



# CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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October, 2025

## Nick Comstock

### *Miami Valley Labor Leader of the Year*

**D**ayton Builders Exchange held their 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Team Building Night on August 14. The evening celebrates the Miami Valley Construction Industry. The annual gala recognizes the incredible contributions of the construction industry from design to construction through superior craftsmanship, leadership and innovation. NECA/IBEW are proud sponsors of this event.

The President's Award was presented for the Dayton Children's Hospital Mathile Youth Wellness Center project. Chapel Electric was the electrical contractor for this expansion. This project

involved a new power distribution system, lighting and a fire alarm system.



*Nick Comstock*

This year the Miami Valley Labor Leader of the Year was presented to Nick

Comstock with IBEW Local 82 by David Cox, Executive Director of the Dayton Building Trades, for his work in the Building Futures Program.

Nick Comstock began his career with IBEW in June of 1974. He is in his 52nd year as a member of the IBEW. He has been a leader and a teacher to Journeyman and Apprentices for over 35 years. Nick served two terms on the Local 82 Executive Board and three terms as the Business Manager.

He was a member of the International IBEW National Class that designed the new business manager school at the George Meany National Labor College. Nick also attended the

National Labor College and studied Contract Negotiation and Labor Union Grievance Arbitration.

During Nick's tenure as Local 82 Business Manager several programs were initiated including the Local 82 Hall of Fame, the Charlie Toon Apprenticeship Scholarship fund and the IBEW Apprentice Mentoring Program.

During his career Nick had the honor of teaching several classes for the International Foundation of Employee Benefits. "I am most proud of teaching at the Foundation New Trustee School every six months for several years," says Nick.

*cont'd. pg. 2*

## Building Futures Program

**N**ick Comstock has taken over as the instructor at the Building Futures program, introducing students to the Union building trades. This is a free pre-apprenticeship training program for Dayton-Miami Valley Residents. At the helm is Diane Walsh with Dayton AFL-CIO and has partnered with the Dayton Building and Construction Trades to offer an opportunity to a career path in the building trades. This is a 6-week apprenticeship readiness program and no experience in the construction industry is necessary or required to

participate. A career with one of the affiliated trades provides participants with a great starting wage, health benefits, and retirement program.

Students learn about the construction industry, tools identification and use, essential construction math, and blueprint reading.

Certifications include: OSHA-10 and CPR/AED/First Aid, basic scaffolding, and mobile elevation work platform operation.

While most of the training is classroom based,

some hands-on instruction at six area's union apprenticeship schools is also part of the



curriculum. The classes include employability workshops as well as individualized job development. Case management services help ensure retention in the program. Students also learn about how

to budget and write a resume. According to Nick, "Many of our students have never had an opportunity to learn about the building trades, let alone understand that with hard work and dedication, they can master a craft that will carry them throughout their life providing a great income and benefits. It's challenging and rewarding to see these students succeed."

The affiliated trades that participate in Building Futures include: bricklayers, cement masons, electricians, ironworkers, construction craft laborers, painters, plasterers, plumbers and pipefitters, roofers, and sheet metal workers. Contact [info@daytonaflcio.org](mailto:info@daytonaflcio.org)

## Comstock cont'd

He served as a Benefits Trustee on the Local 82 benefits plans for 23 years and was a Master Trustee for over 18 years.

Nick has participated in local development plans, serving in his 20th year as the City and County Commissioners appointee on the Dayton Montgomery County Port Authority, representing the AFL/CIO and the Dayton Building Trades.

After his tenure as Business Manager of Local 82, Nick worked his way up



*Executive Director of the Dayton Building Trades David Cox presents the Miami Valley Union Leadership Award to Nick Comstock.*

to Construction Manager / Consultant for both Premier Health Partners and Kettering Health Network.

He tried to retire last year but couldn't do it! Nick is now teaching in the AFL/CIO, Dayton Building Trades, Building Futures program, sharing his experiences and knowledge with the next generation of Building Trades apprentices.

Nick has devoted his life to

building a better union and community. His impact will be felt for generations to come. Congratulations for a well deserved award, Miami Valley Labor Leader, for a lifetime.



*The Dayton Builders Exchange 21st Annual Team Building Night.*

## IBEW/NECA raises over \$3k for *4 Paws for Ability*

The LMCC/IBEW/NECA hosted their 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Outing at Sycamore Creek Country Club in Springboro. The original outing was scheduled for September 22 and everyone showed up! We made it through lunch but as soon as everyone took off for the shotgun start, the rain came in! So the event was rescheduled for October 20.

A big thank you to our Beverage Sponsors: Contractor's Choice, Dover, and Ledbetter and Partners. And all the participants who donated to 4 Paws for Ability with hole sponsorships. All proceeds from the hole sponsorships and proceeds from the raffle are donated to 4 Paws for Ability, an organization that trains and places service dogs with veterans.

Volunteer Jennifer Matecki, brought a service dog-in-training to the event. This year LMCC/IBEW/NECA members raised \$3,254 for 4 Paws.



places service dogs with children and veterans who have disabilities. Founded by Karen Shirk in 1998, the organization has grown from a one-bedroom apartment to a purpose-built campus in Xenia, OH with more than sixty staff members and thousands of volunteers. 4 Paws for Ability places over 120 service dogs annually, all trained with specific tasks and skills to mitigate the impacts of their partner's disabilities. To date, more

than 2,000 service dog teams have been created.

4 Paws works closely with the individual to determine their unique needs that can best be met through the support of a service dog. Research suggests that psychiatric service dogs may be an effective complementary treatment option for military veterans with PTSD. Service dogs are trained to interact with individuals when they begin to feel panicked, position themselves between a veteran and others, and interrupt night terrors. The results come in the form of a non-judgmental living being who can provide unconditional love 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Some trained tasks include picking up on cues veterans display when experiencing distress or anxiety and consequently nudging, pawing, or licking them to encourage the veteran to focus on the

dog. Trainers also teach the service dogs to notice when veterans experience anxiety at night and will actively wake the person up from nightmares.

The dogs also learn to perform tasks in public—such as looking the opposite way in a crowded room or store to provide a sense of security for the veteran. In addition, these service dogs offer valuable companionship, provide joy and happiness, and add structure and routine to veterans' lives.

The cost to raise and train just one service dog is \$40K-\$60K so the support of their donors and volunteers is essential to their success. If you are interested in donating to the care of these amazing dogs, please visit [4pawsforability.org](http://4pawsforability.org).



*October, 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*

# Counselors Breakfast with Apprenticeship Council

The Apprenticeship Training Programs affiliated with the Dayton Building & Construction Trades recently held a Breakfast and Expo for area high-school counselors on September 18. The goal was to share information about the apprenticeship programs available in the building trades. Apprenticeships lead to careers in a variety of trades and there is no cost to being an apprentice.

The basic entrance requirements consist of a high school education and a driver's license. You work every day, earning a great wage while you learn a trade.

Classes take place in the evening, once or twice a week. And you earn college credit for your classes. Upon completion of an apprenticeship, which can take 3 to 5 years, depending on the trade, you become a Journeyman. But that's just the beginning of your career. Continuing education is available so you can advance to Foreman, Project Manager, Supervisor and beyond.

There were several speakers at the breakfast followed by a roundtable discussion with the Apprentice Coordinators from the various trades. Vince Irvin from the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council discussed the Department of Labor guidelines for apprenticeship programs. There are over 1000 different

apprenticeship programs in the state of Ohio, including the building trades.

Tommy Renfro with Shook Construction also discussed the career opportunities available to Apprentices and Journeymen who work for their companies. Shook Construction has begun an educational outreach program to encourage students

and the trades are often overlooked. The counselors find that one of their major challenges is convincing the parents that the trades provide a path to a rewarding and lucrative career. The Apprenticeship Coordinators for each trade indicated that they do and will attend any assembly at the schools to discuss the benefits of their programs.

Several Apprenticeship programs have created high school programs where students work at a trade during the summer and part time during the year so that when they graduate they start as a second year apprentice. All the coordinators agreed that the primary focus for a new apprentices should be to show up and be willing to learn. And every coordinator indicated that what makes working in the trades meaningful, is the

comradeship you have with other members. It's a supportive work environment where everyone looks out for each other.

The counselors had the opportunity to tour the IBEW Local 82 Electrical and Local

24 Sheet Metal Workers apprenticeship facilities.



Apprenticeship Coordinators roundtable.

to consider a future in the construction trades. To this end, they have developed a VR program about construction



Assitant Training Director Tyler Onkst and Training Director Anthony Henderson of the Electrical Apprenticeship program.

and are using this in middle schools.

During the roundtable, the counselors discussed the obstacles that students must overcome to pursue an apprenticeship program. Our culture pushes students towards a college education,



Vince Irvin, Ohio State Apprenticeship Council Chairman.



Tommy Renfro of Shook Construction.



Counselors learn about the building trades apprenticeship programs.

Apprenticeships are Equal Opportunity Training Programs available to everyone. For more information about apprentice programs in the building trades visit: [www.daytonapprenticeships.org](http://www.daytonapprenticeships.org).



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## URS Season of Impact

The United Rehabilitation Services (URS) traditionally holds a telethon every December to raise funds for their facility. This year their event is the Season of Impact. Throughout December, URS will be highlighting clients' accomplishments, new program additions, and community partnerships. This will culminate with a special day, The URS Day of Giving on WDTN, Tuesday, December 2, 2025. This expanded format will allow the URS to reach a broader audience and share even more stories that demonstrate the life-changing work of URS.

IBEW/NECA, once again is the primary sponsor as Impact Champion of this fund raising event for URS.

## Dayton Holiday Festival

Don't miss The Grande Illumination and Children's Parade the day after Thanksgiving, in downtown Dayton.  
IBEW/NECA is once again an Event Sponsor and will have a specialty parade float!

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

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