

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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Who We Are

IBEW, NECA Contractors Help Lead Nuclear Renaissance in New Mexico

The clanking rhythm of oil pumps ring out day and night in the small desert town of Eunice, N.M., bordering West Texas. Oil has been the town's bread and butter for decades.

But now Eunice is on its way to becoming one of the country's leading centers for the production of enriched uranium, a key nuclear fuel. It is the first civilian nuclear facility built in the United States in more than 30 years.

Construction of the facility has been proceeding under a unique alliance of the IBEW and three member companies of the National Electrical Contractors Association.

The \$1.5 billion National Enrichment Facility, which began construction last year, will enrich enough low-yield uranium to produce 5 percent of the nation's energy needs when the plant goes fully online in 2015. The United States now gets most of its enriched uranium from Europe and Russia.

Nuclear power hasn't seen much domestic growth since the last major oil crisis more than 30 years ago, but rising oil prices and concerns about global climate change have convinced many government and industry leaders to take a second look at the energy source.

More than 70 percent of the facility's planned uranium output over the next 10 years has already been sold to existing nuclear reactors and the soon-to-be increased supply of processed uranium is already sparking calls for the construction of new ones.

James Ferland, former president of Louisiana Energy Services, a nuclear power



Albuquerque Local 611 members on the site of the \$1.5 billion National Enrichment Facility in New Mexico. Clockwise from bottom center are Ralph Garcia, Pete Barrera, Brad McC Carson, Joseph Carl, Jonas Jaramillo, Ken Ziegler and Daniel Harbst.

consortium behind the facility, told the New York Times that the nuclear industry viewed the go-ahead for the plant's construction by federal and state officials as a bellwether for future nuclear construction.

"Nuclear power is an important energy source for our future so we need to make sure the IBEW and NECA are taking the lead in doing the work," said Albuquerque Local 611 Business Manager Chris Frentzel.

But in order to make sure the plant was built union, the IBEW and NECA contractors had to pool their collective resources to get it done.

The sheer size of the facility made it difficult for just one contractor to handle all the work. "The job would require a huge investment from the contractor—\$60 to \$80 million—and that ruled out most local people," said Linn Gamblin, construction coordinator for Rust Contractors, a management contractor hired by L.E.S. to supervise construction.

So three NECA contractors who originally bid on the job separately—Prime Electric, Rosendin Electric, and Budwine

Service Electric—were encouraged by the IBEW to combine their forces to create a joint company, Trico Power, LLC.

"The whole thing was looking like it would go nonunion before the contractors got together," said Seventh District Organizer Dick Wells.

According to Seventh District Vice President Jon Gardner, "an emphasis on building a partnership with the community, the customer, the contractors and Local 611 was a key factor in securing this project as a union job."

Another factor in helping the project go union was the IBEW's and NECA's ability to attract experienced and trained electricians to a remote area where skilled labor was in short supply.

The facility broke ground more than a year ago, and currently employs more than 100 IBEW members, with an additional 400 electricians needed soon. It is expected that it will take eight years for the plant to be fully completed, but the company hopes that it can start enriching uranium as early as next year. ■

Hundreds of New Members Pump Up Alberta Local

A coordinated organizing campaign by local unions from the shores of Newfoundland to the remote forests of Alberta has brought IBEW representation to over 400 electricians and opened up opportunities for hundreds more on Canada's oil sands project, the largest industrial venture in North America.

Combining organizing with rigorous legal and political challenges, Edmonton, Alberta, Local 424 defeated efforts of employers to lock hundreds of electricians, including "temporary workers" from other nations, into sweetheart contracts with the Christian Labour Association of Canada, a longtime union adversary. Founded in 1952 as an "alternative union" to the mainstream labor movement, CLAC has a history of involvement in right-wing, anti-labor activities. (See "The Bosses Favorite Union," *The Electrical Worker*, September 2007.)

"This was a landmark victory," says Local 424 Business Manager Tim Brower. "There is real excitement here in Alberta that will go a long way as more workers on the oil sands get a taste of IBEW unionism and solidarity."

The organizing campaign focused on Basilian and Berry Y&V, contractors with Canadian National Resources Ltd, one of the largest of a dozen oil companies developing the world's second largest oil reserve behind Saudi Arabia.

The projects involve clear-cutting forests and moving tons of earth to locations where oil can be extracted, or pumping steam into the

ground to heat the mixture of bitumen, a semi-solid form of crude oil to the surface. Most of the crude is transported to the U.S. for refining. (See "Immense Oil Sands Project Challenges Unions," *The Electrical Worker*, August 2007).

CNRL invited Basilian's parent company onto their site and encouraged the firm to recognize the CLAC, blocking any organizing by the Brotherhood.

Local 424 began organizing at the expiration of CLAC's contract during an open period mandated by the Alberta Labour Code that permits employees to decertify their bargaining relationship or replace their union with another.

Aided by travelers, mostly from Newfoundland and eastern Canada who constituted about 30 percent of the work force, Local 424 familiarized the work force with the superior features of Local 424's provincial

construction agreement. This resonated with workers who were already complaining about disparities between electricians in reimbursements for travel expenses and overtime pay.

In February, Local 424 filed petitions for representation elections at Basilian and Berry Y&V. Elections were held, but challenges from CLAC and the employers kept the ballot box sealed.

Local 424 reached a settlement with CNRL that made Brotherhood organizers who were fired during the campaign whole for their lost wages and travel expenses.

And the companies agreed to count the sealed ballots, and to recognize the IBEW if a majority of the workers voted to reject CLAC.

The vote at Basilian was 232 to 154 for the IBEW. At Berry Y&V, the IBEW was rejected by a vote of 140 to 103.

Under the settlement with CNRL, 400 electricians will cease employment with Basilian and begin working for a new signatory company, Northern Alberta Constructors Ltd. CNRL will recognize Local 424's provincial construction agreement, with a few modifications, until 2009 and avoid lengthy litigation between the parties.

Although IBEW did not prevail at Berry Y&V, the settlement and growing labor demand will provide many workers there the opportunity to move over to the new signatory firm.

"The eastern locals are truly great in Local 424's eyes for standing up throughout the campaign," says First District International Representative and Western Membership Development Representative Larry Schell. Local 424 Lead Organizer Al Brown and Organizers Eric Carpendale and Rod McVicar coordinated the campaign. ■

IBEW, CWA Reach Agreement With Verizon

Bargaining teams representing 65,000 IBEW and Communications Workers of America members reached a tentative three-year agreement with Verizon on Aug. 10, preserving healthcare benefits for current members and retirees, expanding organizing opportunities for the unions and providing wage increases.

The deal came a week after the parties stopped the clock at the expiration of their five-year contract. It followed an intense weekend of around-the-clock bargaining and came together only hours before a midnight strike deadline.

The new agreement provides a 10.5 percent wage increase over the life of the contract, preserves fully paid health care premiums for current members and retirees and, perhaps most important, extends an opportunity for more than 600 former MCI technicians currently employed by Verizon Business to become union members.

"It finally gets our foot in the door at Verizon Business," said Myles Calvey, business manager of Boston Local 2222 and Second District International Executive Council member. "Once other workers see the benefits that come with union membership, it's going to kickstart organizing there."

More than 100 of the new members in New England and New Jersey will be represented by the IBEW.

In all, the CWA represents 50,000 workers covered under the agreement and the IBEW represents 15,000.



Boston Local 2222 members celebrate a good agreement—and welcome new Verizon Business members—at the Aug. 12 ratification vote.

Bargaining, which began in earnest last spring, was preceded by large union rallies in major cities throughout the East Coast.

Just minutes before the previous contract was set to expire Aug 2, negotiators agreed to continue bargaining, finally coming to an agreement on Aug 10.

The pact must be ratified by members, but union leaders are confident that they will have their support. "The e-mails and calls I've received indicate that there is a lot of backing for the agreement," said East Windsor, N.J., Local 827 Business Manager John Miller. The local represents more than 7,000 Verizon workers.

The contract covers Verizon workers in 10 states in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic

but mobilization activities included Verizon union members companywide. "This contract sets the standard for everyone working at Verizon, so we made sure everyone was involved," said Telecommunications Department Director Martha Pultar.

Rising health care costs made medical benefits one of the top issues for the unions. Current member and retiree benefits remain untouched, but future hires will have a fixed dollar per year contribution by the company toward retiree medical coverage.

"What made it happen was the power that comes from the solidarity of more than 60,000 workers," Miller said.

Verizon also agreed to contribute \$2 million a year to a national health care reform initiative.

"We won a fair agreement," Miller said. "But bargaining on the next contract starts today. After almost a year of solidarity, the motivation of members remains high so I'm confident we can both defend what our union has won and keep the door open to nonunion workers at the company." ■

IBEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

COMING SOON TO A WALLET NEAR YOU

You know you're one of the best trained electrical workers anywhere in the world. You are a member of the IBEW.

Soon, you will have a new high-tech proof of membership.

Starting this fall, all IBEW members will receive membership cards. Keep an eye out for mail from the I.O.

North of 49°

Ontario Utility Members, Now Activists, Score Victory

Adeteriorating labor-management relationship broke apart in June when nearly 300 workers at Horizon Utilities in Ontario took to the picket lines. Members of Toronto Local 636 stood strong as the local waged a campaign to inform the surrounding community of their employer's lack of respect for the work force, since a 2005 merger between two unionized companies.

After three weeks on the picket line, a new agreement was approved by a 73-percent margin of the linemen, substation operators and customer service workers.

"For our members at Horizon, their time on the picket line transformed them from union allies to labor activists," says Rick Wacheski, business manager.

Horizon Utilities was formed in 2005, bringing together two utility companies, Hamilton and St. Catharines, which had separate collective bargaining agreements with Local 636, which has jurisdiction across the province of Ontario.

After the merger, the local union worked to harmonize benefits for workers at the new entity, but Horizon left many workers who perform the same duties with different pay rates. Disparities over both income security

for long-term illnesses and retiree health care benefits contributed to low morale.

Two years before the June 30 contract expiration, Wacheski invited company officials to join him in asking the Ministry of Labour for a relationship-building course. The curriculum, offered to all employers and unions in Ontario, has led to improvements at other IBEW-organized workplaces. Horizon declined.

On June 16, Local 636 presented an eleventh-hour tentative agreement to employees. While the agreement included some monetary improvements, members voted to reject the proposal because it still failed to address pay inequities.

The new agreement harmonizes more rates of pay, boosts wages in the first year of the contract and improves benefits.

The Horizon strike and settlement was widely covered in provincial newspapers and by workers in other bargaining units, including Guelph Hydro. That IBEW-organized utility—where the parties engaged in the province's relationship-building course—is in the process of merging with Horizon.

The Guelph Mercury newspaper provided regular coverage of the strike and questioned the decision by the Guelph board

of directors to consider merging with a utility that gives little credence to employee-management relations.

Ontario, once served by over 300 separate utility companies, now contains 85. Wacheski says that the provincial government wants to end up with only 10. The same process is taking place elsewhere in Canada.

A union bulletin distributed during the strike offers a warning to other companies that fail to properly weigh future mergers' impact on employees. "There are some things that money just can't buy," says the leaflet. "From our perspective, at the heart of this matter is the question of dignity, not dollars." ■



Members of Toronto Local 636 picket Horizon Utilities in June. The three-week strike helped resolve pay inequities between IBEW members employed by two merged utilities.

Les membres de la S.L. 636 sur les lignes de piquetage devant la société de services publics Horizon, en juin dernier. Cette grève de trois semaines a eu un heureux dénouement, alors que le problème des inéquités salariales pour les membres de la FIOE à l'emploi des deux sociétés de services publics fusionnées en 2005, a été résolu.

Au nord du 49° parallèle

Une victoire pour nos travailleurs des services publics, maintenant des militants syndicaux convaincus!

Les relations patronales-syndicales déjà tendues, ont été rompues au mois de juin dernier, lorsque 300 travailleurs à l'emploi de la société *Horizon Utilities* en Ontario ont décidé d'ériger des lignes de piquetage. Les membres de la section locale 636 sont restés fermes pendant que la section locale menait une campagne auprès de la communauté environnante visant à les informer du manque de respect démontré par l'employeur envers ses employés, depuis la fusion en 2005, de deux sociétés syndiquées.

Après trois semaines de grève, une nouvelle convention collective a finalement été ratifiée. Les monteurs de lignes, les opérateurs de sous-station ainsi que les préposés au service à la clientèle ont voté à 73% en faveur de l'offre patronale.

"Après toutes ces journées sur les lignes de piquetage, nos membres à l'emploi de la société Horizon sont devenus de vrais militants syndicaux" a déclaré le gérant d'affaires, Rick Wacheski.

La société *Horizon Utilities* a été créée

en 2005 suite à la fusion de deux sociétés de services publics, celles de Hamilton et de St. Catharines. Une convention collective de travail avait été négociée pour les employés de chacune de ces sociétés avec la section locale 636 dont la juridiction couvre la province de l'Ontario.

Après la fusion, la section locale a tenté d'ajuster les salaires et autres prestations pour tous les travailleurs regroupés sous la même bannière, mais *Horizon* a continué de rémunérer plusieurs employés—accomplissant les mêmes tâches—à des taux de salaires différents. Les disparités sur le plan de la sécurité du revenu dans les cas d'invalidité à long terme ainsi que sur les prestations aux retraités pour les soins de santé, ont sûrement contribué à miner le moral des employés.

Deux ans avant la date d'expiration du contrat [30 juin], le confrère Wacheski a invité la compagnie à présenter une requête conjointe au Ministère du travail afin de participer au programme offrant un cours sur la façon de bâtir de bonnes relations. Ce programme, offert

à tous les employeurs ainsi qu'aux syndicats de l'Ontario, a contribué à améliorer la situation pour d'autres compagnies syndiquées avec la FIOE. La société *Horizon* a refusé.

Après une négociation qui a duré onze heures, les représentants de la S.L. 636 ont soumis un projet de règlement à leurs membres. Malgré les gains salariaux obtenus, les membres ont rejeté l'offre car les problèmes concernant les iniquités salariales n'étaient toujours pas résolus.

La nouvelle convention collective prévoit des taux de salaire additionnels, des salaires plus élevés pour la première année du contrat ainsi que de meilleurs avantages sociaux.

La grève chez les employés de la société *Horizon*, ainsi que son règlement, ont défrayé les manchettes de plusieurs journaux de la province et intéressé les travailleurs d'autres unités de négociation, notamment chez Guelph Hydro. Cette société de services publics syndiquée avec la FIOE—dont les parties participent au cours offert en vue de bâtir de meilleures relations—est en train de

se fusionner à Horizon.

Le quotidien *Guelph Mercury* qui a assuré une couverture régulière de la grève, met en doute la décision du Conseil d'administration de Guelph de se joindre à une société qui accorde si peu de crédit à l'importance de bonnes relations entre employé et employeur.

L'Ontario qui, jadis, était desservie par plus de 300 compagnies de services publics n'en compte plus que 85. Selon le confrère Wacheski, le gouvernement désire réduire ce nombre à 10. Ce même processus va s'appliquer partout ailleurs au Canada.

Sur une brochure distribuée par le syndicat durant la grève, on pouvait lire un avertissement afin de sensibiliser les autres compagnies qui ne semblent pas préoccupées ou ne pensent pas aux conséquences d'une fusion éventuelle pour les employés: "Certaines choses ne s'achètent pas". "De notre point de vue, le cœur du problème n'est pas une question d'argent mais bien une question de dignité". ■

Transitions

Retired

Thomas A. McGreevy



First District International Representative Thomas A. McGreevy retired August 1 after a long IBEW career, including service as recording secretary and assistant business manager. He handled

maintenance agreements across Canada for the past 10 years.

"I'm very happy with my years of service to the IBEW," Brother McGreevy said. "Whether I was on a plane or in my car, I was eager to travel anywhere the Brotherhood needed me to go."

Born in Ottawa, McGreevy was initiated into Ottawa Local 586 in 1964. Hired as a journeyman inside wireman with Bedard & Girard Co., he went on to serve as recording secretary and on the executive board for the local from 1966 to 1968.

In 1980, McGreevy became chief steward at Ontario Hydro Thunder Bay generating station, one of the largest hydroelectric companies in North America. He transferred his card to Local 1788 (then located in Toronto) and went on to serve as assistant business manager of that local from 1982 to 1990.

The following year, International President J.J. Barry appointed McGreevy to the First District staff. He handled grievances and negotiated agreements for the General President's Maintenance Committee for Canada.

First tinkering with hot rod engines and drag racers as a teenager, he said he was always interested in "making things sound better or go faster." He began his apprenticeship upon graduation.

McGreevy is a member of the Knights of Columbus and has helped organize an IBEW multiple sclerosis charity golf tournament for the past 20 years.

McGreevy's family includes his wife, Stella, and their two daughters. He plans to spend more time riding his Harley-Davidson

motorcycle, playing golf and traveling.

The IBEW members, officers and staff wish Brother McGreevy a long and fulfilling retirement. ■

Retired

Paul G. Tremblay



First District International Representative Paul G. Tremblay retired January 1 following nearly four decades of service to the IBEW.

"It was an honor to work for the union,"

Tremblay said. "They gave me such an opportunity to help improve the lives of our members, and I strived to do my best for the Brotherhood."

Born in Sillenstede, Germany, his family moved to Montreal when he was a year old. Tremblay was initiated into Ottawa Local 2228 in 1969 and worked as an electronics technician for the Canadian Department of Transportation. While there, he served 15 years as chief shop steward and was a member of several safety committees.

Tremblay was appointed to the First District office in Quebec by International President J.J. Barry in 1990. He serviced government locals across Canada as chief negotiator.

"I tried to even the economic field for all the workers I represented," he said. "Everything they got through negotiations they deserved because of their hard work."

Tremblay is a member of the International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations. He plans to spend time engaged in civic activities in his retirement.

His family includes his wife, Gisèle, their four sons and two grandchildren. He looks forward to traveling and adding to his collection of vintage transportation posters.

The staff, members and officers of the IBEW thank Brother Tremblay for his service and wish him an enjoyable retirement. ■

Deceased

Robert Kaszubowski



Retired Third District International Representative Robert P. Kaszubowski died on July 16 in Clifton Park, N.J. He was 64.

Initiated into Buffalo, N.Y., Local 41 in 1963, Brother

Kaszubowski, a journeyman inside wireman, served as treasurer and assistant business

IBEW PHOTO & VIDEO CONTEST

Attention Photo & Video Buffs!

Photographs have the power to inspire and motivate. With improved technology and the rise of video on the Web, the ability to make moving pictures is accessible to many. We have expanded our photo contest this year to include video productions.

Also new with this year's contest is that the IBEW membership will pick the winners on www.ibew.org.

Keep an eye on future issues of the Electrical Worker and the Web site for the announcement of when the judging will begin.

See www.ibew.org/special/08PhotoContest.pdf for complete contest rules and entry forms.

manager before being named International Representative in 1987. At the time of his retirement in 2001, Kaszubowski was working as a construction organizer.

An engineering graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Kaszubowski served as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Seabees from 1969 to 1971. After his discharge, he studied labor-related subjects at the University of Buffalo and the George Meany Center for Labor Studies. He established Local 41's credit union, a federally-chartered institution with \$8 million of assets.

"Bob was laughed off the floor when he first proposed that our local go through the work to establish a credit union," says Local 41 President Michael Franey. Members didn't want anyone else taking care of their money. "But Kaszubowski pulled it off virtually single-handedly." In 1993, the local awarded Brother Kaszubowski a plaque for his efforts.

Coordinating multiple negotiating committees for the local, including nine years as chairman of the multi-union committee at Arcata Graphics, Kaszubowski also represented the IBEW as a delegate to conventions of the Buffalo State AFL-CIO, the Maritime Trades and the Building and Construction Trades Department.

A lifelong supporter of skilled worker training, Kaszubowski served as chairman of Erie County Community College's Vocational Educational Authority. He was also active in the American Legion.

Moving to New Jersey after his appointment to staff, Brother Kaszubowski assisted locals representing workers under the Service Contract Act at military installations in the state and helped negotiate a statewide telephone contract.

The officers and members of the IBEW extend our condolences to Brother Kaszubowski's wife, Mary Ann, and to his entire family. ■

Deceased

Ernest Swift



The IBEW regrets to announce that retired First District International Representative Ernest J. Swift died on June 20 at the age of 71.

Brother Swift was initiated into Toronto Local 353 in 1958. A

Toronto native, he was a graduate of Vaughan Road High School and the Provincial Institute of Trades. A six-year veteran of the Royal Canadian Navy Reserves, Swift's 40-year union career included serving two years as a shop steward and as assistant business manager from 1970 to 1976.

Previous to joining the IBEW, Swift served as a policeman for the Toronto Transit Commission.

He was active on the labour management, health and safety and pension committees and served as a member of the Toronto Building Trades Council.

In 1976 he was appointed International Representative, assigned to the staff of Vice President Kenneth G. Rose in the First District office. Responsible for servicing inside locals throughout Ontario, he also helped monitor jurisdictional disputes. He retired in 1998.

Swift's IBEW brothers and sisters spoke of his loyalty and commitment to the mission of the Brotherhood. He is also remembered for his lifelong love of his hometown professional hockey team, the Toronto Maple Leafs. "The Leafs have lost their greatest supporter, and the IBEW a loyal representative," said former First District Vice President Ken Woods.

The IBEW extends its deepest sympathy to his wife Margit and his family. ■

CORRECTION

In the August issue of the Electrical Worker, in the story "IBEW Helps Pennsylvania Contractor Get the Job Done Right," we mischaracterized the ownership of Proelectric, LLC. It is owned by Deborah Rinehart.

Local Lines

Election of Officers

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa, st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—The first weekend in June marked elections for local union offices. Thanks to all members who ran for office. Commitment such as this defines the members of this local. Likewise, thanks to election judge Bill Waterhouse and all election tellers for a fine job.

Officers elected are: Bus. Mgr. Steve Schoemehl, Pres. Tom George, Fin. Sec. Dennis Murphy, Vice Pres. Bob Muckler, Rec. Sec. John Kahrhoff, Treas. Dave Roth; Executive Board members Larry Bausola, Tony Buffa, Rob Dussold, Dave Mackay, Dave Sachse; and Examining Board members Mike Kinloch, Steve Muehling, and Dan Nilica. Congratulations and best of luck to the newly elected officers.

We mourn the following members' deaths: Mark Hartman, Russell Greathouse, George Gross, Charles Lacy Jr., Rudolph Sanzottera, Albert Walter Jr., William Hopson, Barbara Vogel, Morton Silverstein, George Smeehuyzen, Jerry McGee, Jack Schrader, William Groom, Raymond Oster, Edgar Neidel, Donald McQuay and George Weinberg.

Matt Gober, P.S.

KB Homes Gallery Shut Down

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—KB Homes recently moved from its Warner Center sales gallery after Local 11 members, including two retired members, pressured the homebuilder with a 12-foot inflatable rat. Potential buyers were reminded that KB Homes lowered its standards when the company allowed nonunion Helix Electric to perform work at the Ascent at Warner Center project. This problem-plagued wood structure had caught fire in an apparent welding accident that caused major damage. Thanks to all members who volunteered to support our organizing efforts and bring these and other concerns to the public's attention.

Faith-based and community groups often refer interested applicants to our apprenticeship program. EWMC volunteers mentor individuals the third Saturday of every month to help prepare applicants for the entrance exam and to impart life skills. Please contact Eric Brown if you are interested in sharing your knowledge and giving back to the community.

Construction accidents are preventable. If you see an unsafe condition where you work, please bring it to the attention of the person in charge. Safety on the job is everyone's responsibility.



Los Angeles Local 11 member Tom Tonavanik protests in front of the now-empty KB Homes sales gallery at Warner Center location.

We mourn the passing of retired member Ralph Norrington. Ralph joined Local 1 in 1955 and was a business rep and treasurer for many years. He will be missed.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

2008 JATC Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—On behalf of all Local 41 officers and members, congratulations to graduates of the NJATC apprenticeship class of 2008. Graduates this year included: Daniel Blatz, Abede DaCosta, Brian Duke, Charles Eashak, Steven Hess, David Jakubowski, Adam Janiga, Justin Kemp, David Maltby, Timothy Millar, Jay Pinkert, Dennis Reszka, Bradley Seibert, Rita Gay, Vereal Hill, Jason Matuszak, Matthew Pouthier, Edmund Domagala Jr., Justin Loebel, Daniel Santillo, Ryan Valentine and Daniel Witczak. As I stated at the graduation ceremony, graduates, you are all professionals. Remember to present and maintain a positive image of yourselves, your employer and your union and let everyone know that the IBEW is the right choice.

The upcoming November election is very important to labor and our country. We want our troops home safely and the rising cost of health care addressed. The Employee Free Choice Act allows employees to freely choose to form a union. Polls show that up to 57 million Americans would join a union if given a real choice. Americans also need trade reform to keep jobs here in our country. Please volunteer with your local COPE Committee and be active in this upcoming election and all future elections.

Anthony Coppola, B.M./F.S.

Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy Labor Day. We had our Local 47 election this summer. All incumbents were re-elected, many with no challengers: Bus. Mgr. Pat Lavin, Pres. Ron Delgado, Vice Pres. Jeff Flory, Rec. Sec. Dillie Farris, Treas. Roger Heldoorn; Executive Board members Ernie Lopez, Hipolito Tavarez, Dwight Morgan, John Baca, Mark Long, Richard Paul, Willie Rios, Arnold Trevino; Examining Board members Mike Hernandez, Trevor Kirkland and Arnold Trevino. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

Local 47 beat a second attempt by three other unions to decertify one of our underground contractors. The employees of A.M. Ortega voted 28-11 to remain IBEW.

Results of the Southern California Edison/IBEW Local 47 Lineman's Rodeo: 1st place journeymen's team—Steve Lekvold, Bryan Lee, Dan Ramirez; 1st place senior journeyman—Bruce Thompson, Dale Lorz, Kevin Best; 1st place apprentice—Robert Rocha; 1st place groundman—Randy White.

All are welcome to join us for our fifth annual Brotherhood Motorcycle Run on Sat., Sept. 27. Contact the hall for information. Proceeds will benefit injured workers and the United Service Organization (USO).

We mourn the passing of Ronald Lujan and Charles Clark. Our thoughts and prayers go to their families.

Stan Stosel, P.S.

'Show Union Pride'

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Hopefully on Labor Day 2008 union members take time to show their union pride. As IBEW members we are part of the labor movement that has protected the American way of life and will continue to do so as we work diligently to extend its opportunities to all working men and women.

The work scene for Local 51 members

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
(lpt) Lightning Protection Technicians	(u) Utility
(mt) Maintenance	(uow) Utility Office Workers
(mo) Maintenance and Operation	(ws) Warehouse and Supply
(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	

MGM Grand Hotel Project

L.U. 35 (i), HARTFORD, CT—Work in the area slowed down over the summer, but we expect it to pick up by late fall. The grand opening of the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino at Foxwoods was on schedule and our tradesmen's work was commended.

The 64th Annual Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference was held at the brand new union-built MGM Grand at Foxwoods Resort Casino on June 1-5.

At the conference, some of Local 35's military veterans (see photo) were recognized by Helmets to Hardhats for their volunteer work on the home of a returning veteran, Sgt. Barry Albert, who was injured in Iraq.

Thanks to Local 35 Executive Board members Thomas Cosgrove, Barry Greene and Scott Munson and Local 35 members for making our participation in the Hartford St. Patrick's Day parade a big success.

Bruce Silva, Pres./P.S.



At the Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference in June, several Local 35 military veterans were recognized by Helmets to Hardhats for their volunteerism. Shown from left are: third-year apprentice Rudolph Hardie Jr., who is active in the military; Bus. Mgr. John Sardo; Apprenticeship Training Dir. Brian Canny; and JATC graduates Michael Chew and Andrew Smith, both of whom are serving in the military.



Local 51 members on the job for Wright Tree Service, from left: Ron Jones, Ervin McCone, Keith Resch and Russ Doyle.

remains strong with journeyman linemen needed throughout the jurisdiction both for our signatory contractors and investor-owned utilities. Check out our manpower needs at the job board at www.ibew.org or by contacting the Local 51 office.

The annual Local 51 picnic is scheduled for Sept. 20 at Clinton Lake. Members are encouraged to bring their families and enjoy the festivities.

Congratulations to the following members on completing their apprenticeships and advancing to journeyman linemen: Jeff Behl, Chris Braden, Chuck Gilmore, Brad Kleckner, Scott Lane, Andrew Siemsen, Dave Sprinkle and Matt Walker.

Remember to work safe, give a good day's work for a good day's pay, and attend your union meetings.

Dan Pridemore, Pres.

Longtime Service



Local 57 Admin. Asst. Deanna Gill retired June 30.

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—On June 30, Local 57 Admin. Asst. Deanna Gill retired after 23 years of service. Former business manager Blaine A. Newman hired Deanna in 1985 as an administrative assistant. She was a former member of OPEIU Local 11 and joined the IBEW in 1986. Deanna is the

mother of five and has 11 grandchildren. She and her husband, Francis, plan to travel as much as possible and simply enjoy life together.

Local 57 officers, members and staff thank Deanna for her hard work and dedication to the local. She will be deeply missed. We extend heartfelt best wishes and congratulations to Deanna on her retirement.

Roberta Wilson, P.S.

Bus. Mgr. Sickles Retires



Local 71 former Bus Mgr./Fin. Sec. Wally Sickles retires from office.

L.U. 71 (lctt,o&rtb), COLUMBUS, OH—After 23 years, Bus. Mgr. Wally Sickles opted not to seek reelection and announced his retirement from that office. Over his tenure as business manager, Bro. Sickles served on a host of committees and chaired many of those committees. He served on the IBEW

International Executive Council from 1996-2001. Bro. Sickles maintained an influential voice among the labor community. Local 71 officers, members and staff thank him for his dedicated service to our union and the entire outside branch as well.

Bro. Patrick Grice was elected as our new business manager/financial secretary. Bro. Danny Harris was elected president and Larry Moore vice president. Bros. Nelson Duncan and John Crabtree were re-elected as recording secretary and treasurer, respectively. Bros. Jimmy Carmack, Billy Crabtree, David Sugerik, Eli Teague and Chip Curtis were elected to the Executive Board. We congratulate all officers and ask for the membership's support.

*James Carmack
Executive Board*

Andrew York Lineman Rodeo

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA—The 4th Annual Andrew York Lineman Rodeo was held June 21 in Wenatchee, WA. A somewhat cooler day provided relief from the typical heat of summer in central Washington for the 11 journeyman teams and 47 apprentices who participated. The day began with a traditional lineman flag-raising ceremony and quickly built from that touching event into an action packed day. The journeyman teams and numerous apprentice participants demonstrated their skills, some developing new skills as the day progressed. Thank you to everyone for all their dedication in making the rodeo entertaining and successful. This year the IBEW Local 77 annual picnic was held in conjunction with the Andrew York Lineman Rodeo. We will carry on this partnership for years to come.

We at Local 77 were proud to host the IBEW Ninth District Progress Meeting in August.



IBEW Local 77 linemen participate in flag raising ceremony at the 2008 Andrew York Lineman Rodeo. At top is Daryn Klinginsmith; below, Kyle Pennington (left) and Kole Pennington.



IBEW Local 111 members demonstrate their skills at the 2008 Public Service Company of Colorado Lineman's Rodeo.

Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Int. Sec.-Treas. Lindell K. Lee, Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey and representatives of all the IBEW local unions of the Northwest were in attendance.

David Wheeler, P.S.

Apprentices Graduate

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—The apprentice graduation was held June 5. Congratulations to the 140 graduating electrical apprentices, who advanced to journeyman wireman status, and the 16 telecom apprentice graduates, who advanced to technicians. The Charles A. McCarthy Memorial Award recipient was Patrick O'Connor. The William M. Swanson Memorial Award went to Andrew Campbell; Apprentice of the Year Award, electrical—Jacques Stiller; Telecom Award—David Rosenfeld; Industry Commitment Award—Denise Davis and Scott Johnson; and the Academic Award—Donna LaScaleia and David Rosenfeld.

The annual Dad's Day "Dollars Against Diabetes" held June 12-13 raised funds to benefit the Diabetes Research Institute. Local 103 has participated in this annual event for several years. To date, Local 103 and the Building Trades have raised millions of dollars nationwide. Thank you to all the members who volunteered.

At the Pin Night held June 17, some 376 members received service pins. Nearly 600 families and friends enjoyed the fun-filled evening. Congratulations also to the new apprentices sworn in that night.

Congratulations to Vice Pres. Mike Berry on his retirement. Mike served Local 103 for over 20 years and also was a fixture in Quincy politics, getting union-minded officials elected. We thank Mike for his service and wish him all the best.

Bill Molineaux, P.S.

PSCO Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—Congratulations to the Alamosa/Salida Team for winning first place in the Public Service Company of Colorado 2008 Lineman's Rodeo on June 14, with a score of 500. Team members were Casey Golden, Paul Harris and Greg King. The second-place team was "Team Trouble" with Patrick Kennedy, Ed Lensen and

Richard Kernan, with a score of 498. Top apprentice was Cody Nicholas, from the Boulder Service Center, with a score of 498. Second-place apprentice was Travis Landis, Trouble Department, with a score of 494. It is always a pleasure to witness our linemen exhibit their skills and speed at the PSCO Lineman's Rodeo.

Congratulations to our 2008 Vinc Perry-Ellis Scholarship winners. Five children of Local 111 members were awarded the \$1,500 scholarships this year. Winners are: Christopher Ely, son of Michael Ely, Unit 6A; Robin and Laura Newcome, daughters of Don Newcome, Unit 2; Kaley O'Connell, daughter of Don O'Connell, Unit 19A; and Erin Markley, daughter of Dave Markley, Unit 2. The winning essays are posted on the local's Web site at www.ibew111.com.

Stay safe and make sure you are registered to vote.

Dennis Z. LeTurgez, P.S.

Election of Officers

L.U. 125 (lctt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR—The success of our local is dependent on our members and the leadership of our elected officers. We are pleased to announce the results of our 2008 general election: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Travis Eri, Pres. Larry Browning, Vice Pres. Brian Williams, Rec. Sec. Ray Cowell and Treas. Doug Shaffer.

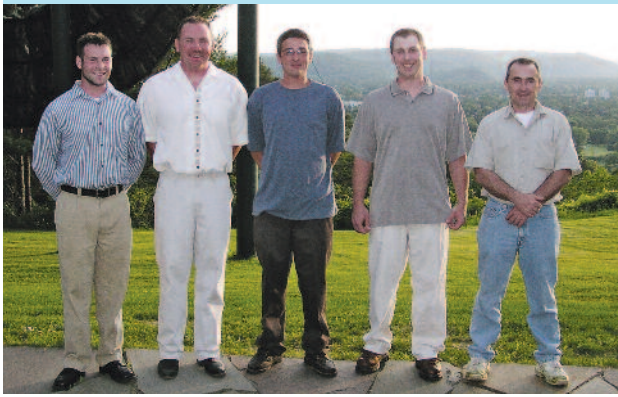
Elected to serve on the Executive Board were Troy Anderson, Joe Gass, Jim Sweet and Pat Winter; and on the Examining Board, Lee Cole, Ryan Hagel, Ron Rodgers, Gary Schwartz and Bill Young.

Thank you to all our members who participated in this important process. Congratulations and thank you to all of our elected officials, who have shown their commitment through their willingness to serve.

Marcy Putman, P.S.

New Journeyman Wiremen

L.U. 139 (i&u), ELMIRA, NY—Local 139 is proud to present our newest journeyman wiremen of 2008. The apprentice graduates are: Josh Benjamin, Jamie Boyles, Mike VanZile, Jim Kennedy and John Vogel. Jim Kennedy received the top grade average. Their hard work and sac-



Local 139's class of 2008 apprentice graduates are, from left: Josh Benjamin, Jamie Boyles, Mike VanZile, Jim Kennedy and John Vogel.

rifice was evident with their success in the classroom and their work ethic in the field. We have no doubt that these men will be leaders for the future of Local 139. Congratulations to all.

Ernie Hartman, P.S.

Officers Elected

L.U. 143 (em,i&spa), HARRISBURG, PA—On June 14, Local 143 held its election of officers. Elected were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Robert Bair, Pres. Kirby Artz, Vice Pres. John Moore, Rec. Sec. Thomas Porr and Treas. Jason Baney; Executive Board members James Neiswender, Steven Wolfe, John Hunt, Timothy Coy, Brian Weibley, Troy Woodward, Glenn Ellis; and Examining Board members Michael Reber, Daniel Berrier and David Primeau. Elected delegate to the International Convention was Eric Basehore. Congratulations to all and good luck in the upcoming term. (See photo below.)

We thank Robert Rhoades, Glenn Carnahan, Gary Yinger, Eric Basehore, Henry Bonson and Chad Kline for their years of service as officers of the local.

Graduating apprentices this year are Jeremy Anderson, Matthew Hoover, David Primeau, Matthew Reber, Kevin Roy and Lavan Zorn.

This is a very important election year, so everyone please remember to register and vote!

Mark Holder, P.S.

Sept. 20 Annual Picnic

L.U. 153 (em,i,rtb,rts,se,spa&st), SOUTH BEND, IN—Congratulations to Local 153 retired member Bill Haase Jr., who received his 50-year service pin, presented by Asst. Bus. Mgr. Bill Haase III, at the April union meeting.

Bro. Terry Sarul was awarded a distinguished service award at the July union meeting. We all appreciate Terry's dedicated service.

Congratulations to the newest apprenticeship graduates. These new journeyman inside



Local 153 retired member Bill Haase Jr. (right) receives his 50-year service award presented by his son Asst. Bus. Mgr. Bill Haase III.

wiremen are: Josh Asmus, Robbie Britton, Jeffrey Burdick, Frank Emery Jr., Ryan Ganser, Ethan Grubert, Frank Hanks III, Ron Hein III, Anthony Herrman, Erick Humes, Robert Klein II, Anthony Lubelski, Brian Perry, David Ross, Patrick Vankirk and Bryan Weisser. Robert Klein was selected as the 2008 outstanding apprentice, and Josh Asmus received the 2008 academic achievement award.

Local 153's work picture continues to slowly improve. Many projects are beginning and several more are in the planning and conceptual stages.

The Local 153 annual picnic will be held at Potawatomi Park in South Bend on Sept. 20, from noon to 5 p.m. Plan to attend and enjoy the day with family and friends.

Please visit the "new and improved" Local 153 Web site at www.ibew153.com. We will continue to strive to make our Web site a useful source of information for our members and interested visitors.

Corey D. Noland, P.S.

Apprentices Volunteer

L.U. 163 (ees&i), WILKES-BARRE, PA—Apprentices donated their time to several community service projects during the past year, including the new anthracite coal mining exhibit at the Wyoming Valley Historical Society. Cavanaugh Electrical Contracting donated materials and tools for the mining exhibit project. Apprentices also wired a Habitat for Humanity house and participated in the Letter Carriers' food drive. (See photo.)

We are proud of our apprentices for the help they give and the positive attitudes they reflect within our community. Through their efforts and



Among the Local 197 members who volunteered to help light the traveling Vietnam War Memorial Wall were, from left: Gary Eichelberger, Dale Glasscock, Ken McLean, Steve Rousey and Jeff Pillow.



IBEW Local 163 apprentices lend a hand for a Letter Carriers' food drive.

hard work, we can see a bright future.

IBEW Third District and NECA co-sponsored an Industry Night on June 5. Participating locals included 163, 81 and 375. Third District Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel as well as Int. Reps. Randy Kieffer and Keenan Eagan attended. A highlight of the event was Alli Owens, driver of the Electrifying Careers.com race car, who was on hand to sign autographs and take pictures.

On Saturday, June 7, IBEW and NECA sponsored a day at the Pocono ARCA 200 at Pocono Raceway. In attendance for an exciting race were IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel, NECA reps, newly organized members and contractors.

John T. Nadolny, P.S./Tr. Dir.

Campaign Season

L.U. 193 (i,lett,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Elections results at Local 193 are as follows: Bus. Mgr. Dave Burns, Pres. Steve Antonacci, Vice Pres. Tom Schafer, Rec. Sec. Susan Solon, Treas. Rick Shereda; E-Board members George Moore, Mike Carver and Jason Ruggless. Congratulations and best wishes.

The approved bylaws change paved the way for the new hall and training center. An architect is hired, and planning and design are ongoing.

The local's picnic was held July 12 at Knight's Recreation Park. Everyone had a great time.

At this writing, Local 193's softball team was scheduled to play in the 2008 IBEW State Tourney on Aug. 9-10. Last year the Local 193 team placed fourth! They are accepting donations for uniforms. Contact team captain Mike Lautemann for details.

Please note the passing of Bros. Jim Moore, Arnold Kochman, Don Judd and Mo Woodrum. We will all miss them.

At press time we were looking forward to the annual Labor Day picnic/parade on Sept. 1. This sacred day traditionally kicks off the fall Illinois campaign season. Please register to vote and support labor-sponsored candidates. Everyone will remember, come November.

Don Hudson, P.S.

Volunteers Light Memorial Wall

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—Recently our community was privileged to have the traveling Vietnam War Memorial Wall come to town. We were pleased to honor veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Some of our members and retirees volunteered their time to provide temporary power and lightning for the event.

We thank our volunteers: Gary Eichelberger, Lance Reece, Dale Glasscock, Steve Rousey, Jeff Pillow, Chris Arbuckle, Clint Miller, Terri Spencer, Dave Ashenbrenner, Bill Pillow, Bob Branom, Jack Roberts, Dan Wissmiller, Duke Durham, Bob Sipes, Norm Phillips, and Ken McLean. Some brothers from IBEW Local 51 also helped out. Thanks to Tim Baker, Brian Felker and Randy Walters, who gave up double time on a Sunday to volunteer. Ken McLean headed the project and did an outstanding job.

Congratulations to recently elected Local 197 officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Lance Reece, Pres. Richard Veitengruber, Vice Pres. Derek Bauer, Rec. Sec. Angie Miller, Treas. Terri Spencer; Executive Board members Dave Ashenbrenner, Keith Ashenbrenner, Brian Graves, Greg Potter, Mike Raikes, Steve Rousey and Bill Swindle. Thanks to Frank Kuhns, Ken McLean, Bernie Usczienski and Mark Schweitzer for their professionalism and dedication to our local as prior officers. They all decided not to run for re-election.

Take pride in your union, be active and attend the meetings.

Mike Raikes, P.S.

Support for Proposed Project

L.U. 223 (em,govt&i), BROCKTON, MA—With the presidential election approaching, it is critical that we do not have another four years of Republican policies. We need to elect a Democratic president and Democratic legislators who will pass the Employee Free Choice Act. This legislation will allow workers the freedom to join unions that they do not now have.

A proposed movie studio has secured land in Plymouth, MA. This project will be a tremendous boost for the local with 14 sound stages and back lots. We will need support to make sure that this proposal makes it through the permitting process and receives approvals this fall.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of Local 223. We wish them much success and look forward to working together for the future. Also, thanks to all the former officers for their service to the local.

Dave Fenton, A.B.M.

Co-Op Contract Ratified

L.U. 231 (i,rtb,spa&u), SIOUX CITY, IA—Our local held elections in June. Officers elected are: Bus. Mgr./Fin.Sec. James Kavanaugh, Pres. Thomas Zeman, Vice Pres. Andrew



IBEW Local 143 newly elected officers, from left: Executive Board members John Hunt and Steven Wolfe; Examining Board member Michael Reber; Executive Board member Brian Weibley; Examining Board member Daniel Berrier; Treas. Jason Baney; Pres. Kirby Artz; Executive Board members Troy Woodward and Timothy Coy; Bus. Mgr. Robert Bair; Executive Board member Glenn Ellis; Vice Pres. John Moore; Executive Board member James Neiswender; Rec. Sec. Thomas Porr; Examining Board member David Primeau; and I.O. Convention Delegate Eric Basehore.



Among recently elected Local 231 officers are, from left: Vice Pres. Andrew Garlinghouse, Pres. Thomas Zeman, Rec. Sec. James Shook, Executive Board members David Hobbs and Daniel Reynolds, and Bus. Mgr./ Fin. Sec. James Kavanaugh.

Garlinghouse, Rec. Sec. James Shook. Treas. Ronald Grimsley; Executive Board members Gerald Grimsley, Troy Gross, David Hobbs, James McCluskey, Daniel Reynolds, Shawn Winter; and Examining Board members Mark Nicolls and Duane Wanamaker. Congratulations to all those elected. We also thank all members who ran for an office. Their interest in representing this local is greatly appreciated.

Journeyman wireman Steve Dirks went back for a second tour of duty in Iraq in May. He was there in 2005 and 2006. We all wish him well.

Work has been good in our jurisdiction. We have had several ethanol plants keeping many of our members, as well as travelers, working for over a year.

Fourteen new apprentices started working for local contractors this summer.

Negotiations with Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative in LeMars, IA, recently were settled, and a three-year contract was ratified.

Debby Spencer, P.S.

Labor Votes Count

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—Make history or be history. We the working men and women of this country have a chance to make history this fall by electing the first person of African-American descent as president of the United States. On the other hand if we elect his opponent in this crucial race, we the middle-class people of this country may become history (a thing of the past). If we continue the Republican leadership with their failed economic policies, tax breaks for the rich and big-business mentality, there will not be much left. Those failed policies would further drive the country to a land of rich and poor. So please register and vote in this very important election and make sure you tell others to do the same. Don't get hung up on hot button issues. Look at the platforms of the candidates, at their voting track record on labor and labor issues. Just remember, make history or possibly be history. It is your choice. Our votes do count.

On the local scene, we will take nominations for union officers at the September union meeting. This will be your opportunity to get more involved with your union and let your voice be heard.

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.

Members Update Skills

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—As summer turns the corner, hopefully the work picture will also. Members have used their downtime wisely, updating their skills through code update classes, OSHA 30-hour training classes and a new course on basic rigging and knot tying.

Members once again rolled up their sleeves for another successful blood drive. About 60 units were collected and sent to our community hospitals.

We welcome back Local 269 member Kristina Soloman Davenport as she returns home from serving in Iraq.



Local 269 Bro. Dave Archer (left) observes as Instructor Mark Waladkewicz teaches the bowline knot.

A new opportunity presented itself to our members this year. We will be helping wire a new home being constructed for Andy Robinson, a U.S. Marine who was severely injured by a roadside bomb while on his second tour of duty in Iraq. Members interested in helping may contact Local 269 Executive Board member John Tenzer.

D. Brian Proctor, P.S.

Nomination of Officers

L.U. 349 (em,i,mps,rtb,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—In May we held our nomination of officers. The officers ran unopposed. Congratulations to all for a job well-done.

We also congratulate the new officers of the Florida Keys Co-op.

In June at our Florida Electrical Workers Association and 2008 IBEW Fifth District Progress Meeting, Local 349 Bus. Mgr. Bill Riley gave introductions for the meeting. Paul Alessi Jr., a 50-plus year member of Local 349, gave the invocation. Paul's son Mark Alessi is also a Local 349 journeyman wireman. We thank Locals 759, 728 and 359 for their help in the hospitality room. Special thanks to Locals 359 and 349 for the clean-up assistance.

In June we had 37 apprentices turn out to journeyman classification. Congratulations to all.

Please remember our troops overseas; we hope for their speedy return.

Our local meetings are getting a little thin. Remember to attend your union meetings. Participation makes our union strong. It's your future, so support your local union and its events.

Frank Albury, P.S./Exec. Brd.

Apprentices Excel

L.U. 359 (u), MIAMI, FL—The DJAC at the Training Center offers many classes with various training levels for journeyman linemen, cable splicers and meter men; other classes are being developed.

The Turkey Point Nuclear Plant had its first graduating class of the Nuclear Maintenance Pilot Apprenticeship Program held recently at



Among those attending the University of Louisville Labor Management Award ceremony are: IBEW Local 369 Bus. Mgr. William Finn (third from right), Local 369 Bus. Rep. Charlie Essex (fifth from right, back row), IBEW Int. Rep. Terry Luckett (fourth from right, back row), Local 369 Bus. Rep. John Morrison Jr. (seventh from right, back row), Greater Louisville Building and Construction Trades Pres. Joseph Wise III (center, holding trophy), Kentucky State AFL-CIO Pres. William Londrigan (fourth from left), and other Greater Louisville Building and Construction Trades Council members.

Miami-Dade College. Those graduates will enter their third year of training in the plant with much mentor training from the journeymen they will work with. Material for training demos is being developed for fields including nuclear mechanic, I&C specialist/digital, or plant electrician. Union instructors who teach at the TMC location and those involved with the nuclear program who teach at the college are commended for their work developing training material.

Local 359 was one of the locals that helped sponsor the 2008 IBEW Fifth District Progress Meeting in Miami Beach. We thank all the IBEW sponsor locals and all members who assisted.

Congratulations to recently elected Local 359 officers, Executive Board members and delegates to System Council meetings.

Attendance at monthly meetings has increased. As workers and union members, we need to get involved in upcoming November elections. Make sure you are registered to vote. Help elect candidates who support working families. Be informed on the issues and help with phone bank calls and door to door canvassing.

Steve Flynn, F.S.

Annual Golf Outing

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—We held our annual golf outing on May 17 at the Lochmore & Kutchers golf courses. We began with lunch at 11 a.m. followed by a scramble format at 1 p.m. The outing was successful with 170 golfers and many sponsors. Special thanks go to Bus. Mgr. John Maraia and the Golf Committee including Matt, Larry and Chad Beairsto, Tony Fuller, Mike Grainger and Scott Taylor. Of course we could not have done it without our sponsorships and donations. Thank you to all the contractors, retired and active members and other construction trades that supported our outing.

Timothy Poulin, P.S.

UPS Worldport Project Awarded

L.U. 369 (em,es,i,lctt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), LOUISVILLE, KY—The Greater Louisville Building and Construction Trades Council, in conjunction with United Parcel Service, won the coveted 15th annual University of Louisville Labor Management Award for the project labor agreement implemented at the UPS Worldport expansion. Worldport is the worldwide air hub for UPS, located at the Louisville International Airport.

Approximately 300 Local 369 members and eight or nine electrical contractors are currently working on the Worldport project as of this writing. The \$1 billion project began in 2006 and the first two phases are scheduled for a 2010 completion date.

This is the first time in the history of the University's award that a PLA project was chosen for the award. With the construction trade, it's here today and gone tomorrow; we are not always around for the accolades divvied out at a job's completion. Our hard hats are off to all the men and women who tolerated the conditions and put their best foot forward to let the University, UPS and the world know that the Greater Louisville Building and Construction Trades can do what it takes to get the job done.

John E. Morrison Jr., P.S.

Graduates and Officers

L.U. 413 (em&i), SANTA BARBARA, CA—The spirit of pride and brotherhood is alive and well among our 2008 graduating inside apprenticeship class (see photo). Aaron Holtgrewe was named the outstanding graduate and Tim Gallant received our Dedication Award. The future of our industry is in excellent hands!

The following newly elected Local 413 officers were sworn in on July 17 at the general membership meeting: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Chuck



Local 413 proudly celebrates the 2008 graduation of apprentices. Front row, from left, are graduates Aaron Holtgrewe, Linc Reed and Lloyd Taylor; back row, Sammy Fernandez, Tim Gallant, Bob Anderson, Chad McGray, Justin Sherwood and Adam Vega.

Huddleston, Pres. Joseph M. Furino, Vice Pres. Mark Jacobsen, Rec. Sec. David Poorbaugh, Treas. John E. Smith; Executive Board members Jack Dally, Rockie Ginter, Joseph Paquet, Beau Ray; and Examining Board members Brian Gregory and Tim Bennett.

*Chuck Huddleston, B.M.
Brian Gregory, Tr. Dir.*

'Start! Heart Walk'

L.U. 441 (as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA—The members, officers and staff of Local 441 and our families are walking in this year's 28th annual Orange County "Start! Heart Walk" on Sept. 14. The event is a fund-raiser for the American Heart Association.

We are raising critical dollars for heart disease and stroke research and education to help fight our nation's No.1 and No. 3 killers. Local 441 chose this charity as one of our volunteer activities this year. Our team captains for this event are Richard Vasquez, Doug Chappell, Richard Samaniego, Ernie Oviedo and Doug Mangione. Supervising the captains is Rick Cruzen, team leader. These members not only lead by joining in the walk, but also are in charge of raising funds for the AHA.

Join other Local 441 members and their families at the Irvine Spectrum on Sept. 14. The walk starts between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. This year's event will include the 5-K route, a health expo, food and educational booths, Kid's Zone, the Kid's Fun Run, the Survivor Café, live music and other entertainment.

Steve Igoe, P.S.

'Be IBEW Strong'

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—Being a member of the IBEW has its privileges, such as representation on the job; the strength of many to obtain a fair wage with health benefits and build a pension; opportunities to keep up in training with new industry developments and technologies; and best of all, being a part of a brotherhood that is bigger than you.

Along with privileges come responsibilities. We, as members of the IBEW, are the IBEW. As the IBEW, we need to attend our local union meetings, get involved with the workings of our own local, attend with our families the many union social events, and encourage others to join us.

Be IBEW strong, support and elect candidates who will help working people.

Congratulations on their retirement to: Robert Chadwick, Michael Lott, Leonard Higley, and Norman Hayball. We wish them all the best.

We offer our condolences to the family of retired member Lavelle Sheppard, who passed away.

See you at the next union meeting, brothers and sisters.

Laurie Watters, R.S.

Steward Training Session

L.U. 459 (ees,em,govt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—The local held a full day of training for our stewards. Topics discussed included issues such as the importance of greeting new members on the job site and providing correct information about the IBEW. Other topics included the grievance process and COPE involvement. The local received good feedback from members as to what can be done to better serve them.



IBEW Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel (at podium) speaks at a Local 459 steward training session.

Guest speakers also were invited to provide points of interest. Int. Rep. James Schlosser discussed the importance of and the difference between "A" and "BA" memberships.

Next, we were honored to have Third District Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel address the session. He discussed the importance of the upcoming presidential election and how some voters in central Pennsylvania need to focus on how candidates vote on labor and middle-class issues. He emphasized the need to move beyond the divisions of the past.

The local's labor attorney, Marianne Oliver, also gave an interesting talk with a question-and-answer session.

Many thanks to Bus. Rep. Robert Ashbaugh, who spent much time putting the training session together.

Kenneth L. Richards, Pres./A.B.M.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 465 (lctt&u), SAN DIEGO, CA—Local 465 is saddened by the death of four of our active members: Bro. Grant Valentine of San Diego Gas & Electric, Bro. Frank Womack and Sister Sherry Drew of San Diego Trolley, and Bro. Jo Garza of Asplundh Tree. Please join us in expressing our condolences to their families.

We are currently in negotiations with SDG&E, San Diego Transit and Imperial Irrigation District. Negotiations are set later for Asplundh and Davey Tree. We recently signed an agreement with VSI for the contractors to install remote-read meters across the utility.

Organizing our IID property is our No. 1 goal as membership has increased from 40 to 300. Thanks to our organizing committee in the Imperial Valley for their efforts.

A special welcome goes to our new members at the Imperial Court, who ratified their first agreement in May.

John C. Hunter, B.M./F.S.



Local 557 members protest Kroger stores' use of low-paid construction workers. Picketing, from left, are: Richard Marker, James Thiel, Floyd Wildman, Darlene Meyer and Dan Alcock.

Accident Prevention

L.U. 531 (i), LAPORTE, IN—It seems that more critical accidents are happening from multimeters, an everyday tool that all electricians use. Upon examination, "meter failure" was listed as the cause. However, why did the meter fail?

User errors would include: wrong settings (ohm scale when testing voltage); wrong "cat area" application; wrong probe socket used (amps instead of volts); wrong use of product (such as switching settings under power); and wear and tear examination.

Close examination of the devices involved in these accidents indicated that many of these products did not have traditional internal protection. In most cases it appears that although the initial fault itself did not cause the injury to the user, the meter had introduced the fault directly into the system being tested. As a result, a dead short was initiated right at the test probes ends.

Could the answer be using fused leads with all multimeters? Fused leads are being tested now to see if they truly would protect the user from any or all of the five most common user errors.

Meter manufacturers say they do not need fused leads because their product is safe. But is personal injury worth the risk? Electrical inspectors across the nation are promoting fused leads to the people. Fused leads are worth using. It's better to be safe than sorry.

J. Switzer, P.S.

November Elections

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Summer is a relief from our cold winters, but also brings flood waters mid-country and wild fires in the West. I think of the flood victims, knowing their loss.

Industry nights with our contractors have involved meeting people who are considering joining our work force. The Kroger Company has kept unions busy over the years, but now Kessel is dislocating union people, taking back the stores and

recently giving work to lower paid electricians. So, we picket! Organizing has many tools and we are using them.

November elections are near. Congress needs to represent people who care about the environment and the nation's infrastructure, and to support prevailing wage jobs and enforcement. We need a president who does not continue a war in the wrong places, who promotes peace and makes alliances so if terrorism occurs the world gets involved. We need to elect people who will speak for working families who are losing their homes, incomes and health care. Are we better off with Republicans charting the course for most of the past decade? At least vote; many have sacrificed for your privilege.

John E. Clemens, P.S.

'Christmas in April' Volunteers

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—This year's "Christmas in April" (Rebuilding Together San Diego) event was a tremendous success, thanks to the more than 125 IBEW Local 569 members who continue to support this important event every year. The event was led by Asst. Bus. Mgr. Johnny Simpson and Organizer Danny Machain.

The goal of the program is to provide home repairs to low-income families, seniors and disabled individuals who own their own home, at no cost to the owners. Because of age, fixed income or disability, the owners are unable to manage home repairs themselves. Chula Vista Electric, Baker Electric, Dynalectric, Morrow Meadows Corp. and Southland Electric donated use of their service vehicles.

The volunteer contingent was so large that a number of members were able to take part in a precinct walk for the very important San Diego 7th District City Council race of Marti Emerald. Marti is a pro-labor candidate, and would be the 'swing vote' on the City Council. Thanks again to all the volunteers!

Nicholas Segura, Pres.



San Diego Local 569 members volunteer for "Christmas in April" 2008 community service project.

Wage Allocation and Election

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i&st), DUBLIN, CA—We have full employment this summer after a slow winter and spring. Our future work picture looks bright. We thank IBEW travelers who helped staff our school jobs.

We are gearing up for the presidential campaign of our lives. We have an opportunity for big things for labor and working people when we elect Sen. Obama as president. Union members can make this happen. Answer the call when asked!

We completed allocation of our wage increase and held Local 595 elections. Some new, enthusiastic members are in place to continue our local's exciting work. Past Executive Board member Bob Tieman is now president. Dave Thoni is vice president. Sean Kyle and Juan Guerrero Jr. left the Examining Board and are now new Executive Board members, joining four re-elected incumbents. Past vice president Clark Denning is now on the Examining Board, along with a new, young journeyman, Jason Gumataotao. New and re-elected officers will together lead Local 595 forward. They will support Bus. Mgr. Victor Uno, who ran unopposed for his third term as our fine leader. Bus. Mgr. Uno, his staff and fellow officers look forward to meeting challenges ahead and advancing our local. Thanks to the election judge and tellers.

Local 595 joined a big labor-wide Midnight March through Oakland to support union members whose labor contracts were expiring. We sent a powerful message to employers that all labor stands in solidarity for working people.

Tom Mullarkey, B.R.



Local 595 members let their voices be heard as they cast their votes.

2008 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Congratulations to Local 611's newest journeyman wiremen. The recent apprentice graduates are: Michael Apodaca Jr., Jeremy Bauer, James Boles, Randall Brodessa, Joshua Chaves, Richard Dryden, Donny Foster, Joseph Xavier Fuka, Christopher Gallegos, Adrian Mariah, Rick Martinez, Loren Medley, Gabino Morantes, Preciliano Naraiz, Kenneth Ortiz, Lester Ortiz, Jason Romero, Paul Ronquillo, Travis Tucker and Jonathan Valdez. Welcome, guys.

2008 Apprentice of the Year is Peter Lohberger. This year's C.S. Mitchell Award recipient



Local 611 congratulates recent apprenticeship graduates and welcomes all aboard as journeyman wiremen.

is Logan Wilson. Donny Foster received a perfect attendance award. Our apprenticeship program adopted a day-school schedule, which enables apprentices to break out about six months early.

Reminder: Be sure to vote in the November presidential election.

Recently elected Local 611 officers: Bus. Mgr. Chris Frentzel, Pres. Carl Condit, Vice Pres. Antonio Cruz, Rec. Sec. Ron Chandler, Treas. Adolph Chavez; Executive Board members Lloyd Beebe, Matt Bodine, Matthew Bustos, Shannon Fitzgerald, Robert Porter, Pablo Sedillo, Guillermo Trujillo; and Examining Board members Dennis Carriere, David Griego, Charles Kennedy, Jose Martinez Jr. and Eugene Romero.

Condolences to the families of our members who recently passed away: Cecil W. Kreidler, Joe D. Gherardini, Eliseo Martinez, James W. Callender, Thomas Dan Highfill, Don Cash, William "Bill" Farless, E.J. Brockman, Gerald J. Goncz, Gerald D. Britt and John Michael Mobley.

Darrell Blair, P.S.

Union Posters & Radio Spots

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Congratulations to members who recently completed their apprenticeship program and received their certificate of qualification with red seal: Bros. Sheldon MacDonald, Patrick Hammond, Ken MacKenzie, Andrew Jotcham and Wade McIssaac.

Our local put over 450 30-second messages on six radio stations around the Province. We also put 12 posters on public transportation buses in the Halifax area. The message is aimed at nonunion electricians who earn less than they are worth. These electrical workers hurt not only themselves and their families but all of us in the industry. Hopefully the message will get through that the IBEW has been the right choice for over 100 years.

Job fairs aimed at fourth-year apprentices finishing their apprenticeship have had good results. These young journeymen and -women are the future of the industry and have become a high priority for organizing.

Congratulations also to Norm Sawler on his retirement from the local. We wish him a happy retirement.

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of Bro. Ian MacDonald. Ian, who retired in



Local 625 Bros. Everett Delahunt, Greg Cornect, Greg Durno, Howard Smith, Craig MacDonald, Aaron Little, and John Cameron (at front) gather at the Stewiacke school job site in Nova Scotia. Not pictured is Bro. Jeff Lewis.



Local 725 apprentice graduates of 2008 wear COMET T-shirts to show solidarity. Front row, from left, fifth-year Instructor Don S. Jenkins, Todd Wirey, Jonathan Haskell, Harold Maesch, Brent Tomey, Chad Waldon, William Aydelotte; middle row, Ty Deckard, Raymond Franko, Donald Dixon, Sr., Jason Caswell, Randall Russell, Robert Morris, Joshua Wallace; and back row, Matthew Parker, Alexander Reeves, Nicholas Surber, Ryan Tindall, Clifford Kinkade, Joshua Hatfield and Anthony Guevara.

August 2006, died in the hospital on July 17, 2008. He was 57. Ian was always quick to volunteer for committees, job stewards, helping out at meetings, charity events, picnics, etc. He will be greatly missed by all.

Tom Griffiths, Pres.

Union Events Successful

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Summer started with the annual Armed Forces Day Ride on May 17. The event was co-chaired by Dennis Mullen and Bill Davies.

The blood drive held May 22 was co-chaired by Dan George and Malcolm Griffin. The drive surpassed their goal of 33 pints. The annual Chuck Bland Fish Fry was held June 6. It was chaired by Jim Laemmle. Thanks to all committee members for a job well-done, and thanks to everyone who participated to help make these events a success.

Congratulations to our newest journeymen who successfully completed the apprenticeship program. It is a challenging five-year program, but well worth the effort.

On June 12, local union elections were held. Elected were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Mario Ciardelli, Pres. Dennis Nicodemus, Vice Pres. Rick Deime, Rec. Sec. Jim Henry, Treas. Kenny Dean; Executive Board members Mark Laemmle, Dan George, Joe Biser, Jerry Lang, Doug Stewart, Tom Kollmer; and Examining Board members Mike McNeeley, Robin Casey and Dave Dudley. The local appreciates the officers' dedication of time and service.

Please make sure your dues are paid; your family depends on you.

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

Election of Officers

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—In June Local 697 elected our leadership to serve for a three-year term. Officers elected are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Ray Kasmak, Pres. Larry Slagle II, Vice Pres. Patrick Bailey, Rec. Sec. Micah Schantz and Treas. David Beanblossom. Elected to the Executive Board are: Paul Anderson, Brian Flannery, Charles Miller, Curt Lesnick and Herb Hippie. Elected to the Examining Board: Brandon Fritzsche, Tim Juergens and Doug Meeer. Chosen as delegates to the Indiana State AFL-CIO Convention are: Curt Lesnick and Daniel Waldrop. Delegates to the Indiana State Building and Construction Trades Convention will be Curt Lesnick and Randy Palmateer. We congratulate our newly elected leaders and give them our support and prayers for the responsibility before them.

Celebrate this Labor Day in thankfulness for the many blessings we enjoy.

David A. Soderquist, P.S.

Updated COMET Class

L.U. 725 (i,rts&spa), TERRE HAUTE, IN—Training continues on the updated COMET class. To date, we have taught 77 members about organizing, market share, union density and its impact on our collective bargaining agreements.

We welcomed 20 new inside journeyman wiremen from the graduating class of 2008 in May. The Outstanding Apprentice was Raymond Franko. Congratulations to all graduates on a great achievement. For attending COMET class, they received COMET T-shirts. (See photo).

Recently, Int. Rep. David Ruhmkorff presented the Code of Excellence to the union officers. On their recommendation, our union body voted to endorse the Code of Excellence on a job-by-job basis. We are proud to have taken a proactive position in securing more work and proving that we are the best.

Bus. Mgr. R. Todd Thacker graduated from the National Labor College with a bachelor's degree in Union Leadership and Administration this June. Organizer Tom Szymanski completed his master's degree in Labor Studies in September 2007 from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Finally, at a newly chartered Jobs With Justice chapter in South Central Indiana, our local union was one of the first unions to become a supporting member and will be on the Steering Committee.

Tom Szymanski, P.S.

Volunteer Organizer Committee

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Local 915 is implementing the Volunteer Organizer Committee called the Local 915 "5 Percent Club." Organizing activities include: identifying nonunion contractors who are hiring, referring nonunion electricians to local union organizers, and identifying nonunion job sites.

The most exciting one for us right now involves Tampa Bay's professional baseball team, the Tampa Bay Rays. The team has put into motion a plan to build a new, state-of-the-art, outdoor waterfront stadium. Team executives have been in negotiations with the building trades unions to build this stadium using union labor. However, there has been strong opposition to the stadium plan. Union members were called on to show support for union job creation and members responded overwhelmingly. The following brothers volunteered when asked: Stan Lenas, Daniel Marrero, Kevin Ozment, Roberto Rosa, Jeff Williams, John Lacey, Casey Loftus, Brian Young, Jon Dehmel, Michael Slicker, Robert Ray, Erich Halen, Jeff Steinbach, Greg Roberson, Chad Purdy, Mario Passanisi, Marcus Sherrod, Scott Nangle, Todd Correa, Justin Martin, Gabe Smiles, Joe Farrow, Dolph Sharpe, John Rourke and Darrell Cuendet. Contact the office to see how you can help Local 915 grow.

Theresa King, P.S.

Flood Recovery Efforts

L.U. 965 (em.govt&u), MADISON, WI—Flooding in June has devastated many parts of our local's service territory. Our hats are off to all our members who have exerted an extraordinary effort to assist in the recovery.

The local's new Retirees Club is now up and running and we wish them much success in their future endeavors.

A recent favorable decision in our health benefit lawsuit on behalf of our retirees has denied Alliant Energy's request of a dismissal of the case.

IBEW business managers throughout Wisconsin voted unanimous support for Wisconsin Power & Light's planned construction of a 300-megawatt coal and renewable fuel power plant in Cassville, WI, while WP&L commits to construct and operate this plant with union labor.

A motorcycle Solidarity Ride from several locations in the state kicked off festivities for the local's annual summer picnic. A pig roast, raffles for charity, donations for the local food pantry, temporary tattoos and games for the kids, a plethora of prizes, good food, cold beverages and excellent weather all ensured a great day of fun and solidarity.

The local's Legislative Committee strongly urges everyone to learn the facts, get involved and help support those candidates for public office who support working families.

Kurt Roberts, P.S.

Campaign Efforts in Full Swing

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o&u), LONG ISLAND, NY—Our Governmental Affairs Committee is in full swing preparing for the November elections. Throughout the year the committee is active educating the membership and elected officials, monitoring legislation, and interviewing candidates for political office. This year we have welcomed to our union hall U.S. Rep. Steve Israel, then-New York State Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, all nine of Long Island's New York state senators, numerous local officials, and the IBEW's chief lobbyist for New York state.

At these meetings we conveyed labor's message to our elected officials. As men and women of labor it is imperative that we elect and support those candidates who know, understand and support labor's issues. We cannot always afford to support labor-friendly candidates financially, but we can provide our services. As in the past we will be staffing phone banks and distributing campaign literature. The Governmental Affairs Committee asks each member to donate four hours of their time a year.

On behalf of Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand, I wish to congratulate the committee for hosting our annual golf tournament. Thanks to them all for their hard work and dedication.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

'Whistleblowers' Honored

L.U. 1245 (catv,em.govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—Four Local 1245 "whistleblowers" were honored at Pacific Gas & Electric's annual shareholders meeting for their efforts to expose serious shortcomings in PG&E's natural gas infrastructure.

Individual union members had tried to confront local management with the problem, and had raised concerns at previous shareholder meetings. But only when members banded together to make a united appearance at the 2007 shareholders meeting did they get management's attention. The

problems they exposed—including falsification of data by supervisors—led to a company investigation and eventual dismissal of several supervisors and the area director's departure. IBEW members honored by PG&E Chmn. Peter Darbee were Jim Findley, Vince Zinkl, Steve Segale and Mike Scafani, along with Wayne Welsh of Engineers and Scientists, IFPTE Local 20.

In other news, the local kicked off bargaining with PG&E on June 6. Full-scale bargaining on the Physical and Benefits Agreements are slated to begin around Labor Day. The Clerical Agreement runs for two more years, with wages pegged to the outcome of Physical Agreement negotiations.

Members at Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative ratified a new agreement that enhances medical coverage for retirees.

The Local 1245 Safety Committee is launching a "Near Miss" feature on the union's Web site, where members are encouraged to submit "near misses" experienced in the field so others may learn from the experiences. The Web site address is www.ibew1245.com.

Members ratified new agreements with line clearance tree trimming contractor Davey Tree, and with tree contractors Mountain Enterprises and Family Tree.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.

Code Update/Industry Event

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—Congratulations to our JATC class of 2008. Their graduation ceremony was June 13 at the Holiday Inn in Waterville. Brandon Craft will attend the National Training Institute in August as our Outstanding Apprentice of the Year.

Our annual picnic will be held Sept. 13 at Yonder Hills Campground in Skowhegan. We invite all to attend this family event.

A code update/industry event will be held Sept. 20 and 21 at United Technologies Center in Bangor. The event will be complete with food, trade vendors and contractor representatives. Members and nonmembers are urged to attend.

Hollywood Slots opened its new Bangor facility to the public on July 1. Thanks to all who made this a successful Code of Excellence project.

With regret we report the passing of three retired brothers this spring. We extend our sympathies to the families of Alex Fidalgo, Les Spencer and Bob Williams. Each left his mark on the local and the industry and will be missed by all.

Bro. Rick Pedley was seriously burned as the result of a propane explosion. In his final act, he tried to save his companion Linda from the fire. Rick passed away on July 5. Linda is still undergoing treatment. The families of both are in our prayers.

William Gifford, P.S.



Local 1253 member Rick Pedley passed away July 5, 2008.

NRG Energy Contract

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Local 1307 recently ratified a new four-year contract with NRG Energy. The contract includes general wage increases of 3.2 percent for each year of the contract. There are also changes in the administration of the pension plan and changes in the 401(k) plan. Language changes were made to fall more in line with today's operation of the plants. The negotiating committee consisted of Pres. David Adkins, Vice Pres. Lindley Hudson, E-Board member Andy Genga and members David Long, Roy Bunting, Bill Swift and Larry Fisher. Thanks for a job well-done.

Congratulations to Bros. James Insley, Tom Cleary and Jeron Duffy, who retired in February. Bro. Insley retired after 36 years with Delmarva Power. He began work as a laborer at Vienna Power Plant, held numerous posts and transferred to Salisbury as a substation tech. He retired as a senior substation technician.

Bro. Cleary began at Delmarva Power in 1976 as a journeyman lineman in the Cambridge District, advanced to lead lineman and was a senior lineman instructor. He retired as a trouble serviceman.

Bro. Jeron Duffy started as a meter reader in the Rehoboth District for Delmarva Power in 1973. He worked as a district utility man since 1991.

Best wishes for a happy retirement, brothers.

E.D. Sparks, F.S.

Labor Leads the Way

L.U. 1357 (t), HONOLULU, HI—Local 1357 recently entered into contract negotiations with Hawaiian Telecom. Local 1357 Bus. Mgr. Scot Long, IBEW Ninth District Int. Rep. Harold Dias, Local 1357 Pres. Ted Furukado and the bargaining team have been busy preparing for what is expected to be difficult negotiations.

Int. Rep. Dias and Local 1357 Rep./Registrar Andie Kahakui recently returned from registrar training in Los Angeles. They will be working on such key initiatives as membership participation, voter registration, absentee balloting and maximizing educational efforts for our members. This is the year labor must take back the White House.

Our plates are full! Local 1357 Rep./Organizer Kimi Koge continues to focus on organizing, while also helping raise funds for our scholarship program. Sister Koge and Local 1357 Pres. Thomas Grogan spearheaded our Labor Day Scholarship Golf Tournament, held Aug. 30 at Makaha Resort and Golf Club. This is a day when education and politics converge for a great cause.

Congratulations to Ariel Keanini, recipient of a \$1,000 Local 1357 scholarship. Ariel is the daughter of Unit 7-Molokai Recorder and communications technician Kelvin Keanini. Ariel is a student at BYU-Hawaii.

Karenann Wedge, P.S.

Union Brotherhood

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—It's wonderful that our members make new friends among themselves and stay friends over the years. The brotherhood that the union brings is amazing. Members keep in touch with each other after working hours and even into retirement. The accompanying photo shows some of our members at a barbecue in Hollywood Beach, FL, in 1993.

Bro. John "Yank" Yanczewski, recently passed away and he will be missed.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.

'Leading by Example'

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—We are pleased to report that we have our first female substation journeyman at our parent company, Westar Energy. Rachel White-McQuillan's career started in the phone center and from there she transferred to Newton, KS, as a line clerk. Subsequently, she bid on a substation apprenticeship. Rachel has not only excelled in her career with Local 1523, she also has earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in business administration. Rachel managed to do all this as a single parent. Being of Native American descent makes it even more important to her to lead by example. And that she has. Congratulations on your new journeyman status, Rachael.

Keep your eyes open for our new 1523 Web site, which we are working on. Informed members are the key to success.

We extend condolences to the family of Brook Robinson, who passed away suddenly on May 14. Brook was a member of Local 1523 since October 1994. He came up the ranks from first-year service helper and became a journeyman lineman. In 2001 he became a service operator. Brook was the type of guy who would help anybody. He will be missed.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

Alaska Officers Elected

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—IBEW Local 1547 recently held statewide elections of officers. Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Larry Bell was re-elected in a three-way contest. "I'm honored that our membership has shown trust in my administration to chart the course of our local union for another three years. My top priority is to ensure that our members remain safe and secure on the job," Bell said.

North Pole resident Knute Anderson was elected to his sixth consecutive term as president. "Our members are pleased with the way our union is being run," Anderson said. Also elected to three-year terms: Vice Pres. Danny Gillette; Sec. Laura Bonner, Anchorage; and Treas. Charlie Breitenstein, Anchorage. Elected to Executive Board Unit Seats 101-104: Cecil Colley III, Tom Minder, Brett Allio and Jay Rhodes. Elected to the Examining Board: Curtis Dunham, James Gengler, Chris Harmon and Dennis Olson; and Examining Board at-large—Cache Carr.

Bus. Rep. and journeyman cable splicer Doug Mills retired after 37 years of active Local 1547 membership. He was business agent at the Anchorage hall since 2002. Local 1547 wishes Bro. Mills a happy retirement.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

LOCAL LINES continued on page 16



Baltimore, MD, Local 1501 members enjoy a barbecue in Hollywood Beach, FL. From left, back row, E. Meyers, T. Roche, J. Cain, K. Green, D. Verzier, and P. Pham; front row, the late John "Yank" Yanczewski and Jerry Brady.

Annual Funding Notice for National Electrical Benefit Fund

Introduction

This notice, which federal law requires all multiemployer plans to send annually, includes important information about the funding level of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, Plan 001, Employer Identification Number (EIN) 53-0181657 (Plan). This notice also includes information about rules governing insolvent plans and benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), a federal agency. This notice is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2007 (Plan Year).

Plan's Funding Level

The Plan's "funded current liability percentage" for the Plan Year was 67.37%. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. The funded current liability percentage, however, is not indicative of how well a plan will be funded in the future or if it terminates. Whether this percentage will increase or decrease over time depends on a number of factors, including how the plan's investments perform, what assumptions the plan makes about rates of return, whether employer contributions to the fund increase or decline, and whether benefits payments from the fund increase or decline.

Plan's Financial Information

The market value of the Plan's assets as of January 1, 2007 was \$11,398,630,966. The total amount of benefit payments for the Plan Year was \$723,737,488. The ratio of assets to benefit payments is 15.75. This ratio suggests that the Plan's assets could provide for approximately 15.75 years of benefit payments in annual amounts equal to what was paid out in the Plan Year. However, the ratio does not take into account future changes in total benefit payments or plan assets.

Rules Governing Insolvent Plans

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

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

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

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

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

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

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

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

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

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

Where to Get More Information

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

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

Calculation of Plan's Funding Level Is Misleading

Please be aware that the Trustees believe the information set forth in the preceding Annual Funding Notice is not an accurate reflection of the NEBF's actual funding status. Of particular note is the fact that the 67.37 "funded current liability percentage" figure in the section of the Notice entitled, "Plan's Funding Level," is misleading. In computing this figure, IRS rules mandate that plans such as NEBF use a very conservative 5.78% interest rate assumption (i.e., expected average annual investment return) and very general actuarial assumptions (mortality rates) that do not in many cases (such as here) match a particular plan's actual experience. If, however, the "funded current liability percentage" calculation assumed a 7.00% estimated average annual rate of return (which, according to the NEBF's investment advisors and actuaries is more than reasonable given its current asset mix) and mortality rates modeled on the actual experience of NEBF participants—figures the NEBF's actuaries actually use in accordance with federal law to prepare the actuarial valuation for the NEBF's Form 5500 annual report—the resulting figure would tell a starkly different story. Use of these more realistic assumptions would result in a much healthier funded percentage of 90.88%. The bottom line is that you can be assured that the Trustees believe there is very little risk of the NEBF becoming under-funded, let alone "financially troubled" or "insolvent," in the near or distant future.

2007 Summary Annual Report for the National Electrical Benefit Fund

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Benefit Fund, #53-0181657, for the year ended December 31, 2007. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were \$782,762,299. These expenses included \$59,024,811 in administrative expenses and \$723,737,488 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 497,272 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$11,857,581,409 as of December 31, 2007, compared to \$11,398,630,966 as of January 1, 2007. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$458,950,443. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depre-

ciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$1,241,712,742, including employer contributions of \$433,032,368, gains of \$161,926,048 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$635,963,445, and other income of \$10,790,881.

Minimum Funding Standards

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

Your Rights to Additional Information

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

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

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

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, (301) 556-4300. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$34.25 for the full annual report, or \$.25 per page for any part thereof.

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

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

Notice to Participants in the National Electrical Annuity Plan

Explanation of Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit

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

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

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

Elections/Consents

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

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

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

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

Lump Sum

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

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

2007 Summary Annual Report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan, #52-6132372, for the year ended December 31, 2007. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were \$95,132,049. These expenses included \$8,984,197 in administrative expenses and \$86,147,852 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 79,139 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$2,570,508,001 as of December 31, 2007, compared to \$2,271,474,132 as of January 1, 2007. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$299,033,869. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$394,165,918, including employer contributions of \$231,130,691, gains of \$25,425,242 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$136,624,375, and other income of \$985,610.

Minimum Funding Standards

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

Your Rights to Additional Information

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

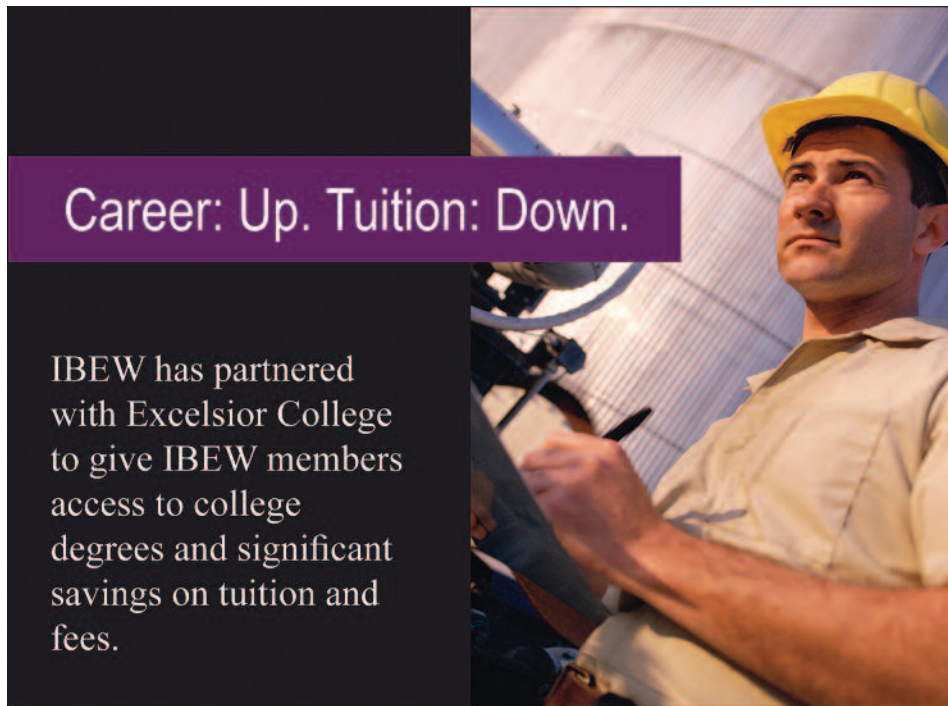
- an accountant's report;

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

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Trustees of the National Electrical Annuity Plan, who are the plan administrators, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, (301) 556-4300. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$11.75 for the full annual report, or \$.25 per page for any part thereof.

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

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Career: Up. Tuition: Down.

IBEW has partnered with Excelsior College to give IBEW members access to college degrees and significant savings on tuition and fees.

College is more affordable than ever for all IBEW members.

IBEW members may transfer in credits already earned at other accredited colleges and universities, credit for evaluated industry training, such as NJATC and NUAP, and ACE-evaluated military training.

Start today.
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ibew.excelsior.edu
OR
To speak to an admissions
counselor, call us toll free at:
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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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Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

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Alex Hogan

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James H. Jones

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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

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

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FROM THE OFFICERS**What's At Stake in 2008**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Amidst all the noise coming from beltway talking heads, the importance of this year's election is best summed up by one of our own members: "My livelihood – my family, my house, my job, everything I've ever worked for – depends on this election."

The facts are clear: the last eight years have been a disaster for working families.

But in 2008 we have an opportunity to start anew. From Alaska to Mississippi, there are talented and inspiring pro-working family candidates running for everything from the state house to the U.S. Senate, candidates who have vowed to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, defend Social Security and our pensions and invest in creating good jobs here at home. And nationally there is the candidacy of Sen.

Barack Obama, who has made his commitment to a working family agenda clear.

Our Brotherhood was founded on the principle of nonpartisanship, welcoming Democrats, Republicans and independents equally, and we always made it clear that how you vote is your own personal decision.

So I have no intention of telling you who to vote for, but as an officer of this union I do have the responsibility to educate our members on the issues that are important to the future of our union and working families – such as workers' rights, fair trade, health care, and protecting our retirement – and make sure we elect representatives who will stand up and fight for them.

IBEW locals across the United States will be joining with other union members in member-to-member walks, which kick off early this month and continue through Election Day. The idea is to help union voters think and vote on the basis of real issues that speak to our livelihoods, not divisive campaign talk.

As a union member and citizen, these walks are your opportunity to help cut through the chatter and meaningless rhetoric and focus on what's important to you, your family, your co-workers and your neighbors. Get your best pair of walking shoes ready, because it's time to get moving. ■

Scapegoating Workers

North Americans have grown accustomed to following reports of calamities in California. Our sympathy extends to families facing earthquakes, fires and mudslides. But a man-made earthquake is facing the city of Vallejo, just north of San Francisco, and the aftershocks could soon be reverberating through our hometowns.

Vallejo, hard hit by a declining tax base—the partial result of the sub-prime mortgage mess—has declared bankruptcy. More than 5 percent of homes in the city are in foreclosure. Home values are falling.

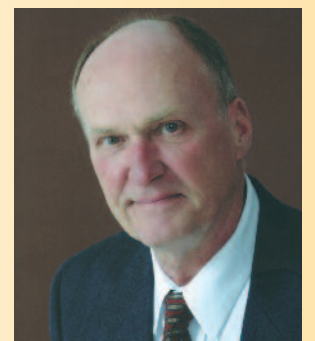
The city is asking a judge to set aside contracts with its police and firefighter unions and over 200 members of Local 2376, who do the rest of the work in the city of 125,000 residents. (See "Vallejo, Calif., Declares Bankruptcy, Scapegoats Union Contract" at www.ibew.org).

Local 2376 and its sister locals offered wage concessions to help the city through its budget shortfall. But the city rejected their offer. So they mounted a legal and public relations campaign to keep from being made the scapegoats for financial problems that are out of their control.

What happens in Vallejo could set a precedent for dozens of cities, counties and states facing financial trouble. Jefferson County, Ala., for instance, has built up a \$3.2 billion debt and could become the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history. San Diego, Atlanta and New York State are facing major budget shortfalls.

But the most extreme threat of the budget problems facing our public sector is a severe reduction in essential services for working families—health care insurance for elderly and disabled residents, fire and police protection, the proper funding of public education.

Like our brothers and sisters in Vallejo, we must resist any effort to lay the growing financial crisis on the backs of the most vulnerable residents of our cities and states. But we need more than a good defense. We need to elect leaders at all levels who will stand up for an economy that grows good-paying union jobs that can keep our cities and their tax bases strong. ■



Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Shoddy Electrical Work

I just read *The Electrical Worker* and was very disgusted by the articles regarding our service men dying in Iraq due to poor electrical work. It seems like a good time for the IBEW to go and show the nonunion contractors and Republicans in Congress why union is so important. We should not be in Iraq. I could not stand it if my child died in Iraq, period, but to have died due to electrocution, due to poor workmanship, would be more than I could ever get over. Let's make our presence known!

Paula Huls

Wife of Local 601 member Elmer Huls, Champaign-Urbana, Ill.

Support the Troops

I support the troops but I don't support the mission. I supported the troops in Vietnam, especially the ones who came back and told the rest of us it was senseless. Maybe one presidential candidate would still want us to be in Vietnam since that mission was never made very clear as well. The current mission was supposed to be to capture and eliminate those responsible for 9/11, namely Osama bin Laden. Remember him? He's the guy that was on the CIA payroll and had his picture taken with Rumsfeld. It's strange that the fight against terrorism in the Middle East and Iraq doesn't include the sons or daughters from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait or those other oil-rich nation states that we're there to protect. If anyone who supports this war can tell me that, it would surely be appreciated.

Gregory Kestel

Local 1246 retiree, Guerenville, Calif.

We Thank You, Brothers and Sisters

My husband is a journeyman lineman for Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245. He was injured on May 22 on a backyard pole change in Sacramento. He suffered a bad head injury when the pole broke at ground level, bringing him to the ground.

After spending a few days at University of California Davis Medical Center, we brought him home. It has been hard going through this slow recovery, especially to see someone who is normally very active, be so ill. We also understand how blessed we are to have an injury from which he can recover.

Jim has come a long way and hopes to return to work sooner than later. Patience has surely been a virtue, between the good and bad days.

My reason for writing this note is to thank all of the members in the union who have had us in their thoughts. To pass the hat only days after the accident, and for checking on him, even after these two months have passed.

I often worry about all of you during storms or the hot dry days of summer, but my eyes did not want to see the day-to-day danger in your work. It is easier that way.

Thank you again, Local 1245.

Amber Deptuch

Wife of 1245 member Jim J. Deptuch, Vacaville, Calif.

Get Connected

If you would like to receive your *Electrical Worker* via e-mail instead of in your mailbox, contact us at media@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 media@ibew.org.

Phoenix Local Members Rewire Home of Navajo 'Windtalker'

Phoenix Local 640 members joined firefighters and a nearby VFW post to come to the aid of Joe Kellwood, one of 400 Navajo "Windtalkers," whose secret code, based upon their tribal language, helped to win Iwo Jima and several battles in World War II. The "Windtalkers" were commemorated in a 2002 movie of the same name, starring Christian Slater.

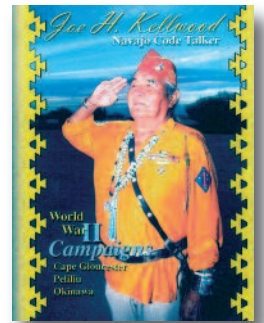
In March, firefighters were called to Kellwood's house after he suffered a medical emergency. While preparing to transport the celebrated veteran to the hospital, they noticed numerous housing code violations that needed immediate attention before Kellwood, 86, a retired member of the Carpenters, could return home. Firefighters, Carpenters and other local unionists immediately went to work renovating Kellwood's home.

Tom Patterson, a retired electrician and a member of VFW Post 9400 who worked on the project, contacted Local 640, asking for members to contribute to the rebuilding effort. Kellwood is also a member of the post.

Jason Fails, a third-generation journeyman wireman, owner of G&S Electric, answered the call. New electric service was provided to the home by Jason's son, Manfred, a journeyman wireman who was assisted by apprentice Shawn McMahan. G&S donated all of the materials.

"I always believe in giving back," says Jason Fails, who chaired Local 640's examining board before taking over G&S from his father, Scott, when he retired in 1986. For years, G&S participated in Christmas in April, a program that remodeled 50 homes each year for low-income homeowners. Today, G&S works with Local 640 to raise money for Hacienda de Los Angeles, a non-profit that shelters victims of traumatic accidents. "It makes you feel how fortunate you are," he says.

Kellwood enlisted in the First Marine Division in 1942 and was in the second group who established the only U.S. code that was unbroken by the Japanese. Navajo code talkers were sworn to secrecy until 1968, when the military declassified their work. They were presented with Congressional Gold Medals in 2001. ■



World War II code talker Joe Kellwood

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Local Lines

continued from page 13



IBEW Local 1579's 2008 graduating class, instructors and apprenticeship committee attend graduation celebration.

Apprentice Graduates Honored

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—On May 30, the Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, IBEW and NECA held a dinner and graduation in honor of 28 graduating apprentices. Local 1579 congratulates the following new journeyman wiremen: Al Aleem, Pat Bland, Shawn Botelho, Neil Broach, Josh Bruce, Bryan Coogler, Rock El, Marcus Green, Jimmy Griswell, Dustin Hegler, Chris Holley, Tina Jones, Steve Langley, Mike Miller, Willie Newsome, Dustin Palmer, Rodney Parker, Randy Percival, Matt Robinson, Jason Salemi, Chad Smith, James Smith, Brett Story, Frank Story, Jeff Tharin, Chris Thomas, Tommy Tritt and Arthur "Ray" Wombles. With one-third of our local retiring within the next 10 years, our future lies in these new journeyman wiremen.

Work in the Augusta area is starting to pick up and all indicators point toward a busy fall. The Mixed Oxide Project and the Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River site should add manpower, and Plant Vogtle will start hiring for the fall outage.

Remember, our union meetings are held on the third Monday of each month with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 8 p.m. Let's all make a commitment to attend our union meetings.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

Brother Receives REC Award

L.U. 1593 (u), HAZEN, ND—McKenzie Electric Cooperative mechanic and IBEW Local 1593 member Rocky Prestangen received the North Dakota Rural Electric Cooperative Community Service Award for his volunteer service to individuals, groups, businesses and families.

Rocky's leadership was instrumental in establishing a dive rescue team for McKenzie County. He also is a member of the Watford City Volunteer Fire Department and McKenzie County Ambulance Service. About three years ago Rocky set out to form the dive team. A certified diver and instructor, Rocky took 12 area volunteers and had each diver undergo 2,000 hours of intense training to become certified.

Rocky also volunteered on the McKenzie County multi-purpose building, the children's playground and Relay for Life projects. A member of First Lutheran Church, Rocky and wife Sharon have two children.

Tom Schwab, B.M./F.S.

Work Picture Brighter

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—Work in the jurisdiction has picked up. Several projects are getting under way in the area and our work picture looks brighter for the future. We thank all locals that have employed our traveling members. Bus. Mgr. Gary Osborne reports that additional out-of-town electrical contractors are looking to open shops in the Owensboro area. We welcome all contractors to our area and look forward to working with them.

The inside branch ratified a three-year agreement with contract language changes and significant increases in the wage and benefit package. We thank negotiating committee members, Mike Roby, Terry Stearsman, Pres. Richard Thomson and Bus. Mgr. Osborne.

Our LMCC committee met in June to discuss and adopt language for our Code of Excellence program. NECA Dir. Tom Millay presented the language and it was accepted by the committee.

On the political front, Kentucky state Sen. David Boswell defeated Davies County Judge Executive Reid Haire in the May Democratic primary for the U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd Congressional District seat. Boswell will face Republican Kentucky state Sen. Brett Guthrie in the November general election. Local 1701 endorsed candidate Boswell as well as Sen. Barack Obama for president. Please register to vote and please support our labor candidates.

See you at union meetings, held the third Monday of each month.

Tim Blandford, P.S.



Local 1701 retired member Gary Nance (left) displays his 55-year service award at the November 2007 pin ceremony. He is joined by his son Brent, a 14-year member.

50-Year Award

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—The membership of IBEW Local 1739 congratulates retired member Nigel Yetman on receiving his IBEW 50-Year Achievement Award. We thank Nigel for his contributions to this local and wish him the very best in the future. Local 1739 also wishes all our brothers and sisters across North America a safe and productive year ahead.

Frank Kastle, P.S.



Local 1739 retired member Nigel Yetman receives an IBEW award for 50 years of service.

Vote Our Jobs!

L.U. 1749 (u), NEW JOHNSONVILLE, TN—Congratulations to the local's newly elected officers: Bus.Mgr./Pres. Chester "Kim" Dawson, Vice Pres. Jimmy Phy, Rec. Sec. Tim Griffin, Fin. Sec. Barry Arnold, Treas. Jackie Plant; Vincent Wilson—Unit Chairman 1749.1; and Gene Slater—Unit Recording Secretary 1749.1. Executive Board members are: Randy Blaine, Mark DeJuliis, Steve Joiner, George Potter and Billy D. Ross. The Examining Board was cancelled.

Remember to send Barry Arnold your most recent address information for the upcoming presidential election. Register to vote by Sept. 29 to vote in the general election. You can get registration forms at your local election office, library, Motor Vehicle Administration, or state government Web site. If you have any problem and wish me to forward you a form, please let me know ASAP!

The November election is critical to working folks. When the last president took office, gas was \$1.49 a gallon and look at it now! We have a tilted Labor Relations Board, and an ineffective OSHA. The Wage and Hour Commission has only two inspectors per state and no transportation budget. Prescription drugs and medical premiums are skyrocketing. We need you to vote our jobs and lobby our conscience.

Mark J. DeJuliis, E-Brd./P.S.

Selfless Act Awarded

L.U. 1759 (u), CASPER, WY—On behalf of IBEW Local 1759 members, Asst. Bus. Agent Dale Forsberg presented local union member Rockie Hoskinson with an IBEW jacket for his quick action that saved the life of a motorist on Feb. 27. Rockie is a power system control center operator for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Mills, WY.

Rockie and his wife, Janice, were traveling

south on Interstate 25 near Casper, WY, when they observed flames coming from the back of a pickup truck ahead of them. Rockie was driving and pursued the vehicle. He pulled up alongside the pickup truck and got the driver's attention to get him to stop.

When the driver pulled over, the flames engulfed the driver's side of the truck and the driver attempted to get out but the fire was too much. Rockie ran up to the passenger door, opened it, grabbed the driver and drug him out of the truck and to a safe distance just as flames engulfed the truck. Janice stayed in their vehicle and contacted 911.

In recognition of his actions, Rockie Hoskinson is the first civilian to receive a life-saving award from the Natrona County Sheriff's Office.

Dale Forsberg, A.B.A.



Local 1759 Asst. Bus. Agent Dale Forsberg (left) presents IBEW jacket to local union member Rockie Hoskinson.

Golf Tournament a Success

L.U. 2325 (t), WORCESTER, MA—The annual Local 2325 Golf Tournament was held Sunday, June 8, at the Heritage Country Club in Charlton, MA. This year's tournament was played to raise money for the 1st annual Mark Booden Scholarship. The tournament was a complete success and support shown for the scholarship fund by the membership was overwhelming. Bro. Booden was a longtime splice service technician for Verizon and a loyal member of IBEW 2325. Tragically, Mark died of cancer in his 40s, leaving behind his loving wife and three children. The Local 2325 COPE Committee, with the blessing of Mark's family, including his father, Frederick Booden, a retired IBEW 2325 member, decided it would be appropriate to honor Mark in this way.

Congratulations to the winning tournament team of Ron Darling, Charlie Darling, Chris Towne and Bobby Dunn. The team won with a score of 12 under par and donated their entire \$400 prize to the scholarship fund. Special recognition also goes to Bro. Brian Duplessis, winner of the 50/50 raffle who donated his entire prize to the scholarship fund. The local also thanks volunteers Ronda Bertrand Robbins, Donna Bertrand and Joe Floyd, of Local 2324, for their help at the tournament, and all those who sponsored a hole.

Paul Mark, P.S.



IBEW locals come together for a worthy cause at Local 2325's annual golf tournament. From left: Local 2324 Pres. Bruce Lambert, Local 2325 Press Sec. and Registrar Paul W. Mark, Local 2325 Bus. Mgr. Dave Keating, Local 2320 Steward Paul J. Mark, Local 2320 Executive Board member Dave Duhamel, and Local 2324 Press Sec. and Executive Board member Joe Floyd.