



# CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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January, 2025

## IBEW/NECA sponsors URS 46th Annual Telethon

The 46th Annual Telethon for URS, the United Rehabilitation Services, took place at WDTN TV Channel 2 studios on Thursday, December 5, 2024. The format was different this year as the telethon took place in several segments throughout the day including the AM and PM news, and was showcased on Living Dayton.

The presenting sponsor for the telethon again this year, for the 15<sup>th</sup> year, was the Western Ohio Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 82. Tom Anderson, Business Manager for IBEW Local 82 and Carter Harrison, Executive Director for the Western Ohio NECA participated in the program. "We have partnered with URS for 15 years," says Tom. "We support their mission to work with children and adults to reach their full potential." Carter added, "URS provides services for those who need it

the most, and we are proud to help in any way that we can."

This is the biggest fundraiser for the URS and

blessed to have their team behind us! The Telethon provides a forum through which we are able to share



From left, hosts of Live Dayton Grace Hewitt and Caroline Morse; IBEW Local 82 Business Manager Tom Anderson and Executive Manager Western Ohio Chapter NECA Carter Harrison.

Executive Director Dennis Grant was elated with the outcome. "We raised over \$133,000 as part of the Telethon this year. The support of NECA and IBEW Local 82 as our Presenting Sponsor has been a blessing and gives us a lead to inspire others to give. We are truly

incredible stories of the resilience and determination of those URS serves."

For over 60 years, URS has been providing hope for families around the Miami Valley. The URS began in the 1950s as an informal support group created by parents

advocating for their children with cerebral palsy.

The URS offers a wide variety of services for people with disabilities and their families.

- Gold Star Rated Early Childhood Education & School-Age Programs for children with and without disabilities, ages 6 weeks to 17 years.
- On-site nursing services along with physical, occupational, and speech therapies.
- Adult Day Activities on site with arts, music, exercise and more.
- Community Integration & Vocational Training Programs.
- Employment Services and Job Placement.

With more than 12 special events each year, volunteers are essential to their success! Everyday URS relies on individuals, companies and community groups to fulfill their mission of enhancing the quality of life for their clients.

For more information visit [ursdayton.org](http://ursdayton.org).

## UD students assist URS

United Rehabilitation Services of Dayton and the University of Dayton (UD) have worked together on projects.

Engineering Students modify toys for children with motor issues. The students adapted the circuitry in toys

and made a special button for children to press with their elbows or chins.

ETHOS part-time immersion: URS and UD have a part-time immersion program called ETHOS.

The ETHOS Center challenges students to be inclusive and holistic in their

approaches as they analyze and change how they frame problems and define solutions.

Franco Patino, a mechanical engineering technology student took part in an ETHOS immersion at URS. His job was to help teach children and adults with

disabilities about the wonderful world of STEM. He taught kids about magnetism using a balloon and a grocery bag and about the water cycle using a jar, water and food coloring. These types of programs are insightful not only for the URS participants but for the UD students as well.

# ESI upgrades Mercy Health - Urbana Hospital

Dedicated to serving the health care needs of residents of Urbana and Champaign County, Ohio since 1951, Mercy Health — Urbana Hospital has delivered quality, comprehensive, compassionate care. With a broad range of inpatient and outpatient services, skilled staff and state-of-the-art equipment, the hospital provides for much of local residents' medical and surgical needs.

They recently underwent upgrades to their Emergency Backup power. ESI Electrical Contractors were the acting construction lead on the project. The facility had two old generators that provided minimal backup power for mainly the OR space, air units

and various random EM panels. It also had three utility service entrance points feeding the main



building and the McAuley building. The main switchboard was an older 1940's or 50's model and was in dire need of replacement.

As part of the project, ESI added a new generator yard with 2 new 500 KVA

generators and provisions for a third in the future. A new 10,000 gallon above ground fuel tank and pump system was also included and two old underground tank systems were demolished. They also consolidated the service points down to one for the facility. As part of the project, ESI built or expanded three electrical rooms separating the emergency and normal services for

code compliance. They installed a new 3,000A normal power service with a new 3,000A emergency backup system at 100% backup power for the facility.

ESI was also able to plan in dozens of "mini-shutdowns"

to switch over select areas of the facility to the new service during low use time periods to minimize impact on the facility. This was a very congested space with low ceiling clearances and they had to get



"creative" to complete the installation. Mike Schaefer was the acting General Foreman, Scott Whip was Project Manager and Ben DeHart was the preconstruction lead/assistant Project Manager.

## Dayton Holiday Festival 2024

Celebrating 52 years of being a Dayton family tradition, the Dayton Holiday Festival is the region's premiere holiday event. Started by local philanthropist Virginia W. Kettering, the Festival offers free, family entertainment so that everyone, regardless of economic means, may enjoy the holidays. The Dayton Holiday Festival has become a local tradition, attracting multiple generations of families from around the Miami Valley each year.

The festival's signature event, the Grande Illumination, is Dayton's official kick-off to the holiday season. This popular event drew

approximately 35,000-40,000 people to downtown the day after Thanksgiving.



From left, volunteers Kevin Kreitzer, Ben DeHart, Nick Behnken, Chris Larrimore and CJ Pemberton.

Immediately following the tree lighting the Dayton Children's Parade Spectacular in Lights takes place. IBEW/NECA became

a sponsor for the 2019 Dayton Festival by donating \$5,000 and providing tools and LED lights needed to

refurbish the floats, which had been previously vandalized. Several volunteers worked prior to the event again this year to make sure the floats were ready for the parade. IBEW/NECA continues to be a

primary sponsor of the event.

This year, IBEW Local 82 volunteers once again worked on the floats, upgrading them for the

parade. A special thanks to Ben Dehart, Estimator/Project Manager for ESI Electrical Contractors for organizing the volunteers.



January, 2025

Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome! Contact the Western Ohio Chapter - NECA.

website: [www.wocneca.com](http://www.wocneca.com)  
phone: 937.361.7879



# CES 2025 *up and coming technology*

58 year in, CES shows no signs of slowing down. This year the show attracted roughly 140,000 attendees to Las Vegas to see new products and technologies from more than 4,000 companies. Here's a short list of useful and not so useful items.

## Roborock Saros Z70

This is a robot vacuum/mop hybrid and can sense, pick up



and put away your stray socks using its mechanical arm, making an industry shift from object avoidance technology to object removal technology. It's definitely high end at \$2000.00.

## Backup Complete by Biolite



This is a cross between a universal power supply and a whole-home backup battery. The thin, 40 pound 1.5kWh battery lives between a wall outlet and your fridge (or other plug-in device) and keeps those things running in the event of a power outage. It doesn't require professional installation, just a user-installed wall mount and it's thin enough to hide behind your

fridge or tuck under a counter. It includes two units which is enough to power a fridge, microwave, lights, as well as refill phones and a laptop. Going price is \$2100.00.

## WeWalk's Smart Cane 2 with AI

This smart cane is for people with visual impairments with



advanced sensors and still works as a conventional folding cane. This cane can detect obstacles and offer turn-by-turn navigation, and it has a ChatGPT powered assistant that can provide answers to questions while someone is walking, without the need to reach for a smartphone.

## Flint Paper Battery

Flint claims it has a more affordable, scalable, and sustainable solution to traditional lithium-ion batteries. The key component is cellulose,



which acts as a natural medium for ion transfer between the node and cathode. The cells are fully flexible and can shrink down to the size appropriated for a coin battery or smartwatch strap. And when you're done using them, they decompose naturally in six weeks.

## LeafyPod's AI-Powered Planter

This simplifies plant care by automating watering and monitoring key environmental factors. It's packed with sensors that monitor soil, moisture, temperature, light



levels, and humidity in real time. This data is used by its AI to adjust watering schedules automatically, ensuring your plants get the right amount of water, even when you are away. The planter has a cordless design with a built-in 30 ounce water reservoir, allowing it to provide weeks of care. The app also sends reminders and updates about your plant's health!

## Kirin Electric Salt Spoon

In the odd category we have Kirin's Electric Salt Spoon. It's a utensil that sends an electric current from the device to your



tongue to make low-sodium foods taste saltier. The idea is noble: Get people to eat healthier and consume less salt!

## Jackery Solar Roof Tile

In a first for the U.S. market, curved rooftop solar tiles are available in obsidian or terra-cotta red from Jackery.

The solar roof tiles integrate with existing roof tiles and architecture and boast a cell conversion efficiency of over 25%. Each roof tile weighs about 10 pounds.

The tiles come with a 30-year warranty and are designed to withstand extreme weather. The roof is designed for grid integration and is compatible with smart energy management systems.

Check out more new tech items online at CES 2025!





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## Join IBEW Local 82

### Experienced Electricians Wanted

IBEW 82 electrical contractors provide the safest workplaces in our region with unmatched wages and benefits packages. To learn more about becoming an IBEW Local 82 Journeyman, contact our membership development team (all inquiries are confidential).

**Steve Tolson, Membership  
Development Coordinator**  
[stolson@ibew82.org](mailto:stolson@ibew82.org)

### The Western Ohio Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:

#### NECA Members

ASIDACO, LLC  
Barton Electric  
Chapel Electric Company  
Chapel-Romanoff Technologies  
ESI Electrical Contractors  
GEM, Inc.  
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