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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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Signing Energizes Idaho Linemen

When Idaho passed a right-to-work law in 1986, it had a chilling effect on union organizing. Labor activists and the AFL-CIO mounted two consecutive efforts to repeal the law, citing statistics that showed the state's average wage had fallen and that its tax base was eroding from workers traveling to work in nearby states for more money, but the campaigns failed.

Against this background, Pocatello, Idaho, Local 449 attempted to organize Power Line Construction, a contractor that—for 40 years—had erected and maintained power lines for Fall River Rural Electric Association, an IBEW-organized utility. Three times, the Brotherhood tried and failed to organize Power Line.

Last year, Tom Atchley, a popular local businessman who had served on the REA's board of directors, bought Power Line. His first priority was to retain as many of the 21 linemen and apprentices as he could, keep the REA satisfied and pay his bills.

But keeping stable crews is no easy feat in Idaho's outside construction industry. Brutal winters force contractors to lay off workers until the snows melt and the ground thaws. Atchley idled his crew in winter; some didn't return in spring. Several skilled IBEW journeymen who had traveled to other states were willing to return home, but only to union contractors.

Needing skilled journeymen, Atchley got busy and, last March, called Local 449. Organizers answered Atchley's questions and he agreed to sign with the local.

Many of his workers had grown up on local farms and had no prior experience with unions. Stuart Schreiber, an apprentice who has worked at Power Line for four years, says, "Joining the IBEW is definitely a change for the better that gives us the chance to continue on into a career. It opened opportunities for all of us."

"The biggest thing that led to the signing was Local 449's long, productive collective bargaining relationship with Fall River," says Bob Bodell, Local 449 business manager, who demonstrated how the REA would gain from improved training and manpower availability.

Atchley said the IBEW has been good for the REA and for Power Line Construction.

With the active support the Mountain States Line Apprenticeship, Atchley and Local 449 set up a pole yard for workers from Power Line and other companies to practice safe climbing. Freshly-designed classroom instruction supplements the outside training. A teacher helps apprentices brush up on their math. Other classes help them obtain commercial drivers licenses and CPR certificates.

With two sons starting the apprenticeship program, Atchley is looking to expand the family business. He has an exuberant crew to help



Newly organized Pocatello, Idaho, Local 449 apprentices sharpen their climbing skills.

him, energized by the newfound opportunity—as IBEW members—to travel to California or other warmer climes to keep their paychecks coming in during Idaho's winters.

In July, Power Line's apprentices and journeymen traveled to a lineman's rodeo in Deer Lodge, Mont. "I feel good about how much they want to participate," says Bodell. "They are a good bunch of people who are really doing their job to become IBEW members." ■

IBEW and Verizon: One Year Out

A long list of issues both companywide and local are amounting to what promises to be difficult contract talks next year between Verizon and its employees represented by the IBEW and the Communications Workers of America.

The last time the parties met at the bargaining table was 2003. In the end, after several weeks and the appointment of a mediator, a deal was reached and the contract term was extended to five years. It seems like a long time ago.

Since then, the cutthroat telecommunications business environment has gotten more competitive as new technologies evolve. Years of traditionally decent labor-management relations in the once-staid telephone industry have been shunted aside in the transition to "telecom." Many companies have come to view their workers not so much as partners in a common goal but hindrances to profit margins more attractive to shareholders.

"In this business, I don't know that there ever is a good relationship," said Middleboro, Mass., Local 2322 Business Manager Dick Cappiello. "Everything is a confrontation."

An Aug. 2 rally in front of Verizon's New England headquarters in Boston was meant to send a message to the company and to Verizon employees, said Boston Local 2222 Business Agent Dave Reardon. The IBEW represents approximately 32,000 members in New England, New Jersey, New York, Florida and California.

"We're preparing for the possibility of a strike in 2008," Reardon said, adding that Verizon has already signaled it will demand



Nearly 600 people attended a rally August 2 at Verizon's headquarters in Boston to gear up for contract negotiations next year.

concessions on health care, pensions and work rules. "It's important to let the members know that the possibility exists, especially in this corporate climate."

One of the main points of contention between IBEW members and the company is Verizon's new fiber-optic service FiOS, a high bandwidth option that carries traditional phone service, Internet and cable. The company unilaterally implemented work rule

changes regarding Saturday work in New England. To meet demand, Verizon has also hired hundreds of new employees, but only training them on FiOS installation, causing rifts among the more experienced workers in the bargaining unit.

Most of all, Verizon's proposed sale of its 1.6 million copper telephone access lines in the states of New Hampshire, Maine and

Vermont has hit a nerve. The IBEW and CWA have launched a major public campaign aimed at preventing the sale to FairPoint Communications, a rural telephone provider. The unions hope to convince state and federal regulators the sale would be bad for traditional telephone customers. They have also filed four cases related to the sale for arbitration regarding job security and the transfer of jobs. Cappiello said the union is facing the loss of 3,000 jobs; and those members could lose their pensions and good benefits.

"Verizon probably has the best contract in the telecommunications industry, but we are losing membership due to technology and the company divesting itself of their union properties."

— Martha Pultar,
Telecommunications Department Director

The company is also refusing to recognize the more than 75 percent of technicians at Verizon Business who have petitioned the company for union bargaining rights. Majority support of 350 workers has been certified by elected officials and community leaders in Boston and New York.

"Verizon probably has the best contract in the telecommunications industry, but we are losing membership due to technology and the company divesting itself of their union properties," said Telecommunications Department Director Martha Pultar.

In New York, where the IBEW represents customer service representatives, call centers are understaffed and members are working overtime even as the company has been declaring their work force surplus, forcing layoffs, said Syracuse, N.Y., Local 2213 Business Manager MaryJo Arcuri.

With a statewide franchise agreement in New Jersey, East Windsor Local 827 Business Manager John Miller said his members are having trouble keeping up with the new FiOS installation work, but the company is hiring.

"In New Jersey, we worked hard to get a statewide franchise agreement and now we are working hard to get it deployed," Miller said. "We are very concerned that the company will try to eliminate many of the benefits they have already stripped from the nonunion and management employees." ■

Tentative Agreement Reached in National Railroad Negotiations

After working for over four years without a contract, more than 36,000 union members reached a tentative agreement with the railroad carriers on July 17. Ratification voting by each union is expected to be completed by the end of September.

"The railroads have been making money hand over fist while we were working without a contract," said IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohne. "We are glad to have reached an agreement that makes some real progress for our members."

A coalition of four unions—the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the International Association of Machinists, the Transportation

Communications Union, and the Transport Workers Union—reached the agreement with the railroad industry's negotiating group, the National Carriers' Conference Committee.

The IBEW represents approximately 6,000 electrical workers on more than 30 freight railroads covered by the new agreement, including Burlington Northern Santa Fe, CSX, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific and Indiana Harbor Belt.

The four-year agreement—which is to retroactively start January 2005 and run through December 2009—includes a 17-percent wage increase over the life of the contract, retroactive pay averaging \$2,600 per employee, no work rule changes and only a modest increase in health care co-pays. For

the first time, the railroads agreed to set health care premium co-pays at 15 percent of the monthly cost.

Negotiations began in late 2004 after the former contract expired, but the railroads resisted negotiations. After two years of working without a contract, the four unions filed for mediation before the National Mediation Board, an independent government agency that coordinates labor relations in the railroad and airline industry. The parties returned to the table in January, following prompting by the Democratic-led Congress. "Hard work at the bargaining table and solidarity in the field made this agreement possible," said International President Edwin D. Hill. ■

Iowa Local Organizes Wind Power Workers

Over 300 wind turbines dot the rolling hills of Iowa, generating enough power to run a small city. Wind turbine specialists, who maintain and operate the turbines, must climb two of these 600-foot generators each day, checking the gears and motor to make sure they are running properly and generating energy.

"It's not a good job if you're afraid of heights," said Des Moines Local 499 Business Manager Don Krause. When the workers reach the top, they have to slide down the middle hub—which is hundreds of feet off the ground—to get inside the turbine to check the motors to make sure they are properly greased. As the tallest structures in the area, the danger of lightning strikes is also a major concern, he said.

Despite the danger and skill involved, the men and women who maintain the turbines had no representation on the job and suffered from low wages and benefits. "The whole [wind power] industry is pretty much nonunion," Krause said.

But thanks to the work of Local 499, the wind turbine specialists at MidAmerican Energy, Iowa's largest utility and its biggest producer of wind power, are now members

of the IBEW.

In May, when MidAmerican announced it was expanding its fleet of wind turbines, the company signed an agreement with the local—which represents over 1,200 utility workers at MidAmerican—to organize the new employees. "We had lobbied the state legislature for wind turbine tax credits, which made the expansion possible," Krause said. "So MidAmerican knew we were committed to wind power."

One of the big challenges for the local was writing contract language for a new branch of the utility industry that has never seen a union. "We couldn't just use language from somewhere else because it didn't exist," Krause said.

Now wind turbine specialists start at approximately \$28 an hour, a rate comparable to what other utility workers make.

Currently seven specialists are represented by Local 499, with more to join in the next few months. General Electric Co.—which produced the turbines—continues to staff many of the operations until the warranty runs out and they transfer full operations over to MidAmerican.

Wind power is one of the fastest growing industries in Iowa, with the state now the third largest generator of wind power in the nation.



One of the over 300 wind turbines operated by members of Des Moines, Iowa Local 499.

MidAmerican is planning to add another 320 turbines in the next year and all the new workers will be represented by Local 499.

"We are proud to be breaking new ground," Krause said. The local has been receiving inquiries from California—the greatest generator of wind power in the nation—for advice on organizing workers there. "We hope that this is the beginning of a breakthrough of the IBEW in the wind power industry." ■

News Corp. To Sell Nine Fox Stations

The New York City-based News Corp. announced plans to sell four IBEW-represented stations in Kansas City, Mo., St. Louis, Milwaukee and Birmingham, Ala.

News Corp., run by media mogul Rupert Murdoch, announced in June that it was putting nine of its 35 Fox affiliates up for sale. The stations are WDAF in Kansas City, Mo., represented by Kansas City Local 53; KTVI in St. Louis, represented by St. Louis Local 4; WITI in Milwaukee represented by Milwaukee Local 715; and WBRC in Birmingham, Ala., represented by Birmingham Local 253.

The ramifications of the sale for IBEW members are still unclear, but successor language in the individual contracts has some, like Milwaukee Local 715 Business Manager Christopher Albrecht, hopeful that their jobs and benefits packages are safe. "This station has gone through five owners," Albrecht said. "I think the station will be maintained as it is." ■

You Get the Picture

The IBEW photo contest is again seeking your photos of life as an IBEW member. Photos do not have to be new, but they must have an IBEW theme, be it an IBEW member at work, at a union activity or an image of the industry. (See complete rules below.)

In the past, our photo contests have reflected the impressive field of this membership's photographic talent. Winners will be printed in the Winter 2008 issue of the *Journal*.

SO GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT.

PRIZES

1st Place — \$200

2nd Place — \$150

3rd Place — \$100

Honorable Mention — \$50

(Note: There will be as many honorable mentions as the judges deem worthy.)

RULES

- The photo contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photograph must be the one who took the photograph.
- International Officers and staff are not eligible.
- Submissions can be in color or black and white, on slides, 300 dpi tif file, or glossy prints. The preferred print size is 8x10.
- All submissions become the property of the IBEW *Journal* and Media Relations Department.
- Photos must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union related activity, or still subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
- If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or purpose of the gathering (e.g., a safety committee, a linemen's rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
- Photos previously published in the IBEW *Journal* are not eligible for submission.
- Please fill out the IBEW CONTEST ENTRY FORM and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest, and mail photo(s) to the IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.
- All entries must be postmarked no later than November 21, 2007.



IBEW® CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/PROVINCE _____

ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

LOCAL UNION NO. _____

IBEW CARD NO. (IMPORTANT) _____

HOME PHONE NO. _____

**Fill out this form and attach it to the back of each entry and mail to:
The IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001**

IBEW Skill Fuels First Nuclear Reactor Start-Up of Century

Nuclear reactor operators Jeff Canafax and Bill Johnson, members of Sheffield, Ala., Local 765, just might have ushered in a renaissance in the utility industry in May when they restarted Browns Ferry Unit 1, the first U.S. nuclear reactor to be commissioned in the 21st century.

As the environmental and monetary costs of coal, oil and gasoline continue to rise, nuclear power is a more essential component in the nation's power generation mix. The Tennessee Valley Authority's need for power continues to grow 2 percent per year.

"I knew being in on the start-up was a big thing," says Canafax, a 25-year TVA worker. "What I didn't fully understand was the significance of Unit 1's restart to the industry, until I stood in the control room and met President Bush [who was touring the facility]," says Canafax.

The \$1.8 billion project to rebuild Browns Ferry Unit 1, which had been shut down since a 1975 fire (see "Nuclear Power Rising Again," *IBEW Journal*, May 2005) was approved in 2002. Hundreds of IBEW members from 32 different locals referred through Sheffield, Ala., Local 558, worked on rebuilding the structure at the three-reactor plant under a Project Maintenance and Modification Agreement between the general presidents of building trades unions, Bechtel Power Corp. and general contractor Stone and Webster.



Senior Reactor Operator Chris Vaught, left, and Browns Ferry Reactor Operators Jeff Canafax and Bill Johnson, both members of Sheffield, Ala., Local 765, prepare to begin the re-start of Browns Ferry Unit 1.

(Photo: credit of Tennessee Valley Authority)

Because of chronic understaffing, the start-up crews worked long overtime hours, a "phenomenal accomplishment working against the odds," says Bobby Davis, business manager of Local 765, representing TVA's operating personnel and much of the TVA maintenance crafts at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Modification, replacement and refurbishment of the reactor required 15 million work hours, 200 miles of electrical cable and

127,000 electrical terminations. Over two miles of new cable tray and 35 miles of new conduit were installed.

Browns Ferry's increased generating capacity required even more work by IBEW

journeymen and signatory outside contractors to upgrade transmission capacity. Workers replaced three transformers, each weighing more than 300 tons. They beefed up substations and installed several miles of transmission lines. IBEW members worked under the TVA's Construction Project Agreement and Tenth District policy that provides for full portability throughout TVA's property.

The safety of nuclear power is once again a focus of world attention since a July earthquake in Japan released radioactive wastes from a reactor owned by Tokyo Electric Power. Safety—the cause of Browns Ferry 1's shutdown—is at the center of its rebuilding effort. The refurbishment of Browns Ferry 1 incorporates all prior upgrades to Browns Ferry's reactors 2 and 3. This provides for more uniform and effective training of operators and maintenance personnel, say senior TVA managers.

The high quality of IBEW's work on Browns Ferry's start-up was a key factor leading to TVA's announcement of a refurbishment project at Watts Bar nuclear plant in Tennessee, says Tenth District International Representative Keith Craig. ■

Chicago City Council Investigates Race, Union Discrimination at Comcast

Chicago Local 21 members scored an important victory in their struggle for equal rights and fair wages at Comcast on July 19 when the Chicago City Council passed a resolution calling for hearings into the company's history of pay inequality and discrimination against union workers.

"All Comcast workers deserve fair and equitable pay," said Local 21 Business Agent Jerry Rankins. "We are delighted that the city council has decided to get involved."

Local 21 accused Comcast of paying the nearly 100 cable technicians at its Cortland facility—their only union worksite in the city—less than other employees. Nonunion employees at Comcast start at between \$2 and \$5 more per hour than union employees.

Local 21 members said the Cortland facility employs a higher percentage of black workers than any other worksite in the city, putting Comcast in violation of its own affirmative action plan, a city requirement.

Comcast has refused to disclose job classifications and wage rates for their employees, which the city council has demanded be made public.

On May 31, the contract for the Cortland facility workers expired and so far Comcast has refused to constructively negotiate with the local, cancelling a planned bargaining session scheduled for July 25. Instead, the company hired anti-union lawyers.

"Comcast would rather pay a bunch of notorious union busters \$400 an hour than give their workers a decent wage," Rankins said.

Local 21 has begun an outreach program to recruit clergy and consumer organizations to participate in the Comcast hearings before the city council. A date has not been set for the hearings. ■

Cooper Tire Workers Win Four-Year Battle

Don Hasbrouck, a lift truck operator at Cooper Tire's warehouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, still doesn't know why his employer, which has long-standing bargaining units in its manufacturing plants, went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to stop him and seven co-workers from organizing a union. He does know two things for certain. Cooper lacked respect for the warehouse crew and "if the purpose and the cause are right, you have to follow through."

After a four-year battle, Cooper Tire and Coralville, Iowa, Local 1634 signed a first contract covering the warehouse workers. The IBEW had lost the first representation vote at the unit, but appealed to the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRB held that the company had illegally withheld bonuses to workers for voting union. A new election was scheduled for December 2004. The IBEW won. (See "Cooper Tire Warehouse Workers Choose IBEW," *IBEW Journal*, March 2004).

"For eight workers facing a big company, the contract is a good start," says Hasbrouck. While Cooper's factory workers are organized by the Steelworkers, the Iowa warehouse is the only one of eight to be organized.

The contract provides for wage increases equal to those bargained by the Steelworkers. IBEW bargaining also kept intact a bonus plan that Cooper wanted to cut, which provides up to \$2,500 yearly per employee.

Cooper Tire challenged the results of the 2004 election to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The Appeals Court rejected Cooper's challenge and the company asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case. The Supreme Court refused to review the lower court's action, leaving the union vote standing.

Favoritism and arbitrary changes to the company handbook drove the consensus for a union. "I'm glad we stuck with the IBEW," says Hasbrouck, who started working at Cooper when the warehouse opened in 2000. Now, he says, there are contractual remedies to ensure that Cooper treats workers fairly. "We made the company understand that we want to work with them to be successful," he says.

Workers still are concerned by rumors that the warehouse could be shut down. Cooper's stock has fallen and the warehouse force, which was originally 12, has dropped to eight, but Hasbrouck said the first contract still means that a "burden has been lifted off our shoulders." ■



North of 49° The Bosses' Favorite Union

What do you call a union that is favored by open shop contractors, that undermines affiliates of the Canadian Labour Congress by signing sweetheart contracts and opposes anti-scabbing legislation? In Canada, it is called the Christian Labour Association, and despite its small size, it is playing a prominent role in the brewing labour disputes in the oil sands of Alberta, where oil companies, right-wing politicians and open shop contractors have built a close alliance with it. CLAC has undercut provincial labour law and attempted to drive out the building trades from booming Western Canada.

"Compared to our contracts, their agreements bring around 20 to 25 percent less and they give employers total flexibility when comes to labor regulations," said British Columbia and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Director Wayne Peppard. "They never go on strike and they rarely even engage in arbitration."

In 2004, Canadian Natural Resource Ltd.—one of Alberta's leading oil exploration companies—invoked a little known section of the provincial labour code to give them the right to negotiate exclusively with one

bargaining agent on the company's \$10 billion Horizon oil sands project. The company turned to CLAC as its preferred union and it soon became clear why.

"Canadian Natural chose CLAC because it will give the company anything they want," said IBEW First District International Representative Larry Schell. "CLAC reached an agreement with the company even before most of the workers were hired."

The new CLAC-negotiated contract came with longer workweeks, less overtime pay and more employer flexibility when it came to hiring. CLAC also supported bringing in lower paid foreign workers.

CLAC has approximately 30,000 members, mostly in Western Canada. Its locals represent workers in a variety of industries from retail to health care, but thanks to the active support of open shop contractors, it is in the oil sands region where CLAC has seen its biggest jump in membership. CLAC has twice the rate of voluntary recognitions as other unions in Alberta, which "means that nobody in these worksites ever voted to certify CLAC as their union—nobody except CLAC itself and the employers," according to Alberta Federation of Labour President Gil McGowan.

Founded in 1952 as an "alternative union" to the mainstream labour movement, CLAC says it can better service their members by eschewing strikes and adopting a more cooperative attitude towards employers. But for many in the labour movement, CLAC's record does not match their rhetoric.

CLAC staffers also have a history of involvement in right-wing, anti-labour activities. In February, a representative from a CLAC-affiliated think tank testified before the House of Commons against an anti-scabbing amendment to the Federal Labour Code.

"CLAC is a cancer on the labour movement," First District Vice President Phillip Flemming said.

In response to CLAC's growth, the building trades have stepped up their organizing among workers unwillingly covered by CLAC contracts. For example the building trades in Western Canada recently hired full-time organizers devoted to winning over CLAC members to the building trades. "When workers are represented by CLAC, it means their boss can do anything it wants, so we need to let them know what a real union could do for them," Schell said. ■

IBEW Rejects Oil Sands Contract

Sixty-six percent of IBEW members working on the oil sands of Western Canada rejected a contract proposal negotiated with companies who lease land containing the second-largest reserve of petroleum behind Saudi Arabia.

Union members are dissatisfied with the proposed four-year contract. They seek a two-year agreement or one with higher wages in the third and fourth year to help them stay ahead of skyrocketing costs for housing and other necessities in Alberta.

The July 27 contract rejection comes only days after members of the IBEW and several building trades unions conducted the first strike vote in Alberta since 1979. Members voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike if negotiated settlements are not reached with electricians, pipefitters, boilermakers, millwrights, plumbers and refrigeration mechanics.

Leaders of Edmonton, Alberta, Local 424, which has jurisdiction across the province, are continuing negotiations. If the local union's negotiating committee votes to strike, it needs to wait 72 hours under Alberta law before setting up picket lines. ■



Au nord du 49° parallèle Le syndicat favori des patrons

Comment désigne-t-on le syndicat que les entrepreneurs à atelier ouvert privilégient, le syndicat qui s'oppose au projet de loi anti-scab et qui signe des accords de compéage, nuisant ainsi aux affiliés du Congrès du travail du Canada? Au Canada, il est connu sous le nom de l'Association syndicale chrétienne (*Christian Labour Association*) et bien qu'il soit de petite envergure, il joue un rôle important dans les conflits de travail sur le site de production de sables bitumineux de l'Alberta, vu l'étroite collaboration créée avec les pétrolières, les politiciens de droite et les entrepreneurs à atelier ouvert. L'ASCC (*CLAC*) a miné la législation provinciale du travail et a tenté d'empêcher la progression des métiers de la construction dans l'Ouest du Canada.

M. Wayne Peppard, Directeur exécutif du Conseil des métiers de la construction de la Colombie-Britannique et du Territoire du Yukon déclarait: "Si on compare avec nos conventions collectives, les ententes négociées par l'ASCC (*CLAC*) sont 20 à 25 pour cent moins avantageuses pour les employés et laissent aux employeurs une entière flexibilité en ce qui a trait aux lois du travail. En plus, l'ASCC (*CLAC*) ne déclenche jamais de

grève et se rend rarement en arbitrage".

En 2004, une des principales compagnies de prospection pétrolière en Alberta—la *Canadian Natural Resource Ltd.*—s'est prévalu des dispositions d'une section très peu connue du code provincial du travail, lui donnant le droit de négocier avec un seul négociateur syndical sur le projet de production des sables bitumineux *Horizon*, un projet de \$10 milliards. La compagnie s'est tournée vers son syndicat favori, l'ASCC (*CLAC*), et on a vite réalisé pourquoi.

"La compagnie *Canadian Natural* savait qu'en choisissant de négocier avec l'ASCC (*CLAC*), elle obtiendrait tout ce qu'elle demande" soulignait Larry Schell, Représentant international du Premier District de la FIOE. "L'ASCC (*CLAC*) a conclu une entente avec la compagnie avant même que tous les travailleurs soient embauchés".

Ce nouveau contrat négocié par l'ASCC (*CLAC*) comporte des semaines de travail plus longues, moins d'heures en temps supplémentaire et une plus grande flexibilité pour l'employeur en ce qui a trait à l'embauche. L'ASCC a également donné son appui à l'embauche de travailleurs étrangers payés à salaire moindre.

L'Association syndicale chrétienne (*Christian Labour Association*) compte environ 30,000 membres, répartis pour la plupart dans l'Ouest du Canada. Ses sections locales représentent les travailleurs de diverses industries, du secteur de la vente à celui des soins de santé, et grâce à l'appui des entrepreneurs à atelier ouvert, c'est dans le secteur des sables bitumineux que cette Association a connu la plus importante augmentation de son membership. L'ASCC (*CLAC*) détient un taux d'ententes volontaires de reconnaissance deux fois plus élevé par rapport aux autres syndicats en Alberta et selon Gil McGowan, Président de la Fédération du travail de l'Alberta, cela signifie que personne sur tous ces sites de travail n'a jamais eu à voter pour que l'ASCC (*CLAC*) soit accréditée—personne sauf l'ASCC et les employeurs!

Fondée en 1952, l'ASCC (*CLAC*) se voulait une nouvelle alternative au mouvement syndical courant et affirmait pouvoir offrir un meilleur service à ses membres en évitant de recourir à la grève et en adoptant une attitude de coopération avec les employeurs. Cependant pour plusieurs syndicalistes, son parcours ne concorde pas avec sa rhétorique.

Les collaborateurs de l'ASCC (*CLAC*) sont aussi reconnus pour être partisans de la droite et leurs activités anti-syndicales. Un représentant d'un des groupes qui y sont affiliés a témoigné contre le projet de loi anti-scab au mois de février, avant que ce projet ne soit soumis à un vote devant la Chambre des communes afin d'amender le Code canadien du travail.

Comme le faisait remarquer le Vice-président du Premier District, Phil Flemming, "l'ASCC (*CLAC*) est un véritable cancer qui ronge le mouvement syndical".

Pour contrer cette progression de l'ASCC (*CLAC*), les métiers de la construction ont intensifié leur recrutement parmi les travailleurs régis, bien malgré eux, par des contrats négociés par l'ASCC (*CLAC*). Ils ont donc embauché des recruteurs syndicaux à temps plein dans l'Ouest du Canada, pour tenter de convaincre les membres de l'ASCC (*CLAC*) de se rallier à eux. "Lorsque les travailleurs sont représentés par l'ASCC (*CLAC*), cela signifie que leur patron peut faire tout ce qu'il veut; nous devons donc leur démontrer ce qu'un vrai syndicat pourrait faire pour eux" concluait le confrère Schell. ■

Organizing Wire

New Hampshire Utility Workers Join IBEW

Thirty-five field technicians and field technician specialists will join 450 other members of Manchester, Maine, Local 1837 at Public Service Company of New Hampshire following a mail-in secret ballot election on July 20.

"Considering the campaign that was waged against us, I think it was a significant victory for our local and the IBEW and the workers—they are the real winners here," said Local 1837 organizer Matt Beck.

The new IBEW members, who are responsible for the design, maintenance and construction and operation of the statewide electrical distribution system, were targeted by the company with several captive audience meetings. But despite the sweet talk by management and its union-busting consultants, the workers persevered in a close vote.

They were tired of what Beck characterized as a lack of consistency in wages and workload and a general desire for a voice in what happens at their workplace.

"We literally had several people who went out on stress-related disabilities because the job had become so intense," he said. "When they went to their supervisors they were told there was no overtime and the work would get done."

Some of the workers reached out to the IBEW last fall, but it took until April to file a petition for an election. PSNH challenged the local's proposed bargaining unit: all the field techs and field tech specialists. But the company suggested it would be more appropriate to split that group into up to 15 units. That proposal was rejected by the National Labor Relations Board, but the red tape gave PSNH more time to get to the bargaining unit, Beck said. ■

Washington Update

Public Safety Workers May Earn Right to Bargain

Public safety workers nationwide could soon finally have the opportunity to bargain with local governments over wages, hours, benefits and working conditions if legislation that passed the House of Representatives becomes law.

The bill overwhelmingly passed on a 314 to 97 vote in July. Supporters are optimistic about a similar bill's likely passage in the Senate, due to be introduced soon, said a spokeswoman for Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.).

"The right to join unions and bargain collectively is a fundamental, internationally recognized human right," said House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-Calif.). "We have a duty to guarantee this basic right to all of our first responders."

Firefighters, police officers and other public safety officials—who currently lack bargaining rights in many states—would be covered by the bill and state government would enforce the contracts.

"Finally, Congress is recognizing the rights of our fellow citizens who put their lives on the line for our safety," says IBEW Government Employees Department Director Chico McGill. While the IBEW has successfully organized police officers in many municipalities such as Morristown and Worthfield, Vt., and Warren and Westfield, Pa., state laws have often frustrated organizing, particularly in the South. ■

Circuits

Illinois Members Seek OSHA Safety Award

Members of Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15 go above and beyond when it comes to safety, and they will soon get the chance to prove it. This summer the Exelon Corporation's nuclear power station in Braidwood, which employees over 230 IBEW plant operators and maintenance engineers, underwent a weeklong safety audit by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in hopes of becoming the first worksite represented by the local to become a Voluntary Protection Program Star status site.

The Voluntary Protection Program was established by OSHA as an official recognition of the efforts of employers and employees who go beyond the required workplace standards to establish outstanding safety practices. The highest rating is Star.

"There is nothing easy about obtaining VPP Star status," said Local 15 member David Vescogni, who is chairman of the VPP subcommittee. Local 15 and management made a commitment over a year ago to prepare the plant for the audit. Everything from work practices and training to industrial hygiene and the ventilation system had to be revamped to meet OSHA's high standards for VPP recognition.

To help through the process, the local brought in members from Springfield, Ill., Local 51, who work at the Clinton Power Station. The station is an Exelon nuclear plant that has already achieved Star status.

"The success VPP plants have in reducing injuries and illnesses is amazing," Vescogni said. "Local 15 is very proud of our accomplishments to get the plant ready and we are looking forward to the audit." ■



Employees at the Exelon Corp.'s Braidwood nuclear plant seek VPP Star Status. Front row from left are Jeff Humernik, welding administrator; Donna Turner, business operations; Doris Willis, security; Tom Dahl, safety advisor. Back row from left are Local 15 members Dave Vescogni, Howard Silkowski, Bob Rohrer, Chuck Dixon and Tony Rigor.

Transitions

Retired Rick Diegel



The IBEW says goodbye to a brother who became a fixture in Washington, D.C. and was one of the architects of the IBEW's modern political program with the October 1 retirement of Political/Legislative Department Director Rick Diegel.

Under Brother Diegel, the IBEW became one of the most influential labor voices on Capitol Hill, leading a staff that lobbies members of Congress and influences public policy on behalf of the IBEW.

"When a candidate comes to town, one of the first places they want to come is this office," Diegel said. "And they make it their business to know our local leaders, who are overwhelmingly respected in their states."

Before he came to Washington, Brother Diegel was active in politics in his native Texas, where he served three terms as mayor pro-tem of the City of Ingleside in the early-to mid-1970's. Initiated into Corpus Christi Local 278 in 1969, he worked for several contractors in Texas as a journeyman wireman and foreman. He was elected business manager in 1977, a post he held until his appointment in 1983 to the International Office as COPE director. He became director of the Political/Legislative Department when they were combined in 1998.

When he arrived in Washington, the union was taking in \$500,000 in annual political con-

tributions. Now the IBEW raises between \$7 and \$10 million a year in donations from members, used to support IBEW-endorsed candidates in local, state and federal races across the country. "We consistently rank No. 1 in labor political action committees and never below No. 5 in all PACs in the country," Diegel said. "Our people work really hard to get us on the political map."

Diegel points to the high number of IBEW members serving in office around the country as one of his contributions to the union. "We have the greatest number of members elected to office than any organization—labor or otherwise," he said, adding that the IBEW pushed the AFL-CIO to create an office to recruit members for political races.

The establishment of a full-time political mobilization program this year will be another legacy. Building on the success of the temporary grassroots mobilizations put into place in the two months before the federal elections in 2006 and 2004, the full-time program focuses on broadening IBEW member support at the local level and voter registration efforts.

Diegel credits his talented and resourceful staff with their level-headed performance in an intense atmosphere.

A Vietnam veteran, Diegel served in the U.S. Air Force from 1964 to 1968.

Diegel, a close friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton, will return with his wife Theresa to Texas. He plans to spend more time with his seven children and four grandchildren. The IBEW members, staff and officers thank Brother Diegel for his 38 years of service and wish him a long and satisfying retirement.

Spotlight on Safety

Appointed Brian Baker



International Representative Brian Baker has been appointed Director of the IBEW Political/Legislative Department, effective October 1. He replaces Rick Diegel, who retired.

"This is a great honor," says Baker, who served as national grassroots political coordinator since March. "I hope to continue what the IBEW has built under Rick Diegel's leadership so that we can change our nation's laws to help unions rebuild the labor movement and the middle class."

Initiated in 1987 into Lorain, Ohio, Local 129, Brother Baker completed his inside wireman apprenticeship and served in a number of positions before being appointed business manager in 1997. Under his leadership, the local organized several new contractors, growing from 380 members to 435. As a participant in community planning efforts, Baker used labor's seat at the table to protect the needs of the IBEW and the building trades in economic development.

Baker was elected president of the Lorain County AFL-CIO in 2001 and was a member of numerous civic and labor organizations. He played an influential role in the 2006 electoral campaigns of Gov. Ted Strickland and Sen. Sherrod Brown, both Democrats, and numerous other office holders. He got an early start in political work putting up campaign signs with his father, a lifelong member of Laborers' Local 758.

After his 1981 graduation from Elyria West High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, Baker entered Lorain County Community College's Civil Engineering Technology Program. He has attended numerous IBEW training sessions, including COMET, SCORE and new business manager's school.

Looking back to his apprenticeship, when former Local 129 business manager Tom Patterson and retired International Representative Chuck Graft mentored him to get involved in his local, Baker says, "One of our main goals must be to get the fire back in the bellies of our young members, so that it's not just about 'me,' but about the union and working people."

"I was always involved in the community," says Baker, who played catcher in a fast-pitch softball league until age 35. Baker and his wife, Kimberli, have two daughters, Courtney, 25, and Ashley, 23.

The officers and members of the IBEW wish Brother Baker great success in his new position.

Deceased John J. Joyce



The IBEW is saddened to announce the July 11 death of retired Second District International Representative John J. Joyce. He was 86.

A native of England, Brother Joyce moved to the United States as a boy, and joined the IBEW before he signed up as a World War II sailor. He served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific, receiving the Victory Medal. He was initiated into Portland, Maine, Local 567 in 1941, serving as JATC director, and on the negotiating, joint apprenticeship, pension, and health and welfare committees, as well as on the executive board, before his election as business manager in 1964. He held that office for 10 years before his appointment as International Representative.

Joyce serviced inside construction locals in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire and paper mills in northern Maine. He was also active in organizing in the construction branch.

In the 1970s, he served on the Council on Industrial Relations, the Maine Building Trades Council, the Southern Maine Building Trades Council and the Maine State Electricians Examining Board. He was also a member of the American Legion.

Predeceased by his first wife, Colleen, Joyce remarried after his retirement in 1987. He and wife Simone traveled throughout the Caribbean, Europe and the United States; they wintered in Sarasota, Fla. Joyce attended the 37th International Convention in Cleveland.

He was remembered by Second District International Representative Richard Panagrossi as a well-spoken, knowledgeable and fair-minded person. "I always called him 'Gentleman John,'" he said.

IBEW members, staff and officers wish Brother Joyce's wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren our most sincere condolences for their loss. ■



A still from a safety training video shows what can happen during an arc flash explosion.

Electrical Safety Rules Prevent Flash Explosions

An arc flash explosion lasts only seconds, but the damage it causes to anyone nearby can last a lifetime. When insulation between energized conductors is breached, direct contact with the conductors can lead to an arc flash. The resulting blast can heat temperatures to over 30,000 F, causing even metal to melt.

"Workers in the vicinity are subject to radiation and thermal burns, hot gases and pressure waves, leading to severe, even fatal, injuries," said Jersey City, N.J., Local 164 Electrical Assistant Training Director David Milazzo.

To help inside wiremen prevent arc flashes—the leading cause of electrical accidents—more and more contractors and IBEW locals are incorporating the latest version of the National Fire Protection Association's 70E standard, which now includes steps to avoid arc flashes, into their trainings and on-the-job procedures, with many apprentices now required to take courses on it.

"It's a good standard that will save a lot of lives," said IBEW Director of Safety Jim Tomaseski.

For one inside wireman who is a member of Rockford, Ill., Local 364, following the updated 70E standard meant the difference between going home and going to the hospital. "He was working on an energized panel when it exploded," said Local 364 Safety Committee Chairman Todd Kindred. "Thanks to the protective equipment required by 70E, he went home to his family that night instead of to the emergency room."


The NFPA developed 70E in 1979 as a consensus industry standard to help workers and their employers meet the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's electrical safety requirements. The standard, which covers everything from the proper installation of equipment to training requirements, was last updated in 2004. "OSHA says that you need to protect your workers from recognized hazards, but doesn't show you how," said Palmer Hickman, director of Safety, Codes and Standards for the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. "70E shows you how."

To prevent arc flashes, 70E recommends that workers should avoid working near energized equipment by shutting off the power. When that is not possible, it specifies the proper safety gear to wear.

Since Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Edwin Foulke Jr. publicly recommended following 70E as the best way to comply with OSHA regulations in 2006, many construction contractors and companies where IBEW members work as inside wiremen started incorporating it into their safety procedures. While still not officially mandated by OSHA, violation of 70E can in some cases lead to fines.

Many smaller contractors are also starting to get the message and are partnering with the IBEW and the NJATC to learn how to follow 70E. "Employers are starting to get it," Kindred said. "70E is a win-win situation, because no one wants to see on-the-job injuries that could be easily prevented." ■

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Local Lines

Wiremen Ratify Contract

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—The members employed as journeyman wiremen and residential wiremen recently ratified a new working agreement, which took effect June 1 and has many positive changes for our membership. Thanks to lead negotiator Bus. Mgr. Steve Schoemehl and his staff of negotiators for their tireless work and dedication in representing the interests of our members and industry.

The new contract contains numerous language changes, and all members should become familiar with these changes. For example, the definition of "employer" changed, making it easier for contractors to secure smaller work to help regain market share. Also, language added to the stewards section stresses how vital stewards are to a project. A well-informed membership is imperative, so please review the new agreement for any questions.

Local 1 mourns the deaths of: Bros. Robert Morris, Andy Boehm, Ronald Lands, Michael Berendt, Frank Ulrich, Cyril Heintzleman, William Finley, Charles Hughart, Billy Gropp, John Loch, John McLaughlin Jr., Ronald Smetak, Mark Schilly, Van Wilkinson, William Horine, Matthew Clements and Hubert Denningmann.

Matt Gober, P.S.

Awards for L.A. Local

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—The Women in Construction Conference was held in May at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Local 11 was proud to provide shuttle services and host a party at the Convention Center for all in attendance.

Congratulations to Local 11 for receiving the Union of the Year Award and to the Electrical Training Institute for receiving the Outstanding Apprenticeship Program Award presented at the Playa Vista Jobs luncheon. Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services is a non-profit organization providing job placement opportunities for at-risk youth and adults.



Local 11 welcomed attendees at the Women in Construction Conference in Los Angeles.

Congratulations to Diana Limon and Kevin Norton on graduating from the National Labor College. Diana earned a master's degree in public administration and Kevin earned a bachelor's in labor studies.

Additional classes are being scheduled for Local 11 members interested in exploring opportunities to become an electrical contractor. Pro-Union Consulting Inc. has conducted several classes and many members have become union contractors as a result.

The annual local wide picnic is Sat., Oct. 6, at the L.A. Police Revolver and Athletic Club. There will be plenty of food, games and prizes. We hope you will plan to attend and bring your family to this fun-filled event.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

Summer Events

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—Local 17 was fortunate to have several exciting events take place in the summer of 2007. These included a Utility Softball Tournament, the fourth annual Local 17 Golf Outing, a Lineman's Rodeo, and Tree Trim Jamboree. Also, at this writing, we are looking forward to the Detroit Labor Day parade.

The work picture at Detroit Edison Company has slowed due to a massive computer changeover; Detroit Edison is having trouble ordering material and planning jobs.

International Transmission Company has several projects going in our jurisdiction, including substation, underground and overhead work.

The line clearance tree trimming agreement was ratified by a membership vote of 244-134. Highlights of the new three-year agreement include wage increases of 4.25 percent, 3.0 percent and 3.0 percent respectively, optional work week and show-up pay.

James Beaubien, P.S.

Member Action & Strength

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Stewards, activists, officers, staff and our friends and labor allies across Illinois and northwest Indiana worked extremely hard to gain legislative support for passage of the 2007 Cable and Video Competition Law, signed by Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich on June 30. (See "Local 21 Leads Efforts to Pass Statewide Video Competition Law," *The Electrical Worker*, Aug. 2007.) AT&T will now invest \$750 million into new infrastructure resulting in over 2,500 new jobs in our local union by 2009.

Steward and membership surveys were conducted earlier this year with the goal of making our union even stronger in the years ahead. Information gained will assist Local 21's leadership in preparing for the future. Increased member involvement strengthens workers' bargaining and organizing rights. Member participation and political involvement are crucial in our fight for jobs, health care and retirement security.

2007 has been a great year for building solidarity both during and after work. We recently hosted four successful union nights held during minor league baseball games played in different cities across the jurisdiction. Members and their families enjoyed low-priced nights out with plenty of food and drink, as well as children's raffles for team merchandise.

Thomas Hopper, P.S.

Graduation Celebration

L.U. 41 (em,es,i,se,spa&govt), BUFFALO, NY—Local union officers extend our warmest thanks to all apprenticeship instructors. The JATC honored our graduating class of 2007 at the Hearthstone Manor on June 22.

Congratulations to our 2007 inside wireman apprentice graduates along with the 2007 inter-connect-security-sound cabler/installer graduates (see photo). I would like to urge graduates to take the knowledge you have acquired and strive to be the best electrician you can be. You will now be asked to take your experience and share it with upcoming apprentices as others have done for you.

The work picture this summer was abundant with the future looking very promising. Keep an eye out for upcoming events and stay involved.

Kenneth C. Zack, P.S.



Local 41 class of 2007 graduates, front row, (L-R), Samuel Howe, Timothy O'Brien, Robert Friedrich, Tuan Nguyen, Karl Chapman II, Keith Pastuszynski and Anthony Walker; back row, Kevin Hartman, James Murdoch, Joshua Krischan, Thomas Tiedemann, Todd Berwaldt, Andrew Schlau, Casey Pasinski, Christopher Lozo, Ronald Stoj, Kenneth Scheifla Jr. and Gemma Lanthier. Not pictured: Latisha Honer-Anthony and Daniel McDonnell.

Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Congratulations to everyone who competed at the SCE/Local 47 Lineman's Rodeo. The overall winners were: Journeyman team—Steve Lekvold, Brian Lee, Mike Petersen; Senior team—Art Cordova, Rex Klinkenborg, Ernie Dominguez; Apprentice—Ben Beardslee; Groundman—Adam Colca.

The Membership Development staff has presented COMET training to 125 second-year apprentices. Quality General Engineering of San Diego signed a letter of assent for underground dry-utility work. The material handlers at Pouk & Steinle have requested representation from IBEW Local 47, and the company has agreed to recognize the new unit.

Wage re-openers were completed for the General Unit at the City of Banning and Electric Utility at the City of Colton. Linemen at Colton will be at \$41.23/hr. effective Jan. 1, 2008.

Our condolences go to the families of members who recently passed away: John Hall, Erik Maciel, Ben Velarde, Juan Huizar and Harrison Rogers.

Stan Stosel, P.S.

60-Year Member Honored

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Congratulations to Bro. Robert Swadener on his 60-year membership award. Bro. Robert Swadener recently retired from WEEK-TV in Peoria.

Trade Classifications

(as) Alarm and Signal	(mar) Marine
(ars) Atomic Research Service	(mps) Motion Picture Studios
(bo) Bridge Operators	(nst) Nuclear Service Technicians
(cs) Cable Splicers	(o) Outside
(catv) Cable Television	(p) Powerhouse
(c) Communications	(pet) Professional, Engineers and Technicians
(cr) Cranemen	(ptc) Professional, Technical and Clerical
(ees) Electrical Equipment Service	(rr) Railroad
(ei) Electrical Inspection	(rtb) Radio-Television Broadcasting
(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing
(es) Electric Signs	(rts) Radio-Television Service
(et) Electronic Technicians	(so) Service Occupations
(fm) Fixture Manufacturing	(s) Shopmen
(govt) Government	(se) Sign Erector
(i) Inside	(spa) Sound and Public Address
(it) Instrument Technicians	(st) Sound Technicians
(lctt) Line Clearance Tree Trimming	(t) Telephone
(mt) Maintenance	(u) Utility
(mo) Maintenance and Operation	(uow) Utility Office Workers
(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	(ws) Warehouse and Supply

We are pleased to announce the election of Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Jim Bates. Bro. Bates has been on staff since 1985; he was assistant business manager for 12 years. IBEW Local 51 congratulates all recently elected officers, Executive Board members and all elected members throughout Local 51's 14 units. Thanks for being involved, brothers and sisters.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Asst. Bus. Mgr. John Johnson. He was a business representative for 13 years.

Bro. Rod Brandt, a 29-year member, joined the Local 51 staff as a business representative for Verizon, Corn Belt Energy, Frontier Communications, WEEK-TV, WMBD-TV, WICS-TV, and McDonough Electric Cooperative.

As of this writing, contract negotiations continue at Central Illinois Light Co., Illinois Power, City of Princeton and The University of Illinois. Members at the Village of Riverton and the Verizon Buried Service Wire group ratified their contracts.

The work scene for Outside Power and LCTT remains good, while Teledata remains slow.

Congratulations to Bros. Chris Crafton, Calvin DeBoer and Gerry Lee on completing their apprenticeship and advancing to journeyman lineman status.

Dan Pridemore, Pres./B.R.



Local 51 retired Bro. Robert Swadener (second from left) receives his 60-year IBEW service award. From left, Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Jim Bates, Bro. Swadener, Bro. Mike Aldredge, Peoria Unit Executive Board member; and Bro. David King, Peoria Unit vice chairman.

Work Picture Good

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—Work is good at this writing. Pres. Steve White reports that some negotiations are coming up soon. I will report on those in a future issue. It is our goal to keep our members up-to-date as much as possible.

Bus. Rep. Dexter Drerup reported that on June 7, 2007, members at Laclede Co-op in Lebanon, MO, ratified a three-year extension to the current bargaining agreement. Members received a 4 percent increase in wages for each of the three years beginning Jan. 1, 2008. Storm work language was improved with all work being performed for nothing less than time and a half of the prevailing wage. Also, vacation language changes give employees more flexibility.

Local 53 mourns the death of retired Bro. Pole Easter of Clinton, MO, who passed away in July. Bro. Easter formerly owned Easter Pole Line Construction Co. We extend condolences to his family.

We had a great turnout at the annual crap-pie tournament in May. Congratulations to winners of the cash awards. But in fact everyone who came was a winner. We thank all the participants and everyone who attended. We hope everyone can attend next year and join the fun.

Duane Pearce, P.S.

New Union Hall

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Local 57 thanks and pays tribute to Bro. Royden Mendenhall who, with his fine talents in carpentry, designed, built and donated a podium for the meeting hall in our new building. Bro. Mendenhall is a longtime journeyman lineman and always a dedicated union friend.

In spring of 2005, Local 57 purchased a building at a new location to meet the growing needs of our members and staff. After several months of planning, remodeling and much hard work, Local 57 made the move after more than 50 years at our previous location. Our former building was purchased by Communication Workers of America Local 7704, and the building is still in good union hands. The members and staff of Local 57 are enjoying the convenience of a more central location with larger facilities and more parking area.

Deanna Gill, P.S.



Local 57 Bro. Royden Mendenhall stands beside the podium he made for the local.

Anti-Union Bills Defeated

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI—Work in the area has slowed, but the Foxwood and Mohegan Sun Casino Hotel expansion should help employ some members for a while.

On the political front, thanks to efforts of Bus. Mgr. Al Durand and staff, three union-busting bills were defeated at our State House recently. One bill, introduced by open-shop contractors, was to allow out-of-state electricians to work here without a Rhode Island license. Another bill was to create a one-to-one ratio for apprentices; and another dealt with contractor assignment of apprentices.

We welcome Paul McDonald, our new lobbyist. Paul's strong labor background and experience in Rhode Island politics will be a great help to Local 99.

Congratulations to our 2007 apprentice graduates—31 inside wiremen, eight residential wiremen and two teledata technicians. These graduates represent the future of our local.

Organizing efforts are moving moderately well, with negotiations with Synet still incomplete. Welcome back to J.C. Electric Co.

The annual Everett Tommy Woodmansee Memorial Golf Tournament, held July 14 at Triggs Memorial in Providence, was again a great success. Thanks to Bus. Mgr. Durand, volunteers and sponsors.

Local 99's annual clambake in early August at Kempanaar's in Middletown was a great time for active and retired members and their families.

S.P. Callaghan, P.S.

Celebrating Excellence

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—On June 7, the Boston JATC celebrated 61 years of educational excellence by honoring its recent graduates: 148 journeyman inside wiremen and 14 new telecom technicians. More than 1,000 guests attended the celebration at the Local 103 hall. Richard Morrissey received the Charles McCarthy Award; Andrew Carl received the Swanson Award for academic performance; and Michael Trachtenberg and Joseph Bingham both received the Industry Commitment Award. Kristin Hurley was named Telecom Apprentice of the Year, and Salvatore Serio was named the Philip Davis Electrical Apprentice of the Year. Congratulations to the class of 2007.

Local 103 held its annual pin night June 26. Over 300 members with 20 or more years of service were awarded pins and certificates. Notably, one member was recognized for 67 years of service. A standing room crowd of over 1,200 members and their families and guests attended the ceremony.

The annual Brotherhood Golf Tournament was held June 16 with approximately 130 members participating to raise money for the Brotherhood Fund. After the golf tournament, members returned to the hall for food and prizes. Special thanks to Eddie Keogh for the many years he has organized this event.

Bill Molineaux, P.S.

100th Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 111 (em.govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—Local 111 will hold a grand celebration of its 100th anniversary Sat., Dec. 8, 2007, at the Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th Street, in downtown Denver. Doors open at 4 p.m. for early check-in; a pre-dinner social hour will follow with a sit-down dinner at 6 p.m. A live band, "Home Slice," will play for dancing from 8-11 p.m. Each member will receive a gift package, two complimentary beverage coupons, a memorable keepsake and the chance to win gift prizes donated for our event.

The celebration will begin with introductions and guest speakers, including Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and AFL-CIO organizer Stuart Acuff.

Don't wait, sign up now. Cost for registration is \$25 per person if received by Sept. 1, and after that date \$35. Deadline for all reservations is Oct. 1. Please save this date and celebrate this milestone with your union brothers and sisters. Get the word out, especially to our retirees. For more information call the office at (303) 744-7171 or (800) 824-5540 and ask for Joan.

Dennis Z. LeTurgez, P.S.

Benefit Golf Classic

L.U. 125 (lctt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR—The 2007 Benefit Golf Classic was held Sat., June 30, at the Indian Creek Golf Course in Hood River, OR. Thirty volunteers supported 136 golfers during the 11th annual event. Golfers enjoyed a beautiful, wind-free day while playing to support the Oregon Burn Center's Burn Education and Prevention Program. This year's event raised more than \$56,000 to support the outstanding work of the prevention program. To date, this annual tournament has raised nearly \$600,000.

Local 125's commitment was apparent as members and staff participated in the tournament and donated money to benefit the burn

center. On behalf of the Local 125 Executive Board, thank you to everyone who donated time and money for this worthy cause. If you are interested in contributing to the Oregon Burn Center, please call 503-262-9125 for more information.

Marcy Putnam, Organizer

Productive Summer

L.U. 143 (em,i&spa), HARRISBURG, PA—It has been a productive summer here in Harrisburg. Work has been outstanding and promises to continue. We thank all our traveling brothers and sisters who have helped us staff our jurisdiction.

Hats off to our entertainment committee for their hard work on our members picnic, family picnic and golf tournament. Thanks to all our members who participated.

Congratulations to our apprentice class of 2007: Scott Baney, Luke Berger, William Bogden, Jeffrey Devine, Aaron Hersh, Gerald Kane, Brandon Rhine, Mike Seaman, Brian Graham, Bryan Hale, David Hoover, Michael Nailor, Michael Negrete, Kenneth Neumayer Jr., Christopher Spahr, Dustin Treaster and Joseph Weyrich IV. Remember, safety is a job well done.

Mark Holder, P.S.

Legislative Success

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—Local 191 is saddened to announce the passing of a member, David Kessler, in an unfortunate on-the-job accident. On a positive note, the Washington State Legislature has been enacting numerous bills backed by our local. In addition, we are in negotiations for a new contract, at a time when our members are staying very busy.

Marcus Abarcus, P.S.

Labor Day Parade/Picnic

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—Shortly into spring, work slowed in our jurisdiction; however we are happy to report work is picking up again. We look forward to a busy last half of the year due to a couple of big projects in our area.

The area Wal-Mart decided to employ nonunion workers to complete a \$1.5 million remodel. Our members are busy hand-billing Wal-Mart's customers and turning them around. As union workers and families, we must not support businesses that do not support us. Thanks to all our members who are distributing hand-bills and thanks to those who choose not to shop at the Wal-Marts and Sam's Clubs of the world.

Congratulations to our 2007 graduating commercial and residential apprentices. Dustin Hall and Ryan Burt earned high honors in their classes. Good luck, graduates, and we hope to see you at monthly meetings.

We look forward to celebrating Labor Day. Our members and families are invited to walk in the parade and have a picnic at the hall afterward. We hope for a good turnout. Take pride in your local union.

Mike Raikes, P.S.

Brayton Point Work

L.U. 223 (em,govt&i), BROCKTON, MA—This summer we saw the retirement of Bus. Agent Ernest Correia, a tireless worker on behalf of the local. He has agreed to remain active in the political arena and become Local 223 political director. We thank Ernie for his hard work and dedication to the IBEW and look forward to working with him in the political arena.

We welcome new Organizer Brian Callahan to the staff. Brian has been researching contractors as targets for organizing campaigns. We look forward to working with him bringing new contractors on board.

As of this writing, work at the Brayton Point Power Station construction projects has State Electric and Mass Electric busy there. City Lights Electrical has been working at the University of Massachusetts, renovating dormitories.

With November elections coming up, we need to elect candidates to public office at the local level who favor the interests of working people.

Dave Fenton, A.B.M.

Attend Union Meetings

L.U. 231 (i,rtb,spa&u), SIOUX CITY, IA—In an effort to get better attendance at union meetings, Local 231 has tried holding card games after the meeting and drawings for prizes for which winners must be present, as well as changing the meeting night and starting time, and even cook-outs. Attendance has picked up, but still could stand to improve.

As IBEW members, we need to remember that the strength of our union depends on our participation. Meetings are only once a month and may last a couple of hours. We get to see friends and colleagues we may not see very often, but more importantly we have a say in what's happening with our future. If we don't attend, we only have ourselves to blame when things don't turn out the way we'd like.

Our condolences to the family of retired Bro. Bernard Dickey, who passed away April 11 at age 79. Bro. Dickey joined the IBEW in 1958 and retired as a journeyman wireman in 1989.

Ethanol, windmills and biodiesel plants are springing up all over our jurisdiction and they're employing many union members. This is good for everyone.

Debby Spencer, P.S.



View of windmills near Schaller, IA. Local 231 members are working on numerous such alternative energy projects throughout the local's jurisdiction.

New Members Welcomed

L.U. 245 (govt,lectt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—The outside construction work picture looks good, with everyone who wants to work gainfully employed. First Energy is on a hiring frenzy in order to replenish its work force. It brought 19 new members to be sworn in at our last local union meeting. That was a first, to have that many new members at one time. It was also the first time we've held our local union meeting on a Wednesday night; we had to move the date because of the Utility Conference.

Our local was also pleased by another first: Colleen Rynski, (pictured at center in the accompanying photo) was one of the new members sworn in. Colleen became the third generation, and the first woman, of her family to work at First Energy.

Negotiations at TV Channel 30 concluded with an extension of the current agreement for one year. Two other contracts are coming due for negotiations this year—Tri-County and First Energy.

On a sad note, a friend, past business agent and 60-year member, Bro. Jim Gunselman, passed away June 30. Jim was a very giving person who loved to help people. He will be greatly missed by everyone at Local 245.

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.



Local 245 swears in new members employed by First Energy.

Welding Courses

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—Congratulations to members who completed a 16-week welding course: Tom Cramer, Jim French Jr., John Fitzgibbon, Scott Grace, David Koepfel, John Piszczek and Mike Wizeman. Instructor Mark "Wally" Waladkewicz taught torch safety and cutting, vertical, horizontal and overhead welding with both 60-10 and 70-18 rods. Future courses in MIG and TIG welding are planned.

U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Penn., presided over opening ceremonies for the American Cancer Society 2007 Bensalem Relay for Life. IBEW Bros. Sean Cullen (a 10-year veteran of this event) along with Bros. Steve Aldrich, Jeff Johnson, Mike Martin, John Zoldi, Joe Fowler Jr. and Gino D'Pasqualone helped raise \$3,500 of the total \$174,000 raised.

Bros. Steve Cross and Dan Calderbank helped administer emergency medical assistance



to GE employee Rich Pleva, who had a heart attack while working at Ocean View Substation for General Electric. Bros. Calderbank and Cross called 911 and gave on-site evaluation of Pleva's condition. GE Project Mgr. Brian Monahan administered CPR until EMTs arrived to stabilize Pleva and transport him to a hospital. Pleva is now doing well with a prognosis for a full recovery. We thank Bros. Cross and Calderbank for their quick response to help save a life.

D. B. Proctor, P.S.

Apprentice Training Facility

L.U. 295 (em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), LITTLE ROCK, AR—Brothers and sisters of Local 295 recently purchased the building adjacent to our meeting hall where many members received their apprenticeship training. We are remodeling and upgrading the building to better serve as a training facility for apprentices and journeymen.

We know that as demand for qualified journeyman continues to grow the IBEW needs to be on the cutting edge of training our members. We want the customers of our contractors to know that they are getting the best money can buy.

David Stephens, A.B.M.

Officers Elected

L.U. 317 (i,o,rts,t&u), HUNTINGTON, WV—We are pleased to announce that we have had another successful election. Elected officers are: Bus. Mgr. Brent Gray, Pres. Charles "Shane" Wolfe, Vice Pres. Jimmy Davis, Rec. Sec. Jason Adams and Treas. Skip Bailey. Executive Board members: Jeff Thompson (chairman), Alec Plymale, Adam Dunkle, Roger Neil, Mike Kelly, Gary Webb and Reuben Adkins. Examining Board members: Clay Hudson (chairman), P.J. Bartley and Mick Mayes.

Commercial work continues to do well in our area with the hospitals and schools in our tri-state area continuing to expand, as well as Marshall University and the outlying area business. We expect more new jobs to develop on the industrial level at Kyger Creek Powerhouse, at Marathon Refinery and at a new ethanol plant in South Point, OH.

Charles S. Wolfe, Pres.

Local Holds Election

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Local 357 EWMC held its annual barbeque the same day the local union election ballots were counted, June 23. Congratulations to our elected officers, Bus. Mgr./Fin.Sec. David R. Jones, Pres. Charles "Tom" Stetson, Vice Pres. Edward "Eddie" Gering, Rec. Sec. Linda M. Bieniek and Treas. Terry Heins. Elected to the Executive Board were, for Maintenance, Frank Upright; Inside Construction, Jeffrey L. Westover, Al

IBEW Local 269 members and their families were among the walkers joining U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy (fourth from left) at the American Cancer Society Bensalem Relay for Life. Back row, from left, Mike Martin, John Zoldi, Mariah Martin, U.S. Rep. Murphy, Phil Ackler, Steve Aldrich, Jim Halstead and Sean Cullen; front row, Katie Aldrich, Steve Aldrich Jr., Jeff Johnson and Nicole Cullen. Not pictured: Joe Fowler Jr. and Gino Pasqualone.

Harris and Jack Fleig; Sound & Communication, Susan "Sue" Huening; and Sign, Kenyon Crouch. Elected to the Examining Board were, for Inside Construction, Cherie Espinoza Dinkfeld and Ronnie M. Espinoza; Maintenance, Howard Killian; and Sound & Communication, Noel Hernberger. Thanks to our election judge, Steve Barker, and the tellers who helped. We also thank Bob Barker and Gary Silva, who provided invaluable support.

Congratulations to our 2007 scholarship recipients—Breanne Bertrand, granddaughter of Charles Merrick; Samantha Jennings, daughter of Venise Gratt and stepdaughter of William Gratt; Ralee Lopez, son of Rollando "Rollie" Lopez; Matthew Hale, son of Raymond Gilbert Hale; and Carlie A. Watson, daughter of Michael D. Watson and granddaughter of Derrellyn Watson.

The summer work picture looks good for Las Vegas, if you like the heat.

Timothy W. Bolton, P.S.

Scholarship Golf Outing

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—On Sat., May 12, our local held its annual Scholarship Golf Outing. The format was a scramble format. A shotgun start was scheduled for 1 p.m. at Lochmore and Kutschers golf courses. Due to the limited foursomes, availability was on a first-come, first-serve basis. It was a terrific day. Each course had lunch at 11:30 a.m. and dinner was served at 6 p.m. at Kutschers. At the dinner Bus. Mgr. John Maraia introduced the honored guests. Prize drawings for assorted golf clubs and equipment were awarded to winning ticket holders. We thank Matt Beairsto, Larry Beairsto, Scott Taylor and committee members for making this event a great success.

Timothy Poulin, P.S.

Goal: Gain Market Share

L.U. 379 (i,o&rtb), CHARLOTTE, NC—We wish to thank our retired brothers for their years of IBEW service. We honored four retirees recently at the summer picnic at the union hall (see photo). These union events are always enjoyable; they give the retirees, members and their families a welcome chance to get together.

Our local is taking part in the Carolina Initiative. The goal is to gain market share in our industry. We need union contractors to get the work, and our local can secure the manpower.

There's plenty of construction in the Carolinas. The Carolinas have a lot to offer anyone interested in relocating. Contact our union hall.

Our condolences to the families of members Walter Honeycutt and Herbert Rector, who recently passed away.

Bob Krebs, B.M.



Local 379 service award recipients, from left: 50-year member Billy Rutledge, 55-year members James Gant Jr. and Doyle C. McManus, and 60-year member McNair Woodle.

Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 387 (em,lctt&u), PHOENIX, AZ—The Local 387 election of officers was held in May. Congratulations to all the elected officers. Thanks to all for their participation and for support of elected officers. Thanks also to the election judge and tellers; they did an excellent job.

The apprenticeship classes of 2007, electricians, linemen and mechanics, have all passed their oral examinations and are currently finding jobs.

Thank you to all the apprentices who put on the local union picnic. It was a good outing and everyone had a great time.

Local 387 wishes all the best to retiring Bus. Rep. Bruce Osborne. Bro. Osborne's dedication to the labor movement will be greatly missed.

Sam Hoover, P.S.

Sept. 22 Awards Event

L.U. 453 (govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), SPRINGFIELD, MO—Congratulations to the 2007 inside wireman graduating apprentices (see photo). We wish all our newest inside wiremen the best in their careers. The apprentice of the year award went to Josh Pendergrass.

On Sept. 22, 2007, we will honor active and retired members with their years-of-service pins. There will be food and drinks and lots of fun for the family. Hope to see all the brothers and sisters attending.

Ryan Huff, P.S.



Local 453 congratulates 2007 graduating apprentices. From left, back row, standing, Training Dir. Mike Mills and graduates Ryan Huff, Bryan Hensley, Jeremy Johnson, Brad Barreca and Josh Pendergrass; front row, seated, graduates Spud Pritchett, Grant Thompson, Chad Ervin and Chad Keller.

Saginaw Work Picture

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Michigan weather, which dictates lifestyle and affects the work picture, has not been average in recent months. As the jet stream effect changed most of the nation, we did not escape its effect here.

We have full employment with a few travelers working in our area. Many thanks to the locals that employed our hands during past years.

Soon we will transfer our hourly supplemental unemployment check-off into our Saginaw fund so that can start growing into a benefit item available during times of unemployment.

Recent elections results: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Robert C. Orr, Pres. Scott D. Gale, Vice Pres. Chris M. Nickodemus, Treas. Paul D. Dupuis Jr., Rec. Sec. Evan H. Allardyce; Executive Board members Reuben Ceja, John P. Hagarty, Russell D. Combs, John R. McKay, James A. Darling, Robb L. Stanick; Examining Board members Phillip E. Barnett, Larry A. Engel and David L. Nostrandt. Many thanks to these members for offering their time for our local and thanks to those who have served so faithfully.

A moment of silence for Ted Gosko, who passed away June 12, was observed at the July meeting and members reminisced about the life of a good friend and co-worker.

John E. Clemens, P.S.



IBEW Local 557 members remodeling Pioneer Hall at Saginaw Valley State University are, from left: Andrew J. Austin, Scott MacArthur, Charlie Trumble, Jason Shea, Rick Dilts, David Gregory, Dale Wehner and David Hayward.

New Contractor Welcomed

L.U. 577 (em&i), APPLETON, WI—The work outlook in the local has remained stagnant for several months. The commercial market has been extremely competitive. Imagine the shock we experienced in early June when we were notified that a national sports apparel chain planned to open a store in this area and had received no local union electrical contractor's bids. The office contacted several contractors to encourage them to bid this job. Two newer contractors pursued the job and Bulls Eye Electric was the low bidder. Some of the work was performed using the CW/CE classifications in order to achieve a composite rate that was needed to win this job. We welcome Bulls Eye Electric as our newest signatory contractor.

The annual golf outing was July 21 at Lake Breeze Golf Club in Winneconne. Food, fun and stories were enjoyed by all. I heard some golf was played, too. Thanks to Corey Wiegel for again organizing this event.

Local 577's August newsletter contains the fall training schedule. There will be limited class offerings, as many of the members and some of our instructors are working out of town. In order to prevent cancellations, please call the hall to register for classes.

Greg Breaker, B.M.

Congratulations, Graduates

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—Congratulations to the 2007 apprentice graduates. Inside wireman graduates: Gareth Boyd, Brent Burr, Eric Cokley, Chet Gentile, Ryan Kelly, Mark Klein, Michael Johnson, Matthew Logsdon, James McCall, Casey Reisner, Steve Woodard and Adam Yuhas. Residential graduates: Jacob Collins and Brian Nierenhausen. The Top Inside Apprentice Award went to Adam Yuhas, and the Top Residential Apprentice Award went to Jacob Collins. We wish all the graduates the best in their careers.

Work looks good for the summer with a



Local 601 congratulates 2007 apprentice graduates.

great deal of new construction in our jurisdiction. The outlook for upcoming projects starting in the fall should keep us busy.

Our condolences to the families of members who recently passed away: Fred Kelly, Stan Erschen, Chuck Leonard, Brad Roderick and Nyles Hardyman.

Bob Withers, Training Dir.



Local 625 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Tim Swinamer (second from left) was one of the 159 motorcyclists participating in the fourth annual Cruise for Crohn's benefit rally July 8 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

'We Pull Together'

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Congratulations to Bros. Dean Simm, Bill Pashkoski and Stephen Stewart for earning their Certificate of Qualifications.

In June, Local 625 filed complaints to the Department of Education, Apprentice Division, which led to the Enforcement Officer laying five charges against nonunion shops that were using labourers to do electrical work. Thanks to Local 625 members who called the hall to report these nonunion activities—please keep it up.

Any unemployed members are asked to contact the local's organizer to assist with efforts to gain market share. New members especially can help by talking to their friends who have not yet joined the union. We are at our strongest when we pull together.

Local 625 thanks locals that have called to request travelers; special thanks to Windsor Local 773 and Ottawa Local 586. We welcome chances to help locals staff their jobs. We are working to organize our jurisdiction and gain IBEW market share.

There is talk of major industrial projects coming to the Maritimes. As of press time, none have become a reality. The biggest projects on the go now are the Research in Motion job in Bedford and the Maritime Helicopter Training Facility in Shearwater. Both were awarded to Bond & Coolen of Dartmouth.

Tom Griffiths, Pres.

Election of Officers

L.U. 649 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), ALTON, IL—The Local 649 election of officers was held June 9. Elected were: Bus. Mgr. Jack Tueth, Pres. Fred Redd, Vice Pres. Mark Woulfe, Rec. Sec. Ryan Griffin and Treas. William Gottlob; Executive

Board members John Gottlob, Joe Elliot, Bert Hartley, Pete Dochwat, Tim Kusmierczak, Joseph Rister, Dave Burns, Mark Fair, Scott Wagner; and Examining Board members Tim Wieckhorst, Robert Moore, Jessie Landers and Brett McCormick. Elected delegates to the Illinois State Federation of Labor: Charles Yancey and Keith Becker. Appointed are: Asst. Bus. Mgr. Charles Yancey and Organizing Agent Ed Taylor. Congratulations to these members and to all who ran for office for pursuing leadership roles in this local's future.

We have two new journeymen: Dan Zorger, tree trimmer; and Mark Toppmeyer, electronic technician. Good job, guys, on completing your requirements.

Alton area residents are enjoying the presence of yet another group of Local 649 volunteers, who recently completed a lighting project in the city at Hellrung Park. It is the spirit of our volunteers that this community respects.

Our thoughts go to a "standout electrician," five-term Pres. Fred Redd, as he works through some challenging medical concerns.

Bryan Berg, P.S.

Memorial Fish Fry

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Recent local union events included the May 19 retirement seminar held at the JATC with 87 members and spouses attending. The seminar was set for members within five years of retirement. On May 24, a blood drive was held and was chaired by "Chief" Dan George. Thanks to all participating members.

June 1 was the annual Chuck Bland Memorial Fish Fry. Chair Frank Vanarsdale and his committee did an excellent job. The retirees picnic was held June 16. Also a District Progress meeting was hosted by Locals 71, 683, 1466 and 2020 in June.

Congratulations to our 18 newest journeymen; a challenging five years but well worth the effort.

Our condolences to the families of recently deceased members, Edward Huston and Arcolino "Arky" Rosato.

Thanks to sister locals that have put our traveling members to work.

Rick Deime, V.P./P.S.

Brotherhood & Camaraderie

L.U. 725 (i,rts&spa), TERRE HAUTE, IN—On what was a perfect May 12 we held our annual members cookout at the union hall. The day was filled with brotherhood and camaraderie. We enjoyed steaks, ribs, shrimp and all the trimmings prepared by retirees with the assistance of officers and other active members. We had a great turnout and enjoyed visiting with active and retired members. Attending events like this brings the Brotherhood closer together as we stop to appreciate what a real treasure our membership can be.

Our local elections took place June 1. Elected were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. R. Todd Thacker, Pres. Robert M. Denny, Vice Pres. Paul Rupska, Rec. Sec. Shane Hohenstein and Treas. John Hedden II. Newly elected Examining Board members are Eric Biernbaum, Matthew Hamburg and Jonathon Kimmel. New Executive Board members are Dan Blackwell, Tracy Cook, Johnnie Flynn, Dave Grandidier, Rick Hayes and Mike McNabb.

Gayle D. Meeker Jr., P.S.

Annual Funding Notice for National Electrical Benefit Fund

Introduction

This notice, which federal law requires all multiemployer plans to send annually, includes important information about the funding level of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, Plan 001, Employer Identification Number (EIN) 53-0181657 (Plan). This notice also includes information about rules governing insolvent plans and benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), a federal agency. This notice is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006 (Plan Year).

Plan's Funding Level

The Plan's "funded current liability percentage" for the Plan Year was 70.65%. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. The funded current liability percentage, however, is not indicative of how well a plan will be funded in the future or if it terminates. Whether this percentage will increase or decrease over time depends on a number of factors, including how the plan's investments perform, what assumptions the plan makes about rates of return, whether employer contributions to the fund increase or decline, and whether benefits payments from the fund increase or decline.

Plan's Financial Information

The market value of the Plan's assets as of January 1, 2006 was \$10,566,642,221. The total amount of benefit payments for the Plan Year was \$682,275,921. The ratio of assets to benefit payments is 15.49. This ratio suggests that the Plan's assets could provide for approximately 15.49 years of benefit payments in annual amounts equal to what was paid out in the Plan Year. However, the ratio does not take into account future changes in total benefit payments or plan assets.

Rules Governing Insolvent Plans

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans. Under so-called "plan reorganization rules," a plan

with adverse financial experience may need to increase required contributions and may, under certain circumstances, reduce benefits that are not eligible for the PBGC's guarantee (generally, benefits that have been in effect for less than 60 months). If a plan is in reorganization status, it must provide notification that the plan is in reorganization status and that, if contributions are not increased, accrued benefits under the plan may be reduced or an excise tax may be imposed (or both). The law requires the plan to furnish this notification to each contributing employer and the labor organization.

Despite the special plan reorganization rules, a plan in reorganization nevertheless could become insolvent. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for the plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available financial resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at a level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC, below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC, by law, will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan's financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notification of the insolvency to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected as a result of the insolvency, including loss of a lump sum option. This information will be provided for each year the plan is insolvent.

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only vested benefits are guaranteed. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit

payment equal to 100 percent of the first \$11 of the Plan's monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33 of the accrual rate, times each year of credited service. The PBGC's maximum guarantee, therefore, is \$35.75 per month times a participant's years of credited service.

Example 1: If a participant with 10 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$500, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant's years of service (\$500/10), which equals \$50. The guaranteed amount for a \$50 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus \$24.75 (.75 x \$33), or \$35.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50 (\$35.75 x 10).

Example 2: If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued monthly benefit of \$200, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be \$20 (or \$200/10). The guaranteed amount for a \$20 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus \$6.75 (.75 x \$9), or \$17.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 (\$17.75 x 10).

In calculating a person's monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under the plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan's termination or insolvency. Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee pre-retirement death benefits to a spouse or beneficiary (e.g., a qualified pre-retirement survivor annuity) if the participant dies after the plan terminates, benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact the Trustees of the National Electrical

Benefit Fund at (301) 556-4300, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, MD 20850-3266. For more information about the PBGC and multiemployer benefit guarantees, go to PBGC's web site, www.pbgc.gov, or call PBGC toll-free at 1-800-400-7242 (TTY/TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 1-800-400-7242).

Calculation of Plan's Funding Level Is Misleading

Please be aware that the Trustees believe the information set forth in the preceding Annual Funding Notice is not an accurate reflection of the NEBF's actual funding status. Of particular note is the fact that the 70.65 "funded current liability percentage" figure in the section of the Notice entitled, "Plan's Funding Level," is misleading. In computing this figure, IRS rules mandate that plans such as NEBF use a very conservative 5.77% interest rate assumption (i.e., expected average annual investment return) and very general actuarial assumptions (mortality rates) that do not in many cases (such as here) match a particular plan's actual experience. If, however, the "funded current liability percentage" calculation assumed a 7.00% estimated average annual rate of return (which, according to the NEBF's investment advisors and actuaries is more than reasonable given its current asset mix) and mortality rates modeled on the actual experience of NEBF participants — figures the NEBF's actuaries actually use in accordance with federal law to prepare the actuarial valuation for the NEBF's Form 5500 annual report — the resulting figure would tell a starkly different story. Use of these more realistic assumptions would result in a much healthier funded percentage of 89.76%. The bottom line is that you can be assured that the Trustees believe there is very little risk of the NEBF becoming under-funded, let alone "financially troubled" or "insolvent," in the near or distant future.

2006 Summary Annual Report for the National Electrical Benefit Fund

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Benefit Fund, #53-0181657, for the year ended December 31, 2006. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were \$746,847,631. These expenses included \$64,571,710 in administrative expenses and \$682,275,921 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 481,494 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$11,398,630,966 as of December 31, 2006, compared to \$10,566,642,221 as of January 1, 2006. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$831,988,745. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreci-

ation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$1,578,836,376, including employer contributions of \$408,047,534, gains of \$62,375,571 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$1,100,488,078, and other income of \$7,925,193.

Minimum Funding Standards

An actuary's statement shows that enough money was contributed to the plan to keep it funded in accordance with the minimum funding standards of ERISA.

Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

- an accountant's report;
- financial information and information on payments to service providers;

- assets held for investment;
- loans or other obligations in default or classified as uncollectible;
- leases in default or classified as uncollectible;
- insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers;
- transactions in excess of 5 percent of plan assets;
- information regarding any common or collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, master trusts, or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates; and
- actuarial information regarding the funding of the plan.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, (301) 556-4300. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$29.75 for the full annual report, or \$.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally-protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210.

Notice to Participants in the National Electrical Annuity Plan

Explanation of Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit

If you are married and die before retirement, NEAP will provide your spouse with a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your spouse will receive this benefit if: (1) you have satisfied the minimum eligibility requirement of 160 hours of service; (2) you have a balance in your Individual Account; (3) you die prior to receiving a pension benefit; (4) you are married; and (5) you have not previously declined the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit.

If you are entitled to a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, NEAP will purchase an annuity contract from an insurance company for your spouse. The annuity contract will pay your surviving spouse a monthly benefit for life. Monthly payments will start within a reasonable period of time after your death. The amount of the monthly benefit depends upon

(1) the amount in your Individual Account; (2) your spouse's age (and, therefore, his/her life expectancy and prospective benefit payment period); and (3) the insurance company's price for annuity contracts.

Elections/Consents

If you are under age 35, your spouse will automatically receive the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit upon your death (unless your spouse selects a lump sum payment instead of the annuity). You may not decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit unless you have permanently stopped working in Covered Employment.

However, beginning the year you reach age 35 and at any time thereafter, you may decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your

spouse must consent in writing and the consent must be witnessed by a representative of NEAP or by a notary public. Consent given by a spouse is not effective as to a subsequent spouse.

You may revoke your election to decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time. You may again decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time by executing the appropriate form and obtaining your spouse's consent. Your spouse may also revoke his/her consent at any time. Contact the Plan Administrator's Office for the appropriate forms.

Lump Sum

If you decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, your Individual Account balance will be paid to

your designated surviving beneficiary in a lump sum. If your designated surviving beneficiary is not your spouse, your spouse must also consent to that as well, in order for it to be valid. If you have not designated a beneficiary (or your designated beneficiary is not living at the time of your death), the balance will be paid to the following persons, if living, in the following order of priority: (1) your spouse, (2) your children, (3) your parents, or (4) your estate. The total amount of money received as a lump sum may ultimately be different (either greater or lesser) than the total amount of money your spouse would have received under the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. This is because the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit is an annuity and depends on the time value of money and how long your spouse lives. Additional information is available from the Plan Administrator's Office.

2006 Summary Annual Report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan, #52-6132372, for the year ended December 31, 2006. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were \$82,884,381. These expenses included \$8,130,785 in administrative expenses and \$74,753,596 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 76,328 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end

of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$2,271,474,132 as of December 31, 2006, compared to \$1,934,477,031 as of January 1, 2006. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$336,997,101. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of

\$419,881,482, including employer contributions of \$204,010,596, gains of \$6,252,118 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$209,317,362, and other income of \$301,406.

Minimum Funding Standards

Enough money was contributed to the plan to keep it funded in accordance with the minimum funding standards of ERISA.

Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

- an accountant's report;
- financial information and information on payments to service providers;
- assets held for investment;
- transactions in excess of 5 percent of plan assets;
- insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers; and
- information regarding any common or collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, master trusts, or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

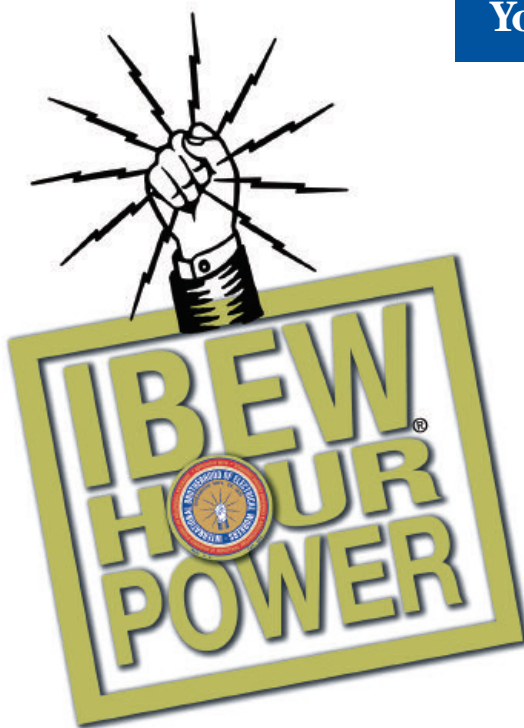
To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Trustees of the National Electrical Annuity Plan, who are the plan administrators, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, (301) 556-4300. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$10.75 for the full annual report, or \$.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally-protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210.

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Tune in to celebrate the success of our Brothers and Sisters across North America!

Click on our "Feature Story" this month to see the latest and greatest advancements in the industry, all on display for the first time at the National Training Institute (NTI). And while you're on the site, be sure to click on our "Out of the Box" segment, which showcases this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, IBEW style! Fire up that computer and race over to IBEWHourPower.com.

ElectricTV.net showcases the teamwork of IBEW-NECA that makes us the best choice for the customer!

The IBEW-NECA team boasts a formal training program second to none. How does that translate to making us the electricians of choice for the customer? Also—it was the kind of place you would NEVER want to spend any time in. Now, it's a luxury attraction. We'll show how the IBEW-NECA team is helping turn a jail into a high-end hotel in downtown Boston. All that and more, now on ElectricTV.net.





International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

The Electrical Worker was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper, along with the *IBEW Journal* magazine, now published quarterly, now constitute the official publications of the IBEW and seek to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

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International President

Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

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**HOW TO REACH US**

We welcome letters from our readers. The writer should include his or her name, address and, if applicable, IBEW local union number and card number. Family members should include the local union number of the IBEW member to whom *The Electrical Worker* is mailed. Please keep letters as brief as possible. *The Electrical Worker* reserves the right to select letters for publication and edit all submissions for length.

Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Or send by e-mail to: publications@ibew.org

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FROM THE OFFICERS**Beyond Bush**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

With organized labor poised to play a major role in deciding the next president of the United States, the IBEW can expect to see a lot of candidates looking for our support. But what are our members looking for in a candidate, and what issues do they see as vital in 2008?

Recently we commissioned a national survey of IBEW members on the 2008 presidential election. While only an initial poll, its results speak loudly and any candidate looking for the IBEW's endorsement should take note.

Our members are looking for a president who will make a clean break with policies of the last seven years. While most of those polled are not settled on any particular candidate, they are impressed by the leading Democratic contenders. But when asked their opinion of the Republican candidates—the party that has up until recently dominated Washington—a majority volunteered that they did not think any of them would do a good job in the White House. This is the highest negative approval ratings for the Republican Party that we have seen in over 12 years of member polling.

And with health care, Social Security, and good jobs topping the issues poll, IBEW members are looking for a candidate who will make protecting and expanding the middle class a top priority.

I don't need to remind you what a disaster for working families the last seven years have been. Declining incomes, lost jobs and corporate dominance have systematically eaten away at our standard of living. Our members are looking for a president who can provide real change, not four more years of the same.

Any candidate that wants the IBEW's support needs to show us that they can take on the corporate special interests that have encased themselves in our nation's capital, and promote a working families agenda: providing every American access to quality health care, protecting our hard-earned pensions and Social Security and creating good jobs that can grow our middle class. I urge every IBEW member in the United States to study closely the positions of all the candidates to see who can best accomplish these tasks. And through our grassroots political mobilization program, we will mobilize and educate our members to keep the spotlight on working families through 2008 and beyond.

Rebuild America's Infrastructure

As Americans contemplated the terrifying end of those who plunged to their deaths in August from a collapsed Minnesota bridge, I thought about how many times the building trades had tried to wake up the nation to the steep costs of ignoring our deteriorating infrastructure. Like the TV coverage from New Orleans after Katrina, images of the bridge were accomplishing what we could not.

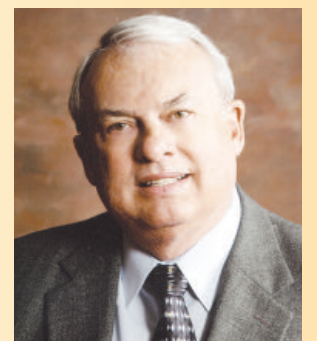
A day before the failure of Minnesota I-35's span over the Mississippi, another bridge fell in California. A few weeks before that, an 80-year-old steam pipe exploded in Manhattan, killing one and injuring many more. The story of a crumbling America is finally getting out. But how did we get so messed up to begin with?

Consider Minnesota, where Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty vetoed a bipartisan transportation bill in 2005 that called for an \$8 billion investment in highways, roads and transit over the next decade. Maybe Pawlenty really believed his party's leaders who win elections by convincing working folks that "smaller government" and "lower taxes" will help them.

Who's fooling who? State and federal tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and corporations have left less money for everything from job training to maintaining roads and public services. These tax policies, along with trade agreements that have put millions of Americans out of work, are part of the problem, not the solution. As for "smaller government," watch what we ask for.

Union workers are now being sidelined after Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, a former Bush administration official, sold the operation of the 160-mile Indiana toll road—for the next 75 years—to a consortium of Spanish and Australian businesses.

Privatization and feeding the greedy won't solve the problems of our crashing infrastructure. We can honor the victims of Minnesota's tragedy only by pushing for public investment that will put Americans to work. From roads and bridges to our power grid and broadband telecommunications systems, it's time to rebuild.



Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Honoring the Worker

Below is a copy of a poem I composed last year as I was contemplating the approaching Labor Day holiday, as well as those long since passed. I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Labor Day 2007!

Working Class Hero (for the New Millennium)

The working class hero struggles to his feet,
and finds himself back out on the street.
His proud, painful past incomplete.

With legacy well founded in freedom and faith,
step forth in whose footprints as not to betray,
a debt so exacted from all yesterdays.

But carry and keep them, each day if you will.
For future generations we hope to instill.
Lest not that their dreams be left unfulfilled.

The working class hero struggles to his feet,
and finds himself back out on the street.
His proud, painful past incomplete.

George Smith

Local 716 member, Houston, Texas

Undercutting Americans

I just read [President Hill's editorial] in *The Electrical Worker* newspaper and was very happy to read I am not alone on this issue of immigration. It was disappointing to speak with one of our Local 11 staff members about illegal immigrants only to hear he doesn't want to take a stand because it might upset one of our Latin/Spanish brothers.

It's good to know someone else gets it. Every day I'm learning something new about this administration's hatred for American labor organizations and American jobs. I was able to learn a lot from some videos that might be interesting, if you ever get any free time. One is of Sen. Byron Dorgan (D) North Dakota; he talks about all my concerns with employment. The second is a group of lawyers telling their clients how to skirt the law on the H1B visa program to further undercut workers in this country.

Kevin Barry Corcoran

Local 11 member, Los Angeles

Put Me on the Books

With the price of Bush's gasoline these days, can anyone figure out how we can put our name on several books, from our own local union hall? Using the technology of the computer, I don't see why this would be hard to do. Once you get the job, the hall hiring could take your name off all books until you are laid off once again, then you could start the process all over again. Would that be so hard?

Alan Rafferty

Local 1701 member, Owensboro, Ky.

What Do You Think?

Due to production schedules and time constraints, we will now print responses to "What Do You Think?" on the Web site. To review responses to earlier questions and to answer the following query, go to www.ibew.org.

This month's question:

Do you believe the global climate change threat is real, and if so, what can be done to curb it?

Who We Are

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to publications@ibew.org.

Traveling a Well-Worn Path

The opening ceremonies of the 37th IBEW International Convention in Cleveland last year included the presentation of two ceremonial gavels crafted by members of the IBEW from the host Fourth District. One of the gavels was made of cherry wood by Mark Abe, a 34-year member of Cumberland, Md., Local 307. Woodworking is not the Abe family's only contribution to the IBEW. The family includes five other journeymen inside wiremen covering three generations of the Abe family. One of them, Mark Abe's step-brother, Local 307 Business Manager Richard Carder, presented the gavel to President Hill at the Convention.

In June, Mark Abe, his father Virgil Abe, a former member of Local 307's executive board, and first cousin Ron Abe, traveled to Washington, D.C. to tour the IBEW museum. "I read about the museum in the *IBEW Journal* and I thought it would be a great chance to spend some time with my Dad," Mark Abe said. The visit turned out to be even more special than a nostalgic walk through the IBEW's past.

Prior to leaving Cumberland, Mark Abe had e-mailed Senior Executive Assistant to the IBEW Secretary-Treasurer Jim Combs, a close friend and former business manager of Local 307, to tell him he was coming. He even brought along Jim's brother, John, a former IBEW member of Luke, Md., Local 1653.

While visiting Combs's office, the group was shocked when President Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Walters invited them into their offices, where they held an impromptu ceremony, presenting Virgil with his 60-year pin, Ron with his 50-year pin and Mark with his 35-year pin.

Virgil Abe, 87, completed his journeyman wireman apprenticeship after World War II service in the Army Signal Corps and traveled to Delaware and Baltimore when work at home was slack. Now retired, he stays busy building ponds and patios and gardening with his wife Ruth. Virgil Abe said he is saddened by the decline of manufacturing in his Western Maryland region, including the shutdown of a Pittsburgh Plate Glass plant, which he helped to build. Life wasn't always easy, he says, remembering "asking for a quarter in contract talks and making six trips to the negotiating table to get a nickel," but "I feel just wonderful that my family followed me into the IBEW."



President Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Walters honor contributions of the Abe family to Cumberland, Md., Local 307. From left are Ron Abe, 50-year pin; Virgil Abe, 60-year pin; Mark Abe, 35-year pin.

"The International headquarters and the IBEW museum were magnificent," says Ron Abe, whose brother Richard, a 46-year Local 307 member, couldn't make the trip to D.C. because he is suffering from a serious illness. His son, Brian, a member of Washington, D.C. Local 26 who lives in Spotsylvania, Va., was busy that day as an employee of Freestate Electric.

"I'm proud of the good living that the IBEW has provided for my family," says Ron Abe, who cared for his wife Elizabeth for 13 years before her death in April. "I'm also proud of the accomplishments of Local 307 members Jim Combs and Fourth District International Representative Brian Malloy and I'm proud of how the IBEW sets the precedent for other trades."

"I'm sure our family is only one of many who have contributed generations of service to one organization," says Carder. "I am very proud to be part of the 233 years of service this family has pledged to the IBEW; and we haven't finished yet." The family's labor went far beyond Cumberland, says Carder, who, like Mark Abe and others, traveled for long stretches to projects from the subways of New York City to power plants and commercial jobs in Pittsburgh, Steubenville, Ohio, and Parkersburg, W.Va. ■

Get Connected

If you would like to receive your *Electrical Worker* via e-mail instead of in your mailbox, contact us at publications@ibew.org. Give us your name, IBEW local union number, card number and e-mail address and we will send you the link to access *The Electrical Worker* electronically.

Local Lines

continued from page 11

Windsor Local's Success

L.U. 773 (as,em,i,mo&o), WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA—Local 773 elections were held in June. Elected were: Bus. Mgr. Sol Furer, Pres. Ed McDowell, Vice Pres. Sean Bristow; Rec. Sec. Kip Strachuk; Executive Board members Norm Ball, Dana Chappell, Karl Lovett, Jeff McPherson and Mark Stobbs; and Examining Board member Ray Paris. Thanks to all the members who were willing to do their part for the local.

Local 773 has been very successful at the Labour Relations Board and in the courts to establish once and for all that the local union has construction bargaining rights, in the county as well as in the city, with our Public School Board. The local union is defending itself in what is now a four-year battle with the Public School Board to retain our bargaining rights for work on all of our schools. The school board wants to decertify the union, as they call themselves a "non-construction employer," and they want to use former Ontario premier Mike Harris's changed language in the Labour Relations Act to help them.

David Spencer, P.S.

Service Award Honorees

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our annual cook-out and service pin presentation in the spring was a huge success. We were honored to have many brothers who paved the road to Local 915's future in attendance. Receiving 50-year pins were Harold Hudson, Franklin Johnson, Robert Kaiser, Ronald LaPierre, Faustino Mayo and Robert McIntyre; a 55-year pin—Andrew Dean; 60-year pins—Joseph G. Cain, John Graham and William Stephenson; and a 65-year pin—Victor Moore. Congratulations to these and all members who received service pins. We are proud of you all.

Our Brother of the Year Award recipient was Bro. Ken Brewer. Ken was honored for his dedication to our local. He is also one of our Apprentice Instructors whose true mission is to produce quality craftsmen for IBEW's future. Congratulations, Ken!

Our work party helped prep the grounds for a busy storm season. Thanks go to: Bill Dever, Bruce Barrow, Randall King, Larry Jenkins, Buddy Wade, Clyde Tucker, Robert Ray, Karen Hill, Theresa King, John Keefer, Mike Dearden, Roce Simpson, John Dehmel, David McCraw and Stan Lenas.

Theresa King, P.S.



Local 915 Apprentice Instructor Ken Brewer (center) receives Brother of the Year Award. From left, Local 915 Bus. Mgr. Bill Dever, Brewer, and Pres. Randall King.



IBEW Long Island, NY, Local 1049 crews restored power to the neighborhood of President Bill Clinton and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton after a severe storm. The 1049 crews met up with Pres. Clinton and his dog, Seamus, who were out for a walk.

Safety Advocate Post

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o&u), LONG ISLAND, NY—The IBEW was founded to address concerns regarding safety. Over 100 years ago the founders secretly gathered to share safe work practices and to form our Brotherhood. In keeping with the IBEW's tradition of safety, Local 1049 recently negotiated a safety advocate's position in our Electric Design and Construction Department. Unfortunately, we have had several accidents and numerous disciplinary actions due to safety practices, or the lack thereof. Bus. Manager Bob Shand has appointed Executive Board member Ronald Bauer as our IBEW safety advocate. It is Bro. Bauer's job to answer any questions about safety and work practices and procedures, as well as to analyze and ensure that all jobs are progressing in a safe and efficient manner.

In May, our Gas Craft Division members overwhelmingly ratified a new four-year agreement. The agreement includes general wage increases of 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6 percent, respectively. Over the four years, the employer-paid annuity goes to 18 percent. The new contract also calls for increases to the employer-funded Health and Welfare Fund in each year of the contract, and for establishing a Health Reimbursement Account. Congratulations to Bus. Mgr. Shand and his negotiating committee for a great contract.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

Union Activities

L.U. 1205 (em,govt,i&u), GAINESVILLE, FL—The work situation is good at press time and it stands a good chance of getting even better soon.

Local 1205 recently held its election of officers. Elected were: Bus. Mgr. Matt Meadows, Pres. Lanny Mathis, Vice Pres. James Ingle, Rec. Sec. Zot Szurgot, Treas. Shawn Graves; Executive Board members Buck Hill, Vernon Bernard, John Burch Jr., Ray Yanke Sr., Tommy Ward; and Examining Board members Jamie Veatch, Steve Ever, Ray Yanke Jr. and Trey Ross. Good luck, brothers.

This year has been very busy for us! We held a crawfish boil for the vote count (many thanks to Curt Davis and Sandy Hale for cooking); the annual W.S. Brown bream tournament; two Texas Hold'em tournaments benefiting the sick and needy; and a retirement party for our office manager, Maggie Stallings. Congratulations, "Miss Maggie." Many thanks to everyone who helped with the work for all these celebrations.

Congratulations to Bros. Junior Beard and Lewis Friedman, who received their 60-year pins.

At this writing we were looking forward to a July 28 journeyman versus apprentice softball game. Don't forget the local's annual Labor Day picnic. I hope everyone can attend and enjoys the outing.

Lanny Mathis, Pres.

Four Members Retire

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Congratulations to recent Local 1307 retirees: Geoff Haley, Alan King, William Hall and Mike Dennis.

Bro. Haley began work at Delmarva Power in 1981 as a fuel handler at the Indian River power plant. He advanced through the ranks to qualified machinist and retired Feb. 8, 2007. At the time of his retirement the plant was owned by NRG. Geoff also served on numerous local union committees.

Bro. Alan King retired from NRG on Feb. 16, 2007. He began at the Indian River power plant in 1982 as a laborer and later became a fuel handler.

Bro. William Hall started with Choctank Electric Co-op in 1970 as an apprentice lineman and became a journeyman lineman in 1973. He retired as chief lineman Feb. 23, 2007.

Bro. Mike Dennis began at Delmarva Power in 1969 as a laborer at Indian River power plant. He advanced through the ranks and became a qualified instrument technician. Over the years Mike served Local 1307 as an E-Board member, financial secretary and committee member. In 1994 Mike was elected Local 1307 president. He chose not to run in the 2006 election and returned to the plant as a senior control specialist. Mike retired from NRG Feb. 28, 2007. Happy retirement to all.

E.D. Sparks, F.S.

Anchorage Update

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—Local 1547 and the Alaska Chapter of NECA have joined together for a television advertising campaign. The first spot, entitled "Half Way," began airing this summer and will continue into 2008. The commercial was filmed at the Tom Cashen and Kornfiend JATC training facilities. More joint advertising is being planned for the future. Alaska NECA and Local 1547 co-sponsor Anchorage's biggest and most popular community celebration, the NECA/IBEW New Year's Eve Fire and Ice Show in town square.

An IBEW Shop Steward Conference will be held Oct. 26-28. The conference is Alaska's premier labor training conference and attracts more than 200 stewards from across the state. A Labor Management Cooperation Committee meeting will follow the conference.

IBEW 1547 Bus. Mgr. Larry Bell and others were successful in their efforts to have project labor agreement (PLA) language added to the Alaska Gas Inducement Act (AGIA). AGIA is legislation designed to encourage expedited construction of a natural gas pipeline, which will commercialize North Slope gas, promote exploration, and encourage North Slope leaseholders to commit to ship their gas across Alaska through a gas line. The Associated Building Contractors (ABC) had aggressively lobbied the governor and Alaska Legislature against having PLA language in the bill.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

Officers Elected

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—Although our work has been slow, we have been busy the past few months. Construction branch members unanimously ratified a one-year agreement with NECA for a 3.3 percent wage and benefit package increase. We thank the negotiating

team: Bros. Mike Likens, Mike Roby, Terry Stearsman and Bus. Mgr. Gary Osborne.

Local 1701 elected officers in all branches in June. Elected were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Gary Osborne, Pers. Richard Thomson, Vice Pres. Gary Brown, Treas. Alan Rafferty; Executive Board members David Carrico, Cliff Greenwell, Joe McBride, Ashley Payne, Steve Thomson and Tim West. Big Rivers election results: Chmn. Tom Howard, Vice Chmn. Mike Thomas, Recorder Danny Gish; Executive Committee members Marty Hite and Jim Roth. Western Kentucky Energy results: Chmn. Tim West, Vice Chmn. Pat Kellems, Recorder Robert Melloy; Executive Committee Nobel Denton, Jerry Parker, Chris Mattingly and Jerry Wilson. Thanks to all election judges and tellers.

Remember state elections in November. For the governor's race, Local 1701 endorses Democrat Steve Beshear, running against incumbent Republican Ernie Fletcher. Let's not forget Gov. Fletcher's attacks on organized labor and the scandals he created in the state Capitol. We will send a newsletter to members noting other state office endorsements.

We mourn the passing of retired member Randall Shutt. May he rest in peace.

Tim Blandford, P.S.

Solidarity & Support

L.U. 1749 (u), NEW JOHNSONVILLE, TN—Welcome to the SGPO (steam generator plant operator) class at Allen steam plant in Memphis. That class is about eight weeks into their training.

Cumberland city steam plant will be interviewing for its next SGPO class and also hiring two electrical tech II's for the yard. The combustion turbine yard at Gleason is also looking for a senior instrument tech and electrical tech. Cumberland will be looking for a couple of electrical trainees and instrument maintenance trainees around October.

Please stay active in your union. Come to the meetings and stay informed. TVA is rapidly changing and our solidarity and support is needed. A union is only as strong as its weakest member.

The Local 1749 Executive Board appointed Chester "Kim" Dawson as local union business manager/president to fill the post vacated by Jeffrey Rosentreter, who resigned effective June 18.

Members, please make sure the local has your current address information. The International had each local to appoint a registrar to assure that everyone is informed about issues important to working folks and that members are registered to vote. So many issues affect our jobs, such as the McConnell-Bunning bill in the U.S. Senate to privatize TVA. Seven of the nine-member TVA board support this. Keep informed and don't vote your standard of living away.

Mark J. DeJulius, P.S./E-Board



Local 1749 congratulates members attending the 2007 SGPO class at the Allen steam plant in Memphis, TN. From left are: Mark Clark, Cameara Harris, Bart Tolbert, Katerna Parnell, Orlando Brassel, Cassidy Chandler, Kim Kuhns and Mike Hatley.