

The IBEW SPARQ

A quarterly newsletter highlighting IBEW values

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Putting IBEW Excellence on Display

At the IBEW, professionalism means different things to different workers. But in every case, it boils down to this: When our superior training and work ethic shine through; when we show our customers and stakeholders what IBEW excellence is all about—that's professionalism.

Professionalism can be showing up for an appointment on time and explaining the problem and how you'll fix it. Or maybe it's putting in that extra effort to satisfy an upset customer when he or she reaches a call center with a problem.

On a construction site, it's putting in a full day's work for a full day's pay and getting the job done right the first time.

For railroad members, professionalism is working safely and in a way that gets passengers and cargo where it's going without disruption.

It's also working together with management in pursuit of common goals and remembering that we're often the public face of the companies we work for.

When our utility members are the first on the ground after a natural disaster, as we saw with the California wildfires and Hurricane Florence last year, we're the professionals helping those in need.

It isn't enough to be competent. Putting our best face forward and showing why we're the right choice for a job is why companies and



Photo credit: Local 1245/John Storey

customers keep coming back to us. They recognize our professionalism.

Another plus for professionalism is that non-union workers notice and want to be a part of it.

East Windsor, N.J., Local 827 recently organized workers at three Altice USA locations in the state—Newark, Lodi and Oakland—which means more than 200 new members when contracts are finalized. The Altice workers noticed the professionalism of IBEW Verizon technicians, who they'd often run into on the job.

Altice has successfully fought attempts to organize at other locations, but credit for Local 827's success goes to persistence and to the newly organized members.

Ultimately, professionalism is about perception. It's about how other people see us and, with the right attitude and a lot of hard work, we can make our IBEW professionalism pay—with higher wages, bigger jobs, better benefits and more work opportunities.



What does SPARQ mean to you? Have an idea for the newsletter? Email theSPARQ@ibew.org



It's About Integrity

Professionalism is the foundational value of who we are as government workers and as IBEW members. We express our professionalism through our beliefs, attitudes and behaviors. As government workers, professionalism is about personal integrity.

Whether as individuals, teams or organizations, we're defined by our attitudes and behaviors. And while it's not al-



ways obvious in the moment, integrity is a personal choice. Each decision we make and action we take as IBEW members reflects on our character—and on that of our IBEW sisters and brothers.

Doing the right thing often requires courage. Sometimes, it requires you to stand up in the face of opposition. But it's these actions that define who we are and how we impact others.

Every day, our sisters and brothers work to the highest standards and with the utmost integrity.

The IBEW's reputation as an organization of highly skilled, highly trained professionals exists because we accept and understand our responsibilities on the job.

We always keep in mind the next person who will open that switch, trace out those cables, operate that controller or assume proper grounding. We remember that we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers.

At the jobsite, at the negotiating table, in our communities and at home, we ask ourselves what professionalism means to us and endeavor to live up to those standards each and every day.

SPARQ GOES LOCAL



The BP Oil Refinery in Whiting, Ind.
Gary and Hammond, Ind., Local 697 made a Code of Excellence presentation for M.J. Electric, a longtime signatory contractor in the area, to secure a bid at the local BP Oil Refinery. The presentation was a success; the contractor went on to use the Code to win the BP bid. The Code resonated, and now IBEW members at M.J. Electric are on the job at the refinery.