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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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Who We Are

IBEW Helps Air Force Harvest Solar Power

The largest solar photovoltaic power system in North America went on line in the Nevada desert last December, thanks to the efforts of more than 90 journeymen and apprentices, largely from Las Vegas Local 357. Covering 140 acres of desert just outside of Nellis Air Force Base, the massive solar panel array now provides 30 percent of the base's power.

"It's the biggest solar project we have ever been on, and our members really showed their skill and dedication by getting it up and running," said Local 357 Business Manager David Jones.

Nellis Air Force Base, just northeast of Las Vegas, is one of the Air Force's main training facilities for fighter pilots, employing more than 8,000 workers. The \$100 million, 15-megawatt solar system is expected to eliminate more than 20,000 tons of carbon emissions that would have been produced using traditional energy generation.

"This project at Nellis is a first step of many toward making renewable electricity integral to the operations of the U.S. Air Force," said William Anderson, assistant secretary, United States Air Force Installations, Environment and Logistics. "As the largest consumer of energy in the federal government, the Air Force is well-positioned to promote both solar technology and new approaches to its implementation." The system is expected to save the Air Force more than \$80,000 a month.

The project, a joint venture of the Air Force, the Sun Power Corp., the Nevada Power Co. and MWA Renewable Ventures, LLC, was planned over three years and broke ground last April. Bombard Electric, a signatory contractor



More than 90 IBEW wiremen worked for eight months in the Nevada desert to get Nellis Air Force Base's new photovoltaic system up and running.

with Local 357, was chosen because of its specialization in renewable energy. "We've worked on every solar project in Nevada," said Chris Brooks, director of the renewable energy division for Bombard. L.C. Electric, a minority-owner signatory contractor, was subcontracted by Bombard for some of the work.

The intense heat of the Nevada desert in the summer—which can exceed 110 degrees—didn't make the work easy. To connect the panels to the grid, the electricians had to run underground conduit, which meant they needed to dig trenches. "It was a really flat terrain, and the heat and wind were tough to handle," said Detroit Local 58 inside wireman Ben Burton, who was dispatched by L.C. Electric for the project. "We would use the solar arrays for shade, eating our lunch under them."

Despite the sometimes rough conditions, the job came with its own unique perks. The base is home to the Thunderbirds, the Air Force's demonstration squadron, and the workers were often treated to impromptu practice maneuvers by the squad.

The arrays have been fitted with rotating pedestals which automatically turn the 70,000 panels in the direction of the sun, giving the system 10 percent more energy efficiency. The gears are powered directly by solar energy.

"Seeing all these panels out in the desert, rotating on its own, was like watching something from the James Bond movie 'Moonraker,'" Burton said.

In 2004, the local—with assistance from a grant from the Department of Energy—opened a photovoltaic training center in Las Vegas. More than 100 Local 357 members have gone through the program and the market share numbers show that it was a good investment. Nearly 80 percent of all solar installation in Nevada is done by IBEW members, Jones said. And solar is an industry that is likely to see even stronger growth in the state.

The Nevada legislature recently passed a law that will require 20 percent of all the state's energy to come from renewable resources, including 5 percent from solar, by 2015.

"With the push for green energy coming from both the government and industry, we are motivated to get even more of our apprentices and journeymen through the solar program," said Jones, who was appointed last year to the state's renewable energy and energy conservation task force.

"Our work has given the local a real level of respect with the green power industry," Jones said. "We are becoming the go-to people for clean energy technology." ■

United Way, IBEW Aid Mudslide Victims

Scott Krause wasn't taking any chances as the Chehalis River started rising last December, menacing his community of Adna, Wash. Krause, a meter technician apprentice at Centralia City Light and a member of Seattle Local 77, moved his wife and three children to his parents' place 15 minutes away in Centralia.

News reports confirmed their good judgment in leaving their home in the river valley, halfway between Seattle and Portland, Oregon. Twenty inches of rain in 24 hours—combined with melting snow in the hills—had turned earth to mud, which slid into the riverbed and slowed the current to a trickle. When the mud moved six hours later, a wall of water crashed down on Adna, flooding all but one of the community's homes. Almost two feet of water covered the floors of Krause's home. The water tore the doors off his garage. His workshop opened up "like a tin can," he says.

The flooding in Adna and other locations, like Grays Harbor County, affected other IBEW members and their families. Local 77, with 7,000 members in the state of Washington, couldn't leave Krause, other local unionists or their neighbors to fend for themselves.

Business Manager Don Guillot released Bob Guenther, the local's lobbyist, to supervise a United Way warehouse stocked with food, rain gear and generators. The local union contributed 300 hours of labor and the local executive board appropriated \$5,000 to buy supplies, upon the approval of Ninth District International Vice President Michael Mowrey.

More than \$1,500 and even more materials were solicited from members at union meetings. The efforts filled a gap between the flood's immediate toll and the arrival of relief from the Federal Emergency Management Administration, says Guenther. Guenther and other volunteers worked up to 12 hours per day for two weeks assisting flood victims.

The United Way supplied fans to dry out saturated structures and drywall to help families rebuild before the holidays. Volunteers manning four command centers in other areas marshaled more resources.

Over 40 IBEW members working on non-essential jobs at TransAlta's Centralia generation plant, represented by Portland Local 125, were solicited by the company to work flood clean-up, operating dump trucks and front-end loaders clearing mud from homes. They were joined by plant workers who volunteered after hours.

Gray's Harbor Public Utility District had only one of 32 substations operating after the flood.

Storm relief efforts turned dangerous for two Local 77 journeymen linemen who were working to restore power. Scott Daniels and Dan Perron, employees of the Grays Harbor PUD, were working in a bucket truck repair-



This bridge west of Adna, Wash., was destroyed by December mudslides.

ing downed power lines when a gust of wind severed a treetop that crashed into the truck's boom. Both men fell approximately 40 feet. Miraculously, Perron is back to work. After

surgery and time in critical care, Daniels is recovering at home from multiple injuries.

"It was humbling to see how the generosity from our locals and the community helped

folks during the holiday season," says Jeff Cash, a Local 77 business representative, who moved his six horses to higher ground before his property was flooded with four inches of water. Tacoma Local 76, which also had members affected by flooding, contributed to the relief efforts.

Krause is using money from FEMA to rebuild his house and install new appliances. He expects to be back home by April. The Brotherhood's support for the United Way showed its worth during the flood, says Krause. "Money is tight raising three kids, but I will always remember the help that we received and will try to donate as much as I can to the United Way," he says. ■

New England Verizon Sale Still Unsettled

The sale of Verizon's land lines and Internet service in Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire to FairPoint Communications remains in doubt in the face of continued opposition from workers, consumers and many elected officials.

The sale seemed to be nearing completion when the Federal Communications Commission, as expected, approved the deal, and regulators in Maine agreed to conditions that appeared to pave the way for the transaction. The sale received another boost when the Vermont Public Service Board, which had rejected the deal on December 24, 2007, but invited the parties to submit a revised proposal, seemed to be favoring a new version.

In its compromise with Maine regulators, FairPoint agreed to pay down its debt by \$150 million by 2012 if it doesn't meet a certain debt ratio. The IBEW and CWA argued that this figure was not nearly enough. The state's hearing examiner and public advocate had recommended \$700 million in debt reduction in order to ensure that FairPoint remained able to provide adequate service. The unions also argued that FairPoint's optimistic financial plan does not account for possible reductions in revenue or increases in capital expenditures.

Vermont regulators were seeking to improve on the deal agreed to in Maine by seeking additional concessions from FairPoint, which would further impede the company's ability to meet service standards and weaken its already shaky financial status. When news of the Vermont discussion became public, Maine regulators spoke



Manchester, N.H., Local 2320 member Dave O'Connor, left, lobbied state legislators Jan. 16 in Concord.

about revisiting their conditions so that the same terms would take effect in their state.

Meanwhile, New Hampshire has not issued a decision of any kind. The staff of that state's public utilities commission and the New Hampshire Consumer Advocate have raised serious concerns about the deal. Workers and other interested parties continue to keep up the pressure in New Hampshire to stop the sale. Rejection by New Hampshire would hobble the deal altogether.

The IBEW, which represents 2,200 members employed by Verizon in the three states, has joined the Communications Workers of

America in a year-long campaign to stop the sale, launching television and radio commercials questioning the ability of the North Carolina-based company to handle such a large infrastructure, keep it reliable and also make capital improvements. Employees are worried about layoffs and the effect on their future in the industry and share the concerns of public advocates that consumers will get the short end of the stick.

Myles Calvey, chairman of System Council T-6, the New England-wide coalition of IBEW local unions, said he hopes regulators reject the deal as insufficient to protect the public. "If the regulators still want to make a deal, any additional requirements should be paid by Verizon; otherwise FairPoint's financial circumstances will erode even further and customers and workers will be worse off."

Other key concerns about the sale were expressed by two of the five FCC commissioners who dissented from the Jan. 9 agency opinion, arguing that the FCC's lack of any investigation left the commission unable to make an informed decision about whether the transaction would be in the best interest of the consumers in the states.

"FairPoint may be unable to meet its broadband promises, have less reliable service, employ fewer people over time and meet its other commitments due to its heavy debt load and historically high dividends," said FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps. "Today's order relies almost entirely on the assertions of the applicants and makes no endeavor to get under the hood to confirm that these promises are realistic." ■

Verizon Business Activists Address Global Organizing Forum



Verizon Business technicians Dave Rogol, left, and John Lindner testified at a congressional hearing about their experiences attempting to organize. Registered nurse Kelly Beringer also spoke at the forum.

When leading Democrats in the U.S. Congress, including Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), sponsored a December forum on global action to restore workers' rights to organize, they included real experts, grassroots activists who know the sting of having the deck stacked against them when they try to organize their co-workers.

Dave Rogol, a technician with Verizon Business, the company's nonunion subsidiary, was one of the grassroots experts attending the forum a day after International Human Rights Day, Dec. 10.

It has been over a year since Rogol, who works in Charlton, Mass., and the majority of his 300 co-workers in New England and New York signed cards to be represented by the IBEW or the CWA. Since then, Verizon has poured its resources into stopping them from establishing a bargaining unit. Weekly e-mails from the company, "spread half-truths about the union," says Rogol, a former employee of scandal-ridden WorldCom and then MCI, purchased by Verizon two years ago.

"I thought after all we went through,

Verizon would finally treat us as decent human beings and take the high road, but they did the opposite and—in their first year of ownership—froze our wages like at MCI," says Rogol, who wrote a letter to Verizon's CEO and received a phone call from the company's human resources department advising him that he was being paid "the market rate" for his work.

Rogol was invited by Steve Smith, an IBEW Membership Development Department organizer who retired from Verizon after 36 years to assist in organizing efforts at Verizon Business. The day before the forum, more than 200 trade union leaders from the U.S. and 63 countries met at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Md., the first time such a large group of high-level trade union leaders from around the globe have gathered to develop ideas and strategies to enhance cooperation across borders in organizing.

Rogol and John Lindner, a Verizon Business technician from New York who is working with the CWA to organize his co-workers, attended a small meeting with Kennedy and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. Following the meeting, Lindner, a

veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, addressed the forum.

"My country called me to serve, telling me I had to fight to protect freedom here in the U.S.," he said. "Imagine the irony of returning home, and finding that my freedom to join a union is being denied."

Rogol said he was glad to see leaders of Congress concerned about the fate of America's workers, but was disappointed that the United States has fallen behind many other nations in honoring the rights of workers to organize. Unionists from other countries, says Rogol, are aware of what Verizon and other companies are doing and are concerned that American corporations are exporting their anti-labor policies to other countries.

Those policies include one-sided campaigns against labor organizations. Verizon, for example, holds workshops urging employees to respect diversity. "But they are disseminating just one point of view about unions," he said. Rogol said he is deeply appreciative of the support that Verizon Business technicians are receiving from IBEW and CWA bargaining unit members at the company. "Without them, we wouldn't have a chance," he says. ■

Job Security Drives Activism at Boston TV Station



Members of Boston Local 1228 pass out leaflets at a tree-lighting ceremony.

At television station WCVB in Boston, Local 1228 members are seeking an agreement that protects bargaining unit jobs as more Web-based programming is introduced. Winning job security at one of the best-known of powerful Hearst-Argyle's 26 stations would set a new pattern for broadcasting workers.

The power of the pen has turned into the power of the mouse as Local 1228 members display their Internet expertise to support their contract demands with a sharp new Web site, www.greedfighters.com. WCVB workers caused a stir last December at a Christmas tree lighting and family concert in Boston Commons by circulating a leaflet outlining their issues at the event attended by hundreds.

As the parties continue to negotiate on a contract that expired in July, Local 1228 demands contract language that will similarly keep Internet broadcasting under the union's umbrella at the ABC affiliate.

"When I started in broadcasting, we worked in film," says Dubrovsky, Local 1228 business manager. "When film went to video, we [union members] stayed with the work." Hearst-Argyle has a major stake in Internet Broadcasting, a Minneapolis-based company that supplies Web services to stations in its chain. Union members—engineers, photographers, floor directors and editors—are concerned that nonunion vendors will end up shooting and editing content for WCVB's Web site.

"Our technicians have won all kinds of awards, making WCVB a prestigious name in television," says shop steward Karen Lippert, an 18-year news photographer. "We want to be part of the future. This is do or die." ■

Fresh Plan Corrals New Members in Phoenix

With over 500 new members in the past 16 months, Phoenix Local 640 has discovered the secret to success. By dividing the jurisdiction into quadrants, says Seventh District Organizer Bennie Sandoval, organizers gather up-to-date information to zero in on contractors and electricians building office complexes, shopping malls and homes. The organizers are charged with knowing everything happening in their quadrant—where the general contractors are and what is being built—says Sandoval, who helped institute weekly open houses at Local 640's union hall to entertain nonunion electricians and talk union.

"Construction organizing can sometimes feel like being in a forest fire with a water pistol, but we're making progress because we have a plan," says Sandoval, who was assigned to Phoenix two years ago by Seventh District International Vice President Jon Gardner after contractors complained that work calls were going unfilled.

With the encouragement of Business Manager Dean Wine, a volunteer organizing committee has helped to build a database of nonunion electricians and their skill levels.

Local 640 has worked closely with the local chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association to recruit workers in the intermediate classifications of construction wiremen and construction electrician to make them more competitive with nonunion contractors.

"The local union was quick to answer my questions," says Michael Zapp, who joined last September. After telling his former open shop employer that his wife was expecting their second child, Zapp was denied a promotion he was entitled to and told that his health insurance premium would increase drastically. Zapp feels more secure knowing that his journeyman status is now recognized nationally.

More than 100 nonunion electricians showed up for an industry night in Scottsdale last June to meet contractors and hear about opportunities in the union electrical trade. A second industry night in September attracted 50 electricians who answered union ads for journeymen and apprentices. With competitive non-journeyman job classifications and the Code of Excellence, Wine is hopeful that contractors will increase market share by bidding on more work.

"We are working hand-in-hand with Local 640," says Debra Margraf, executive director of NECA's Arizona chapter. Margraf has instituted a new dues structure to attract more members and is working with the IBEW on a statewide agreement that will help to bring more high-rise residential projects into the signatory ranks.

Three members of Local 640 have set up their own firms. The local is sponsoring classes to help them deal with the intricacies of the small business world.

"Our success comes because we've adopted the attitude of partnership with contractors," says Wine.

The Phoenix job market is so tight that the local union put travelers to work on an outage at Arizona Public Service's Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, 50 miles west of Phoenix, the nation's largest nuclear facility.

Signatory contractors are staffing up for projects at the Phoenix Civic Plaza, the Sheraton Hotel and One Central Park East, a construction project funded by the National Electrical Benefit Fund.

Local 640 is also increasing efforts to organize the northern part of its jurisdiction which includes Prescott, Kingman and Flagstaff. ■

Tentative Agreement Reached in Amtrak Negotiation

After working without a contract for more than eight years, the IBEW and three other unions signed an agreement with Amtrak on January 18. Following release of the report of Presidential Emergency Board 242, the passenger railroad agreed to the majority of the unions' demands, including full retroactive back pay and no work rule changes. "This is a big victory for our members and a big step forward for all of rail labor," said IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohné.

Under the agreement, workers will get the back pay in two installments: 40 percent in the first year of the agreement and the remainder the following year. The more than 1,000 IBEW members at Amtrak will vote on the agreement within the next 60 days.

More than 10,000 Amtrak workers—represented by nine unions—have been without a contract since 2000. The bargaining stalemate was broken in October when the Amtrak Shopcraft Coalition—made up of the IBEW, the Transportation Communication Union, the International Association of Machinists, and the Transport Workers Union—were released from federal mediation.

The five-member PEB, created by President Bush to recommend a settlement, sided with the unions' demands in their final report issued in December. "By rejecting Amtrak's proposals for dramatic work rule changes and supporting our members' demand for back pay, the Board's recommendations gave us a road map to a fair and just settlement," said IBEW System Council No. 7 General Chairman Mike Giansante.

Lobbying blitzes by rail union representatives and members—which included more than 100 visits with congressional representatives—also played a major role in bringing Amtrak back to the bargaining table, Bohné said.

A second coalition of Amtrak unions—the Passenger Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition—and ARASA—the supervisors' union—also signed the agreement.

International President Ed Hill congratulated the members at Amtrak. "It's been a long struggle, but the solidarity and patience of the members paid off," he said. "I salute the dedicated bargaining team that hung in there and won a good contract in the face of many obstacles. We look forward to a new and productive era at Amtrak." ■

Massachusetts Gives Public Workers Right to Organize

Bay State workers won a significant legislative victory when Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick (D) signed into law a bill permitting public employees to be recognized as a collective bargaining unit when a majority of a workplace signs union cards. Before this bill, public employees who wanted to unionize had to go through a lengthy and time consuming National Labor Relations Board election which could drag out for months or even years.

The legislation is a modified version of the Employee Free Choice Act, which won majority support in Congress, but failed to get the two-thirds needed in the Senate to prevent a GOP filibuster. Patrick, a Democrat, was one of 16 governors who wrote to Senate leaders in support of the act.

Supporters of the bill argue that allowing for majority sign-up will help prevent management from interfering with workers' right to join a union. "This bill is about leveling the playing field between labor and management," Patrick said.

According to a report by American Rights at Work, nearly half of workers feel pressured by management during National Labor Relations Board elections.

The Massachusetts bill was first passed by the state legislature in 2005, but it was vetoed

by then-Gov. Mitt Romney. The bill was reintroduced after Patrick took office a year ago.

"One of the fundamental rights we have protected since the labor movement began is the right of workers to organize and collectively bargain," said state Rep. Robert DeLeo, the bill's lead sponsor. "I believe public employees who want to organize should be allowed to without impediment."

Joining Patrick at the signing ceremony in Boston were Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Robert Haynes and AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka.

"More than a year after Mitt Romney's veto, we have a new governor, one who has shown his commitment to improving the quality of life of working people," Haynes said.

The victory is the latest for state workers around the country as working families turn to state legislatures to boost workers' rights. Last summer, public employees in New Hampshire and Oregon won majority authorization and Delaware state workers won collective bargaining rights.

"We look forward to making majority authorization the law of the land in 2008 by electing a bigger pro-worker congressional majority and president committed to signing the Employee Free Choice Act," IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill said. ■

CORRECTION

We regret that we misspelled the name of Akron, Ohio, Local 306 member Ray Romito in the December 2007 article about the 350-kilowatt wastewater digester plant that uses solid waste to generate power.

With a Little Help From Friends, N.H. Workers Win First Contract



New IBEW members at WMUR in Manchester, N.H., are celebrating a first contract, aided in part by a strategy that took advantage of the state's unique role in presidential politics.

A year and a half ago, live-van operators and master control personnel at WMUR voted to join Boston Local 1228, just as their co-workers did in 2003 when photographers at the station reached out to the IBEW.

A year later—in the midst of the run-up to the presidential primaries—the nine workers were still without a first contract. Workers picketed outside the TV station during a visit from Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) and secured letters from other presidential candidates to the station's president supporting good faith negotiations on a first contract.

"Our actions away from the bargaining table were the reason that management finally gave us a proposal that we could accept," said Local 1228 Business Manager Andy Dubrovsky.

The three-year agreement boosts wages between 15 and 29 percent and includes job security protections, a grievance procedure and improved working conditions. Before the settlement, crews had no defined work schedules. Like photographers, they could be called back to work only 10 hours after their prior shift ended. Turnaround time has improved to 12 hours and now they have set schedules enabling them to better plan family time.

Andy Thoms, an 18-year master control operator, says new members are pleased that they are finally approaching the highest standards in broadcasting's wages and working conditions. ■

WMUR broadcasting workers in New Hampshire, members of Boston Local 1228, celebrate their first contract. Clockwise from center front are Armen Jeknavorian, Andy Thoms, Ryan Hill, David Faulkner, Derek Martin, Michael Christenson and Jen Gelinias.



North of 49°

CN Contract Wins Across-the-Board Gains

A five-year collective bargaining agreement between the IBEW and Canadian National Railway was ratified in December by a 65-percent majority of the 700 Brotherhood members who maintain signals and communications within the Canadian operations of that nation's largest freight carrier.

The new contract raises wages, institutes a new post-retirement health care plan and renews a previously cancelled provision that provides for more regular work schedules and time off the job.

The relationship between CN and the IBEW had deteriorated as grievances quadrupled in the past three years, says First District International Representative Luc Couture. He said he hopes that a clause providing for the parties to meet on a regular basis will lead to a more productive bond.

The most important advance in the negotiations was the renewal of "self directed units" which were instituted in 2000 and later discontinued. The units consist of between three and five maintenance workers who pledge to cover all communication and

signal work requirements around the clock throughout the year, including emergency calls. In return for that commitment—which may result in workers volunteering to alter vacation schedules—CN agrees that all maintenance workers will be given the opportunity to work a schedule consisting of four 10-hour days, followed by three days off.

Bargaining unit members, including 300 members who work on construction and as technicians in control centers, won two bonuses of \$1,000, one upon ratification and one in 2012. Wages were boosted three percent during the first three years of the agreement and four percent for the last two years. Meal and lodging allowances were increased. Retirees between age 55 and 65 will now receive dental and pharmaceutical benefits. Quebec is the only province which provides those benefits under the national health care system.

IBEW members employed by CN subsidiaries within the United States were not covered by the negotiations. They work under separate pacts administered by System Council 16, based in Hastings, Minn. ■



Au nord du 49° parallèle

Des gains obtenus à tous les niveaux dans la convention collective du CN

Une nouvelle convention collective d'une durée de cinq ans intervenue entre la FIOE et le Canadien National a été ratifiée au mois de décembre par une majorité de 65 pour cent des 700 membres de la Fraternité affectés à l'entretien d'appareils de signalisation et de communication pour les opérations canadiennes du plus important transporteur de marchandises au pays.

La nouvelle convention renferme des améliorations sur le plan des salaires et des avantages sociaux avec un nouveau régime de soins de santé pour les employés à la retraite et renouvelle une clause qui avait été annulée et qui prévoit un plus grand nombre d'horaires de travail réguliers et de jours de congé.

"Les relations entre le CN et la FIOE se sont détériorées avec le nombre de griefs qui a quadruplé au cours des trois dernières années" déclare Luc Couture, Représentant

international du Premier District. Il espère que la clause requérant que les parties se rencontrent sur une base régulière conduira à une relation plus productive.

Le renouvellement des "unités autonomes" qui avaient été établies en 2000 et qui avait été discontinuées ultérieurement, représente le gain le plus important de ces négociations. Ces unités sont composées de trois à cinq préposés à l'entretien qui s'engagent à répondre aux exigences du service d'entretien de la signalisation et des communications, incluant les appels d'urgence, vingt-quatre heures sur vingt-quatre, tout au long de l'année. En retour de cet engagement qui peut exiger de certains travailleurs qu'ils se portent volontaires pour modifier leur période de congés annuels, le CN leur offre l'opportunité de travailler sur un horaire de 4/3 soit quatre jours de travail de 10 heures, suivis de trois jours de congé.

Les membres de l'unité de négociation,

comprenant les 300 membres affectés à la construction et les techniciens dans les centres de contrôle, ont obtenu deux primes de \$1,000.00, une à la date de ratification de la convention collective et l'autre payable en 2012. Sur le plan des salaires, une augmentation de trois pour cent pour les trois premières années de la convention et de quatre pour cent pour les deux dernières années a été obtenue. Allocation pour les repas et le logement a été bonifiée. Les membres à la retraite dont l'âge varie de 55 à 65 ans, seront admissibles à l'assurance couvrant les médicaments et les soins dentaires. La province de Québec est la seule à fournir ces avantages en vertu du système national des soins de santé.

Les membres de la FIOE à l'emploi de filiales du CN aux États-Unis ne sont pas régis par cette convention collective mais par des ententes distinctes qui relèvent du Conseil de réseau # 16 basé à Hastings au Minnesota. ■

Organizing Wire

Florida Organizer: 'I Want to Spread the IBEW's Opportunities to Others'

Rick Lopez was working on a high-rise beach-front condominium complex for a nonunion Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., electrical contractor two years ago when an IBEW organizer handed him a leaflet inviting him to an "industry night" or job fair.

"I was skeptical," says Lopez, a 30-year-old native of the Bronx, N.Y., who had heard that he couldn't find steady work as an IBEW member. It wasn't his first contact with the union. On his first electrical job after high school, a co-worker told Lopez to check out a union apprenticeship program. He visited a union hall, but walked away because he was already making more than apprentice rate and was due a pay raise from his nonunion employer.

After attending the industry night where he was introduced to union contractors in 2006, Lopez visited Ft. Lauderdale Local 728 Business Manager Dave Svetlick. A month later, he received a phone call and went to work for signatory contractor Miller Electric as a construction electrician, a new intermediate job classification introduced as part of the Florida Initiative.

"That was the best decision I ever made in my life," says Lopez. The work was steady, with plenty of overtime. It was just what he needed to support his eight-year-old daughter and five-year-old son. But even more opportunities were ahead.

Svetlick had heard a lot of good things about Lopez. He asked him if he would be interested in applying for a position as an organizer. "What Rick lacked in union experience, he more than made up for in charisma and leadership ability. His bilingual skills were an added plus," says Svetlick.

"I'm excited about my job," says Lopez. The construction electrician/construction wireman program is offering opportunities to minority workers that weren't there before. "You used to have to know someone to get into the union. Now the leaders are taking a whole different route. The IBEW is worker-friendly, not a good-old-boys club."

Lopez is busy visiting job sites and contractors and assisting efforts to strengthen the Brotherhood's work in Puerto Rico, where he recently attended a family reunion. "I come from humble beginnings," says Lopez, "but working hard with a good attitude paid off. I want to spread this opportunity to others." ■

Transitions

Deceased Edward J. Legan



The IBEW is saddened to report the Dec. 28, 2007, death of retired Bylaws Approval Department Director Edward J. Legan. He was 84.

Born in Joliet, Ill., Brother Legan was initiated into Local 1460 in 1948, following duty in the U.S. Navy during World War II. As a member of Local 1460 and an employee of Con Ed, he served as steward and officer. In 1963 he was assigned to the International Office in Washington, D.C., where he handled atomic energy matters and assisted with util-

ity agreements and bylaws.

Retired International Representative Dick Mills said Legan helped develop training programs for members employed at the nuclear power plants that were being built in the 1960s, work that included drafting safety and operation procedures. In 1969, he was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to a committee on electronic product radiation safety standards. Legan was elected chairman of the National Safety Council labor conference in 1972. He also represented the IBEW on nuclear energy committees of the U.S. Atomic Commission.

In 1971, Legan was appointed director of the Bylaws Department, a position he held until his retirement in 1988.

Legan is survived by his wife Joan and three children, one of whom, John, is a mem-

ber of IBEW Local 26 in Washington, D.C. His daughter Beth is also a trade unionist, employed by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Son Doug is an Army officer who has been deployed several times to Afghanistan.

"He was a very fine trade unionist and a good family man," Mills said. "He was straight as an arrow."

IBEW staff, members and officers wish Brother Legan's family and many friends our most sincere condolences.

Deceased James R. McInnis



Tenth District retired International Representative James R. McInnis died on October 23, 2007 at the age of 71. Initiated into Winston-Salem, N.C., Local 342 in 1956, Brother McInnis served

as recording secretary and business manager of the local. He later transferred his membership to Durham, N.C., Local 289.

Appointed International Representative in 1969, McInnis, a veteran of the North Carolina National Guard, was selected to work with the Industrial Union Department/Organizing Department. He retired in 1993 after several years servicing locals in the telecommunications branch.

"Bob McInnis was short in stature, but had a heart seven feet tall," says retired Tenth District International Representative Gene Ruff. In the 1970s, McInnis assisted Ruff in organizing 400-employee Lundy Electronics in North Carolina. Later McInnis helped lead workers at another recently-organized plant on a successful six week strike for a first contract in Pageland, S.C., a place inhospitable to unions. "Bob was true blue IBEW," says Ruff.

Prior to his appointment as an organizer, McInnis established himself as a leader in the electrical trade. He served as president of the Labor Union Building Corporation of Greensboro, vice president of the North Carolina Building Trades and chairman of Local 342's joint apprenticeship and training committee.

McInnis, a Democrat, was elected president of his precinct in Greensboro, N.C. and was a member of the Masonic Order, Loyal Order of Moose and the Scottish Rite. He served on the board of directors of the Unity Club, an organization that assisted recovering drug and alcohol abusers.

The officers and members of the IBEW send our most heartfelt condolences to the McInnis family on their loss. ■

Circuits

Members Honored for National Electrical Code Work

IBEW Codes and Standards Committee members James Naughton from Boston Local 103 and James Dollard Jr., from Philadelphia Local 98 were among those honored by the National Fire Protection Association's Standards Council for their outstanding service in updating the National Electrical Code. The NEC is the national standard for safe installation of wiring and electrical equipment.

Dollard and Naughton received the award last summer at the NFPA's World Safety Conference and Exposition, where the latest edition of the NEC—publicly released last month—was presented for discussion. "I've been dealing with electrical safety issues for nearly 40 years, so it's nice to have the recognition," said Naughton. "It's an honor for me, but it's mostly an honor for the IBEW," said Dollard.

Naughton and Dollard have more than 20 combined years of service on the Codes and Standards Committee. The committee is made up of 40 IBEW members who serve on NEC panels that bring together representatives from industry and the safety field to update the NEC every three years.

Palmer Hickman, director of codes and safety for the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, said the IBEW participation and leadership is key to the NEC.

Both Naughton and Dollard serve as chairmen of NEC panels, which are responsible for updating specific sections of the code. Naughton said his panel has 20 members who discuss thousands of proposals for changes or new additions to the code.

"It's a lot of work, but it's worth it to guarantee the safety of our members and the productivity of the industry," he said. ■



Honorees at the National Fire Protection Association's World Safety Conference and Exposition show off their awards. From left are, James Naughton, Boston Local 103; John Minick, National Electrical Manufacturing Association; Donald Cook, International Association of Electrical Inspectors; Andre Cartel, International Association of Electrical Inspectors; James Dollard Jr., Philadelphia Local 98; Richard Owen, International Association of Electrical Inspectors.

Spotlight on Safety

Heart Attack Symptoms, Warning Signs and Emergency Treatment

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense. Most start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people aren't sure what's going on and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath.** May occur with or without chest discomfort.
- **Other signs:** These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

If you think you're having a heart attack, call 911 or your emergency medical system immediately.

Calling 911 and getting emergency help to the patient is the most effective way to ensure survival of a heart attack. Emergency responders can begin treatment as soon as they arrive, and once they reach the hospital, patients arriving by ambulance usually receive treatment faster than walk-ins.

Over 80 percent of all heart attacks occurring when a person is not in a hospital occur at home. Family members can receive appropriate training from the American Heart Association, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and the American and Canadian Red Cross.

Many of the thousands who die each year from sudden cardiac arrest could have been saved if an automated external defibrillator was available. Most of the portable units on the market today require no training; users need only to open up the AED and follow the picture and voice directions—the device does whatever else is necessary.

The first shock from an AED must be delivered within minutes of the onset of the arrest. Every minute that goes by without the AED shock significantly reduces the chance of a full recovery. ■

SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

IBEW 2008

Continuing in our proud tradition as a leader in promoting safety and health, International President Edwin D. Hill and International Secretary-Treasurer Jon F. Walters are pleased to announce the 2008 Safety Poster Contest.

RULES

The contest is open to all active IBEW members only. Artwork may be done either in black and white or in color. Each poster must be submitted on 8-1/2 x 11-inch white unruled paper or poster board. Posters cannot include a company's logo or company name. A contestant may submit a maximum of three posters. The following information must appear on the back of each poster entered: name, address, city, state, zip code, phone number, local union number and card number.

Posters will be judged on content of the safety message, originality and artwork. All posters become the property of the IBEW and may be used in any manner by the IBEW.

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

IBEW Safety and Health Department
900 Seventh Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20001

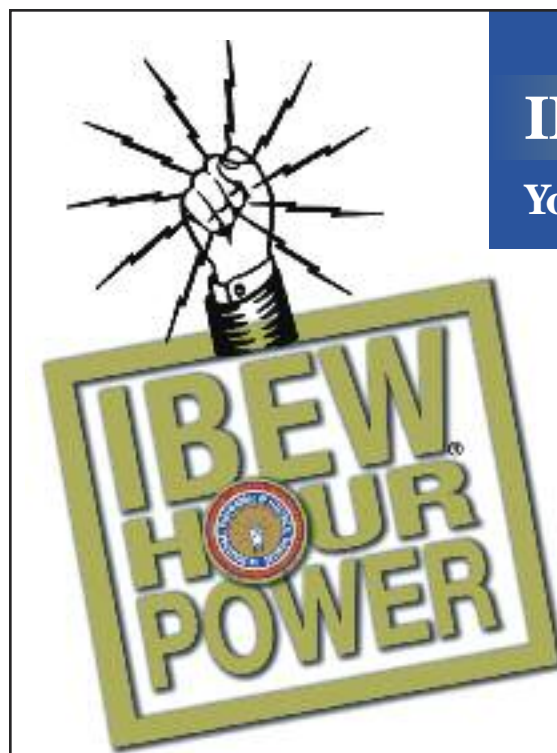
Deadline for entries is April 30, 2008.

The winning posters will be published in a future publication of the IBEW. The winners will be notified by mail.



2008 CONTEST WINNER PRIZES

FIRST PLACE	\$250
SECOND PLACE	\$200
THIRD PLACE	\$150
HONORABLE MENTION	\$ 50



IBEWHourPower.com

Your "IBEW TV Network" delivered online

This month on IBEWHourPower.com: a state-of-the-art subway station being built UNDER an existing one? We'll show you IBEW Local 3's amazing job in Manhattan.

And join us on ElectricTV.net to see how a major manufacturer is partnering with the NJATC to teach heat detection technology to IBEW craftsmen with the pull of a trigger.

ELECTRIC TV

Local Lines

Motorcycle Toy Run

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The eighth annual Local 6 Motorcycle Toy Run benefiting the San Francisco Toy Program was again a great success last December. After a pancake breakfast served by the Local 6 social committee, checks were presented to representatives from S.F. Firefighters' Local 798. SFFD Truck Company 6 stopped by to assist with collection of toys. The San Francisco Police Department Solo Bike Unit provided an escort across the city. The ride destination was Alice's Restaurant in Woodside, where bikes, hot rods and classic cars converged for refreshment and camaraderie. Each year this event grows and the procession of motorcycles is something to behold. The hard work of the committee makes this event possible.

Local 6 member John Beatty prevented a potentially serious head-on collision on the

Golden Gate Bridge while on his way to work recently. He positioned his truck in front of a vehicle whose driver was slumped over the wheel and heading into oncoming traffic. After allowing the vehicle to hit his truck, John guided the vehicle and its occupant across two lanes of traffic to safety. His quick thinking and selfless act of courage placed him in great danger. The local is very proud of John's heroic act

Emily S. O'Rourke, Unit 1 Chair/P.S.

Time To Step Up

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—At this writing, our work situation has slowed. We thank all our traveling brothers and sisters for their help at our recently completed shutdown at the B.P. Refinery. The next couple of months should spring some jobs at the Sun Oil Refinery,



Union members gather for Local 6's annual Motorcycle Toy Run benefiting the San Francisco Firefighter Toy Program.

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

Monroe Coal Burner, Fermi Nuclear Plant, and the Fed Ex distribution center.

In the political arena, it's time to get started on electing a labor friendly president who is committed to true values of the working families we represent. Issues such as fair trade, affordable health care, better schools and pension protection are a few. Please step up and give a hand when called upon to help with these efforts.

We thank the entertainment committee for all the work they did for the Children's Christmas party. Also thanks to everyone who helped out on Robin Weirauch's District 5 congressional race. A service awards banquet for members with 25 years or more is being planned for sometime this spring. Watch your mail for details.

Please work safe and attend your union meetings.

Jim Kozlowski, B.M.

'Rebuilding Dreams' Home

L.U. 14 (i), EAU CLAIRE, WI—In November 2007, Local 14 was contacted by the La Crosse Area Builders Association to take part in a complete home remodel, very similar to the Extreme Home Makeover projects.

This was a one-week project. Demolition began on Dec. 2, 2007, and the house was completed and turned over to its owners as scheduled on Dec. 9. During the times when the wiring was caught up to the other trades, our members helped with anything else that needed to be done.

A La Crosse Area Builders Association representative, when interviewed on local television, stated: "If it were not for the union electricians working on this project, it would not have been completed on time." All of the paid advertising we do will never achieve the results that statement did. Eighteen Local 14 members worked on the home. We thank them for their gift of time and talent. They were: Dan Mutch, Andy Wettstein, Kevin Kuderer, Gary Severson, Garrick Brown, John Goodrich, Adam Fradette, Phil Graf, Jeff Odegard, Chuck Herbst, Erich Rathke, John Clements, Chris VanAlstine, Steve Mutch, Mike Wettstein, Bob Strand, Matt Schultz, Carl Newman and Roger Lowery.

Bill Beeler, A.B.M.

2007 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—The IBEW congratulates Local 16 graduates of the 2007 wireman program: James D. Adams, Daniel B. Bollinger, William F. Brown, John C. Davis, Clinton L. Deig, Joshua R. Epley, Nathan W. Hagedorn, Robert W. Hast, James P. Heavrin, Michael L. Hogge, Seth A. James, Kevin S. Jones, Michael S. Ledford, Kelley V. Miller, Jason M. Peter, Nathan E. Reckelhoff, Duane E. Sanders, Chad W. Schmidt, Eric T. Schmidt, Ryan W. Smith, Jonathan R. Sperling, Matthew F. Sperling, Jeffrey S. Stevens, Steven G. Stewart, Michael D. Walker and Daniel



Local 16 apprentice graduates were honored at 2007 graduation banquet.

E. Wolf. Congratulations also to Clinton W. Crane, who completed the residential program.

The National Training Institute was well-attended by JATC Chmn. Jim Evans, Training Dir. Chris Thorsen and Instructors Mike Chamberlain, Doug Hadley, Jarrad Sprinkle, Chard A. Thompson and Larry Dimmett.

The Safety Committee recently held an informative seminar regarding the dangers of stainless steel welding and arc blast protection. For further information, contact the Safety Committee.

In support of the Labor Temple, Local 16 purchased memberships for all its active members. This will help one of the few remaining labor temples to remain a viable part of the community.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Politics and Organizing

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Local 26 is excited about the prospects of this new year! We can now fully turn our efforts toward politics and organizing. This will be a big year for both and we hope everyone will take an active part in our union.

Remember to read your new Local 26 magazine, "IN Charge!" It's an exciting step forward and a publication that is all about and for our members! Please stay on top of events on the horizon since you won't have a monthly reminder, but a quarterly magazine. Our annual Dollars Against Diabetes golf outing is May 5; register early to better your chance to get your first-choice course.

Visit our Web site www.ibewlocal26.org for information and to download application forms for Local 26's scholarship. This award is for \$2,500 per year, for up to four years of college. Application deadline: March 31, 2008.

We mourn the deaths of Bros. Anthony R. Hall, David Raymond Lowry Jr., David P. Gayda; and retired Bros. Robert W. Tomlin, Martin Kann, Henry Bruggess Jr. and James W. Wells.

Congratulations to recent retirees: Bros. Frederic Clum, Kenneth E. Nickolson, Wayne C. Shifflett, Ronald L. Stokes, Stephen A. Whitman, Roy K. Bush and James A. McElheny.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Work for Continued Success

L.U. 34 (em,i,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL—IBEW Local 34 honored many members at the recent awards banquet. Many received awards—for 65 years of service (Andy Meyers) to 20 years of service. Thanks to you all! Local 34 is in its 109th year and would not have survived without outstanding members like these, who laid the groundwork for what we have today! Apprentices to young journeyman, I encourage you to get involved however you can to help Local 34 continue on for another 109 years. Our continued success depends on the dedication of the fine members we have today. This success is something we can pass on to our next generation. The work outlook is still very promis-

ing with many major projects under way or gearing up. Please visit Web site www.ibew34.org. Congratulations and best wishes to recently retired Bro. Vernon Wood.

Deepest sympathy to the families of Bros. John Tiern and David Kepple, who passed away.

Paul O'Dear, P.S.



Three generations of Local 34 wiremen attend 2007 awards banquet: Richard Shelton (left), his son Dennis Shelton (center) and grandson Noel Shelton.

'Do Not Patronize' List

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Shown in the accompanying photo are Bros. Tom Grabowski, Jerry Chavayda and Tom Novak Sr. at the Local 38 'Old-Timers' Picnic at Astrohurst. Congratulations to Bros. Grabowski and Novak, who both retired on the same day. They each served the local in many capacities including foreman, steward and craftsman. We wish them a happy retirement.

Due to Rite Aid's continued attacks on organized labor, Local 38's health care plan will no longer pay for any prescriptions at Rite Aid stores. Rite Aid has been placed on the Cleveland Building Trades' "do not patronize list" and after Jan. 1, 2008, any prescriptions purchased there must be paid for in full by the individual.

We have held several meetings with Rite Aid personnel but the company continues to build new stores nonunion, overlooking the millions of dollars spent there by the building trades. As a result, many trade unions' health care funds are discontinuing business with Rite Aid. The message to Rite Aid is simple: "If you want our business then we want your business."

While work has slowed at the time of this writing, the work outlook ahead for 2008 is favorable. Work will start on the new \$150 million juvenile detention center and the \$1.4 billion University Hospital expansion.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.



Local 38 members Tom Grabowski (left), Jerry Chavayda and Tom Novak Sr. attend 2007 picnic.

Longtime Service

L.U. 44 (catv,lctt,o, rtb,s&u), BUTTE, MT—Local 44 secretary Alice Woodring retired Dec. 31, 2007, after 22 years of service. Alice was hired as a part-time secretary by former business manager Gordon Mahood in 1985. She survived working with four different business managers and numerous assistant business managers.

Alice operated the office and assisted members however needed. In addition to her wide-

ranging office duties, she always volunteered to help with the Montana Lineman's Rodeo and also helped with several Labor Day picnics. A mother of three with six grandchildren, Alice welcomes retirement. She said she will miss the members and will keep in touch.

The staff presented Alice with retirement gifts on Dec. 28, designated "Alice Appreciation Day." Local 44 thanks Alice for her dedicated service and wishes her a happy retirement.

Don W. Hendrickson, B.M./F.S.



Local 44 office secretary Alice Woodring retired in December 2007.

Leading The Way

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—At the close of 2007, Local 48 has strengthened its resolve regarding the IBEW mission to rebuild and organize internally and externally.

A new Local 48 administration has taken the reins. With an optimistic employment forecast, Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Clif Davis and the new leadership team are off and running. Brother Davis has assembled his staff with an eye on the future. The local's focus is improving communication with the membership, giving members more access to the union hall (through increased staff), education and training, and membership involvement.

Local 48 also has embraced innovative and sustainable technology. Green technology is here and Local 48 is on the leading edge. To demonstrate this, our local is installing a small windmill on its property, in partnership with the Energy Trust of Oregon.

Another positive change took effect in December 2007 regarding the hiring hall rules, with the recent settlement of the 15-year litigation achieved on Bus. Mgr. Davis' watch.

2008 looks bright and promising. Go Team 48! We appear to be back on track, leading the way.

Donna Hammond, P.S.

Jobs About Town

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb&spa), DETROIT, MI—The work picture has finally leveled out, we hope, and work has been steady here. Out of 4,000 journeyman inside wiremen, we have about 600 signed on Book I. Jobs about town keeping our members working include the Metro-North Terminal Airport redevelopment, the Greek Town 400-room hotel with its 15-story parking structure, and the Marathon Oil Company expansion.

2005 Code Update classes have begun at the apprentice school. Be sure to sign up early and take care of that 2009 license requirement. For our members on the road: Call the apprentice school at (586) 751-6600 for the availability of the 2005 Code Update correspondence class that will allow you to update while traveling.

Thanks to all who helped make the 2007 Christmas party a success. All the young at heart had a great time.

Keep a heads-up: More language is coming up in the Michigan legislature for a "right-to-work (for less)" state. As union members we are not wealthy, but think of not having the money in your pocket to fill up your gas tank on your way to work. Support your union. Your union works for you.

Kathy Devlin, P.S. Pro Tem

Denver Political Season

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—Yes, it seems that we never get away from requests for help. But if we don't get it done, "they" will get it done, and it wouldn't be the way we like.

Colorado's presidential precinct caucuses are Feb. 5. Then it is on to the county, the congressional district and state assemblies. For the first time in 100 years, the 2008 Democratic National Convention will be held in Denver.

We are battling the "right to work" (for less) initiative and you are needed to help with that fight. We need you in the trenches. We need you to participate in your precinct caucuses. We need you to step up to the plate and become a precinct committee person or precinct captain. The county party, whether Democratic or Republican, should be able to steer you appropriately. These are the only two parties with the caucus process.

Your participation is important to the entire labor movement. Help elect friends of workers. Contribute your participation to help defeat the "right to work" (for less) initiative. We will gladly help get you headed in the right direction. Call either Tom Rutherford at (303) 944-2233 or myself at (303) 591-9932.

Our condolences to families of our lost brothers: Bobby D. Barnes and Charles H. Hogue.

Ed Knox, Pres.

Charlie Toon Mourned

L.U. 82 (i,mt&rtb), DAYTON, OH—Local 82 lost a dear friend, co-worker and champion on Nov. 3, 2007. Charles Toon was what every business manager might wish in an active member. Charlie served for over 39 years and held posts including president, vice-president and apprentice instructor. He served on the Health and Welfare Committee, Credit Union Board of Directors, as chairman of the Recreation Committee, and as a delegate to the International Convention. He was treasurer at the time of his passing. These things do not begin to speak to the measure of the man. Someone shared that rarely was Charlie seen at outings and cook-outs—not because he wasn't there, but because he was always working behind the scene. Charlie always had a smile and an encouraging word.



Local 82 Treas. Charles Toon, shown at a union function, passed away in November 2007.

Charlie truly believed in the union and worked hard to see that its values and principles were taught to the next generation. Charlie, we thank you.

Jeffrey W. Davis, R.S.

Rochester Solar Array

L.U. 86 (ees,em,es,i,rts&spa), ROCHESTER, NY—The Rochester JATC Training Facility now has a brand new 12-panel solar array capable of producing 2.1 kilowatts of power. Installation was made possible with the help of Shawn Lessord of Rochester Solar Technology, a division of O'Connell Electric; Bro. Jeff Conte (O'Connell Electric); Bros. Paul Healy and Phil Smith, JATC instructors; and the apprenticeship class of 2008.

Special thanks to our brothers from Local 1249 and O'Connell Electric for installation of the support posts. The solar array has been on line since early December 2007. Plans are being made to add an informational kiosk in the entrance of the training facility. The kiosk will be capable of monitoring the system operation, output and temperature, and will be Internet connected for remote monitoring. Stop by the training facility and check it out.

A reminder: Call the job line for information on upcoming classes, job calls and important notices.

Ron Freida, P.S.



Local 86 JATC Training Facility solar array installation.

Retirement/Awards Dinner

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—Work in the area is holding its own and improving. In October 2007 Local 90 held its retirement /25-year pin dinner. Many members were in attendance to congratulate the 25-year pin recipients and to show respect and say goodbye to the 13 brothers retiring.

We wish the honorees all the best and thank them for all their hard work, knowledge and friendship. Our brothers who retired will be missed. They are: Dick Betts Sr., Ron Brouillard, Henry Chiarleglio, Barry Grant, Morris Hodge, John Piscitelli, Bill McAlpine, Tony Brasile, Jeff Cave, Rocco Candela, Ron Massey, Bran Lynch and Charles Wischenbart.

Sean Daly, V.P.



Honorees attend Local 90 retirement/service award dinner held October 2007.

President Takes Office



Local 98 Pres. Brian Burrows took office Jan. 1, 2008.

L.U. 98 (as,em,i&it), PHILADELPHIA, PA—As of Jan. 1, 2008, I proudly accepted the office of president of IBEW Local 98. It is my pleasure to represent the local in this role. I will work diligently to keep Local 98 members working and serve the best interests of the IBEW.

Last year, outgoing Pres. Harry Foy and former Vice Pres. Jim Mink passed on their torches and settled into well-earned retirement. On behalf of the local, we greatly appreciate their many years of dedicated service and thank them for their unwavering allegiance.

I am also proud to announce that we ended 2007 with our most successful Toys & Turkeys Drive yet. Toys & Turkeys is a charitable campaign we run every year to help Philadelphia families in need.

I look forward to working hard and working with you, the Brotherhood, in keeping our local and the IBEW strong.

Brian Burrows, Pres.

State-of-the-Art Training

L.U. 102 (c,catv,i,it,o&t), PATERSON, NJ—Since moving into our new building in December 2006, we have gotten settled and are finally utilizing our training facility. Under the leadership of Bus. Mgr. Lou Baram, Pres./Education Dir. Alan Schell and Apprentice Coordinator Tom Rillo, we continue to offer the best training our industry has to offer. Our new labs have equipment to support the latest technologies. Local 102 offers training to educate apprentices and journeymen alike to become the best at their craft. This means more union jobs where none existed before—all from education, a code of excellence and leadership.

Along with the accredited apprentice program, we offer continuing education courses for journeymen, including: the electrical inspector license course, instrumentation, PLCs and motor controls, fire alarm, NFPA 70E, OSHA 30, MSHA, first aid and CPR, photovoltaic, and high voltage splicing. We also have a teledata and fiber optic program as well as a residential wireman program.

Local 102 thanks all our trainers for passing on their knowledge. Without them we would not be where we are today.

Ed Fredericks, P.S.

IBEW Volunteers Aid Veterans

L.U. 110 (em,i,rts,spa&u), ST. PAUL, MN—At press time work was slowing with 144 on Book #1, and 116 on Book #2.

Last April our Local 110 brothers and Local 292 members gathered at the big U.S. Marine disabled vets camp to expand their trailer camp sites. We installed two 200 amp services and 14 new camp-site pedestals. It is very important to support our veterans! All materials and equipment were donated by our LMCC, Parson's Electric, and Forest Lake Contracting. More expansion is planned for the camp due to state legislation for funding, and we hope to be able to continue supporting the camp.



IBEW members from Locals 110 and 292 volunteered for a U.S. Marine disabled veterans camp project. Photo courtesy Steve Franklin.

Volunteering their time for this project were: Local 110 Bros. Doug Branzovsky, Bob Bruestle, Jack Buchal, Rocky Gartin, Dan Greising, Rick Gross, Mike Haas, Keith Harden, Gary Keeler, Richard Loe, Jerome Merrier, Guy Rudiger, Greg Sarvela, Jerry Schauer, Mark Anderson, Jon Bergo, Jeff Bromwich, Jim Burke, Cole Busch, Mike Heiden, John Jansen, Don Koep, Steve Kreitz, Ray Leal, Jr., Joe Lubitz, Jamie McNamara, Joe Monette, Gary Rudiger, Greg Setley, Dave Slatery, Brett Arnold, Jake McCarter, Steven Franklin; and from Local 292, Bros. Tim Raven, Jeff Heimerl, Mike Heimerl and Jim Tauer.

Steve White, P.S.

'It's Time'—in New Orleans

L.U. 130 (i), NEW ORLEANS, LA—It's time: Creating new economic opportunities will give our members a reason to stay and work in New Orleans. A big part of our market share recovery will depend on the strength of our agreement with NECA to use the Construction Wireman/Construction Electrician program.

The CW/CE program will help our signatory contractors be more competitive in their bidding process. We have over 600 journeyman wiremen working. Our local has successfully organized 70 new CW/CEs.

It's time: Local 130 combined the offices of business manager and financial secretary. The newly established position was created following the retirement of former financial secretary Roger May. Congratulations to Bus. Mgr./ Fin. Sec. Robert F. Hammond III, the first Local 130 officer to hold the newly combined post.

We will miss three staff members who recently retired: Roger May, Fernan Lestremou, and Rodney Dupuis Sr. Best wishes to all.

Congratulations to 70-year service pin recipients Fernand F. Fenasci Jr. and Ralph C. Ehrensing, and to all recent service pin recipients.

It is essential to our continued success that we have the knowledge and skills to safely and correctly perform a specific job. Check significant changes to the National Electric Code (NEC) 2008.

Alvin L. Riley, P.S.



Local 130 Bus. Mgr./ Fin. Sec. Robert "Tiger" Hammond (center) presents 70-year service pins to Ralph Ehrensing (left) and Fernand F. Fenasci Jr.

Activities & Update Classes

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—Work remains slow as of this writing, although our out-of-work list is considerably shorter than it was one year ago. Short calls still seem to rule the day here but new work is on the horizon.

We still need people to help staff picket lines; the more people on a picket line the bigger the impact. Check the Web site or recorder for more information and remember—allow the business representatives to run the picket line; it's their job.

Bro. Charles Justice has retired. We thank him for his many years of service. Bro. Gene Crovetti received a Distinguished Safety Award from the National Safety Council.

Many journeyman update classes are scheduled for this winter and spring, including: Fire Alarm, Foremanship, Code Review, 10 Hour OSHA, Code Update, Code Calculations, and Variable Frequency Drives. Contact the JATC to register.

The Local 150 Retirees Club held its 2007 annual children's Christmas party at Midlane Country Club. The retirees did their usual fabulous job. Kids had a great time and enjoyed face painting, balloon animals, a magician and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus portrayed by Sully and his wife. Thanks to all.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Holiday Volunteers

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Local 158 got into the holiday spirit by ringing bells for the Salvation Army, donating presents to the Toys for Teens program, and funding light displays for the Botanical Garden Holiday of Lights and New Zoo. Thank you to all who gave or participated in these great events.

The work outlook is pretty good, with several members going out on long-term jobs as well as some short calls. We also have members working out of other locations. We are putting together some campaigns on organizing, with an Industry Night, as well as sending out flyers to members to get names of electricians they might know who are not union. We need everyone to help in order to succeed.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

Together: Achieving Gains

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—In 1955, George Meany (AFL) and Walter Reuther (CIO) heralded a stronger form of union labor under the slogan, "All Trades—All Crafts—All Colors—All Creeds—Together!" While the social benefits of this vision and mission have yet to be fully realized, their principles continue to inspire trade unionists. One example of this can be found among the United Workers for Local Government (UWLG) of Napa and Solano Counties in California. Comprised of union delegates representing nearly 40,000 members, the UWLG mar-

shaled record-setting participation during this year's off-year elections in Solano County, underscoring its increasing strength as a powerful voting constituency. In advancing its mission—"Supporting Leaders and Initiatives that Support Working People"—delegates interviewed candidates for public office, deliberated to achieve a slate of unanimously approved endorsements, and collectively pooled resources to prosecute campaigns via print, radio and TV media. This proactive approach toward local politics, including an aggressive get-out-the-vote effort, resulted in 12 of the 17 UWLG-endorsed candidates winning public office. While a 70 percent success rate isn't perfect, it does signal the gains that can be achieved by All Trades—All Crafts—All Colors—All Creeds—Working Together!

Kevin Coleman, B.A.

Local's New Office

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—IBEW Local 196 has moved our office and meetings to our new facility at 1829 Suncoast Lane, Batavia, IL. Our local's new phone number is (630) 761-1829 and the fax number is (630) 761-1919.

Our work is slow at this time, so call before you come by. As of press time, we were expecting to need approximately 25 journeyman linemen for underground cable replacement in mid-January. We hope we will be in need of more manpower after the New Year. As of this writing, our utility company had said that they had no money for the contractors at this time.

Remember to register to vote and vote in every election.

Edgar R. Mings Jr., B.M.

Labour/United Way Kick-off

L.U. 230 (c,catv,em,i,mar&u), VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—Over 1,000 union members at the Fleet Maintenance Facility in Dockyard, western Canada's naval defense point, kicked-off the United Way Dockyard Daytona Cart Series competitive racing event.

IBEW Local 230 entered four teams from various shops for the 1/4 mile race. With 27 teams competing, the event was emceed by AJ & Crash, the morning crew from Jack-FM radio, the local rock station. The collective members of the Dockyard Trades and Labour Council (most unions which belong to the Metal Trades on Vancouver Island) raised over \$160,000 to date. This donation will go to the Greater Victoria United Way to help invest in issues that most impact our community including housing and assistance for the homeless and working poor; mental health services; and family and community services.



Local 230 Bro. Curtis Reese (driver) gets horsepower from Bro. Shawn Mostad at the United Way Dockyard Daytona Cart Series race.

Congratulations to all our members for believing in the simple idea that what we have for ourselves we wish for all others. Bravo Zulu! Great job!

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

Contributions to Community

L.U. 234 (i,rtb,rts&spa), CASTROVILLE, CA—This last holiday season Local 234 extended generous contributions to several community organizations including the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Friends of Hospice Caring, and Second Harvest Food Bank. The donation to Second Harvest translated into 1,125 meals for needy families in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. Local 234 also annually assists the Second Harvest Food Bank with a food drive. In 2006, the local donated almost 1,000 pounds of food. Our apprentices play a big role in the success of the food drive and also donate very generously. Our hearts go out to those who were unable to share the New Year with their loved ones.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

IBEW Skill Delivers

L.U. 246 (ees,i,rts&spa), STEUBENVILLE, OH—We experienced an exceptional year in 2007 and look forward to another in 2008. At this writing, our project at the American Electric Power Cardinal Plant is approximately 90 percent complete. Unit 3 at the plant is expected to follow. Our heartfelt thanks to all our local members and the many travelers who showed the skill and commitment of the IBEW to deliver a quality product on time to a quality customer.

With an eye toward expansion of renewable energy systems in coming years, IBEW 246 has become home to a power-providing photovoltaic solar array on the roof of the K.W. Gasser Training Center in Steubenville. In conjunction with the Steubenville JATC, the system was purchased and installed through TS Electric of Richmond, OH, and is expected to generate 3.3 kilowatts of electricity. Wattage not stored in batteries or not used by the building will be sold back to AEP through its power grid. Training on the photovoltaic systems will be provided to our apprentices through the JATC. Thanks to Local 246 Training Dir. Anthony Shreve, who has the insight to educate and introduce Local 246 and the community to green forms of energy.

We expect 2008 will bring opportunities for travelers to work in Local 246's jurisdiction.

Phil Diserio, Pres.

2007 Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 254 (ees,em,mo,rts,o&u), CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA—On Sept. 15, 2007, Saskpower and Local 2067 put on a wonderful lineman's rodeo in Regina. This event attracted competitors from utilities across British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Steve Quinlan, a second-year power line apprentice from Calgary, was the only competitor to represent Enmax at the rodeo. He is married with two children, who cheered him on. Steve did a great job at learning and adjusting to some new tasks. The accompanying photo shows him doing a three phase tie-in with steel armor and tie wire. It was a fun filled weekend for all who competed, judged and watched. Many thanks to all the dedicated people who helped put on this very well-run event.

Enmax recently hired eight journeyman linemen from the Philippines on two-year work visas; these fellows bring experience from home and, as well, most have worked in different areas of the United States. As at most utilities there is a shortage of power linemen in Calgary and, unfortunately, more and more work is getting contracted to the nonunion sector. Collectively we need to convince the individuals working nonunion that we are stronger and better represented as IBEW members.

*Cliff Shirriff, Pres.
Jim Bleaney, R.S.*



Local 254 power line apprentice Steve Quinlan competes at lineman's rodeo.

Thanks to Instructors

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—Our JATC proudly announces the hiring of new Asst. Training Dir. Dave Baker! Dave will assist Chief Training Dir. Dan Campbell with directing over 260 apprentices in our excellent training program. Bro. Baker is also serving his second term as Local 280 treasurer/Executive Board member and teaches motor control in our state-of-the-art lab.

Dan and Dave believe the strength of our fine program is the quality of our instructors. Instructors like Charles Cain are the backbone of any top program. He came to our local as an IBEW residential wireman via IBEW Local 48 and worked in Texas before that. He was recruited to be our second-year Residential instructor and started a small shop in the process. Now, on top of that, he has started his IBEW Inside wireman apprenticeship! Brother Cain is well respected by all with his commitment, brotherhood and knowledge.

At this writing work had slowed considerably with just a few calls coming in. Many thanks to Locals 46, 48, 76, 112 and 191 for giving our members work opportunities!

Local 280 mourns the passing of Loran Lathrop, John Kaufman, Earl Robbins, Bob Sales and Roger Adkins.

Jerry Fletcher, Pres.



Local 280 Instructor Charles Cain enjoys Local 280's annual barbecue for apprentices.

Defeat Worker Oppression

L.U. 294 (ees,em,i,rt,spa&u), HIBBING, MN—Let's take a minute to reflect on the last year and to look forward to challenges ahead. Let's ask ourselves: "Did I work as hard as I could for my union; did I make time to attend my meetings or ask where I could be of help? And was the energy I put forth for the union positive or negative?" These are a few of the questions I ask of myself.

If we work together as a union, we can defeat the worker oppression overtaking our beautiful country. Every day workers are deprived of joining unions; deprived of safe work places and of MSHA or OSHA enforcement of bad contractors. Workers face terrible NLRB rulings and the list goes on and on.

We can make a change at the voting booth this fall. We must support candidates who understand the middle class and unions that built this country. Four more years in the same direction would be disastrous for working people. How much more can we take before we act? I say no more! Let's make 2008 a great year for our union. Use your political clout and throw the bums out. Remember, you are union.

Scott Weappa, B.M.

Report from Akron

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—The new year begins with better news on one front, as a major manufacturer announced plans to stay in Akron. The exodus of American manufacturing jobs has hit northeast Ohio very hard.

Our Residential members are hanging on in the wake of area record-breaking home foreclosures and personal bankruptcies, brought about by the actions of subprime loan originators and financial companies. And the war in Iraq continues with the accompanying tragic loss of lives and expenditure of American tax dollars.

Our annual Christmas party, attended by hundreds, was again a great success in 2007, thanks to our fantastic Social Committee.

We mourn the passing of retired Bro. Dick Justice. Dick served our local for over three decades. He guided and encouraged many young union members. A former Golden Gloves champ, Dick knew only one way to handle a problem—head on! He could chew you out for a rule infraction then help you get a home loan. A true Brother! Our sincere condolences to his family.

Wishing everyone a new year of health, peace and employment!

Robert Sallaz, P.S.

Retirees Receive Awards

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—Our annual "Old Timer's Night" held Oct. 26, 2007, was a huge success. We have a beautiful meeting hall and it was decorated and catered for the event by Gunther's, who did a fabulous job. This is our retirees "big" night to be honored and receive years-of-service pins.

Retired 60-year member Francis "Fred" Schwehr made every effort to attend, but unfortunately could not find our hall. So, Bus. Mgr. Bob Tragni drove to Fred's home and hand delivered his 60-year pin! Congratulations to Bro. Schwehr and all our retirees!

Retirees who received a pin that night were as follows. For 35 years: Eric Antonicic, Branko Bulach, Jerome Buzick, Larry Garcia, Carl Gibson, Ernest Huggins, A.L. Jaramillo, Bradley Ostrov, Arthur Peredia, Richard Perez, James Sutherlin and Robert Tragni. For 40 years: Robert Best, Patrick

Doran, Walter Griggs and Paul Lynch. For 45 years: Charles Carroll, Ignacio Corrales, Norbert Czarny, Klaus Dojahn, Donald Durbin, Gary Gardner, Ronald Gossner, Norman Houseworth, Raymond Hupf, Ronald Ksiasek, Gerald Long and William Saporito Jr. For 50 years: Jerry Cooper, Bob Coulston, Donald Goodman, William King, Fernand Masse, Francis Penner, Gilbert Resendiz, Charles Shambaugh, Richard Smith, Roy Stair and Donald Thompson. For 55 years: Paul Carney and Ralph Zerweck.

Gerald Pfeiffer, Pres.



Local 332 retired member Francis "Fred" Schwehr receives his 60-year service award and pin.

Generosity & Spirit Live On

L.U. 340 (em,i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Over 26 years ago, two Local 340 members, Bros. Lud Larson and Harry Bain, both now deceased, had an idea to hold a raffle at Christmas and donate proceeds to local children's charities that help union families during the holidays. Every October, Local 340 sends a letter to employers and affiliates along with raffle tickets for purchase and every year for 26 years, these same generous employers and friends—as well as many Local 340 members—donate to the "IBEW/NECA Operation Christmas Basket" drawing.

By Dec. 5, 2007, raffle night, close to \$10,000 was collected and at this writing, even more donations were coming in!

To date, IBEW/NECA Operation Christmas Basket has donated over \$183,000.00 to children's charities during the holidays. All because two local brothers cared about others. Our local and the Sacramento Chapter of NECA are proud to continue this tradition in their memory.

We mourn the death of retired brothers Elmer Moses, James E. Watts, Westley E. Williams and Richard "Dick" Stretz; as well as active brother Bill "Jonesy" Jones, a good union man who worked at Beale Air Force Base and was a fantastic union steward. Rest in peace, brothers!

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

2007 Graduation Banquet

L.U. 354 (i,mt,rts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—We have experienced the usual winter slowdown but, with all the jobs that were awarded last year, work should have picked up by the time you get this issue of The Electrical Worker.

A graduation banquet for graduating journeymen and VDV technicians was held at the Market Street Grill on Nov. 9, 2007. Eighth District Int. Vice Pres. Ted C. Jensen gave an inspirational keynote speech.

Journeyman wireman 2007 graduates are: Jonathan Barraclough, Jonathan Butler, Aaron Bronson, Kalib Curtis, Jared Elzinga, Bryce Harding, Dustin Martinez, Joshua Maycock, Zachary Ludvigson, Joshua Underwood and Rory Sower, who graduated at the top of his class.



Recent Local 354 graduates are, from left: Bryce Harding, Aaron Bronson, Jon Butler, Jared Elzinga, Josh Maycock, Rory Sower, Dustin Martinez, Zack Ludvigson, Leon Barrett, Dean Pursel, Pat Markland and Jon Barraclough. Not pictured: Kalib Curtis, Josh Underwood, Troy Markham, Marcelo D'Atri and Tyler Smith.

This was the seventh graduating class for our Voice Data Video program. VDV graduates of 2007 are: Leon Barrett, Marcelo D'Atri, Troy Markham, Dean Pursel, Tyler Smith and Patricia Markland, who graduated at the top of her class.

Our annual retirees Christmas luncheon held Dec. 1, 2007, was well-attended, despite 8 inches of snowfall. I enjoyed visiting with the retirees, who worked so hard to make our local successful. We will continue to build on their legacy.

Manya Blackburn, R.S.

'Adopt-an-Apprentice' Dinner

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—We're working hard to register 100 percent of our membership to vote in the upcoming election—the most important of our lives. We plan to contact our membership numerous times prior to Election Day to insure they're aware of the candidates who are proven friends of union families.

Our Adopt-an-Apprentice dinner was held at our hall. Bro. Chad Eckman coordinated this event, where journeymen mentors are paired with apprentices. Journeymen make themselves available to apprentices for advice on completing their apprenticeships and becoming well-rounded members. An apprentice contest, a quiz on aspects of the IBEW, was won by Bro. Zach Spitzmiller.

In the spirit of brotherhood, 25 members donated food last Thanksgiving for Residential members who have fallen on hard times because of the mortgage crisis gripping the United States. Many thanks to all who gave.

In December we held our Christmas party for children of Local 364 members. Santa brought each child a present and the event was a fun-filled one for our families. Thanks to those who helped.

Ray Pendzinski, P.S.

Moving Forward

L.U. 386 (mo), TEXARKANA, AR—2007 was a busy year. Bro. Dale McCoy resigned as business manager and Bro. Pete Renda resigned as assistant business manager. In 2007 Bro. McCoy was appointed as a Tenth District International Representative. Bro. McCoy served our local as business manager for 25 years and Bro. Renda was assistant business manager for 10 years. Local 386 again thanks them for their longtime service to the local.

Several longtime members retired in 2007: Nelson A. Amos, Bobby Hannibal, D. Randall Garrett, Bill Clements, Don Hennard, Gary Sanderson and Sid Westmoreland. The membership wishes them a long and happy retirement.

AEP/SWEPSCO is moving forward with plans to build a 600 megawatt coal-fired power plant at Fulton, AR. When completed, the plant will add approximately 80 covered jobs in our jurisdiction.

With sadness we say goodbye to Bob Young, a 60-year IBEW member who passed away in December 2007.

Jeff Hale, B.M.

Outstanding Apprentices

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—Local 388 congratulates outstanding apprentices Darin Hall and Jason Hojanacki. The local's 2007 Christmas party was a great success, thanks to the hard work of office manager Kathy Janis and Bus. Mgr. Dave Northup. We had a great turnout and numerous service pins were awarded. It looks as though things will be slow this winter, but we look forward to what spring will bring. Best wishes to our membership and their families for a safe and prosperous year ahead.

Guy Lepage, P.S.



IBEW Local 388 outstanding apprentice Darrin Hall (left) receives a Klein tool pouch complete with tools presented by Nick LaRoche, district sales manager for Klein Tools Inc.

Alberta Oil Sands Work

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—Over the next decade, more than \$100 billion is committed to major construction projects in northern Alberta's oil sands. Some of this work is just beginning, already resulting in full employment for the membership and hundreds of travelers. The "project owner's" strategy is to build an alternate ("open shop") nonunion labor pool. If they succeed in gaining control of the manpower, then the return plane fares, "shift bonuses" and other perks presently offered to entice that alternate labor force will easily be discontinued.

Since the membership is busy manning **our** jobs, a surplus of work presents organizing challenges, but also opportunities. Capitalizing on the opportunities may require a shift from established tactics to different methods, such as those utilized by the "Florida Initiative." Last November, Local 424 and several of our contractors held a successful Electrician's Industry Night. Over 400 non-member electricians attended; 30 joined the union and 15 immediately filled available jobs. Our business assistants conducted some "top down" organizing recently which, along with traditional "bottom up" work by organizers, resulted in six certifications over eight weeks.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

A Prosperous Year

L.U. 440 (i,rts&spa), RIVERSIDE, CA—2007 was a blessed year for Local 440, with the recent purchase of our new union hall and the tremendous amount of work we've had the last 18 months or so. Thanks to all the brothers and sisters who traveled here to help out during this prosperous year.

Membership service pins were awarded at our Dec. 8 Christmas party. Awarded for 60 years of service was J.B. Davidson; for 55 years, William Clabaugh, Thomas Hicks, Susano Ortiz, Leo Rudolpho Jr. and Peter Trojan; for 50 years, Jimmie Johnston, Ralph Marek, Edward Mohr and Frederico Vasquez; for 45 years, Joe Blankenship and Donald Ingalls; for 40 years, Randy Burns, Jerry Combs and Henry Risner; for 35 years, Jerry Bryan, Richard Dippner, Chalmer Flynn, Stewart Jewell, Jay Oliver, Jimmie Partain and Donald Williams; for 30 years, Ralph Acosta, Bill Clabaugh, Ricky Foster, James Gallery, Andrew Johnson, Gary Naymola and Kenneth Pentoney; and for 20 years, Robert Cornelius, John Crowley, Jeff Curtis, David Ellis, Timothy Fero, Rick Foster, Jon Garcia, Peter Johnson, Steven Kugler, Duane Tasker and Vincent Thorson. Thanks to all.

From here at Local 440 we wish you a happy, prosperous new year.

Mike Barnum, P.S.

2007 Retirees Honored

L.U. 456 (i&o), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—At our December meeting the 2007 retirees were honored and received IBEW gold watches for their longtime service. They are: Bruce Bachleda, John Banfield Jr., Charles "the Kid" Billy, Ramsey Davis, Edward Farrell, Frederick Hendricks, Raymond Nobel, Joseph Ostrowski, James Papp, Michael Ryan, Thomas Sofield, Varnel Swanger, Sergio Valazquez, Jeffrey Witt and Robert Stewart. Local 456 wishes the retirees a long, healthy retirement and appreciates their dedication to the union.

We also paid tribute to recently departed brothers with a moment of reflection at our meeting. Those who have completed their labors are: Bro. Christopher Curran and retired Bros. William Clausen, John Sorensen, Leroy Clausen, Richard Bakos, Henry Pietrucha, Richard Kiamie, Stephen Frazee, Edward Soporowski, David Orlovski and Michael Chencharick. Our brothers will be missed. They and their families are in our prayers.

Many classes are planned for 2008. Contact the hall for information on all classes.

Wayne Martiak, P.S.

New Members Sworn In

L.U. 488 (i&mt), BRIDGEPORT, CT—Pres. Michael D'Amico swore in 19 newly organized members at our November 2007 meeting. Our new members help fill the manpower needed for our jobs and they can now enjoy the benefits and rewards of being in the IBEW. With the efforts of Bus. Mgr. Peter Carroll, the local is growing and so will the market share.



Attending the Local 456 December 2007 meeting are, from left: Frank Vona, Bus. Mgr. Joseph Egan, Thomas Sofield, Joseph Lynn, Robert Stewart, Jeff Witt and Ramsey Davis.

Congratulations also to former Pres. Joseph Madar on his recent retirement. During over 40 years of service to the IBEW, Bro. Madar served the local as an Executive Board member, vice president, president and organizer. Local 488 wishes Bro. Madar a happy, well-deserved retirement.

Local 488 held its annual Christmas party Dec. 1. Children and grandchildren of our members and retirees had a great time and Santa handed out presents.

Anthony M. Soter, P.S.

OSHA 10 Safety Class

L.U. 508 (i,it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—Local 508 celebrated our annual family outing recently and it was wonderful to see our current members and retirees come together for an afternoon of fun and good food.

Work has been slow in our area. If you have the opportunity to take an OSHA 10 Safety class, please do so as it is becoming a requirement for employment in our plants. Our local is continually having journeyman upgrade classes; please contact the hall for dates. Since we have implemented the Small Works Initiative, our contractors have been employing our members on condos and housing work that we haven't done in 20 years. This type of work helps train our apprentices, CE and CW classifications and gives all of us valuable experience.

We look forward to a prosperous new year for all.

Judith U. Sheahan, P.S.

50-Year Members Honored

L.U. 518 (i,rts&spa), GLOBE, AZ—Congratulations to 50-year service award honorees: Joe Carrillo, Dewey Mawson, Neil Billingsley and Russ Harding. We had a lot of members in attendance for our pin ceremony. The proceeds from the Chinese auction, raffles and horseshoe tournaments were donated to the Gils County S.O.S. to help our servicemen and women.

Special thanks for this planned event go to: Larry Griffin, Denise Favaloro, George Mesa, Mark Casillas, Tony Mesa, Farrell Bolinger, Jim Hansen, Joe Witterman, Mike Magoon, Raymond Shepherd, Vito Favaloro and Arthur Ridenhour.



Local 518 Pres. Mark Casillas (left) congratulates 55-year member Joe Carrillo.

Work in the jurisdiction is good. We have unfilled calls every day. If interested, call the hall for information.

George Mesa, Exec. Brd.

'Extreme Makeover' Volunteers

L.U. 596 (i,o&u), CLARKSBURG, WV—ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" with host Ty Pennington came to Fairmont, WV, in early December 2007. With the help of several area contractors, including Local 596's F. K. Everest Inc. and approximately 30 union members, a new home was constructed for Richard and Angie Turner and their five children. The Turners were living in a 600 sq. ft. home. In its place now stands a 2,800 sq. ft. home, thanks to the hard work and donated time of these workers. Congratulations to all on a job well-done. The show is scheduled to air in late February or early March. Watch the IBEW Web site www.ibew.org for an update.

Congratulations to the graduating apprentice class of 2007: Adam Bachtel, Riff Hennen, Eric Howell, Brannon Jordan, Dan McGuffey, Adam Miller, Clint Moran, Ben Richardson and Mike Zinn.

Those retiring in 2007 were: Robert Chumney, Tom Daugherty, Carroll "Junior" Dean Jr., Joe Olexa and Gary Wilson. We thank these brothers for their years of service and wish them good luck in the years to come.

Homer B. Adams, P.S.

Disney Training Partnership

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Local 606, the JATC and Walt Disney World created a joint skills enhancement training venture to bring training to existing journeyman electricians on property. The training center was established for existing technicians to continually upgrade their skills. The class pictured in the accompanying photo was a Variable Frequency Drive class. The instructor is Juan Santos, a full-time JATC instructor.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.

Rekindling the Fire

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—Recent months were very busy at the local level.

The All Canada Progress Meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, took place in August 2007. Local 636 Bro. Drew McMacken won the International's Harley draw grand prize.

The 2007 golf tournament at Royal Ontario, Mississauga, was a huge success. Funds were raised for our chosen charity, the Ross Tilley Burn Unit, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. Thanks to all. Congratulations to the winning foursome: Harold Vance, Rob Mogus, Zeljko Gunja and Clarence Wells.

The Unit Chair Seminar in Mississauga at the Delta Meadowvale Inn was greatly successful. The theme, "Rekindling the Fire," renewed our resolve for our pursuits of social justice.

We will require honed skills and a fire in our bellies as we enter a period of mergers and amalgamations in our hydro utility industry; a period of government and private manipulation of the health industry as it applies to our hospitals and healthcare system; and geopolitical/economic pressures on our manufacturing sector. Please get involved, promote unionism.



Toronto Local 636 mourns the loss of Unit #3 member Ed Bell.

Visit our Web site www.ibewlocal636.com.

Robert N. Mogus, P.S.

Service Awards Presented

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ—On Oct. 27, 2007, we held our annual picnic and pin ceremony. There were rides for the kids, food, music and games for everyone. A highlight of the event was the pin ceremony.

Service pins were presented to 121 members, for 20 to 45 years of service. Twenty-eight members received 50-year pins; seven received 55-year pins; three received 60-year pins; and three received 65-year pins.

Bro. Clifton W. Shrewsbury was honored with a 70-year pin. Local 640 was chartered Jan. 17, 1924. Bro. Shrewsbury became a member in 1937, only 13 years after our local was chartered. We thank Clifton and all the pioneers of the trade for paving the road to our success. Thanks to all for your dedication to the IBEW and Local 640.

Frank Cissne, P.S.



Local 640 Bus. Mgr. Dean Wine (right) congratulates retired member Clifton W. Shrewsbury on his 70th anniversary with the IBEW.



Participating in a Local 606 JATC-Walt Disney World training class are, from left, front row, Louis Rose, Robert McCarron, Mark Wagner, Alisha Ospina, James Schagne and Steve Willingham; back row, Walter Diolosa, James Hime, Gregory Aplin, Jose Rosario-Silva, Gary Turner and Instructor Juan Santos.

Work Picture Improving

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—Our work picture is improving after a slow winter. New projects for 2008 include the new Salida high school and Oak Valley Hospital projects and three blast furnace remodels at Gallo Glass for Hamilton Dillon. Two out-of-jurisdiction signatory contractors have work at Modesto water treatment and Livingston waste water treatment.

After much wrangling, the new Fair-Play scoreboard at Chuck Hughes Stadium at my old alma mater, Thomas Downey High School, was purchased, installed and donated to Modesto City Schools by IBEW Local 684 and Collins Electric. May our presence be known through our community involvement. Thank you to Billy, Richard, Steve and Matt and everyone else who worked on this project.

2008 will see a monthly dues increase to \$35/month, and the hourly scale for inside journeyman wiremen under the Local 684 agreement increases to \$33.12 with a 40 cents increase on Health & Welfare and a 10 cent increase on Pension Part A. New dispatch procedure will be that after dispatch, members will now be able to call the job line to find out where the calls went to on the books.

Torrey Newton, P.S.

2008 Projects Coming Up

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—We have 53 members on Book 1. Michigan leads in U.S. unemployment at almost 8 percent. With projects taking time to start, it's been hard waiting for jobs to break. It doesn't help that it takes at least seven years from conception to up and running for a new coal plant and many factors can slow the process.

We have many projects to look forward to in the new year; these jobs will give our members the security we've been waiting for. Our CE/CW program is growing to help us achieve new work and fill future needs. We had a much needed CE/CW informational meeting in December 2007 explaining the new program. We thank neighboring locals for helping put our members to work. Many others had to work out of state in this slow time. Membership meetings have been well-attended with great participation, showing what makes a strong local. Our new bylaws and contract copies are available at the hall.

Congratulations to new JIW: Jeffery Huber, John Judge, Roger Moore, Drew Seifert, Brad Sprague, Casey Stoike, Jason Trudell, Larry Weber; and to residential wiremen Jeff Kehoe and Michael McIntosh!

Our condolences to the family of Russell Heistand, who passed away last year.

Tom Bartosek, P.S.

Large Projects Scheduled

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—IBEW System Council U-05, comprising Locals 51, 309, 649, 702 and 1306, reached an agreement with Ameren/CIPS, Ameren/IP and Ameren/CILCO. Following a vote the settlement was ratified.

We currently have 98 journeyman wiremen and eight apprentice wiremen on the out-of-work list. However, we have several large proposed projects in the future such as: Lively Grove, a 1,600 megawatt coal burner projected five-year project, on which dirt work is currently being done; a LaFarge Cement Plant \$400 million expansion, due to start spring 2008; a Dynege-Baldwin Energy Complex \$600 million, projected three-year scrubber project; and a Southern Illinois University-Carbondale new football stadium, along with renovations on the basketball arena;

We thank in advance our traveling brothers and sisters who will help our local during the staffing of these large projects.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 716 (em,i,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—Local 716 will celebrate its 96th anniversary on March 12, 2008.

The work situation in our jurisdiction tapered off a bit during the holidays but is expected to improve in the coming months. We have been able to work some travelers and we appreciate the jurisdictions that have put our members to work as well.

One Pension plan is doing great with improved benefits for our retirees, namely a 10 percent across the board increase in their benefit plus the addition of an extra check during the year. Our Medical plan is on solid ground for the coming year with no unforeseen increases in hourly cost. Medical, as you know, is a constant battle driven by claims.

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LOCAL LINES continued on page 16



Local 716 Pres. David Alley (left), Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Damon Sebren and Bus. Mgr. John E. Easton Jr.



Local 692 members working for Maryland Electric at the Bay Regional Medical Center project in Bay City, MI, from left: Dan Gottleber, Phil Bejcek, Bob Wakefield, Gabe Gransden, Grant Gehring, Jim Heimlich, Gary David, Al Haynes, Mike Walther, Eric Rauschert, Dennis Federspiel, Dave Fales, Terry Brandenburg, Brad Sprague, Howard Renigar, Jeff Wilcox, Chad French, Jeremy Kiley and Tim Rupp.



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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Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

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FROM THE OFFICERS

Getting on Board with The Green Revolution



Edwin D. Hill
International President

They're among the most pressing concerns of the 2008 election season: how do we stem the decline of the manufacturing sector and create good-paying jobs here at home and kick our dependence on foreign oil? All the Democratic presidential candidates and even some of the Republican ones have talked about their plans for investing in the green economy.

But while politicians have been making promises out on the campaign trail, the IBEW has been making renewable energy a reality. From building wind towers in Iowa, to wiring solar panels in Nevada, the IBEW is becoming known as the right choice when it comes to all aspects of green technology: solar, wind and bio-fuels.

The IBEW is well positioned to become the leading provider of renewable energy. Locals across North America are already training thousands of apprentices and journeymen in photovoltaic installation, while our signatory contractors are successfully bidding on new wind farms everywhere from Massachusetts to Texas.

We're on the verge of an energy revolution that could provide millions of jobs for our members and the next generation of electrical workers. But it's an opportunity that won't last long. While in some states we dominate the market share in green power and have active programs to train our members in the newest technologies, in other areas, we've barely made a dent.

If our locals are not training their members in renewable technology, if they are not known to federal, state and local politicians as the leaders in the field, if they are not aggressively going after this work, you can bet the nonunion contractors will. And as we know from our history, once we lose the work, it's an uphill climb to get it back.

The green energy revolution is well underway—we need to make sure every IBEW local is part of it. ■

The Race is On

As of this writing, the presidential primary season is running at full throttle, attracting great interest from people across the country who, to overuse the buzzword of the moment, are looking for change.

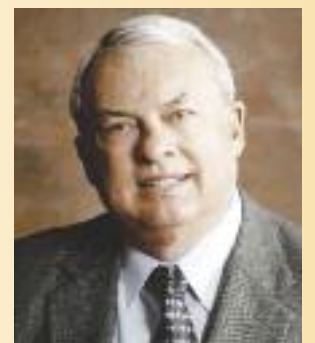
The next president will have a daunting list of problems to tackle. Health care costs continue to soar, sapping an increasing chunk of workers' paychecks even as an economic downturn descends. Our tax laws and trade agreements discourage business from expanding at home while good-paying, family-sustaining jobs die. While the domestic scene appears bleak, appeals for the reinvigoration of the country's middle class have never been louder.

Not in many years have the stars aligned to bring the concerns of our members to the lips of Democrats and Republicans seeking the highest office in the land. This season is an important opportunity for IBEW members to listen to the seekers and kick the tires of their policies and see how they match up with the interests of working families.

As President Hill has said before, we chose not to endorse a candidate because our internal polling suggests members' preferences are spread out among the front-runners.

When the dust has settled and the nominees are in place, we want to rally the vast majority of IBEW members in the United States behind one candidate for president and scores of candidates for Congress and state and local offices all of whom have one trait in common—putting the concerns of working people first. As we have reported, the IBEW is putting into place a grassroots political mobilization program the likes of which we have never seen, including intensive voter registration drives and direct appeals for volunteers to get people to the polls.

The challenges this country is facing are far too important to leave the work of campaigning to the next guy. So get ready. When the IBEW puts its grassroots program into motion, change will become more than a slogan. It will be our single-minded mission. ■



Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Debating the Presidency

Brother Katz says he wants a “fair and accurate” assessment of the political scene, but doesn’t seem to trust the I.O. for that assessment. Brother Katz, has it occurred to you that OUR elected officials in the IBEW are giving you a fair and accurate assessment? Personally, I put much more faith in the IBEW’s leadership than our nation’s president. Look, Bush has not done one thing to accommodate blue collar workers or labor unions since being elected. He has, however, started a war with a sovereign nation and awarded tax breaks to corporations that move American jobs overseas.

I do not pity President Bush because this nation was attacked, as you apparently do. I pity the victims, and I applaud the heroes that tried to do everything they could to make a difference. President Bush, however, made a half-hearted (at best) attempt to capture and prosecute those responsible, and then attacked another nation that had nothing to do with the attack. As far as our union supporting the president and his actions, I feel that would be contradictory to everything that we stand for. Are you saying that we should support his tax breaks to businesses that export our jobs? Or should we support his utterly failed foreign policy? America is great because individuals—or organizations like ours—can stand up to our elected officials and tell them they are wrong.

*Matthew Ruff
Local 379 member, Charlotte, N.C.*

Northern Memories

I read with great interest the article in the December issue of the *Electrical Worker* about the organizing efforts Business Agent Dennis Knebel on the island of Shemya [in Alaska’s Aleutian Islands]. In August of 1950 at the onset of the Korean War, we were airlifted in C-54’s from Tacoma, Washington, to Kadena Air Base in Japan. It was a 33-hour trip and one of our refueling bases was at Shemya. I had never witnessed such a remote area in my life. At that time, the tour of duty was only six months. After getting refueled, we were glad to be heading for Japan. Keep up the good work B.A. Knebel, as anyone stationed there deserves any union representation that it can receive.

*John Fessenden
Local 106 retiree, Jamestown, N.Y.*

The Electricians’ Creed

Last December, I had the honor of being presented with my 50-year pin as a member of the IBEW. One of the younger members told me he saw copy of my Electricians’ Creed taped to the lid of a gang box. I thought I’d pass it on to our brothers in the IBEW. “We are an inside and outside local. We don’t feel the heat; we don’t feel the cold. We sneer at pain and laugh death in the face. We’re ever cognizant of the fact that any man who is afraid to die is afraid to live. We live life to the fullest.” A man who works with his hands is a laborer. A laborer who has talent is a craftsman. A craftsman who loves his work is an artist. This is our goal. God Bless the U.S.A. and the IBEW.

*Jim Rider
Local 164 member, Jersey City, N.J.*

Remember the Hard Times

I see the future for union people is on very thin ice. If those of us who are union members don’t start actively recruiting the younger generations, we won’t have unions after a while. The younger generations have had it all handed to them on a silver platter and could not survive if hard times were to come. We have spoiled our children and if we don’t tell them about the hard times that created the unions they will be in the same position again in the future.

*Phyllis J. Berti
Local 111 member, Denver, Colo.*

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.

Who We Are

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

‘... And Recognition for All’ An IBEW Pioneer Looks Back

The 1946 International Convention of the IBEW was one of the union’s most historic.

On top of one of the most heated contests for International President in decades, the more than 1,800 delegates voted to drop the word male from the constitution, an important symbolic victory for women IBEW members.

One of the delegates pushing for the change—one of only three women voting on the floor—was a young member from Tampa, Fla., Glatys Harsin. The San Francisco convention proved to be only the beginning of a 60-year-career in the IBEW and the Florida labor movement for Harsin.

“All of her life, she has been working towards the best interests of the working women and men of our nation,” said J.G. Cain, former business manager of Tampa Local 915. Cain, a former president of the West Central Florida Federation of Labor, worked with Harsin at the federation, where she served as treasurer for more than 20 years.

The Florida labor movement agreed. Harsin, a former business manager and International Representative, was honored by the Florida AFL-CIO in 1996 as the first member of the Florida Labor Hall of Fame.

Now 91, she has donated the award to the IBEW museum as a way to recognize the contributions of women to the union’s history.

“She was one of the first woman labor leaders I can remember working with,” Cain said. “She would always tell it like it is. She had to step on some toes here and there, but everyone knew what she stood for and was respected for it.”

Born Glatys Dorsey in 1916, her family moved from Alabama to the Tampa area when she was nine. Graduating high school during the Great Depression, she found work in one of the few occupations open to women at the time: as a long-distance operator for Peninsular Telephone Co.

The IBEW started an organizing campaign at Peninsular in the fall of 1941, and Harsin joined in, becoming a member of Tampa Local 1285. She quickly became a local leader, serving as steward, as a member of the bargaining committee and business manager. At the same time she became a union leader, she met Harold Harsin, an Army bomber pilot stationed in Florida. They



Tampa, Fla., Local 824 member Glatys Harsin with the award that inducted her into the Florida Labor Hall of Fame.

were married in 1944, shortly before he shipped out to Europe near the end of World War II.

Tragedy soon struck. Harold’s bomber was shot down six weeks before Germany surrendered. His exact fate was unknown until 1949, when his remains were finally identified. He is buried along with 8,000 other U.S. service members at a cemetery in the Netherlands. A young Dutch couple who have corresponded regularly with Mrs. Harsin maintains the gravesite as a way to thank her husband for helping to liberate their country.

Harsin put her energy into building the union. In 1958, she was appointed International Representative in what was known at the time as the Telephone Operations Department. She serviced locals across the East Coast and Midwest, traveling as far as Montana.

In 1961, she returned to Florida just in time to help lead the merger of four telecommunication locals—including Local 1285—into Tampa Local 824. She served as financial secretary of the merged local until her retirement in 1973.

Harsin went on to serve as director of women’s activities for the state AFL-CIO and helped develop the federation’s political and legislative program. She worked closely with the state Democratic Party, serving as delegate to two national party conventions.

Harsin says she is particularly inspired by the number of women, minorities and young people involved in the Florida labor movement. Her advice to current IBEW members: “Stand together united, always fighting for a brighter and better life ahead and be willing to perform any tasks you ask of others. We will win our just dues and recognition for all.” ■

Local Lines

continued from page 13

To promote Local 716 we have activities such as the Saint Patrick's Day parade, as well as Habitat for Humanity and other community service projects, scheduled.

I wish to thank Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for taking the time to meet with us while campaigning in Houston. With upcoming elections rapidly approaching, we encourage all our members and their families to educate themselves on the candidates and make sure they vote!

John E. Easton Jr., B.M.

In Community Spotlight

L.U. 760 (i,lett,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Our Outside and Inside books continue to show our work outlook as positive. Keep an eye on two key Web sites for employment: www.ornl.gov and www.tva.gov.

Our community efforts include sharing the good news of electrical organized labor and the opportunities that IBEW Local 760 has to offer.

During the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) fair, hundreds of people visited our informational booth. At the recent Anderson County High School career day, questions on apprenticeships were answered and examples of electrical motor starting were shown. Bro. Larry Cole says about our efforts at the Blount County Job Fair held in the Foothills Mall: "People were lined up at our booth before the fair even started."

RADCON organizing efforts also continue with Frog Jones leading the way, while the idea of becoming an IBEW Local 760 member takes shape for those involved.

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

Step Up for Organizing!

L.U. 824 (t), TAMPA, FL—"Brothers and sisters, step up to the plate!" says Betty Berry, Membership Development Volunteer Committee (MDVC) coordinator for Local 824. Building the base of our organizing committee is a primary goal for our local.

We are currently focused on MasTec, the company that installs Direct TV in five area counties. Our MDVC members are "house calling," a one-on-one effort to educate MasTec employees on why a union is vital to their livelihood and what they can do to ensure their future with the IBEW. We are being assisted by Kathy Smith, International lead organizer, and Aaron VanDalen, International field organizer.

The work we are doing with MasTec is a real training ground for our MDVC, as we are tasked with building our organizing committee for future efforts, both internal and external. "The union was already there when I started with GTE, now Verizon, and the fighting had been done for us," Berry said. Unfortunately, as we know, the battle never ends. This one has only just begun.

Shauna Fulco, P.S.

ALBAT Instructor Retires

L.U. 876 (as,catv,govt,lett,o,t&u), GRAND RAPIDS, MI—Arthur D. Bingham recently retired from Great Lakes Energy, one of Local 876's largest cooperatives. Art became a Local 876 member in

1967 and served his apprenticeship through the American Line Builders Apprenticeship Training program. He went on honorary withdrawal in 1986 after accepting a management position with Great Lakes Energy. He was elected to the Local 876 Executive Board in 1980 and 1983. In 1980, he was selected as an ALBAT instructor and served in that capacity until his recent retirement.

Art has been a true friend of IBEW Local 876 and ALBAT as an instructor of outside line apprentices for 27 years. Together we congratulate Art and wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors. Bus. Mgr. Keith Sarns presented Art with a plaque from ALBAT in appreciation for his service. Also presented was a Local 876 trophy of a stainless winged eagle.

Robert W. Edmonds, R.S./P.S.



Local 876 Bus. Mgr. Keith Sarns (left) presents trophy to retiring ALBAT instructor Arthur D. Bingham.

Kudos to New Journeymen

L.U. 910 (i&rts), WATERTOWN, NY—Last spring our local gained 12 new journeymen who completed their five-year apprentice training.

Congratulations to our new journeymen: Larry Donie, Dennis Dumers, David Fleming, Jason Gamble, Brady Madill, James Simmons, Brad Batty, Luke Henry, Jean Laverdure, Dan Nesbitt, Jaelyn Trivilino and Nicholas Zagrodzki.

The Massena, NY, Solidarity Labor Day parade was well-attended last fall. Many members and retirees came out and enjoyed a day of camaraderie and refreshments. Our horse-drawn wagon float received third place. Please attend next year.

Our 2007 work picture was great. Large projects at Fort Drum, schools, colleges, windmills and industrial sites kept our members and travelers employed. Projects for 2008 look good.

IBEW service pins were awarded at our December 2007 regular meeting. Eligible recipients unable to attend received their pins in the mail. Fifty members received pins.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

Blast into 2008

L.U. 1116 (em,lett&u), TUCSON, AZ—We're looking at a busy year with officer elections in June and contract negotiations for our Trico Electric, Asplundh Tree and TEP members. Either we come together and support our union by getting involved, educated, proactive and unified, or we sit back and let others do all the work. Companies are always happy to see noninvolvement and division, which affect our wages, pensions, health care and job security. We can come together and fight smart, or we can watch it all go by the wayside because we were too busy or didn't want to get involved. If we do lose in any area, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.



Officers and some of the 2007 graduates attend Local 1288 graduation banquet. Front row, kneeling, from left, are graduates Henry Smith Jr., Donnie Mabone Sr. and Gerald Farmer. Standing, from left, are Jerry Collins, president, Memphis Light, Gas and Water; graduate Stacey Blakney; Local 1288 Bus. Mgr. Rick Thompson; graduates William Owen, Eric Davis, Benjamin Bennett; IBEW Int. Vice Pres. Robert P. Klein; graduates Michael Stewart, Anthony Holt, Jack Suggs, Eric Wherry, Terry Stuckey; and Local 1288 Pres. J.D. Cox.

There is strength in numbers, so let's start the year by organizing those nonunion co-workers around us—for our betterment and the future of our local. "Organize" is our buzzword and educating our membership is our commitment. We must show political leaders that working union is the wave of the future; craft workers add value to the bottom line of any company. Profit and bonuses are two words any business wants to hear; but quality craftsmanship is like money in the bank for years. Invest in a union worker.

R. Cavaletto, P.S.

1220 Carries the Ball

L.U. 1220 (rtb), CHICAGO, IL—In October, the IBEW 2007 Membership Development Conference in Atlanta featured a video of Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill at Chicago's Soldier Field. Pres. Hill used the Chicago Bears football team as a metaphor for the IBEW's organizing efforts in the past few years, which have increased our membership.

Local 1220 contractor Product Productions supplied support crew, which included Local 1220 member Caren Cosby as teleprompter operator (see photo). "No one was allowed on the field except President Hill," said Cosby. "The Bears' grounds personnel told us we would be escorted off the field if the crew went out of bounds."

"We planned our shots so we stayed in the sidelines," said Product Productions general manager Bennett Grossman. "With Caren, Steve Semkiw and Terry Shaughnessy, I knew we were not going to have any problems—and we didn't. The [IBEW Local] 134 electricians gave us plenty of power for our lights, though even they could not step on the field."

"Pres. Hill was—well, presidential, and down to earth," Cosby said. "When I asked for a picture he just said, 'Sure.'"



Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Chicago Local 1220 member Caren Cosby, teleprompter operator, at Soldier Field video shoot.

"Local 1220 thanks everyone who contributed to the production," said Bus. Mgr. Madeleine Monaco. "I especially enjoyed seeing our work for Pres. Hill in Atlanta on a big screen."

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

Memphis Graduates Honored

L.U. 1288 (u), MEMPHIS, TN—Local 1288 held an awards banquet Sept. 20, 2007, for apprentice graduates topping out in their respective programs. We were honored that Tenth District Int. Vice Pres. Robert P. Klein was able to attend.

These men worked hard to graduate and we are very proud of them. Journeyman lineman graduates are: Stacey Blakney, William Owen, Eric Davis, Benjamin Bennett, Michael Stewart, Anthony Holt, Jack Suggs, Eric Wherry, Derlon Brown, Gregory Brown, Gaspareni Dixon, William Dunlap, Anthony Harrison, Patrick Simmons, Brian Stimpson, Courtney Tally and Nicholas Wade. Journeyman cable splicer graduates are: Terry Stuckey, Henry Smith Jr., Donnie Mabone Sr., Gerald Farmer and Michael Pike. Journeyman transformer repairer graduates are: Phillip Miller, Kevin Moon and Stephen Smith.

Bill Hawkins, A.B.M.

Vice President Appointed

L.U. 1944 (t), PHILADELPHIA, PA—Congratulations to Sandra Thomas on her appointment by the Executive Board to fill the unexpired term for the office of vice president. Her appointment followed the resignation of the former vice president. Sandra has figuratively "jumped in" and she is getting her proverbial "feet wet" with early contract bargaining with Verizon that began at the end of November 2007.

Changes are being made across the state, some good and some not so good. On the plus side: Additional employees have been hired in the Altoona Directory Assistance office (part of the Erie Switch)—which handles calls for Verizon, T-Mobile, CenturyTel, and other smaller mobile carriers, as well as landline directory assistance for five mid-central states. And some not so good: The sale of the Upper Darby office, requiring current employees to transfer (if they want to stay with Verizon) to Philadelphia. Also, on Aug. 6, 2007, the Williamsport office was told of 54 jobs being lost due to AT&T moving the Toll Free Office to Connecticut.

George Greiner, P.S.