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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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Who We Are

First Carolina Commuter Rail on Track With IBEW

With the IBEW's market share in traditionally nonunion North Carolina hovering at 2 percent, getting project labor agreements for big jobs has been an uphill battle.

But the recent completion of North Carolina's first light-rail system, built with the help of more than 60 wiremen and linemen from Charlotte Local 379, has raised the IBEW's profile and opened the way to more union work in one of the fastest growing cities in the Carolinas.

"When people read about all the great work we did on this, I think it will start changing some negative attitudes about unions that we face here," said Local 379 Business Manager Robert Krebs.

The new light-rail system, which is operated by the Charlotte Area Transit System, was a joint project of the Mass Electric Construction Co., a nationwide electrical contractor that specializes in mass transit, and DEW Electric, a local minority-owned contractor. Mass Electric has traditionally had a strong relationship with the IBEW and insisted on working with Local 379. Construction on the line started over two years ago.

"The training and skill of the local union was a vital component of our success."

— Butch Reynolds, Mass Electric area manager



Charlotte, N.C., Local 379 members wire the first light-rail system in North Carolina.

The 10-mile, \$427 million, rail line—which will connect downtown Charlotte with its southern suburbs—is expected to have nearly 10,000 riders a day in its first year. It opened in late November.

"The training and skill of the local union was a vital component of our success," said Butch Reynolds, area manager for Mass Electric.

Light-rail construction requires a specialized set of skills, so Mass Electric provided the necessary training for Local 379 members. "Even though we were all experienced journeymen, no one had worked on a light rail before ... it's a niche industry," said Local 379 member Ken Joyner. "It was one of the most challenging projects we've ever worked on. It's really amazing what the brothers have accom-

plished. We couldn't have made those tight deadlines if they didn't go the extra mile."

The publicity Local 379 has received from the project is already translating into more jobs for the local, including work on Google's new \$600 million server farm in Lenoir, an hour north of Charlotte. "A lot of companies know the rail line was an IBEW project, so they saw the kind of quality work we can do," Joyner said. "I'm hearing if they can handle a multi-million dollar project, they can handle my job."

The Charlotte Area Transit Authority is hoping to build four more rail lines that will extend to each section of the metro area. "We're ready to get back to work on the rail as soon as they need us and continue our partnership with DEW and Mass Electric," Krebs said. ■

Thumbs Up for Michigan Wind Power

It's called the Thumb of Michigan and there, in the state's Lower Peninsula, it's thumbs up for wind power. Three IBEW locals have joined forces to sign new contractors and provide wiremen and linemen to install dozens of 280-foot wind turbines. Their work has been so successful that they are receiving recommendations for more projects from general contractors.

Wind studies showed good flow between Lake Huron to the east and Saginaw Bay to the west, says Detroit Local 17 Business Manager Kevin Shaffer. "Wind power is the upcoming alternative because of thousands of miles of water frontage and rural electric cooperatives are showing strong interest," says Keith Sarns, business manager of Grand Rapids Local 876.

After Wind Connect, typically a nonunion subsidiary of Alliant Power, received the contract for the four-phase windmill project, Shaffer and Mike Aulsebrook, Local 17's organizer, met with Pat Ringler, Wind Connect's project manager. In June, they agreed to sign with the local.



John Lock, Detroit Local 17 journeyman foreman at SPE Utility Contractors, stands atop a newly constructed wind turbine.

SPE Utility Contractors, a Local 17 signatory contractor, wired 32 turbines and towers in the first phase in Pigeon, Mich. SPE, the first contractor in Michigan to be qualified and factory-certified on windmill work, also partnered with signatory contractor Spaulding Electric to build the substation, using some members of Detroit Locals 58 and 17.

Underground work and collectors were contracted to InfraSource. Since Local 876 had a signatory relationship with the company, Sarns helped broker discussions with Jim Cobbs, the company's director in the area, resulting in InfraSource signing with Local 17. The various IBEW locals worked together to establish a new classification to cover the work.

Wind turbine work requires qualified climbers to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards, so the work has been performed with composite crews consisting of a journeyman lineman and a journeyman wireman to insure the standards are met. Composite crews work on a turbine while one journeyman acts as a groundman and qualified safety person.

"This was a learning experience for them, yet they had no accidents and no workmanship issues."

— Kevin Shaffer, Local 17 business manager

Next spring, work will begin on 104 turbines at Ubyly, on the tip of the Thumb. Local 17 is holding discussions with Noble Environmental Power, a nonunion contractor, about joining the growing circle of union contractors to pursue more projects.

"Our guys stepped up to the plate," says Shaffer. "This was a learning experience for them, yet they had no accidents and no workmanship issues."

"The quality was second to none," says David Postill, SPE's owner, who says that manufacturer Vestas, project management company Alliant and G.E.'s wind power division are referring SPE to others in the competitive market for wind power.

With 80 to 100 workers nationwide, Postill is getting ready to start a wind power project in New York and looking at another in Wisconsin. "Our core guys want to jump around and do the work," says Postill. "By bringing journeyman inside wiremen and linemen together from different locals," says Postill, "we got a team second to none."

"Our progress could not have happened without the cooperation between Locals 17, 58 and 876," says Shaffer. ■

Unique Agreement Brings New Members, Citizens to Nova Scotia

With the growing shortage of power line technicians (linemen) in Nova Scotia resulting from baby boomer retirements, employers are scrambling to find replacements.

In one case, an outside line contractor is requesting Halifax, N.S., Local 1928's support to recruit immigrant labor. This puts unions in a difficult position in workplaces where collective bargaining agreements are in effect. When employers file for permission with the Canadian government to employ non-citizens, significant weight is added to the application if the union is in agreement.

Local 1928's Business Manager Michael MacDonald said companies dropped the ball in training apprentices despite the union's requests.

"But they did drop the ball, now what do we do? We can ignore the labor shortage and not agree to anything, risking the company going down the tubes, affecting our members who work for these companies, or we can find progressive solutions," MacDonald said.

Despite the presence of IBEW contractors from Ontario and New Brunswick who have signed voluntary recognition with Local 1928 and are working in the province, there are not enough journeyman linemen in Nova

Scotia to do the work required.

The need for permanent workers who agree to become both citizens and union members is at the heart of an October memorandum of agreement between Local 1928 and contractor F.A. Tucker.

Because Tucker needs journeyman linemen to handle the work load in Nova Scotia, the company asked the local to consent to an agreement to bring in power line technicians from foreign countries.

"Like the United States, Canada is a nation built by immigrants," says MacDonald, pointing to his own Scottish and Irish roots. But, he says, Canada needs skilled workers who will commit to citizenship and build the country, rather than staying for a short period and leaving.

The memorandum requires the employer first to post for openings in each IBEW local across Canada. If an insufficient number of applicants apply, the company will post in newspapers across Canada. If no citizens apply from within Canada, F.A. Tucker will then hire up to a maximum of 20 immigrant workers, provided they agree with the following conditions:

- The workers must become citizens as soon as possible.

- Within one year of arrival, the foreign workers will be required to meet the same selection and testing criteria as other F.A. Tucker applicants for power line technician positions, including the Safety Code of Practice, Standard Protection Code, and Red Seal certifications and Nova Scotia driver's license. The linemen will be in training mode until the requirements are completed.

- As a condition of employment, the foreign workers will become members of Local 1928 and will be subject to the terms and conditions of the current collective agreement.

- F.A. Tucker commits to the hiring of apprentices in a one-to-one ratio to the number of qualified foreign journeymen hired under the agreement. Apprentices will be hired within nine months of hiring a foreign power line technician (or earlier if Canadian linemen are available as mentors).

MacDonald said he is hopeful that the memorandum will be a positive solution.

Four Filipino workers who joined Local 1928 in July, before the recent memorandum, are already working in the province and are taking steps to bring their families to Nova Scotia and become Canadian citizens. ■

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Finish Line Looms in Amtrak Contract Fight



After eight years on a train to nowhere, IBEW members can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel in their contract dispute with Amtrak. The IBEW and three other unions representing more than 4,000 workers at the railroad have rejected an offer of arbitration from the National Mediation Board and were released from mediation on October 31.

The stage is now set for a final showdown in this contract negotiations dispute. If no agreement is reached and there is no intervention by President Bush by December 1, Amtrak members would be free to strike and Amtrak could impose new work rules and conditions on the workers. Based on previous negotiations with Amtrak, the IBEW is not optimistic that a scheduled last ditch negotiating session will yield a settlement, said Railroad Department Director Bill Bohné.

"For too long, the more than 1,100 IBEW members working at Amtrak have been without a contract, while management has refused to budge an inch," Bohné said.

Members of the IBEW, the Transportation Communication Union, the International Association of Machinists and the Transport Workers Union have been without a contract since 2000. Under the Railway Labor Act, release from mediation opens up a 30-day cooling off period. President Bush can appoint a three-person Presidential Emergency Board, which would hold hearings and issue recommendations on settling the dispute within 30 days of appointment.

At that time, the parties can either accept the board's recommendations or work out a new agreement, or Congress can intervene by either forcing a settlement or calling for binding arbitration. It is expected that Bush will appoint an emergency board prior to the end of the cooling-off period.

In preparation for a possible strike, IBEW System Council 7 General Chairman Mike Giansante has mailed out strike ballots to Amtrak members.

For more information and further updates on the situation at Amtrak, go to www.ibew.org.

Wastewater Goes Green in Akron

If recycling and reusing are the watchwords of these green times, IBEW members are out on the cutting edge of new technologies like wastewater digestion, which reuses and recycles solid waste to generate power.

Akron, Ohio, Local 306 members helped retrofit a 20-year-old compost plant into a digester that produces power. The result is a plant opening soon in Akron that teams KB Compost Services with a German bio-energy company using a state-of-the-art methane digester that fuels a 350-kilovolt generator.

The plant once mixed the solid waste from the Akron sewage treatment plant with tree bark or sawdust to make fertilizer sold to golf courses or dumped into landfills. This labor intensive process, which involves turning the mixture until it is done and ready for transport, also could unfortunately be smelly, said Akron Local 306 Press Secretary Robert Sallaz.

"You can smell most of these plants two miles before you get there," Sallaz said. "This process gets rid of the sludge and the stink, and it makes electricity."

The basic process is not new. It was invented in the early 19th century and is in use in Europe. But in the United States, such plants are unusual, Sallaz said. The Akron plant utilizes a technology that allows for the use of 18 percent solid waste versus the 6 percent with earlier sewage biomass plants.

It works through a chemical process that involves mixing the waste with water and bacteria. Through temperature gauges, heaters and controls installed by nearly 10 Local 306 members on the job since last spring, the mixture is raised to a constant temperature, generating gas and pressure to run a biogas engine that in turn powers the 350-kilovolt generator, Sallaz said.

Local 38 member Mark Mewhinney, project foreman, said due to the corrosive nature of the process and the possibility of hazards, they installed PVC-coated rigid conduit underground and several explosion-proof areas with sealed pipes to prevent gas leaks from traveling through the infrastructure.

The digester will use much of the sludge, cutting down on the amount of material that must be discarded, Sallaz said. If the plant runs as expected, plans call for building two other digesters on the site. The underground work for those plants has already been done, said Mewhinney, who works for Doan/Pyramid Electric.

Mewhinney has been working with Local 306 members Jody Murphy, Bob Bartsche, Ray Romano, Jeff Firth and Marty Laich, who helped install the sophisticated system of power sources, transfer switches and motor control centers.



Akron Local 306 members helped turn an old compost plant into a wastewater-powered generating station.

Breakthrough Leadership Training Institute Empowers Future Leaders

Los Angeles Local 11 brought together participants from seven locals to prepare a diverse group of members for IBEW leadership.

"Learning to Lead—The Beginning," the first of a series of several one- and two-day seminars, was presented in October by the Breakthrough Leadership Training Institute, a new non-profit organization founded by former IBEW leaders who believe that leaders are made, not born.

BLTI was founded by Robbie Sparks, business manager of Atlanta Local 2127, president of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus and member of the executive council of the AFL-CIO; Mel Horton, retired Fifth District International Vice President; and Royetta Sanford, retired IBEW Director of Human Services. Sparks serves as executive director. Sanford is an instructor/mentor.

"Unions are in trouble," says Horton, the non-profit's training coordinator. "To succeed, our leadership cannot just reflect our current membership, but should encompass the work force that we are working to organize."

The goal of expanding the leadership of women and minorities was affirmed in a resolution passed at the 2005 AFL-CIO Convention and in a resolution on diversity and full inclusion that was unanimously approved at the 37th IBEW Convention in Cleveland last year.

"The training offered by BLTI is designed to create a pool of well-qualified individuals who can be considered for future leadership positions from shop stewards and organizers to elected local union officers," says Horton.

Local 11 member Deon Mayes, 31, a sound and communication instructor, praised the workshop. "The session was interactive, not just sitting in a room listening to a lecture. And it was great to meet members from other locals."

Also participating were members of Las Vegas Local 357; Portland, Ore., Local 48; San Francisco Local 6; Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245; San Diego Local 569; and Dublin, Calif., Local 595.

The sessions combine "hard" skills like organizing, running meetings and understanding labor law and the union's constitution with "soft skills" like ethics and values and understanding concepts of leadership behavior. Training is participatory, encouraging attendees to practice public speaking and constructive dialogue.

Because BLTI's leaders believe that training alone is not sufficient, the organization maintains a database of current or former union office holders who have agreed to serve as mentors.

For more information on BLTI's course offerings, call Robbie Sparks at 770-484-9105 or e-mail robbiesparks@blti.org.



North of 49°

First District Endorses Protective Clothing Line

Apprentices learn from the first day on the job a healthy respect for the danger of an electrical charge. Even with the proper rubber gloves, hard hats and insulated tools used commonly in the utility industry, everyday clothing can ignite, sending a worker from a routine day on the job into the hospital with painful and life-threatening burns.

An electrical arc will ignite clothing made of cotton, nylon, polyester and polypropylene and cause second and third degree burns to unprotected skin. But in an instant, the right protective clothing can make the difference between a close call and tragedy. In many Canadian provinces, workers must wear flame resistant clothing, even if employers do not supply it.

Unfortunately, the term “flame resistant clothing” could mean a hodgepodge of different things, with little consistency in standards, leaving workers and employers uncertain about the best way to protect themselves and their employees.

“It’s a requirement in the utility sector to wear flame resistant clothing but there are so many companies who sell different types of flame resistant clothing that it was hard to figure out what you were actually buying,” said First District International Representative Peter Routliff, who said some protective clothing additives wear out with repeated washing. Another problem was that some flame resistant clothing manufacturers were using cotton thread or had flammable emblem patches. “In cases where the chest emblem is made of cotton, in a flash accident you end up having a company logo as a tattoo.”

The First District staff spent more than a year working with scientists who lab tested materials before ultimately settling on a union manufacturer that makes the best-quality flame resistant clothing. Members can now order coveralls, work shirts and jeans as well as outerwear like work coats and fleeces made with DuPont NOMEX and manufactured by MWG Apparel Corp. of Manitoba with the assurance

that the material, the manufacturer and the product have the IBEW seal of approval.

“When exposed to a 600-volt flash, you want to do everything possible to protect yourself,” said First District Vice President Phil Flemming. “We are proud to endorse a quality product that members can turn to and know it’s safe.”

The IBEW was also able to negotiate lower prices for members, both in the United States and Canada.

“Thanks to the purchasing power of the IBEW, the program provides an excellent opportunity for individuals and smaller employers to purchase the best combination of flame resistant protections, value and performance at very reasonable cost,” Flemming said. “There is no doubt that safety should be the primary focus of every job, and we hope that this program will be utilized to provide additional protection our members.”

The full flame resistant product line is on MWG’s Web site at www.mwgapparel.com. ■

Spotlight on Safety

Staph Infections: What You Can Do to Prevent Them

A rash of recent reports about antibiotic-resistant staph infections has schools, hospitals and nursing homes around the country scrambling to scrub down possible breeding grounds.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that nearly 19,000 people died in 2005 as a result of a Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection, more than the number of people who died of AIDS.

Eighty-five percent of the infections reported were in health care settings like hospitals and nursing homes. The strain appears as a skin infection that is red, swollen and painful to touch, that may be mistaken for a spider bite. A common cause of minor skin infections, it can also cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections and surgical wound infections. MRSA is particularly dangerous to people with weakened immune systems, but one 17-year-old football player in Moneta, Va., died from the bacteria in October.

But MRSA is preventable with good hygiene. Doctors say the best defense against the strain, a “superbug” that is not treatable with penicillin or related antibiotics, is cleanliness.

Public health experts recommend the following steps to prevent the spread of the MRSA:

- Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly and frequently.
- Keep cuts clean and covered with a proper dressing or bandage until they are healed.
- Avoid contact with other people’s wounds or anything contaminated by a wound.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as razors, towels, toothbrushes, water bottles and sports equipment that directly touches your body.
- Clean objects such as gym and sports equipment before and after use.
- Shower with soap and water immediately after participating in sports or working out in a gym.
- Wash dirty clothes, linens and towels with hot water and laundry detergent.
- Dry clothes in a hot dryer rather than air-drying them.
- Do not demand antibiotics from your doctor.
- Take all antibiotics as prescribed.
- Do not share antibiotics with anyone else.



Au nord du 49° parallèle

Le Premier District endosse une ligne de vêtements ignifuges

Dès leur première journée de travail, les apprentis sont sensibilisés au danger d’une décharge électrique. Bien qu’ils portent des gants de caoutchouc adéquats et des chapeaux de sécurité et se servent d’outils isolants utilisés couramment dans l’industrie des services publics, les vêtements de travail usuels d’un travailleur peuvent s’enflammer en quelques secondes. Ce dernier verra sa vie basculer en un instant alors qu’il devra être hospitalisé suite aux atroces brûlures subies qui pourraient mettre sa vie en danger.

L’arc électrique peut mettre le feu à des vêtements de coton, nylon, polyester et polypropylène et causer des brûlures au deuxième et au troisième degré si la peau n’est pas bien protégée. Mais des vêtements de protection adéquats peuvent faire toute la différence entre passer à un cheveu d’une tragédie et une tragédie. Plusieurs provinces canadiennes exigent que les travailleurs portent des vêtements ignifuges même si les employeurs ne les fournissent pas.

Malheureusement, les termes “vêtements de protection ignifuges et résistant à la flamme” peuvent semer la confusion vu le manque de contrôle dans les normes, laissant ainsi les travailleurs et les employeurs dans l’incertitude sur la meilleure façon d’assurer leur protection et celles de leurs employés.

Tel que souligné par le Représentant

international du Premier District, Peter Routliff, “les travailleurs du secteur public doivent porter des vêtements de protection ignifuges résistant à la flamme mais vu le nombre important de compagnies distribuant plusieurs types de tels vêtements, il est assez difficile de vous y retrouver lorsque vous devez vous en procurer”. Il indique aussi que certains vêtements de protection avec additifs se détériorent après plusieurs lavages. Certains fabricants de vêtements de protection ignifuges résistant à la flamme utilisaient du fil de coton ou apposaient des emblèmes inflammables. Lorsque l’emblème sur la poitrine est fait de coton et qu’une situation d’arcage se produit, le travailleur se retrouve avec l’emblème de la compagnie tatoué sur la poitrine.

Depuis plus d’un an, des représentants du Premier District rencontrent et travaillent de concert avec des chimistes qui effectuent des tests en laboratoires sur divers tissus pour trouver le fabricant syndical qui produit les meilleurs vêtements ignifuges. Les membres peuvent maintenant commander des combinaisons, chemises de travail et jeans de même que des survêtements tels que manteaux et chandails en molleton [DuPont NOMEX] et manufacturés par “MWG Apparel Corp.” au Manitoba. Vous pouvez être assurés que le matériel, le fabricant et le produit ont l’entière approbation de la FIOE.

“Lorsque vous êtes exposé à une décharge électrique de 600 Volt, vous voulez mettre toutes les chances de votre côté en étant bien protégé. C’est pourquoi nous sommes fiers d’endosser un produit de qualité supérieure que nos membres pourront utiliser en toute confiance pour leur protection et leur sécurité” ajoute le Vice-président international Phil Flemming.

La FIOE a aussi réussi à négocier de meilleurs prix pour ses membres, aux États-Unis et au Canada.

Grâce au pouvoir d’achat de la FIOE, le programme offre une excellente opportunité aux individus ainsi qu’aux employeurs ayant moins de personnel de se procurer à un prix très raisonnable, les meilleures combinaisons de protection résistant à la flamme, reconnues pour leur grande valeur et leur rendement. La sécurité en milieu de travail devrait être notre principale préoccupation et nous espérons que ce programme servira d’outil additionnel pour assurer la protection de nos membres.

Consultez le site web de “MWG” au www.mwgapparel.com. Vous y trouverez toute la ligne de produits offerts. Voici l’adresse électronique de chacun des représentants des ventes avec qui vous pouvez communiquer si vous avez des questions. Ken Robertson, krobertson@mwgapparel.com Ross Malcolm, malcolm@mwgapparel.com et Bill Carmichael, bcarmichael@mwgapparel.com ■

Organizing Wire

Aleutian Island Workers Join Alaska Local

IBEW organizers often have to travel long distances, but Anchorage, Alaska, Local 1547 Organizer Dennis Knebel traveled to the western tip of the Aleutian Islands to give mechanics a voice on the job.

The dozen mechanics who maintain Eareckson Air Station's landing strip voted to join Local 1547 this summer, looking for a collective voice and better health care. The military airbase is located on Shemya, a small, uninhabited island located nearly 2,000 miles southwest of Anchorage in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Shemya, one of the last of the chain of islands that make up the Aleutians, lies a thousand miles west of Hawaii.

To get there, Knebel had to fly more than four hours from Anchorage on an Air Force C-130 transport plane. "Getting there and back was like flying from Chicago to Los Angeles without landing," Knebel said.

The mechanics employed by contractor Del Jen Electric were inspired to check out the IBEW after workers at the base's powerhouse voted to join Local 1547 a year ago.

"As soon as their contract was settled, we started getting phone calls from other employees at the base looking to get the good things they got," said Local 1547 Business Manager Larry Bell.

The remoteness of the island meant that help from the already-organized powerhouse workers was vital. "What really made the difference were the newly organized brothers who were out there talking to their co-workers about the union," Knebel said.

This second organizing victory by Local 1547 has other base workers already talking about getting their own contract, making it likely that Knebel has another long plane ride out to the far tip of the Aleutians in his future.

"Workers now get to see what a union contract can bring and that is raising interest," Bell said.

IBEW Reviews Victories, Confronts Challenges at Membership Development Conference

Organizing took center stage at the 2007 IBEW Membership Development conference October 15-17 in Atlanta. More than 1,500 delegates from the United States and Canada came to review the year's successful organizing activities and share skills with the goal of continuing the Brotherhood's record-level growth in the coming year. This attendance

made the conference the largest IBEW meeting outside of an International Convention.

"Delegates left the conference feeling energized about what we are accomplishing in growing all the branches of our union," said Professional and Industrial Organizing Director Brian Ahakuelo, who added that the union is heading in the right direction in the non-construction branches.

International President Edwin D. Hill emphasized the theme of the gathering—IBEW: The Right Choice—in his remarks to the opening session of the three-day conference. "The IBEW has been worthy of our faith and our belief ... this movement of ours must go on and will go on."

"Make no mistake this is a war ... the decline of unions and the middle class threat-

ens the very foundations of our democracy," said Buddy Satterfield, Special Assistant to the International President for Membership Development.

Seminars focused on the nuts and bolts of successful union organizing, with delegates attending discussions and workshops on everything from using research tools to holding a successful "industry night" job fair.

Reviewing the success of the Florida and Carolina initiatives, Construction Organizing Director Kirk Brungard said the IBEW was on par to exceed its previous record number of new construction members by the end of 2007.

To see highlights of the conference, go to www.ibew.org/IBEW/departments/MemDevCon07/index.htm ■

Washington Update

Rail Safety Bill Passes House

The House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed legislation that would double the number of safety inspections on America's railways and reorganize a key federal agency with oversight of the industry.

The bill will change the name of the Federal Railroad Administration to the Federal Railroad Safety Administration, which would be charged with reducing the number of rail accidents each year. The new agency would be required to double the number of safety inspectors, strengthen whistleblower protections, establish uniform training standards and set up more automated train control systems, which would put more railroad electricians to work.

"New safety protections for rail workers

have been long overdue," said Bill Bohné, director of the Railroad Department.

"Congress's vote will make our rails safer for both workers and the American public."

The bill will also reduce the amount of time that railroad workers are allowed to work. While not directly affecting members of the IBEW, the regulation will help reduce railroad accidents by cutting down on fatigue, which is one of the leading causes of rail accidents.

The bill was introduced in May by Rep. Jim Oberstar, D-Minn., and it was passed in the House by 377-38. In the Senate a similar bill, was introduced by New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D) in July where it awaits floor action.

The IBEW represents 11,000 members in the railroad industry.

Senate Fights Over Labor-Management Reporting

As the Senate debates the federal budget, Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., has proposed an amendment calling for a 37 percent increase in funding for the Office of Labor-Management Standards to increase financial audits of unions.

In mid-October, Sessions proposed that some of the \$3 million for greater union oversight come from reductions in funding for the International Labor Affairs Bureau, which investigates and combats child labor and forced labor in other nations.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, strenuously challenged the proposal, arguing that more stringent reporting requirements for unions are not necessary because the accept-

ability rate for unions meeting their obligations is 96 percent.

But removing funds from the international affairs bureau, Brown said, would undercut our nation's investment in fighting the worst forms of child labor and human trafficking.

Holding up pictures of young children engaged in hard labor, Brown said, "When labor laws in developing nations are not enforced, not only are there gross human rights abuses, there are insurmountable obstacles to fair competition in the global trading arena."

"[The Sessions amendment] does nothing for wage and hour enforcement. It cuts funding for occupational safety and health," Brown said. "We have seen an increase in incidents because of the Bush administration's lax enforcement of OSHA standards to begin with."

The Senate rejected Sessions' proposal to increase OLMS funding. However, the fight over labor-management reporting requirements continues.

New requirements mandate that even union volunteers or stewards—who have never had any reason to think of themselves as union employees—would be required to meet detailed financial reporting obligations. The AFL-CIO is appealing the new rules, which are due to go into effect in January.

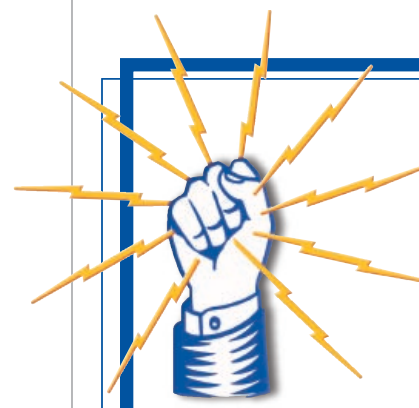
"No honest trade unionist has any trouble with reasonable reporting requirements," says IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "But these new regulations are pure and simple harassment of unions by right-wing ideologues who want to burn up dollars that could be spent on organizing and other essential needs of the labor movement." ■

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:

As we look back on 2007 and forward to 2008, do you feel that your working life is headed in a good direction?



Circuits

Help for Those Pinched By Housing Crunch

The American dream can become a nightmare when homeowners with adjustable rate loans see their payments inflate overnight. But Union Plus is offering a new program with a hotline to help members facing mortgage payment problems.

Calling the Save My Home Hotline at 866-490-5361 (or going to UnionPlus.org/SaveMyHome) will connect members 24 hours a day with free confidential advice from certified counselors from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development who will help them establish a budget, set financial priorities and explain strategies available to help them keep their homes. Counseling is available at 100 local offices in 22 states and the District of Columbia.

Have An Adjustable Rate Mortgage? **Act Now.**

Millions of Americans have adjustable rate mortgages that will reset this year or next year. If you have an ARM, here are three steps you can take right now:

- 1. Talk to your lender now.** Find out when your ARM will next adjust, how often it can adjust, and how much it can change. Don't ignore letters from your lender if you are having payment problems.
- 2. Get help.** Call the **Union Plus Save My Home Hotline** at 866-490-5361 to arrange for a confidential, free consultation including a budget analysis and advice to get you on the road to financial recovery.
- 3. Review your budget.** Once you know where you stand financially, look at your budget and prioritize your spending. A housing or credit counselor can be helpful in reviewing it with you.

A national survey found that adjustable rate mortgage holders are not concerned about mortgage payments until their payments reset, usually following a period of lower, "teaser" rates. Union Privilege estimates that 2.5 million homeowners will face the shock of substantially higher payments when their ARM's reset before the end of the year.

"Consumers are looking for government help, but the labor movement is not waiting," said AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney. "We're reaching out to union families to make sure they don't fall through the cracks."

Hotline counselors can explain the range of options available through Union Plus, including foreclosure prevention services and grants of up to \$5,000 for qualified members.

Also, union homeowners with a Union Plus mortgage experiencing financial distress throughout the United States are eligible for interest-free loans to pay their mortgages if they face hardship due to disability, strike, lockout or layoff. The Union Plus Mortgage Assistance Program, the only one of its kind in the United States, has already provided more than \$3 million in mortgage assistance. This is available only to Union Plus mortgage holders. Union members can call 800-848-6466 for more information.

Union Privilege, founded by the AFL-CIO in 1986, helps union members to obtain goods and services at competitive prices. For more information, visit, www.UnionPlus.org.

NECA Helps Bring Solar Decathlon to Light

The National Electrical Contractors Association raised the profile of union contractors in the growing green building industry in October by sponsoring two teams at the 2007 Solar Decathlon.

The Solar Decathlon is a biannual contest for sustainable residential design sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Teams from 20 colleges and universities from around the world participated in the competition to design and build state-of-the-art solar homes, which were displayed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

"The growth of green building is already having a big effect on the electrical contracting industry, so this was a good opportunity to promote NECA and the work it does," said David Riley, one of the faculty sponsors for the team from Pennsylvania State University.

The NECA-sponsored team from the University of Maryland placed second in the competition.

In addition to financial support, NECA contractors provided skilled electricians from Washington, D.C., Local 26 to help wire and operate the solar houses.

"We are pleased to share our expertise and help the teams set up their innovative systems safely," said NECA CEO John Grau.

Illinois Alderman Hits the Ground Running

Since his April election as alderman in suburban Chicago, Local 134 Business Representative Marty Moylan has helped to make the city's building code safer and nail down project labor agreements.

"Change is more than a word when union folks run for political office and win," says President Edwin D. Hill. Moylan, a 41-year journeyman wireman, beat his opponent for the Des Plaines, Ill. seat by better than a 2-to-1 margin.

Moylan has won changes to the electrical code providing for multi-unit buildings to have main disconnects installed at each unit's distribution panel, instead of one in the basement. Contractors are now required to install disconnects in electrical meters outside of buildings. Both measures provide for greater fire safety. Conduits for all fire alarm and emergency systems must be painted red.

Local 134 Business Manager Tim Foley urged members living in Des Plaines to attend a meeting to support Moylan's changes in July.

"There are no stronger advocates to fight for the interests of organized labor than elected officials coming from our ranks," Foley said. "They are committed to work for us, and we should let them know we appreciate and support their efforts." Twenty-seven of the local's 100 electricians in Des Plaines showed up for the meeting.

Moylan connected with voters in Des Plaines' predominantly middle class second ward in the town of 54,000 by focusing on issues including overcrowding in neighborhoods and unfettered access to computers in public libraries.

Serving as vice chairman of the city council's building code committee and chairman of the community services committee, Moylan opposes condominium developments within areas of single family homes. But he has supported development elsewhere, including the city's first project labor agreement on a condominium project worth \$40 million. Four new hotels are being built with union labor. Moylan is pushing for project labor agreements on all municipal buildings, including police and fire stations.

"I feel real good about what we have accomplished," says Moylan. "But there's still a lot to be done." He's hopeful that his efforts are small steps in helping tip the area's political balance, as the district also elected its first Democratic state senator in several generations. ■

IBEW On Duty



West Virginia Iraq Veteran Returns Home

Kevin Stingle decided that he wanted to fly planes at the age of 10. A fifth-year apprentice in Wheeling, W.Va., Local 141, Stingle served in the Marines from 1993 to 2000. But he still hadn't flown, so in 2001, Stingle joined the Army National Guard and Reserves and was trained to fly Black Hawk helicopters.

In May, Stingle returned from a one-year deployment in Iraq. "My local was great. They worked with me on my apprenticeship and got me right back into school when I returned," says Stingle, who says he also got more care packages from members of the community than he could use during his Iraq tour. Stingle brought back an American flag that he flew from his helicopter for display at the Local 141 hall.

"The contractors who Kevin works for always have good things to say about him and we're proud of Kevin's service to his country," says Local 141 Business Manager and Third District International Executive Council member, John R. Clarke. "I just wish he had stayed in the Marines," joked Clarke, a Vietnam-era Marine Corps veteran. ■

Transitions

Deceased Robert E. Stander



The IBEW regrets to report the October 31 death of retired Manufacturing Department Director Robert E. Stander. He was 63.

Brother Stander was initiated into

Omaha, Neb., Local 1974 in 1962. He served in a number of positions ranging from steward to financial secretary and as a member of the local union's negotiating committee. He studied labor relations and economics at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Stander was appointed International Representative by IBEW International President Charles H. Pillard in 1971, and was assigned to the Manufacturing Department in the International Office. He was appointed director of the department by International President J.J. Barry in 1987, where he was responsible for helping manufacturing locals and system councils on matters related to negotiations, arbitration and grievance processing.

He also represented the IBEW on matters involving inter-union activity for the manufacturing branch.

During his tenure, Brother Stander was responsible for instituting the only fully coordinated bargaining program for IBEW local

unions in the United States and Canada representing workers of the same employer. He also developed programs to address problems associated with plant closings, which helped save numerous IBEW jobs.

Bob Roberts, Stander's successor as director of the Manufacturing Department, described him as a passionate advocate for members who never stopped emphasizing the importance of continuing education.

"He could see the handwriting on the wall before manufacturers started going to Mexico and China," Roberts said. "His position was if they couldn't maintain their jobs, they could get the skills to find other employment."

Stander co-founded the Enhanced Training Opportunities Program, Inc. (ETOP), a joint labor-management skills training and education organization. He served as a labor representative of the Manufacturing Skills Standards Board, a national coalition tasked with building a national voluntary system of skill standards, assessment, and certification to enhance the ability of the United States work force to compete effectively in the global economy.

He also worked with the Japanese labor movement, representing the IBEW in a joint study program in Japan, and was a member of the advisory board for U.S.-Japan labor studies. He served two terms as President of the North American-Japan Labor Studies Alumni Association.

Brother Stander was a guest lecturer on labor, business and economic issues at

Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Notre Dame and the George Meany Center for Labor Studies-National Labor College. He was an associate at the Center for Labor Studies at Carnegie Mellon University, and a member of the Institute of Collective Bargaining at Cornell University. He retired in 2003 and moved to Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.

Stander is survived by his wife, Diane, a daughter and two grandchildren. Members, staff and officers of the IBEW express deep condolences to Brother Stander's family and friends.

Deceased Robert Grinstead Sr.



Eighth District International Representative Robert Grinstead Sr., 75, died on September 30 after a long illness. An IBEW patriarch, he encouraged six sons and seven grandsons to join the Brotherhood.

Born in La Junta, Colo., Brother Grinstead was initiated into Pueblo, Colo., Local 12 in 1948 as an inside wireman apprentice. His father, Stephen, was a lifetime member of the local.

As he finished his apprenticeship, construction slowed and the only jobs available were on distribution lines, so Local 12's busi-

ness manager referred Grinstead to perform that work under the condition that he begin a lineman apprenticeship. Two years later, he passed his second journeyman test, this time as a lineman.

Elected to Local 12's executive board at the age of 22, Grinstead was elected business manager in 1963 and served in that capacity for 21 years. He was a participant in dozens of community-based committees and councils, often upon the appointment of Colorado's governor. He served on the White House Conference on Balanced Growth.

After his appointment as International Representative in 1984, Grinstead was sent to Chicago and assigned to administer and conduct Construction Organizing Membership Education and Training (COMET) schools in five states. In this capacity, Grinstead showed a true talent and passion for teaching.

"My father had a sincere belief and dedication to organizing that turned a lot of people in the Eighth District around," says Robert Jr. "There were 51 journeymen in my father's first Local 12 COMET class. While they came to the class skeptical of bringing in new members, 49 of them left as full-fledged organizers and turned the local around."

Brother Grinstead's sons, Stephen, Robert Jr., Gary, Chris, Mark and Greg have all worked in the electrical trade. Robert Jr. served as business manager of Local 12 from 1992 to 2004. Chris served as business manager of Pueblo Local 667 for three years.

Grinstead's grandsons, Dean, Mark Jr., Gary Jr., Gregory, Zane, John and Danny have all been IBEW members.

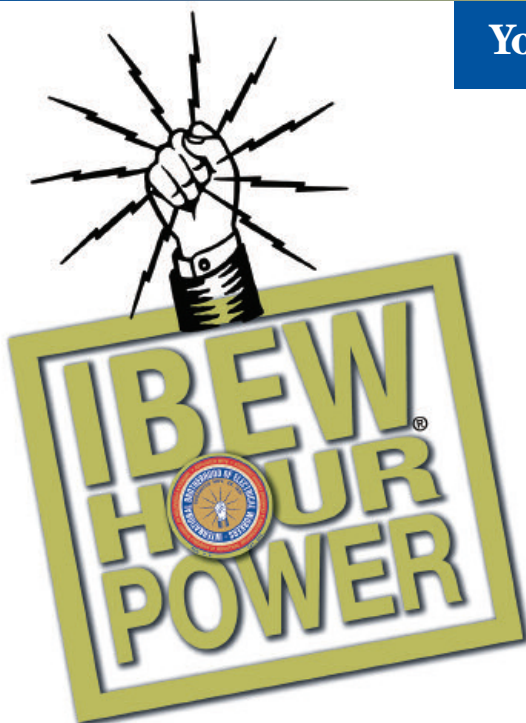
"In spite of all his accomplishments, if you asked my father what his greatest and proudest accomplishment was, he would say it was his family and his 58 years with his wife, Margie Ann, the light and love of his life," says son Kurt.

Brother Grinstead leaves behind 26 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren who knew him to be the best storyteller and grandpa anyone ever had.

The officers and members of the IBEW express our heartfelt condolences to Brother Grinstead's entire family. ■

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News Briefs

It was one of the worst national disasters since Katrina. The California wildfires raged for weeks with a vengeance; now residents are relying on IBEW. See how Local 47 is restoring power to crippled communities. Click on News Briefs.

Out of the Box

Ever dream of becoming a sports superstar? The Bridgestone Racing Academy can make the dream come true.

ElectricTV.net showcases the 2007 NECA show and convention in San Francisco.

See the largest annual event in the electrical industry. Also, the IBEW comes up with the winning hand in Iowa. It's just like watching TV over the Internet. ElectricTV.net.



Online Deals

For IBEW members only—
just a click away!

Car Rental Discounts

Save up to 25% when you rent a car, van or SUV from Avis, Budget or Hertz.

Union-made Clothing

Take up to 10% off union-made in the USA.

ConsumerReports.org

Get an annual subscription at 27% off.

For more information visit:

www.UnionPlus.org

Local Lines

BP Refinery Project

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rs,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Work was good throughout the summer and we put some travelers to work. The BP refinery has kept 400-plus electricians busy on its largest shutdown ever, and a good amount of school work is ongoing. Work may slow for a period over the winter, but hopefully we'll be able to avoid any protracted unemployment for the membership. Fermi II and Besse have small shutdowns scheduled after the BP project is completed, so that should pick up some slack.

The Labor Day parade was awesome and Local 8 had one of the largest contingents once again. Former AFL-CIO Executive Vice Pres. Linda Chavez Thompson was a special guest at the parade, and threw out the first pitch at the Mud Hens game afterward. She said this was the largest Labor Day parade she'd ever attended, and she couldn't believe how huge the Local 8 unit was!

Remember to keep working safely and pay attention to inclement winter weather conditions. Happy holidays to all.

Jim Kozlowski, B.M.

JATC Trade Show

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—Local 16 participated in the Labor Day Association's annual Labor Day celebration, which rotates among various southern Indiana towns. Weekend family festivities included a parade, carnival rides, food booths, a demolition derby, pageants, a car show, tractor pulls, and the Indiana State Picking & Fiddling contest. Local 16 was well-represented in the parade with 150 people marching behind our float. Participating IBEW locals enjoyed a delicious barbecue dinner hosted by IBEW Indianapolis Local 1393.

The JATC recently sponsored an excellent trade show, with over 25 vendors and 250 participants. This event afforded the membership and the construction community the opportunity to become better acquainted with the latest technology and equipment available.

Many thanks to Local 16 Executive Board members for the wonderful annual picnic held at the Vanderburgh County 4-H Center. Members and their families enjoyed games, giveaways, awards and great food.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

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

Holiday Food Banks

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—We invite members to attend one of our Local 26 Christmas parties/meetings: The D.C. area event is Dec. 7, and Roanoke's is Dec. 14. Check your Local 26 newsletter for location and time. Join us for great food and brotherhood! (Front Royal held their party/meeting Nov. 30.)

Local 26 is participating in a holiday food drive. Please think of those less fortunate and drop off non-perishable food items at any of our offices. We accept donations through Dec. 19. The Maryland Food Bank will collect and distribute the food to soup kitchens, shelters and area food bank pantries.

Local 26 officers and staff wish everyone a happy holiday.

We mourn the deaths of: Bros. Richard A. Schwier and Claude E. Long; and retired Bros. Joseph D. Eline Sr., John M. Rice, Bernard I. Gleeson and Charles R. Doering.

Recently retired brothers are: Frank F. Comploier, Gary A. Blair, Fred S. Johnson III, Michael R. McArtor, Cuthbert W. Salkey, Duane Sours, Joseph M. Simms, Robert Farmer and Steven S. Lay.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Peoria Golf Benefit

L.U. 34 (em,i,rs&spa), PEORIA, IL—Big Brothers/Big Sisters benefited from the recent fifth annual Lee Hall Memorial golf outing. Thirty teams participated, with 46 hole sponsors. It was a beautiful day enjoyed by all. Thanks to volunteers, who helped raise over \$5,900 for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Our eighth annual trap shoot, also held in September, was another great event. The Events Committee is busy with other upcoming events for members and travelers in the area, including a Traveler Appreciation Night at the Peoria Civic Center, where the Peoria Rivermen hockey team plays.

Work is steady as of this writing, with numerous projects in the works. All powerhouses in the area are staffing up or planning shutdowns soon. Ethanol and biodiesel plants are being proposed and major projects at two hospitals should start soon. The outlook for Local 34 is very promising now. Visit our Web site www.ibew34.org.

Congratulations and best wishes to recent retirees: Bros. Roger Trout, Frank Stenger, Dennis Brown and John Steele.

Paul O'Dear, P.S.



IBEW Local 34 first-place team at the Lee Hall Memorial golf outing, from left: Bros. Randy Bright, Kim Bright, Ralph Henderson and John Gruber.

Cleveland Work Picture

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Congratulations to Bro. Tony Perez on receiving the IBEW Lifesaving Award for his quick actions in rendering aid to Bro. Tom Herbster after an explosion on a job site.



Local 38 Pres. Walter O'Malley (left), IBEW Lifesaving Award recipient Bro. Tony Perez (center) and Bus. Mgr. Gilbert Steele Jr.

Members are reminded that the children's Christmas party is on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 1 p.m. at the Masonic Hall.

Shop and job stewards are also reminded by the business manager's directive not to miss any unexcused stewards meetings, held the third Tuesday of the month at the union hall.

Summer work was good with about 20 travelers working in our jurisdiction on short calls for the first time in six years.

Most of our upcoming work will be on hospitals, with University Hospitals planning \$1.2 billion on new construction projects. At this writing, over 200 members are still working on the new Cleveland Clinic Heart Hospital.

There is actually a tower crane in downtown Cleveland for the first time in a long time. It is at the new Avenue district project that Doan/Pyramid Electric has and it's the first phase of a \$250 million project.

Major upcoming projects planned for 2008 include the new juvenile detention center, the East Bank Flats project and, possibly, the new Medical Mart and new convention center.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.

60-Year Member Honored

L.U. 50 (u), RICHMOND, VA—Local 50 honored Bro. Robert Shafer with his 60-year service pin. Bob joined the IBEW in 1947, beginning his career with Richardson and Wayland. In 1949 he began work with Virginia Electric Power Co. (VEPCO), now Dominion Resources. He retired in 1984 as an electric serviceman. Bro. Shafer resides in Ronceverte, WV, with his wife, Sue, and enjoys farming and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We owe much to members such as Bro. Shafer for their hard work in laying the foundation for our union and the labor movement. Local 50 and its membership salute Bro. Shafer for his 60 years of union dedication.

Mike Barclay, R.S.



Local 50 E-Board Chmn. Mike Sizemore (right) presents Bro. Robert Shafer with his service award.



Local 56 members employed by Church & Murdock Electric Inc. at the Bayfront Convention Center. Cranes set the walkway bridge that spans the waterway connecting the hotel to the convention center.

Good Construction Season

L.U. 56 (ees,em&i), ERIE, PA—Work has been very good for us this year. Keystone Electric, a division of Doan/Pyramid Electric, completed the casino portion of the Presque Isle Downs horse racetrack project. Expansion continues with the racetrack and stables. The first race was scheduled for September 2007. Keystone Electric also secured the contract for the new biodiesel plant construction. Approximately 50 electricians are on the project at this writing. As the good construction season continues, Church & Murdock Electric Inc. works to complete the first phase of the Bayfront Convention Center. The project consists of the main convention center, an eight-story hotel and parking ramp. The convention center opened in June 2007 with the hotel and parking ramp to open in April 2008.

Newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr. Timothy Hepler, Pres. Jeffrey Wiesen, Vice Pres. Michael Hanson, Rec. Sec. James C. Nuber Jr., Treas. Richard Wolf; Executive Board members Ryan Bailey, Kurt Festa, Scott Sinnott, Shannon Wellington, Norman Williamson; Examining Board members Christopher Bille, Christopher Rathburn and Robert Knight Jr. Special thanks to outgoing officers for their dedication to this local and their work to bring Local 56 to the level we are today.

Rick Wolf, P.S.

Labor Day Parade

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—Celebrating Labor Day! The Windsor, CO, Harvest Days Parade was on Labor Day, so The Northern Colorado Labor Council participated and called it the Labor Day parade. Lots of union members participated in the parade, including IBEW Local 68 members. Union members gave out balloons and candy along the parade route. A surprisingly large crowd, thou-

sands of all ages, turned out to enjoy the parade.

Local 68 congratulated the class of 2007 graduating apprentices at the turnout dinner. The keynote speaker was Don Mares, executive director, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

Ed Knox, Pres.

Build a Brighter Future

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA—We wish everyone a happy and prosperous holiday. Work in southeastern Virginia has been excellent and looks to remain steady for the rest of the winter and into spring.

We thank Terry and Maureen McPhillips for planning the Local 80 children's Christmas party. Special thanks to Jimmy Hollomon, who for over 30 years has put smiles on the children's faces as Santa at our annual party.

The local recently participated on a Habitat for Humanity project. We thank Bryant-Ritter Electric for donating the manpower to wire the house. Dave Clark and Elvin Whitley also helped make the project a success.

With a new year approaching, all members need to embrace the organizing efforts of your local union and International Office. We are on the right tract to regaining our market share. With the membership's help, we can take our work back and build a brighter future for ourselves and our local.

Dave Schaeffer, A.B.M.

Political Action Works

L.U. 86 (ees,em,es,i,rts&spa), ROCHESTER, NY—Local 86 is saddened to announce the passing of longtime member James "Seamus" McGinnity Sr. The McGinnity family wishes to thank the "Local 86 Family" for all their support through this sorrowful time.

On a happier note, we enjoyed a warm, dry autumn. At this writing, we were very busy with the county government elections coming up. With a lot of hard work and a little luck, we hope to help elect a labor-friendly county legislature. Getting involved is the best way to insure your future. Political action works!

Many members are working out of town, many in Pennsylvania. If you need travel information, call Tamie at the hall; she is a wealth of knowledge.

With the new year approaching, remember to sign up for an Asbestos Awareness course; your certificate is only good for one year.

Make yourself employable; keep all your safety certificates up-to-date. Call the hall to find out when classes are available. Happy holiday season!

Ron Freida, P.S.

Connecticut Work Picture

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—The work picture in Connecticut is improving. Most of our members have been working this year. Many thanks to Hartford, CT, Local 35, and Bridgeport, CT, Local 488 for giving some of our members employment opportunities this summer.

Our annual summer outing in September saw 200 attendees and everyone had a great time. We also held a fund-raiser to benefit the families of two departed brothers, George Card Jr. and Daniel Strout. Our prayers and thoughts are with them.

In July Local 90 held its elections of officers. Elected were: Bus. Mgr./ Fin. Sec. Ken King, Pres. Frank Halloran, Vice Pres. Sean Daly, Rec. Sec. Mike Crisci, Treas. Bob Woytowich; Executive Board members James Fainer, James Malone, Eric Meliso, Don O'Conner, Tom Ryan; and Examining Board members Shannon Cozza, Pauline Cummings and Tim D'Amico. We congratulate our officers and wish them luck as they guide our local's future. We also thank the election judge and tellers for their efforts.

Sean Daly, V.P./Org.

'Going Green'

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—Local 96 members voted to approve a new contract by nearly a 3-2 margin. The vote took place just hours before a strike deadline. Wages and fund contributions were major factors in this agreement. Thank you to Bus. Mgr. Leo Miller, Pres. Robert Fields and Bro. Scott Hunton for all the work they put in as our negotiating committee.

As of this writing, we have a very good job outlook for the coming year. We appreciate our neighboring locals for providing many employment opportunities for our members.

Local 96 is working with members of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to educate our brothers and sisters about the science and importance of renewable energy. With many cities and towns "going green" in our state, we hope this knowledge and experience will give us an edge in getting some of these projects.

Work continues on our new office space. We look forward to future opportunities that will come with our new offices and are excited with the progress. See what's new with us at www.ibewlocal96.org.

Paul West, P.S.

Good Work Forecast

L.U. 98 (as,em,i&it), PHILADELPHIA, PA—On Labor Day, Local 98 members and families marched in the Philadelphia Labor Day parade with a message: remember April 16, 2007, the day Virginia Tech was devastated by the shooting that left 33 students dead and 17 more wounded. One of the wounded was Sean McQuade, son of Local 98 electrician Ralph McQuade. Sean is recovering at an inspiring rate.

After the parade, Local 98 hosted a Labor Day party at our union hall. Kids and adults alike had fun playing games, eating barbecue and trying to soak Bus. Mgr. John J. Dougherty and his business agents in the dunk tank to raise money for charity.

Also this fall, we hosted our 17th annual Health Fair. Local 98 members received medical screenings, were offered a hypnosis seminar to stop smoking and the opportunity to give blood to the American Red Cross.

With the new Comcast tower and other buildings going up around Philadelphia, Local 98 is enjoying full employment for all classifications of members. And with casino construction set to begin in 2008, good work is forecast ahead.

Harry Foy, Pres.



Local 98 Vice Pres. Mike Hnatkowski (left) and Bus. Mgr. John J. Dougherty wear their Virginia Tech colors on Labor Day to honor the McQuade family and all victims and survivors of the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Assault on Union Jobs

L.U. 108 (ees,em,es,lctt,mar,mt,rtb,rts,s,spa,t&u), TAMPA, FL—Sumter Electric Cooperative earlier unilaterally decided that the duties and positions of the Senior Engineering Technicians jobs, which have historically been in the collective bargaining agreement, should no longer be covered. Affected employees were given the option to either move on to a newly created non-covered position or be laid off. Three of these employees refused to go into non-covered positions. They decided to stay covered and challenge the elimination of covered positions by the cooperative.

The employees filed grievances, trained their replacements and were then laid off. One of the employees has 27 years' seniority! The union filed charges with the NLRB, but the process takes time. The sacrifices these employees have endured for organized labor are to be commended and should not go unnoticed. These dedicated brothers are Carl Bowman, Paito Figueroa and Mike Colon.

Indiantown Telephone and Peace River Electrical Cooperative members ratified new three-year agreements. The negotiating team members did an excellent job. Negotiations are under way with WEDU. We prevailed with our ULP charges against Central Locating Services (CLS). Negotiations with the company are under way.

Doug Bowden, P.S.



Attending the Local 68 apprentice graduation dinner are, from left, front row, apprentice graduates Jason Robb, Henry Silva, Matthew Cram, Luke Emerson, Steven Drummond (displaying Roy P. Kennedy Award), James King, Stacey Ball, Mike Robison; middle row, Kurt Boyer, Justin Berry, Martin Medina, Christian Hayes (holding Jack W. Spaar Award), John Crump, Jerry Hoffman, Burk Keller, Bradley Blickenstaff; and back row, Denver JEATC Dir. Dave Risser and JEATC Asst. Rory Berumen.

New Beginnings

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—Elections were held in Local 150 last June and a new slate of candidates was elected. Whether the people we supported were elected to office or not, now is the time to put the past behind us and move forward. Let's give the new officers time to settle into their jobs and do their very best for the membership. We all need to work together bringing teamwork, patience, and hard work to the forefront.

As we close 2007 we remember the brothers we lost this year. Retired members who passed away were Gene Temple, Don Smith and Al Horn. Sadly, we also lost four active members this year: Steve Merker, Keith Hawkins, Daniel Lewis and John Cook. All were fine men and good brothers. I worked with John Cook several times and he was a wonderful person. I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone. They will all be missed. Godspeed.

It's great to be back as your press secretary.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

IBEW Member Elected to CLC

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—As an IBEW Local 180 member, I recently was honored to be elected as a vice president of the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council of Napa and Solano Counties, CA.

Amidst record-setting attendance by CLC members, official delegates voted Aug. 16 to elect a new CLC Executive Board: Pres. Jon Riley (Firefighters Local 1186), Sec.-Treas. Roy Chaffee (SEIU, UHW), 1st Vice Pres. Pete Derenale (UFCW Local 5), 2nd Vice Pres. Dave Harrison (OE Local 3), 3rd Vice Pres. Emilio Rivera (Iron Workers Local 378), 4th Vice Pres. Mike Smith (IBEW Local 180), 5th Vice Pres. Tamekia Robinson (SEIU Local 1000), 6th Vice Pres. Mark Hollibush (Machinists Local 1173). Also elected were three new trustees: Cindy Bannister (SEIU Local 1021), Rod Cameron (UA Local 343), and Lou Franchimon (Napa-Solano Counties Building and Construction Trades Council).

The CLC, working in partnership with the Building and Construction Trades Council and the United Workers for Local Government, jointly endorsed a host of candidates running for local office. "Our mission," said CLC Pres. Jon Riley, "is to establish a united voice for labor concerning issues that will affect not only our membership of over 47,000 local workers, but all working families in our area."

Michael Smith, B.A.

Some Work Has Slowed

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Our condolences go out to the family of William "Butch" Nulle, who passed away recently. Butch was a journeyman lineman and a 35-year member. He will be missed.

Our work has slowed down on the outside overhead and underground distribution, so if you are looking for work please call before you stop in. The telephone work has picked up in a couple of areas but this is a hard nut to crack as the other trades are trying to take this work.

Edgar R Mings Jr., B.M./F.S.



Attending 2007 All Canada Progress Meeting are, from left, Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Int. Vice Pres. Phillip J. Flemming, Local 230 Bus. Mgr. Philip M. Venoit and Int. Sec.-Treas. Jon F. Walters.

All Canada Progress Meeting

L.U. 230 (c,catv,em,i,mar&u), VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—Victoria, British Columbia, was the setting for the 2007 All Canada Progress Meeting. The venue was the Victoria Conference Centre attached to the historic Empress Hotel situated on the shore of Victoria's inner harbour. What a setting!

Preceding the ACPM was the Canadian Membership Development Conference, which was well attended by many locals from across Canada, as well as an IBEW developed course on "How to Conduct a Trial." This year's ACPM broke previous records for attendance. Speakers provided IBEW delegates with reams of new information and served to promote brotherhood among the First District's local officers and staff. The weather was perfect and time was set aside to enjoy old friends and network with new ones.

I thank Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Int. Sec.-Treas. Jon F. Walters and all the delegates for attending. Many thanks also to the local sponsors, Local 230 staff and members who all pitched in to make this year's ACPM an event to remember.

Philip Venoit, B.M./F.S.

IBEW Habitat Volunteers

L.U. 234 (i,rtb,rts&spa), CASTROVILLE, CA—We are proud to recognize Local 234 members Thomas "T.J." Auburt, Ignacio Zamora, and Jose Luis Zamora, who demonstrated their proficient skills on a Habitat for Humanity project in Santa Cruz County. All three members work for IBEW 234 signatory contractor Craft Electric Company, which contracted the work through our local LMCC.

Our annual picnic held Sept. 29 at Toro Park was fun for all. Thanks to everyone who attended, the turnout was great! Beautiful weather perfectly complimented the cooking. Special thanks to our extraordinary cooking crew: Jeremy Bigman, Earl Davis, Rick Keaton, Rick Roach and Robert Tangonan. Congratulations to those members in attendance who received service awards. Ted Teman



Local 234 members Jose Luis Zamora (left), Ignacio Zamora (center) and T.J. Auburt wired two Habitat for Humanity houses in Santa Cruz, CA.

Local Hosts Scouts Clinic

L.U. 266 (u), PHOENIX, AZ—On Aug. 25 our local was honored to co-host Boy Scouts troops from Mesa, Phoenix and Scottsdale at our hall for the Boy Scouts of America—American Labor Merit Badge Clinic.

Both Local 266 Bus. Mgr. Pam Cornelissens and Bro. Ritchey Waldrep, lineman and registered Boy Scouts merit badge counselor, spoke with the group and helped with instruction. The clinic was very well-received and well-attended. Pam and Ritchey enjoyed the opportunity to help the youngsters understand what unions stand for and to give them some insight into our history. Pam told the scouts: "... You represent our future and you are the ones who can make a difference. Our ancestors worked long and hard to give us a safe working environment along with fair wages and benefits. Your generation has an opportunity to continue our values as union brothers and sisters."

We look forward to participating in future clinics and helping future members understand the IBEW and the role it plays in their lives.

Wanda Waldo, A.B.A.

Pride and Craftsmanship

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—The job was large, complex and the timeline was tight. A 10-megawatt cogeneration plant at the Freres Plywood Mill in Lyons, OR, had to be done on time and under budget to receive the grants promised for energy conservation. The nonunion contractor on the project was removed by the owners for shoddy work, delays and lack of professionalism.

Local 280 contractor Oregon Electric was called in to rescue the job. Immediately, project manager Ken Denouden and general foreman Arnie Langendoerfer sat down with owners, engineers and architects to detail the job and get it on track for startup. Ken and Arnie then set up a "crunch time frame" project schedule and called the hall for what the IBEW is known for—journeyman wiremen with pride and craftsmanship.

Many thanks to Bros. Doug Jacoby (steward), Mike Pahs, Joe Rudie, Giovanni Lima, Reza Shahparast, Joe Schmidt, Don Davidson, Chuck Hersey, Fred Varner, Chad Rosin, Scott Elder, Nate Hamilton, Mike Jones, Leonard Sniffen, Pete Parker, Paul Myler, J. Mike Anderson, Ken Williams, Greg Bacheller, Mike Rodriguez, Paul Akeyson, Ken Waterworth, Rob Jackson, Bob McClory, Stacy Breaux, Shane Thomsen, Terry Kinsman and Mark Harris.

This is a prime example of how the IBEW will regain the market share!

Jerry Fletcher, Pres.

received his 50-year award; Tom Sims and Leonard Gentry, 35 year awards; Mike Ihnot and Ken Gorny, 30-year awards; Manuel Cadena and Erik Dybdahl, 25-year awards; and Leah Keehn, Ernesto Morales and Ken Scherpinski, 10-year awards.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

Apprentice Honored

L.U. 236 (catv,ees,govt,i,mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY—Local 236 congratulates Sabrina Moore, second-year apprentice, who was honored with the Underwriters Laboratories scholarship award. Ms. Moore was one of only 20 apprentices chosen throughout the country to receive this award.

Ms. Moore's attitude, ability and grades all were factors in her selection for the award.

Our annual Clam Bake and Great Escape Day, held over the summer, were both great successes and everyone had a good time.

The work picture continues to be slow. At this writing we have 150 members on Book I.

Mark LaJeunesse, P.S.



IBEW Local 236 apprentice Sabrina Moore displays her UL scholarship award. Shown from left are contractors Tony Sestito and Ralph Cioffi, Local 236 Rec. Sec. Doug Watrobski, (Moore), contractor Brian Hart, Local 236 Bus. Mgr. Donald Rahm and Local 236 Pres. Mark LaJeunesse.



Local 280 members at work at the Freres Plywood Cogeneration plant.

University Scoreboard

L.U. 294 (ees,em,i,rts,spa&u), HIBBING, MN—Our work situation is still slow at this writing. Our manufacturing workers are also enduring troubling times. We are losing business to Mexico and China. When will our political leaders end the destruction of our manufacturing jobs? The Wal-Mart influence is visible in all industries today. What a shame that outsourcing of jobs is allowed to continue.

Minnesota Steel had its permits approved, but a lawsuit was filed against the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for not considering carbon dioxide emissions from the power plant side of it, needing 600 megawatts of power to run the plant. This lawsuit will slow the start of this project about three to six months. The rest of our projects are still permitting.

Local 294 partnered with Bemidji State University to install a new Fair Play scoreboard sign for the college baseball field. Several Local 294 members volunteered their time and Naylor Electric donated material. This project shows the area that we are an important part of the community and that union is not a four-letter word. Projects such as this will bring future rewards for our membership.

Remember Local 294's Christmas party on Dec. 8! Happy holidays!

Scott Weappa, B.M.

'Extreme Makeover' Project

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—A crew of more than 20 electricians from IBEW Local 300 volunteered their time and talent in September for the southern Vermont ground-breaking of a hit reality television show. (See article on IBEW Web site www.ibew.org.)

Local 300 members with Sherwin Electric and Central Vermont Public Service traveled to Athens, VT, to volunteer for ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." The award-winning program was in the small town for a week refurbishing the home of the Sarah and Lou Vitale, whose youngest child suffers from birth defects. IBEW electricians worked long hours hand-in-hand with a crew led by general contractor The McKernon Group.

The program featuring the finished house is scheduled to air Dec. 9.

"Viewers nationwide will see firsthand our talented members at work—all in the name of helping those in need," said Local 300 Bus. Mgr. George Clain.

Matthew Lash, P.S.



IBEW Local 300 members volunteer their skills for an ABC-TV "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" project in Athens, VT. The show is scheduled to air Dec. 9.



Local 306 congratulates 2007 apprentice graduates.

Graduates Honored

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—Congratulations to our 2007 graduates. We welcome 25 new inside wiremen and 14 new residential wiremen.

Commercial graduates are: Todd Carmany, Matthew Case, Douglas Davis, Robert J. Dies, Timothy Douglas, Jeffrey Firth, Eric Flory, Larry Hammond, William Holcomb, Mark G. Jones, Richard Knerem, Nicholas Kruger, Michael Lane, Gregory Mehlick, Craig Miller, Brian Monaghan, Josh Morgan, Nate Norris, Frederick Pozzini, Mike Rawling, Chris Russell, Scott Sadowski, Steve Sankovich, Donald Williams and Sherman Williamson.

Residential graduates: Robert Beacham, Todd Camacci, Genesis Cutright, Daniel Dretar, Matthew Gesing, Phillip Henderson, Kevin Lohr, Robert Lowers, Adam Magoulick, Daniel Rowe, Samuel Royston, Michael Snyder, Jason Twiddy and Daniel Williamson.

Awards for highest grade average went to Douglas Davis, inside program, and Robert Lowers, residential program, courtesy of Klein Tools and Woolf Bros. Electric Supply.

Bro. Dan Williamson, SFC U.S. Army Reserve, received a standing ovation. His apprenticeship was interrupted by a tour of duty in Iraq. He presented a decorated American flag banner to our local for remembering him and all veterans with care packages. Awards also went to longtime instructor Oran "O.P." Post, Dan Hughey and JATC member Vern Saylor.

We mourn the loss of retired Bros. Larry Morris and William Thomas, U.S. Marine Corps Korean War veterans.

Robert Sallaz, P.S.



Local 340 apprentice Joe Bonacorso (left), a UL scholarship winner, is congratulated by Local 340 Bus. Mgr. A.C. Steelman (center) and JATC committee member Mike Stinson.

2007 Electrical Contest

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—On Sept. 8, the Local 332 JATC hosted the Western States Electrical Contest. Twenty-seven contestants from IBEW Districts 8 and 9 participated. Contestants hailed from Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Participants took a written test, drew a motor controls diagram and completed a hands-on installation of the drawing. Also included were a Residential hands-on installation and conduit bending projects. First place went to Robert Stutzman, Local 684; second place, Cory Linkhart, Local 48; and third place, Josh Reeve, Local 112. Robert Stutzman won the 3/4 inch EMT event and the Motor Control event. Josh Reeve won the residential event. Alexander Kuchta, Local 11, won the 1/2 inch EMT event. Fourth place winners: Roger Hoffer, Local 191; Eric A. Summers, 659; Daniel R. Boyer, 291; Chris Curran, 440; Chad Storms, 280; Phil Matthews, 428; Gregory Olson, 401; Jason Strang, 340; Bryan Van Fossen, 551; Pavel Starikov, 46; Peter Perna, 569; Christopher Greene, 1547; Cameron Evans, 449; Chad Franklin, 932; Justin Lindeman, 100; Dan Miller, 369; Kory Bonner, 6; Tom Shimabukuro, 595; Robert Chon, 332; Joe Morris, 1547; Nicholas Schmierer, 617; Jon E. Parker, 447; and Matt Dean, 76.

We enjoyed meeting these talented young journeyman wiremen. In 2008, the event will be hosted by Local 1547, Anchorage, AK.

Gerald Pfeiffer, Pres./P.S.

Students Choose Union

L.U. 340 (em,i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Local 340 second-year apprentice Bro. Joseph Bonacorso received a \$1,000 scholarship from Underwriters Laboratories Inc. It will pay for his textbooks for his next four years of study at the training center. Joseph earned the scholarship by getting straight A's and maintaining a perfect attendance record. Bro. Bonacorso is a second-generation IBEW Local 340 member and will be a good union electrician.

Speaking of good electricians, over the summer 20 high school students attended a Construction Summer Academy intern program—thanks to the efforts of the City of Sacramento Unified School District, IBEW Local 340 and NECA Sacramento Chapter. While receiving classroom instruction on the electrical trade, students earned senior-year credits and also earned a salary for on-the-job training by signatory employers. Because of the academy, several students decided to join the union upon graduation.

Local 340 mourns the passing of retired Bros. Floyd Clayton, Roy Harris, Eugene Lyster and Wilbur J. Smith. Rest in peace, brothers.

We wish IBEW members and their families a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

A.C. Steelman, B.M.



IBEW Local 332 JATC hosted the 44th annual Western States Electrical Contest in September.

Salt Lake City Growth

L.U. 354 (i,mt,rts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Happy holidays from Local 354. We wish everyone a safe and prosperous New Year.

Congratulations to newly elected Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Richard Kingery. Appointed as assistant business manager is Kim Barraclough, with George Halliday and Dan Stuart as the new membership development team. Many Blackburn will remain on staff as a business rep and dispatcher.

Other officers elected in July are: Pres. Michael W. Pennie, Vice Pres. P. Dave Dickerson, Treas. Steve Woodman, Rec. Sec. Many Blackburn; Executive Board members Boyce Christensen, Al Peterson, Lance Howerton, Russ Lamoreaux, Mike Meredith; and Examining Board members Robert Hawkins, Martin Christensen and Christopher Ryan. Congratulations to all.

Work continues to increase in our jurisdiction. The job market and our dedicated new membership development team have also helped us increase our membership tremendously the second half of 2007. We welcome all our new brothers and sisters to the IBEW.

Rich and his staff are using creative advertising to increase awareness about unions.

We expect to see the large increase of signatory contractors as well the growth in membership to continue for many years.

Many Blackburn, R.S.

Trophy Winner

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—Merry Christmas and happy holidays! This year, with so much work, we have much to be thankful for. Hopefully 2008 will bring opportunity as well.

Local 364 won the first-place trophy for our Labor Day float! This was our second year in a row winning top place. Bros. Matt Horn and Brian Troy again did a tremendous job coordinating float construction to secure top honors. Congratulations also to Stephanie Michel, wife of Local 364 member Matt Michel, on her selection as "Mrs. Labor Day." Our parade is one of the oldest in Illinois and the largest in Rockford. Approximately 200 Local 364 members and their families marched in this year's parade. Thanks to all who represented us!

Brothers working at Northern Illinois University's electrical shop hosted their annual tailgate party and Huskies football game for members. Prior to the game, our NIU brothers grilled and also gave away prizes. The game was exciting, although NIU lost in the final seconds. Thanks to Bro. John Boudin, who coordinated the event.

Ray Pendzinski, P.S.

JATC Graduates Honored

L.U. 380 (ei,es,i&it), NORRISTOWN, PA—Local 380 JATC held its 2007 graduation banquet at the Crown Plaza in King of Prussia, PA.

We celebrated the accomplishments of the graduates, who just five years ago entered the electrical field with little or no electrical background. Apprentices learned they had signed up for more than just a job. They had signed up for a true apprenticeship. They would work on the job 40 hours a week learning the craft from highly skilled journeymen. They would attend school two evenings a week, study and maintain required grade average. Add some Saturday classes such as CPR/First Aid and Comet, throw in some community service projects, and it's



Local 380 JATC graduates, from left, front row, Karl R. Gottlieb, Brett A. Davis; second row, Richard A. Mott Jr., Carl V. Capobianco, Stephen W. Malinowski; third row, Justin Pratt, Michael J. Smith, Scott D. Rau, Michael J. Goldcamp, Truman R. Young; fourth row, Erick DiDonato, Bradley T. Rose, Richard Garcia, Jeffrey R. Gates, Ray X. Morales, Jason L. Shannaman, Stephen Bandura, Alicia D. Rebuck; back row, Brian K. Geyer, James S. Richardson Jr., Robert C. Cresswell Jr., Adam L. Asbert and Brian K. Reynolds.

been quite a ride. The graduates succeeded with the support of families, friends, and the dedicated JATC instructors and staff.

Awarded for perfect fifth-year attendance were: Richard Mott, Alicia Rebuck, Brian Reynolds, Jason Shanaman and Truman Young. Awarded for five-year perfect attendance were: Carl Capobianco, Robert Cresswell, Scott Rau and Michael Smith. The 2007 Leadership Award went to Stephen Malinowski. Overall Achievement Awards went to Brian Reynolds for third place, Jason Shanaman for second place and, for first place, the James W. Mayall Award went to Scott Rau.

Scott R. Sheldon, P.S.

AEP Contract Ratified

L.U. 386 (mo), TEXARKANA, AR—We are pleased to report that effective Sept. 1, we ratified a new, two-year contract with American Electric Power/SWEPCO.

We negotiate jointly with Local 738, Longview, TX, and Local 329, Shreveport, LA. Thanks go out to Local 329 Bus. Mgr. Benny James and lead negotiator Local 738 Bus. Mgr. T. J. Burrow. Many thanks also to the entire negotiating committee, especially Local 386 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Stan Stamps and Bro. Leon Wilmoth, Flint Creek Generation. A special mention goes out to IBEW Tenth District Int. Rep. Dale McCoy for his assistance.

Jeff Hale, B.M./Pres.

Pride in the Trade

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—Local members participated in the Labor Day parade in Wausau, WI, and we also sponsored the parade marshal, U.S. Rep. David Obey. We thank members who walked in the parade.

Happy retirement to Elroy Christiansen, a 41-year member, and Dwayne Dotter, with 38 years. Thank you, brothers, for your loyal service



Some of the Local 388 members and their families who walked in the Labor Day parade.

to the local. We should all remember that with age comes experience, which brings knowledge of the trade and the pride of being a union electrician. These things need to be passed down to our younger apprentices and young journeymen. We all need to take pride and ownership in what we do because labor is what we are selling.

Our work picture looks as if it may be slow for the winter. Thanks to brothers and sisters who helped staff our work at the Weston 4 power house.

Guy LePage, P.S.

Focus on Working People

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—This summer was busy with elections of local union and unit officers, as well as negotiations and several votes on a new collective agreement. With the democratic process completed, now everyone can catch their breath and refocus on improving conditions for working people.

Addressing the 1978 All Canada Progress Meeting, former First District Int. Vice Pres. Ken Rose stated: "The union may not have all the answers, but it is better than the alternative." Perhaps we forget that the 40-hour week, WCB, OH&S, EI and other advances were not just handed to us—they were won by courageous union members and leaders working together.

Given the many problems facing labor today, we must be politically involved. Recently, unions made a lot of "noise" for changes to Alberta's Labor Code. Labor Minister Iris Evans responded with an inferred threat suggesting that "... if the Code is opened, all of the Code will be opened. ..." (A reference to the salting and "MERF" funds we are forced to employ—and a spin on the facts.) Salting and MERF's would not be necessary if the labor minister would

enforce existing legislation, (overtime paid after 44 hours a week), or visit the job sites where many nonunion contractors have 20 apprentices to one journeyman.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

Sioux Falls Unity Picnic

L.U. 426 (i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), SIOUX FALLS, SD—The Local 426 Unity Committee held its first annual picnic Aug. 25. With over 100 members and their families in attendance, it was an excellent start to what we hope will become a new tradition for all.

The work situation is currently very good. Book I is clear and approximately 40 travelers are working with many OT, high-scale calls going unfilled.

With deep regret we announce the passing of Bro. Roy Sherman on Aug. 29. Roy was 82 and had been a member for 59 years. He retired in 1996. We extend condolences to the Sherman family.

Jon Olson, P.S.

Union Family Celebrated

L.U. 474 (em,i,lctt,o,rtb,rts,sp&u), MEMPHIS, TN—Our local union picnic is always a wonderful event. The fellowship our members and their families share resembles a large family reunion. As at many family reunions, conversations revolve around our families, our work, political views, etc. During one such conversation I learned that Bro. Billy McConnell had left retirement and returned to work with his tools. He is currently working with his son, Bro. Rob McConnell, for Gephart Electric. We've all enjoyed working with these brothers for many years, and we hope God continues to bless them and their families.

Local 474 thanks members who contributed to the success of the picnic, especially Bros. Jackie Dodson and Glenn Greenwell.

Please remember that we must continue to support our organization and our contractors. Many members at the picnic said they had attended this event since childhood. This speaks well for our organization, and we owe our children the opportunity to become future union members.

Sam LaDart, P.S.

2 Million Safe Hours

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), MILWAUKEE, WI—Local 494 is proud to announce that the Port Washington Generating Station has received two awards. The first was a "1 Million Safe Hours" award, and just recently a "2 Million Safe Hours"



Milwaukee, WI, Local 494 members helped achieve a "2 Million Safe Hours" award for the Port Washington Generating Station.

award. To achieve these great awards many trades participated in working safely on the job.

The Washington Power Group started this project in 2003 and has done a great job of having all the crafts work safely together. Each craft kept their own work area safe and clean by adhering to safe job practices.

The Washington Power Group over the years has held many meetings and given many talks to their employees about safety. One sentence is very powerful and says it all: "We should always return to our families safe and sound."

Local 494 Bus. Mgr. Mike Mueller congratulates all the electricians who have ever worked on, or are currently working on, this project for achieving 2 million hours working safely and for a job well-done. Congratulations!

Dan Large, B.R.

Longtime Service



Local 508 mourns Kathleen Burkhalter, a longtime member of the office staff.

L.U. 508 (i,it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—IBEW Local 508, along with many of our brothers and sisters across the nation, is blessed to have some great support workers behind the scenes. Support staff are given compensation but sometimes little thanks for the tireless labor they perform on our behalf. Our office staff is competent and helpful to all of our members.

Recently Mrs. Kathleen Burkhalter, a member of our office staff for more than 31 years, passed away. She will be remembered with affection and missed tremendously.

When you pay your dues, don't forget to say thanks to all the workers who keep your local office running smoothly.

Work in our area has been slow recently. We thank our sister locals for helping our unemployed members.

Judith U. Sheahan, P.S.

Local Celebrates 100 Years

L.U. 538 (i), DANVILLE, IL—A celebration for Local 538's 100th year was held in late March this year, with members, their families and honored guests attending. At this awards banquet, members received their service pins. Pictured in the accompanying photo are award recipients who worked hard to make Local 538 successful and we should thank them for their work.

At this writing, the biodiesel project at

Bunge Milling, Inc. is going strong and may go into the spring. The Duke Energy project at Cayuga, IN, is utilizing travelers and we hope they feel welcome. We thank them for their help.

At the Labor Day parade, the Local 538 float won first place. The papier-mâché float featured the IBEW emblem showing a hand grasping 10 electric bolts. The float was the creation of Juan Chavirez, journeyman wireman, and several volunteers. I think Juan is ready for the Rose Bowl parade. Thanks to all who helped make the Labor Day celebration a success.

Gary W. Pollard, P.S.

UL Scholarship Awarded

L.U. 540 (i), CANTON, OH—Congratulations to Chris Donant, Local 540 second-year inside apprentice, who received a \$1,000 scholarship check from Underwriters Laboratories Inc. after he was recommended for the award by his first-year inside instructor, Terry Rick. Chris is one of 20 recipients for this year's UL schoolbook scholarship.

Jerry Bennett, P.S.



Local 540 inside apprentice Chris Donant (center) displays his UL scholarship check. Extending congratulations are instructor Terry Rick (left) and Training Dir. Jeff Stuber.

Project Supervisor Course

L.U. 584 (ees,em,es,i,rts,spa&u), TULSA, OK—Our local recently held the first Electrical Project Supervisor course offered in our jurisdiction. It was taught by IBEW Seventh District Int. Rep. Gary Buresh.

The 24-hour course was attended by 28 members, including Bus. Mgr. Mike Burton. Class graduates were: Tim Anderson, Ricky Applegate, Larry Barnes, Ron Blankenship, Eric Brashear, Greg Brashear, Mike Burton, John Carter, Sam Flanagan, Shawn Freeman, Mike Harper, John Harris, Joel Hernandez, Bill Hill, Tom Hundley, John Lockwood, Kevin Muli, Johnny Patterson, Tim Satterfield, Bill Spain Sr., Bill Spain Jr.,

Audie Strickland, Kode Stuart, Dale Sullivan, Lonnie Turnipseed, Mike Wofford, Harlan Ellis and Spencer Miller.

This was the first of several of these training programs to be offered by Local 584 to facilitate the many upcoming large projects in our area.

Johnny Patterson, A.B.M.



Local 584 members attend Electrical Project Supervisor course.

A Brother Mourned

L.U. 596 (i,o&u), CLARKSBURG, WV—Officers, staff and members of Local 596 were deeply saddened by the tragic death of member Jonathan Wilson at the age of 31.

On the morning of Aug. 9, Jonathan was leaving his job site at Fort Martin Power Plant when he went to the aid of a driver whose vehicle had crashed on the side of I-79. Jonathan got out of his vehicle to help the driver of the disabled vehicle and was struck by another vehicle. He later died at Ruby Memorial Hospital.

Jonathan had a lifelong history of being a good samaritan; it was in his nature and was evident in all he did. Jonathan started as an apprentice in 1999 and had a good relationship with contractors and coworkers alike. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Ashley, and the Wilson family. Jonathan will be deeply missed.

Homer B. Adams, P.S.

Electrical Contest Winner

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—Two years in a row Local 684 takes the field! Robert Stutzman of Local 684 won first place at the Western States Electrical Contest held Sept. 8 in San Jose. Last year's winner was Jeremiah Nieman of Local 684.

Stutzman represented Modesto against 28 contestants—from IBEW locals in Alaska,

California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho and Washington—placing first overall and winning top honors for motor control and conduit bending.

Our work picture looks better, with several projects forecast: an ethanol refinery, the Hetch Hetchy pipeline project, the Gallo Glass project and other infrastructure improvements in the jurisdiction. Collins Electric picked up the new Gregori High School project in Salida.

The union hall has undergone a make-over, including new paint inside and out, new steel doors, new sign, computer upgrade, large and current maps of our jurisdiction and basement clean-up.

Congratulations to our new organizer, Richard Venema. He will serve the local well. Local 684 thanks our previous president and organizer, Stan Strohmeier, for his years of service to Local 684 and wishes him the best in his new career with Mission 2000.

Torrey Newton, P.S.



Local 684 member Robert Stutzman displays Western States Electrical contest trophies.

Dubuque Labor Day Parade

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA—It was a bright, sunny Monday for our annual Labor Day parade. See photo of Local 704 brothers with IBEW banner at parade site. Many of our contractors provided trucks for the parade. This is a great way to advertise a company to the people of the tri-state area. Local union members walked behind the IBEW Local 704 banner. I invite more of our members and their families to participate in the parade with us next year.

LOCAL LINES continued on page 16



Local 538 presented years of service awards at its 100th anniversary celebration. From left are 55-year honorees Bud Maden, Bob Shaw, Mel Clark, Art Maden, Paul Hussmann, Jim Britton and Bob Anderson; IBEW Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. Joseph F. Lohman and Local 538 Pres. Rex Modglin.



Local 704 brothers carry IBEW banner at the Dubuque, IA, Labor Day parade. From left: Bob Curtis, Dave Wilson, Don Rausch, Globalcom Technologies Mgr. Shawn Staner, Local 704 Pres. Sean Leppert, Dean Markus, Skip Hefel, Owen Leaser and Ron Heitzman.



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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FROM THE OFFICERS

A Historic Year



Edwin D. Hill
International President

The end of a calendar and the approach of the winter holidays are a natural time to reflect. We give thanks for all the privileges we have in life, not the least of which is our membership in this great union.

The turn of the year is also a time to look ahead. Try to envision a time when our members are working in secure jobs with good wages and solid benefits. Imagine that the United States and Canada are led by politicians who promote the common good and opportunity for all.

We think that such a future is likely if we continue on the path that our Brotherhood took in 2007. When future historians write about our Brotherhood, 2007 will be noted as a year when we turned the corner on declining union density.

When we met at our last International Convention in 2006, declining membership was decimating the entire labor movement. Both houses of Congress were controlled by Republicans with an anti-working family agenda.

Meeting in Cleveland, we knew that we had two options: organize or die. To that end, we put before the delegates a successful amendment to fund a new membership drive that would put scores of organizers in the field to stimulate growth in every major industry in which the IBEW had a presence.

It proved to be a wise investment. More than a year later, not only have we halted the decline in membership, but we have seen a steady growth in nearly every part of North America.

Florida has seen membership gains of 14 percent, while in North Carolina, membership is up 10 percent. Among our industrial branches, we are now seeing solid organizing victories in every branch of the Brotherhood.



Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

We also had a big year on the political front. The capture of the Kentucky governor's mansion and the Virginia Senate by labor-friendly candidates in off-year elections would have been impossible without the active support of organized labor. Our grassroots political mobilization program is readying for the big election battles in the coming year.

New construction organizing initiatives are underway in Arizona and Michigan. All IBEW locals in all industries will soon receive information about an ambitious new organizing policy that will involve them in developing and implementing organizing plans for their areas. And our grassroots political program will be building on our momentum from 2007 to get a stronger labor-friendly majority in Congress and to take back the White House.

It is our hardworking members who helped make 2007 the success it was. We thank you and wish you all the best for the holidays and the New Year. Get ready for bigger things ahead in 2008. We have much to accomplish. ■

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:

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Letters to the Editor

Canada's Labor Pains

The September 2007 paper spoke about CLAC [Christian Labour Association of Canada] and how this 'union' is hurting the livelihood of IBEW members (see "The Bosses' Favorite Union," page 5). Sadly, some of the greatest contributors to this are IBEW members from locals that are suffering from a lack of work in their areas. These men and women choose to be employed by CLAC, as they have families to feed, but they are adamant that CLAC does not set up shop in their hometowns to perform work on projects.

We could help eliminate this problem by fining these members as well as adopting the use of a two-book system in Canada. Currently we use a BA to BA system when travelers are required. This eliminates the possibility of all union members getting a fair chance to go to work. Let's push for a change!

And in regards to global warming, a very simple idea that we can all use to combat it, is a clothesline. Believe it or not, they are actually prohibited from use in many places in North America, as developers and municipalities feel that they are unsightly and detract from the value of a neighborhood. Start harassing your politicians today to help us regain such a basic right! Go to www.laundrylist.org for more info.

John Jewett
Local 424 member, Edmonton, Alberta

Anti-Unionism in Utah

I am writing to you today to point out an article that was in the Salt Lake Tribune on September 29. It talks about Vice President Cheney's visit to Salt Lake City and what topics were discussed at their "secret" meeting. At the end of the story, it comments on the Republican topics of "anti-union" presentations and offers a Web site for people to "turn in" their unions with the intention of breaking down all unionism.

My husband is a Local 354 member and we are proud of the working conditions, wages and health coverage afforded to us only because we are union. We want to pass the word that not all political parties want our "kind" around and are doing everything they can to put an end to unions and are determined to vote Republican.

Please help us educate fellow union members about the opposition. We are only strong if we vote in mass numbers and support candidates that support us. Please pass the word.

Anna Florin
Spouse of Michael Florin, Local 354 member, Salt Lake City, Utah

Debating Children's Insurance

In the October issue of The Electrical Worker, Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters stated that the first immediate goal of the AFL-CIO Campaign for America's Health Care is to defend the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Fortunately, President Bush vetoed the SCHIP bill of October 3. This misguided and politically motivated legislation would have expanded eligibility to children who are NOT poor. One has to wonder why the IBEW would develop a sudden obsession with health insurance considering virtually all members have it. Perhaps the union is warming up the members for a future Hillary Clinton endorsement.

Mr. Walters refers to our health care system as "broken." In my opinion the one thing that really is broken is the political arm of the IBEW.

Vance Halasi
Local 18 member, Los Angeles

(Secretary-Treasurer Walters responds: I don't share Brother Halasi's concern that some children who are not poor would be covered, when the President's veto certainly ensures that many who are poor would remain uncovered. Also, his comments betray a common fallacy that we should not be worried about the uninsured because our members have coverage. The rising number of uninsured tears at the social fabric of the United States and has a direct impact on the viability of our plans, including the one under which he is covered. As for the political arm of the IBEW being broken, tell that to the thousands of IBEW members who helped push Gov.-elect Steve Breshear to victory in the Kentucky governor's race, putting an advocate for common sense and fairness in office. The IBEW has not endorsed anyone for president and will not do so until there is a strong consensus among our members.)

Who We Are

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

Ohio IBEW Family Recognized As Foster Family of the Year

Loain, Ohio, Local 129 member Marty "Walt" Smith offers himself as a living example of how ordinary people can change the world by helping one child at a time.

Smith and his wife, Sarah, have spent the last five years as foster parents for the abused and neglected children of Sandusky. They were recognized in September for their outstanding efforts by the Public Children Services Association as the state's foster family of the year.

"It takes dedication and time and patience and commitment and willingness to work with children and families," said Aaron Voltz, Erie County Department of Children's Services administrator, who commended them for helping other foster parents in addition to the children they take in. "They are exceptional at the work they do."

The Smiths don't broadcast what they do—providing structure and guidance and the support of a caring family to children removed from their homes by social services. And because of the sensitive nature of the social services safety net and the fact the children are minors, the system operates in the shadows.

But Smith, who is a general foreman employed by Valley Electric, wants people to know in the hopes of attracting others into fostering.

"Imagine if someone came to your house at 3 a.m., and drove you away, and you have no right to know where you were going," Smith said. "Tomorrow you had to start a new job in a new place without the support of your family. Children love their parents even if they are not good parents."

This sort of nightmare scenario occurs every day to children too young to understand what is going on. "People need to know that it's happening," he said. "That's why we do it."

Smith, his wife, son Jacob, 11; daughters Lilly, 11; and Sarah Liz, 8; take in a child in need of a home only after a family meeting in which each member has veto power, Smith said. Lilly and Sarah Liz are half sisters who were among the first foster children the Smiths took in and later adopted. Now the family has one foster child, an 8-year-old girl.

The idea, Smith said, is to provide a safe and stable temporary place for foster kids, many of whom have issues due to tumult in their home lives.



Walt Smith with his family. Clockwise from top are Lily, 11; his wife Sarah Jane; Jacob, 12; Sarah Liz, 8; and dog, Molly.

"When you see children come out of a bad situation into a better one, you get the same feeling as when you give a gift to someone," Smith said. "There are times when my wife and I look at each other at the end of a long day and wonder what are we doing, but when you see something go well, or a child bonds with you, that reminds you why you do it."

The need for foster families is great in Ohio and across the country. USA Today recently reported that there are not enough families to care for the 500,000 children nationwide in foster care. Those children who do not have families to foster them end up in group homes or institutional settings.

"My wife and I are just ordinary people," Smith said. "People need to know that ordinary people out there are the ones that can make a difference." ■

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 13

As of this early October writing, we have a number of members on Book I. With some larger projects getting started this fall, we hope Book I will be clear soon.

Ron Heitzman, P.S.

Work in Houston

L.U. 716 (em,i,rt&spa), HOUSTON, TX—It seems just yesterday that we celebrated the beginning of 2007. Now, as a new year approaches, I stop to reflect on some of our accomplishments and the direction our local is headed.

Work in Houston is plentiful. If local members are traveling, now is the time to come home. Our organizing efforts are moving forward; we recently held an Industry Night to help in recruiting electricians. Several of our contractors and their representatives were there to interview 155 applicants. It was a great turnout and we appreciate everyone who participated. Thanks to the JATC, who worked with us to evaluate our newfound talent.

Big thanks to our volunteers who helped with our recent Brotherhood activities, golf tournaments, barbecue cook-offs, softball tournaments, etc.—and to the members who volunteer to help in our political activities.

At this time of year my heart goes out to the families of our deceased members. They are in our thoughts and prayers. We also say a special prayer for our military servicemen and women.

Wishing you happy holidays.

John E. Easton, Jr., B.M.

Service Award Honorees

L.U. 738 (em,i,o&u), LONGVIEW, TX—We were honored to have so many members present at our pin presentation in August. Congratulations to Bro. William D. Cotton, who received his 50-year pin; Bros. Johnnie Hart, William McNeil and Jessie Young, 55-year pins; Bro. Merrill Elliot, a 60-year pin and Bro. Thomas Taliaferro, a 65-year pin.

Bro. Tom Collins recently saved a man's life while traveling to Chicago. While waiting for his flight at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, Tom heard someone yell, "Help, he's down!" A man had collapsed, unconscious, in the busy terminal. "I ran to him, checked his vitals and he wasn't breathing and had no pulse," Collins recalls. Tom administered rescue breathing and chest compressions on the stricken traveler. After several minutes, and with the help of a nursing school graduate, the traveler regained consciousness. Chicago police credited Bro. Collins for saving the man's life.

T.J. Burrow, B.M.

Growth and Solidarity

L.U. 760 (i,lett,o,rt&spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—We are excited about the continued growth and solidarity among our membership. Thanks to all who work hard to help achieve our local's continued success.

Local 760 construction hours worked are steadily on the rise. Our inside construction members recorded an increase in hours worked in each of the past three years. January-July 2005 worked hours: 357,773; January-July 2006 worked

hours: 464, 232; and January-July 2007 worked hours: 472,770. These increases represent continued growth and ability to work together within a heavily condensed nonunion atmosphere.

Local 760 members working at the ALCOA plant received safety awards for zero accidents. Great work! Congratulations also to Local 760 members who received 2007 service awards at a recent union meeting. Happy holidays to all!

George A. Bove, B.M./F.S.

A New Venture

L.U. 1116 (em,lett&u), TUCSON, AZ—After 14-plus years as our business manager, Ryle J. "Joe" Carl III is stepping down and has taken a new job with the International as Regional Training Coordinator for the utility industry.

Joe is excited to take on this project and with his positive outlook these training centers should turn out a new breed of journeymen throughout the country. Joe saw us through some tough times - not only with the companies Local 1116 represents, but also with the changing utility industry. Our local increased our representational areas from Tucson and Springerville to include Lake Havasu, Kingman, Prescott, Flagstaff and Show Low, AZ, areas.

Joe, along with our contract committees through the years, was able to "do the old-fashioned horse trading" to get the best possible labor contracts during his tenure. As an officer who has been on the Executive Board during Joe's tenure as business manager, I can say he was always up-front with our membership. Thanks, Joe, for your leadership of our local.

R. Cavaletto, P.S.



Local 1116 Bus. Mgr. Ryle J. "Joe" Carl steps down to accept appointment as IBEW Regional Training Coordinator for the utility industry.

1220 Honors Members

L.U. 1220 (rtb), CHICAGO, IL—Every December Local 1220 honors its members who have stood the test of time. "The members we honor are an example to our new members, who are the lifeblood of our union," said Bus. Mgr. Madeleine Monaco.

Our congratulations to honorees. They include retiree Don Holbrook, with 55 years of service; John Bobera, retiree Karl Dierking and Bob Kastigar—45 years; Bob Broz and Aubrey Mumpower—40 years; Kim Breitenback, Jim "Herbie" Gedwellas and Glenn Hannigan—35 years; Rudy Anderson, Dave Bierman, Nancy Burns, Carlos Monge, John Oppy, Executive Board Pres. Paul Rodrigues, Danny Rozkuszka, Steve Stabile and Ed Wilk—30 years; Bonnie Burns, Marc Claussen, Ben Cortez, Don Johnson, Duane Kucera, Ed Matney, Tom Mayahara, Alif Muhammed, Kim Nicole, Dino Pillizzi, Jack Stocker and Mike Sweeney—25 years; and for 20 years, Mike Clay, Steve Dragin, Ari Golan,



IBEW Local 1920 hosted an IBEW delegation visiting the freight railroad yard in North Platte, NE. From left are: IBEW Railroad System Council #2 Asst. Gen. Chmn. Don Tortirice, System Council #2 Vice Gen. Chmn. Pat Perry, Local 1920 Chmn. David Hunt, IBEW Railroad Dept. Dir. Bill Bohné and System Council #2 Chmn. Jim Wisniski.

Marilyn Joy, Dan Mabrey, Andy Stieber, Jim "Dimitrios" Tians and Xiayang "Sean" Zhang.

"Our union fights every minute for a living wage—without it our membership would not have their families, their homes, or their children's education. We would not have ever-increasing wages and benefits for every year our members work," Monaco said.

Jim Sterne, B.R./P.S.

Rail Yard Welcomes Visit

L.U. 1920 (rr), NORTH PLATTE, NE—On Aug. 17, Local 1920 was honored to host IBEW Railroad Department Dir. Bill Bohné, Railroad System Council #2 Gen. Chmn. Jim Wisniski, Vice Gen. Chmn. Pat Perry and Asst. Gen. Chmn. Don Tortirice. North Platte, Nebraska, is home to the world's largest freight railroad yard, also known as Bailey Yards.

With all the news of record profits in the rail industry and unbelievable bonuses for executives of the carriers, it's a breath of fresh air to have union representatives visit and address the issues of union members. We are honored by their wish to visit every worksite possible to meet every member available. On behalf of Local 1920, I thank Bros. Bohné, Wisniski, Perry and Tortirice.

David E. Hunt, Local Chmn.

Fallen Brother Mourned



Local 2034 mourns Bro. Blake Edward Hunter.

L.U. 2034 (o&u), WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA—With great sadness I report that on Aug. 9, 2007, IBEW Local 2034 member Bro. Blake Edward Hunter, a 26 year old live-line trainee, and Custom Helicopters Ltd. pilot Robin Garnet Maxwell, age 25, were tragically killed in a helicopter crash while en route to perform routine transmission line work. Blake and Robin lived in Thompson, Manitoba. The crash occurred in a remote area south of Flin Flon, Manitoba. The crash is under investigation; few details are available.

I ask that all Local 2034 members attend meetings or gather in the workplace to offer a minute of silence to our fallen brother. Our condolences to Bro. Hunter's family and friends, as well as the family of Robin Garnet Maxwell. In keeping with assisting each other in sickness or distress, I trust that those close to the tragedy will care for each other and seek any help that is required. Brothers and sisters of all IBEW locals please share our grief.

Tom Wojcikowski, Pres.

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