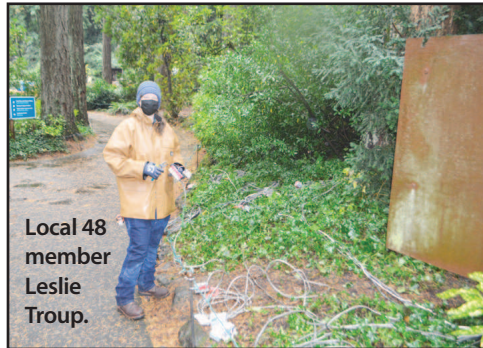


BUILDING COMMUNITY



IBEW Local 48 volunteers return to light up the Grotto's Festival of Lights

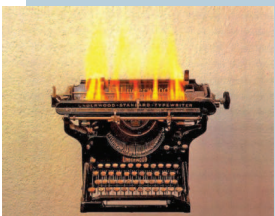
More than 40 volunteers from IBEW Local 48 braved pouring rain on Saturday, Oct. 23, to set up the temporary power for The Grotto's Christmas Festival of Lights. The festival returns after a one-year hiatus due to the coronavirus shutdown. The Grotto is a Catholic shrine and botanical garden meant to provide spiritual inspiration. Local 48 and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) have been involved with the distribution of power for the walk-through Festival of Lights since its inception in 1988. The festival has grown from a 10-night show with 60,000 lights to 34 nights and more than 2 million lights. It also features 160 indoor holiday concerts performed by school, church, and civic choirs, outdoor caroling, puppet shows, and holiday foods and beverages. Because of the coronavirus there won't be a petting zoo this year. Starting the day after Thanksgiving, the festival will run nightly through Dec. 30 from 5 to 10 p.m. It is closed on Christmas Day. Tickets should be purchased in advance, as attendance will be limited. The Grotto also will require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours for everyone 12 and over. Masks will be required for those over 5 years old. General admission is \$14. Children 3 to 11 is \$7. Ages 2 and under is free, but will require a ticket for capacity control. The Grotto is located at 8840 NE Skidmore St., Portland. For more information, go to: thegrotto.org/christmas-festival-of-lights



Local 48 member Leslie Troup.



David Radtke and first-term apprentice Kristielynn Fell.



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