

## BUILDING COMMUNITY



**ELECTRIC FOREST:** From left, journeyman Cliff Albertson, friend Joy Elaine, apprentice Chris White, and material handler Charles Campos were among more than 50 volunteers this year.

## IBEW Local 48 volunteers help light up The Grotto

More than 50 volunteers from IBEW Local 48 spent Saturday, Nov. 2, helping set up the temporary power for The Grotto's Christmas Festival of Lights. The Grotto is a Catholic shrine and botanical garden meant to provide spiritual inspiration.

Local 48 and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) have been involved with the distribution of power for the Festival of Lights since its inception in 1988. That first year the festival ran for just 10 nights with approximately 60,000 lights. It later ramped up to more than 500,000 lights. Last year, the festival switched to LEDs, boosting the light count to more than 1 million. The festival now runs from the day after Thanksgiving through Dec. 30.

The Grotto says its festival is the largest Christmas choral festival in the world. It features nearly 160 indoor holiday concerts performed by school, church, and civic choirs. The festival also has a petting zoo and holiday foods and beverages. More than 55,000 people attend the walk-through event each year. The festival runs nightly from 5 to 9:30 p.m. through Dec. 30. The Grotto is located at 8840 NE Skidmore St., Portland.

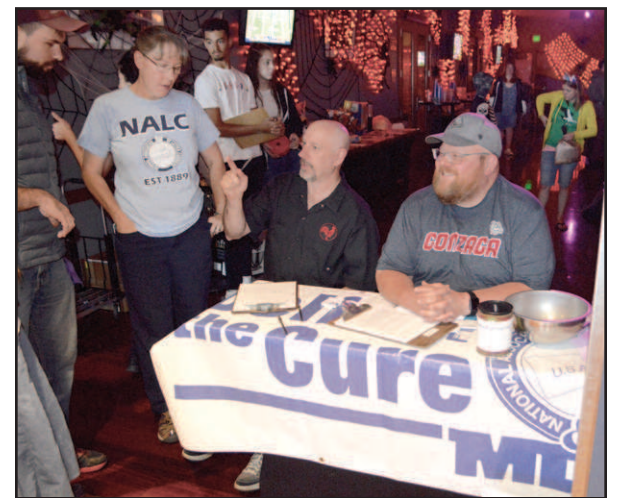


Apprentice Asa Antonio works a circuit panel (above), while apprentice Michael Keith (below) tests lights. Photos by Michael Gutwig



## Vancouver Letter Carriers host bowling fundraiser for MDA

VANCOUVER, Wash.—National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 1104 held its inaugural Labor Bowling Tournament fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Sunday, Oct. 27, at Big Al's. The Halloween-themed event raised money from pledges and a silent auction. The total amount collected wasn't finalized at press time, but Holly Curatolo, president of Branch 1104, said the event will be held again next year in October. Top men's and women's bowlers were Cody Hebert and Toni Waser. Best costume went to Abe RedCloud of NALC Branch 82 (above), and low score was recorded by Nathanael Bundy.



Donald Sharp, event organizer Debbie Sharp, Glen Sproul, and Keith Bundy register bowlers.

## Know a fellow member facing hard times? November holiday dinner gift cards are available by referral

Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) has announced a November Holiday Dinner Gift Card Program for union members who are unemployed or facing temporary hardships.

Referral forms are available

for local union staff to fill out and send to LCSA. In turn, the agency will send those members a grocery store food card (from a union grocer) that can be used to buy a holiday meal for the family.

The deadline to send a referral is 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 21.

For more information, or to obtain a referral form, contact Eryn Byram at 503-231-4962 or email [director@lcsaportland.org](mailto:director@lcsaportland.org).

## Toys and cash needed for union members in hardship

Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC) are accepting donations of toys and cash now through Dec. 9 for the 23rd annual Presents from Partners Holiday Toy Party. The event—for families of unemployed union members and those facing temporary hardships—will be held in mid-December. Entrance is by ticket only. Members must be referred by their union. Referral forms will be sent to unions and must be returned to LCSA by Dec. 10. Unwrapped toys for kids up to 18 years of age can be dropped off at the following locations:

**IBEW Federal Credit Union, Northwest Oregon Labor Council** (Suite 305), or

**Labor's Community Service Agency**, (Suite 301). All are located in the same building at 9955 SE Washington St.

**Oregon AFL-CIO**, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

**IBEW Local 48**, 15937 NE Airport Way.

**Painters District Council No. 5**, 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Suite A.

**Laborers Local 483**, 1125 SE Madison, Ste 206.

**Oregon Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals #5017**, 1500 NE Irving, Suite 575.

**OPEIU Local 11**, 3815 Columbia St., Vancouver.

**Portland Federation of School Professionals Local 111**, 1110 SE Alder, Suite 205.

**Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757**, 1801 NE Couch St.

**Sunrise Dental Beaverton**, 14425 SW Allen Blvd., Beaverton.

**Sunrise Dental Gresham**, 13908 SE Stark, Space B, Gresham.

**Sunrise Dental Salmon Creek**, 2621 NE 134th St., #300, Salmon Creek.

Cash donations can be sent to LCSA, 9955 SE Washington, #301, Portland, Oregon, 97216.