

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

CONSTRUCTION • UTILITIES • TELECOMMUNICATIONS • MANUFACTURING • GOVERNMENT • BROADCASTING • RAILROAD

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 3 | No. 1 | January 2009

IN THIS ISSUE

2

IBEW powers up North Korean hospitals

Code of Excellence at work in Illinois

3

North of 49°

4

Analysis: Economic turmoil hits IBEW

6

Organizing Wire

Circuits

7

Local Lines

14

Editorials

15

Letters to the Editor

Who We Are

New IBEW Membership Cards: A High-Tech Sign of Pride

Are you a card-carrying member of the IBEW?

As of this winter, you will be. For the first time in its history, the International Office is issuing “smart” cards to all active dues-paying members.

“We want the hard-working men and women of the IBEW to have tangible proof that they are part of the best, most knowledgeable and highly-trained electrical and communication work force the world over,” International President Edwin D. Hill said. “Each member can carry his or her card with pride and dignity.”

The new cards also serve a technological purpose. Each member’s card will have a bar code and number assigned to it connecting the member to a comprehensive database at the International Office. On receiving their cards in the mail, members are urged to log onto a secure Web portal (see sidebar) to verify membership information on their own personal Web pages.

“This card is going to revolutionize the way business is conducted at the International and local level, as well as on the job site,” said Darren DeMarco, director of Information Technology. “Members can look forward to a streamlined and user-friendly process for updating and accessing union-related information.”

The evolving database will ultimately allow workers to go online to:

- Change address, phone, e-mail and demographic information



Washington, D.C., Local 26 member Ray Sbahi displays his new IBEW Code of Excellence membership card.

- Calculate pension benefits from the International Office
- Access I.O. pension application paperwork
- Verify I.O. pension beneficiaries
- Verify dues payments
- Confirm trade classification
- Access proof of all NJATC training
- Perform other tasks

As a show of continuing specialization in their craft, members who have completed the Code of Excellence training will receive an elite gold card indicating their certification.

“We hope that those on the job site who haven’t yet completed the Code of Excellence training will be inspired by the members carrying the gold cards and will be encouraged to take their skills to the next level,” Hill said.

By spring, local halls will have new computerized data readers to scan cards and

access information previously available only at the I.O.

“For members, keeping their data current and getting valuable information will soon be just a few mouse clicks away,” DeMarco said. ■

What Should I Do When I Get My Card?

1. Confirm all information on the card by going online to the secure Web site <https://my.ibew.org>. Enter your personal key listed on the letter accompanying your card.
2. If you have any questions, call (202) 728-6231 or send an e-mail to myibew@ibew.org.

IBEW Members Take Humanitarian Mission to North Korea

One of the most isolated regimes in the world, North Korea has earned the moniker the “Hermit Kingdom” from the world community. Travel to the communist state by U.S. citizens is very rare, but last fall two Portland, Ore., Local 48 members were given an unprecedented opportunity to see North Korea from the inside.

Twin brothers Dan and Dennis McCarty, both retired wiremen, spent two weeks in the country last September helping to install power systems at three hospitals in the city of Haeju, which lies just north of the famous 38th parallel, the militarized border that divides North Korea from the modern democratic nation of South Korea.

A representative from the international global relief organization Mercy Corps called Local 48 a year ago looking for electricians who could take a humanitarian mission to North Korea.

The McCarty brothers, who specialized in hospital projects, agreed to take on the unique challenge.

They knew it would be daunting, but they saw it as a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of a community that needed their help. “This was a chance to make sure people could get the treatment they needed, simple as that,” Dennis McCarty said.

The McCartys had to wait months before they could get permission from the North Korean government to make the trip. In the meantime, they tried to design electrical systems for buildings they wouldn’t get a chance to inspect until they got there. “It was like flying blind,” Dennis said. “We tried to write multiple scenarios.”

The McCartys finally got the go-ahead in early September. Traveling with two Mercy Corps representatives, they were held up in the capital city of Pyongyang for four days before they were permitted to go to Haeju.

The collapse of the Soviet Union—North Korea’s main ally—and continuing tense relations with the United States and South Korea, has left the country economically and politically isolated. The years of isolation has taken a noticeable toll on North Korea’s industrial infrastructure.

The road to Haeju from Pyongyang was practically impassable. There was no running water and the hospitals—outfitted with aged Russian generators that had been out of service for years—functioned without the regular use of electricity.

“Doctors and nurses did their work either during the day or by candlelight,” Dennis said. Despite the backwardness of the technology, the North Korean work team they were paired up with was enthusiastic about getting the job done. “We finished setting up the generators and the transformers at the hospitals so they could have power in less

than three days, which usually takes weeks, thanks to their work,” Dennis said.

The team replaced the old generators with new ones imported from South Korea.

While language was a barrier, Dennis found that the Koreans understood enough electrical code so they could effectively communicate using blueprints and schematic diagrams.

In only a few days, the power systems at all three hospitals were up and running, giving Haeju’s doctors and nurses the benefits of 24-hour electrical service for the first time in years.



The hospital’s director and the local provincial leader were so pleased by the McCartys’ efforts that they were invited to an

Portland, Ore., Local 48 members Dan McCarty, left, and Dennis McCarty, shown here with a Korean electrician, teamed with a local crew to power up three hospitals in Haeju, North Korea, last fall.

official banquet in their honor on their last day in North Korea.

“We are happy to help those in need,” Dennis said. “The project was about helping people, not politics.”

Mercy Corps is engaged in humanitarian relief and economic development activities in more than 35 countries.

“We’re proud of the McCartys and the work they’ve done in promoting the good name of the IBEW halfway across the world,” said Local 48 Business Manager Cliff Davis. ■

Illinois Union Contractor Puts Code of Excellence to Work

A Terre Haute, Ind., Local 725 electrical contractor is doing its part to ensure that its members working at an Illinois refinery live the Code of Excellence.

Lytle Electric Co. in Robinson, Ill., recently received the Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommendation for its Voluntary Protection Program Star award, which recognizes companies that go above and beyond industry safety requirements. Local 725 leaders consider such mutually beneficial partnerships key to their continuing success.

“We’ve taken safety a step higher,” said Mac Thacker, Local 725 member and job site superintendent. “The Code of Excellence and this recognition go hand in hand. It’s all about doing more than you’re required to do.”

IBEW members employed by Lytle perform construction and maintenance work at Marathon Petroleum’s Illinois Refinery, which produces gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, propane and butane.

Lytle employs 150 Local 725 journeyman wiremen and apprentices at the refinery. Jeff Reinhoehl is the owner of Lytle Electric and a Local 725 member.

“Lytle Electric answered the challenge presented by Marathon to constantly improve production through safety and hazard awareness,” said Darrel Ault, Marathon’s safety coordinator.

IBEW members are trained in hazard recognition and prevention and are encouraged to anonymously report unsafe practices, which are tracked until a solution is found.



Local 725 members and officers played a major role in ensuring a safe work environment at Marathon Refinery.

Each week, a Lytle safety representative and a field employee conduct job site safety reviews as a way for management and field employees to cooperatively correct problems, prevent injury and raise awareness.

In order to receive the safety recommendation, Lytle was required to sign a management commitment to safety, provide electrical safety training courses to employees and establish a list of safety goals. Endorsement from the local union was also a requirement.

“The union hall has been very forthcoming in trying to get the safety message out to the membership. We are trying to spread the message locally and really trying to affect the safety culture in our local,” said Eric Biernbaum, the Lytle safety director and Local 725 examining board member who

organized the safety recognition process.

All new hires at Lytle are required to complete a safety and health training course. They must pass a safety exam and demonstrate a firm understanding of all safety requirements before they are allowed to work.

“They put their time and money where their mouth is,” said Local 725 Business Manager Todd Thacker. “They know a healthier work force is a more productive work force and that’s a good thing for the IBEW.”

Lytle is the first union electrical contractor in a six-state region to receive this recommendation.

“At the end of the day, the guys go home the same way they came in the morning,” said Mac Thacker. “Going home to your wife and kids is a reward better than any recognition.” ■

North of 49°

Conservative Prime Minister Shuttters Parliament in Face of Opposition

Canada's Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper stopped a planned vote of no-confidence Dec. 4 by shutting down Parliament until the end of January.

A majority coalition of the Liberals and New Democrats, backed by the Bloc Québécois, had called for a vote of no-confidence in Harper—a vote he was sure to lose—which would have prepared the way for his replacement by Liberal leader Stéphane Dion.

Dion announced that he would step aside as Liberal Party leader four days later, paving the way for former journalist and academic Michael Ignatieff to take the reins.

Governor-General Michaëlle Jean, a figurehead appointed by Queen Elizabeth II, granted Harper's unprecedented request.

Harper's minority government was re-elected October 14. The Liberal-NDP coalition—which came together Dec. 1—cited Harper's inaction in the face of the global economic slowdown as the motivation for the parties' historic alliance.

If successful, the "Coalition for Change" would only be the second coalition government

in Canadian history since Confederation in 1867. The first was formed during World War I.

Every Member of Parliament "received a mandate from the Canadian people to deliver a government that will face the economic crisis," Dion told the Mercury News Service. "The prime minister has failed."

In his fiscal message soon after the October election, Harper's finance minister, Jim Flaherty, avoided calls for an economic stimulus package and proposed to take away government workers' right to strike. Harper also proposed to cancel public subsidies for political parties, a move that would have crippled the opposition, which relies more heavily on public funding than the Conservatives.

The political crisis has come in the midst of Canada's first recession in 16 years. The country lost more than 70,000 jobs last November alone, the biggest loss since 1982. The suspension of Parliament is expected to bring even more disastrous consequences for the economy as it will prevent the government from infusing the financial system with needed credit and from responding to requests from struggling manufacturers for federal assistance.

"While governments around the world are taking action to stimulate their economies, our prime minister has shut Parliament down," said Canadian Labour Congress President Ken Georgetti.

The accord reached by the Liberals and the New Democrats called for a \$30 billion economic stimulus package that would accelerate infrastructure spending and investment in Canada's manufacturing sector, while boosting unemployment benefits.

Strongly backing the new coalition is the labour movement, including the IBEW, which called for a series of mass demonstrations in support of the Liberal-NDP accord in cities across Canada Dec. 4. "Now is the time for government to take immediate action to fix the economy," the Canadian Labour Congress said in a statement. "The Liberal-NDP accord would get Canada working again by providing immediate money for infrastructure projects, transit, clean energy, water, housing and retrofits." ■



More than 2,000 coalition government supporters rallied Dec. 4 in front of Ottawa's Parliament Hill.

Plus de 2,000 partisans pro-coalition s'étaient mobilisés sur la colline Parlementaire, le 4 décembre.

Au nord du 49° parallèle

Fermeture du Parlement à la demande du chef conservateur, face à une opposition coalisée

À début du mois de décembre, le Premier Ministre conservateur du Canada, Stephen Harper, a réussi à s'esquiver d'un vote de non confiance, en obtenant un sursis alors qu'il mettait fin aux travaux du Parlement jusqu'à la fin de janvier.

Une coalition majoritaire formée par les libéraux et les néodémocrates et appuyée par le Bloc québécois, avait réclamé un vote de non confiance [vote qui aurait assuré la défaite de Harper] qui aurait préparé la voie pour son remplacement par le chef libéral d'alors, Stéphane Dion.

Dion a annoncé qu'il quittait ses fonctions de chef du parti libéral le 8 décembre et c'est Michael Ignatieff, un ancien professeur et journaliste, qui a été choisi pour le remplacer à la direction du parti.

Le 4 décembre, la gouverneure générale, Michaëlle Jean, une figure de proue appointée par la Reine Élisabeth II, sur recommandation du Premier Ministre, acquiesçait à la requête sans précédent de Harper.

Le 14 octobre dernier, Stephen Harper

remportait un autre gouvernement minoritaire. Mais l'inaction de son gouvernement qui n'a présenté aucun élément concret d'un plan pour contrer la crise économique a motivé, dès le 1er décembre, la formation d'une coalition libérale-néodémocrate appuyée par le Bloc, un accord historique entre les trois partis.

Si ce gouvernement de coopération réussissait à prendre le pouvoir, ce serait la deuxième coalition gouvernementale dans l'histoire du Canada, depuis la Confédération en 1867. Le premier gouvernement de coopération avait été formé durant la Première Guerre mondiale.

"Tous les députés ont reçu un mandat des Canadiens sollicitant le gouvernement de prendre des mesures pour faire face à la crise économique—et le Premier Ministre a échoué", avait déclaré Dion lors d'une entrevue accordée au Mercury News Service.

Dans son énoncé économique présenté peu de temps après l'élection d'octobre, Jim Flaherty, Ministre des Finances du gouvernement Harper, prévoyait supprimer le droit de grève des salariés de la fonction publique plutôt que de répondre aux demandes récla-

mant un plan de stimulation de l'économie. Harper prévoyait également abolir le financement public des partis politiques, une décision qui aurait eu pour effet de couper les vivres à l'opposition qui compte beaucoup plus sur ce financement que les Conservateurs.

Cette crise politique est survenue alors que le Canada entrait dans sa première récession depuis 16 ans. Il s'est perdu plus de 70,000 emplois en novembre au pays, la pire perte d'emplois depuis 1982. Des conséquences encore plus désastreuses pour l'économie sont à prévoir avec la prorogation du Parlement, car le gouvernement s'est retrouvé dans l'impossibilité d'injecter les fonds nécessaires dans le système financier et de répondre aux besoins d'aide financière fédérale des manufactures et des usines en difficulté.

"Tandis que les gouvernements à travers le monde prennent action pour stimuler leur économie, notre Premier ministre met fin aux travaux de notre gouvernement" déclarait Ken Georgetti, président du Congrès du travail du Canada.

La coalition libérale-néo-démocrate

appuyée par le Bloc s'était entendue sur un plan de relance de 30 milliards de dollars pour l'intensification des programmes d'infrastructure, des investissements pour soutenir les industries manufacturières et pour l'amélioration du régime d'assurance-emploi.

La FIOE, comme l'ensemble du mouvement syndical, avait donné son appui à cette coalition. Une série de manifestations ont eu lieu le 4 décembre dans plusieurs grandes villes canadiennes. Le président du Congrès du travail du Canada avait réagi à la prorogation du Parlement en ces termes : "C'est maintenant que le Parlement doit se mettre au travail pour relancer l'économie. La coalition libérale-néodémocrate appuyée par le Bloc permettra d'accélérer le versement des financements actuels au titre de l'infrastructure de même que des nouveaux crédits pour le transport en commun, l'énergie propre, l'eau, la construction et la rénovation de logements."

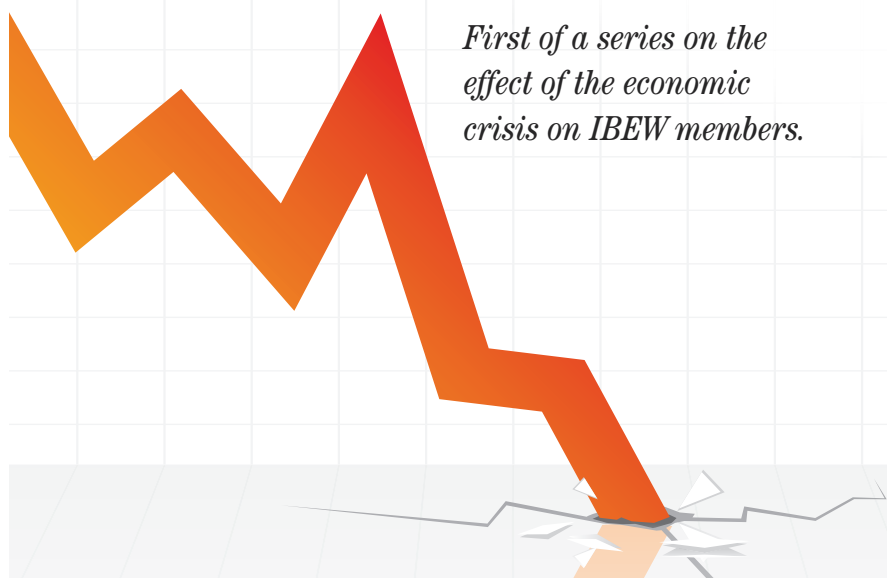
La nouvelle de la fermeture du parlement est tombée pendant le déroulement des nombreuses manifestations, attisant la colère des dirigeants syndicaux. ■

Economic Crisis



Financial Crisis Hits Home for IBEW

First of a series on the effect of the economic crisis on IBEW members.



The fragile economy has a nation on its edge. From the 2 million workers who have lost their jobs since last January—to retirees watching the value of their savings plummet—life is a zigzag between fears of another Great Depression and hope that the Obama-Biden administration and a new Congress will find the keys to recovery in new economic stimulus measures.

Bad economic news is not unique to the tens of thousands of IBEW members who have lost their jobs or suffered through unemployment over the last 30 years, as manufacturing has moved away, aided by corporate tax breaks and bad trade policies.

Jeff Dondrea is one of them.

At 51, Dondrea, a 15-year employee of Acuity Lighting Brands, is stranded. The company has announced the shutdown of its Newark, Ohio, plant that manufactures Holophane lighting fixtures. Acuity is moving production to Mexico.

This is Dondrea's second scrape with a runaway employer. Before he started assembling lighting fixtures, Dondrea, vice president of Newark Local 1853, worked for 17 years at an auto parts plant that moved production to Mexico.

During the past several decades, Jeff Dondrea and millions like him have faced the quandary about where our nation's economy ends up when the good manufacturing occupations that fueled the rise of our nation's middle class are exported and replaced by lower-paying service jobs.

In 2008, that question was answered with all of the shock and awe and pain of the worst financial turmoil in decades.

The spiraling mortgage foreclosures, the plummeting stock market, the millions who lost their jobs last year, the prospect of more bank failures—all of these frightening statistics are closely connected to trade deficits and resulting federal budgets running in the red—the costs that flow from our nation importing more goods than we export. And those deficits were not accidental.

Seeds of Disaster

In a New Republic article entitled, "Debt Man Walking," John B. Judis offered a comprehensive analysis of the monetary and economic forces that shaped the North American economy from the post-World War II era to the present. The most startling fact is that the U.S. government—primarily during the administration of Ronald Reagan—essentially allowed the transfer of the American industrial base to other nations that financed the growing federal budget deficit through the purchase of U.S. treasury securities.

This allowed taxes to be kept at relatively low levels, at the expense of literally millions of jobs. Unfortunately, subsequent trade policies, under both Republican and Democratic presidents, further eroded the nation's manufacturing base. To read the full article, go to www.tnr.com.

With manufacturing playing a less prominent role in the U.S., where would the banks and financial institutions and their wealthy investors go to make their big profits?

First, they turned to speculation on stocks for emerging technologies. After the dot-com balloon busted in 2000, their answer was a flood of investment in mortgage-backed securities. On the heels of deregulation in the utility and telecommunications sectors, they proposed loosening regulations on banking and investment, rejecting constraints that were enacted after the Great Depression, freeing their path to engage in risky speculation.

Many of the nation's largest banks and newer financial institutions set up in the deregulatory atmosphere issued mortgages to buyers who could ill afford them. Housing prices continued to balloon and the banks began trading even the riskiest mortgages like chips on a casino table.

The gambling on Wall Street spread downward. Hundreds of thousands of working families secured home equity loans and made even more purchases on credit, rolling the dice on their housing values continuing to climb.

Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, draws the link between declining wages and lost good-paying union jobs and the new high-risk economy. "With wage-driven consumption growth no longer possible, the economy needed a different engine for growth," he said. "We had a growth cycle spurred primarily by the stock bubble in the 1990s and by a housing bubble in the current decade."

Something had to give. With last fall's collapse of some of the nation's largest investment banking houses, the precarious condition of Wachovia, Citigroup and other banks and an accompanying plunge in stock values on Wall Street, the torrent of credit turned into a trickle. Businesses—from General Motors to the smallest electrical contractors—were in trouble.

How bad the economy will get is anyone's guess. One economist predicts that 32 percent

of mortgages issued with "teaser rates" of 4 percent or less will end up in foreclosure by 2010. Greater strains on the world's monetary system will require delicate negotiations between the U.S., China and our other trading partners to avoid a global currency collapse. China's foreign currency reserves are now approaching \$2 trillion, much of the money invested in U.S. treasury bonds.

Pension Funds Hang On

IBEW members are paying close attention as Congress and a new administration debate the merits of economic stimulus proposals and grapple with bailouts. The health of pension funds is a prime concern.

Every pension fund is under pressure when the stocks lose 50 percent of their value. The PBF and NEBF are no exceptions, says Larry Reidenbach, Senior Executive Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer.

"Great pains have been taken to diversify the funds' investments, and we will survive," says Reidenbach. Instead of opting for risky residential real estate investments, the trustees of the PBF and NEBF invested in solid commercial projects, balanced by a diversified portfolio of stocks.

Some single-employer defined benefit plans could be facing very difficult challenges. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires many of the plans to sharply increase funding. With the stock market's volatility, those requirements could jeopardize their viability.

The pressure of the financial crisis on some IBEW branches is already being felt; it will take time to assess its impact on others.

IBEW Outlook

Construction has fueled much of the IBEW's growth in 2007-08, but the engine is slowing. McGraw Hill's *Construction Outlook for 2009* predicts that commercial building spending will drop 12 percent. Institutional buildings will slip 3 percent in dollars and 6 percent in square feet. Manufacturing buildings are expected to plunge 32 percent, public works construction by 5 percent and electric utility construction by 30 percent.

Some local unions still have travelers working on large projects, while others are "flat as a pancake," says Director Jerry Westerholm, IBEW Construction and Maintenance Department. IBEW and the Building Trades are preparing to give the Obama administration a list of shovel-ready projects that can be funded in the shortest time possible. The list of public projects, drawn from each vice presidential district in the country, was requested for the anticipated infrastructure portion of an economic stimulus project. "In a lot of cases, one or two projects can turn the fortunes of a local around," he says.

Tightening credit is straining the telecommunications companies and forcing

cutbacks in capital improvement projects. Verizon, a major IBEW employer, is asking for modifications of its required payments under the Pension Protection Act because of the growing burden of maintaining adequate funds as the stock market drops.

On Dec. 4, AT&T announced massive layoff plans. Hawaiian Telecom Communications, the largest IBEW-organized telephone company in Hawaii, has filed for bankruptcy protection.

FairPoint, which bought Verizon's IBEW-organized land line assets in Northern New England last year, has seen its stock price drop by \$13 a share. "This raises concern that the current economic environment will hinder FairPoint's plans to expand into broadband," says International Representative Bob Erickson, IBEW Telecommunications Department.

Government employees are left vulnerable as the subprime mortgage debacle leaves falling property values and tax revenues across the nation. Vallejo, Calif., a city of 125,000 northeast of San Francisco, has declared bankruptcy, asking a judge for permission to vacate labor contracts with firemen, policemen and Local 2376, which represents other municipal workers. Over 5 percent of the homes in the city are in foreclosure.

Utilities' electric demand is dropping as consumer spending has seen its sharpest decline in 28 years, says a report in *Market Watch*. "The financial crisis is changing everyone's focus," says International Representative Linda Mathews, IBEW Utility Department. Some utilities are seeing their credit scores downgraded, thus reducing their access to capital for scheduled improvements. As consumers are squeezed, others will find it even harder to get rate increases approved by public utility commissions. Industry veterans who were readying to retire are staying put as the stock market reduces their savings.

Even the Broadcasting/Recording branch is being pinched. The main advertisers on local TV news stations are automobile dealers, says Director Ro Wratschko, and the sharp decline in that industry is having an impact on revenues. Consolidation is also a factor. Longtime competitors NBC and Fox have launched a venture in Philadelphia and other cities to jointly produce local TV news stories. The cost-cutting moves will undermine union jobs.

IBEW members have a strong interest in Congress' plans for the auto industry. Prior to 2002, around 60 percent of Detroit Local 58's inside work was covered by maintenance agreements in auto and steel plants and powerhouses. A combination of bad trade policy and the industry's lack of attention to market trends led to a major drop in maintenance contracts. Union autoworkers were forced into concessionary contracts and began performing some of the work formerly done by the trades.

"It flat out scares me," says Local 58 Business Manager Joe Abdoo, who has 1,500 members on his out-of-work list. "No one wants to get in a race to the bottom."

Deneen Smith, a 17-year Local 58 journeyman electrician, has been unemployed since October. Last year, she was forced to travel to Louisville, Ky. with her pre-school child to work in a Ford plant; her mother traveled with her to babysit. "Michigan has been in an economic slump for six years," says Smith. "I don't understand those who say 'let the automobile industry go down.'"

An economic stimulus package can't come too soon for Paul Mitchell, a 14-year Minneapolis Local 292 journeyman electrician. As retail and commercial work has dried up, Mitchell, one of 14 core employees in a 50-man contracting shop, is on the street. His wife, a nurse, is facing a possible layoff, too, the first in memory at her hospital.

One Nation, Under Debt



In his book, *The Squandering of America*, economist Robert Kuttner discusses the huge growth of debt that accompanied the housing bubble and

has left many families in distress:

- Between 1989 and 2006, credit card debt grew from \$211 billion to \$876 billion.
- College debt has gone from practically nothing a generation ago to an average of \$20,000 per graduating student.
- The ratio of mortgage debt to the value of an average home has gone from under 20 percent in the 1960s to over 50 percent today.
- All forms of household debt increased from 66 percent of household income in 1973 to about 140 percent today.

With medical insurance costing an additional \$450 per month since his layoff, Mitchell is painting rooms to put his home up for sale and move his wife and two children into his mother-in-law's house. Purchased three years ago for \$300,000, Mitchell's home has lost a third of its value. "I'll be paying between \$30,000 and \$40,000 just to get out of the house and keep from ruining my credit," says Mitchell.

"It will take imagination and hard work for a new administration to help dig hard-working Americans out of the hole created by years of bad trade policy and so-called 'trickle-down' economics," says International President Edwin D. Hill.

In the February issue, we'll look at how the crisis is hitting Canada's working families and what kind of economic stimulus would best help IBEW members. ■

Organizing Wire

Boston's Fox Broadcast Workers Say Yes to IBEW

More than 100 technical workers at WFXT-TV—Boston's Fox Television Station Inc. affiliate—are in the midst of bargaining for their first-ever union contract, hoping to match the wages and benefits of their IBEW broadcast brothers and sisters.

Last March an overwhelming majority of employees who shoot, edit and produce news and programming for the station voted to be represented by Boston Local 1228. While the IBEW represents Fox employees at many stations across the country, this is the first IBEW organizing victory at a local Fox station since the company was first launched in 1986.

"It's historic because while Fox was willing to honor existing contracts at stations they've purchased, they've opposed any attempts to organize new ones," said Local 1228 Business Manager Andy Dubrovsky.

Dubrovsky said Fox employees saw the higher wages and better benefits negotiated by IBEW members. "A lot of folks had come to Fox 25 after working at unionized stations so they knew the difference," he said. "And they wanted some basic respect from management."

Fox 25's strong ratings also served to highlight the gap between the station's profits and employee pay.

"Fox 25's rise in ratings is directly related to their hard work and professionalism," said Local 1228 Organizer Fletcher Fischer.

The organizing drive started nearly a year ago, when the local anonymously received a list of Fox 25 employees.

Management initially opposed the union's organizing attempt by holding company meetings with employees. Despite this, Dubrovsky is hopeful that they will bargain in good faith.

"I think once managers found out how ticked off employees were during those meetings they mellowed their opposition," Dubrovsky said.

Local 1228 has had more than a dozen bargaining sessions with station management and Dubrovsky is hopeful that an agreement can be reached early next year. ■



More than 100 employees at Boston's Fox 25 are in the midst of bargaining for their first contract.

Ottawa Local Takes to the Streets, Airwaves to Bolster Membership

An eight-foot-long sign on the side of a downtown Ottawa bus asks a pointed question to electricians in the area: "Did you get your raise? We did."

In a months-long advertizing blitz, Ottawa Local 586 launched a large-scale campaign to recruit new members via billboards, radio ads and bus signs throughout the metro region.

"We've had a great response so far," said Local 586 Business Manager James Barry. "Our organizing is typically very successful, but we wanted to do something to create new momentum." Since April, Local 586 has advertised on more than 600 buses covering numerous routes, put up eight billboard ads and hit the airwaves on sports radio programs in an effort to bring qualified electricians into the Brotherhood.

"Are you getting what you're worth?" one of the radio ads asks, because Local 586 "is setting the standard for the highest hourly wages, the best pension and health benefits in the industry. Join the winning team."

Barry said the marketing campaign helps make the IBEW more of a household name. "We want people to have an immediate mental connection to what our union is," he said. "With our ads everywhere, people learn quickly what IBEW means—good workmanship and a solid career. Creating this kind of brand awareness is extremely important."

And expensive. The local has invested more than \$100,000 Canadian in the ad push—money well spent, Barry said. The local has received hundreds of phone calls from both contractors and electricians interested in unionizing. John Bourke, lead organizer, said that at least 50 new members in the past few months were drawn in by the ads.

Leaders at the local also stressed their efforts to organize contractors. Local 586 boasts nearly 1,200 active members and more than 100 signatory contractors in the area. "By organizing the contractor, you not only get the company on board, you get the work that comes with the company," Barry said. "It might be unorthodox, but it's increased our numbers." ■

Circuits

Hearings Sought on Future of Navy's New Stealth Destroyer

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is calling on Congress to conduct full hearings on the future of a new generation of advanced destroyers.

The Zumwalt-class destroyer, the DDG-1000, was first unveiled nearly a decade ago. With a high-tech stealth design that makes it nearly invisible to enemy radar and the latest on-board computer systems that reduces crew size by one-third, the Zumwalt is one of the most technologically advanced ships in the naval world. (See "IBEW Members Build Navy's New Stealth Destroyer," October 2008, the Electrical Worker).

Bath Iron Works in Maine, whose employees are represented by the International Association of Machinists, and the Ingalls Shipyard in Mississippi, whose employees are represented by Pascagoula Local 733 and the Metal Trades Council, have been issued contracts to build the first two DDG-1000s.

The Navy had initially proposed to build more than 30 Zumwalts, but reduced the number to seven due to budgetary constraints. Last year Congress appropriated half the funds necessary for a third DDG-1000, with the other half scheduled to be approved in the new Congress.

While there are many in Congress who continue to support the program, the fate of the DDG-1000 is still up in the air, with some members of the House Armed Services Seapower subcommittee advocating putting the entire DDG-1000 program on the chopping block.

"Members of Congress need to look at all the arguments regarding the Zumwalt and get the whole story," said IBEW Government Employees Department Director Chico McGill.

McGill and other supporters of the Zumwalt argue that the ship's technological capacities would give the United States an overwhelming global lead in naval technology and say that the ship could end up saving the Navy money in the long run due to its smaller crew size. ■

Career: Up. Tuition: Down.

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

College is more affordable than ever for all IBEW members.

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

Start today.
Visit us on the web at:
ibew.excelsior.edu
OR
To speak to an admissions
counselor, call us toll free at:
1-888-285-8649

 **EXCELSIOR
COLLEGE**
Start to Finish™

Local Lines

'Hope on the Horizon'

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—Last September, nine delegates representing Local 1 travelled to Kansas City for the 2008 Missouri AFL-CIO Convention. The delegates heard some sobering statistics about the state of Missouri's economy. In the last four years, Missouri lost more manufacturing jobs than did all of the eight bordering states combined! In addition, Missouri is suffering from its highest unemployment rate in the last 20 years. Couple these figures with the state of the national economy, and it's easy to see why these are hard times.

Fortunately, hope is on the horizon. Numerous labor-friendly candidates have won bids for seats both in Missouri and at the national level. Missouri now has a labor-friendly governor in Jay Nixon, and the White House will undergo dramatic changes this month. Please remember all who may be suffering during these hard times.

We mourn the following member's deaths: Oliver Weber, Alfred Auer, Earnest Wade Jr., Robert Pudiwitr, Archie Seguin, Louis Schlicher, Charles Rushing, Frank Steffan, William Harrison, Charles Motsinger, Fred Fedke Sr., Billy Williamson, Harry Strebeck, John Eckelkamp and Albert Crotty.

Matt Gober, P.S.



IBEW Local 7 congratulates the class of 2008 apprentice graduates. Assembled are: George Fournier, Paul Choiniere, Chris Paluck, Mark Kuenzel, Todd Hickman, Eric Foisy, William Gensheimer, Daniel Savini, David Burnham, Brian Zurawik, Scottt Morin, Jeffrey Neil Jr., Robert Dunn, Gary Mack, Christopher Dunn, Paul Tjimis, Brian Rivers, Jean Crevier, Mark Jutras and Dave Roe. Not pictured: Eric Simard, Don Samol and Adam Kosnicki.

2008 Graduating Class

L.U. 7 (i), SPRINGFIELD, MA—Congratulations to the 2008 apprentice graduates, and a big thanks to instructors for a job well-done. With dedication and perseverance all involved have made our JATC program a success. Local 7 looks forward to the Baystate Medical Center expansion in Springfield, MA.

Tammie Vancini, P.S.



Local 15 members graduate from October 2008 substation construction school.

Volunteers Enjoy Victory

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—Thanks to volunteers for phone banking during the presidential election. You made a difference. (Photo below.)

We are proud of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus for working to improve the lives of those in our communities. The EWMC received a letter of "immense appreciation" from Principal Pamela Robertson of Miles Avenue Elementary School in Huntington Park, CA, for the group's generous donation of needed school supplies for children.

At press time we are preparing a Christmas toy drive fund-raiser, as well as a community service event for Katrina victims at the January EWMC national meeting in New Orleans.

District 4 Bus. Rep. Marc Greenfield is recovering from liver transplant surgery. Mark Meyer is carrying on Bro. Greenfield's duties while he recovers. Marc and his family appreciate members' prayers and support.

We urge everyone to consider getting a body scan provided through the health plan. The procedure is a preventative health benefit that could detect problems before medical complication arise. This benefit is available to eligible active Local 11 health plan participants and their spouses.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

Utility Local Update

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—At this writing, negotiations were continuing on a new contract for our Exelon ComEd Energy Delivery and Business Services Company members. Bargaining for health benefits and a pension plan for these members and those at Exelon Nuclear were also being held.

Three members at ComEd Energy Delivery

were reinstated to their jobs in September and October 2008, two by arbitrators and the other through a settlement agreement. We also prevailed in an arbitration challenging the company's contracting of its pole-hauling function.

The U.S. District Court and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed the union has the right to arbitrate the company's unilateral change in health benefits for our retiring members. The U.S. District Court also ruled that a member denied unescorted access to a nuclear power plant and subsequently terminated, as a result of the fact that unescorted access to his job site was denied, has the right to have his future decided by an impartial arbitrator.

As a result of a landmark labor decision, we are in the final steps of determining which members involved in the 2001 "six-week illegal lock-out" by Midwest Generation are included in the \$15.5 million settlement.

Our nuclear division members also received a favorable "cease and desist" decision in arbitration concerning contracting of facility maintenance work.

Ronald V. Wette, P.S.

Gaithness Power House Project

L.U. 25 (catv,i,o&rts), LONG ISLAND, NY—Caithness Power House is a clean natural gas 350-megawatt power house located in the town of Brookhaven, NY. At press time, 65 Local 25 electricians are employed on the project, which is 75 percent complete. The plant will employ state-of-the-art combined cycle technology. It will use the exhaust heat from its 170-foot high stack to generate electricity, resulting in an efficient system that saves fuel. The air-cooled steam condenser will



IBEW Local 11 members and office staff, joined by others in the community, take a break from volunteer phone banking at the local's San Fernando, CA, office to pose with a cardboard cutout of Barack Obama.

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	



IBEW Local 25 electricians are employed on the Caithness Power House project in the town of Brookhaven, Long Island, New York.

use 95 percent less water and will be more environmentally friendly than older fossil fuel plants.

Bana Electric is the prime electrical contractor. General foreman Jimmy Foote said, "I'm proud of Local 25 members. Everyone has worked hard and the quality of workmanship is outstanding. We have rave reviews from the customer and contractor."

Caithness should be the prototype for all power plants constructed in the future. The cost of electricity will be greatly reduced. It will free us of our dependency on foreign fuel and ensure a clean, safe environment.

Jack Majkut, P.S.

Thanks to Volunteers

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—In 2008 we experienced a good summer and fall season. With winter upon us, the work picture is slowing. Hopefully this is temporary and the work picture will turn around and we will have another year like 2008.

Congratulations to President-elect Obama. Thanks to all our volunteers and the Local 41 COPE Committee for their participation with the phone banks, labor walks in Erie, PA, leafleting and house calls. Hopefully our hard work will pay off for the labor movement. It is time to hold all our elected officials accountable.

The annual pensioner's luncheon and the annual outing were a great success. The food was outstanding, the weather was good and we had a great turnout for both. It was nice to see our young members getting a history lesson about our local from many of our retirees.

The annual children's Christmas party also was a huge success. Thank you to Jim Devany and the committee of elves, and also to Santa, for a wonderful job. The kids loved it.

Michael J. Gaiser, B.A.

'Our Past & Our Future'

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Recently our membership had the opportunity to observe both the future of Local 43 and its rich legacy. In September 2008, Pres. Don Morgan swore in 37 new apprentices. One of the swearing-in ceremonies coincided with a monthly union meeting that was also our yearly retirees dinner. After comments from Bus. Mgr. Bill Towsley thanking retirees for their years of dedication, 17 recently retired members received service watches. At this same meeting 20 service pins for 50 years of service were awarded. Six 55-year pins and five 60-year pins were also awarded.

During the dinner many new apprentices mingled with the "old timers" and enjoyed their stories of the past. What a great example of how we continue to introduce the "past and the future" in Local 43.

Congratulations and welcome to newly organized US Mail Electric and its 15 employees,

who now enjoy the benefits of IBEW membership. Our organizers have been busy bringing in new CW/CEs. To date 60 have been sworn into membership. The IBEW and Local 43 welcome them also.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

SCE Agreement

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—We have a three-year tentative agreement with Southern California Edison. Wages will increase 3.5 percent in 2009 and 4 percent each in 2010/2011. The company and local will meet in early 2009 to discuss improvements in overtime.

We organized 28 planners at SCE's San Onofre Nuclear Generating Plant and 41 SCE employees on Catalina Island.

More than 200 IBEW members from Locals 47 and 441 rallied at a Riverside City Council meeting, supporting a project labor agreement for a new city-owned generating plant. The city agreed to include most of the language typically found in PLAs.

Several Local 47 teams placed at the International Linemen's Rodeo. Senior Division 3rd place—Bruce Thompson, Dale Lorz, Kevin Best and 5th place—Jack Flavin, Juan Pulido, Willie Rios; Municipal Division 3rd place—Dave Aguon, Vincent Santos, Melvin Wooden; Contractor Team 5th place—Lorenzo Deliso, John Satterfield, Clayton Loback; Contractor Apprentice 3rd place—Jeremy Taylor.

Our 5th Annual Brotherhood Motorcycle Run was Sept. 27, 2008.

We are saddened to report the passing of Bros. Ruben Lopez, Joshua Fulayter and Tony "Penguin" Avila. Our prayers are with their families.

Stan Stosel, P.S.

A Win 'For the History Books'

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—The November 2008 election was one for the history books. Local 51 thanks all IBEW members and their families who worked to bring about the change working people desperately need. With the anti-labor Republicans now where they need to be, we look forward to a future that will allow organized labor to flourish as it once did in our great nation.



IBEW Springfield, IL, Local 51 members at work on the Havana 138-kv rebuild.

On the organizing front, negotiations are continuing at the cities of Geneseo and Oglesby in an attempt to secure a first-time agreement. The campaign at the City of Peru continues while we wait on the labor board to determine the unit that was challenged by the city administration.

At press time, our work outlook remains good with journeyman linemen needed. Members can access our labor needs at the jobs board at www.ibew.org. Local 51 congratulates members John Rea and Walter Ridgeway on completion of their apprenticeship and advancement to journeyman lineman status.

With great sadness we report the passing of John Chesher. Bro. Chesher, a 24-year line clearance member, died unexpectedly on Oct. 20, 2008. Our condolences to his family, friends and fellow union brothers with whom he worked.

Remember to work safe, give eight hours' work for eight hours' pay and attend union meetings.

Dan Pridemore, Pres.

MDA Fundraiser

L.U. 83 (u), BINGHAMTON, NY—Local 83 Vice Pres. Gary Bonker was locked up! However, it was for a good cause. Bro. Bonker raised over \$1,500 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association by "going to jail." He thanks everyone who donated to MDA on his behalf to "spring him from the big house." Vice Pres. Bonker wore his stripes very well.

Don S. Tuttel, P.S.



Local 83 Vice Pres. Gary Bonker wears stripes for the Muscular Dystrophy Lock-Up fund-raiser.

Union Solidarity

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI—IBEW Local 99 continues its battle against forces that try to evade the standards and values we have worked so hard for. E.W. Burman, a general contractor, falls into this category. We have done many projects with them in the past and now they are practicing standards that allow them more profits and the community less due to wages. We have been picketing them daily for over a month at the time of this writing.

Organizer John Shalvey gave an interview to the Brown Daily Herald; however, E.W. Burman declined comment. Several Brown University students showed some interest in becoming activists for the cause. We appreciate and welcome any help they can give us.

Local 99 also sent a contingent of brothers down to Mississippi to help Hurricane Katrina victims in this still devastated area. These men shed good light on the IBEW and show what a true brotherhood is all about.

Stephen P. Callaghan, P.S.

Two Important Elections

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—On Nov. 4, 2008, America voted to rebuild itself and its economy from the bottom up. The past eight years proved once again that Reagan/Bush/Bush "trickle-down economics" does not work; benefits always evaporate before reaching the American worker.

We thank members in New Hampshire and Maine who helped phone bank, leaflet, and get out the vote for Barack Obama, and helped keep New Hampshire and Maine blue states. Over 200 members went to the IBEW caucus in New Hampshire on Oct. 11.

Another important election was held Nov. 8, 2008, when Local 103 Bus. Mgr. Mike Monahan was re-elected with over 90 percent of the vote. Congratulations, Mike.

A milestone was reached in the Leahy family. Bro. Robert Leahy's family has a 103-year tradition of IBEW membership. Robert now has 14 relatives who are Local 103 members. Robert's father, Edward, was initiated into Local 103 on Nov. 17, 1905.

Congratulations to Bus. Agent Louis Antonellis, who was chosen to go to the Harvard Trade Union Program for the class of 2009.

The 25th Annual Pension Dinner was held Sat., Sept. 27, 2008, at the union hall; over 500 people attended to congratulate this year's retirees.

William Molineaux, P.S.

'Honor Flight' Veterans

L.U. 109 (u), ROCK ISLAND, IL—Local 109 Bro. Steve Wilson traveled to Washington, D.C., with a group of nearly 100 World War II veterans from eastern Iowa and western Illinois as part of the inaugural Honor Flight of the Quad Cities. They made the journey to see the World War II Memorial dedicated to their bravery, service and sacrifice. Steve, who attended as a guardian, is from LeClaire, IA, and is a substation journeyman at MidAmerican Energy Co. Another flight is scheduled for spring 2009.

Lori Smith, R.S.



Local 109 Bro. Steve Wilson (right) joins veterans John Keenan and Bill Case on a visit to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Labor Effort in Colorado

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—Thanks to the diligent effort and thousands of hours put forth by labor in Colorado, the "right-to-work" proposal (Amendment 47) went down in flames! This battle was fought from every angle, and labor was relentless in our drive to defeat such a negative proposal. Bus. Mgr. Michael A. Byrd graciously loaned political warrior Asst. Bus. Mgr. Timio Archuleta to the Labor 2008 Campaign, along with Vice Pres. Kristie Knudson, and members Mary Atry-Lopez, Bob Campbell and many

others to educate and encourage our membership throughout this historic campaign. Colorado is also grateful to our International Office for providing staff from Washington, D.C., to aid in our battle to protect the future of Colorado.

Most importantly, we acknowledge the leadership of Bus. Mgr. Michael A. Byrd, who not only served on the Executive Committee of Protect Colorado's Future, but also worked tirelessly with business and labor to successfully protect the rights of all working families.

Again, thanks to everyone who got out and cast their vote. And remember, when working together we have only one goal—"Yes We Can!"

Dennis Z. LeTurgez, P.S.

New Training Programs

L.U. 125 (lctt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR—To ensure our union leaders have the skills and knowledge to perform the duties and fulfill the responsibilities of their roles, the local has developed two new training programs.

In October 2008, the local offered shop steward and unit chairman/recorder training to existing and potential holders of these positions. Topics of the training sessions included Weingarten Rights, rights of shop stewards, strategies to increase attendance and participation at meetings, and managing conflict.

Members employed by Bonneville Power Administration, Clark County PUD, Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Columbia River PUD, NECA contractors, Oregon Trail Electric Consumers Cooperative, Pacific Power, and Portland General Electric attended the training. As the local stresses the need for accountability, responsibility and consistency, these courses should provide a foundation for handling our business.

For more information about these courses, please call (503) 262-9125.

Marcy Putman, P.S.

Kudos to Volunteers

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV—Work in the area is slowing, with many projects finishing up. The annual picnic was well-attended. Thanks to all who helped out and volunteered their time

A completion dinner was held to congratulate the 2008 graduating class. Joining the journeyman wireman work force are: Jim Fisher, Tom Greaves, Jason McFarland, Matt Shunn, Gary Shaver, Dave Squier and Kevin Stingle. Congratulations to all! We were honored to have Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Salvatore J. "Sam" Chilia and Wheeling Mayor Andy McKenzie as guest speakers.

The local entered a float in the 2008 Wheeling Christmas parade. Shown in the accompanying photo are the second-year apprentice class members who volunteered their time and painting skills to help out. Thank you to Dan Morris for use of his



Local 141 second-year apprentices volunteered their work on the local union's float for the Wheeling, WV, Christmas parade. From left, back row, are David Kovalski, Kurt Paulus, Nathan Pettit, Manny Dehner, Dustin Rice, John Garrett and Derek Leach; front row, Luke Warren, Joel Traylor and Travis Locke.

trailer and to Pat Ging for use of his yard. Thanks to everyone who had a part in building and wiring the float. At this writing we were looking forward to the local's Dec. 5, 2008, Christmas party.

Justin Klempa, P.S.

2008 Full Employment

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL—A group of Local 145 members enjoyed a bus trip to the National NECA Electrical Industry Trade Show at McCormick Place in Chicago on Oct. 5, 2008. The event featured 175 booths, with vendors displaying their new technology and sharing information.

Work has been good here through 2008 with full employment. We thank the traveling brothers and sisters who helped staff the work in our jurisdiction. The Triumph Foods hog plant project is on temporary hold, but we hope other commercial and/or industrial projects will pick up some additional work. Our outside members have been very busy all through last year, working overtime to repair damage due to several storms. In addition, many crews are working on power line maintenance throughout our jurisdiction.

Thank you to all members who volunteered with the 2008 election.

We pray for the families and friends who recently lost loved ones.

Alan Anderson, P.S.

Gov. Gregoire Visits Local

L.U. 191 (e,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—Washington state Gov. Christine Gregoire (D) attended Local 191's October 2008 meeting. She discussed some of the national issues affecting the state of Washington, her actions as governor and her position on numerous issues. She also had time for members' questions. Amazingly, the Republican 2008 candidate for governor made no attempt to attend one of our meetings to discuss his candidacy. Our local overwhelmingly supported Gov. Gregoire, who cares about the issues important to us. To all our brothers and sisters in the IBEW, if your government isn't working for you, it's time to replace your government! [Editor's note: Gov. Christine Gregoire won her bid for re-election in November 2008.]

Marcus Abarcus, P.S.

Union Volunteers Step Up

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Local 193 volunteered to help the area homeless shelter bring its building up to Code. The local was happy to help those less fortunate in our jurisdiction!

The Railsplitter Wind Farm project north of Lincoln, IL, is a joint project with co-jurisdiction between sister Locals 34, Peoria, and 193. This



IBEW Local 193 electricians, joined by travelers from sister locals, are working at the City Water, Light & Power plant addition in Springfield, IL.

projected is just getting off the ground and will staff up soon.

IBEW Local 193's Poker Run raised over \$4,000 for the Computer Banc under Neil Hervey's planning. The program provides computers for underprivileged kids.

City Water, Light & Power of Springfield has a substation expansion project going on at Interstate Substation. L.E. Meyers Company is the general contractor.

Fortunately, we now have a pro-labor president-elect, with a majority of the same in the U.S. House and Senate. It has been a long eight years since our voices have been heard under G.W. Bush and Dick Cheney, sworn enemies of organized labor and working folks nationwide.

Please note our departed Local 193 brothers: Richard "Jake" Jakowsky and Lawrence Lane.

At press time, plans for the 2008 Christmas dance were under way.

Don Hudson, P.S.

Work Picture Still Slow

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—Book I, unfortunately, is still moving slowly. Unemployment has remained at least 20 percent for our local for some time. Projects currently under way have been moving slowly, thus the reason for slow Book I movement. We are pleased with results of the recent elections on the national scene as well as the local offices. Hopefully this will catapult the economy and get everyone back to work.

Recently our officers attended a leadership class taught by IBEW Sixth District Int. Rep. Michael Daugherty. We thank Bro. Daugherty for passing on his knowledge, and we plan to take what we learned to make our local even better.

Congratulations to Jayne Adams for 20 years with our local as office secretary. Jayne's hard work and dedication are why she is a perfect fit for the IBEW.

We look forward to good things to come in 2009. On the job we must remember to abide by the contract and maintain the conditions of the local agreement. Take pride in your local union, get involved and stay involved!

Mike Raihes, P.S.

Election Wins for Workers

L.U. 223 (em.govt&i), BROCKTON, MA—After an election win for a Democratic president and Democratic majorities in Congress, we can finally anticipate elected officials who support the best interests of working families. We now have a president-elect who looks favorably upon unions and will work to strengthen the middle class. Special thanks to all union locals in swing states that

worked hard and helped elect Barack Obama, as well as Democrats for Congress.

Our work situation has been slow with projects slow to start or delayed. In fall 2008 the town of Plymouth overwhelming voted to approve the Plymouth Rock movie studio. This is a major project for our local and should break ground in 2009. The Brayton Point power station cooling tower project is slated to begin in the spring. We hope these projects begin in early 2009. State Electric has been working on the coal gasification project in Somerset. This is a test facility for clean coal technology designed to advance use of coal in a way not harmful to the environment.

Dave Fenton, A.B.M.

Safety Record Success

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA—Newly elected Local 229 officers were installed at the July 2008 meeting: Bus. Mgr. Matthew Paules, Pres. Keith Waltersdorff, Vice Pres. Larry Willis Jr., Treas. Blaine Feree, Rec. Sec. Scott Moul; Executive Board members Bob Ferree, Eric Gallagher, Tom Henchey, Brian Shultz, Jeremy Shultz; and Examining Board members Mike Brady, Jim Brenneman and Bruce Brown.

The Pennsylvania Power & Light Brunner Island scrubber project completed 2 million man-hours with no lost-time accidents. The work is continuing with Local 229 members and travelers completing turnover packages to support continued commissioning. We thank all our traveling brothers and sisters for helping us complete this project.

The new 545-MW gas fired power plant, a PLA project being built by Connectiv Energy, is under way. At this writing, the local expected to be putting members on the job in late 2008. The construction phase will take approximately 30 months.

Our signatory contractors are targeting several large projects. The work outlook appears very promising for local members and travelers. Travelers may sign Book II Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark Tomes, P.S.

Fresh Start for New Year

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rb&u), TOLEDO, OH—As the January presidential inauguration approaches, there is great excitement all across the country, as well as right here at home. This new breath of fresh air is exactly what this country, the world and our middle class need. With this fresh start to a new 2009, hopefully our economy will rebound soon and people will get back to work, and purchase American made goods! Also, for now the threat of a national "right-to-work" agenda has ended.

Local 245 also held its election of officers, and I am pleased to announce that Bus. Mgr. Larry Tscherne was re-elected to a fifth term. Our Local 245 officers are: Pres. Phil LaCourse, Vice Pres. Bob Coffman, Rec. Sec. Steve Herman and Treas. Lisa Tracy. Executive Board members are: John Carman, Tom Foster, David Kebker, Tim Rudolph, Tim Tscherne, Jack Schell and Charles "Buck" Modrowski. Examining Board members: Chris Knaggs, Charles McGhee and Kris Szamania. Thanks to all for stepping up to guide and promote the IBEW and Local 245 over the next three years.

Philip LaCourse, Pres./P.S.

Continuing Growth

L.U. 317 (i,o,rts,t&u), HUNTINGTON, WV—It was good to see members, retirees and apprentices at our annual summer picnic last year. Thanks to Dale Simmons, Jimmy Gillette, and the Entertainment Committee for a job well-done.

The Local 317 work picture continues to look good for our inside and outside classifications with the commercial and new high line jobs going through our jurisdiction. Our building corps is working on an additional building for the continuing growth of our local.

Local 317 thanks all members who volunteer to help build Habitat for Humanity projects. It is good to see our members give back to the community.

Charles Shane Wolfe, Pres.

Appointment to State Post

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA—As we adapt to the new reality of a State of Iowa Electrical Examining and Inspections Department, we wish to congratulate Bro. Pat Merrick on his appointment as chief electrical inspector of the State of Iowa. We are counting on Pat to provide the leadership necessary to guide the authority having jurisdiction, with a singular standard for all electrical work performed in this state.

Another issue that has surfaced during this period of transition is the use of unclassified workers. We see this as an attempt to skirt the rules and avoid accountability. Journeyman to apprentice ratios are in place to protect the public and the customer. There should be a classification for everyone employed by an electrical contractor, with a clear and transparent path toward the position of journeyman.

As the presidential inauguration approaches, we are hopeful for the changes that are required to stem the unbridled greed we have witnessed for decades. Ethics cannot be a top-down initiative. It must be a bottom-up movement. As we do the right thing on the job site, at the local hall and elsewhere, we gain the credibility to demand the same of our elected representatives. Be a part of change for the better.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

Service Award Recipients

L.U. 349 (em,i,mps,rtb,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—Our local had its annual picnic at Tropical Park and nearly 700 members and their families shared a beautiful day of fun, games and great food. (For the first time in 50 years, the PBA Park is under renovation.) A lot goes into planning a picnic. Hats off to Pres. David Karcher and the Entertainment Committee for a job well-done.

Congratulations to all members who recently received service pins. Raymond Englebright is a

65-year pin recipient. We had 25 members receive 60-year pins. Thirteen received 55-year pins, and 43 received 50-year pins. We also had five members come to the September 2008 meeting to receive their pins. Donald Fox received a 60-year pin; and David Jordan, John Kenney, Carl Nagle and Bill Prudham received 50-year pins.

Remember our troops here and abroad. We have a couple of members serving in the armed forces. We hope for their safe return to family and friends.

Support your local union; attend your local meetings and events. Help keep your union strong.

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

Events of 2008

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Local 357 congratulates the 82 new journeyman wiremen and the 14 installer/technicians who graduated from the apprenticeship program in May. We wish them continued success.

On Sept. 13, 2008, we held our annual picnic. There was plenty of food and family fun, and plenty of interaction with the political candidates. This was the biggest picnic turnout Local 357 has ever had.

Early voting began in Nevada on Oct. 18, 2008. Local 357's political action committee provided buses the week of Oct. 20 for all the apprentices who wanted to go and early vote as a group.

Our 7th annual charity golf tournament for the brotherhood welfare trust fund & St. Jude's Ranch was held Oct. 18 at the Silverstone golf course and was the largest fundraiser we have had to date. We thank everyone who participated.

Finally, we thank Bro. Jeffrey Westover for his many years of service to Local 357 as a business representative and Executive Board member. Jeff began working for NECA in November 2008.

Timothy W. Bolton, P.S.

Habitat for Humanity Blitz

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—We have been actively involved with Habitat for Humanity for several years. Last year, Habitat committed to build 263 homes in 34 states during one week in June. Local 363, in conjunction with the Hudson Valley Chapter of NECA, participated in the building blitz by wiring two local Habitat homes in one week.

Approximately 80 percent of the construction materials for the homes was donated. The new home owners are volunteers themselves who helped build Habitat homes for others.

At the dedication ceremony, the new homeowners expressed gratitude to Local 363. The time, talents and labor the union apprentices and journeyman wiremen donated was immeasurable. A special thanks to Bus. Mgr. John Maraia, Training Dir. Craig Jacobs and full-time instructor David Nasuti.

Timothy Poulin, P.S.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—We concluded negotiations with Fall River Electric Co-op, and the membership ratified the two-year agreement. Thanks to Brent Gamett, Jeremy Banta and James Nash for their efforts in these negotiations. We are working on Building & Trades negotiations at the Naval Reactor Facility at the Idaho National Lab site for Philotechnics. As of press time, we hope to have an agreement for



Santa Rosa, CA, Local 551 members volunteer for a Habitat for Humanity project. From left are: Bus. Rep. Dee Soza, journeyman wireman; Sam Wimmer, journeyman wireman; JATC Instructor Tom Ritch; journeyman wiremen Pat Harder and Michael Frank; and residential wireman Jesus Reyes.

the membership to ratify shortly.

The Eastern Counties Inside Wireman, Western Counties Inside Wireman, Residential, Voice Data Video, Motor Repair and Maintenance agreements, as well as Salmon River Electric Co-op and Lost River Electric Co-op, will be open for negotiations in 2009.

Please bring your suggestions for changes to these agreements to your local meetings.

The local now has three organizers employed: Mike Miera, Kirk Edge and Jeff Smith. They have been working hard getting the union message out in a state that is very conservative. All members need to help promote the union ideal.

Congratulations to Bros. Steven Walters, John Millard, Terry Cobbley and Phillip Oakes on their well-deserved retirement.

The local extends condolences to the family of retired member Ariel Hill, who passed away.

Bob Bodell, B.M.

Membership Meetings

L.U. 459 (ees,em,govt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—The local's Northeast District held its annual membership meeting Sept. 13, 2008, at the Towanda American Legion. Steamed clams and other great food were on the menu for lunch. The hospitality of volunteers at the American Legion was terrific. Membership turnout surpassed last year's numbers although some brothers were on storm work. The meeting took place at the time Hurricane Ike struck. Local 459 and the Northeast District members thank Lewis Elliott and his committee for putting this event together.

Also our Northeast District was pleased to have IBEW Third District Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel attend our October 2008 district meeting and speak to the members about the upcoming election. Members commented on how great it was

to have the vice president attend our local union meeting. Other guests attending included Int. Rep. James Ayer, I.O. Education Dept.; Third District Int. Rep. Keenan Eagen; and Int. Lead Organizer Joseph Sanna, a Local 459 member. Thanks to all who attended.

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

Members Recognized for Service

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—We are really happy here in northern California with the outcome of November 2008 elections. Not only do we have an outstanding new president, but also our local candidates won important offices. Local 551 is presently at 78 percent registered to vote. We worked long hours with some fantastic volunteers on our local campaigns. We now have a progressive majority on our City Council, and 551's endorsed candidates won two of three seats that were up for grabs on the Board of Supervisors.

Our 60th Anniversary Member Appreciation and Service Pin Dinner was well-attended. Our highest pin honor for 2008 went to Rodney Thorsen, with 55 years of service! David Brusat took 50 years; Jerry Hancock, 45 years; and Bob Antoine, 40 years. Thirty-year honors went to Mark Wetjen, Scott Ackerman, Craig Foley, Jim McQuaid and Randy Roberts. Receiving 20-year awards were Mark Laskey and Brian Franchini. Congratulations, brothers!

We are in full force volunteering for another Habitat for Humanity build. (See photo above.) Our members showed up on a Saturday at 7 a.m., geared up and ready to wire one of two homes on a lot in Sebastopol, CA. Thanks to volunteers for their solidarity and trade unionism!

Denise D. Soza, B.R./P.S.



Local 557 members employed by Thiel Electric complete final phase of a county hospital rebuild project. From left, back row, are: Evan Allardyce, Jim Markel, Chris Nickodemus, Larry Ross, Karen Carter, Brennan Neumeyer; front row, Jeremy Kiley, Brandon Fink, Tony Bell, Todd Fink and Matt Hamilton.

A Union Mandate

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Michigan was alive with politics during the 2008 campaign season. In a heartbeat all the political buzz goes away, barring a few straggling signs, and the candidates return to the problems of making things work. Billions are being allocated for the rich during this financial crisis. Looking at the past eight years, deregulation and spreading the wealth to the wealthy have proved again not to work. We have been building “Habitats” for over 20 years and now it is difficult to find people with qualified incomes to move in. Wall Street has run businesses into the financial sewer, all at the workers’ expense.

When Pres.-elect Barack Obama moves into the White House on Jan. 20, a union mandate will be implemented. Organize! The Employee Free Choice Act and union card check will be supported, and every IBEW member should take this opportunity to help all electricians earn a living wage and benefits. Some don’t like working the small shop jobs that require lots of self discipline to move jobs forward, so the IBEW needs members willing to do that. Michigan law may become one journeyman to one apprentice ratio, and if that becomes enforced even our employers will rethink business. (*Local 557 photo on page 10.*)

John E. Clemens, P.S.

Sam Bass Honored

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—On Oct. 18, 2008, the IBEW Local 569 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus held a luncheon to honor Sam Bass and his many contributions to the IBEW. Bro. Bass was initiated in 1964 into IBEW Local 1547, Marine division. He transferred his ticket to Local 569 in 1966, working in the shipyards until 1971. He served on the local’s Executive Board and as treasurer. In 1980 he was appointed as the first training director, a post he held until 1983. He was assistant training director from 1983-84 and 1989-95. He also served as apprenticeship instructor from 1983-2004.

Bro. Bass has mentored many members. He is a well-respected and beloved brother. Nearly 100 members attended the luncheon in his honor. There were countless heartfelt stories of how Sam’s compassion and leadership have touched many lives. A letter from Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill was read, stating that Bro. Bass “epitomizes what it means to lend a helping hand”...and he has ensured that “opportunities are afforded to countless apprentices and journeymen alike. This is the meaning of true brotherhood.”

Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.



IBEW Local 569 EWMC tribute luncheon honors Bro. Sam Bass (front row, standing, second from right).



Midwest Softball Tournament

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—On the weekend of July 25-27 last year our softball team traveled to Dayton, OH, to play in the annual IBEW Midwest Softball Tournament.

The team traveled with 13 players, three coaches, the business manager and assistant business manager. On Friday, July 25, they visited Dayton Local 82 and were hosted for food and beverages. We thank Local 82 members for the wonderful hospitality and camaraderie.

On Saturday, our team had a first win against Local 16. For the second game we played Local 176 and lost. The third game we won against Local 150. The fourth and final game of the day, we lost to Local 212.

On Sunday we started a single elimination day. We beat Local 164, Local 1365 and Local 176. We lost to Local 1365 in the middle division. We brought home a second-place trophy for placing in the middle division. We thank everyone who helped with the tournament. We had a great time and will enjoy the fine memories.

Dan Hatter, P.S.

New Journeymen Welcomed

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Congratulations to Local 611’s newest journeymen. Recent graduates are: Rick Martinez, Adrian Mariah, Randall Wade Brodesser, Lester Ortiz, Jason Phillips, Benito Chavez, Rudy Yardman, Joaquin Anderson, Richard Clines, Corey Klingaman, Peter Lohberger, Antonio Martinez, Andrew Rodriguez, Rudolph Rothenhauser and David Schroeder.

We thank all members who voted in November 2008. With the support of working people, Democrats finally won the White House.

After 47 years of service, Bobby Atencio has retired. Bobby served as an assistant for 18 years. He also worked for the I.O. as an organizer, served on the Local 611 Executive Board, was a committeeman and trustee for the SW Line Constructors

The Local 601 softball team wins a trophy at the 2008 IBEW Midwest Softball Tournament. From left, front row, Cody Nichols, Matt Logston, Shane Street, Mark Lowery; middle row, Bob Kacich, Doug Dahl, Blake Withers, Chris Bromley, Brandon Bailey, Tony Hubbard; back row, Ryan Logston, Ted Burgin, Rick Mullen, Keith Grob, Mike Siems and Jake Henderson.



IBEW Local 611 members are employed by U.S. Electric on a project at the University of New Mexico cancer research facility.

Apprenticeship and Training Committee, and served on the Local 611 Line Apprenticeship Subcommittee. A very capable negotiator, he represented our members well. He also volunteered at the local union picnics and children’s Christmas parties. Thanks, Bobby, for your longtime service. You will be missed.

The 2008 C.S. Mitchell award went to Aubree Espinosa.

Our condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Sam S. Martinez, Jim M. Hensley Jr., Emmett N. Reed, William S. Benton, Charles R. Devine, Frank T. Lovato Jr., Delmar F. Duncan and Max Luna.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

Celebrating Historic Election

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—Nov. 4, 2008, is a moment in American history that working families will hold dear for generations to come. For those of us who lived through the 1960s and early ‘70s, President-elect Obama’s victory was particularly poignant, as seen in the tears on the faces of so many that night as they listened to his acceptance speech. We are seeing the beginnings of the real hope and change we all fought for in this campaign.

Local 617 distinguished itself in the battle for positive change through phone banks, precinct walks, rallies and protests. Registrar Mark Leach staged a phenomenal GOTV effort with the help of a potent volunteer army of retirees, active members, apprentices and their families. Over 100 joined the labor community on the Labor Council phone banks housed at our hall, and 150 workers participated in building trades sponsored precinct walks.

On Dec. 12, 2008, the retirees held their annual holiday luncheon, and on Dec. 13, Santa visited the hall to host our annual holiday party for members and their families.

May God bless and keep President-elect Barack Obama, his family and this great country of ours.

Dan Pasini, V.P.

New Year Brings Hope

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Yes, we can! Now that the elections have come and gone we can hope for the change that was promised by our new president-elect. Thanks to all volunteers who helped on phone banks and door-to-door literature drops to elect Obama/Biden.

At our local’s 25-Year Club Dinner/Dance held Oct. 3, 2008, service pins were presented to members with service of 25 years and up. At a regular business meeting, 45 members received pins for 15 and 20 years of service.

Congratulations to Buzz Pearson on his participation in the Marc Levison 5K Run/Walk for Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS), held Aug. 30, 2008, in Bexley, OH. Buzz won first place in his age group and 26th overall.

Golf League final league champions for 2008 are: Jeff Culp, Lowell Burton, Tom Kollmer,

Mark Brigner and Bob Liston. Great job!

Here’s to a new year, a new president, new hope and new dedication to the IBEW!

We extend condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Randall A. Shaffer, George G. Monroe and Eddie W. Peck.

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

Update on Negotiations

L.U. 723 (em,govt,rtb,rts&t), FORT WAYNE, IN—We recently completed negotiations with SEI Communications in Dillsboro, IN. A five-year agreement was ratified Aug. 22, 2008. Highlights of the contract include a 3.5 percent per year pay increase, minimal increases in health care coverage, and job protection for construction workers.

An agreement was reached Nov. 3, 2008, with the Rochester Telephone Company in Rochester, IN. The three-year agreement, which features a 3.5 percent per year pay increase and no changes in health care premiums or coverage, has been ratified and signed.

Negotiations with the City of Fort Wayne Department of Parks & Recreation were delayed pending the approval of the 2009 budget. We are looking at a one-year contract there, due to changes in Indiana’s property tax laws and the impact on municipal revenue.

At this writing, contract negotiations were scheduled for mid-December 2008 with Granite Broadcasting/Indiana’s NewsCenter. The prior agreement’s expiration date was Dec. 31, 2008.

The IBEW 723 annual Essay Scholarship Contest for 2008 was under way at press time. The 2008 essay topic: “Eugene V. Debs: Hoosier Native and American Labor Hero.” The contest was scheduled to run through Nov. 30, 2008, and up to two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in January 2009.

Shelly Barbour, P.S.

Report from Windsor

L.U. 773 (as,em,i,mo&o), WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA—Local 773 hosted the 2008 Ontario Provincial Council Baseball Tournament, with 12 locals from around the province attending. For the sixth year in a row, Local 773 won the “A” division; Local 105, Hamilton, won the “B” division.



Local 949's newest members, employed by the City of Rogers, MN, are sworn in by Executive Board Pres. Scott Darsis (far right).

The work picture slowed down considerably since completion of our long-term projects, including the addition at Caesar's Windsor, our new City Sports Complex, 44 windmills at Port Alma, and the Lou Romano and Belle River water treatment plants. These were great jobs—our members took pride in their work and it shows.

In 2009 we are setting our sights for the next long-term projects, which are Windsor Western Hospital and the University of Windsor Engineering Building. Our thoughts go to all members who are traveling and we hope 2009 can bring them home.

We also have quite a few new retirees. We wish Richard Blanchard, John F. Brown, Richard Lowe, Richard McMaster, Roy Scott and Brian Young all the best for a happy retirement.

David Spencer, P.S.

Class of 2008 JATC Graduates

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our 2008 JATC banquet and completion ceremony held in August 2008 was chaired by Darrell DePue. We had 14 apprentices graduating to inside journeyman wireman and one to residential wireman. Graduating were: Erin Applegren, Pedro Bonet-Seara, Glenn Brown, Jaimeson Bruns, Peter Bubonja, Kyle Burke, Devin Moran, Lee Oliver, Charles Perry, Michael Phillips, James Pla, Matthew Talbert, Thomas Villanti, Timothy Wolfe and Sean Sondgerath.

Michael Phillips and Matthew Talbert had perfect attendance throughout their apprenticeship program. Matthew Talbert also received the fifth-year outstanding apprentice award. He received a plaque and a set of tools from Klein Tools Co.

Erwin Applegren received the Brad Felker Memorial Award, which honors leadership, volunteerism, service and academic achievement.

Congratulations also to Karen Hill and Matt Talbert for their opportunity to go to Tennessee for the NJATC National Training Institute. They were invited to attend as our local's most outstanding apprentices. Both are commended for their academic skills and their future in our local union.

Congratulations to Barack Obama, our next president of the USA!

Theresa King, P.S.



Local 915's class of 2008 apprentice graduates attend banquet. From left, standing, are: Kyle Burke, Lee Oliver, Michael Phillips, Charles Perry, Erwin Applegren, Matt Talbert, Jaimeson Bruns, Devin Moran, Pete Bubonja; kneeling, Tom Villanti, James Pla, Pedro Bonet-Seara and Glenn Brown. Not pictured are: Timothy Wolfe and Sean Sondgerath.

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 949 (em,t&u), BURNSVILLE, MN—Local 949 is proud to represent its newest members, employees of the City of Rogers, MN. The 24 employees include firemen and policemen as well as administration, public works, and parks and streets department workers.

Executive Board Pres. Scott Darsie administered the oath of membership to the group on July 18, 2008.

Cy Grover, P.S.

A New Direction

L.U. 965 (em,govt,ptc&u), MADISON, WI—Congratulations to labor-supported candidates across the United States who won election in November 2008, including President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden. We hope these victories will result in a new direction for our country, and particularly a redirection of government entities that directly affect workers and their families, such as the Department of Labor.

Local 965 established an Online Store for purchasing apparel and accessories emblazoned with the Local 965 logo. All items are made in the USA and can be ordered online at www.ibewlocal965.promoshop.com.

The local is targeting organizing in the new year. Local Organizer Kemp Grutt says: "With the failing economy, workers are being laid off and let go while upper management continues to collect large wage and benefits. It is more important than ever for all workers to join together in one voice."

Members of the local testified at public hearings in support of the proposed power plant near Cassville, WI.



Local 965 Chief Steward Dan Reilly (left) presents check from Local 965's Unit #5 to Boy Scouts of America representative Kelli Kayser.

Continuing Local 965's tradition of community service, Chief Steward Dan Reilly presented a \$100 check from Local 965's Unit #5 to Boy Scouts of America representative Kelli Kayser, Wisconsin River District executive, Glaciers Edge Council.

Kurt Roberts, P.S.

2009 Projects Scheduled

L.U. 993 (catv,em&i), KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—Greetings, brothers and sisters. 2008 marked the retirement of Wayne de Delley, our business manager/financial secretary of the last 28 years. His tribute dinner was well-attended. First District Int. Vice Pres. Phillip J. Flemming was among those attending. Wayne has served this local with dignity and honour and we wish him the best in his new life.

In July 2008 our Executive Board was sworn in. We welcome Pres. James Gooch, Vice Pres. Ron Bourdois, Treas. Lyle Harpe, Rec. Sec. Mollie Routledge, Unit 1 Chair Dale Nixon, Unit 2 Chair Rob Wilson; Executive Board Mike Russell, Jim Gorek, Colin B. Johnson; and Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Glen Hilton, who is pleased to be working with this board.

With the signing in August 2008 of the Rio Tinto Alcan project labor agreement, British Columbia Building Trades have secured this project for union labour—and more importantly this shows that the trades can and must work with our contractors and their customers. Along with BC Hydro's project rebuilding and adding capacity in Revelstoke, Mica Creek and Hudsons Hope, we are looking at the best years in a long time and hope to have travelers by summer 2009.

Glen Hilton, B.M./F.S.



Local 993 congratulates Bro. Wayne de Delley, long-time former business manager/financial secretary, and wife Diane on his 2008 retirement.

Solidarity in South Texas

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TX—Greetings from the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. Less than six years since its charter, Local 1015's membership is currently at 247 and growing! This would not be possible without the commitment and determination from our International and from Locals 130, 278, 479, 505, 527, 716, 861, 903 and 995 (Gulf Coast local unions) and the Quality Coastal Initiative. Many other locals in Texas, and the IBEW Seventh District as well, also have provided support. We truly are a Brotherhood!

You know you are part of something great when so many in our great Brotherhood help make it possible for electrical workers who live in a very economically disadvantaged area of the country to organize toward a better standard of living and working conditions.

We will never stop in the pursuit of better pay and improved working conditions—and most important, pride in who we are, never forgetting those who support our cause. Our motto down here in South Texas is taken from the rebel Emiliano Zapata, who said: "It is better to die on two feet than to live on your knees."

Horacio Garcia, P.S.



IBEW Weslaco, TX, Local 1015 staff members include, from left: Organizer Horacio Garcia, JATC Dir. Kenneth Strumpler (retiree from Local 1), Office Manager Cindy Ayala and Bus. Mgr. Sergio A. Salinas.

Standing Up for Labor

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o&u), LONG ISLAND, NY—After several years of lobbying, we finally succeeded in getting the New York State Call Center Bill passed by both the State Assembly and the Senate. This bill would have required utilities to keep their call centers within their own regions. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed the bill. This setback will not deter us from getting this and other important legislation passed. When the legislative session reconvenes we will once again be knocking on doors, writing letters and doing whatever is necessary to ensure that our voices are heard. As labor advocates, we must and will continue to stand up for what is right. Right not only for labor but for our communities as well. These challenges remind us of the importance of getting and staying involved in the political process.

At our October 2008 general meeting we welcomed U.S. Reps. Tim Bishop and Steve Israel. Both congressmen thanked the membership for all our support over the years. I look forward to seeing you at the next general meeting.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

Florida Election Volunteers

L.U. 1205 (em,govt,i&u), GAINESVILLE, FL—Congratulations to all who worked in the 2008 presidential campaign! Many worked tirelessly to bring a labor-friendly administration to the White House. Best of all here in Florida is that we can be counted among the blue states for the first time in many years. Volunteers from Local 1205 worked long hours—and it paid off! Alachua County was the lone blue county in a sea of red that made up the north central Florida map. Now that the election is over, we must switch gears and hold the politicians to their campaign promises.

Recently, a former 1205 member and Local 222 retiree, Murl "Mutt" Price, stopped by the hall and told the staff stories about the good old days. A few of the stories I had heard, a few I had not, but all were good memories just the same.

Our current work picture is slow but it should pick up this spring. In the meantime, thanks to all the locals presently working our members!

Lanny Mathis, Pres.



Among the many IBEW Local 1245 members working on the successful campaign to defeat Proposition H in San Francisco were: standing, from left, Eamon O'Driscoll, Carl Lamers, Bill Brill, Lula Washington, Leslie Asher and Jim Findley; seated, Landis Marttila and Bernard Smallwood.

'No on H' Campaign Succeeds

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—Local 1245 members beat back the fourth attempt in seven years to municipalize Pacific Gas & Electric's assets in San Francisco. Proposition H, on the Nov. 4 ballot in 2008, was defeated by an overwhelming margin.

The local union reached out to dozens of community groups to join the "No on H" campaign, building a broad base of opposition. In weeks leading up to the vote, union members hung "door-hangers" on thousands of doors in the city.

The local union made a persuasive case that the proposed takeover of PG&E would harm the interests of union members who provide electric service to the city, would threaten service reliability, would adversely affect electric rates, and would divert resources from the proposition's stated goal of increasing "green energy" in San Francisco.

The local union mourned the untimely death of Bus. Rep. Dan Lockwood, 55, who passed away on Oct. 25, 2008, after a brief hospitalization. Bro. Lockwood, who represented members at PG&E's Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, was widely respected not only for his aggressive defense of members' rights in the workplace, but also for his even temper, good humor and knowledge of the labor agreement.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.

Picnic and Service Pins

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—Over 100 attended our annual picnic in Skowhegan Sept. 13, 2008. There were miscellaneous IBEW items for sale, entertainment for everyone and fun for all. The cooks did an outstanding job. Thanks to all who helped with setup and breakdown.

Years-of-service pins were presented to several members. Receiving 30-year pins were Howard Haas, Bill Heavener and Harry Lyons. Bob Gray



Local 1253 Bro. Bill Gifford (center) receives his 50-year plaque as Bus. Mgr. Jeff Rose (right) and Pres. Tom Staples extend congratulations.

received a 35-year pin, and 40-year pins went to Walter Morris and Bob Thompson. A 50-year plaque and pin were presented to Bill Gifford.

We are saddened to announce the death of retired member Peter Perkins on Oct. 27, 2008, after a battle with cancer. He was a longtime member and served as steward on many projects.

William Gifford, P.S.

IBEW Lifesaving Awards

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—In April 2008 a contractor working at NRG Energy's Indian River Power Plant was seriously injured while doing maintenance on an elevator. The contractor was working on the underside mechanism of the elevator, which moved down while he had his head underneath, trapping and partially crushing his face. Local 1307 member Chris Impson found the victim and alerted the plant's first-responder team. Members Bruce Willey, D.J. Gardner and George Bush responded, rendered immediate first-aid and summoned 911 for medical evacuation. Bleeding was controlled and oxygen was being applied when ambulance crews arrived. The injuries were life threatening, but thanks to the quick action of these four members, the victim was airlifted to a trauma center for his recovery. IBEW Lifesaving Awards were presented to Bros. Impson, Willey, Gardner and Bush.

Congratulations to Sister Carol Serman on her June 2008 retirement. Carol started work with Delmarva Power at the Indian River Power Plant in 1981. In 1989, she transferred to Millsboro District for a CIS position. She advanced through the ranks and retired as a service associate specialist. Best wishes for a happy retirement, Sister Serman.

Edward D. Sparks Jr., F.S.



Local 1307 members receive IBEW Lifesaving Awards, from left: Bros. Chris Impson, D.J. Gardner and George Bush. Not pictured is Bruce Willey.

Scholarship Fundraiser

L.U. 1357 (t), HONOLULU, HI—Local 1357 raised over \$13,000 for our scholarship fund, led by Vice Pres. Thomas Grogan and local union Rep. Kimi Koge, who tirelessly planned and executed our 2008 Labor Day Scholarship Golf Tournament.

IBEW members in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands continue to work hard to grow the business market share on Saipan, Rota and Tinian. Pacific Telecommunications Inc. has grown its call center; now we must make sure that new employees join the union. We have tasked Unit Chmn. Ray Tenorio with helping to change the "right-to-work" laws in both the CNMI and Guam.

Although the 2008 elections are behind us, we continue to drive home the message that we must elect union and labor-friendly candidates to public office. After eight years of poor leadership, we have much to make up for and are working to educate our members about the urgency of participating in the political process.

Karenann Wedge, P.S.

St. Louis Job Fairs a Success

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—The Ameren/UE Company, based in St. Louis, recently increased its signing bonus to \$15,000 for journeyman linemen and we continue to bank apprentice linemen thanks to our two successful job fairs, which attracted over 300 potential members.

We had an organizing drive at Purcell Tire in Potosi, MO; it was unsuccessful, but very worthwhile in many aspects.

Ameren's "Power On" program has produced many contractors on property, namely our brothers and sisters of Local 2, and we are fortunate to have them versus nonunion.

More than 12 volunteers from Local 1439 participated on two different Habitat for Humanity projects, building a total of 19 homes.

We had two successful charity golf tournaments raising \$11,377.

Local 1439 apprentices Mike Myers, John Farris, Mike Stuckey, Dan Schwartzmeyer and David Kearns scored and placed in the top five at the 2008 Lineman's Rodeo. The Eleventh District was represented well!

There appears to be a very good potential that we will see an IBEW Regional Training Center in Missouri. We are also continuing our efforts to establish a "directional boring" classification within Local 1439 on the Ameren/UE property.

*Ken Carroll, P.S.
Mike Walter, B.M.*

Business Manager Mourned

L.U. 1465 (u), FALL RIVER, MA—We are saddened to report the passing of our former business manager, Thomas E. Rodrigues. Tom passed away unexpectedly Sept. 26, 2008. He was 48 years old and leaves many friends. He was a great union leader for our local for so many years. I ask all union members to keep Tom and his family in their prayers.

Steve P. Wrightington, R.S.

Mediation Settlement

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Local 1501 filed a grievance on behalf of the employees working for Amtote in reference to overtime not being paid in a week where a holiday falls in accordance with the contract. We

have had three mediations with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and we have prevailed. The settlement is as follows:

"Dear Dion: Further to my recent e-mails to you regarding the settlement of Grievance 859, please be advised that the Company accepts the Union's counter-proposal currently on the table. That counter-proposal is: • Of the 146 individuals on the list prepared by Jamie Ripley, Amtote will pay, via two (2) installments, the sums owed pursuant to the list, only to the 114 individuals with amounts over \$100. • Persons on the list who have terminated or transferred to management prior to August 6, 2008, will not be included. • Amtote will credit each of the 114 individuals with 4 hours of accrued vacation time (or its cash equivalent). • Amtote will calculate overtime for an employee who actually works over 40 hours during a week in a week he works on a holiday in the manner prescribed by the Union until a new collective bargaining agreement is executed between Amtote and IBEW 1501. • Neither this settlement nor Amtote's method of paying overtime as described above shall set precedent or past practice. Amtote believes the Union's desired method is incorrect and Amtote will be addressing it in upcoming negotiations."

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.



Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie (at podium) reports at a recent IBEW meeting on the success of the local's grievance on overtime. Flanking him are Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill (seated) and Int. Rep. James B. Kauffman (standing at right).

Solidarity & Brotherhood

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—With the new year we have a lot on our plate. We had a relatively safe year in 2008, but let's do better in 2009. We plan to have our brand new Web site www.ibewlocal1523.org up and running soon. Members will be able to check out the blogs and leave us a note in the guest book. This is a first for us. Communication is the key to success. Watch for the newsletter and local events on the upcoming Web site,

Bus. Mgr. Merv Wiltshire has been a busy man. Soon after ratification of our contract with Westar Energy, he and Pres. Russ Whitley went to work on two other contracts covered under Local 1523. With the shortage of overhead linemen in Wichita and southeast Kansas, Westar continues to use contractors to fill the gap. We look forward to having the many apprentice linemen "top out," creating a consistency in work styles and a more stable work force.

As the new year begins, remember to stay focused on our goals (safety, solidarity and brotherhood). By doing so, we can and will become a bigger, better and stronger union for our next generation.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

LOCAL LINES continued on page 16



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.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairman
Robert W. Pierson

First District
Joseph P. Calabro

Second District
Myles J. Calvey

Third District
John R. Clarke

Fourth District
Jackie E. Goodwin

Fifth District
Stephen Schoemehl

Sixth District
Gregory A. Lucero

Seventh District
Patrick Lavin

Eighth District
Rick Dowling

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

First District
Phillip J. Flemming

Second District
Frank J. Carroll

Third District
Donald C. Siegel

Fourth District
Salvatore J. Chilia

Fifth District
Joe S. Davis

Sixth District
Joseph F. Lohman

Seventh District
Jonathan B. Gardner

Eighth District
Ted C. Jensen

Ninth District
Michael S. Mowrey

Tenth District
Robert P. Klein

Eleventh District
Curtis E. Henke

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

Editor
Edwin D. Hill

C. James Spellane

Mark Brueggjenjohann

Mike Nugent

Malinda Brent

Len Shindel

Carol Fisher

Alex Hogan

Lucas Oswalt

James H. Jones

Sydney L. Glass

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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

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

©2008 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. on Union-made paper.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

The *Electrical Worker* will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

Paid advertising is not accepted.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756.

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

P.O. Box 503

RPO West Beaver Creek

Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4R6

FROM THE OFFICERS**Reclaiming the American Dream**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

As we get ready to celebrate the inauguration of Barack Obama here in Washington, I'm sobered by what one brother said to me on election night: "Winning's the easy part. Now we have to change America."

When President Obama is sworn in later this month, he will inherit a profoundly dysfunctional economy. Unemployment is on the rise, consumer confidence is at a historic low and there are a record number of home foreclosures and bankruptcies.

Deregulation, Wall Street speculators and anti-worker politicians have driven our country to the brink. Turning things around will require quick action, big thinking and bold solutions that can match the magnitude of the problems we face.

Massive government investment in the renewable energy sector—good paying, skilled jobs that can't be outsourced—would create millions of new jobs, make the U.S. a leader in energy technology and reduce our dependence on carbon-based fuels.

A commitment from the federal government to rebuild our roads, bridges and transmission grid on the scale of the 1956 Highway Act would also create millions of skilled jobs while bringing our industrial infrastructure into the 21st century.

Two decades of declining wages means that any successful stimulus package needs to increase consumer purchasing power. With union workers earning on average 30 percent more than their nonunion counterparts, there is no better way to boost spending and expand the ranks of the middle class than by passing the Employee Free Choice Act, a law that makes it easier for workers to form a union.

"Men make history, and not the other way around," President Harry Truman once said. "In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

The IBEW is committed to working to help turn the economic challenges we face into an opportunity to help working families reclaim the American dream. ■

Sitting Down for Justice

In 1981, more than 11,000 air traffic controllers went on strike for fair wages and better working conditions. Ronald Reagan's solution? Fire them.

In December, union workers at Chicago's Republic Windows and Doors held a sit-down strike to protest the shutdown of their plant without the required 60 day's notice. They also demanded restitution of lost pay and benefits after Bank of America froze the company's credit, despite receiving \$25 billion in taxpayer-funded bailout money.

President-elect Obama's response to the workers? We stand with you.

What a difference an election makes. Against the backdrop of the president-elect and the AFL-CIO issuing statements of solidarity, the sit-down strikers—members of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America—decisively won. Their total settlement garnered them eight weeks of pay, additional health coverage and vacation time.

The victory of the strikers is a symbolic bright spot in the middle of a lopsided economic implosion—where institutions like AIG and Bank of America get huge bailouts while workers often get the short end of the stick.

This is what it's come to at the end of three decades of Reagan-like trickle-down policies. Workers have been pinched, squeezed and drained. Obama has said countless times that true democracy comes from the bottom up, not from the top down. With reason and common decency on our side, more citizens will agree that sticking up for workers' rights is not a plank in the Democratic Party platform, but a mainstream American value.

To paraphrase a famous quote, working people are mad as hell, and they're not going to take it anymore. To the workers of Republic Windows and Doors, we congratulate you. Thank you for reminding the power brokers and our anti-union opponents that the growth of our economy depends on the strength of the American worker—and for showing all union members that standing strong, arm in arm, ultimately leads to victory. ■



Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Winds of Change

When Jimmy Carter was in office, he gave a speech laying out the goal of energy independence. Toward that goal he promised to reduce oil imports and installed solar panels on the White House. It was a symbolic gesture but that's the nature of being a leader, pointing the way forward.

When Ronald Reagan came into office his first act was to slap the people in the face and he took the panels down. This was a symbolic act also telling oil and coal companies full steam ahead.

Look at where we are today. Wars for oil. Tax cuts for billionaire oil execs. Global warming. Imagine the number of jobs that would have been created if we had begun a full bore "put a man on the moon in 10 years" program for alternative energy in place starting in 1980. Not to mention national security.

I would like to see Obama reinstall those solar panels on the White House. Symbolic waste of time you say? Many locals now have solar voltaic classifications. Wind farms, which need distribution grids, are sprouting up in the West. You don't have to be a weatherman to see which way the wind is blowing. If we all get politically involved, change we can believe in will be more than just a slogan.

*Jeb Stuart
Local 995 member, Baton Rouge, La.*

Free Choice?

I am a U.S. Navy veteran and a 41-year member of the IBEW. I represent no large corporation, only myself. The Employee Free Choice Act is anything but free choice. Any legislation that takes away the secret ballot from anyone for any reason is just plain wrong. Ask yourselves brothers and sisters, if they can take it away from others, they can take it away from you.

*Gary Vander Brent
Local 21 member, Downers Grove, Ill.*

Who We Are

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

Organizer Takes Leadership of New Orleans Metal Trades

Merland Farria, the newly-elected president of the New Orleans Metal Trades Council, recalls rougher days in the Big Easy's Avondale Shipyard. It was 1987. Farria, an electronic technician and New Orleans native, was unemployed and President Ronald Reagan had just refused to sign a bill extending unemployment benefits.

Farria's brother-in-law, Darrell Smith, now a chief steward at Avondale, convinced him to apply for work in the nonunion facility. "The work was bad," says Farria. "If you questioned anything, or even sounded like you had a complaint, the foreman would tell you to get your hat and 'get across the levee.' You were fired—no appeal, no grievances," he says.

When Smith and a few friends started passing out union cards, Farria joined in the action. The activity did not go unnoticed by managers. "Darrell and I were often assigned the filthiest jobs down in the bilge working on our knees and backs in retaliation for our union activity," says Farria.

Six years after workers voted for union representation, in 1999, Avondale was purchased by Litton Industries Inc., a unionized company employing hundreds of members of Local 733 in Pascagoula, Miss. IBEW Government Employees Department Director Chico McGill met Farria, currently an assistant business manager of Local 733, during the campaign. McGill, then the local's business manager, and Fifth District International Representative James Anderson assisted a safety committee of over 200 volunteers, filing complaints with OSHA about unsafe conditions at the yard that had resulted in numerous fatalities. "It was obvious that people looked up to Farria as someone who knew what was happening," says McGill.

In 2000, Litton Industries finally recognized the Metal Trades. The IBEW Journal reported, "The story of the Avondale workers is an inspiration to workers everywhere to take a stand for their rights and a voice at the bargaining table." ("Justice Finally Prevails at Avondale," IBEW Journal, January/February 2000).

After the union's victory, Farria was assigned as a Local 733 area steward, then a chief steward. As an assistant to Business Manager Jim Couch, Farria works out of a sub-office in New Orleans, about 100 miles west of Pascagoula, serving the yard's 400 Brotherhood members.

"The time is right for Merland to lead the trades in the yard," says McGill. "He is a shipyard worker first and foremost. He has never stopped organizing. He has incredible integrity and is tenacious. And Farria is never afraid to tell management when he thinks something is not fair,"

After taking leadership of the yard's trades,



Merland Farria

including Boilermakers, Sheet Metal Workers, Carpenters, Iron Workers and Operating Engineers, Farria hopes to move the council's office closer to the yard. "Hopefully, people in the yard will see that we're doing the best to represent them

and we'll get more members," he says, noting the difficulty of working in a right-to-work state.

Despite the union's progress, it's still important, says Farria, to help nonunion workers overcome their fears that they will be singled out by management for joining. He talks to potential members about how life in the yard has improved. Foremen who never picked up the union contract are now trying to stay in compliance. Northrop Grumman, which purchased the yard in 2001, has brought in the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for sessions to help both parties understand their obligations to each other.

Recruiting new members from an ethnically diverse work force also takes some individual attention, says Farria. Many Hispanic workers, for instance, have bad experiences with unions in their native countries and must be shown that the Metal Trades are different. "We need to keep working at improving our image," he says.

While hopeful that the yard will continue to land lucrative contracts for Navy ships, Farria is concerned about the lack of skilled workers to fill the jobs that will be coming open due to retirements. "The company knows that they need to grow their own skilled work force," says Farria, who distributes applications for apprenticeship programs to young people working behind counters and grills at fast food restaurants. "We tell them there is something better out there if they are willing to work for it," he says. ■

Get Connected

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

NOW AVAILABLE AT YOUR IBEW ONLINE STORE!

IBEW MERCHANDISE
www.ibewmerchandise.com

Blue Hooded Sweatshirt
Price: \$20.00

50% cotton / 50% polyester hooded sweatshirt. IBEW silk-screened in white on left chest.



Pocket Watch
Price: \$100.00

Pocket watch, gold-tone case with chain, custom embossed dial with IBEW logo and date.



Black Hat
Price: \$10.50

Black brushed cotton with white embroidered IBEW lettering.



See these items and many, many more!
www.ibewmerchandise.com

Local Lines continued from page 13

Alaska Local Reports

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—Journeyman wireman and Organizer Chris Tuck won election for a seat in the Alaska State House. Tuck will be the second member of Local 1547 serving in the state legislature. Two years ago Local 1547 Associate General Counsel Bill Wielechowski was elected to the Alaska State Senate. *[Editor's Note: At press time it was reported that Alaska Republicans had filed a frivolous lawsuit trying to undo the apparent victory of Democratic House candidate Chris Tuck.]*

Former shop steward and field engineer Todd Starr, a member since 1985, was hired as a business rep in the Anchorage Hall. Marcie Obremski, a 17-year member and journeyman at CO/PBX, will replace Bro. Starr as chief shop steward at Matanuska Telephone Association. Journeyman wireman John Stengrim, a member since 1991, was hired as an organizer.

Local 1547 recently held our Shop Steward Leadership Conference in Anchorage. Over 200 shop stewards received training on: effective collective bargaining, the duty of fair representation, communication in the workplace and more.

The Local 1547 Fairbanks staff recently moved into our new Unit 102 hall. The project was built with all union labor and includes a stained glass window created by Debbie Mathews, wife of journeyman wireman Ted Mathews.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.



In Alaska, the Local 1547 Fairbanks staff moved into the new Unit 102 hall, which has a beautiful stained glass window created by the spouse of a Local 1547 member.

Work Picture Slowed

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—The work picture has slowed drastically. The Mixed Oxide Project (MOX) is behind schedule and will not get busy until spring.

We have approximately 120 on Book I, which cycles up and down. We hope the MOX will put a good portion of these members to work.

Thanks to all the locals that put our members to work in recent months. Thanks to all the dispatchers who gave me valuable and accurate information, which made traveling an easy process for our members. I hope one day we can return the favor. Until next time, buy American.

Will Salters, A.B.M.



Local 1701 members and spouses attend 2008 Labor Day picnic. Among those pictured are Althea and Tim Blandford, Alan Nall, George and Dora Moore, and Jerry and Gayle Howton.

Happy New Year

L.U. 1701 (cat,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—Our construction outlook appears great. The Carhart plant, Owensboro High School additions and downtown Owensboro parking garage are under way. Projects due to start this year are the Cannelton hydro plant in Hancock County, Cash Creek generating plant in Henderson County, Owensboro Medical Health Systems Hospital, and a coal-to-diesel plant locating in Muhlenberg County.

Alva Electric signed a letter of assent and opened a shop in the Owensboro area. We welcome Alva and look forward to working together.

The Examining Board gave the journeyman wireman exam to Stewart Vick and David Wink and both passed. Welcome, brothers.

JATC Sec. Mike Roby announced the committee is looking to build a training center. Locations are being discussed; it is hoped construction starts this year. The committee is scheduling passport safety training needed for all Western Kentucky Energy (WKE) plants, as well as continuing education classes for renewal of Kentucky state licenses. Schedules will be posted.

Bus. Mgr. Gary Osborne reports the WKE group extended their contract for one year, and the Big Rivers transmission group ratified a four-year agreement. We thank Negotiating Committee members Tom Howard, Danny Gish and Bus. Mgr. Osborne.

We mourn the death of retired Bro. L.V. Boyd. May he rest in peace.

Tim Blandford, P.S.

OPC Baseball Tourney Team

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—Local 1739 members proudly represented our local at the 2008 Ontario Provincial Council Baseball Tournament, which was held Sept. 19-20, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Special thanks to IBEW Local 773 from Windsor for providing a great weekend for fellow IBEW members.

Frank Kastle, P.S.

2008 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 1753 (mo), CHARLESTON, SC—Congratulations to Local 1753's 2008 instrumental apprenticeship graduating class. Having completed a five-year I/E apprenticeship, these men have achieved journeyman status here at the MeadWestvaco paper mill in North Charleston, SC! The graduates are: Dominic Stabile, Steven Hill, Bruce Skipper, Gabriel



Local 1753 congratulates the 2008 I/E apprentice graduates. Standing, from left: Gordon Murray, apprenticeship committeeman; apprentice graduates Dominic Stabile, Steven Hill, Bruce Skipper, Gabriel Arriollo and David Ruediger; Charles Weatherford, apprenticeship committeeman. Seated: IBEW Int. Rep. Lindsay Nelson and Int. Vice Pres. Robert P. Klein. Not pictured: graduate Johnny Brinson.

Arriollo, David Ruediger and Johnny Brinson. Local 1753 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Rhett Sanford praised the graduates saying, "I am very proud to have brothers such as these to carry on as tradesmen in this very respected craft!"

Mark Shipman, V.P.

Working Together for Victory

L.U. 2325 (t), WORCESTER, MA—Local 2325's annual softball tournament was held last October. Congratulations to the Framingham Garage on their victory, and thanks to all who participated and planned this fun event.

Special thanks to the 2325 COPE committee for their outstanding work during the November 2008 elections. Several of our members spent the six weeks leading up to the election traveling daily to the battleground states of New Hampshire and Pennsylvania to assist the state AFL-CIO's political education activities. We salute committee members Donna Bertrand, Ronda Bertrand-Robbins, Cory Lamica, Dan Manning and Paul Mark for their tireless efforts.

Bus. Mgr. Dave Keating thanks the entire membership for their support and solidarity during the past year. We faced enormous challenges during 2008, including a successful contract with Verizon and a monumental presidential election, and we were victorious thanks to our strength as a local. The new year brings new challenges and new opportunities. With all of us working together, we will continue to succeed.

Paul Mark, P.S.

IBEWHourPower.com

Your "IBEW TV Network" delivered online



IBEWHourPower.com is your source for news on the electrical industry, what your brothers and sisters are doing at locals around North America and much more.

Take a look at a gigantic solar farm project installed at Denver International Airport. Sitting on 7½ acres, with more than 9,200 panels generating 2 megawatts of electricity, the farm shows how the IBEW is taking the lead in the green job movement.

ElectricTV.net is an online TV show for you, the building owners and contractors.

In our latest version of Electric TV, we check in with Michael Callanan from the NJATC. He talks about the green job movement and how the NECA-IBEW team is working through the NJATC to ensure they are prepared to handle this new work. It's a piece you as an owner have to see.

