

High Voltage Recognition

High Voltage is a one-hour History Channel documentary that tells the story of the skilled and courageous workers who for more than a century have risked their lives to erect and maintain the power lines that electrify the United States and Canada. The IBEW served as a resource for the making of the documentary, which will be aired in mid-February. Check your local listings.

The program traces the creation of the IBEW and the contributions of pioneers like first President Henry Miller, who did so much to protect and develop the Brotherhood. James Dushaw, Director of the IBEW Utility Department, was interviewed on tape about the IBEW, the tools and techniques developed to deal with electric current.

The program is produced by Robert Kirk, an Emmy Award-winning producer and director who is president of Digital Ranch in Sherman Oaks, California. Mr. Kirk's credits include the A&E two-hour specials *Weapons at War*; *The Berlin Airlift: First Battle of the Cold War*; *Sink the Bismarck*; *Robots*; *Great Escapes of*



World War II; and a four-hour special on the history of American prisons, *The Big House*.

High Voltage is part of a new series of 13 programs about dangerous occupations that Digital Ranch is producing for the History Channel. Other professions include iron workers on high steel, oil well fire fighters, hazmat teams, bomb squads, animal trainers and helicopter rescue teams. ❁

IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Dushaw (right) is interviewed by Director/Producer Robert Kirk for *High Voltage*, a History Channel presentation about electrical line workers.

Electrical Manufacturing Members Sign Contract with Farraz Shamut, Inc.

In the IBEW Manufacturing Branch, Massachusetts Local 1386 has successfully negotiated a new three-year contract for 180 skilled members employed by Farraz Shamut, Inc., a high-tech international firm that manufactures industrial fuses (including circuit and semiconductor fuses) for a world market. The company is located in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Farraz Shamut was formed following the acquisition of Gould Shawmut, Inc. by a company based in France, the Carbone Lorraine Group. The new structure was finalized on August 31, 1999, and Local 1386 members ratified the contract on September 1, 1999.

Local 1386 Business Manager Paul Hickey

credited the IBEW Second District and International Representative John L. Faria for their assistance during contract negotiations in the midst of the acquisition. He said, "International Representative Faria's professional guidance, along with his unwavering but reasonable position, [helped us] negotiate an exceptionally fair contract in these times of corporate hard lines."

"Despite the fact that negotiations were with a new company," he said, "Faria's firm stance brought substantial wage increases and improved pension and health care benefits." The business manager also commended the dedicated hard work of the entire Local 1386 Negotiating Committee. ❁

LABOR CULTURE,

LABOR HERITAGE

The soul of the labor movement often finds its expression in music and art. The Labor Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening unions through culture, produces a catalogue containing hard to find music, books, art and videos telling the story of labor.

For a free copy, contact the Labor Heritage Foundation at 1925 K Street, N.W., #400, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 842-7810; fax (202) 842-7838. ❁

Gore Tops IBEW Poll

The ballots are in from the IBEW 2000 Presidential Preference Poll, and the winner is Vice President Albert Gore.

The Tennessee Democrat was the choice of 37 percent of those who mailed in the ballots that were contained in the November 1999 issue of the *IBEW Journal* sent to members in the United States. Former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley (D) was second with 29 percent of votes cast. Texas Governor George W. Bush (R) trailed with 16 percent, and Arizona Senator John McCain (R) garnered 9 percent. No other candidate exceeded the 3 percent mark.

Vice President Gore led by significant margins in most Southern and Western states, including California. The voting was closer in Midwestern states, but Gore also finished ahead of Senator Bradley there. Bradley gained his highest levels of support from IBEW members in the Eastern United States.

"We believe that this poll was extremely important in giving our members the opportunity to make their voices heard," said IBEW International President J. J. Barry. "If we are to succeed in electing a President and other officials in November who will be sympathetic to the cause of working people, it will take a strong grass roots effort. That can only happen if our members have a say in the process. Based on the results our International Officers have decided to concur in the action of the AFL-CIO's Convention last October in supporting the candidacy of Vice President Gore."

IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer Edwin D. Hill said, "We continue to respect the views of our individual members. Above all, we urge all IBEW members and their families in the United States to register and vote this November. This is simply too important an election for working people to sit on the sidelines." He urged every member to review the voter registration deadlines and primary election dates published on the inside back cover of this issue. The general election will be held November 7, 2000. Be there! ■



Jon Hughes, Business Manager, Local 477 (left), House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-MO), Joe Baca, and Stan Stosel, Business Representative, Local 47, after presenting Baca with a \$5,000 contribution from the IBEW.

Special Election Teamwork Pays Off

In a special election, held on November 16, 1999, California State Representative Joe Baca (D), aided by IBEW Local 47, Diamond Bar, and Local 477, San Bernadino, won the 42nd Congressional seat that had been held by the late George Brown (D).

Baca, a longtime labor supporter, was endorsed by Locals 47 and 477 because of his 97 percent voting record in support of labor issues. "Joe has been a solid friend to workingmen and -women. In fact his nickname is 'Workin' Joe Baca," said Local 47 Business Representative Stan Stosel. "Local 47 endorsed Joe in his run for state senator back in 1997. Some politicians get elected and then forget about those who supported them. Not Joe. His door was always open and he worked on our issues in Sacramento. I'm sure he'll do the same in Washington."

Business Manager Jon Hughes, Local 477, said, "Special elections always have low voter turnout. Labor helped Joe win this seat because we energized union members and got them to the polls."

As a state senator, Baca was a member of the State Senate Utilities and Commerce Committee, where his influence and support helped the IBEW with many issues related to the state's electric utility deregulation process. ■

Finally, OSHA Proposes Rule On Ergonomics

The IBEW and other unions will be working in Congress in the next session to make good on President Clinton's long-awaited proposal for a workplace ergonomics standard to curb repetitive stress and other job injuries.

Union job safety experts have pushed for such a standard for nine years, since President Bush committed the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to devise a comprehensive rule. The final form of the standard has been sidetracked by an extraordinary attack by employers, big business groups and anti-union members of Congress.

Typical is the opposition of the National Arborists Association, which lobbied against an ergonomics standard by in effect calling IBEW members and other line clearance tree trimmers "malingerers" who are only after "a six-month vacation."

IBEW President J. J. Barry said the IBEW and other AFL-CIO unions will be continuing the legislative effort because, "only with a strong final standard and the force of law can we have a cooperative effort to identify and redesign hazardous jobs before crippling injuries to even more workers." An estimated six million more workers have suffered serious injuries during the nine years the ergonomics standard has been stalled and, Barry said, "It is extremely short-sighted of employers not to recognize the waste in lost productivity and workers' compensation and other health care costs because of those six million cases."

As proposed by the Clinton Administration, the new standard covers such musculoskeletal disorders as back pain, tendinitis, carpal tunnel and repetitive stress syndrome. The standard would apply to manufacturing and other manual handling jobs, but the AFL-CIO said Congress would be urged to expand the coverage to include the construction, maritime and agricultural industries. ■

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Trainees learn the lineman's craft on the ALBAT training grounds.

Sparkling New Center Trains for the Future

The IBEW's determination to see members get the training necessary for the new century was on display in a 1999 joint labor-management dedication ceremony for an all-new facility in Medway, Ohio, where linemen from nine states have been trained for 40 years.

Fourth District International Vice President Paul J. Witte delivered a message from International President J. J. Barry saluting the new training center for ALBAT, the American Line Builders Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program. It was founded in 1958 by IBEW and NECA and has graduated more than 3,000 journeyman linemen serving Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Washington, D.C.

At the dedication and open house, Witte

and Wally Sickles, Third District International Executive Council member, stressed the new facility's improved flexibility. Witte said the new center would make it possible to "diversify the types of training offered to meet the challenge of the electrical industry of the future." ALBAT Chairman Philip Wagner and Training Director Fred Pelletier also spoke at the open house-barbecue, as did Rick Hecklinger of NJATC. NECA officers Don Gardner and William Triplett also attended. ■

Screen Actors Guild Awards

The Sixth Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards, which is the only annual national network television awards show to acknowledge specifically the work of union members, can be seen live on TNT, Sunday, March 12, 2000. Lauded by critics for its style, simplicity and genuine warmth, a Screen Actors Guild Award has become one of the entertainment industry's most prized honors. SAG will present thirteen awards for acting in film and television as well as the Guild's Life Achievement Award. The awards focus on both individual performances as well as the work of the entire ensemble of a drama series and comedy series, and the cast of a motion picture.

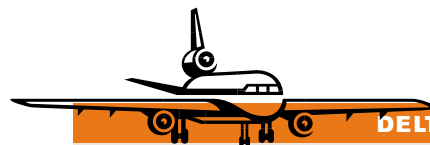
The Life Achievement Award is

presented to an established performer for fostering the highest ideals of the acting profession. Veteran actor Sidney Poitier will be the 36th Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement recipient.

The SAG Awards are also unique in the size of its voting body. Two randomly selected panels of 2,100 SAG members from across the United States select the nominees for television and motion pictures. The final ballot is then sent to the entire 97,000 active members of the Guild, who select the final recipients.

The Screen Actors Guild is affiliated with the AFL-CIO through the Associated Actors and Artistes of America.

For further information check out the SAG web site: sagawards.org. ■



DELTA BLUES

If you happen to be flying on Delta Air Lines anytime soon, give a thumbs up to the flight attendants. They are trying to form a union in the face of strong management opposition.

Of all the major airlines, Delta has been the least hospitable to unions with only the pilots having succeeded in organizing. The Delta flight attendant work force of 20,000 is by far the largest unorganized such group in the United States. The Association of Flight Attendants (AFA), an AFL-CIO affiliate with 46,000 members at 25 airlines, asks IBEW members dealing with Delta attendants to encourage them to sign representation cards and stand fast in their quest for a union. ■

IBEW Files New Petitions in BGE Organizing

IBEW has filed petitions for a union election in four units of BGE, keeping faith with workers whose previous efforts to get a union contract have been narrowly thwarted by a \$50 million campaign against them by a California union-busting firm.

IBEW Special Projects Director Gary Heald said the new petitions cover four clearly defined groups, not the 3,500-member unit in the October 1998 election that produced a narrow, 120-vote margin for no union. The petitions were filed October 14, after the mandatory one-year wait imposed by the NLRB. The four units include the utility operations group, physical employees in fossil production and those in fossil engineering and the technical employees in electric transmission and distribution.

The strong support for IBEW displayed in that narrow 1998 result has been sustained by

an active Volunteer Organizing Committee at BGE. Most recently, those workers collected thousands of customer signatures against a proposed BGE service cutback and staged a highly successful rally at the state Capitol in Annapolis.

The 1998 election was a re-run ordered by the NLRB because of the illegal activities of the Burke Group, the union-busting consultant hired by BGE. Most recently, Heald said, Burke has begun spreading its poison at BGE Home, a separate entity created by restructuring. No petitions have been filed at BGE Home, Heald said.



Workers rally against BGE cutbacks at the state Capitol in Annapolis.



National Silver Gloves Champion Christopher Newman

The Fighting Newmans

Don't mess with anybody named Newman in Augusta, Georgia.

In 1999, 12-year old Christopher Newman, son of Noah Newman, Jr., a member of IBEW Local 1579 in Augusta and grandson of Noah Newman, Sr., a retired IBEW member, won the National Silver Gloves 60-pound title in Lenexa, Kansas. Christopher placed third in the same competition in 1998, but went the extra mile to make himself a champion in 1999.

Christopher is not the only member of his family with boxing experience. His dad, Noah Jr., was a national boxing champion at age 16 and later boxed on Team USA. He is very proud that his son has already achieved a championship at age 12. Noah Sr. was the first in the family to learn boxing through the Augusta Police Athletic League program and was in the corner when both his son and grandson won national titles.

CBS CONTRACT

GOES TO MEMBERS



After marathon negotiating sessions, the IBEW and CBS reached agreement on a four-year contract on November 21, 1999. On December 29, 1999, the IBEW announced that the contract had been ratified with an 80 percent "yes" vote by the members.

The pact covers some 3,500 full-time and daily hire technical employees of CBS network operations, television stations and radio operations in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

A major breakthrough occurred when the parties agreed to a provision that allows expanded training and work opportunities in new technology, a high priority for the IBEW. The proposal also provides a set wage increase per year, benefit opportunities for daily hires, increased severance for long term employees and other changes.

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A Match Made in Heaven

In September 1999, members of IBEW Local 1466, Columbus, Ohio, made life safer and brighter for more than 9,000 little girls and their families. They did so by fixing wiring and electrical problems at Camp Ken-Jockety, a Girl Scout camp that provides overnight and day camping for Brownies and Girl Scouts from throughout central Ohio.

When Local 1466 President and Business Manager Dick Taylor became aware of the problems, he and other local members visited the camp and found 40-year old wiring attached to trees and lay-

ing across rooftops. The camp director simply did not have the funds for repairs.

There was hope. The United Way's annual Community Care Day was approaching, when thousands of volunteers work on selected projects. Brother Taylor made the camp Local 1466's project. It was a match made in heaven.

Brother Taylor, project manager Ray Byrd, and seven other members spent 30 hours prior to Community Day preparing the site. On the day itself, 23 Local 1466 members, using materials provided by their employer, American Electric Power, spent the day setting poles, stringing wire, installing and reworking weather heads and meter boxes, and water proofing camp buildings.

One of the volunteers, Barry "Bubba" Hickle, summed up the group's feeling when he said, "It's really nice to have the opportunity to volunteer your special training and skills... It's a great feeling to know we made the camp safe and hazard free for a lot of little girls."

In addition to Brothers Taylor, Byrd and Hickle, the Local 1466 volunteers were: Larry Adkins, Keith Ater, David Christian, Terry Clark, Steve Engle, Steve Green, Larry Grimm, Rick Harden, Dave Harper, Mike Millington, Butch Minnbar, John Morris, Frank Persiani, Robert Ropp, Tom Schafer, Duke Sowards, Ronald Valentine, Doug Warren, Rick Watterman and Dave Wylie.



Local 1466 members working to make the electrical system safe at Girl Scout Camp Ken-Jockety in Ohio.

A Boost for Old St. Pat's

St. Patrick's Cathedral on New York's Fifth Avenue is a well-known landmark, perhaps the most famous Catholic Church in North America. Yet, fewer people know that the original St. Patrick's in lower Manhattan is a historic landmark in its own right in the city's oldest section, with special significance to New York's huge Irish community. The five-building complex, built in 1809, consists of the church, a school (the oldest Catholic school in the U.S.), a youth center, rectory and chancellor.

For over a year, members of IBEW Local 3, New York, have gathered once a week after work to donate their time and skills to keep Old St. Patrick's a safe, well-lighted place of worship. Work began in October 1998, picking up in earnest in April 1999. The workers are concentrating on the church first. They will bathe the outside with 20 fixtures of architectural lighting delivering 6,800 watts. Inside, the members are installing state-of-the-art lamps and fixtures. After work on the church is done, the crew will move on to the other buildings.

Most of the volunteers belong to the Catholic Council of Local 3, but organizers of the project are proud of the fact that members of all creeds have helped in the endeavor.



Local 3 members (left to right) Jim Hull, Ed DePuy, Bob Molfetta, Joe Jamison, John Kissane, John Connerly, Brian Foley, Jim Livingston, Ed Foley, John Sharp and Eddie Zega pose in front of Old St. Patrick's Church in New York.

T R A N S I T I O N S

A recognized expert in the area of apprenticeship, employment testing and technological changes in jobs in the electrical and electronic industries, Research and Technical Services Department Director Kenneth R. Edwards announced his retirement, effective January 1, 2000. He has been part of the Brotherhood for over 40 years, beginning with his initiation into Local 611, Albuquerque, New Mexico, in August 1959.

Brother Edwards served his local as recording secretary, on the Executive Board and as chairman of the Apprenticeship Committee,

RETIRED



Kenneth R. Edwards

on the Skill Improvement Committee and as an instructor in both the inside and outside apprenticeship programs.

Before joining the IBEW, Brother Edwards served as an engineering designer at Northrup Aircraft, Inc., Hawthorn, California, in the Missile Division, revising drawings of modifications made to missiles and chase aircraft, calibrating flight instruments and assisting in establishing downrange communication systems.

After a brief stint as an instructor in the Albuquerque Public Schools and Technical Vocational Institute, Brother Edwards worked in the relay

and communications department for the Public Service Company of New Mexico in Albuquerque. It was during this time that Brother Edwards became committed to providing quality training for workers. He developed training materials and taught apprentices in the areas of line, equipment and power.

In 1968, Brother Edwards was appointed an International Representative by then International President Gordon Freeman to assist in developing standardized training and assessments in the electric utility industry. He later became director of Skill Improvement Training and then the Technical Services Department before his appointment in 1994 as director of the newly created Research and Technical Services Department.

Brother Edwards has a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and has been an

educational and training consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and various universities and centers around the world. He is a member of the National Skill Standards Board and a technical advisor for the American National Standards Institute, the National Electric Code, the Vocational Clubs of America and others. He has received numerous awards for his work and has been a guest lecturer at Michigan State University, Notre Dame University and the University of Texas-LBJ Institute. In addition to being an advisor and reviewer, Brother Edwards has published many papers and articles of his own.

Brother Edwards looks forward to spending time with his family and further pursuing his interests in electronics and technology. ■

International President J. J. Barry announced the appointment of Douglas A. Fisher to the position of director of the Research and Technical Services Department at the International Office, effective January 1, 2000. Brother Fisher succeeds Kenneth R. Edwards, who has retired.

Brother Fisher has been a member of Local 474, Memphis, Tennessee, since June 1968, where he served as business manager/financial

APPOINTMENT



Douglas A. Fisher

secretary, vice president, recording secretary, on the Executive Board, as COPE chair and on various committees. He was a delegate to the 32nd, 33rd, and 34th IBEW Conventions and has served as vice president of the Tennessee AFL-CIO, been on the Memphis AFL-CIO Executive Board, the Community Service Committee, AFL-CIO, the Memphis Building and Construction Trades Council and the Tennessee, Arkansas, Mis-

issippi Electrical Workers Association.

Brother Fisher was appointed an International Representative in February 1992, and was assigned to the International Office in the Research and Technical Services Department and then to the Construction and Maintenance Department.

In labor-related activities outside the IBEW, he serves on the boards of directors of the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee and the Service Equipment Institute. He has also served as a member of the Building and Construction Trades Depart-

ment's Safety and Health Committee.

Brother Fisher has attended Shelby State College and the State Technical Institute in Memphis, Tennessee; the State University in Nashville and the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. He has a bachelor's degree in Labor Studies from the George Meany Center, Antioch University, and a master's degree in Labor and Policy Studies from Empire State College in New York.

The IBEW extends its best wishes to Brother Fisher as he assumes the duties of his new position. ■