

IBEW LOCAL 697

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ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
LOCAL UNION 697  
FLINT LAKE

*Awards Night*



2020

THE ANNUAL IBEW LOCAL 697  
AWARDS BANQUET

**AWARDS COMMITTEE**

*Honorary Chairman :  
Jerry Ehresman*

*Committee:  
Paul Anderson  
Ray Kottka  
Ray Kottka II  
Ryan Reithel*

**LOCAL 697 OFFICERS**

*Curt Lesnick / President  
Roman Bronson / Vice President  
Jeffrey Krug / Recording Secretary  
Felipe Hernandez / Treasurer*

**BUSINESS MANAGER  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

*Ryan Reithel*

**BUSINESS  
REPRESENTATIVES**

*Nick Hardesty  
Joree Richards*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*Donald Bullock  
Herb Hippiie  
Taylor Kimes  
Chuck Miller  
Larry Slagle*

**EXAMINING BOARD**

*Curtis Lesnick  
Lloyd Martinez  
Joe Pfister*

**HONOREES  
70 YEARS**

*George Fiebelkorn Jr.*



**HONOREES  
65 YEARS**

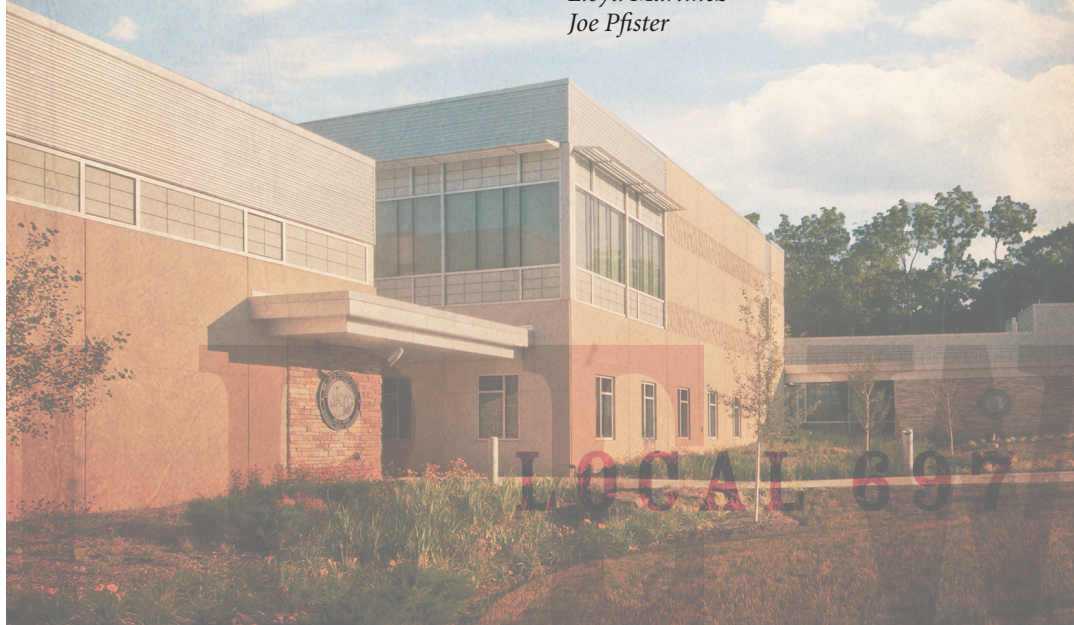
*Ronald Benjamin*

*Robert Carr*

*Anthony Derosa Jr.*

*Willard Palmateer*

*Paul Rosenau*



HONOREES  
60 YEARS



*Dennis Johnson*  
*Arthur Kupke*

*Robert Scholler*  
*Carl Seliger*

HONOREES  
55 YEARS

*David Austin*  
*Norman Bauske*  
*Peter Follmer*  
*John Miller*  
*David Muckway*

*Otto Petr Jr.*  
*William Steininger*  
*Stanley Weston*  
*Stanley Wrobel*



HONOREES  
50 YEARS

*John Ahlberg*  
*Jerry Baldwin*  
*Dennis Brown*  
*Robert Carter*  
*Lester Collins*  
*Bradford Conley*  
*Daniel Dragus*  
*James Dugan Jr.*  
*Robert Grubbe*  
*Bruce Gullede*  
*John Hack III*  
*Elden Hass*  
*Charles Hendricks*  
*Kenneth Kaiser*  
*Rudolph Kozar*

*Darryl Kwasny*  
*J.T. Maness*  
*Richard Markovich*  
*Richard Mihalich*  
*Jack Nimon Jr.*  
*Jerry Pittman*  
*Paul Radice*  
*Denis Spain*  
*Daryl Spain*  
*George Sprainis*  
*Larry Washington*  
*Ronald Wojno*  
*Richard Wright*



HONOREES  
45 YEARS

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*James Beard*  
*William Brown*  
*Henry Douglas*  
*Kerry Erny*  
*Steven Harder*  
*Rod Keelan*  
*Glen LaMantia*  
*Michael Lecyk*  
*Virgil Lincoln Sr.*

*Timothy Maloney*  
*James Maness*  
*Glen Noha*  
*Gerald Russell*  
*Charles Semko*  
*John Tortolano Jr.*

HONOREES  
40 YEARS

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*Dennis Baird*  
*David Balazs*  
*Steve Billingsley*  
*James Brahos*  
*Douglas Devich*  
*Kenneth Doctor*  
*James Doyle*  
*Ralph Ehresman Jr.*  
*Michael Gallinatti*  
*Brett Grooms*  
*Ricardo Hernandez*  
*Curtis Hillegonds*  
*Randy Johnson*  
*Charles Lee*  
*Peter Lichtenstein*  
*Garry Porter*  
*Marion Reffkin*

*Patrick Rodriguez*  
*John Rudd*  
*Donald Rutkowski Sr.*  
*Jeffery Savage*  
*Richard Schrum*  
*Phillip Shikany*  
*James Spurr*  
*Steven Stackert*  
*John Stacy*  
*John Stamos*  
*Thomas Thiakos*  
*Robert Tortolano Sr.*  
*Sylvester Tucker*  
*John VanKeppel*  
*David Webb*  
*Thomas Wright*  
*Terrence Zalas*



HONOREES  
35 YEARS

*Scott Westerhoff*



HONOREES  
30 YEARS

*Gerald Bormann*

*David Brazil*

*Brian Donsbach*

*Dean Houpt*

*Jeffrey Miller*

*John Osby*

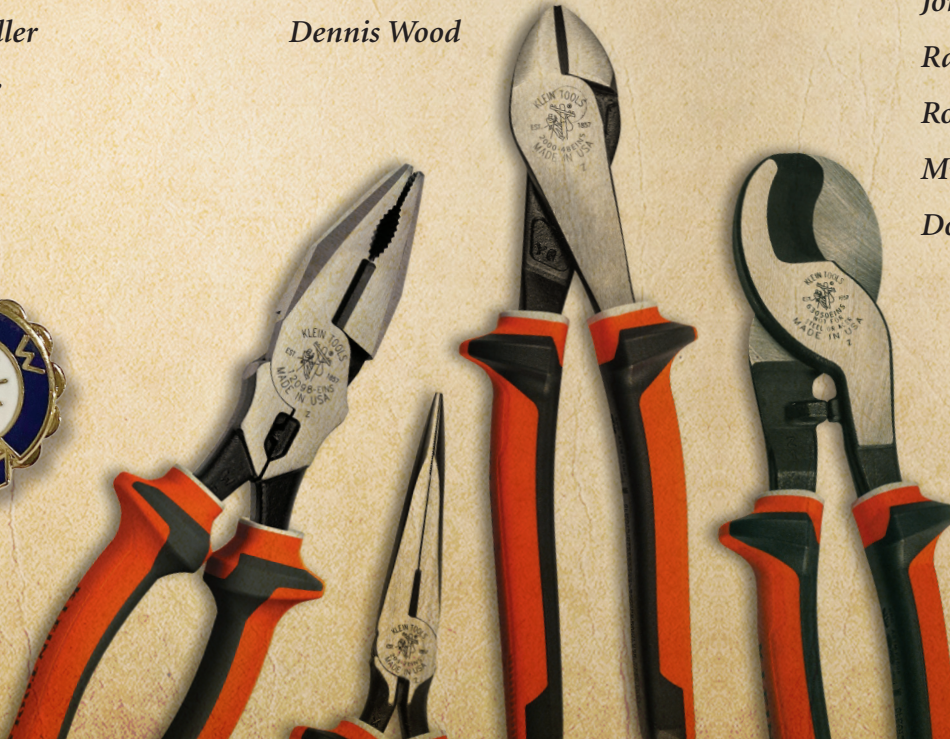
*Scott Raye*

*Mitchell Steinhardt*

*Kenneth Walstra*

*Robert Werhowatz*

*Dennis Wood*



HONOREES  
25 YEARS



*Richard Apking*

*Eric Baim*

*Ronald Barnack*

*Gene Barnes*

*Michael Bell*

*Steven Bell*

*Henry Bremer Jr.*

*Joni Camp*

*Rickie Davidson*

*Michael Diggs*

*Jon Fancher*

*Randy Hepp*

*Roger Jachna Jr.*

*Michael Jetmund*

*Donna Korreck*

*Virgil Lincoln Jr.*

*Carl Martin*

*Steve Maslikowski*

*William Mick*

*Brian Mysliwicz*

*Andrew Nomanson*

*Joseph Pfister*

*Gregory Price*

*Erwin Roldan*

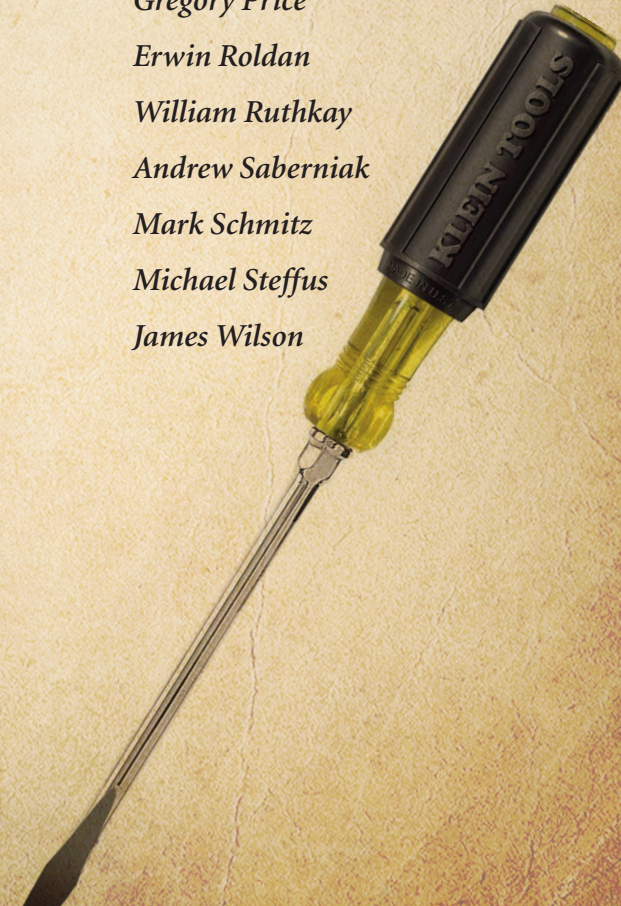
*William Ruthkay*

*Andrew Saberniak*

*Mark Schmitz*

*Michael Steffus*

*James Wilson*



HONOREES  
20 YEARS

<i>Allen Baswell</i>	<i>Patrick Lelek</i>
<i>Jacques Berbesque</i>	<i>Brian Luebker</i>
<i>Jeffrey Blevins</i>	<i>Kristopher Matson</i>
<i>Gregory Bontempo</i>	<i>Jeffrey Michaels</i>
<i>Jack Burandt Jr.</i>	<i>Shane Neal</i>
<i>Aaron Cline</i>	<i>Mario Nunn</i>
<i>Tim Collins</i>	<i>Daniel O'Driscoll</i>
<i>Steve Cowsert</i>	<i>Jerrold Paul</i>
<i>Jeff Duensing</i>	<i>Derek Previs</i>
<i>Adam Fargo</i>	<i>Jason Robinson</i>
<i>Christopher Fernandez</i>	<i>James Rumler</i>
<i>Ryan Flanagan</i>	<i>Timothy Sears</i>
<i>Robert Gray</i>	<i>Eric Severson</i>
<i>Douglas Hanson</i>	<i>Jason Surufka</i>
<i>Charles James III</i>	<i>James Szymaszek</i>
<i>Tim Juergens</i>	<i>Eric Wheeler</i>
<i>Ryan Leckrone</i>	



HONOREES  
15 YEARS



<i>Jacob Archambault</i>	<i>Justin Marcotte</i>
<i>Alan Baker</i>	<i>Joe Michaels</i>
<i>Jennifer Batka</i>	<i>Jon Moyado</i>
<i>Larry Blonski</i>	<i>Michael Nelleman</i>
<i>Brett Bormann</i>	<i>Jonathan Orzechowicz</i>
<i>Steve Brumley</i>	<i>Chris Roark</i>
<i>Kelly Carlson</i>	<i>Oscar Rodriguez Sr.</i>
<i>Jonathon Chariton</i>	<i>Kyle Spicer</i>
<i>Jacob Duttlinger</i>	<i>Jason Tampuskas</i>
<i>Andrew Filipowski</i>	<i>Joseph Thomas</i>
<i>Joshua Hardebeck</i>	<i>Andrew Vlachos</i>
<i>Nicholas Hardesty</i>	<i>Nicholas Vlasich</i>
<i>Jeffrey Hicks</i>	<i>Arnell Washington</i>
<i>Steve Johnson</i>	<i>Benjamin Worden</i>
<i>Matthew Marckese</i>	<i>John Yaksic</i>



2019 - 2020  
RETIREES

.....

*Jamie Armstrong*

*Kevin Beckham*

*George Benac*

*David Bielski*

*Steve Cornejo*

*Mark Dixon*

*Michael Gallinatti*

*Brett Grooms*

*David Hinshaw*

*Michael Knox*

*Martin Michels*

*Walter Nowak Jr.*

*Michael Prusak Sr.*

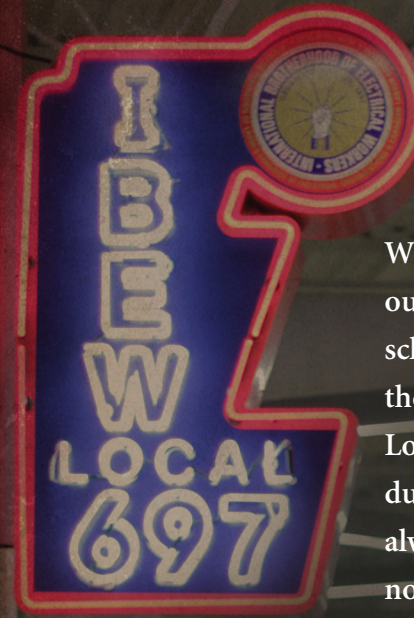
*Mark Richardson*

*Lee Rose*

*John Rudd*

*John Stacy*

*David Wilkins*



While the Coronavirus forced us to cancel our annual Local 697 Awards Night, that was scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2020 at the Avalon Manor, we are still united. Our Local has seen its share of difficult times during our 109 years history and we have always emerged victorious. This year was no exception and we are positioned for the greatest comeback of all time.

I want to personally thank all the 2020 Honorees and Retirees for their years of service with Local 697 and making our industry a better place to work. Your dedication and craftsmanship has shaped the future for all electrical workers.

*Ryan R. Reithel*

Ryan R. Reithel  
Business Manager & Financial Secretary  
I.B.E.W. Local Union 697



# 90-DAY WONDER



The Northward Expansion project in the 1970's took all focus to the industrial lakefront and we found ourselves out of the residential market. Business Manager Bob Lauer knew it would take an increase in membership and a group of young, dedicated men to take back the residential market. From 1979 to 1982, Local 697 brought in and quickly trained over 100 men for this mission. The new hires went to school for 6 weeks unpaid followed by 6 weeks in the field where they were paid five dollars a day. The three months of dedication labeled this group of guys the "90 Day Wonders". Local 697 took back the residential market and still dominates it to this day. As the 90 Day Wonders have now reached 40 years of dedicated service to our industry, IBEW Local 697 would like to recognize them for their tour of duty and continued loyalty. Your era has dug the well that we are all blessed to drink from today and for that, we thank you.

## INITIATED IN 1979

<i>Lonny Alger</i>	<i>Olin James</i>	<i>Joseph Rybicki</i>
<i>Jamie Armstrong</i>	<i>John Kick</i>	<i>Harry Savage Jr.</i>
<i>Larry Banks</i>	<i>David Kuc</i>	<i>Terry Shepherd</i>
<i>Kevin Beckham</i>	<i>Mark Lambert</i>	<i>Michael Smith</i>
<i>Miltion Bonich Jr.</i>	<i>Domingo Lopez</i>	<i>Neal Swart</i>
<i>William Cooros</i>	<i>Walter Nowak Jr.</i>	<i>James Thomas</i>
<i>Michael Dywan</i>	<i>John Palagyi</i>	<i>David Vicari</i>
<i>James Fargo</i>	<i>Thomas Patrick</i>	<i>Gerald Waffler</i>
<i>Brian Flannery</i>	<i>Mario Perez Jr.</i>	<i>Dale Yeager</i>
<i>Dennis Hathaway</i>	<i>Carl Persinger</i>	<i>Michael Ziemkowski</i>
<i>David Hinshaw</i>	<i>Steven Plant</i>	<i>Mark Zulawinski</i>
<i>William Homann</i>	<i>Michael Raseta Jr.</i>	

## INITIATED IN 1980

<i>Dennis Baird</i>	<i>Curtis Hillegonds</i>	<i>James Spurr</i>
<i>David Balazs</i>	<i>Randy Johnson</i>	<i>Steven Stackert</i>
<i>Steve Billingsley</i>	<i>Charles Lee</i>	<i>John Stacy</i>
<i>James Brahos</i>	<i>Peter Lichtenstein</i>	<i>John Stamos</i>
<i>Douglas Devich</i>	<i>Garry Porter</i>	<i>Thomas Thiakos</i>
<i>Randolph Dillon</i>	<i>Marion Reffkin</i>	<i>Robert Tortolano Sr.</i>
<i>Kenneth Doctor</i>	<i>Patrick Rodriguez</i>	<i>Sylvester Tucker</i>
<i>James Doyle</i>	<i>John Rudd</i>	<i>John VanKeppel</i>
<i>Ralph Ehresman Jr.</i>	<i>Donald Rutkowski Sr.</i>	<i>David Webb</i>
<i>Michael Gallinatti</i>	<i>Jeffery Savage</i>	<i>Thomas Wright</i>
<i>Brett Grooms</i>	<i>Richard Schrum</i>	<i>Terrence Zalas</i>
<i>Ricardo Hernandez</i>	<i>Phillip Shikany</i>	

## INITIATED IN 1981

<i>David Bixeman</i>	<i>Kitt Kabella</i>	<i>Robert Targett</i>
<i>Jack Chavez Jr.</i>	<i>Thomas Niermeyer</i>	<i>David Toth</i>
<i>Michael Daugherty</i>	<i>Paul Sanders</i>	<i>Michael Wagner</i>
<i>Michael Goodrich</i>	<i>David Sayers</i>	<i>Ronald Wandasiewicz</i>
<i>Tracy Hall</i>	<i>Jeffery Schumann</i>	<i>David Wilkins</i>
<i>Steven Huffman</i>	<i>James Shoemaker Jr.</i>	<i>Paul Yeager</i>
<i>Michael Johnson</i>	<i>David Simchak</i>	

## INITIATED IN 1982

<i>Paul Anderson</i>	<i>Bill Feder</i>	<i>Michael Knox</i>
<i>Raymond Aquino</i>	<i>Thomas Frame</i>	<i>Douglas Sleeman</i>
<i>Gary Boyer</i>	<i>Nile Howe</i>	<i>Dan Trykall</i>
<i>Thomas Fargo</i>	<i>Raymond Kasmark</i>	<i>Robert Zarik</i>

**90-day wonder**  
(plural 90-day wonders)  
Noun

(US Army, US Air Force and US Navy, derogatory, slang) Newly commissioned graduate of three month Officer Candidate School (Army, Air Force), Midshipman School (Navy), or Direct Commissioning program.



# THE HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF THE IBEW IN NORTHWEST INDIANA

.....  
THE FIRST IBEW LOCAL IN NORTHWEST INDIANA WAS LOCAL 280 — GARY, IN CHARTERED ON JUNE 1, 1902. IT LASTED 17 YEARS AND WENT DEFUNCT ON JUNE 1, 1919 JUST AFTER THE END OF WORLD WAR I.  
.....

LOCAL 571 WAS CHARTERED IN HAMMOND, IN ON JULY 1, 1907 AND LASTED JUST OVER 3 YEARS GOING DEFUNCT IN AUGUST OF 1910.  
.....

LOCAL 622 WAS CHARTERED IN CROWN POINT ON JUNE 20, 1908 AND ONLY LASTED 9 MONTHS GOING DEFUNCT IN MARCH OF 1909.  
.....

LOCAL 697 WAS CHARTERED IN HAMMOND ON JUNE 2, 1911.  
.....

LOCAL 652 WAS CHARTERED IN HAMMOND, IN ON MARCH 16, 1918 AND WENT DEFUNCT 2 ½ YEARS LATER IN NOVEMBER 1921.  
.....

LOCAL 478 WAS CHARTERED IN VALPARAISO, IN ON OCTOBER 3, 1919. IT WAS AMALGAMATED WITH LOCAL 697  
.....

LOCAL 91 WAS CHARTERED IN EAST CHICAGO, IN ON APRIL 24, 1934 DURING THE DEPRESSION. IT LASTED ALMOST 6 YEARS GOING DEFUNCT ON FEBRUARY 28, 1940.

LOCAL 550 WAS CHARTERED IN GARY, IN AS A MAINTENANCE LOCAL ON JULY 9, 1937. IT WAS AMALGAMATED INTO LOCAL 697 ON JANUARY 1, 1949 (AND LOCAL 697 THUS BECAME KNOWN AS GARY/HAMMOND)  
.....

LOCAL 1170 WAS CHARTERED IN KENTLAND, IN ON MARCH 1, 1945 AND WENT DEFUNCT ON DECEMBER 30, 1946.  
.....

LOCAL 1440 WAS CHARTERED IN GARY, IN ON DECEMBER 17, 1952. AND WENT DEFUNCT ON AUGUST 16, 1955.  
.....

LOCAL 2082 WAS CHARTERED ON JULY 1, 1960 AND WENT DEFUNCT ON JULY 18, 1972.  
.....

LOCAL 697 WAS GIVEN JURISDICTION IN NEWTON COUNTY IN THE EARLY 1960'S AND CEDED THE PORTER COUNTY JURISDICTION TO LOCAL 531.  
.....

LOCAL 2186 WAS CHARTERED IN HAMMOND ON OCTOBER 1, 1965 AND COVERED MEMBERS WORKING AT THE MEADE ELECTRIC MOTOR/MAGNET AND MACHINE SHOPS. IT WAS AMALGAMATED INTO LOCAL 697 ON JULY 1, 1988.  
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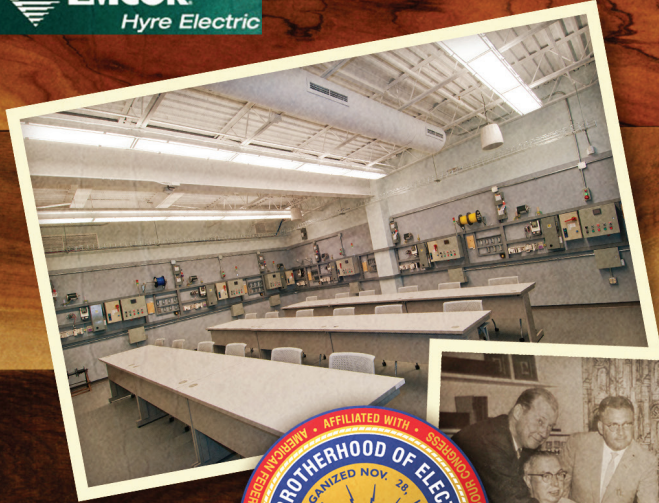
IN DECEMBER OF 2010, LOCAL 697 RELOCATED TO A BRAND-NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART, LEED GOLD FACILITY IN MERRILLVILLE, IN THAT CURRENTLY HOUSES THE LOCAL 697 UNION HALL, APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL, HEALTH & BENEFITS OFFICE AND CREDIT UNION.

LOCAL 697

LOCAL 697



IBEW LOCAL 697



# Electrical Professionals IBEW 697



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