

IBEW Local Union 840 Geneva, New York is a small local union of roughly 400 members in an area called the Finger Lakes Region in Central New York. It is located between its two larger sister local unions IBEW Local 86 Rochester to the west and IBEW Local 43 Syracuse to the east. IBEW Locals 241 Ithaca and 139 Elmira to the south and it is bordered on the north by Lake Ontario the largest of the Great Lakes.

Local 840's history is one of a small local union surviving by doing the small maintenance, repair and renovation projects of local manufacturing and commercial facilities. IBEW Local 840 has 22 school districts in its jurisdiction. Ten of the school districts have under gone major school additions and renovations beginning in 1960s. Also located in the jurisdiction are 5 major hospitals which all have under gone additions and renovations. These construction projects have kept many of LU 840 members employed through out the years. It seems like every year there are always school renovations on the dodge reports. At the present there are several school districts with renovation plans and hospitals with ongoing renovations.

Occasionally larger projects in the area gave employment opportunity to traveling brothers and sisters. As we travel through the 100 years of IBEW Local Union 840 you will see that there were times when work in the area was sparse. Past history keeping was, as you might expect from a small local was practically non existence. The committee has researched the local newspapers and historical society for information. The committee has put together a time line of projects and notable events of the local as follows.

At the turn of the century Geneva was a busy small city located on Seneca Lake. As noted in several publications of the Geneva Federation of Labor Geneva had many Labor organizations active in the city. There are two letters that depict the areas labor activity in the early 1900s. The first a letter dated June 18, 1905 from the Geneva Federation of Labor comprising of 25 labor organizations in association with the Try-City Labor Day Association representing the cities of Auburn, Canandaigua and Geneva soliciting for advertisements for a Labor Day celebration. The second a letter dated March 27, 1913 from the Geneva Federation of Labor seeking to sell tickets for the services of Mr. John Mitchell a noted labor leader to give an address at the Smith Opera House in Geneva.

On October 18, 1918 I.C. Gilkey and Kenneth Carroll filed a charter application with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The

charter was granted for October 25, 1918. The charter members were Irving C. Gilkey, Robert Bramble, Nelson Green, William Baxter, Kenneth D. Carroll, William Harrison Beach, R.K. Belden, S.E. McMillien, Clifford B. Smith, George W. Bridger, Walter H. Hosking, Charles H. Allen and Charles H. Holliday. By letter dated October 24, 1918 to M.F. Tracy (the committee assumes Brother Tracy was the I/O Representative) from International Secretary C. Ford assigning serial card numbers to Local 840. Included were supplies for the Financial Secretary, instructions and bond application and per capita reports.

After the charter was issued there is very little correspondence on file and the information from the International shows that in 1918 Kenneth D. Carroll was Financial Secretary and W.H. Beach was Recording Secretary there were no Presidents listed for local 840. In 1919 Walt W. Hosking was Recording Secretary and Kenneth D. Carroll was Financial Secretary. In 1920 Loren Ward was the Recording Secretary and Walt W. Hosking was the Financial Secretary from 1920 through 1923. In 1921 Loren Ward was Recording Secretary and Walt Hosking who was the Financial Secretary must have written a letter to the International concerning permission for a strike approval. By letter dated July 14, 1921 from International Secretary C. Ford addressed the Local by saying we have come to the conclusion that it would be improper to approve a strike until every means have been exhausted to prevent it, and bring about a peaceable adjustment, if such is possible. We therefore believe that if the employers refuse arbitration, or the electrical contractors decline to submit the matter to the National Labor Council for decision, your members will profit by accepting the fifty cents per day reduction. In 1922-1923 Elmer Switzer took over as Recording Secretary. In 1923 William J. Maher became a member and a contractor for Local 840. This is significant because Maher Electric was a Local contractor and served on the NECA and Local 840 trust funds until 1998. At a spring Dinner Dance in 1993 Business Manager Lawrence N. Davis presented to Richard Maher and William E. Maher their father William J. Maher's 70 year pin. William Maher and his 4 sons Robert, Richard, William and Tom were all members of LU 840. Their sons Richard, William, Dan, Michael and Mat all became members of Local 840. From 1923 until 1931 Local 840's history is not documented. In 1930 it is of note that F.J Betty was the first Business Manager of Local 840 as the position was created. F.J. Beatty served as Business Manager until 1937.

In June 1929 the federal government solicited cities and towns in Western New York to vie for a Veterans Hospital. Canandaigua which means the Chosen Spot in Iroquois, was selected by the Federal Board of Hospitalization as the site for a Veterans Administration Hospital. On June 21, 1931 ground was broken for the new VA Hospital. Another 346 adjoining acres were acquired from various properties in 1931 and 16 additional were purchased in 1944.

The original buildings included the administration building 1, the dining room and kitchen building 2, the ward buildings 3 and 4, the recreation building 5, laundry, warehouse, central heating plant, attendant's quarters, sewage pump house, garage and gatehouse all done in the Tudor style and constructed of concrete and brick masonry. In 1936 using Public Works funding construction began on buildings 6, 7, 8 and 9. The hospital did not reach its present size until 1944 after construction of buildings 33, 34, 36 and 37. The Building Trades and IBEW Local 840 benefited from the construction and later expansion of the Veterans Hospital for many years. Now in 2018 144 million dollar Phase 1 expansion of the Veterans Hospital to include a new Outpatient Care clinic, a 120 bed community living center, renovation of an existing 50 bed domiciliary facility and several existing buildings for medical, administrative, and logistical services. Renovations of Buildings 1 and 2 along with construction of a 3 story building to accommodate spatial layouts necessary for PACT care model. Construction of a new chiller and Emergency generator plant, loading dock at building 9 and upgrade to existing site utilities. Phase 2 additional 191 million dollar for demo for 2 structures to provide space for the construction of 10 single story, cottage style CLC structures with a centralized community center. Renovation of Buildings 3 and 4 and building 9 to accommodate domiciliary facilities. Installation of a centralized HVAC system in the building 5 campus auditorium. Partial renovation of 5 existing buildings needed for patient functions. This project has a projected completion date of 2022. This project will provide many employment opportunities for Local 840 members in the future.

In 1937 the construction of the Dresden Power House coal fired plant by NYSEG began with construction of Units of 1 and 2. This was followed by construction of Unit 3 in 1950 and unit 4 in 1953. The 6 coal fired boilers provided steam to 4 turbine generators. In 1985 2 turbines and 3 boilers were taken off line. AES purchased the Dresden Power house in 1999. In 2006 AES started a 50 million construction project to retrofit to clean coal technology and in 2009 installed equipment to burn 10% biomass. In 2009 1

more turbine and a boiler were taken off line. Due to the low cost of energy in 2011 AES close the plant. In 2014 Atlas Holdings purchased the plant and converted it to Natural gas. As you can see Dresden Power house has had a long and varied history. During construction and the many renovations and conversions the plant has employed many of our contractors and members.

In 1938 Earl Finzar became Business Manager and served the membership through the busy construction period of 1938 through 1945. During that time the Seneca Army Depot and the Sampson Navy Base was constructed and the manpower requirements for those projects were hard to fill during the war effort. In 1946 W.J. Butler became Business Manager followed by Robert J. Blake in 1947, Charles E. Theise in 1948 and 49 and Albert F. Lawrence in 1950 and 51. In 1952 Charles E. Theise was again elected Business Manager and served until 1963.

In 1940 there were fifteen labor organizations in the city of Geneva. Flour and cereal workers, Optical workers, Barbers, Bricklayers, Carpenters and Joiners, Electricians, The Federation of Labor, Laborers, Meat Cutters, Moulders, Painters and Decorators, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Railway Clerks, Stage Employers and Stove Mounters. Six of the organizations were Building Trades, Bricklayers, Carpenters and Jointers, Electricians, Laborers, Plumbers and Steamfitters and Painters and Decorators. Today the only labor organization left in Geneva from that era is the IBEW Local Union 840.

In 1940 the Electricians Union was made up of twenty members. They were led by President Stewart McMillen and Secretary Treasurer R.C. Bramble. In the publication, Geneva Federation of Labor, under the heading IBEW Local Union 840 was the statement:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was organized November 28, 1891. Local Union 840 of the IBEW was granted its charter October 25, 1918, with a charter membership of 13 men. At the time of organizing the wage scale was 62 and ½ cents per hour but by gradual increases the present scale has been attained. Local Union 840 was organized as a protective measure to the workers and for the good of the trade in general in Geneva and vicinity. This year's roll call is larger than any previous year, and the citizens who know their work is being done by men of this organization are satisfied that they are getting a good job. At least 30 minutes of each meeting is devoted to a discussion of the various problems which confront the membership of the Local Union thereby

permitting a free discussion of these problems, and a general exchange of ideas. This policy has been found very profitable from an educational standpoint, with the resultant betterment of the trade for all persons concerned.

Members IBEW Local Union 840 1940

Stewart McMillen President, R.C. Bramble Secretary Treasurer, George Bridges, Jay Cochrane, Richard Dadson, A. De Niro, W.M. Gelder, Irving Gilkie, Nelson Green, M. Harr, R. Heller, Roy Hobson, Walter Hosking, Werner Kaiser, W. J. Kennedy, William Maher, Emmet L. Murray, O.S. Perry, Ernest Thayer and Clarence Tones.

Statement made by President Lyons at the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the New York State Federation of Labor in 1940.

President Lyons declared that “the labor movement of this state whole heartedly supports a program of national defense as the means of keeping us out of war” We pledge ourselves to fight to our last breath for the continuance of our democratic institutions and the preservation of our rights, dignity and position which organized labor has achieved for itself in this country”.

This declaration of support for National Defense became a reality for the construction trades of Geneva in 1941. On June 10, 1941 the United States selected 10,587 acres in Seneca County as a munitions storage and disposal facility. One Hundred farm families were dispossessed of their properties and relocated. On July 9, 1941 construction began on the Seneca Army Depot. In addition to the construction of administration buildings, barracks, warehouse, storage facilities and housing the construction of 500 igloos for ammunition storage were constructed. The construction of the 500 igloos took place between August 21 thru November 13<sup>th</sup>. During the months of July thru November the manpower peaked at 8800 workers.

During the 1940s the Army stored radioactive materials in connection with the Manhattan Project in igloos Eo800 through Eo811, on the south end of the Depot. Despite no formal confirmation from the Department of Defense, it was know that during the cold war the depot held the largest stockpile of Army weapons in the country.

After the war the facility continued to be used as a munitions storage facility as well as a rehabilitation facility for military equipment and storage. The

Depot provided many opportunities for the construction trades until it closed in September of 2000.

Just west of the depot on Seneca Lake in 1942 the United States Navy established a Naval Training Station (USNTS Sampson). The Navy obtained 2,600 acres of former farmland and vineyards for the facility in the east side of Lake Seneca. Construction of the facility took 270 days to complete. Along with the training station, a 1,500 bed hospital was constructed. The mission of the USNTS Sampson was naval basic training for a large number of new recruits. During the war over 411,000 recruits were trained at the station.

At the end of the war USNTS Sampson was closed and turned over to the War Assets Administration in 1946. Most of the facility was taken over by New York State which planned to establish a two year junior community college on the facility, keeping most of the buildings and using it as a campus. The USN Hospital was eventually taken over by the state of New York renaming it the Willard State Hospital Sampson Annex in 1947. The Willard Hospital provided many construction jobs on maintenance, repair and renovation until it closed in 1995. In 2006 the Willard Hospital complex was converted to the Willard Shock camp detention center providing jobs for renovation and later for the replacement of the electrical system throughout the campus.

Sampson was used by NYS for use as a temporary college for 9,000 GI bill students. In July 1946 5 barracks were moved to Hobart College in Geneva, NY and 7 were moved to Syracuse University. Sampson College operated from September 1946 to June 1949 and had matriculated 7,500 students of which 950 received two year degrees. During this time Sampson provided many jobs for the construction trades from Geneva.

With the outbreak of the Korean War the United States Air Force took interest in the former Naval Station for use as a Basic Military Training Base most of the property of the training center was transferred to the Air Force in 1950. The Air Force spent about 6 million on renovations and beginning in February 1951 started training 16,000 Air Force recruits. The Air Force also built a runway and other facilities and converted the base to its needs. By 1953 a single paved 5000 foot runway was completed and a control tower, fire station and aircraft parking were built.

The construction trades as well as other labor organizations were involved in the war effort. For those that did not serve construction jobs were plentiful

and the local unions thrived during this period. As you can see the 1930's, 1940's and early 1950's were busy times in Geneva and the Finger Lakes.

In the 1960's through the 1990's Local 840 relied on small local contractors for employment. Bergen Electric, J&E Electric in Auburn and Maher Electric, Sullivan Electric and Haag Electric in Geneva were the local contractors that made up the Geneva Division of the Rochester Chapter NECA. About 50% of the work was performed by traveling contractors such as Vanderlinde, T.H. Green, Hendler Electric, Billiter Electric and O'Connell Electric.

The early 1960's were slow times for the LU 840 construction members. Other than the normal small projects the work was slow and our members had to travel. In 1965 the Eisenhower College project was started. The construction phase took place between 1965 and 1968. This was a new campus complete with classrooms, gymnasium, administration buildings and housing. While the latter part of the 1960s was jump started with Eisenhower College Himrod N.Y. and the Morton Salt Co. finished it off and gave a great start to the 1970s. In February 1969 work began with the construction of the salt mine shafts and subsequent towers to gain access to the salt layer. The work was hard to get down 2000 feet under the surface where the salt deposit lays. The two circular shafts 12 to 18 feet in circumference were dug simultaneously with two separate crews of workers who worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When the salt layer was reached, excavation began to make a large cavernous room, the maintenance room that linked the two shafts together. This room provided space for the needs of the miners and all the necessary equipment and machines that are used in mining. Once the under ground work was complete, the above ground temporary headframe which facilitated the construction of the shafts was removed and work began to build the permanent headframes(towers). The two headframe towers were 126 feet and 225 feet tall. The larger tower was the production shaft. This was where the salt would be hauled up to the surface using large electrically operated hoist. The shorter shaft was for the transportation of the miners and equipment. But most important the headframe towers also had electrical lines, water pipes and air circulation fans. As the headframes were being constructed the construction of the necessary above ground buildings was started. Construction of the offices, changing house, mill production building, storage buildings, railcar switchyard and the electrical substation began. Down on Severne Point on Lake Seneca the pump house was built and all the necessary electrical lines,

water lines and booster pumps were laid in place up the west slope of Seneca Lake to provide the mine with a supply of water needed in the mining operation. In late 1971 when construction was complete mining vehicles and equipment were lowered down the shafts to the maintenance room. The vehicles consisted of caterpillars, front end loaders, bull dozers, personnel carriers and other equipment. This was all dismantled above ground, loaded onto the elevators in the shaft towers and lowered into the mine and then reassembled. Why was this noted in Local 840s history because in 1969 Business Manager Ed Bolger applied to the International to have Local 840 accept "B" members. Business Manager Bolger then organized approximately 50 members into Local 840. These maintenance members were instrumental in helping the mine get operational and providing maintenance for the mining operation. Unfortunately on May 18, 1976 a staff meeting was called by the Morton Salt executives and everyone was told that the mine production was to cease immediately. No explanation was given and the members were left without jobs. Some of the electricians continued with Local 840 as construction members.

On November 1, 1972 the Auburn Local, IBEW Local 394 Auburn, New York, was merged into Local 840 Geneva, New York. At the time of the merger Local 394 had 47 members. According to the final LM-3 filed with the Department of Labor there were two Business Managers listed for the reporting period, Wilber Osborne and Dennis Zack, Robert Mott was the Financial Secretary, Maynard Greule was the Treasurer and Carl Sanford was the President. By letter dated November 9, 1972 from International Vice-President A.R. Johnson to International President Charles Pillard the local was amalgamated on November 1, 1972. A copy of the letter was sent to International Representative J. Barry and Local 840 Business Manager Ed Bolger.

Ed Bolger was Business Manger of LU 840 from 1964 until 1985. In the 1970's, three major construction projects kept our members busy. The Miller Bottling Plant in Auburn and the Auburn Steel Mill both major new construction projects. Both of these projects continue to employ our members today as they continue to employ us on shut downs and renovations. The third major project of the 70's was Clinton Corn. This was a major renovation of the old Pepsico sugar beet plant in Montezuma. This was a major project for the Standard Brands cooperation from Idaho. After the plant was completed it never went into production and still stands idle



today. As these major projects came to a close in the late 70's LU 840 went through a period of high unemployment well into the mid 1980's. While the local experienced high unemployment the majority of the members of the local gained employment by working at the construction of the nuclear plant, Nine Mile two in IBEW Local 328 Oswego, NY. The project and most of the contractors were working over time for several years. Local 840 member Mike Usowski contracted a bus that left from Auburn at 5:30 AM seven days a week and returned at 8:30 PM. The bus was always full of construction men from all trades.

In 1986 Lawrence N. Davis was elected Business Manager to replace long time Business Manager Ed Bolger. Because of the high unemployment for so many years Local 840 and its trust funds were in severe financial shape. The local's general fund and the health and welfare fund were close to bankrupt. After meeting with International Representative Al Minkler and being told the local was being considered for merger Business Manager Davis ask if he could put a plan together to save the local. After discussions with IBEW Vice President Jack Barry, Representative Minkler gave Business Manager Davis the go ahead to present a plan to him to give to Vice President Barry for approval. These negotiations if you will started in July of 1986 and in August Vice President Barry gave his approval. The plan was as follows. 1. Asses each member \$100.00 to replenish the general fund for immediate bills, 2. increase the working dues assessment 1% to 4% total, 3. increase the basic monthly dues to \$6.03 and 4. take \$.75 from the wage and put it in the health and welfare fund contribution to make it solvent. Another problem Business Manager Davis faced was that the health and welfare fund was a self insured fund with a stop loss of \$25,000. Business Manager Davis negotiated an insured plan with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. To make the plan more manageable and affordable self insured benefits such as eye, dental, hearing and co-pays were added. In Late 1986 the fortunes of Local 840 took a turn for the better. In July a shut down at the Dresden Power House and a shut down at the Auburn Central New York Bottling plant got underway. These two major projects were instrumental in getting Local 840 headed in the right direction financially. In early 1987 the bottling plant and Dresden continued to employ our members. In late 1987 a shutdown at the Auburn Steel Mill continued the good employment opportunities for the Local 840 members. On the heels of the Steel Mill project the Moravia Prison, a 1500 bed facility began construction. This project employed many of our members into late 1988. Moravia Prison coupled with many other projects in the area allowed Local 840 to offer

employment to many traveling brothers and sisters. The good work continued through 1989 with projects such as expansion at Thompson Hospital in Canandaigua, Labelon expansion and the clean room project at Xerox in Canandaigua. In late 1989 and through the middle of 1992 projects such as another shut down at the Central New York Bottle plant, the building of a new Canandaigua High School and a new Middle school, a new Wegman's store and a new Topps store in Geneva helped keep our members busy with only short times of unemployment. In the middle of 1992 Geneva experienced again the boom and bust cycle that all construction locals do. This bust cycle of high unemployment lasted until late 1994 through 1997 when a great many of smaller projects, shut downs at Dresden and the Auburn glass plant and school work kept our members busy with only short periods of unemployment.

In 1996 Local 840 moved from One Franklin Square where it had been since moving from 68 Castle Street in 1981. 68 Castle Street had been the office of the Electricians, Carpenters, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Painters and Bricklayers along with other labor organizations for many years. As the labor organizations moved on and merged with larger locals the only ones left were the Electricians and Carpenters. The Bricklayers had bought the building at One Franklin Square and renovated it for offices. In 1981 the Electricians and the Laborers rented space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at One Franklin Square from the Bricklayers until 1996 when Local 840 purchased the building and 4 acres at 1401 Routes 5&20 Geneva. In early 1997 the members that were out of work, under the direction of Charles Randall, built a 40x80 foot addition on to the existing building with the idea of someday expanding the local's training facility. In 2015 Business Manager Michael Davis had the training center completed and updated to meet today's training needs. In October of 2015 the new Training Center was opened and named the Lawrence N. Davis Training Center after local member and International Representative Lawrence N. Davis.

In late 1997 the construction of the Geneva Glass Plant began. This was a 750,000 square foot facility with an additional float glass building constructed that lasted into late 1998. That project along with a shutdown at the Austeel Steel Mill in Auburn and major school construction in the summer Geneva had an opportunity to employ over 200 plus traveling brothers and sisters. The future looked bright for the members of Local 840 except for one thing. Amalgamation!

In the spring of 1998 at the IBEW Construction Conference in Washington, D.C. Vice President of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Lawrence Rossa met with Local 840 Business Manager Lawrence Davis to discuss the possibility of Local 840 being split and merged with Local 43 in Syracuse and Local 86 in Rochester. International President Jack Barry had informed Vice-President Rossa to inform Business Manager Davis and to start the proceedings. Because of the upcoming election in Local 86 in Rochester it was decided to wait until after the elections in July. There are many stories and reasons as to why the merger but the best answer for our history is that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> District of the IBEW in the 1990s there were many mergers of local unions. At that time it was felt that members and jurisdictions were better served with larger locals rather than many smaller locals. After the elections Local 840 was merged in September 1998. Local 840 was split with Cayuga County and the townships in Wayne County going to Local 43 in Syracuse and the rest of the jurisdiction going to Local 86 in Rochester. The Business Manager of Local 840 was put on as an Assistant Business Manager in Rochester assigned to the old Local 840 area as it was the larger part of Local 840 left after the merger and the Organizer of Local 840 was retained by both Local 43 and 86 to continue organizing in the area and work with the organizers from Local 43 and 86.

After the merger the locals began the task of merging the Local 840 Health and Welfare, Pension, Annuity and Educational funds. Since the past members of Local 840 had the choice of going to either the Syracuse or Rochester local, and some members chose Syracuse and others Rochester, it further complicated the merger of the trust funds. The first funds to be merged were the Health and Welfare Fund. The trustees developed a plan where the Local 840 Plan bought coverage in the Local 43 and 86 Plans. The funds remaining after the buy in were then placed in an account in Rochester to develop a buy in for the retirees of Local 840. The Educational Fund was to remain and be administered by the Local 840 trustees and the funds used for the training of apprentices for the five classes that had been started by Local 840. The Annuity Fund merger was being held up because of the investigation by the government and class action lawsuits alleging improper trading that might affect investments by the investment firm of Local 86 the receiving local of the Local 840 Annuity funds. The merger of the Pension Funds was being held up because of the complication of merging of the Local 840 funds, difference in credit hours, retirement dates and many other differences in the three funds of Local 840, Local 43 and Local 86.

In February of 2001 Edwin Hill was appointed by the IEC to serve as International President for the remainder of retiring President Jack Barry. In March of 2001 Assistant Business Manager of Local 86 and former Business Manager of Local 840, Lawrence Davis, wrote a letter to President Hill asking him to consider the recharter of Local 840 in Geneva. In April of 2001 ABM Davis met with President Hill at the National Building Trades Conference in Washington, D.C. and again asks him to consider the recharter after his election in September of 2001. In August of 2001 ABM Davis was appointed by President Hill and Vice-President Rossa as an International Representative serving the construction locals in New York. In March of 2002 Vice-President Rossa retired and International Representative Donald C. Siegel was appointed by President Hill as Vice President of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. V.P Siegel appointed International Representative Davis to complete the merger of the funds of Local 840. After a year and a half of attempting to merge the remaining Local 840 funds International Representative Davis reported to VP Siegel that the three local's trustees were at an impasse. On September 8, 2003 International Representative Davis filed a written report with International Vice-President Siegel as to the reasons he felt that Local 840 should be rechartered. Davis reported in part; it is my opinion that regardless of the best intentions, a large metro based local will not be able to integrate with small town communities. In upstate New York where every town, village, city and county have tremendous influence in not only the public work but especially on private development it is critical that we are seen as part of the community and not as outsiders. Local 840's past involvement in local politics, community events, economic development and charitable events gave it the access to the people who made policy decisions. The ability to influence events in this area has been severely impacted by this merger. The IBEW has lost and will continue to lose opportunity in this area by our lack of a full time presence.

After many meetings and discussions with our members, locals and signatory contractors IBEW Local 840 was rechartered by President Hill and Vice-President Siegel. The task of the recharter was assigned to International Representative Davis and in March of 2005 Local 840 again had its charter. Clark Culver was appointed by President Hill as Business Manager and elected in June of 2005 to that position. Michael Davis was appointed by Business Manager Culver as the Assistant Business Manager in charge of organizing the new jurisdiction.

Among the hurdles of being a new chartered local was having to start a healthcare plan from scratch. Members were allowed to stay in sister local's health plans until they qualified under the new plan. Also there was unlimited portability for contractors with projects already started in the new jurisdiction. There was different wage rates in the areas obtained from the past jurisdictions of Locals 43 and 86 for the first few years in order to not cause financial harm to jobs that were already bid in those territories. Eventually a new collective bargaining agreement was signed and 840 was established contractually. In 2005 we swore in our largest apprenticeship class of 12. Among the projects of substance were the Dresden power house being done by our members hired by O'Connell Electric.

In February of 2006 construction wireman and construction electrician classifications were added to the 840's Bylaws. These classifications were instituted to help local unions become more competitive and allow for organized members to be readily placed within the IBEW. The first job that these classifications were used on was the Constellation Brands Performing Arts Center. This project had heavy non union competition but was awarded to a union contractor Concord Electric.

In 2007 all unions supported the Employee Free Choice Act and Local 840 was no different. Many GOTV events were held and this cause was spoke on at many meetings. Unfortunately it never was voted on in congress. Cayuga BOCES was the largest project for 2007. Gary Banas served as steward for this Blackman and Farrell project. The co-gen plant was built at Seneca Meadows using CW/CE classifications and 840 was the only union trade on the project. Local 840's Annuity Plan was changed from self-directed to trustee directed and Manning and Napier named as its investor. This actually protected a large amount of 840's members when the stock market plunged later that year. The IBEW held its first ever organizing blitz in Florida. Organizers from all over the country went to Florida and helped in a state wide 3 day blitz to introduce unorganized electricians to what our brotherhood had to offer them. Local 840 was represented by organizer Mike Davis. Sadly in June 2007 Local 840's President Dan Nichols passed away unexpectedly. Brother Frank DeCook was appointed President and Gary Banas took over as Vice-President.

2008 saw a much needed face lift to our union hall. Renovations to our meeting room and paint throughout as well as additional classrooms were added within the existing building.

An expansion to the gaming floor at the Finger Lakes Race Track was one of the larger projects during this time period.

In 2009 Welch Allyn and GE had two large projects in Skaneateles Falls. Billitier and J and E Electric employed many of our members on these projects. Foxer's Electric and Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack became signatory to Local 840's bargaining agreement. Unfortunately Local 840 lost a 3.5 million dollar job to Ferguson Electric from Connecticut. Organizer Mike Davis was the first union tradesman appointed to the Ontario County Industrial Development Agency's Board. A few years later he would become the board's chairman a first for organized labor in Ontario County.

2010 brought an expansion to Finger Lakes Community College performed by Billitier Electric. Hampered from day one with poorly installed foundations, and problems they caused, it would eventually lead Ontario County to exploring the usage of a project labor agreements on future projects.

In 2011 Michael Davis was elected Business Manager and Charlie Randall was appointed Organizer. The supplemental "flex card" was added to the health insurance plan, J and E Electric was involved in Newark schools renovations employing our members. The expansion to the Geneva Hospital that 840 helped to bring with job actions and letters to Albany was awarded to a non-union electrical contractor Radec Electric. After meetings with the hospital administration and Senator Mike Nozzolio future parts of this large project went to O'Connell Electric and 840 members. Local 840 had approximately 120 members at his time.

In 2012 Weydman Electric performed another expansion at FLCC. Local 840's training center becomes a reality as the pavilion was enclosed and turned into a training center. Massa Construction enclosed our old bird infested pavilion and volunteer members did all of the finish work to make our training center possible. Geneva Topps was moved to the lower plaza and Local 840 with Concord Electric was the only union trade on the job. NLRB charges were filed against Newark Electric for failing to bargain. This case would last 6 years and is still being processed today. In August of 2012 Local 840 rented a bus and attended "Workers Stand for America" rally in Philadelphia where then IBEW President Hill was the keynote speaker.

In early 2013 Business Manager Davis negotiated terms and pricing with Shambaugh and Son for the Cayuga Milk Ingredients plant in Aurelius. This project was one of the largest projects to date in the area and was obtained with the use of the CW/CE classifications. Approximately 40 electricians were employed during peak construction of this plant. The Finger Lakes saw its first project done under a project labor agreement at the Geneva FLCC campus. This 100% union project was possible due to the efforts of Local 840's members speaking and contacting Ontario County Supervisors voicing support for the PLA. The second expansion of the co-gen plant at Seneca Meadows was performed by Local 840 and again we were the only union craft on site.

In early 2014 Local 840 began meeting with representatives from The Wilmorite Corporation about the possibility of a casino coming to Tyre, N.Y. Local 840 and members of the Finger Lakes Building Trades fought long and hard to prove that our area needed this large project to help the areas struggling economy. In late December their efforts were awarded and the NYS Gaming Commission granted Del Lago one of four gaming licenses in the state. A long legal battle would follow. The Hobart William Smith Performing Arts Center was built and Matco Electric did the electric. This was the first time our members had worked on this campus in almost two decades.

2015 was slow for work. The Mercy Hospital project by O'Connell Electric and other small projects dotted 840's landscape. Many members sought employment in Local 236 Albany at Global Foundries. Our training center is completed an officially named "The Lawrence N. Davis Training Center". A lack of work and steep rise in insurance cost caused problems for Local 840's Health Insurance Fund. This coupled with a stagnant general fund forced 840's members to once again step up to the plate and make sure our local stayed prosperous. On separate occasions in 2015 the membership overwhelmingly voted to take two dollars per hour from the Annuity contribution and fix the health plan and to change our working assessment to 7% for JWs and 6% for apprentices. These moves by the membership of Local 840 have proved to make both funds financially stable for years to come.

Finally in 2016 Local 840's hard work paid off. The first steel for the Del Lago Resort and Casino is put in place in January 2016. Billitier and O'Connell Electric had approximately 60 workers on site at the peak of this

project near the end of the year. This and a major addition at the steel mill in Auburn by Cache Valley Electric gave good employment for 840 members for the entire year.

On February 1, 2017 Del Lago Resort and Casino opened its doors to the public for Local 840 and the Finger Lakes Building Trades to show off this 100% union built facility. Spin off work from the casino included Pine View Apartments done by Concord Electric as well as increased work for our members in Local 43 and 86 through our projects developed by the Wilmorite Corporation. A 13 million dollar repower project at Willard Correctional facility was started by O'Connell Electric. Frank De Cook stepped down as President of Local 840 and Ryan Davis was elected to fill that position.

As of 2018 Local 840 has grown to 169 members strong. Our market share has increased by 2% per year for the last 6 years. We have hired Mike Smith as a full time Training Director. The NLRB has issued it's ruling on Newark Electric's final appeal and have gone to the enforcement stage. Current projects that members are working on are for Frey Electric at the phase one of the VA Project and Guardian Glass furnace project for Foxer's Electric and Mills Electric.

The reason why IBEW Local 840 has been in the Finger Lakes for 100 years and is strong today is simple. Its member's belief that we belong and their sacrifices to keep us strong from 1918 to 2018 and beyond.