member Updates

🎟️ Vacation Voucher Reminders

- The final processing day for 2025 vouchers is April 30, 2026
  - Vacation dates must occur on or before March 31, 2026, to be eligible
- 2027 vouchers will be single-day use only

👨‍👩‍👧 Dependent Audit Information

- Call Center Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CT
- Phone: (883)307-3878
- **Final Mailing Due Date: May 8, 2026**

Supplemental Pension & 401(k) Merger

- Merger effective April 1, 2026.
- Blackout period for distributions through mid-May
- Once blackout period is over, all account balances will be reflected on the Milliman portal
- Register for accounts at millimanbenefits.com

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1330 Conway Street Suite 130 | St Paul, MN 55106
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Fax: (651)776-9973
Benefits email: spewbenefits@wilson-mcshane.com
Vacation email: spewvacation@wilson-mcshane.com

Remembering:

Billy Taney, Lee Walker, Brian Walden, John Blank, Walter Hagberth , Jerry Thomas, Joseph Langevin, Verlyn Armstrong, Jeffrey Neafus, John Jansen, Thomas Mitchell, Dave Olson, George Leach, Rick Dockstader, Ray Lee, Lori Benson, Mike Mills, Ron Lentch, Warren "Mick" Huntress, Jeffrey Savelkoul, Gary Seiger, Gary Kispert, Tom Nedich, Harry Haselius

It is with heavy hearts that we remember and honor the wiremen we've lost recently. These brothers were not only skilled craftsmen but also valued members of our union family. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to our cause will never be forgotten.

Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones during this difficult time. As we continue the work they were so passionate about, we do so in their memory and with gratitude for their contributions.

Stay tuned for more updates from Local Union 110

View in browser

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