



**CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
PORTOFINO GRILL  
LA PORTE, INDIANA  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

**MINUTES**

I. The meeting was called to order around 5:06 PM.

Present:	Dave Ellis	Bob Harper	Matthew LaFree	Duane Seifert
	Chuck Shields	Doug Stephani	Chris Vann	

II. The minutes of the previous Central Division meeting held on July 10, 2024 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. It was seconded and, with no further discussion, duly carried.

III. **Reports of Officers:**

A. Chairman Report:

- i. A work outlook for the area was provided. There was discussion on the large projects in the area.
- ii. Out-of-work numbers for Local 531 were reviewed.
- iii. It was noted that there are currently 60 Journeymen on the book but likely only 8 or 9 are available.

B. Chapter Report:

- |   |          |                          |                      |
|---|----------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| i. Contractor Report:                             | May 2024 | Local: 16                | Traveling: 62        |
|   |          | Compliant: 77            | Delinquent: 1        |
|   | Jun 2024 | Local: 18                | Traveling: 67        |
|   |          | Compliant: 84            | Delinquent: 1        |
|   | Jul 2024 | Local: 15                | Traveling: 61        |
|   |          | Compliant: 76            | Delinquent: 1        |
| ii. Manhour / Manpower Report:                    | May 2024 | Hours: 98,568 (138,801)  | Labor: 709 (784)     |
|   | Jun 2024 | Hours: 112,613 (110,621) | Labor: 777 (762)     |
|   | Jul 2024 | Hours: 109,221 (74,483)  | Labor: 830 (567)     |
| iii. NECAPAC Contributions were reviewed:         |          | 11 // \$4,700            | Goal: 22 // \$11,900 |
| iv. The upcoming calendar of events was reviewed. |          |                          |                      |

IV. **Reports of Committees:**

A. JATC

- i. There are no apprentices out of work.
- ii. The Committee dealt with multiple problematic apprentices recently. Members were reminded to ensure work cards are completed honestly and thoroughly
- iii. Members were reminded to send apprentice termination slips to JATC, not to the Union Hall.
- iv. It was noted that an apprentice wanted to transfer from a different Local but never completed.
- v. It was also noted that another Apprentice wanted to transfer but is already on final notice with his current JATC.
- vi. The US Dept of Labor has approved ETA standards to move program to 720 hours though the Committee plans to remain a 5-year program
- vii. The Residential Committee received a meeting notice before a holiday weekend that received no response. A meeting is yet to be scheduled at this time.
- viii. The Telecommunications Committee noted an apprentice was injured on a jobsite.

**CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
PORTOFINO GRILL  
LA PORTE, INDIANA  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

B. Health & Welfare

- i. There was general discussion

C. Pension / Money Purchase

- i. It was reported there is a meeting upcoming. General discussion followed among members.

D. LMCC

- i. A recap of the 'Crack the Vault' sponsorship was provided. It was noted that since there was no winner at Porter County Fair, Adams Radio Group carried the sponsorship to Lake County Fair, as well.
- ii. It was reported that the LMCC has secured tickets for Valparaiso University football and basketball games for any interested employer and their family

V. **Unfinished Business:**

- A. There was none to report.

VI. **New Business:**

- A. It was noted that there have been updates to the way VDVNA contributions get paid EPRLive has been updated to reflect those changes.
- B. It was also noted that the Union Hall may refer Journeymen without clear status from BCRC if an employer's customer does not require it. Members were also cautioned to verify a Journeyman's status if they are referred from Book III as they may be Union members but not fully-trained Inside Wiremen as

VII. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned around 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew J. LaFree, Executive Director

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 5:00 PM Central Time**



**CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
ROUND THE CLOCK RESTAURANT  
CHESTERTON, INDIANA  
JULY 10, 2024**

**MINUTES**

- I. The meeting was called to order around 8:27 AM.
- |          |              |               |                |               |
|----------|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Present: | Dave Ellis   | Bob Harper    | Matthew LaFree | Jose Martinez |
|          | Tom Mizwicki | Duane Seifert | Chuck Shields  | Chris Vann    |
- II. The minutes of the previous Central Division meeting held on May 7, 2024 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. It was seconded and, with no further discussion, duly carried.
- III. **Reports of Officers:**
- A. Chairman Report:
- i. Out-of-work numbers for Local 531 were reviewed. It was noted that there are currently 60 open calls for labor; mostly for solar project.
  - ii. A work outlook was provided. It was noted that solar work is busy while trying to finish the project. Other notable projects are expected to get underway shortly.
  - iii. There was discussion regarding General Contractors being allowed to sign letters of assent with Local 531 and drawing manpower from existing Electrical Contractors.
- B. Chapter Report:
- |   |          |                         |                      |
|---|----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| i. Contractor Report:                             | Mar 2024 | Local: 15               | Traveling: 62        |
|   |          | Compliant: 77           | Delinquent: 0        |
| ii. Manhour / Manpower Report:                    | Mar 2024 | Hours: 107,738 (72,095) | Labor: 753 (552)     |
| iii. NECAPAC Contributions were reviewed:         |          | 8 // \$3,450            | Goal: 22 // \$11,900 |
| iv. The upcoming calendar of events was reviewed. |          |                         |                      |
- IV. **Reports of Committees:**
- A. JATC
- i. There are no apprentices out of work. At the moment, there are no calls for labor.
  - ii. The Committee is considering taking a second class later in the year.
  - iii. There was discussion on a military transition program.
  - iv. It was reported that many scheduled Residential interviews did not show. Three applicants were accepted into the program.
  - v. A Telecommunications meeting is scheduled for later this month. The Committee expects to handle issues with a problematic apprentice.
- B. Health & Welfare
- i. There was general discussion
- C. Pension / Money Purchase
- i. It was reported there is a meeting upcoming. General discussion followed among members.

**CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
ROUND THE CLOCK RESTAURANT  
CHESTERTON, INDIANA  
JULY 10, 2024**

D. LMCC

- i. Will sponsor a contest at the Porter County Fair along with Adams Radio Group, potentially raising large amount of money for Porter County Community Foundation.
- ii. It was reported the year-long radio campaign with Adams Radio Group is underway.

V. **Unfinished Business:**

- A. It was reported that neighboring JATCs plan to move forward with GAN Human Resources for assistance with applicant evaluation.

VI. **New Business:**

- A. There was discussion regarding a two-day sales and maintenance master class this fall. There will be an educational preview webinar ahead of the class.

- VII. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned around 9:33 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew J. LaFree, Executive Director

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 5:00 PM Central Time**



CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
SAND CREEK COUNTRY CLUB  
CHESTERTON, INDIANA  
MAY 7, 2024

MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order around 5:05 PM.

Present: Dave Ellis Matthew LaFree Jose Martinez Duane Seifert  
Chuck Shields Doug Stephani Heather Thomas Chris Vann

II. The minutes of the previous Central Division meeting held on April 16, 2024 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. It was seconded and, with no further discussion, duly carried.

III. **Reports of Officers:**

A. Chairman Report:

i. Out-of-work numbers for Local 531 were reviewed:

INS: 31 // 38 RES: 4 // 0 VDV: 1 // 2 Apprentices: 0 EH: 182

ii. It was noted that despite the numbers there are not a lot of workers actually available.

iii. It was reported that there are no open calls at the time.

iv. A work outlook was provided. It was noted that solar work continues to be busy but other large projects will not ramp up until late summer or early fall.

v. A recap of the recent Inside and Residential CBA negotiations was provided.

B. Chapter Report:

i. Contractor Report:	Mar 2024	Local: 15 Compliant: 77	Traveling: 62 Delinquent: 0
ii. Manhour / Manpower Report:	Mar 2024	Hours: 107,738 (72,095)	Labor: 753 (552)
iii. NECAPAC Contributions were reviewed:		7 // \$3,235	Goal: 22 // \$11,900
iv. The upcoming calendar of events was reviewed.			

IV. **Reports of Committees:**

A. JATC

- i. There have been apprentices out of work, and because there are no calls for labor, the staff has been contacting contractors individually to find them places to land.
- ii. It was reported interviews have been completed, there were over 100 applicants this year. It was noted that the Committee expects to take 25-28 applicants next year.
- iii. There has been discussion regarding future recruitment, it was noted that 153 and 697 expect to use GAN Human Resources to assist through the interview process.
- iv. A recap was provided regarding recent Residential interviews. It was reported there were 4 applicants.
- v. A Telecommunications meeting is scheduled for later this month. Interviews are anticipated.

B. Health & Welfare

- i. A recap of the semi-annual trustee meeting was provided.
- ii. Members were reminded there will be a contribution increase on 6/1/2024, to be accounted for in negotiated package increase.

**CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
SAND CREEK COUNTRY CLUB  
CHESTERTON, INDIANA  
MAY 7, 2024**

C. Pension / Money Purchase

- i. It was reported there is a meeting upcoming. General discussion followed among members.

D. LMCC

- i. It was reported there will be a radio campaign with Adams Radio Group.
- ii. There was discussion regarding charities to promote with Adams Radio at Porter County Fair.

V. **Unfinished Business:**

- A. There was discussion regarding a summer meeting.

VI. **New Business:**

- A. There was discussion regarding a two-day sales and maintenance master class this fall.
- B. There was discussion regarding contractors signing a Letter of Assent with the Union who are not primarily electrical contractors.
- C. There was discussion regarding Roland Hunter's retirement from the Apprenticeship.
- D. It was reported that dues and vacation contributions will default to on in ERP Live starting with June work month reporting.

- VII. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned around 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew J. LaFree, Executive Director

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 8:00AM Central Time**



CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
PORTOFINO GRILL  
LA PORTE, INDIANA  
APRIL 16, 2024

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order around 5:16 PM.  
Present: Dave Ellis Matthew LaFree Tom Mizwicki Duane Seifert  
Chuck Shields Doug Stephani
- II. The minutes of the previous Central Division meeting held on March 19, 2024 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. It was seconded and, with no further discussion, duly carried.
- III. **Reports of Officers:**  
A. Chairman Report:  
i. Out-of-work numbers for Local 531 were reviewed:  
INS: 33 // 48 RES: 3 // 0 VDV: 1 // 3 Apprentices: 0  
ii. A work outlook was provided. It was reported that the steel mill is consistent but not busy.  
iii. It was noted that there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the 11th St. commercial / residential project in Michigan City.  
iv. It was reported that the SoLa mixed-use building in Michigan City has sent out RFI, despite rumors that the project may not move forward at all.  
v. It was reported that the group of investors for the Marquette Mall were bought out and reduced to one single decision-maker and they would like to make updates to the property.  
vi. It was reported that the battery storage plant plans to move from 7-12s to 6-10s, still offering \$100/day.  
vii. A recap of the recent Inside and Residential CBA negotiations was provided.
- B. Chapter Report:  
i. Contractor Report: Feb 2024 Local: 15 Traveling: 60  
Compliant: 71 Delinquent: 4  
ii. Manhour / Manpower Report: Feb 2024 Hours: 91,060 (62,799) Labor: 676 (531)  
iii. NECAPAC Contributions were reviewed: 7 = \$3,235 Goal: 22 = \$11,900  
iv. The upcoming calendar of events was reviewed.  
v. Members discussed hosting a celebration dinner for Roland Hunter's retirement over the summer as well as a joint gift for him.
- IV. **Reports of Committees:**  
A. JATC  
i. It was reported interviews were held recently. There is one more round of 14 applicants to go.  
ii. It was reported that there were issues with DoL approval of the new ETA Standards so their rollout has been delayed.  
iii. It was noted that some apprentices have left the program.  
iv. The residential subcommittee reported that they are going to accept 5 applicants.  
v. It was reported the Telecommunications Subcommittee meeting did not take place in April since there was one candidate to interview, the Training Director will hold off another month for more applicants. The expectation is to accept 5 applicants to the program.

**CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
PORTOFINO GRILL  
LA PORTE, INDIANA  
APRIL 16, 2024**

B. Health & Welfare

- i. It was reported there was an issue with Community Health Services not accepting Humana for retirees since Humana will not pay claims timely or, sometimes, at all.
- ii. It was noted that the semi-annual meeting is in a week.

C. Pension / Money Purchase

- i. There was general discussion among members.

D. LMCC

- i. The Committee is considering a new brand manager and campaign.
- ii. Members discussed emphasizing them as individuals companies to ensure the public knows who to support.

V. **Unfinished Business:**

- A. None to discuss

VI. **New Business:**

- A. The most recent wage package allocation was discussed.

VII. There being no further business the meeting adjourned around 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew J. LaFree, Executive Director

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 5:00 PM Central Time**





CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
PORTOFINO GRILL  
LA PORTE, INDIANA  
MARCH 19, 2024

MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order around 5:05 PM.

Present: Bob Harper Matthew LaFree Jose Martinez Tom Mizwicki  
Duane Seifert Chuck Shields Doug Stephani Chris Vann

II. The minutes of the previous Central Division meeting held on February 6, 2024 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. It was seconded and, with no further discussion, duly carried.

III. **Reports of Officers:**

A. Chairman Report:

- i. Out-of-work numbers for Local 531 were reviewed:  
INS: 42 // 29 // 165 // 6 RES: 3 // 0 VDV: 1 // 1 // 1 Apprentices: 0 EH: 110 // 9
- ii. It was reported that a battery storage project is expected to pay overscale as well as per diem on top of offering overtime.
- iii. There was a groundbreaking ceremony for the 11th missed-use building project in Michigan City.
- iv. It was noted that the prison project in Westville has released more bid packages.
- v. It was noted that the GM battery plant in Local 153 has been delayed for 4 months.
- vi. An update was provided the current status of Inside CBA negotiations.

B. Chapter Report:

- i. It was announced that Genesis Martin has joined the NECA office as the new Office Manager.
- ii. Contractor Report: Jan 2024 Local: 15 Traveling: 61  
Compliant: 72 Delinquent: 4
- iii. Manhour / Manpower Report: Jan 2024 Hours: 75,949 (54,271) Labor: 615 (450)
- iv. NECAPAC Contributions were reviewed: 3 = \$835 Goal: 22 = \$11,900
- v. The upcoming calendar of events was reviewed.

IV. **Reports of Committees:**

A. JATC

- i. It was reported that interviews will begin Saturday, March 23rd- hope to have candidates ready for hire in May.
- ii. It was reported the Residential Subcommittee meeting did not take place as planned, hope to reschedule soon.
- iii. It was reported the Telecommunications Subcommittee meeting did not take place as planned, hope to reschedule for April.

B. Health & Welfare

- i. It was reported there is a meeting scheduled for late April.

C. Pension / Money Purchase

- i. It was reported the Committee discussed an automatic Cost of Living Adjustment of 1% to retiree benefits.

D. LMCC

- i. It was reported the meeting was cancelled due to negotiations and will be rescheduled.

**CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
PORTOFINO GRILL  
LA PORTE, INDIANA  
MARCH 19, 2024**

V. **Unfinished Business:**

A. There was discussion among members regarding negotiations.

VI. **New Business:**

A. None to discuss.

VII. There being no further business the meeting adjourned around 6:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matthew J. LaFree", is written over a horizontal line.

Matthew J. LaFree, Executive Director

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM Central Time**



CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
PORTOFINO GRILL  
LA PORTE, INDIANA  
FEBRUARY 6, 2024

MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order around 5:08 PM.

Present:        Dave Ellis                    Matthew LaFree                    Jose Martinez                    Tom Mizwicki  
                     Duane Seifert                    Chuck Shields                    Nik Shields                    Doug Stephani  
                     Chris Vann

II. The minutes of the previous Central Division meeting held on January 2, 2024 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. It was seconded and, with no further discussion, duly carried.

III. **Reports of Officers:**

A. Chairman Report:

- i. Out-of-work numbers for Local 531 were reviewed:  
INS: 43 // 33 // 104 // 5        RES: 5 // 0        VDV: 0 // 4        Apprentices: 1 EH: 109
- ii. It was reported Black & Veatch is hiring EH as Journeymen off Books III & IV for solar work. Members were encouraged to verify classification of new-hires when requesting referrals.
- iii. A recap of the Electri Council meeting was provided. It was reported that six projects are to be funded: One on how AI will affect the industry right now. One on where AI will be in 5 years. Two mega project studies including incentive pay impact on jobsites (how to start, how do you stop once it's started), how it affects safety & attendance, how it affects the CBA and future negotiations, and long-term impact on market share. The second will study the impact on surrounding areas, impact on non-mega customers, labor availability, and labor performance. There will be a study on early electrical contractor involvement in a project, specifically on efficiency & profitability. The last study is CMMC 2.0 - cybersecurity education. The Council also heard a presentation from an economist who noted they saw no recession on the horizon. There was discussion among members regarding the Project Management apprenticeship program.
- a. A recap of the District IV Council Meeting was provided. It was noted that contract settlements around the District averaged 3 years and included year-by-year package increases ~4.8%, ~4.4%, and ~4.0%. It was reported that the NECA Executive Committee voted down the request of the Ft. Wayne Division from Central Indiana NECA to Northern Indiana. It was reported that the IEC has been involved with the National Electric Code update and wants to replace language referencing other sections with actual language from those sections. There was discussion regarding the IBEW's new organizing policy including required use of alternate classifications.
- iv. There was discussion regarding Local 531's recent industry night. It was reported there were 20 attendees.
- v. There was discussion regarding the Apprenticeship moving to a four-year program. Direction from the Electrical Training Alliance continues to be delayed. There was discussion regarding mandatory and optional changes.
- vi. It was reported that a committee has been formed at the National level to review NECA service charges. Currently it is estimated that revenue is only being collected on 61% of productive hours.





**CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
PATRICK'S GRILLE  
MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA  
JANUARY 2, 2024**

**MINUTES**

- I. The meeting was called to order around 5:02 PM.
- |          |               |               |                |              |
|----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Present: | Dave Ellis    | Bob Harper    | Matthew LaFree | Tom Mizwicki |
|          | Duane Seifert | Doug Stephani | Heather Thomas | Todd Taylor  |
- II. The minutes of the previous Central Division meeting held on November 7, 2024 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. It was seconded and, with no further discussion, duly carried.
- III. Mr. Todd Taylor, of KB Electric, was introduced as a guest and prospective member.
- IV. **Reports of Officers:**
- A. Chairman Report:
- i. Out-of-work numbers for Local 531 were reviewed:  
INS: 46 // 26 RES: 2 // 4 VDV: 0 // 0 Apprentices: 2 EH:118
  - ii. A work outlook was provided.
  - iii. It was reported that Local 531 is hosting an industry night on January 18, 2024 and looking for contractor participation.
  - iv. There was discussion regarding upcoming negotiations.
- B. Chapter Report:
- |                                |          |                        |                  |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------|
| i. Contractor Report:          | Oct 2023 | Local: 16              | Traveling: 58    |
|                                |          | Compliant: 71          | Delinquent: 3    |
|                                | Nov 2023 | Local: 16              | Traveling: 58    |
|                                |          | Compliant: 71          | Delinquent: 3    |
| ii. Manhour / Manpower Report: | Oct 2023 | Hours: 92,352 (93,384) | Labor: 622 (656) |
|                                | Nov 2023 | Hours: 85,522 (74,249) | Labor: 617 (595) |
- iii. An update was provided regarding the Chapter's NECAPAC contributions.
  - iv. The upcoming calendar of events was reviewed.
  - v. There was discussion regarding registration reimbursements.
  - vi. It was reported that, in addition to Local 531, Local 153 is also hosting an industry night on January 17, 2024 and looking for contractor participation, as well.
- V. **Reports of Committees:**
- A. JATC
- i. It was reported interviews will be resuming this month. It was announced that a new Training Director, Scott Baker, has been hired to replace Roland Hunter following his retirement.
  - ii. There was discussion regarding the possibility of multiple part-time instructors for the Telecommunications program to teach specific material rather than a single full-time instructor.
- B. Health & Welfare
- i. It was reported that there will be a \$0.25 increase effective June 1, 2024.
- C. Pension / Money Purchase
- i. It was reported there will be a benefit increase for retirees.

**CENTRAL DIVISION MEETING  
PATRICK'S GRILLE  
MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA  
JANUARY 2, 2024**

D. LMCC

- i. It was reported there is a meeting upcoming.

VI. **Unfinished Business:**

- A. An update regarding GAN Human Resources was provided.
- B. There was continued discussion regarding the possible chapter expansion.

VII. **New Business:**

- A. The Chapter's bylaws must be updated to account for the Fort Wayne division joining the Northern Indiana Chapter. Notice was given to all members in a memo sent on November 22, 2023 that this meeting would include a vote to approve the bylaws change, pending recommendation by the NECA Executive Committee. Ballots were given to all in attendance and collected before the meeting adjourned. Votes will be counted along with member votes from the other divisions following their respective member meetings.

- VIII. There being no further business the meeting adjourned around 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew J. LaFree, Executive Director

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 5:00 PM Central Time**