

Fed Up With The Fed

by Scotty Pulliam

It's February 5, 2023 and once again the Federal Reserve is raising the prime interest rate another quarter of a percent. The reason, they tell us, is because inflation is still way too high. And *that* is because, according to Republicans, of wage increases and "Bidenflation", something the right-wing made up to lay the blame on Democrats.

Their theory assumes that by raising the interest rates, people will stop borrowing to invest in their businesses, thus slowing down the economy and bringing prices down (or at least something along those lines!). Sounds like a great idea, *except* for the fact that doing so could cost thousands, perhaps millions of American jobs. I went over this a few months ago but this is something that bears repeating.

In simple terms, the basic reasons the United States and the rest of the world are experiencing runaway inflation are pent-up demand for products that were in scarce supply during the pandemic and, more importantly, unrestrained corporate greed. I'm sure there are other, minor contributors to the dilemma but I don't want to muck things up by getting too complicated!

What mystifies me is the incomprehension of the problem by the people who set policies at the Federal Reserve. Now, I don't pretend to know all the ins and outs of the financial world but I do know that the Fed has raised interest rates roughly 4% in the two years since President Biden took office; ostensibly to "cool" the "overheated" economy. My problem with that is, how is a thriving, vibrant economy a bad thing?

It was only two years ago that we were *losing* 250,000 jobs a month because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, consider the jobs report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that came out two days ago. According to the Associated Press, the United States added **517,000** jobs in January and that the unemployment rate dipped to 3.4%, the lowest level since 1969. Keeping in mind that these monthly reports are subject to adjustments, overall for 2022, the average monthly jobs increase was roughly **375,000**. In the real world, that's cause for celebration. In Republican world, that's cause to impeach Biden!

So, I ask again; how is a booming economy, with tremendous job growth, a bad thing? Because...inflation? Think about it. In GOP world and in corporate world, workers having full employment gives them *some* leverage in determining their terms of employment and job conditions. Owners don't like that. Employers are used to having workers under their thumbs and willing to take any job at any level of pay. But since President Biden's policies have gone into effect, a strange phenomenon has occurred. People have become empowered to leave their safe places to seek better positions. Others are organizing unions to improve their lots in life. Suddenly, workers have a voice and they're exercising it!

AHA! That's why we have this inflation monster that's causing the Federal Reserve to slam on the brakes which, by the way, could possibly take us back to double digit unemployment and throw the economy into recession. **WRONG!**

In probably the most obvious, but certainly not the only, example of corporate greed driving inflation, allow me to present just a couple of recent articles from trusted news organizations. The January 27, 2023 USA Today carried a short story buried in a section few people bother to look at. According to wire reports, "Shares of Chevron climbed Thursday after the oil company announced it would repurchase \$75 billion worth of its stock, one of the largest-ever stock buyback plans." While most people may not recognize the significance of such schemes, the following excerpt from an Associated Press article dated February 1, pretty much says it all.

"Exxon Mobil posted record annual profits in 2022 as Americans struggled with high prices for gasoline, home heating and consumer goods. The oil giant brought in \$12.75 billion in profits in the fourth quarter, bringing annual net income

continued on page 2



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February-March, 2023

Business Manager's Report

— Ed Devine IV —

We Won't Back Down

by Kenneth W. Cooper
IBEW International President

As many of you know, I've set a goal of 1 million members for our Brotherhood in the next five years. That would make us larger than we've ever been and about one-third larger than we are today.

How are we going to do that? First, we're going to organize more than ever before: by sharing the story of being a union worker to the nonunion workers and educating employers on the value that being a part of the best-trained, most-qualified electrical union in the world brings to their lives and their businesses. We're just going to do it a lot more aggressively.

But we know not everyone sees the world the way we do. Some employers and contractors are never going to shake the tired old idea that unions are a problem to be fixed or gotten rid of. And in those instances, I have news for them: The IBEW is not going to back down from a fight when the livelihoods of hard-working people are on the line.

I'm talking about fights like the one Vancouver, B.C., Local 213 got into with the telecom giant Leducor a half-decade ago. They took on not just a multibillion-dollar company in a low-union-density industry, but the entire Canadian labor code. After years of struggle, they won a precedent-setting ruling from the nation's labor board that spelled out in no uncertain terms that Leducor was in the wrong.

Too many companies think they can cross every line and break every right our predecessors in the labor movement fought to get, of course with the approval of some union-busting lawyers.

Leducor was given the choice to follow the law and make a profit or break the law and make a little more, and it didn't hesitate to break the law and then fight us for nearly 2,000 days to keep its fist closed.

I'm not saying it's easy. I know that Local 213 Business Manager Jim Lofty, his staff, and the men and women in the First District had some difficult nights and some genuine worry that this fight

was too big for them to wage.

But they didn't have to do it alone. When their need was greatest, the IBEW, the building trades, and dozens of unions and locals across Canada came through with \$300,000 to keep the fight going.

No one else but the IBEW could have taken this to the very end, exhausted every avenue and then beaten them at their game. We could not have done it alone, but the labor movement turned to us to pick up the spear.

And now the First District is looking at the realistic possibility of national anti-scab legislation.

Labor unions' popularity has grown in the last decade as working people see how vulnerable they are, but the union movement needs to do more to capitalize on this sentiment.

If we are going to represent nonunion workers' trust, we have to work hard for all hard-working families.

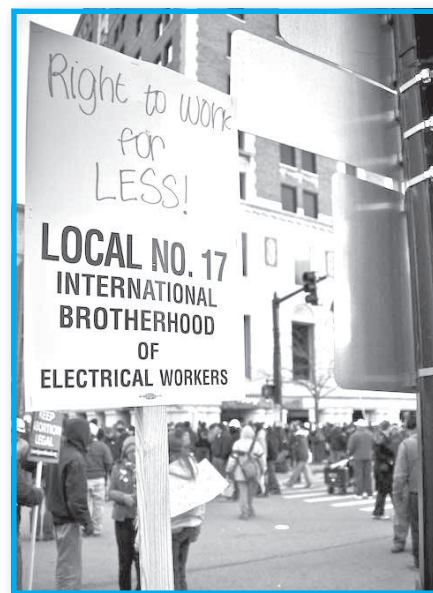
We have to prove to them that their fights are our fights, and can be won.

Michigan Senate Votes To Repeal 'Right To Work,' Reinstate PLAs

The Michigan House passed a similar package of three bills on March 8. The Senate made changes to two of them, so they will be sent back to the House for a final vote. But that is considered a mere formality. The House is expected to approve them in the next few days, and they will be sent to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who has pledged to sign them.

Michigan will become just the third state to repeal a right-to-work law and the first in nearly six decades. Indiana repealed its right-to-work law in 1965, although it passed a new one in 2012 that remains in effect. New Hampshire repealed its right-to-work law in 1949, and attempts to reinstate it have failed since.

"I thank our Michigan members who voted for candidates that made this happen," International President Kenneth W. Cooper said. "This is a sign of what is possible when we



elect public officials who support our values. I look forward to celebrating when right to work is officially repealed and PLAs are reinstated."

The Senate voted 20-17 to approve the bills, and like in the House, it was strictly along party lines, with Democrats all voting yes and Republicans voting no.

"Today, we are showing the world that Michigan is not only where we make things and build things, it's where the people who do so are respected," state Sen. Darren Camilleri of Trenton said, according to the Detroit News.

Democrats gained control of the Michigan House and Senate in last November's election, giving them control of both the legislature and the governor's mansion for the first time since 1984. The state has had had a right-to-work law since 2013 — after the GOP-controlled

continued on page 3



Women's Caucus Meeting in Louisville.



Women's Caucus Meeting in Lexington.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

by Steve Peters, President
**PRO Act Back As A Barometer
For Labor-Friendly Lawmakers**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The labor-friendly PRO Act resurfaced last month for the third time in Congress, but it's almost

certain to revisit the same legislative graveyard as the measure did when it was introduced in 2021 and then in 2022.

Key lawmakers on worker rights' issues – Senate Labor Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, (Ind.-Vt.) and Rep. Bobby Scott

(D-Va.) – introduced the newest version of the Protect The Right To Organize (PRO) Act on Feb. 28.

“Joining a union should be a right, not a fight,” said Scott, alluding to the roadblocks bosses erect against organizing drives, al-

most all of which the PRO Act would outlaw.

Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., vowed to push it on the Senate floor once Sanders's committee finishes its
continued on page 3

Electrical Training

by Robert Shelton, Training Coordinator

In March and April, we plan to conduct in-person Electrical License Continuing Education Classes along with the online classes. March and April, the in-person classes will be held on Saturdays and the online classes will be held on Tuesdays. When you call to sign up for a class, please specify which class you want to take.

We will use Zoom to conduct the online classes and each person will have to have video and audio capabilities to participate. Please call

our office at (502) 581-9210 for details and to sign up for the classes.

If you want to try out a Zoom connection or check out your computer, camera, or audio prior to an online class, please call Robert Shelton at (502) 314-6933. If this is something you want to do, please do not wait until the last minute.

The first Tuesday Code Update Class and the first Saturday Code Update Class of each month will include two-hours of NFPA 70e Training. The NFPA 70e Training will count as continuing education for the electrical license

as well as refresher training for the NFPA 70e Certification.

The cost for a Code Update Class is \$8 per hour. A three-hour Code Class will cost \$24. (\$48 for the full 6-hours)

The following classes will be held online using Zoom:

1. (Online) Code Review, Tuesday, March 7, 2023, from 5:00 pm till 8:00 pm (3 hours credit)
2. (Online) Code Review, Tuesday, March 21, 2023, from 5:00 pm till 8:00 pm (3 hours credit)
3. (Online) Code Review, Tuesday, April 11, 2023, from 5:00 pm till 8:00 pm (3 hours credit)
4. (Online) Code Review, Tuesday, April 18, 2023, from 5:00 pm till 8:00 pm (3 hours credit)

The following classes will be held in person:

1. (In-Person) Code Review, Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 8:00 am till 11:00 am (3 hours credit)
2. (In-Person) Code Review, Saturday, March 18, 2023, from 8:00 am till 11:00 am (3 hours credit)
3. (In-Person) Code Review, Saturday, April 8, 2023, from 8:00 am till 11:00 am (3 hours credit)
4. (In-Person) Code Review, Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 8:00 am till 11:00 am (3 hours credit)

Fed Up With The Fed

continued from page 1

to \$55.7 billion.” In other words, while everyday people are struggling to meet their obligations, the big boys are doing just fine, thank you. Not because they *earned* it but simply because they *can*. And, of course, Democrats take the blame thanks to the right-wing noise machine!

The actual, factual information is out there for those who will simply look for it. The actions being taken by the Fed are only going to hurt the people who are already being squeezed by artificially inflated prices and the corporations will

keep on raking in record profits. A good solution would be for Congress to levy a tax on windfall profits but the odds of that happening are about the same as me winning the Powerball jackpot. Not holding my breath!



St. Patrick's Parade.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March — April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27 RENEW Meeting at 5:30 P.M. Union Meeting 7:00 P.M.	28	29	30 AA Meeting 7:30 P.M.	31	1
2	3 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 P.M.	4	5	6 AA Meeting 7:30 P.M.	7	8
9 EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING 12:00 P.M.	10 Rod & Gun Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. Minority Caucus 7:00 P.M.	11	12	13 AA Meeting 7:30 P.M.	14	15
16	17 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 P.M.	18	19	20 AA Meeting 7:30 P.M.	21	22
23	24 RENEW Meeting at 5:30 P.M. Union Meeting 7:00 P.M.	25	26 Retiree Meeting 11:00 A.M.	27 AA Meeting 7:30 P.M.	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

IBEW Benefit Funds Get New Leader Focused On Growth

For years, Larry Bradley was the steady hand behind the funds managed jointly by the IBEW and the union's partners at the National Electrical Contractors Association: the National Electric Benefit Fund, or NEBF; the National Electrical Annuity Plan, or NEAP; the Family Medical Care Plan, or FMCP; and the National Electric 401(k) Plan, or NEFP.

Now, he's stepping down, replaced by Darrin Golden, the IBEW's former — and first ever — chief of staff.

"Your hard-earned benefits are a promise that we'll take care of you and your family in sickness and retirement," said International President Kenneth W. Cooper. "You trust us to make sure the people managing your benefits have your best interests at heart, so we worked

hard to make this transition go as smoothly as possible."

Bradley announced his intent to retire eight months ahead of time, allowing Golden the opportunity to get up to speed.

"Larry's been a great teacher during this transition," said Golden, a member of Rockford, Ill., Local 364 who has worked at the International Office in Washington, D.C., for nearly 10 years. "He's always on the other end of the phone when I call."

For almost eight decades, the NEBF has been a traditional pension, or defined-benefit retirement plan, for inside wiremen. Through wise investments, the fund has become one of the most robust multi-employer plans in the U.S. The latest figures show more than 648,000

IBEW members participating, with just over 164,000 retirees or surviving spouses receiving benefits.

Established in 1973, the defined-contribution NEAP, geared primarily to outside wire and utility members, helps the IBEW provide supplemental retirement, disability and other benefits. Recent figures show that the NEAP has almost 153,000 participants.

The FMCP was launched in 2006 to help give members and their families comprehensive, low-cost health care benefits, providing locals and signatory contractors an alternative to offering the benefit themselves. At last count, the FMCP represents 185 locals, 254 bargaining units and 437 single-employer organizations —

including seven Fortune 500 companies. This translates to just over 106,000 member and family participants from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Guaranteeing a secure future requires multiple tools and strategies, so the IBEW inaugurated the NEFP in 2008 as a way for members and signatory employers to boost their retirement savings through a traditional 401(k) plan.

Golden has an impressive resume. After serving four years in the U.S. Navy, he followed his father into the IBEW. He was initiated into the union in 1991 but spent another four years in the Navy Reserve during his apprenticeship, using the G.I. Bill to help pay for night classes.

— *edited for space ibew.org*



continued from page 2

hearings and work on the measure. Then it will go to the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, where it will likely be buried before even getting a committee hearing. But bringing it up is a useful tool for organized labor to show who their friends are in Congress.

The PRO Act is a veritable wish list for union organizers. Passage would override all right-to-work laws in the 26 states where they exist, including Michigan.

The PRO Act would also:

- Mandate instant recognition by employers of union majority votes for representation;
- Impose mandatory mediation and arbitration on bosses who stall on reaching a first contract;
- Outlaw the hiring of replacement workers.

- Grant immediate reinstatement of their jobs for any illegally fired workers (if the NLRB rules that way).

- Make it easier for the National Labor Relations Board to go to court for injunctions against law-breakers. If the board can't or won't, workers could sue for enforcement.

- Make illegal the captive audience meetings bosses and their union-busters now use to harangue workers.

- Allow union recognition elections be off-site, by mail or electronically, not just at the plant, office or shop, where bosses can illegally spy.

- Outlaw bosses' "gerrymandering" of union elections, by either challenging which workers could vote and/or stuffing the rolls with anti-union workers, in advance.

- Write into law the NLRB's definition of a "joint employer" where both the headquar-

ters and a local franchise-holder are responsible for obeying, or breaking, labor law. Bosses, supervisors, CEOs and line managers would all be liable for the fines for labor law-breaking. So would so-called "persuaders," aka union-busters.

- Curb or ban the various dodges bosses use to throw people out of unions, such as misclassifying them as "independent contractors" or arbitrarily promoting workers to be "supervisors" but without hire-and-fire and other key responsibilities. It narrows who's a supervisor, too.

Notorious union hater Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), denounced the PRO Act as written by "Big Labor." She vowed "the demands of union bosses will stop" in her House Education and the Workforce Committee. And speakers at the kickoff event for the legislation warned of intense loath-

ing, backed by money, from the corporate class.

That didn't faze Scott, Sanders, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY.) or AFL-CIO President Liz Schumer, who spoke at what was officially a press conference but sounded more like a pro-worker rally.

Given today's weak labor laws and corporate hatred of unions, "taking a risk" to unionize "is an act of courage," explained Shuler. "It shouldn't be."

Said Sanders: "The American people are sick and tired of unprecedented corporate greed and union-busting. The average CEO makes 400 times what the average worker makes."

The PRO Act, he predicted, is the most-effective way to reduce that gap.

— *(Mark Gruenberg, PAI staff writer, contributed)*

Michigan Senate Votes To Repeal 'Right To Work,' Reinstate PLAs

continued from page 1

legislature forced the law through without the normal committee hearings — and it repealed its PLA law in 2018.

Jeannette Bradshaw, registrar for Detroit Local 58, testified in favor of the project labor agreement laws before a House committee on March 8, reminding legislators that the higher pay will help retain skilled construction workers. Michigan, like the rest of the United States, has faced a shortage of skilled construction workers for years.

"As more people move into the building and construction industry, shouldn't we pay those workers for the training and expertise they have, regardless of whether or not they're represented by a union?" she said.

Right-to-work laws incentivize workers to reap the benefits of a collectively bargained agreement without contributing their share of the costs of negotiating or enforcing that agreement. Supporters have dubiously painted these laws as a matter of choice, but they are routinely used to squash the power of working families and drive down wages and benefits.

Project labor agreements ensure that workers on publicly funded projects are paid at the fair market value. They ensure good, family-supporting wages for workers and that work is finished on time and at a high level. They apply to both union and non-union workers.

Right-wing and corporate interests have used the repeal of project labor agreements to undercut the wages for construction workers.

They also put public projects at increased risk of not being done on time, leading to increased costs.

The Michigan House chamber was packed with union members and their allies during

the vote. They broke into applause afterward.

"The votes being taken in Lansing are a huge victory for working people, and I look forward to congratulating Gov. Whitmer when she signs these important bills later this

month," Cooper said. "But this is just the start. Let this be a message to all the states still putting up roadblocks to fair wages and fair representation for working people. We're watching, and we're not stopping with Michigan."

Anniversary List February-March 2023

FEBRUARY

5 YEARS

- Samuel P. Anderson
- Ryan M. Ciolek
- Joseph Clavel
- Stephen M. Doss
- Eric R. Friend
- David J. Glaab
- Romone L. Grundy
- Logan J. Hoskins
- Zachary M. Jameson
- Brandon D. Kaberle
- Christopher S. Kitchen
- Ethan W. Spurlock
- Dalton L. Terry
- Kaelin A. Wigge

10 YEARS

- Chad W. Ferrill
- Nicholas T. Meurer
- Cory A. Poldberg

15 YEARS

- Adam Bockting
- Jason Breeding
- Ethan Clark
- Douglas Ettl
- Steven A. Harper
- Ronald J. Hicks
- Joseph A. Hornback
- Heath A. Mayes
- Allen G. Priddy
- James C. Reeves
- Dustin W. Stephens

- John E. Strong
- Anthony T. Whelan

20 YEARS

- William L. Byrge
- Wesley W. Smith

25 YEARS

- Jason Freize

30 YEARS

- Craig R. Hubbard

35 YEARS

- Keith B. Hunley
- Anthony J. Marks
- Robert B. Prater

40 YEARS

- Garry Crume

MARCH

5 YEARS

- Arthur D. Ashby
- Aaron U. Bailey
- Roger A. Barnes
- Gabriel I. Bryant
- Nathan M. Clark
- Jessey K. Conn
- Chimera L. Dennis
- Byron C. Dupin
- Kevin T. Frantz
- Jared V. Hinkson

- Jeremy W. Hornback
- Courtney L. Hornbeak
- Archie D. Jackson
- Zachary D. Jasinski
- Tanya N. Johnson
- Gordon N. Jones
- Kevin M. Korte
- Jeff T. Lindsey
- Patrick T. Lyons
- Zachary L. Moran
- John E. Shepherd
- Brent S. Strange
- Patrick H. Taylor
- Jacob L. Ward
- Clay S. Welsh

10 YEARS

- Jordan J. Bennett
- Christopher A. Carter
- Carson D. Cupps
- Kevin P. Muse
- Harold E. Neely
- Michael T. Salois
- William V. Ware

15 YEARS

- Don L. Crenshaw
- Scott Deckard
- Ronald L. Lovell
- Johnathan D. Mansfield
- Robert R. Marshall
- Wade R. Prather
- Victor M. Rivera

- Jeff P. Westenhofer
- Jonathan C. Zammit

20 YEARS

- Judy A. Underwood
- Robert P. Williams

25 YEARS

- Ronald W. Bickelman
- Ronnie E. Blanton
- Andrew L. Caudill
- Robert G. Dewitt
- Steve Hopkins
- David A. Moran
- Keith E. Owens
- Lawrence H. Skaggs
- William F. Skaggs
- Kevin L. Thornberry
- Michael G. Todd

30 YEARS

- Robert A. Hart
- Charles M. Matthews

35 YEARS

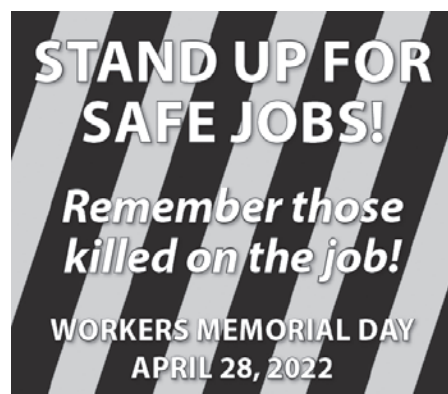
- Preston F. Johnson

40 YEARS

- William L. Brown

45 YEARS

- Scott T. Fowler
- Arnold L. Hornback



Rest in Peace

Brother Gary A. Lee passed away December 22, 2022. He initiated with Local 369 on April 5, 1972. He was 70 years old.

Brother Stephen E. Ernst passed away January 6, 2023. He initiated with Local 369 on May 24, 1971. He was 71 years old.

Brother Fred W. Nix passed away January 11, 2023. He initiated with Local 369 on July 18, 1953. He was 92 years old.

Brother Therone Mooney passed away January 11, 2023. He initiated with Local 58 on December 19, 1967. He was 88 years old.

Brother Robert Hart passed away January 20, 2023. He initiated with Local 183 on April 12, 1975. He was 70 years old.

Brother Robert L. Burke passed away January 10, 2023. He initiated with Local 369 on May 1, 1979. He was 75 years old.

Brother Walter L. Courtney passed away February 10, 2023. He initiated with Local 183 on November 17, 1951. He was 88 years old.

Brother Ronald E. Thompson passed away March 7, 2023. He initiated with Local 369 on July 29, 1980. He was 78 years old.

The membership expresses its sympathies to the families of these respected members of Local Union 369.

Website Up And Running

The new website is up and running. www.ibewlocal369.com. The user name is your last name, and the password is your union card number.

DO YOU HAVE A NEW ADDRESS?

If you move, please make sure you let the financial office know so we can update your records and make sure you get all mailings and *Stand By's*.



Pension Applicant's For February-March

FEBRUARY

Stephen Blake Jerry Johnson

MARCH

Michael Bentrup Alan Klimchak
Matthew McCarty Timothy Schnell



Under The Weather

Larry Bickel
Terry Bishop
Samuel Lambert
Ed Hulsman

Bob Bartsch
Sam Melton
Greg Lawther
Andrew Caudill



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Dues Duds March 2023

Robert T. Cheshire	Joseph A. Greet	Matthew D. Pickup
Jarrold L. Combs	Anthony T. Joaquin	John R. Simms Jr.
Clinton Diven	Eric W. Kays	Kiah D. Stephenson
James Fields	Lamar M. Kendrick	Tyler L. Sturgeon
Raymond R. Fox	Anthony P. Napier	Steven W. Swisher
Demetrius Gray	Jacob B. Parsons	Andrew W. Switzer



It's A Boy!

Member Adam Chumbley and his wife Brittany welcomed a baby boy on February 2, 2023,

Grant William Chumbley



Golf League News

by Chris Williamson, Commissioner

Golf season is right around the corner! The tentative start date for the league will be Thursday, May 11th. We will be playing at Heritage Hill Golf Course in Shepherdsville on Thursdays at 5:30PM. The league is a 2-man team format, so ideally, we would like everyone to have a partner. If you do not have a partner, we will try to pair you up. If interested, the deadline to sign-up will be Friday, April 7th.

We will have a kick-off dinner at the hall, Thursday, April 27th to officially register, meet everyone, eat dinner, have a beverage, get schedules, etc. League fee is \$35 and each week will be \$31 to play (\$26 to course and \$5 to prize pot). Heritage Hill is letting Local 369 have the front nine to ourselves this year, so we can expand the league to 60 players! However, 60 players will be the max we can have, so please don't hesitate to sign-up!

You can contact me at the hall 502-368-2568 or email me cwilliamson@ibewlocal369.com **NO LATER than Friday, April 7th.** We have to have teams in place by then so we can have schedules made.

Thanks!

YOU CAN'T SPELL UNION

