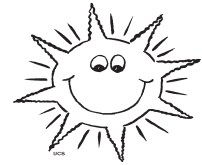




The Current

News from IBEW Local 1837

Spring 2026



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Maine & New Hampshire

Make Your Voice Heard: 2026 Is an Election Year for IBEW Local 1837

This is your union, and 2026 is your opportunity to help shape its future. IBEW Local 1837 will hold nominations and elections this spring for Local Union officers and delegates to the 41st IBEW International Convention. Elections are one of the most important ways members make their voices heard and ensure our union remains member-driven, transparent and accountable.

In conformity with federal law, the Constitution of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Bylaws of Local 1837, the following positions will be elected:

- President
- Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Business Manager/Financial Secretary
- One Executive Board Member from each of the eleven units
- Five (5) Delegates to the 41st IBEW International Convention in San Diego, California

Nominations will be made orally at regular Unit meetings during April 2026 (See Schedule Below). No member may be nominated unless they are present at the meeting or have submitted written notice of their willingness to serve. Members of one unit may nominate members from another unit. All nominees

must have been members in good standing of Local 1837 for at least two years. Unit Recorders will forward the list of candidates to the Local Union Recording Secretary following the nomination meetings.

The Executive Board has appointed an Election Judge, Derek Willette, and two tellers. In addition, the Board has contracted with MK Elections to administer the election to ensure a secure and professional process. Voting will be conducted by mail ballot. Ballots will be mailed to active members, and the Executive Board will determine the date, time and location for the ballot count in June. If you do not receive your ballot by June 10, 2026, please contact the Union Office at 207-623-1030.

Members will also elect five delegates to represent Local 1837 at the 41st IBEW International Convention in San Diego in September. All delegate expenses are paid. By virtue of their offices, the Business Manager and President will also serve as Convention delegates. The International Convention is where delegates from across the country debate and decide the direction of our Brotherhood. Delegates vote on constitutional amendments, policy priorities and issues that shape the future of our union at every level.

“This is a great way to get involved in your union,” said Business Manager Tony Sapienza. “Your union is run by and for the members. Member participation is the cornerstone of your union.”

April Unit Meetings:

Unit 1 (Dover): April 28th	Unit 7 (Lewiston): April 1st
Unit 2 (Manchester): April 14th	Unit 8 (Augusta): April 15th
Unit 3 (Laconia): April 16th	Unit 9 (Waterville): April 8th
Unit 4 (Berlin/Lancaster): April 22nd	Unit 10 (Bangor): April 16th
Unit 5 (Newport): April 2nd	Unit 11 (Presque Isle): April 23rd
Unit 6 (Portland): April 7th	

*For times and locations visit:
IBEW1837.org*

Tony Sapienza to Retire as Business Manager of Local 1837

For more than four decades, Tony Sapienza has believed in a simple idea about IBEW Local 1837: if you want to see something change, step up and help make it happen. It's a story he often tells members. Early in his career, Tony didn't like how some things were being run at the local and he voiced his concerns. The response he got was direct: if you don't like it, get involved and do something about it. Tony took that advice to heart, and more than 40 years later he's still living by it.

After nearly six years as Business Manager and Financial Secretary of IBEW Local 1837, Tony Sapienza will retire from the role in July 2026. He first assumed the position on October 1, 2020. A proud union member since his date of hire on August 19, 1985, Tony brought decades of experience and commitment to the membership when he stepped into the role.

Former Business Manager Dick Rogers said he had confidence Tony was the right person to lead the local when he stepped down.

"When I decided to retire, I asked the Executive Board to appoint Tony and they did," Rogers said. "Tony's fiscal responsibility, knowledge of the trades, and experience as a board member and steward prepared him for the position. Tony has always worked tirelessly for the members."

Tony's career in the electrical industry began when he started working as a System Electrician for Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), now Eversource NH. Throughout those years he remained deeply involved in the union, serving as an E-Board member, Chief Steward, and Unit 2 (Manchester) Recording Secretary for more than 20 years.



He later served as Assistant Business Manager for New Hampshire before taking on the role of Business Manager.

As Business Manager, Tony focused on keeping the local strong and financially sound while ensuring the union remained focused on its core mission: representing the members. Assistant Business Manager Kitty Kilroy said working alongside Tony provided a front-row seat to his dedication to the membership.

"I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work alongside Tony, and I will miss him when he retires," Kilroy said. "I have learned a great deal about the inner workings of a Local and tactics to help the membership in arbitration battles, unfair treatment and organizing. Tony always expressed appreciation for his staff and constantly reminded us of his gratitude. I must say, it was nice to hear and know that I was valued. I'll fondly remember his funny quotes, passion for the union, dedication to the good fight, and his 'Italian' mannerisms. I wish him a long, healthy retirement and fun-filled days enjoying time

with his grandsons."

Assistant Business Manager Renee Gilman, who worked closely with Tony for years, described his philosophy as Business Manager as straightforward.

"He works in the best interests of IBEW 1837," Gilman said. "He takes his fiscal responsibility seriously, scrutinizing every dollar to ensure the local remains strong and sustainable. Tony doesn't get distracted by unnecessary details. He goes straight to the core of an issue and builds solutions from there. He's a no-nonsense, no BS kind of guy who makes the tough calls and speaks the truth, even when it's not the popular thing to do."

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Platner Campaign Staff Unionizes with 1837

The campaign staff of Graham Platner, who is running for U.S. Senate in Maine, officially unionized with IBEW Local 1837 in mid-February by signing a collective bargaining agreement at the Local 1837 union hall in Manchester.

Platner is seeking the Democratic nomination in the June primary. He faces Democratic challenger Janet Mills, and the winner will take on incumbent Republican Susan Collins, who has served in the U.S. Senate since 1997.

After voluntarily recognizing the staff union late last year, Platner and his campaign team moved quickly to the bargaining table. Negotiations between management and the union, which can sometimes take months or longer, were completed in just a few hours. The agreement was ratified by the staff and guarantees livable, competitive wages and high-quality health insurance for the campaign team.

"I'm running for Senate to fight for working people," said Platner at the signing. "I would like to see higher union density across the country. I would like to see workers understanding how to organize and understand the importance of organizing, and what better way to do that than to model it? Thank you to IBEW Local 1837 and to the most talented campaign team in America who power this movement."

For campaign staff, the contract represents stability and shared progress in a demanding line of work.

"It's a struggle to have healthcare as well as, you know, a livable wage, especially when you're working long hours to make sure that we're electing great people," said new member, Kelena Spencer. "So it's amazing that we have this and we're able to benefit from this together."

Joe Grassi, also a new member, also reflected on the experience of organizing and bargaining a first contract.

"It was really interesting for me to talk to my parents when I was going through this process and learning about it," said Grassi. "It was really cool for me to learn about it. This is my first union and experience with all this."

"We're incredibly excited to welcome the Platner campaign staff into IBEW Local 1837," said IBEW Local 1837 Business Representative Kaitlyn Hegarty. "Voluntary recognition and a first contract reached in just a few hours demonstrate what's possible when an employer genuinely respects workers and the collective bargaining process."



U.S. Senate candidate Graham Platner shakes hands with IBEW Local 1837 Business Rep. Kaitlyn Hegarty after signing the CBA, as new members Kelena Spencer and Joe Grassi look on alongside IBEW 1837 Assistant BM Josh Hall and IBEW 1837 President Michelle Crocker.

This agreement guarantees strong wages and quality health coverage, and it sets a powerful example for campaigns and workplaces across Maine."

IBEW Local 1837 Business Manager Tony Sapienza also praised the agreement.

"Thank you, Graham, for not only talking about supporting workers but actually doing it," said Sapienza. "This agreement demonstrates that you understand what working people need and you support them with action."

A big thank you to new member, Daniel Pelt, who took the lead on this campaign, along with Wyatt Wunker, for their work in helping secure the agreement.



Watch the video from the Platner Campaign of the contract signing at the IBEW Local 1837 Union hall in Manchester, ME, by scanning the QR code.

IBEW 1837 Women's Committee Chartered, Hosts First Training

IBEW Local 1837 launched its newly formed Women's Committee earlier this year, marking an exciting step forward in member engagement and leadership development across the local.

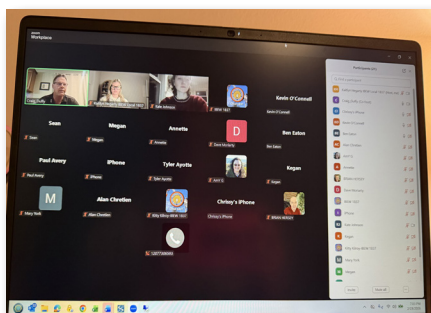
The committee was issued its charter on January 6, 2026, after requesting formal recognition from the International Vice President of the Second District and the International Office. Spearheaded by sisters at Central Maine Power, the effort reflects a growing interest among members to build stronger connections, create more opportunities for involvement, and open space for conversations about workplace issues across units.

On February 19, the Women's Committee hosted its first official event: a virtual training held on Zoom titled IBEW and ME. The session was led by Craig Duffy, an International Representative from the Second District Education Department.

The training provided an in-depth look at how the IBEW is structured, from the International Office to the Districts and Local Unions, and how each level works together to support members. Duffy also covered how dues structures operate, the history of union density in the United States, and how the position of the working class has shifted over the past 50 years. More than 20 members attended and actively engaged in the discussion.

"Committees like this strengthen our local by creating more chances for members to get involved, build relationships, and deepen their understanding of how our union works," said Business Rep. Kaitlyn Hegarty. "When members are connected and informed, we are stronger at the bargaining table and in our workplaces."

While the committee was initiated by women members and is focused on building solidarity and leadership among women in the local, participation is not limited to women. Any member interested in learning more or getting involved is encouraged to contact the union hall.



Members attend a Zoom training hosted by the Women's Committee.



The Women's Committee Charter hangs on the wall at the IBEW Local 1837 Office in Manchester, Maine.

Maine Democratic Party Members Ratify New Contract

Members working for the Maine Democratic Party have ratified a new collective bargaining agreement for the permanent staff as well as the Coordinated Campaign staff following a challenging round of negotiations.

The agreement includes 9% wage increases over three and a quarter years, ratification bonuses, improved flex time language, an increased tech stipend, and enhanced travel reimbursement.

Negotiations were difficult at times, but members stayed involved throughout the process by participating in discussions, providing feedback, and being clear about their priorities at the bargaining table.

"This was a tough negotiation," said Business Rep. Kaitlyn Hegarty, the lead negotiator for the bargaining unit. "Our members were engaged and vocal about what they wanted and needed. Their involvement strengthened our proposals and helped us secure important improvements."

ME DEMS
MAINE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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Maine Democratic Party Members Ratify New Contract

Story Continued from Page 4

One of the most significant changes is the strengthened flex time language, which provides clearer standards and protections for salaried employees and better defines expectations around workload. Flex time is a key benefit for salaried staff, who do not receive overtime pay and often work beyond 40 hours in a given week. The language ensures that when those extended hours are necessary, employees can adjust their schedules or take time off to offset additional hours worked - protecting work-life balance and reinforcing that a salaried position should not mean unlimited availability.

Steward Marc Malon and bargaining team member Dustin Small served on the negotiation team throughout the process. Their insight and steady par-

ticipation were crucial in shaping conversations and ensuring member concerns were fully represented.

"This was my first time at the bargaining table, negotiating the second contract for my coworkers. Kaitlyn, Renee, and Tony provided invaluable support as we navigated the process, and we were able to secure an improved contract," said Marc Malon. "Historically, political workers have been exploited to work more hours for less pay due to their idealism and commitment to the mission. Our IBEW 1837 contract ensures that we can do our jobs, fight for a better world for our communities, and be able to maintain work-life balance while also being compensated fairly for our labor."

IBEW 1837 Members Attend Maine AFL-CIO Labor Lobby Day

Members of IBEW Local 1837 joined more than 170 workers from across the state at the Maine State House on March 5 for the Maine AFL-CIO Labor Lobby Day, an annual event that brings union members together to advocate for policies that support working families in Maine. Labor Lobby Day provides an opportunity each year for union members to share their experiences directly with lawmakers and ensure that the voices of working people are part of the legislative conversation.

Representing Local 1837 were Assistant Business Managers Renee Gilman and Josh Hall, Union President Michelle Crocker, CMP employees Kate Johnson and Michele Drew, and Versant employee Elyse Bronson. Throughout the day, they joined fellow union members in speaking directly with legislators about issues affecting workers and their families.

The day began with a training session to help participants prepare for meetings with lawmakers and better understand the legislative process. After the training, attendees headed to the State House to meet with legislators and discuss several bills focused on strengthening Maine's workforce and supporting working families.

Key issues included legislation aimed at making childcare more affordable and accessible, creating a millionaire's tax to help make Maine's tax code fairer while funding important state priorities, restoring funding to help close the pay gap for state employees, and requiring advance notice when hospitals plan to close or reduce labor and delivery services.

Workers also gathered in the State House Hall of Flags for a press conference focused on childcare and tax fairness before continuing meetings and participating in breakout discussions with legislative leaders.

"It was good to see union members from across the state, said Assistant Business Manager, Josh Hall. "It really makes you realize there are far more unions out there than just the large utilities and industries. Seeing teachers, nurses, and other public sector workers represented was encouraging. Overall, it was great to see so many people motivated by labor issues."



From Left to Right: Michele Drew, Elyse Bronson, Renee Gilman, Kate Johnson, Josh Hall, and Michelle Crocker attend the Maine AFL-CIO's Labor Lobby Day in Augusta.

Lewis Tree Members Ratify New Agreement



Members at Lewis Tree who work exclusively in Eversource NH territory ratified a new collective bargaining agreement in late February, securing wage increases and improvement to vacation accrual.

The agreement includes a 3% wage increase following ratification, a \$200 ratification bonus, and additional raises of 2.75% in 2027 and 3% in 2028. The contract also adds stipends for Forepersons with CDL licenses and climbing certifications, increases the Lead Foreperson rate, and ensures Forepersons are paid appropriately when overseeing multiple crews.

Members will now receive two weeks of vacation after three years of service, instead of having to wait seven years under the previous contract. Additional language strengthens inclement weather protections and clarifies expectations around established work zones.

Special thanks to Anthony Strout for bringing members' concerns about wages to the company and helping ensure members' voices were heard during negotiations.

Tony Sapienza to Retire as Business Manager of Local 1837

Story Continued from Page 2

Gilman said that beyond his direct leadership style, Tony also brought humor and heart to the role.

"Tony has a terrific sense of humor. He has a big heart and is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. I've learned a great deal from working with him over the years, and I've always appreciated knowing he had my back. I wish Tony and Shirley all the happiness in the world as they begin their next chapter: retirement."

Business Representative Kaitlyn Hegarty said Tony's mentorship and steady support helped her grow into her role representing members.

"Tony has answered every single one of my calls and always made sure I had the support I needed to grow into this job. Whether it was advice on handling a difficult situation, talking through strategy, or just reassuring me that I was on the right track, he was always there," Hegarty said. "And while Tony takes the work very seriously, he also has a sense of humor that keeps things light. Even in stressful moments, he has a way of making people laugh, and those funny quotes

and stories are something many of us will miss. It's been a privilege to work alongside him and learn from someone who cares so deeply about this union and its members."

Tony has often said that the union played a central role in his own life.

"I've always been grateful to my union for the wages that allowed me to raise four kids," Tony said. "The union paycheck made a big difference to my family."

When he's not working for members, Tony and his wife Shirley enjoy spending time with family and friends, visiting Maine beaches, and sharing good food together. In retirement, the two are looking forward to traveling to the Midwest at the end of summer and spending more time with their two young grandsons.

On behalf of the entire membership of IBEW Local 1837, we thank Tony for his leadership, honesty, and decades of service to the union. We wish him and Shirley a happy and well-earned retirement.



Reminder: Follow all time limits and steps in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Keep copies of everything you submit.



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The Current

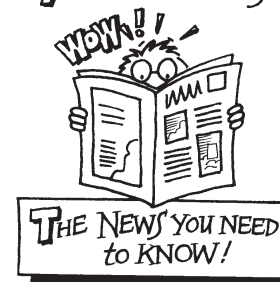
Newsletter of IBEW Local 1837

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Vice President - Bob McNeff
Recording Secretary - Terri MacDonald
Treasurer - Donna Raymond
Business Manager - Tony Sapienza
Assistant Business Manager - Renee Gilman
Assistant Business Manager - Kitty Kilroy
Assistant Business Manager - Josh Hall
Business Rep. / Current Editor - Kaitlyn Hegarty

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YOUR UNION NEWS:



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