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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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IN THIS ISSUE

2
IBEW, labor attend global climate conference

3
Canada's Conservatives fail to secure majority

4
Broadcasting members deliver on Election Day

5
IBEW questions proposed utility deal

6
Local 1245 defeats privatization plan

Philly members finish nonunion wind project

7
Circuits

8
Local Lines

14
Editorials

15
Letters to the Editor

Who We Are

Across-the-Board IBEW Effort Wins on Election Day

After eight years of an administration that envisioned virtually no role for the labor movement in America's future, the nation spoke. Millions of workers and citizens from all walks of life voted for the Obama-Biden ticket and for labor-supported candidates up and down the ballot. The main issue driving the election was the disastrous state of our national economy, growing joblessness, mortgage foreclosures, the loss of pension and healthcare benefits—the American dream in peril.

From Alaska to Florida, to battleground states like Ohio and Pennsylvania, thousands of IBEW members volunteered—knocking on doors, leafleting workplaces, making phone calls and stuffing envelopes—to convince their co-workers to vote for candidates who have built strong records of supporting working families.

“These efforts weren't just about partisan politics,” says International President Edwin D. Hill. “They were about the very survival of working families.” Hill sees the unity built in the months before the election as decisive in pushing for and supporting bold action by the new president and Congress to tackle problems facing the country.

President-elect Obama painted a sobering image of that future in his acceptance speech. “I know you didn't do this just to win an election and I know you didn't do it for me,” said Obama. “You did it because you understand the enormity of the task that lies ahead. For even as we celebrate tonight, we know the



Seventh District International Representative Gary Buresh, right, joins other labor activists at an Obama rally Oct. 25 in Albuquerque, N.M., that drew an estimated crowd of 35,000.

challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime—two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century.”

The IBEW's Labor 2008 effort was built upon what was learned and accomplished in the grassroots campaigning during the mid-term election of 2006 and the gubernatorial elections of 2007 that elected many pro-labor candidates, says Director Brian Baker, IBEW Political/Legislative Department. The IBEW could have endorsed a presidential candidate in the primaries, but internal polling showed that members were divided in their preferences. The decision was made to conserve the union's resources for the general election, putting the IBEW in a powerful position to influence its outcome.

“Whether you knocked on doors, made phone calls, circulated leaflets or stuffed envelopes, you demonstrated the patriotism and respect for democracy that is the hallmark of a strong and progressive union,” says

Hill, who joined Secretary-Treasurer Lindell Lee in Labor 2008 activities across the nation.

Hill authorized coverage of Labor 2008 on the IBEW Web site and produced a DVD and a letter that were mailed to active members and retirees outlining the stakes in 2008. He accompanied Mark Ayers, president of the Building and Construction Trades, AFL-CIO, and former director of IBEW's Construction and Maintenance Department, on a tour of Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The Brotherhood's grassroots program kicked in early with hundreds of locals appointing registrars to begin expanding labor's voting rolls. Baker and International Representative Sherilyn Wright traveled to progress meetings and met with local union members across the country offering tools and ideas to help build up their labor-to-labor campaigns.

IBEW EFFORT WINS *continued on page 2*

IBEW Joins Union Delegates at U.N. Climate Change Conference



World leaders seek a new global agreement to curb greenhouse gases.

More than 20,000 delegates from more than 190 nations will meet in Poland this month for a 10-day United Nations Climate Change Conference to mull a new international agreement to combat global warming and environmental disaster.

Directly participating in the key working sessions of the conference is a contingent of 20 North American union representatives, including IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter, who are working to ensure that workers' rights and good jobs are a key part of the final agreement.

"We need to be there and have a seat at the table, because the decisions made at this conference will affect our members and their jobs for many years to come," Hunter said.

The conference, December 1-12 in Pozan, aims to create a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol, a 1997 climate accord intent on reducing the emission of greenhouse gases by industrialized nations. The protocol is set to expire in 2012. Organizers hope to reach a final agreement by next year's conference in Denmark.

With a new pact, participants aim to correct a fatal flaw in the Kyoto accord: it only applies to nations that signed it, which doesn't include the United States, China or India. That allows companies in signatory nations to shift production overseas in order

to avoid emission limits, costing jobs and harming the environment.

"It's a lose-lose situation, and we want to work to prevent that in the current round of negotiations," Hunter said.

The IBEW has been getting a lot of attention from the global labor movement due to its joint proposal with the IBEW-represented American Electric Power to use trade as an incentive for rapidly industrializing countries to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Elements of the IBEW-AEP plan were incorporated into climate change legislation introduced in the Senate last year by Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., and Republican John Warner of Virginia. The bill failed to garner enough votes to break a potential filibuster, but the use of trade sanctions in the fight against global warming has stoked interest on Capitol Hill.

"It's put the IBEW front and center of the world stage, because everyone knows that we have to find a way of getting China and India on board with any agreement," Hunter said.

Under the IBEW's plan, nations that haven't signed on to a greenhouse gas-limiting agreement would have to buy carbon dioxide credits to sell their products in the United States and other participating nations.

Starting with last year's conference in Bali, Indonesia, union representatives now participate in major working sessions of the con-

ference—normally open only to governmental officials and recognized non-governmental organizations—allowing labor to help shape the rules that will combat global warming.

Working through the International Trade Union Confederation, which represents 168 million working men and women in 153 countries, the U.S. labor delegation will develop a common position with labor unions around the world that will be used to lobby conference delegates.

"We have a unique role to play," said Bob Baugh, executive director of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council and chair of its energy task force. "We are looking at the socio-economic impact of the solution to the climate crisis to see how it can be turned into an opportunity to create good jobs."

Another concern of the IBEW is developing a framework that can provide a realistic timetable for the reduction of greenhouse gases that won't disrupt the American economy and lead to layoffs. "We need to have enough time to create a new energy infrastructure, like clean-coal, nuclear, solar and wind," Hunter said. "We are at the beginning of the process in this country, but it will take more time before we can realistically hope to see the carbon dioxide reductions demanded by Kyoto."

To get daily updates from Pozan, check out the AFL-CIO blog at <http://blog.aflcio.com>. ■

IBEW Effort Wins on Election Day

continued from page 1

In Pennsylvania, dozens of visits to the state by Sen. John McCain and running mate Gov. Sarah Palin were no match for labor's extensive ground effort. Erie Local 56 helped garner a 59 percent vote for the Obama-Biden ticket and played a major role in electing Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper, who has pledged to support the Employee Free Choice Act, defeating a seven-term incumbent. Local 56 hosted AFL-CIO labor walks. Retirees made calls to enlist volunteers, with 10 to 12 local members walking each weekend.

"I'm so proud of our membership and of the other Pennsylvania locals—459 (Johnstown), 1637 (Erie), 712 (Beaver)—who supported us, to say nothing of the members from Local 41 (Buffalo) and Local 237 (Niagara Falls) who came all the way down from New York to help," says Local 56 Business Manager Tim Hepler.

International Representative Denise Johnson, Construction and Maintenance Department, was assigned to Labor 2008 in southern Michigan. She worked with Ann Arbor Local 252, other IBEW locals, and unions like AFSCME and the UA, said Johnson. Pro-labor candidate Mark Schauer was elected to Congress. Anti-labor state legislators and the chief justice of the state's Supreme Court were unseated.

In Mississippi, two released staffers from the IBEW Media Department developed a Web site and blog for the state's AFL-CIO, covering the work of affiliates in supporting the Obama-Biden campaign, the senatorial bid of Ronnie Musgrove and the congressional campaign of Rep. Travis Childers. While Childers was the only candidate to win the state, the communication structure is already being tapped to prepare for future organizing and political contests.

"This was my first experience in a right-to-work state," says Alex Hogan, IBEW communication specialist, who designed the new communication structure. "I know that these courageous trade unionists will succeed in future efforts."

In Colorado, the IBEW worked to stop three anti-worker amendments that would have initiated right-to-work laws, prevented employers from automatically deducting union dues from paychecks and barred any workers who are funded by government contracts from advocating for candidates for political office. The first two amendments were defeated. The third passed, but will be challenged in court.

"We knew that Colorado was the hallway to our own living rooms," says International Office Education Specialist Amanda Pacheco, who traveled to Colorado with two co-workers. "If the ballot measures passed, it would be just a matter of time before they spread beyond Colorado's borders. We were in this together." ■



North of 49°

Canada's Conservatives Fall Short of Majority in October Federal Elections

While the eyes of the international media may have been focused on the U.S. election, working families across Canada also went to the polls this fall, voting in federal elections October 14.

Hoping to capitalize on favorable poll numbers, Prime Minister Stephen Harper—who has headed up a minority government since 2006—called for new elections with the aim of winning a majority for his Conservative Party.

With four official parties—Conservatives, Liberals, New Democrats and the Greens—along with the Quebec-based Bloc Québécois competing, the Conservatives picked up 17 additional seats, 12 short of the 155 needed to become a parliamentary majority. The Liberals continued their decline, losing more than 20 seats. The union-based New Democrats managed to pick up seven seats, though with only 37 Members of Parliament, they are still a long way from being able to form a national government. The Quebec nationalist Bloc held even, losing only one seat.

While the right-leaning Conservatives managed to increase their numbers in Parliament, Harper's minority will limit his ability to carry out the more egregious parts of the Conservative agenda, such as undermining Medicare.

How Canada Picks a Prime Minister, A Primer

Unlike the U.S. electoral system, Canadians do not directly vote for their Prime Minister. Instead they vote for a political party in 308 "ridings," or districts, across the country. Whichever party sends the most members to the House of Commons—Parliament—forms the government and their leader becomes Prime Minister.

While campaigning across the country for their party, the leaders are also running for their own seat in Parliament.

Four of the five leaders won their seats in the election; Stephen Harper (Conservative), elected in Calgary-Southwest, Alberta; Stéphane Dion (Liberal), elected in Saint-Laurent Cartierville, Quebec; Jack Layton (New Democrat), elected in Toronto Danforth, Ontario; Gilles Duceppe (Bloc Québécois), elected in Laurier Sainte-Marie, Quebec. Elizabeth May (Green) was defeated in Central Nova, Nova Scotia.

While Harper has been careful to maintain public support for Canada's public health care system, he has supported provincial experiments with privatizing medical services, such as CAT scans, while the number of for-profit health care clinics explodes under his watch.

"Conservative governments are traditionally hostile to labour and while the party gained seats, they are still part of a minority," said First District Vice President Phil Flemming. "Harper is thankfully checked by more labour friendly parties like the Liberals, Bloc Québécois and the New Democrats."

The formation of the Conservative party in 2004 was a triumph for Western-based right-wingers who managed to unify the right, including the remnants of the more moderate Progressive Conservatives, into one national party modeled on the overtly pro-corporate and anti-labour U.S. Republican Party.

The date of the election—called for in the midst of the U.S. presidential election—led some to speculate that Harper hoped to minimize national attention and turnout. "Harper

thought he could get a majority by flying under the radar," said Sean Strickland, business manager for the Southern Ontario-based Waterloo, Wellington, Dufferin, and Grey Building and Construction Trades Council, who is a former staff member of Kitchener, Ontario, Local 804.

While very active on the provincial level—where most labour law is passed (See "Double-Breasting Outlawed in New Brunswick," October 2008, the Electrical Worker)—the Canadian labour movement's involvement in federal elections in the last two cycles has been stymied due to changes in election law.

The change caps contributions to candidates and parties at \$1,000 a year from organizations, greatly limiting the ability of organized labour to make financial and manpower contributions on behalf of endorsed candidates.

The law has mainly benefited the Conservatives due to the party's stronger grassroots base, which gives it access to a wider group of small donors. The Liberals have historically relied on contributions from larger

donors to furnish their campaign chests.

"It's incumbent on the building trades and the IBEW to figure out what role we can play in future federal elections, because right now we have no national plan to make us relevant to the process," Strickland said.

Despite the limitations, the First District ramped up its political efforts in preparation for the election. The IBEW focused on political education and mobilizing members, making political action the theme of its annual progress meeting in August.

Representatives from the Canadian Labour Congress led workshops on issue education and getting out the vote. "We want our members to look at each candidate and see how they stand on issues like health care and labour rights before voting," Flemming said.

With the next election not scheduled until 2010 or 2011, the IBEW is searching for more ways to participate with the goal of preventing Harper from gaining a majority.

"Conservatives' anti-labour agenda has been held back, and labour needs to make sure we help keep it that way," Strickland said. ■



Au nord du 49° parallèle

La majorité échappe aux Conservateurs lors des élections fédérales tenues en octobre au Canada!

Pendant que le regard de tous les médias internationaux était tourné vers l'élection américaine, les familles du Canada devaient également aller aux urnes, le 14 octobre dernier.

Espérant tirer avantage des sondages qui lui étaient favorables, le Premier Ministre Stephen Harper, à la tête d'un gouvernement minoritaire depuis 2006, a décidé de déclencher des élections croyant pouvoir obtenir un gouvernement conservateur majoritaire.

On compte quatre partis politiques officiels au Canada, soit le Parti conservateur, le Parti libéral, le Nouveau Parti démocratique et le Parti Vert auxquels s'ajoute le Bloc Québécois qui présente des candidats strictement dans la province de Québec. Les Conservateurs ont remporté 17 nouveaux sièges, douze de moins que les 155 requis pour avoir un gouvernement majoritaire. Les Libéraux, quant à eux, ont perdu plus de 20 sièges. Bien qu'il ait remporté sept nouveaux sièges, le Nouveau Parti démocratique

appuyé par les syndicats, est encore loin du nombre de sièges requis pour former un gouvernement, avec ses 37 députés à la Chambre des Communes. Le Bloc Québécois n'a perdu qu'un siège.

Bien que les politiciens de la droite conservatrice se retrouvent en plus grand nombre à la Chambre des Communes, un gouvernement minoritaire permettra de limiter le pouvoir de Stephen Harper lorsqu'il tentera de faire passer certaines mesures de son programme en ce qui a trait, par exemple, à notre système de santé.

D'un côté, il s'est assuré de conserver l'appui de la population canadienne avec le système de soins de santé public et de l'autre, il a appuyé les provinces qui souhaitent privatiser certains services médicaux, notamment les tomodontogrammes (CAT Scan), et le nombre de cliniques médicales à but lucratif n'a cessé d'augmenter depuis.

Les gouvernements conservateurs ne sont pas favorables aux syndicats, c'est bien connu!

Ils ont réussi à remporter des sièges mais la majorité leur a échappé! "Heureusement, ils seront contrôlés par des partis pro-syndicalistes, notamment les Libéraux, le Bloc Québécois et le Nouveau Parti démocratique", déclare Phil Flemming, Vice-président international pour le Premier District.

La formation du Parti conservateur en 2004 a été une victoire pour les représentants de la droite conservatrice dans l'Ouest canadien qui sont arrivés à réunir le parti de droite ainsi que les membres du parti plus modéré des progressistes conservateurs, dans un seul parti national basé sur le modèle américain du Parti républicain à tendance anti-syndicaliste.

La date de l'élection était prévue au beau milieu de l'élection présidentielle aux États-Unis; facile de supposer qu'Harper croyait minimiser l'attention de la population et le

AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE
continued on page 4

Broadcast Locals' Professionalism Delivers Election Day Analysis

After months of robo calls, swelling mailboxes, interminable polling, unprecedented TV advertising and two years of worldwide speculation and sharpening suspense, the citizens were finally voting to pick our next president. And the IBEW was there on Election Day providing the expertise and technology for media coverage of the battleground with Michelle Obama, Sen. Joe Biden and key advisors of President-elect Barack Obama, like Campaign Manager David Plouffe.

Members of St. Louis Local 4, working for Kaufman Broadcast, supplied satellite links for the Obama campaign to respond to a barrage of requests from the news media for commentary on the election returns. They were joined by Chicago Local 1220 members employed by Camera Originals, which provided four electronic news gathering crews to transmit the campaign's messages to Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Florida and other swing states.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and, as always, our members exhibited the utmost professionalism and grace under pressure," says David Cosby, a 12-year member who co-owns Camera Originals with fellow member David Pierro. "The campaign officials were calm and relaxed despite the circumstances, often joking with the crew, who obviously put them at ease."

IBEW has provided Camera Originals with another great opportunity, says Cosby, whose five-person shop is frequently supplemented by Chicago freelancers. "When we call the union, we know we're getting professionals," he says.

"All of the crew was top-notch and everyone with the campaign was very pleased, no easy task," says Paul Lawless, manager at Kaufman Broadcast. ■

Members of Chicago Local 1220 and St. Louis Local 4 and their managers at Kaufman Broadcast and Camera Originals take a break from their Election Day work.



Au nord du 49° parallèle *continued from page 3*

taux de participation. Comme le mentionne Sean Strickland, ex-membre du personnel de la Section locale 804 de Kitchener en Ontario et actuellement gérant d'affaires du Conseil des Métiers de la Construction pour le Sud de l'Ontario, Waterloo, Wellington, Dufferin et Grey, "il croyait pouvoir parvenir à remporter une majorité des sièges en passant inaperçu".

Alors que la contribution des syndicats est très active au niveau provincial—ce qui facilite l'adoption de la plupart des lois qui nous sont favorables (voir l'article La pra-

tique du double jeu de certaines compagnies déclarée illégale au Nouveau-Brunswick paru au mois d'octobre 2008 dans *l'Electrical Worker*), elle a plutôt été contrecarrée lors des deux dernières élections fédérales, suite aux changements apportés à la loi électorale.

Un de ces changements prévoit qu'une personne morale ou un syndicat peut verser jusqu'à \$1,000 au total dans une année civile aux associations enregistrées, aux candidats à l'investiture et aux candidats d'un parti enregistré donné, ce qui limite considérablement la capacité du mouvement syndical de verser des contributions en argent ou de donner des services aux candidats soutenus. Cette loi a principalement avantagé les Conservateurs dont la base est plus solide et leur donne accès à un plus grand éventail de petits donateurs. Quant aux Libéraux, ils ont plutôt toujours compté sur les contributions de plus grands donateurs pour remplir leurs coffres en campagne électorale.

"Il incombe aux métiers de la construction ainsi qu'à la FIOE de prévoir quelle pourrait être notre implication lors des prochaines élections fédérales car nous n'avons aucun plan national en ce qui concerne notre participation au processus", ajoute Strickland.

Malgré les restrictions, le Premier District a grimpé d'un cran ses efforts politiques en vue des élections. La Conférence canadienne annuelle de la FIOE tenue au mois d'août avait pour thème l'action politique, et les efforts ont été concentrés sur l'éducation politique et la mobilisation des membres.

Des représentants du Congrès du travail du Canada ont dirigé les ateliers sur l'éducation politique et l'importance d'aller voter.

"Nous voulons que nos membres examinent la position de chaque candidat sur des questions telles que les soins de santé et les droits du travail avant de décider pour qui ils voteront", explique M. Flemming.

La prochaine élection n'est pas prévue

avant 2010 ou 2011, alors la FIOE doit s'efforcer de trouver plus de moyens pour impliquer et faire participer les membres, avec l'objectif d'empêcher Harper d'obtenir une majorité.

"Le programme anti-syndicaliste des Conservateurs pourra être contrôlé mais les travailleurs doivent s'assurer que cette situation ne changera pas" conclut Strickland. ■

Procédure pour élire le Premier Ministre du Canada

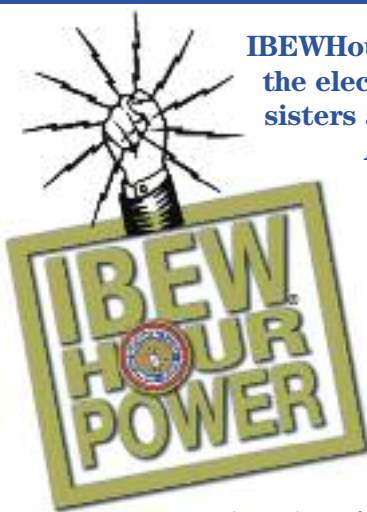
Contrairement au système électoral américain, les Canadiens ne votent pas directement pour leur Premier Ministre. Ils votent pour un des partis politiques qui se disputent 308 sièges, (circonscriptions), à travers le pays. Le parti ayant le plus grand nombre de députés élus à la Chambre des Communes (Parlement) forme le gouvernement et le chef de ce parti devient Premier Ministre.

En plus de faire campagne à travers le pays afin d'acquiescer le vote des électeurs pour leur parti, les chefs se présentent également comme candidat pour obtenir un siège au Parlement.

Quatre des cinq chefs de parti ont été élus dans leur comté, soit Stephen Harper, élu dans Calgary Sud-Ouest, en Alberta pour le Parti conservateur, Stéphane Dion, élu dans Saint-Laurent, Cartierville au Québec pour le Parti libéral, Jack Layton, élu dans Toronto-Danforth en Ontario, pour le Nouveau Parti démocratique, et Gilles Duceppe, élu dans Laurier-Sainte-Marie au Québec, pour le Bloc Québécois. Elizabeth May, chef du Parti Vert, a été défaite dans Nova-Centre, en Nouvelle-Écosse.

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IBEW Raises Questions About MidAmerican/Constellation Deal



The IBEW is raising questions about Warren Buffett's plan to rescue a high-flying energy company that has hit hard times in the financial downturn.

Constellation Energy, which owns generating plants, an energy trading business and regulated utility Baltimore Gas and Electric, is the nation's largest competitive electricity supplier. But its heavy reliance on credit dealt the company a potentially fatal blow when several of its lenders—Lehman Brothers chief among them—either collapsed or revoked its credit in September. So when MidAmerican Energy, owned by billionaire Warren Buffett, rode in with an offer of instant cash and a \$4.7 billion merger deal to save it, the proposal looked like a godsend. The promised two-year rate freeze also sweetened the deal in the eyes of the public stressed by a recessionary economy.

But the acquisition needs approval by the Maryland Public Service Commission, the state where Constellation is based. And although the IBEW has taken no position on it, the Brotherhood has a few questions, mainly about the impact of the merger on reliability and dependability at BGE. The IBEW filed a petition to intervene in the case with the Maryland PSC on Oct. 23.

"Service to consumers, jobs and critical infrastructure are among the many important aspects of this possible partnership that must be fully and properly considered," said International President Edwin D. Hill in a statement issued that day. "Our priority is to ensure that the best interests of consumers and all workers at both companies are fully protected, particularly in light of the current economic turmoil."

Constellation owns Baltimore Gas and Electric, the only large nonunion investor-owned utility in the country.

The IBEW intervened the last time Constellation attempted to merge with another company—Florida Power and Light in 2006—and the deal died after the IBEW raised concerns about its possible effect on ratepayers.

"Mergers have to be in the public interest," said Utility Department Director Jim Hunter. "Utilities have about 60 percent of the work forces they had in 1990, while the need for electricity has doubled since then."

And while the IBEW represents more than 4,200 members at MidAmerican-owned utilities and properties, employees of BGE—the only

large investor-owned utility in the country that is not organized—are getting nervous.

"MidAmerican companies have guaranteed wages and benefits," Hunter said. "BGE workers have no contract, so they have no protections."

Hunter said they are worried that the rate freeze that might sound good to BGE customers and Maryland elected officials could come at the cost of service reliability. As IBEW members have learned through the lean years of deregulation, corporate savings often come at the expense of operations and maintenance budgets.

The IBEW is awaiting word from the public service commission on a schedule that will allow it to request and collect company documents that will offer more information about BGE's position. Hunter said the IBEW has scheduled a meeting with Constellation employees on Jan. 10 at Baltimore's Local 24 union hall to discuss the planned merger. ■

Fast-Acting Florida Local Responds to Hurricane Fay

When Hurricane Fay hit Northeast Florida in late August, 85 members of Palatka, Fla., Local 1263 battled exhaustion and constant downpours to restore power to more than 91,000 customers less than 24 hours after the storm passed.

Flooded roads and downed trees didn't stop Florida Power and Light Co. crews working to restring fallen wire and bring the grid back online.

"Storm work in Florida is a utility worker's bread and butter," Local 1263 President Jim Winters said. "They do whatever it takes to make sure the electricity gets back up and running in a quick and safe way."

The majority of homes that lost power during the storm saw electricity return hours after Fay passed the area on August 23. By 6 p.m. the following day, all customers had power back. Dozens of crews worked double shifts, sometimes through the night.

"One of the biggest challenges you run into is fatigue," said Local 1263 line specialist Corey Koshinski, who worked several 16-hour days in a row. "It never stopped raining on us, which raised the potential for disaster when working with downed power lines." Despite the harsh conditions, the crews finished their tasks with no on-the-job injuries. ■


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.

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Local 1245 Members Defeat Utility's Privatization Plan

When Reno, Nev.-based Truckee Meadow Water Authority took up a proposal to lease the agency's assets to a private firm, IBEW members jumped into action. In a flurry of radio talk shows, newspaper blog postings and phone calls and e-mails to local political leaders, Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 members went public about the possible consequences of privatizing the area's water resources, including inflated costs to pad corporate profits and cost-cutting measures that could erode water quality standards.

"We got on our horses and notified as many people as we possibly could to let them know what was going on," said Chris Hires, a union steward who co-chairs the Local 1245 unit at TMWA. The goal: get people to make enough noise to be heard.

Thinking strategically, IBEW members framed their argument to appeal to their



Among the many Local 1245 members who successfully fought their employer's privatization plan were, from left, Tim Flanagan, Chip Chadwick, Chris Hires, Jackson Bergland, Jon Rouse and Travis Bunkowski.

audience, according to IBEW unit officer Jackson Bergland. On one radio show with a conservative, anti-tax audience, Bergland

suggested the money that would be needed to support lavish CEO salaries was like a hidden tax that would be levied on TMWA

ratepayers if the agency was privatized.

"This was going to be straight out of everyone's pocket, no matter what their feelings about economics or politics—we were all going to be harmed," Bergland said.

"We take a lot of pride in being union members," Hires said. "We basically got together and asked what we have to do to get this thing resolved. We're going to make our voices heard." Hires said much of the organizing was accomplished face-to-face at work.

"Being a union, with shop stewards and all those people we were able to organize quickly and within a week, we had it turned around," said Jon Rouse, a union steward and 14-year Local 1245 member.

Two weeks after announcing their plan, the TMWA's board took it off the table—a testament to the power of union members to directly influence the policy decisions that affect their lives. ■

**WHO WINS THE
IBEW PHOTO
CONTEST?**

YOU DECIDE!

While our Brotherhood has a proud tradition on the job site, we also happen to boast some pretty stellar artists. This year, we received nearly 100 submissions for our annual photo contest, and we're asking a team of experts—you and your co-workers—to judge the best of the best.

Visit www.ibew.org
in December to vote!
Voting ends on Dec. 31st.

Pa. Local Completes Nonunion Windmill Project

In a strong display of the IBEW Code of Excellence in action, members of Philadelphia Local 126 were called in to complete a 10-mile cable project across rugged terrain that had stymied a nonunion company's efforts for months.

California-based Edison Mission Energy last year hired a nonunion contractor to build a line connecting two windmills in rural Somerset County, Pa. After 11 months of stop-and-go work, and with the deadline looming, the project was only half complete. So Edison decided to take another approach.

"The nonunion company didn't have the manpower, expertise or equipment to complete the task," Local 126 Business Manager Tom Leach said. "At the last minute, Edison realized they should get a union crew to finish the work."

Edison contacted Michel's Power Co., a Wisconsin-based contractor that hires IBEW journeyman linemen, operators and apprentices for windmill jobs and other projects. The contractor brought in more than a dozen Local 126 linemen, apprentices and machine operators in July to finish the job.

Putting in 10-hour days, six days a week, the union crew revised much of the previous company's faulty work before stringing the remaining half of overhead lines needed to connect the two windmills.

"The IBEW guys got done in eight weeks the amount of work that the nonunion company did in 11 months," said Eric Hoffman, Rockford, Ill., Local 196 member and regional superintendent at Michel's Power. "No one



Members of Philadelphia Local 126 connected 10 miles of cable between windmills in rural Somerset County.

missed any days, and the union hall bent over backwards to help get the job done quickly to save money."

Aside from know-how, training and equipment, the IBEW crew exercised higher levels of safety precautions than the previous company on the site.

"The nonunion company hadn't trained their workers in proper ways to handle live cables," journeyman lineman Brad Nadzom said. "Even though this was against regulations, the company seemed more interested

in paying a fine if they got caught doing something unsafe rather than taking the time and money to train their workers. They asked themselves the question, 'How can we do this cheaply?' when they should have asked, 'How can we protect our employees?'"

Leach credited the linemen's solid knowledge of their craft in completing the job safely and ahead of schedule. "These guys are highly skilled and highly productive," he said. "They strive to live up to the IBEW Code of Excellence whenever they step onto a work site." ■

Circuits

Memorial Dedicated to New Jersey Member's Son

A memorial honoring U.S. Army Cpl. Steven R. Koch was dedicated near the entrance of his former elementary school in New Jersey on what would have been his 24th birthday.

Steven Koch, who was the son of New Brunswick, N.J., Local 456 member, William Koch Jr., died on March 3 after a car bomb exploded while he was on patrol in the Sabari district of Afghanistan.

Two memorial stones were placed near the entrance of Our Lady of Lourdes—one for Steven and another for prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action.

Members of the community pitched in by sending donations and raising money through fund-raisers. Local construction contractors donated materials and labor to build the memorial.

Steven Koch came from a family of Local 456 members. His father is a 32-year member; his late grandfather, William Koch Sr., was also a Local 456 member. His brother, William Koch III is a third year inside apprentice.

Local 456 gave the Koch family the largest donation and raised money for a scholarship for the soldier's young daughter. Members also collected donations on job sites and from apprentices in his brother's class.

"They've been very helpful. They always call to see how we're doing and if we needed anything," said William Koch Jr., inside wireman and vice president of Nead Electric, a signatory contractor. The family also received donations from other locals across the country. "It's amazing what people went through to try to help us."

Steven enlisted in the Army in 2006 in response to the 9/11 attacks.

"He was gung-ho to protect people who couldn't protect themselves," said William Koch Jr.

Family and friends shared stories about Steven, but his own words were the most moving. "A hundred years from now, it will not matter the sort of house I lived in, what my bank account was or the car I drove, but the world may be a different place because I stood in the face of unbeatable odds and stayed committed to the war on terror after the loss of friends and brothers," said Steven on his personal Web site.

The Koch family also offers support to other families who have lost family members in service. "There are a couple local families that have also lost young men. We reach out to other families by attending vigils, dedications, and parades," said William Koch Jr.



Family, friends, and Local 456 members made donations and pitched in to construct a memorial for U.S. Army Cpl. Steven R. Koch.

Longtime Member, Union Officer Honored at Conference



Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Local 320 Recording Secretary Graham Kelder

With more than five decades of proud IBEW history behind him, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Local 320 member Graham Kelder was honored at the 2008 Utility Conference for his 43 years of service to the Brotherhood. Kelder, 81, is Local 320's recording secretary.

"It was a great surprise," Kelder said of the Aug. 13 event in Seattle. "I felt honored that the union appreciated my service. It really made the conference a very special experience."

Kelder retired from his job as chief control officer at Central Hudson Gas and Electric in 1989. Having served on the local's executive board and as vice president, his fellow members convinced him to stay active in a leadership role. Kelder has been the recording secretary since his retirement.

"We all think it's very significant that he's not only been so involved, but he's been an office holder for so many years," Utility Department International Representative

Linda Mathews said. "He's a great example of the spirit of our Brotherhood in action."

Mass. Member Wins Caribou Trip

Whether in the ring or in the field, world champion kickboxer and lifelong hunter Kellie Stone knows how to pack a punch. Stone, a member of Springfield, Mass., Local 2324, grew up hunting and fishing with her father.

Martial arts came as naturally to Stone as hunting and fishing and led her to three world titles in kickboxing and golden gloves in boxing by the age of 18. As an adult, Stone followed in her father's footsteps to become a union roofer before going to work for Verizon and joining Local 2324. For the past 10 years, she has worked as part of a two-person team repairing telephone lines underground. "I work a construction job because it's what I love to do," Stone said.

When she broke her leg a year ago, Stone spent two months watching outdoor TV and thought to herself, "Man, I can do this." She applied for TRCP's Escape to the Wild, a TV show of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, VERSUS and sponsoring unions, including the IBEW, that takes union members on the hunting or fishing trip of a lifetime.

The show's host, Tom Ackerman, surprised her with a trip to the arctic tundra in Canada's Newfoundland to hunt caribou. Working in a major city, she was thrilled to travel far from civilization. "We flew into the Arctic Circle, and I saw nothing but pure wilderness," Stone said. "That was a dream come true."

Like any job, Stone's caribou hunt presented challenges when she was confronted with a tough shot at a bull caribou. "It was very windy on the tundra. The bull was running and all of a sudden stopped and turned broadside. I had no sticks, no rest, and he was 300 yards away. I took a knee, aimed and fired."

Does Stone's shot ring true? Tune in to TRCP's *Escape to the Wild on VERSUS Country* to find out. Plus, watch Folsom, N.J., Local 351 member Tom Mattingley stalk majestic red stag in Argentina. All new episodes air Sundays in January at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time beginning Jan. 4. ■



Springfield, Mass., Local 2324 member Kellie Stone appeared on TRCP's Escape to the Wild.

Bridge Work



Members of Dover, N.H., Local 490 repaired the failed draw on the Sara Long Memorial Bridge. The bridge, a critical link between New Hampshire and Maine, was completed in 3½ months by 12 members of the local. Yates Electric employee Brian Skeffington, at left, with Second District Vice President Frank Carroll, International Office employee Tina Thoman, Local 490 Business Manager Scott Ricard and Yates Electric employees Jeff Brousseau, James Paradis, Keith Kearney and project foreman Tom McLaughlin.

Local Lines

Recognition for Service

L.U. 6 (e,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Work in Local 6 has been holding steady; there is a recent increase on Book 1. The local's annual picnic at Sigmund Stern Grove was a well-attended success. Picnic committee co-chairs Jay Pagan and Brendan Greene, as well as the many volunteers, are commended for a job well-done. At this writing, the political action committee was hard at work for victory in November.

Bob Bourdet received special recognition and an award at this year's apprentice graduation ceremony, in appreciation for his 40 years of teaching.

Congratulations to the class of 2008 graduates. Inside wireman graduates are: Jeanann



IBEW Local 6 Bus. Mgr. John J. O'Rourke (left) presents award to Robert Bourdet (center). At right is Tom Coleman, executive director, San Francisco Electrical Contractors Association.

Almirol, Brian Archibeque, Cedric Boddie, Miguel Esquivel, Benjamin Ferrari, Mathew Hemmingson, Daniel Keeney, Donald Ketzler, Catherine Klikoff, Joseph LaTorre, Brian Macchi, Maxim Marcotte, Rigoberto Martinez, Martin Monaghan, Kenneth Phillips, Daniel Pitcher, Steven Pitcher, Philip Simmons, Scott Starkey, Bo Chen, Robert Donohoe, Gregory Guitron, Adam Heil, Christopher Hin, BeTao "John" Huang, Tony Lee, Michael Lynch (4th generation wireman), Peter Mangini, Rene Medrano, Daniel Millikin, John Moylan, Joseph Muniz, Nicholas Nunsiale, Mario Oropeza, John Robinson, David Sonne and Brendan Wright. Sound & Communication graduates are: Michael Dunn, Travis Flowers, Daniel Race, Aaron Romero, Joseph Scuderi, Cully Taylor and Rey Velasco.

Phil Farrelly, Pres.

'Home Makeover' Show

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Toledo recently made national TV with the Extreme Home Makeover show! A local family was chosen to be the recipient of a home makeover, and Local 8 members stepped up to the challenge. Working around the clock and often under extreme conditions, our members helped a family realize a dream. Thanks to all the volunteers and contrac-

tors who donated time, materials, equipment and funding. What a great way to put a spotlight on our organization. Hopefully, we can keep up this spirit of goodwill with other community projects, such as the not-so-televised Habitat for Humanity houses. They are just as important to the community! Who knows, it might even help secure more work for our members.

With the holiday season upon us, let us not forget to take time for family, including your IBEW family! The Children's Christmas Party and the Members' Christmas Party provide great times by young and old alike. It's always a great way to catch up with friends and reflect on the past year. We look forward to seeing you there. Have a happy New Year.

*Ben "Red" Tackett, P.S.
Jim Kozlowski, B.M.*

A Career of Service

L.U. 14 (i), EAU CLAIRE, WI—Aug. 22, 2008, was a happy day for Asst. Bus. Mgr. Jim Pierce and a sad day for Local 14. On that day, which was also Jim's 62nd birthday, Jim retired from the electrical trade.

In his 43 years as an IBEW member, Jim has served many roles. He was a business manager, an assistant business manager, and an apprenticeship director for eight locals in Wisconsin. He served on the State Joint Apprenticeship Committee and the Eau Claire, WI, Inside and Residential Joint Apprenticeship Committee. He also was an apprenticeship aptitude test administrator and served on the Local 14 Joint Apprenticeship Training Trust and the By-Laws Committee.

Jim is very active in politics. During every election, state or federal, He would e-mail everyone to explain who the most qualified candidate would be to represent labor. Jim always had an article in our local union newspaper, the Union Herald, giving his thoughts on the candidates running for office. Until his retirement, he was the Local 14 registrar.

Jim's knowledge, skills and abilities will be missed by the Local 14 membership. Good luck, Jim! May your retirement bring you and Sharon many years of good health and enjoyment.

Bill Beeler, A.B.M.

Historic Labor Day Festival

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—The IBEW congratulates the following graduates of the 2008 Inside Wireman program: Sherman Armes, Daniel Branneman, Steven Breivogel, Jason Clodfelter, Michael Faulkenburg, Isaac Gehlhausen, Marty Hape, Brian Head, Kyle Hirsch, Andrew Hollman, David Smith, Leonard Smith, Chad Tenbarger and Scott Torres. Special recognition is due Sherman Armes, who completed this rigorous curriculum with a five year GPA in excess of 95 percent.

Local 16 had the opportunity to show its unity with other working people by marching in the 122nd annual Labor Day Association parade, and sharing meals with members from other IBEW locals afterward. Local 1395 provided the meal for Locals 16, 702 and 1393. The four-day festival, which rotates among southern Indiana communities, was held in Petersburg, IN, Aug. 29-Sept. 1. Petersburg is one of the oldest host cities, having held the celebration as far back as 1900. Past attendance at this gathering, possibly the second oldest Labor Day celebration in the nation, has exceeded 75,000! Thanks to all who

generously shared their time to carry on this worthy tradition. For more information please visit Web site www.labordayassoc.com.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Holiday Food Drive

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—It is the holiday season, so I'd like to remind our members to purchase gifts made in the U.S.A. It helps keep Americans working and strengthens our economy. It's also assurance that what you are buying is safe and well-made. Refer to our fourth quarter magazine, In Charge, for Web sites that list products made in the United States.

Local 26 is having its Holiday Food Drive again this year. Be sure to bring your non-perishable food items to any of the Local 26 offices or to any of the holiday meetings/parties. Dates for the holiday events are as follows: D.C. area—Dec. 5; Roanoke—Dec 12; and Front Royal—Dec. 19.

We are saddened to announce the following brothers passed away since our last article: Clyde Gingrich, Larry Ball, Milton J. Whitaker, Richard E. Stinson, Owen L. Partlowe Jr., Edward M. Hope Sr., Chester H. Butcher and David W. Beck.

Best wishes to the new retirees: Bobby J. Abston, Robert B. Allen, Danny H. Blaylock, William B. Crosby, Robert I. Rice, John J. Costello, Leonard E. Durnbaugh, Paul L. Hunt, Gary W. McCoy, Donald L. Overfelt, Edward N. Wells, Keith A. Holt, Robert E. Beckner, Robert O. Demarr and William A. DeVaughn.

Best wishes to all for a happy and safe holiday!

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Cleveland Volunteers

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Thanks to all members who have volunteered to banner and leaflet the new Cadillac Ranch restaurant/night club being built nonunion in downtown Cleveland. Business representatives spoke with the general contractor before construction began and tried to work with him. The contractor never returned our phone calls and when it became clear the company would not use our members to do the work, we hit the streets leafleting.

We then looked into the track record of Cadillac Ranch's other restaurants in Tempe, AZ, and Nashville, TN. We found 62 major health violations posted on boards of health inspection records for those two restaurants. We distributed a leaflet about the health violations to the public.



Local 38 members leaflet at restaurant in downtown Cleveland, OH. Standing with banner are, from left: Teresa Russell, Mike Jaskolka and Perry Tatonetti. Not pictured, distributing handbills, are Organizers Ron Higgins and Ron Ols.

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	

We plan to continue our actions so all downtown business owners get the message.

All members who will be working out of the jurisdiction are reminded to sign up for the Employee Reciprocal Transfer System (ERTS) program. This will insure that your fringe benefits money gets transferred back to your home local fund.

Local 38's Christmas party is Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Masonic Hall. Santa opens the doors at 1 p.m. and the show starts at 2 p.m. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.

Congratulations to Local 38 members, and JATC Instructors Chuck Randolph and Tom Kaufhold, who completed their BICSI RCDD training, achieving the highest level of BICSI certification obtainable.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.

New Business Manager

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA—Our local elected a new business manager, Virgil Hamilton. Virgil has wasted little time in living up to his campaign promises of greater democracy. On Aug. 12, he hosted our first open meeting addressing current referral rules. Items were discussed and voted on by members in attendance. The majority vote effectively determined our new dispatch policy.

So, remember to attend union meetings to take part in deciding important issues. Attending these forums ensures a broader overall insight and allows each of us a chance to directly participate regarding matters of policy and practice.

We have been fortunate to have strong democratic leadership and a top-notch Labor Council here in the Evergreen State. Our work has remained strong and our economy stable. Public projects such as the new light-rail and Tacoma Narrows Bridge are examples of tax dollars building infrastructure and creating hundreds of good-paying union jobs. With \$600 million in projected government work starting on the Kitsap Peninsula, and our Marine Unit looking at four new Washington state ferries, we have much to be thankful for.

Special thanks to the entire staff and our army of volunteers who work hard year-round for all of us. Merry Christmas to all.

Kevin Quinlan, P.S.

Outreach & Marketing Via Web

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—IBEW Local 48 has joined the online social marketing craze, using the Internet to connect to new communities.

NECA and IBEW Local 48 have launched a major educational outreach and recruiting effort targeting teens and young adults through MySpace and other social networking Web sites. The pilot initiative harnesses videos of on-the-job apprentices and an interactive NECA. This innovative outreach program was reported by the Wall Street Journal and commended by the National Labor-Management Cooperation Committee of the electrical construction industry.

IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill says, "The Internet has long been a critical component of our recruitment strategy. Now, with the phenomenal popularity of social networking communities, we have additional online vehicles for delivering our message of opportunity to a new generation of workers."

A Local 48 member's Web log, or blog, about U.S. soldier electrocutions overseas hasn't gone unnoticed. Debbie Crawford, a Local 48 journeyman who worked for KBR in Iraq, testified at a Senate committee hearing about hazardous conditions at U.S. bases in Iraq maintained by KBR. In her blog, www.mssparky.com, Crawford documents electrical situations at U.S. bases in Iraq. [See *IBEW Urges Electrical Safety at U.S. Bases*, *The Electrical Worker*, October 2008.]

Brothers and sisters, please join us at the holiday banquet meeting on Wed., Dec. 17, at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport, 6 p.m.

Donna Hammond, P.S.

Strong Labor Showing

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb&spa), DETROIT, MI—More than 10,000 building trades members and their families marched at this year's Labor Day parade, and approximately 20,000 more turned out at Hart Plaza to hear then-presidential candidate Barack Obama speak. It was encouraging to see so many people turning out for the parade and showing interest in the presidential election.

Refreshments were available at our hall following the parade. It was nice to see brothers and sisters away from the job and to visit with others. Thank you to all the parade marshals and volunteers for an outstanding job!

Work is still slow in Detroit and many members are working on the road. Thanks to the locals that have been providing work for our traveling brothers and sisters.

Michael Curran, P.S.

Campaign Volunteers

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—Members of IBEW Local 68 gathered on Sept. 27 to support the re-election of state Rep. John Soper, a Local 68 retired member, to the Colorado General Assembly representing Colorado's House District 34. [Editor's Note: On Nov. 4 Rep. John Soper won re-election to the Colorado General Assembly.]

Ed Knox, Pres.



IBEW Local 76 congratulates the 2008 apprentice graduating class, honored at the Southwest Washington JATC dinner.

JATC Graduation Dinner

L.U. 76 (c,i,rts&st), TACOMA, WA—On Sept. 12, the Southwest Washington JATC held a dinner for the 2008 graduating class. NJATC Exec. Dir. Michael Callanan was a guest speaker.

Local 76 welcomes all our new journeymen. Our new inside construction journeymen are: Matt Adams, Mikal Austin, Jason Bernd, Tony Cole, Kyle Comer, Seth Cornelius, Norman Crawford, Kristin Debbin, Mea Felton, Trigve Feltus, Charles Flather, Jennifer Foster, Albert Haladay, Blake Hammer, Kevin Held, Heath Hetlage, Matt Hollingsworth, Kyle Howard, Kristopher Iles, Raymond Lester, Bradford Link, Philip McEachin, Garrett Muttart, Eric Nukolls, Kevin Orr, Todd Pelissier, Matt Proper, Tim Ratigan, Chris Rogerson, Sean Ruhl, Luke Soha, Evan Tisler, Anton Vetter, James Walk and Travis Wright. New residential journeymen: Seth Butkey, Riante Clark, Ken Harmanson, Tyson Murray, Nick Nord, Jeff Olson and Ken Thompson. New low-voltage journeyman: Scott Compton.

We congratulate these new journeymen and wish them successful carriers. We also recognize Brad Link, who won this year's Western States Apprentice Competition held in Anchorage, AK. Special thanks to our JATC committee, the JATC staff and instructors for their dedication to excellence and for a job well-done.

On Sept. 30 we held our annual pin night dinner, where 231 members with a total of 5,325 years of service were recognized.

Mac McClellan, P.S.



Attending October event are, from left, IBEW Local 82 third-year apprentice Richard Cole, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, Local 82 Bus. Mgr. Nick Comstock, second-year apprentice Clare Rairden, Ohio Treas. Richard Cordray (attorney general-elect), and Local 82 Examining Board Chmn. Scott Rairden.

Local Hosts Friends of Labor

L.U. 82 (i,mt&rtb), DAYTON, OH—On Sunday, Oct. 13, we hosted Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland and state Treas. Richard Cordray, candidate for Ohio attorney general. It was a pleasure having two men whose interest in restoring parity on state-funded jobs is so strong. [Editor's Note: On Nov. 4 Democrat Richard Cordray won the race for Ohio attorney general.]

We also congratulate James Dellinger as the top graduating apprentice, class of 2008.

Several jobs are beginning in early spring of 2009, which will brighten our work situation well into the next couple of years. Best of the season to all.

Jeff Davis, R.S.

Spirit of Brotherhood

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—At the end of summer we had our Membership Outing. Over 200 brothers and sisters and retirees attended the picnic, which made it another success. The weather cooperated and the food and beverages flowed freely. For the second year in a row, we held a fund-raiser for several Local 90 members who had to retire early due to a disability. Our brothers and sisters showed the true meaning of brotherhood, and assisting each other in times of distress, by helping raise over \$6,000 for these brothers and their families. Our contractors also were very generous with all the raffle prizes they donated. Thank you to all for your kindness.

At this writing, we were looking forward to the Oct. 14, 2008, retirement dinner/25-year-pin dinner.

Sean Daly, V.P.



IBEW Local 68 members and friends turn out to help re-elect Colorado state Rep. John Soper (front row, second from right), a Local 68 retired member. From left, back row, are Christine Russell, Mick Velez, campaign manager Steve Lebsock, Ron Trace, Ed Ayala, Paul Scharf, Robert Delgado and Local 68 Political Coordinator Tom Rutherford; front row, Debbie Harget, Riyo Zimik, Masothing Zimik, Rep. Soper and Local 68 Bus. Mgr. Dennis Whalen. Steve Lebsock is mayor pro-tem and council member for the city of Thornton, CO.

Annual Golf Tournament

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—In September, Local 96 had its annual golf tournament at Holden Hills Country Club. And despite rain showers, it was a great day. Bro. Tom Maloney's foursome came in first place.

At the annual AFL/CIO Labor Day Breakfast, Bro. Lenny Ciuffredo's daughter, Bianca Ciuffredo, was awarded the Francis J. Farrell Jr. Scholarship. Bro. Jimmy Walker's daughter, Bethany Walker, was awarded The Lowell Alexander Scholarship. Congratulations and best of luck to the recipients!

As of this writing, Local 96 is at full employment and is supporting traveling brothers and sisters.

On behalf of all the staff and officers, we wish all brothers and sisters a happy holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

Luke E. Carpenter, Treas./P.S.

Big Projects on the Horizon

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se&spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—At the time of this writing, members of Local 124 are holding their own for now. Several big projects are on the horizon. These include: a new Hard Rock casino and resort at the Kansas Speedway, a major recreational water park and resort facility, and a new banking data center, for starters. The Iatan II power plant is under way; a 90-day outage was scheduled for October 2008. We will need some additional help here with these projects and others scheduled to begin by spring 2009.

As of this writing, we were working hard to get out the vote to elect a new president and friend of labor on Nov. 4. The most important issues: jobs and the economy.

Be safe, brothers and sisters. May your holiday season be filled with joy and prosperity.

Congratulations to recently retired members: Richard M. Barry, Timothy L. Carlisle, Richard Lohe, Elvin L. Lynn, Stephen H. McAuley, Joseph W. Mallot Jr., Robert A. Martin, Frank C. Mascaro, Kenneth Newhouse, Rory R. Rue, James G. Rooks and Vincent J. VanCamp Jr.

We remember the following deceased members: Brent W. Benoit, William E. Brown, O.J. Dotson, Larry F. Hoffman, William Layton, Jonathon A. Meszaros, Eugene W. Prentice and James L. Waddy.

Frank D. Mathews Jr., P.S.

Celebrating Brotherhood

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—Merry Christmas and happy New Year from your brothers and sisters at Local 146. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. During this time of year, we would like to wish all IBEW members serving in the armed forces a safe holiday. We also extend our thoughts and prayers to Local 146 first-year apprentice Joey Musick, who is stationed in Afghanistan.

Members enjoyed the annual John Workman Steak Fry on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Thanks to our "chefs," the steaks were cooked to perfection, the drinks were cold—and the brotherhood was exceptional. The quarterly retirees breakfast was well-attended as was the Community Labor Celebration.

We mourn the loss of retired members Dave Scherer, a 44-year IBEW member, and Gerald Hyland, a 59-year member. Our sincere condolences to their families.

Work smart, work safe.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

Season's Greetings

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—April 2009 marks the 95th anniversary of Local 150. Please watch for an upcoming event to celebrate this milestone.

The Local 150 JATC and the entire membership wishes to recognize second-year apprentice Michael Pierce. Underwriters Laboratories awarded 20 students a \$1,000 scholarship at the completion of their first year in an apprenticeship program. Mike received one of these awards. This scholarship was awarded to candidates who demonstrated an excellent attitude, a willingness and eagerness to learn the trade and potentially become a leader in our industry. The scholarship will pay for the remainder of Mike's apprenticeship training. Congratulations to Mike on his scholarship.

As we close out 2008, we should remember the brothers we lost this year. Retired members who passed away were: Robert Heiden, Robert Johnson, Leroy Morley, John Holland, Neil Buesching and Fred Rickert. Sadly, we also lost an active member this year: Jack Kolb. All were fine men and good brothers. I worked with Jack Kolb several times and he was a wonderful person. He was very funny and made the job a pleasant experience. They will all be missed. Godspeed.

The new year is upon us...let's keep moving forward and not keep rehashing the past.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Campaign Activity

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—The work outlook in our local has picked up a bit this fall. There have been more jobs to bid, as well as more jobs secured. Hopefully this trend will continue into next year.

Local 158 was very active in doing whatever we could to elect pro-labor candidates in the November election. (See photo below.) We attended fund-raisers, rallies, member-to-member walks, phone banking, membership mailings, job site leafleting and much more. We had 14 members, plus spouses and families, attend the Labor Council's annual Labor Day picnic Sept. 1. That was great to see. Let's hope that by the time you read this article the election results are in our favor!

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

Union Volunteers Respond

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—Longtime Bus. Agent Martin Schwartz received the distinct honor of serving as grand marshal for this year's Labor Day parade in Newark, NJ. At



IBEW Local 158 members are among those attending a Barack Obama for president rally held in September in Green Bay, WI.



Grand marshal Martin Schwartz and his wife, Fran, march in the Newark, NJ, Labor Day parade. Bro. Schwartz is a longtime IBEW Local 164 business agent.

City Hall, Marty received well-deserved accolades from numerous civic and labor leaders, both statewide and local. Marty and his wife, Fran, then escorted several hundred marchers from AFL-CIO affiliated unions down Broad Street to St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral. It was a great celebration for labor. Congratulations, Marty!

Our volunteer committee was asked for help recently and responded in due fashion. Legendary Bergen County football coach Mike Miello of Hackensack High School asked his friend Local 164 Bus. Mgr. Richard Dressel for help updating the electrical system at the school's field house. Fans were mounted and the entire electrical system was renovated with materials and services donated by Local 164. Thanks to Chmn. Barry Hammond and Asst. Training Dir. Dave Milazzo for coordinating and helping with the work. Dave is also a longtime friend of coach Miello, having played for him at Ramapo High School in Franklin Lakes, NJ, as a starring running back from 1989-1991. Great job, guys!

Work safe and have a great holiday.

John DeBouter, Pres.

Political Action is Key

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—The late British essayist G.K. Chesterton once remarked, "A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it." Chesterton had a talent for mentioning commonly sensible phenomena, like a smack to the back of the head. His remarks tended to re-awaken man to the reality of the

obvious, and that doing something is far more practical than simply going with the flow.

For many years now, the basic welfare of the common working man has been brazenly forfeited for the profit of the few—basic protections for unions have evaporated. Corporations enjoy increased profits and tax relief while transplanting vital manufacturing jobs to foreign soil. The old maxim "think globally, act locally" has devolved to "think globally—and forget about the locals."

Only living things (like us) that have the courage to go against the stream can pull us from further disaster. Our leverage at this juncture? Political action and getting out the vote!

Kevin Coleman, Registrar

Work Remains Slow

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Our work on transmission, overhead and underground distribution is slow. We have 50 on Book 1 with nothing in sight and more layoffs coming. We don't see any relief until the economy starts to recover; this may take several years. Our state elected officials have not passed a capital bill, which if passed could help us in our period of slow employment. So I encourage all our members to write their elected officials and request they vote for the capital bill.

I hope when this is printed we have all voted and elected a new administration filled with officials who will straighten out our country. We need to make sure we hold the newly elected government officials accountable for what they have said they will do. If we need to, we need to remove them if they're not going to help the middle class. Everyone needs to attend their union meetings and vote in every election. Have a safe and merry Christmas.

Edgar R. Mings Jr., B.M.

Annual Barbecue/Picnic

L.U. 234 (i,rtb,rts&spa), CASTROVILLE, CA—Our annual picnic was a grand success with the largest attendance in recent history. With over 300 attending, perfect weather, barbecue to die for, and entertainment for the children (including a piñata, which even had the adults envious),



Local 234 Bus. Mgr. Ken Scherpinski (left) presents IBEW 60-year service award to retired Bro. Leland Knisley.



Local 280 retirees take a break from a Ben & Jerry's ice cream fountain to gather for a group photo at the local union picnic held Sept. 13. (Photo by Bro. Chuck Bunnell.)

Local 234 did a fine job of giving back to its members and their families. Now we have our work really cut out to do an even better job next year.

At the picnic, Local 234 officers and members were proud to honor two members for their longtime IBEW service. Bro. Leland Knisley was presented with his 60-year service pin. Bro. Knisley became a member in 1948. Bro. Ray Sahlberg, who was unable to attend the picnic, also earned a 60-year pin. Congratulations to Bros. Knisley and Sahlberg and their families for their combined century and two decades of service.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

Happy Holidays to All

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—At this writing, with the current economic crisis now in its second week and a \$700 billion bailout being mentioned, our local is feeling the consequences, with Book One loading up and over 30 apprentices out of work. The good news is that we have two large hospitals breaking ground and reports of solar panel manufacturing companies possibly building in our area, but hiring will not be for quite some time. Let's hope for a better 2009 and please have a Merry Christmas and a great New Year.

Our governor, his economic development team and the Oregon State Building Trades are bringing renewable energy projects like solar, wind, wave and geothermal to Oregon and keeping it all union. Many of our members are employed in Locals 191, 48 and 112 on fantastic projects like these and we want to thank those locals for their brotherhood!

Congratulations to third-year apprentice Maria Hughes and her picnic committee for a great picnic Sept. 13 at Timber-Linn Park in Albany, OR. (See photo above.) The food, ice cream and gifts were great and the children's events were fantastic.

Local 280 mourns the passing of retirees Clyde Borden, Loren Davis, Keith Levien, Loy Lonberg and Daniel Dodge.

Jerry Fletcher, Pres.



Akron, OH, Local 306 congratulates the class of 2008 apprentice graduates.

2008 Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—At the 2008 graduation ceremony, apprentice graduates were honored. (See photo below.) Commercial journeyman wireman graduates are: Jeremy Bridger, Andrew Clark, Bruce Frank, Chris Genet, Jeff Gonzalez, Alan Hill, Carol Hilton, Adam Maimone, Mike Postek, David Zietlow and Petr Zorica. Residential journeyman wireman graduates are: Chad Evans, Brian Friend, Leonard Green, Ryan Hughes, Mark LeFever, Ryan Lloyd, Tony Mondy, Brian Murphy, Michael Richards, Richard Samples and Russell Swartz.

The graduation ceremony was held at Todaro's Party Center and the featured speaker was our own Bob Genet, mayor of the city of Barberton and Local 306 journeyman wireman!

Highest grade point awards went to David Zietlow and Brian Murphy in their respective classifications with additional Klein tool awards presented by Bob Dorherty of Wolff Bros. Supply.

Opening remarks were presented by Local 306 Bus. Mgr. Mark Douglas Sr. Akron Division NECA Chapter Mgr. Thomas Shreves delivered closing remarks.

Our best wishes for safe and successful careers to all the graduates!

We mourn the loss of Bros. Jerome Crawford and Rocky Mervin and extend our condolences to their families.

Robert Sallaz, P.S.

Organizing Success in Wyoming

L.U. 322 (govt,i,it,lett,o&u), CASPER, WY—The local has experienced recent success in membership development. A new electrical contractor, Childress Electric, became signatory in September. Childress Electric is based out of the city of Rawlins, WY, and has been in business since 1934. Childress employs one master, one journeyman and three apprentices—and as soon as it became signatory the company put in a call for two more journeyman wiremen.

There also has been success in organizing more workers employed in the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Thanks to Organizers Jim Scribner, Bruce Johnson, IBEW Int. Rep. Debra Harget and Grand Teton National Park stewards Steve Larosa and Bob Martinez for their hard work and dedication. It's a good example of how great team work can make an organizing campaign successful.

Every year longtime Local 322 member Bill Boyle, in memory of his mother, Evelyn Boyle, funds a scholarship awarded annually to recognize excellence in the JATC classes. Scholarship winners for 2008 are John Pedry, Trent Dewitt and James Alm. Bro. Boyle's continued interest in the JATC training program is greatly appreciated by Local 322 members

Chris Morgan, P.S.



IBEW first-year apprentices out of Wyoming Locals 322 and 415 received cooler bags and hats from Platte Electric Supply.

Service Award Dinner

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—On Nov. 14 we held our 6th Annual Old Timer's Dinner. We presented service pins to members with 35 or more years of service to the IBEW. This year we had one 70-year member and two 65-year members. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time.

Local 332 congratulates all who received awards and extends appreciation for the long-time service. Regrettably, because of space limitations we cannot list the names of all who received awards.

Our 70-year pin honoree was Bro. Howard Fleming. Bros. George Applegate and Rease Day received 65-year pins.

Receiving 60-year pins were: Marvin Ball, Arlin Bumann, James T. Carney, Fred A. Charvez, Eugene Demele Jr., Isaac Fowler, Earl Gordon, Charles F. Hahn, Erling Hansen, William A. Johnston, Emmette Machula, Charles McIntosh, Robert L. Meritt, Aldo Selvi, Wallace Shepard and Wayne W. Weldy.

Receiving 55-year pins: Hugh J. Andrew, Roy J. Bassett, Warren F. Bates, Wesley E. Boyer, Narciso Burlini, William M. Cantu, Edward A. Cargill, Terrence Champaign, George Dunajski Jr., William T. Fritzke, Thomas F. Gardner, Robert C. Greene, Dan I. Hall, Ray V. Hernandez, Melvin L. Kincaid, Francis H. Kistler, Robert C. Murray, James M. O'Connor, Vern E. Seymour, Arthur Siebers, Fred M. Smiddy, Joseph Sturak, Vernon Von Raesfeld and Curtis L. Watson.

Gerald Pfeiffer, Pres.

Members Make the Difference!

L.U. 340 (em,i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—This year working people had the opportunity to elect officials who understand and respond through action to what the average working person goes through daily. Local 340 members have

never been more involved in an election. Record numbers of members and their family members phone banked and precinct walked for friends of labor. Our letter-writing campaign was extensive and although at the time of this writing (October), we don't have the results of our efforts, from what the numbers indicate now, I am sure many positive changes were made in terms of our elected officials for school boards, for city, county, state and national offices. Thanks to all Local 340 volunteers. Because of your dedication to our local and the electrical trade, all working families win and for that you can be proud!

Our Operation Christmas Basket Fund-Raiser is under way. Once again the members and employers of Local 340 are stepping up. Every year this raffle generates close to \$10,000, which helps union families in need during the holiday season.

IBEW Local 340 wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season and much success in the new year.

It is with great sadness I report retired Bro. Wilbur "Wayne" McCoy passed away in September.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

Membership Numbers Grow

L.U. 354 (i,mt,rts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Happy holidays from Local 354. We wish everyone a safe and prosperous new year. Work is still good in this state.

Membership numbers grew last year due to an aggressive organizing campaign. We have several new TV and radio ads running on KJZZ and will continue to keep you posted throughout the year. Please watch for the "Utah's Best Electricians" ads during games broadcast on KJZZ-TV

An apprentice graduation ceremony was held Nov. 7 at the Little America Hotel. The new inside journeymen are: Jesse Adams, Jason Alvarado, Spencer Belt, Mark Bertelsen, Jared Blake, Rusty Bush, Daniel Calderwood, Kevin Campbell, Adney Challenger, Ryan Christensen, Brian Crabb, Amos Crystal, James Dillon, Kip Francom, Eric Garcia, Shawn Gibson, Brandon Hamilton, Christopher Houchins, Patti Jeffs, Reed Jensen, Frank Jones, Trenton Judd, Ronda Klaus, Phil Koeven, Robert Kristensen, Dave Kuefner, Glynnis Landfair, James Lawrence, Nicholas Marshall, Justin May Steven McAllister, Steven Ochs, David Panzer, Monty Parker, Charlie Pectol, Gerald Perschon, Eloy Ramos, Sterling Reese, Brady Sharp, Brock Smith, Ty Taylor, Richard Weston and Cordell Wickstrand. New Voice Data Video Technicians are: Cody Baptist, Jeremiah Chadwick, Bret Dunyon, Ronald Jackson, Austin Reed, Andres Rondon, Nicolas Scorsone, Rebekah Sprouse and Chad Tilley. Congratulations to all.

Manya Blackburn, R.S.

Electing Friends of Labor

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—Our hard work paid off! Our voter registration efforts yielded a 95 percent registration rate among all members of our local, which puts us in the upper percentile of local unions in our area. We did our part and not only voted, but also got our friends and families out to vote. We made certain to convey the importance of voting for the candidates who support working families. Through these efforts we elected many friends of labor.

Thanks to Local 364's Northern Illinois University electricians who worked the annual Huskies football tailgate party. Members attending said it was a nicely planned event. Special



Local 388 members and their families enjoy a game of bingo at the annual picnic.

thanks to NIU members Bros. Dave McNamara, John Boudin, Dave Vespa, Gary Rangel, Jim Fredricksen, Dan Becker and Loren Rippentrop. The Huskies trounced Indiana State by 48-3. Thanks to the members who attended.

As the holidays approach, work is good for many members in our local, although the residential sector is slow. There is much to be thankful for. Local 364 wishes our entire IBEW family happy holidays!

Ray Pendzinski, P.S.

Winter Work Picture Slow

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—The Local 388 annual picnic was a great success again this year. Great food and good friends made for a great day. (Photo above.) The work picture for this upcoming winter looks to be slow; many of the brothers and sisters are traveling and we thank the locals that are employing our members.

We will offer classes this winter to our members and also will have a COMET class soon. At this writing the local was working to get the word out to all our members, retired and active, regarding the importance of voting in November. The middle class has been and still is under attack from the Republican leadership, and as organized labor we have fought back by educating our members about the importance of the election for working people.

Guy LePage, P.S.

Member Appreciation Night

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—Our annual anniversary banquet and dance, Member



Local 424 former business manager Bob Lamont, joined by his wife, Hazel, receives his IBEW 60-year service award.

Appreciation Night, was held in September.

Presentation of service awards (for 20 years and up) honors members who have contributed to the advancement of Local 424 with longtime service. With a large local, space limitations preclude printing all recipients' names.

Forty-year pins went to: Bros. Dave Anderson, Harry Eberhardt, Ken Doucette, Jim Hilsen, Hubert Johnson, Jim Kenney, Bill McKeeman, Steve Reynen, Paul Schneider, John Schweigert, Norm Smith, Rick Szelagiewicz, Steve Walker, Eugene Walters and Tom Welsh. Receiving 45-year awards were Bros. Dale Coombe, Robert Hoy, Norm Kiernan, Henry Peters and Ron Sanford.

Three special awards must be mentioned. Bro. Alex Copan received the 50-year recognition, and Bro. Doug Sorenson, for 55 years. A 60-year award went to Bro. Bob Lamot, a former Local 424 business manager and architect of the Pension and Health/Welfare funds we all enjoy today.

Congratulations to recent retirees: Bros. Jack Cockerill, Jack Daly, Ken Doucette, Ken Garinger, Felix Hewko, Helmer Høglund, Doug Knisely, Ray Majeau, Henry Peters, George Popal, Darel Small and Eugene Walters,

Guest speakers included First District Int. Vice Pres. Phillip J. Flemming and master of ceremonies Bro. Bob Blakely, from the Canadian Building Trades.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

A Greener Union

L.U. 456 (i&o), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—In keeping with the needs of our trade, Local 456 is staying ahead of advancing industry trends. At press time, photovoltaic system training was scheduled to be offered again this November at the hall.



Local 456 retiree George Spiecker (third from left) receives his 50-year service award. Celebrating with him are some of his family who are also members of the local. From left: Kenneth Spiecker, Kevin Spiecker, George Spiecker, Scott Spiecker, Daniel Spiecker and Darryl Spiecker.

The local has committed to installing a new photovoltaic system for training and also for cost savings. The training has been upgraded for contractor continuing education credits and will be available for members and NECA contractors. Contact the hall for information about this or any other courses that are available.

Our hard working volunteers provided our members with some great events this year. Two fishing trips, the Day at the Races, family and members picnics, blood drives, support our troops drive, children's Christmas party, and golf outing. The brothers and sisters who organized and all who helped with these events deserve our thanks and respect. You are the backbone of our local.

Please attend meetings and help our local stay strong.

Wayne Martiak, P.S.

Union Labor Donations

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), MILWAUKEE, WI—Local 494 member Sean Gilles and Bus. Rep. Dan Large recently made a trip to the Ronald McDonald House in Wauwatosa, WI, to donate the soda pop tabs that Local 494 collected over the past year. Everyone at the house was thrilled with the size of the donation—approximately 1 million tabs.

Saving pop tabs truly does help those in need. At Ronald McDonald Houses, parents can stay overnight when visiting sick children in nearby chronic care facilities.

We received numerous thank-you letters, from some of the children this donation directly helps, from their family members and several individuals who work at the facility.

Local 494 will continue saving pop tops for the ongoing national Ronald McDonald campaign. Save yours and turn them in to the Local 494 office. We have a large barrel for donations right in our front entry. Bring your kids with you and let them empty their tabs into the barrel and experience the feeling of helping others. The next big RMH drive is the "pop top drop" scheduled for May 2009.

Mike Mueller, B.M.

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 498 (c,catv,em,i&spa), TRAVERSE CITY, MI—At this writing the Cold Springs Compressor Station near Kalkaska, MI, is going strong. This project, along with other oil field work and other projects, is providing work for many of our members.

Thanks to Mike Marek and all those who helped put on another great picnic this summer.

We welcome all new Inside, Residential, and CW/CE members.

Our local recently lost retired members Melvin Gydeson and Howard Slocum. Our condo-



Local 494 members Sean Gilles (left) and Bus. Rep. Dan Large deliver the local's union labor donation to a Ronald McDonald House.



Local 498 member Gary Vajda (left) and retired member Eric Finnila attend the local's summer picnic.

lences go out to their families.

We wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Timothy R. Babcock, P.S.

Multiple Milestones

L.U. 502 (c,em,i,it&t), ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—At our August regular meeting Local 502 welcomed 44 new members. This was the largest single month increase in our locals' history and represented an 8 percent increase in membership. Thanks to all Local 502 members for getting the message out that the IBEW is "the right choice."

IBEW Local 502, along with other NB Building Trades members, was fortunate to have a face to face with NB Energy Minister Jack Kier in September. We took this opportunity to express our opinion on issues important to Local 502 including proposed changes to the Apprenticeship Act and the lack of construction and safety inspectors.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper made an election swing through Saint John on Oct. 3. At a presentation to building trades reps at the Carpenters Training Center, Mr. Harper announced a \$2,000 completion bonus for all nationally recognized apprentices.

We mourn the passing of Bros. Mike Taylor and Lee Kinney.

Thanks to IBEW members from the following locals for their help on local projects: Locals 2166, 1555, 625, 1852, 1432, 2330, 568, 105, 120, 894, 586, 530, 424 and 230.

Dave Stephen, P.S.

Georgia Initiative

L.U. 508 (i,it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—Members of Local 508 agreed to participate in a program developed by the Savannah Regional Central Labor Council whereby we adopt a military family for Christmas. A list of the names and ages of the children of a soldier stationed at Hunter Army Air Field here in Savannah, along with a wish list for each child, is developed. Each family is also given a \$75 gift card redeemable at a local grocery store. In this season of Christmas, we feel especially blessed to have the resources available to share with our soldiers who give so much to preserve our freedom. God bless America.

It is very important at this time in the IBEW for our members to learn more about the Georgia Initiative and the compelling reasons for change. For the program to work effectively, our members must support the effort by getting involved in the process. Our campaign aims at building the union's support among workers in the area, focusing and holding our membership's interest, strengthening the union's presence in the community, convincing the construction industry that we must be taken seriously, and developing long-term public recognition and support for the union's cause.

Judith Sheahan, P.S.

Browns Ferry Outage

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—A special thank-you to all those who worked to put on the Labor Day activities. We hope everyone who came out had a good time.

The work this summer has been good and we have been able to work several traveling brothers and sisters. As of this writing it appeared likely that a couple of the bigger projects should be winding down by November, and the outage at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant was expected to begin in mid-October.

The JATC is currently accepting applications for the apprentice program Monday through

Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the office is closed from 12 noon to 1 p.m. We have 165 wireman and line-man apprentices enrolled at this time. For more information please call (256) 383-9507.

We wish all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Steve Crunk, Pres./P.S.

Visiting Old Friends

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—On the way to the National Training Institute in Knoxville, TN, the JATC staff and instructors stopped by to visit retiree Shorty Omev and his family. (See photo below.) Bro. Omev received his IBEW 50-year service award pin this year. Bro. Omev's son-in-law Wayne Thompson and grandson John Thompson are IBEW journeyman wiremen. He also has two sons, Gary and Dutch, who are IBEW journeymen. Bro. Omev is a longtime skilled craftsman admired by all.

With deepest regret, we report that Bro. Dennis McGlothorn passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go to this brother's family.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.

New Phoenix JATC Building

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ—At this writing Local 640's new JATC building was scheduled to open for business on Nov. 14, 2008. This multi-million dollar facility is twice the size of the old building and will have setups for the latest solar and wind technologies.

Frank Cissne, B.R.



Local 640 welcomed the November 2008 opening of the new Phoenix Electrical JATC building.



Local 700 apprentices and instructors for the Fort Smith Electrical JATC begin new school year.

IBEW Local 702's winning teams at the 2008 International Lineman's Rodeo, from left: David Bailey, Shane Byers, Jason Novak, Kent Diekemper, Shane Ruppert and Jeff Thompson.



Continuing Education Classes

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—Thank you to all members who participated in getting out the vote, precinct walks and phone banks. The survival of union labor depends on labor friendly legislators, as the economic stranglehold of the last eight years has choked off the bounty of the previous Democratic administration.

Continuing education classes are being offered at our JATC including: first aid/CPR, EPS foreman training, steward training, and hands-on JLG and forklift training. Don't forget to download the recertification form from the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards Web site www.dir.ca.gov/das or call the Division at (415) 703-4919 and declare 2,000 hours and 32 units of continuing education and send them \$100 before Jan. 1, 2009.

Thank you to all members who attended the Oct. 16 trade show Platt put on at our JATC. The trade show featured all the "toys" that make our trade fun.

Torrey Newton, P.S.

Food Bank Donations

L.U. 700 (em,i,o&spa), FORT SMITH, AR—The new school year has started for the JATC. Apprentices were excited to be back in class and offered a warm welcome to the new first-year apprentices. (See photo above.) We also welcome aboard our newest instructor, Donny McKinney, who will be teaching the first-year class.

Due to the recent financial crisis many of our neighbors are hurting. At this writing Local 700 and the JATC were accepting donations of food items for area food banks. Items could be brought to the union hall or left at your employer's shop for Local 700 pick-up. At press time, our goal was to take the items to the local food bank by Thanksgiving to help others less fortunate.

Support your local by attending union meetings.

Debbie Carter, P.S.

Int'l. Lineman's Rodeo Teams

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lett,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—Local 702 congratulates our members who competed in the 2008 International Lineman's Rodeo. Jason Novak, David Bailey and Shane Byers placed first in the Journeyman Pole Climb, and Shane Byers set a new record for speed climbing. This same team placed third in the Journeyman Hurt Man Rescue, and Jason Novak set a new record for fastest hurt man rescue. In the Journeyman Contractor Competition, Jason Novak, Shane Byers and David Bailey placed second, and Kent Diekemper, Shane Ruppert and Jeff Thompson placed third. Both of these teams showed pride and were exceptional at representing Local 702. We are very proud of you.

The work picture here remains strong. Outside construction needs linemen throughout our jurisdiction, and outside line clearance continues to boom. Inside Book One is clear for journeyman wiremen.

Merry Christmas. Work safe, take pride in your union and attend the meetings. Happily, we will ring in the New Year with Barack Obama as our new president-elect.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

Casino Complex Project

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA—As I write this article, autumn has arrived. We are presently enjoying full employment with 10 traveling brothers working in our local. A large part of our summer's work was at the Diamond Jo Casino Project. The \$80 million casino/entertainment complex is 185,000 square feet. The 35,000 square foot casino floor is expected to hold 1,000 slot machines, 17 table games and a poker room. There will also be a 36-lane bowling alley and three restaurants in the complex.

LOCAL LINES continued on page 16



"IBEW Local 606 JATC staff and instructors pay a visit to retired 50-year member Bro. Shorty Omev (fourth from left) and his family. From left, standing, are: Kareem Patterson, Richard Merriam, John Thompson, Shorty Omev, Wayne Thompson, Janet Skipper, John Liotti, Jamin Leichering; kneeling, Juan Santos and Jim Sullivan.



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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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.

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FROM THE OFFICERS**Thanks**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

What a year! For anyone who ever doubted our organization's ability to tackle what so many thought were insurmountable challenges in organizing and politics, 2008 will stand as a lesson.

Labor doesn't claim credit for the Obama-Biden ticket's far reaching win. But without our all-out commitment—our grassroots plan—victory would have been impossible to achieve.

Solving the problems that have piled up in the last eight years will require all of the expertise and the calm and steady leadership that Barack Obama displayed in his campaign.

Holiday season is a time for thanks. So let me give thanks to each of you for the care that you have shown, not just for each other, but for our future members and their families across North America.

The year started with our organizers building our construction membership to its highest peak in 117 years. Our leaders and activists in the utility industry followed that milestone with a code of excellence, the first national utility labor-management cooperation meeting and progress on establishing regional utility training centers. And in each of our other branches, our members made progress, shattering the doubts about our union's capacity for change.

Our grassroots campaign helped encourage the vast majority of our members to stay focused on the real issues of the campaign. It took courage to stand up to the diversions by those who played to the fears of working families instead of our hopes and dreams.

Those same forces are already circling their wagons to stop our friends in Congress and our new president from passing the Employee Free Choice Act, a law that could help bring the benefits of trade unionism to millions of workers who desperately need a voice on the job.

Brothers and sisters, you have truly earned some precious time with your families this holiday season. So let's enjoy our loved ones and give thanks for our accomplishments in 2008. And, as we pray for a happy and healthy 2009, let us prepare to defend our gains against those who still underestimate the progressive vision, grace and competence that define our labor movement. ■

Green Jobs in '09

As we look forward to President Barack Obama hitting the ground running on January 20th, organized labor has a lot to celebrate. An ally of unions who shares our goals and principles, Obama's leadership could reverse the downward spiral of unemployment and declining wages that have stunted our economy.

One of his promises on the campaign trail was to help boost the green sector by investing \$150 billion over the next 10 years to help create 5 million new jobs in the wind and solar industries. This kind of work can't be outsourced. And Obama's timing and sense of urgency on the issue couldn't be more appropriate.

In October, Congress passed a one-year tax credit extension for the wind industry and an eight-year extension for solar companies as part of the \$700 billion bailout plan for the faltering market. The same month, the American Wind Energy Association announced planned construction of new factories and wind turbines in Arkansas, Minnesota, Indiana and Iowa—with the promise of well-paying jobs overcoming a drought in employment.

The future of the solar sector looks bright, too. As businesses warm to the new technology, IBEW workers are benefitting. Members of Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 working at Southern California Edison are building and maintaining new projects as part of a project labor agreement solidified last summer. California looks to increase its renewable energy usage to 20 percent by the end of the decade.

As the wind and solar sectors gain traction, we stand at the dawning of what may potentially be a revolution in the way energy is harnessed, distributed and consumed. This gives us more of an opportunity to bolster membership and help raise the standard of living for countless men and women employed in the growing green sector. Granted, there's a lot to be negative and cynical about in the wake of the last eight years. But the optimism and innovation of American workers, labor leaders and our friends in Washington can be a bright spot as our nation seeks a path out of current economic challenges. ■



Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer



Letters to the Editor

Navy's New Generation

I was very much interested in the article on our new Zumwalt class of destroyer, the DDG-1000 stealth destroyers (See "IBEW Members Build Navy's New Stealth Destroyer," October 2008, Electrical Worker).

My grandson, who is an electronics technician in the Navy, is presently going to school to become a fire control director for the Sea Sparrow computer missiles system. Planning and designing ships and weapons systems that are compatible and efficient makes good economic sense. I now have a good idea of the kind and design of the type of ships that he will be deployed on.

Being a flying Navy radar operator myself in World War II, and a member of IBEW Local 1, this information hit close to home.

Thanks again.

*Henry V. Bandini
Local 1 retiree, St. Louis, Mo.*

Where We Stand

With the election of Hawaii's favorite son Barack Obama, the priority in 2009 should be the Employee Free Choice Act that is before the Congress.

I ask our fellow brothers and sisters to call their congressional delegation and let them know where union people stand on the Employee Free Choice Act.

Make 2009 the year of "imua," going forward, for union workers.

*Aloha and Mahalo,
George M. Waialeale
Local 1357 member, Honolulu, Hawaii*

The 'L' Word

Conservatives have made "liberal" into a dirty word. Heaven help any politician so labeled. However, in defense of liberals, may I ask you to think for a moment? If your children can go to school, not to the factory, if you make a living wage and work a 40-hour week, if old folks can see a doctor when they are ill because of Medicare, if they can buy groceries because of Social Security, if our water is cleaner, and our savings insured, and if you have unemployment insurance to help you out when you lose your job, you should thank the bad old liberals, because they brought this about.

This does not make us Communist, or even Socialist, but a nation that cares about its citizens. Oh, yes. Conservatives have given us deregulation which has brought us to the abyss.

*Deana McGarity
Wife of Local 20 retiree, Dallas, Texas*

Simply Amazing

It really amazes me when I read letters from IBEW brothers and sisters who actually believe that a Republican would be better than a Democrat for labor. Ninety-nine percent of Republicans are anti-labor and always will be, just look at their record. I have worked in the trade since 1961 and been in the union since 1973. I've seen the good and the bad during that time, and the bad was always when we had a Republican president. Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and the Bushes did everything in their power to help destroy the unions, and John McCain would be no different. The elections will be over by the time you read this, and I hope Barack Obama will be the president, as he would be a big relief for the working men and women of this country after eight long years of Bush. Hopefully he can get the economy back on track where it was with Bill Clinton, and get some labor-friendly people in the Labor Department.

*Gary Johnson
Local 113 retiree, Colorado Springs, Colo.*

Who We Are

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

IBEW Members Bring Back Collapsed Minnesota Bridge



Top photo: Minneapolis Local 292 members rebuilt the I-35W bridge that collapsed in 2007, killing 13 people and injuring 145.

Bottom Photo: Electricians illuminated columns commemorating victims on each side of the bridge.

Last year's collapse of the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis killed 13 people and injured 145. As images of the twisted structure and the tragedies of families in torment spread across newspapers, so did a national discussion on the deterioration of the nation's infrastructure.

It was under this microscope that Minneapolis Local 292 members and the state's building trades set out to rebuild the bridge. Their goal was to set a standard for safety and working within time constraints and a \$234 million budget. And they succeeded beyond anyone's expectation, finishing the 2,000-foot span—which will safely accommodate 140,000 vehicles per day over the Mississippi River—in just 11 months.

The new state-of-the-art bridge reopened on Sept. 18, one year and one month after the old one collapsed.

Chuck Gleason, a 28-year journeyman, worked on the bridge 10 hours a day, seven days a week for six weeks installing multi-colored lights. "I had some real touching moments," says Gleason. During the construction, family members of collapse victims were allowed to place wreaths on the bridge. "We worked around the wreaths, keeping them in place as long as we could," says Gleason. Pedestrians, often numbering up to 100, gathered on an adjacent bridge to observe the project in progress.

Local 292 members, whose numbers averaged about 55 during most stages of construction, did a terrific job, says Business Manager Tony Maghrak, who expressed pride that the members sustained no accidents on the project, which includes modernistic blue lights on both approaches to the bridge commemorating the human toll of the collapse.

Journeymen and apprentices installed seismic sensors that extend into the bedrock in the river below. "They call this a 'smart bridge,'" says



Business Representative Brandon Romann. "We are even protected from earthquakes and hurricanes," he says.

The collapsed bridge was the most treacherous stretch in the Twin Cities' freeway system due to thin layers of black ice that formed during winters. Electricians eliminated the hazard by providing power to blowers that circulate heated air through ducts under the roadbed to keep ice from forming.

The new bridge is concrete, not steel, and is also equipped with more than 300 sensors that record traffic and climate stress as well as multiple cameras that feed images to a control room for analysis by researchers. It was completed three months ahead of the scheduled Dec. 24 deadline. The old bridge, built in 1967, had been termed "fracture critical" meaning any structural failure could take down the entire bridge.

The project shows even the youngest residents the progress that can be achieved with a building trades career. Romann accompanied the project's engineer on a tour of the new span with local fifth graders who had made bricks to be installed in the bridge's façade. ■

Local Lines

continued from page 13

Our Labor Day parade participants enjoyed great weather, with many people lining the streets to watch the parade. Several of our contractors furnished trucks that followed behind the Local 704 banner. This is a great way to advertise our services to the people of the tri-state area.

We are saddened to report the passing of Bro. Michael Cahill. Mike was initiated into Local 704 in 1951. He worked for United Electric and Paulson Electric. He taught many of our members in the electrical apprenticeship program from 1960 to the early 1970s. He also taught at Northeast Iowa Community College from 1981–1993. Local 704 extends our condolences to the family of Bro. Cahill.

Ron Heitzman, P.S.

Gratitude Expressed

L.U. 716 (em,i,lect,rt&spa), HOUSTON, TX—Well, friends, another year has come and gone. Reflecting on this past year, I find we as a local have much to be thankful for. We have had full employment for our members and travelers and expect that in 2009 work will still be plentiful. We weathered the effects of Hurricane Ike and, although the union hall did suffer severe water damage, we are still open and operating out of temporary facilities. That in itself is a lot to be thankful for. Galveston did not fair as well as we did.

We are also grateful to IBEW Local 66 and their travelers who restored power to the Gulf Coast area. They came from all across the United States and Canada to exercise their skills and craftsmanship in restoring our power. Everyone appreciated their efforts, especially those who lost power for days and sometimes weeks. Union craftsmanship at its best!

This year the annual children's and adults' Christmas party will be held at Local 66 in Pasadena on Dec. 13. Hope to see you there! We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas.

John E. Easton Jr., B.M./F.S.

'Moving Forward'

L.U. 760 (i,lect,o,rt&spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—With the rising cost of living and an unstable national economy, we find ourselves blessed with work and an outlook for work and growth that is second to none. Because of those blessings our cup does truly run over.

Now is our time to unite as a local union and brotherhood, leaving behind our differences fueled by our elections, while we move our local forward.

The opportunities we have to grow our east Tennessee market share and increase membership are astounding. Our business and political relationships have been established, and the trust level among labor, management and customer continues to increase along with the positive reputation Local 760 enjoys.

The focus of this office will continue to be members first as we recognize that we are servants to the very people we lead. I am honored to serve and lead as Local 760 is moving forward.

George A. Bove, B.M.

Solidarity Parade

L.U. 910 (i&rts), WATERTOWN, NY—The annual Solidarity Parade in Massena, NY, was well-attended by members and families. As in years past, the horse-drawn wagon was available for retirees and families who wished to ride in the parade. Food and beverages were provided after the parade as in the past. We were honored to have Addie Jennie Russell, one of our endorsed candidates for the New York State Assembly, march with us.

Local 910 endorsed candidates for public office and encouraged members to register and vote in November elections. We endorsed state Sen. Darrel Aubertine for re-election for New York State 48th Senate District; Assemblywoman Dede Scozzafava for re-election for New York State 122nd Assembly District; and Addie Jennie Russell for New York State 188th Assembly District. [Editor's Note: Candidates Aubertine, Scozzafava and Russell won election on Nov. 4.]

Our first-year apprentices have started their training to become journeymen.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

2008 Events Reviewed

L.U. 1116 (em,lect&u), TUCSON, AZ—Season's greetings to all IBEW members. Our 2008 was busy with officer elections, contract negotiations and organizing new members.

Once again Local 1116 participated at the Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas City last September, but this time with apprentices; these young apprentices finished in the top 100 as a group. Chief Judge Rudy Urias said: "The apprentices were competitive even after the rain and, except for the mud, the weather was great." The team was made up of Joe Breda, Matt Goerke, Daniel Cruz, Lucas Cummings, Eddie Morales and Mike Halbur. Bro. Morales was in the top 30 for overall individual competition in the I.O.U. test.

Our annual Tucson picnic went well with enjoyable weather, burgers, hot dogs, desserts and kids games and rides, which allowed the parents to kick back a bit. (Photo below.) Thanks to picnic committee members Danell Carter, Tammy Owaski, Eric Reed, Jace Eckenrod, Jessica Reyes and Curtis Brooks; and to all those who volunteered the day of the picnic, who sold prize tickets, grilled, set up and tore down. We've always had good picnic committees and this year was no exception.

R. Cavaletto, P.S.

Scholarship Winner

L.U. 1306 (uow), DECATUR, IL—Our local has been spending considerable time and resources



Local 1116 members and family gather at the local's annual September picnic in Tucson, AZ.

Union Women Race for Cure



IBEW Pine Bluff, AR, Local 1658 members unite with staff members of manufacturer Central Moloney Inc. to fight against breast cancer by participating in the annual Susan G. Komen Arkansas Race for the Cure fund-raising event held Oct. 11 in Little Rock.

on arbitration hearings this year. We sincerely thank the stewards and members who have helped to prepare, support, and/or testify at these hearings.

Congratulations to Michael Harris for being selected as our 2008 Kenneth G. Coleman scholarship winner. Michael is the son of Ann Harris, a generating station clerk who works at Clinton Power Station.

Our members had a very successful benefit for Jodie Ford (daughter of IBEW member Sally Ford), who is fighting cancer. Thank you to all members who supported this fund-raiser.

Congratulations to Bro. Robert Alsbury on becoming a senior engineering representative.

We look forward to our country's new president and the positive changes that will come with him. With the holidays approaching, remember to keep your focus while at work, give eight hours' work for eight hours' pay, and work safely. Please attend your unit meetings.

Karlene Knisley, B.M./F.S.

Negotiating Team Success

L.U. 1944 (t), PHILADELPHIA, PA—Local 1944 hopes all IBEW members had a great Thanksgiving. We wish you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2009 ahead.

Congratulations to the IBEW Local 1944 bargaining team members who helped to successfully negotiate a new three-year Verizon contract.

Among those on the IBEW negotiating team were Local 1944 members Joyce Scott, Sandra Thomas, Donna Hall, Adrienne Pope and Paula Small.

The new Verizon contract covers 65,000 IBEW and CWA members in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. A tentative agreement with Verizon was reached on Aug. 10 and the contract was overwhelmingly ratified in September. The new agreement provides a 10.5 percent wage increase over the life of the contract and preserves fully paid healthcare premiums for current members and retirees. A major, important addition to the contract extends an opportunity for more than 600 former MCI technicians currently employed by Verizon Business to become union members.

George Greiner III, P.S.

Golfing for 'DADs' Tournament



IBEW Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada Local 2038 Bus. Mgr. Gary Vieser (right) and former business manager Stan Shearer, who retired in July 2008, participate in the Dollars

Against Diabetes (DADs) Golf Tournament sponsored by the Saskatchewan Provincial Building & Construction Trades Council.

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