

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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Who We Are



## *The Keys to Recovery*

# How to **Stop** the Economic Slide

*Second in a two-part series. On page 3, we explore the effects of the global downturn on Canada.*

**A**cross the nation, thousands of journeymen and apprentices are on the bench as the financial crisis continues to spread to the commercial construction sector. In every branch of the IBEW, more members are facing layoffs and uncertainty. Thousands of veteran workers who were planning to retire are rethinking plans to leave the work force as their investments sink.

Hard times have forced hard questions about our nation's economy as the Obama-Biden administration carries into the White House the hopes of millions of Americans for recovery.

Two facts are clear. First, the supply-side economics of the Reagan-Bush years which championed smaller government, lower taxes and less government regulation of big business—and claimed that prosperity would “trickle down” to working families—was a complete failure. Something trickled down on workers, but it was not prosperity.

Second, among labor-friendly policy-makers in the new administration and Congress there are differences about how to deal with the current crisis in our economy. While most adhere to the theory of 20th century economist John Maynard Keynes, who held that significant government spending and regulation is necessary to maintain a vigorous private sector, *how* big that government spending, or stimulus package, should be is a matter of debate.

To working families, the debate over stimulus and recovery packages comes down to two questions. How can we stop the slide in our standard of living? How do we make sure that the stimulus money goes where it is needed, not in the pockets of big bankers or corporate executives?

Mark Thoma, an economics professor at the University of Oregon, speaks to our fear of slipping further backward in his analysis of what kind of stimulus package is necessary:

KEYS TO RECOVERY *continued on page 2*

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# Economic Crisis

## Keys to Recovery

*continued from page 1*

*I think the stimulus package is like driving up an icy hill. If you don't have enough momentum from the start and fail to provide enough 'stimulus' to get the car over the crest of the hill, you can slide all the way back to the bottom, crashing into things along the way and ending up worse off than when you started. ...*

Many advocates see economic recovery as the 21st century equivalent of prior efforts to maximize the benefits of technological advances, such as the 19th century construction of canals, railroads and electric power, or the 20th century expansion of telephone and highway systems and the space program. Today, comprehensive national strategies to spread broadband, or rebuild the electricity grid, they say, will be just as critical as the preceding advances, leading to a more widely shared prosperity.

### Infrastructure Means Buildings

It was with that goal in mind that IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill joined the National Electrical Contractors Association, the Sheet Metal Workers, Associated General Contractors and others in a letter to President Obama and congressional leaders underscoring the need to make the construction and renovation of buildings a key part of any infrastructure investment plan. Too often, "infrastructure," says President Hill, is narrowly defined to encompass only roads, bridges and water projects.

Citing reports from the General Services Administration, the letter says that more than \$2.2 billion in funding for 34 major renovation projects, 500 small renovation projects and four border stations could "create or sustain nearly 50,000 direct and indirect jobs."

In its report, "Main Street Recovery Program," the Institute for America's Future, a group of pro-labor economists and union leaders, calls for \$75 billion in infrastructure investment during 2009 and \$150 billion in 2010, calling it necessary for a "substantial, strategic and sustained" recovery.

That is exactly what members of Bastrop, La., Local 895 need. International Paper Corp. is shutting down its mill in the northeast corner of the state, putting over 200 USW production and mechanical maintenance workers and 26 IBEW instrument electricians on the street. Those who don't retire will carry their tickets to inside construction Local 446 in Monroe.

"It looks bleak here," says Local 446 Business Manager John Hopkins. Sixty electri-

cians in the 225-member unit are out of work. Commercial and residential construction is in fair shape, says Hopkins, but the shrinking industrial base is taking a severe toll. Investment in new schools or renovating existing public buildings could help relieve the pain.

### Build the Domestic Supply Chain for Green Jobs

Stimulus and recovery packages aim at creating millions of green jobs. That gives some hope to workers in suffering towns like Bastrop and Monroe. But policy needs to be fine-tuned to make certain that green production is not outsourced. "We're trying to get investments in wind turbines and solar panels and other technologies pushed back up the supply chain to make sure that the materials are made and fabricated in our domestic economy," says Bob Baugh, executive director of the Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO.

Baugh, who once served as a state economic development coordinator, says he would have lost his job if he had approved tax breaks for businesses which outsource their production. "If congressmen and senators don't care where the solar panels and windmills are built, we need to remind them who put them in office," he says.

### New Technology-New Union Jobs

The deteriorating state of the nation's power grid requires a commitment of federal dollars and tax support to develop additional safe nuclear power plants and clean coal facilities. Coupled with a new atmosphere of increased acceptance and respect for organ-



Decatur, Ill., Local 146 apprentice Kevin Kersey signs the out-of-work book.

ized labor, investment in building domestic energy sources holds promise for young workers who are willing to work hard and learn in the utility industry.

Economic recovery requires that workers' needs be considered in technological innovation. Pro-labor economists support building more "smart grids." At one time, that meant utility companies installing "smart meters" on residences, eliminating the jobs of bargaining unit meter readers, says IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter. Local unions representing workers at utilities like Pacific Gas and Electric bargained for retraining to keep displaced members employed.

The new class of electric meters will provide consumers with a real time price for electricity, enabling them to use appliances at times when rates are lowest. The IBEW, says Hunter, needs to increase its training for the real revolution in utility distribution that will come with more two-way communication between meters and appliances, and the utility companies. Skilled workers will be needed to install and troubleshoot devices that will have the capacity to shut down hundreds of thou-

sands of appliances for short periods, conserving energy to ward off power outages and freeing up space on the grid for solar and wind.

### A National Broadband Strategy

Joining a diverse array of America's communications providers, high technology companies, manufacturers, consumers and public interest groups, International President Edwin D. Hill has signed the "Call to Action for a National Broadband Strategy."

Economic recovery, say the signers, depends upon the U.S. maintaining its competitive edge with other nations that have implemented national strategies that promote broadband deployment and adoption. Many of our global trading competitors have faster speeds, lower prices and a wider availability of broadband-enabled Internet.

Hundreds of thousands of jobs can be created if the federal government partners with state and local governments to stimulate broadband development through tax incentives, grants, low cost loans, loan guarantees and other means. ■



**North of 49°**

## Economic Turmoil Hits Canada

**W**hile stricter banking regulations and lending practices have insulated Canada from some of the worst effects of the U.S. recession, working people across the country are beginning to feel the results of the global downturn.

According to government employment figures, more than 30,000 jobs were lost last December, following a loss of more than 70,000 in November alone. The province of Ontario—Canada's manufacturing hub—has been hit particularly hard, losing 22,000 full-time jobs in 2008, according to the Canadian Labour Congress. Even residents of the Western Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, which have enjoyed booming economies in the last

decade due to record oil and gas production, are seeing unemployment on the rise as energy prices decrease.

"We haven't been hurt by the economy yet, but we are beginning to see signs of a slowdown," said Calgary, Alberta, Local 254 Business Manager John Briegel. "Even the oil sands have slowed hiring."

The fall in employment is the biggest since 1982, raising the unemployment rate past 6 percent.

Canada's manufacturing sector has suffered the most, claiming half of November's total job losses, with automakers witnessing their slowest sales in more than 20 years, leading to a \$4 billion bailout from the Ontario government in December. General

Motors of Canada will lay off 700 employees at its Oshawa, Ontario, plant this month.

"Layoffs in auto have a multiplier effect, because they cause our electricians and contractors to lose out on work too," said Toronto Local 353 President Barry Stevens. The construction industry is also hurting, with more than 44,000 construction jobs lost in December, according to the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corp.

The Canadian economy is particularly sensitive to downturns south of the border. More than 70 percent of its exports are sold to the United States and the global economic slowdown has led to sharp drops in commodity prices that have been key to Canada's economic growth.

And things are expected to get worse before they get better. Top economists from Canada's largest banks have predicted that the first half of 2009 will bring tough times with little or no growth.

The shutdown of Parliament last December by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in response to a planned vote of no-confidence prevented Members of Parliament from confronting the recession until the end of January, causing further anxiety in Canada's financial and business community. "We are in the worst crisis since 1929 and we have no government," one investment banker told Bloomberg.com. "How can that be good?" (See "Conservative Prime Minister Shuttters Parliament in Face of Opposition," January 2009, the Electrical Worker).

Canada's labour movement has called on the federal government to launch a stimulus package—similar to the one proposed by U.S. President Barack Obama—that can create jobs and get the economy moving again.

"The upcoming federal budget must

Photo Credit: Peter Gilbert



focus on creating full-time jobs and fixing our broken employment insurance program," said Canadian Labour Congress President Ken Georgetti.

The Canadian Labour Congress is advocating a major multi-year public investment program, starting with projects like road repairs and building retrofitting, while

More than 800 workers have been laid off from the Ford Essex Engine Plant in Windsor, Ontario.

preparing the ground for future growth by investing in green technology and worker training in high-tech and environmentally friendly economic sectors.

The CLC has also called for the creation of a Public and Environmental Infrastructure Bank, an independent institution guaranteed by the federal government that could lend

monies to provinces and municipalities for infrastructure projects.

Harper's minority Conservative government has so far been resistant to stimulus spending, with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty calling for tax cuts instead, an approach that has come under criticism from organized labour and the opposition Liberals and New Democrats.

When it was formed last December to oppose Harper's government, the Liberal-NDP "Coalition for Change" called for a \$30 billion economic recovery package, a promise that was recently reiterated by the new Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff.

The composition of Flaherty's economic advisory council has also come under fire. "It's made up almost exclusively by representatives from corporate Canada, with no voice for working Canadians," said IBEW First District Vice President Phil Flemming.

"Harper has done nothing but talk, but working people are demanding action before the economy gets worse," Flemming said. ■



**Au nord du 49° parallèle**

## Le Canada confronté aux bouleversements économiques

**E**n dépit d'une réglementation stricte de son système bancaire et des pratiques de prêts qui a permis au Canada d'éviter certains des pires effets de la récession aux É.-U., les travailleurs commencent à ressentir les conséquences de la récession mondiale, d'un océan à l'autre.

Selon les données du gouvernement, plus de 30,000 emplois ont été perdus au mois de décembre, s'ajoutant aux 70,000 perdus en novembre seulement. D'après le Congrès du travail du Canada, 22,000 emplois à temps plein ont été perdus en 2008 en Ontario, centre du secteur manufacturier au Canada. Avec la baisse du prix de l'essence, le taux de chômage est à la hausse même dans les provinces de l'Alberta et de la Saskatchewan qui avaient bénéficié d'une économie prospère au cours de la dernière décennie, grâce à une production record du pétrole et du gaz.

"Nous n'avons pas encore été touchés par la crise financière, mais nous commençons à ressentir les signes d'un ralentissement. La demande de main-d'œuvre a même diminué pour les chantiers de sables bitumineux." déclare John Briegel, Gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 254 en Alberta.

La baisse d'emploi actuelle est la plus importante depuis 1982, portant le taux de chômage au-dessus de 6%.

Au Canada, plus de la moitié des emplois perdus au mois de novembre provenait du secteur manufacturier, alors que l'industrie

automobile assistait au ralentissement de ses ventes, le plus important depuis les 20 dernières années; cette situation a donc nécessité une aide financière du gouvernement de l'Ontario qui a dû injecter 4 milliards de dollars. La compagnie General Motors prévoit mettre à pied 700 employés d'ici la fin du mois, à son usine d'Oshawa en Ontario.

"Les mises à pied dans cette industrie produisent un effet multiplicateur entraînant des pertes de travail pour nos électriciens et les entrepreneurs", explique Barry Stevens, Président de la S.L. 353 de Toronto. Selon la Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement, l'industrie de la construction a aussi été touchée, avec une perte de plus de 44,000 emplois, au mois de décembre.

L'économie canadienne est particulièrement sensible aux baisses de l'économie au sud de la frontière. Plus de 70% de ses exportations sont vendues aux États-Unis et le ralentissement économique mondial a entraîné des chutes considérables du prix des matières premières qui avaient été le secret de la croissance économique du Canada.

Il faut s'attendre à ce que la situation empire avant de redevenir meilleure. Des économistes de grandes banques canadiennes, parmi les experts les plus en vue au pays, prédisent davantage de difficultés pour la première moitié de 2009, avec aucune ou une faible croissance.

La fermeture du Parlement par le Premier Ministre Stephen Harper, au mois de décembre,

pour la seule raison d'éviter à son gouvernement de perdre le vote de confiance prévu, a paralysé le Parlement et reporté jusqu'à la fin de janvier, la prise de décisions économiques importantes pour faire face à la crise. Cette situation a semé encore plus d'inquiétudes dans le milieu des affaires canadien. Comme le dénonce une banque d'investissement sur le site Bloomberg.com "nous connaissons la pire crise depuis 1929 et nous n'avons même pas de gouvernement, en quoi cela peut-il être positif?" (Voir l'article paru en janvier 2009 "Fermeture du Parlement à la demande du chef conservateur, face à une opposition coalisée")

Le mouvement syndical canadien a demandé au gouvernement fédéral d'adopter une série de mesures, semblables à celles proposées par le Président des É.-U., Barack Obama, ce qui favoriserait la création d'emplois et le redémarrage de l'économie.

"Le prochain budget fédéral doit mettre l'accent sur la création d'emplois à plein temps et sur la réforme de notre régime d'assurance-emploi déficient" dit Ken Georgetti, Président du Congrès du travail du Canada.

Le Congrès du travail du Canada préconise un programme d'investissement public majeur et pluriannuel qui couvrirait, entre autres, la réparation des routes, le réaménagement des immeubles, tout en préparant la voie à une prochaine croissance de l'économie en investissant dans la technologie verte et dans la formation des travailleurs dans les secteurs

de l'économie et de la haute technologie non nuisible à l'environnement.

Le CTC demande également la création d'une banque d'infrastructure publique et environnementale ce qui permettrait de prêter des fonds aux provinces et aux municipalités aux fins de projets d'infrastructure.

Le gouvernement conservateur minoritaire de Harper n'a toujours pas adopté de mesures visant à stimuler l'économie et Jim Flaherty, Ministre des finances, envisage de baisser les impôts, une approche fortement critiquée par le mouvement syndical et par l'opposition libérale et néo-démocrate.

Lors de la formation de la "coalition du changement" contre le gouvernement Harper, en décembre, les libéraux et les néo-démocrates réclamaient une injection financière de 30 milliards de dollars pour relancer l'économie. Le nouveau chef du Parti libéral, Michael Ignatieff, a récemment réitéré cette demande.

La composition du conseil consultatif sur l'économie annoncé par le Ministre Flaherty a également fait l'objet de critiques. "Ce conseil est presque exclusivement composé de représentants du milieu des affaires du Canada et les travailleurs n'ont pas voix au chapitre", déclare Phil Flemming, Vice-président international pour le Premier District.

"Harper n'agit pas, il ne fait que parler mais les travailleurs exigent que des mesures soient prises avant que la situation économique empire", conclut-il. ■

# Transitions

**Retired**  
**Marie A. Peluso**



Third District International Representative Marie A. Peluso retired Jan. 1 following more than three decades of service to the IBEW.

"The IBEW has provided me a wonderful life experience and taught me a lot—I never had a boring day on the job," Peluso said. "It offered a great living for me and my family, and it was an honor to serve the members."

A Pennsylvania native, Peluso was initiated into Bethlehem Local 1600 in 1976 while working a clerical position at Martins Creek Steam Electric Station in nearby Bangor. She served on numerous Local 1600 committees and was a business representative from 1982 to 1994. Peluso was co-chairwoman of the Third District's Women's Caucus from 1989 to 1993.

Peluso was appointed to the Third District office in 1994 by International President J.J. Barry upon the recommendation of then-Third District Vice President Edwin D. Hill.

As a field representative, Peluso served utility locals by handling grievances, negotiating collective bargaining agreements, overseeing steward training and performing

other tasks. During the 2008 presidential campaign season, she worked as political director for the Third District, helping labor's big push toward a Democratic victory.

"I'm not the kind of person who's ever at a loss for words—but when Obama won, I was absolutely speechless," Peluso said. "Being a part of the movement's success was a great capstone to a career that I truly loved."

Peluso was a member of the National Association of Working Women and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. She completed coursework at numerous colleges—including Cornell and Penn State—related to labor organizing, negotiating, law and communications.

Her family includes her two sons who are both IBEW journeyman wiremen—Carl is a member of Paterson, N.J., Local 102, and Christopher is a member of Allentown, Pa., Local 375—and four grandchildren. She looks forward to making wine, gardening, dancing and devoting more time to a shelved hobby—riding motorcycles.

"There's a new Harley Sportster that I have my eye on," she said. "My sons are barely going to be able to keep up with me."

The staff, members and officers of the IBEW thank Sister Peluso for her service and wish her an enjoyable retirement. ■

# Local Lines

## Political 'Victory Garden'

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The seeds of political education and initiative grew into a victory garden here in San Francisco. We look forward to the change that true leadership in the Oval Office will bring. Thanks to everyone involved in 2008 political action for a job well-done.

Plans for our local's charter celebration on Feb. 21, are well under way.

Our 10th Annual Toy Run was held Dec. 6, 2008. This milestone event benefits children through the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program. A pancake breakfast kicks off the run, where motorcycles and classic cars tour through the city and onto scenic Point Reyes.

Book I continues to grow. The focus on working Americans and infrastructure development promised by Pres. Barack Obama will be a welcome beginning to 2009.

*Phil A. Farrelly, Pres.*

## March Dinner Dance

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—The new year is well under way, and we hope everyone is in good health and fortune. We enjoyed a good work situation through 2008, and we currently have some jobs on the horizon. Thank you to the

travelers who helped us when our work was plentiful. We've all had our ups and downs in the industry, and we were thankful when we had places to go.

We look forward to seeing you and your significant other at our annual Local 8 Dinner Dance. It will be held in the same location, the Gladioux Meadows, on March 14. Please plan on attending; it is always a great time and great company.

Keep those first and third Mondays open and join us at a membership meeting, where we convene to conduct business, plan for the future and get any questions answered. You can stay informed and also contribute any information you may have. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

## Welcome Extended

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—On Oct. 9, 2008, the Local 16 Executive Board had the opportunity to welcome Kyle Thiry into the Brotherhood as a first-year apprentice for the inside program. Kyle was unable to join the rest of his class for swearing in due to his commitment to the National Guard and his scheduled deployment to the Middle East. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kyle at this challenging time and we look forward to working with him in the future.

## 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		

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**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!**  
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Once again Local 16 was well-represented at the National Training Institute by Mike Chamberlain, Larry Dimmett, Todd Lamkin, David Koring, John Marlow and Mike Weinzapfel. After four years of attending, Larry Dimmett and Mike Chamberlain have graduated. Thanks to these brothers and each of the instructors who are actively sharing their knowledge to further the skills of our membership.

The union's family picnic on Sept. 14, 2008, was a resounding success, despite the remnants of Hurricane Ike, which brought 60 mph winds to the area that day. Thanks to all who gave of their time, especially the excellent cooking staff.

*Donald P. Beavin, P.S.*

## 2009 Events Scheduled

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, D.C.—As 2009 unfolds, your local union representatives are hard at work negotiating a new Inside and Residential Wireman agreement. Thanks to everyone who sent in suggestions.

Plans are under way for our annual Dollars Against Diabetes golf outing to be held May 4. Details can be found in the quarterly newsletter, In Charge, or on our Web site [www.ibewlocal26.org](http://www.ibewlocal26.org).

For those who like to plan ahead: This year's annual picnic will be held Sat., Aug. 29, at Camp Letts. (This is a change from our normal first Saturday in August.)

Applications are being taken for the 2009 Local 26 scholarship. This award is for \$2,500 per year for up to four years of college. Visit our Web site for more information and to download an application form. You may also call the hall at (301) 459-2900 and request that one be mailed to your home. The deadline is March 31.

The following brothers passed away since our last article: Richard O. Barton Sr., Henry P. Verbeck, Donald P. McGlynn, Douglas C. Conner and Reynaldo R. Smith.

Best wishes to new retirees: Bros. James R. Chroniger, Edwin F. Wilson Jr., Hassan Vasfi, John C. Green Jr., Gary M. Hayre, Arthur W. Roark and Randolph Scott.

*Charles E. Graham, B.M.*

## 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 32 (i&u), LIMA, OH—On Nov. 8, 2008, Local 32 celebrated its 110th anniversary. A dinner party was held to celebrate this milestone achievement.

Service awards were presented by IBEW Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Salvatore J. "Sam" Chilia. Members receiving 60-year awards were: Boyd Arnold, Martin Fahnke, Harold Goettemoeller, Richard Knupp, George Muether, Leroy Remaklus and Ralph Wrasman. Receiving his 65-year award was William McKnight.

Local 32's 110 years of service to its eight-county area has seen our members active in many ways. Volunteer work for community organizations has led to lasting relationships. Our members have volunteered and generously contributed to organizations such as Toys for Tots, Special Olympics, United Way, the Sheriff's department and hospitals just to name a few. Members have won the respect of their peers by serving on school boards, town councils, volunteer fire departments, community action groups and park volunteer programs. Interaction within our communities will help us continue to grow and ensure a bright future for the IBEW.

Our local mourns the loss of retired Bros.



Local 32 retired members Ralph Wrasman (left) and Leroy Remaklus (center) receive 60-year service awards presented by IBEW Int. Vice Pres. Salvatore J. "Sam" Chilia.

Ron Weaver and George Whitney. Our condolences go out to their families.

*Doug Beining, P.S.*

## Strong Union Voice

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Local union officers thank all the members who have been showing up for the demonstrations at First Merit Banks. (See photo below.) We had about 40 members show up as part of the "welcoming committee" for First Merit's grand opening in Euclid, OH. As we told management, "If we are not working on the building we will be standing in front of it when you open it." Euclid is a blue-collar town with many union members and we are receiving a lot of support from the community. First Merit plans many more new branches in our area so we must keep our efforts up.

The work outlook is slow for now. Because of the credit crunch, the \$522 million East Bank Flats job is on hold, although the owners say they remain committed to the project.

As of this writing, county commissioners had pledged to have a site picked out by Jan. 15 for the new \$400 million Medical Mart and Convention Center with estimates that construction could start by summer.

Doan/Pyramid Electric was awarded the Ahuja Hospital, which is part of University Hospitals. The electrical contract is worth about \$30 million.

*Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.*



Local 38 members John Weiss (left), Mike Scott, Dan Ontko and Mike Busser "banner" the First Merit Bank in Euclid, OH, for using nonunion labor during construction.

## Leadership Training Program

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA—I strongly encourage all members to consider available training opportunities—especially those members with a desire to capitalize on high-quality instruction offered at the price of membership! The local union in conjunction with the University of Oregon is offering a 12-part



IBEW Portland, OR, Local 48 volunteers annually wire over half a million lights for The Grotto's Christmas Festival of Lights, which features narrated fiber-optic and animated displays.

leadership program. Nancy Mason at the local union office welcomes your calls for enrollment. These are eating friendly events. Fresh fruit, cheese and Danish in the morning! Last class we had a barbeque hot lunch. They heat the classrooms and we sure had a good time being together; please join us.

Most of us don't realize the hours Pres. Archie Van Valkenburg and the building managers donate while managing our building. They meet twice a month to pay our bills and lease our excess space. Sounds easy, but it's a lot of work. Bus. Mgr. Hamilton has plans for additional classrooms and an entire upgrade to our media and computer systems. Remember the hall when you plan your next wedding or Saint Patrick's Day party. Whether for events for 10 or 100 people, our facilities are available for rent.

Bundle up and slow down on the highways; morning ice is dangerous, so be careful.

*Kevin Quinlan, P.S.*

## Volunteers Honored

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—At Local 48 our members, even after working all week, still have a strong interest in giving back as community volunteers. (See photo above.)

In December the local held a luncheon to recognize these members and extend appreciation for their volunteer efforts. In the past 24 months more than 250 members have served our community through participation in more than 20 community service and fundraising events!

Most people will find themselves in need at some time in their lives. Today you may be the person with the capability to help, but tomorrow you may be the beneficiary of someone else's volunteer effort.

These IBEW volunteers make the world a better place! We have deepest respect for them. To read more about Local 48 members in action visit Web site [www.ibew48.com](http://www.ibew48.com), and click on the "community" section.

*Steve Vidito, P.S.*

## Trade Unions Rally

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb&spa), DETROIT, MI—On Oct. 13, 2008, more than 2,000 trade union members and national labor leaders, including IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, rallied in Detroit for the Employee Free Choice Act. This proposed legislation comes in response to the way the Republicans have long undermined the National Labor Relations Act. Labor law and the National Labor Relations Board, originally designed to "encourage" collective bargaining, have been reduced to little more than a management tool. The Employee Free Choice Act proposes to allow workers to form a union if the

majority signs cards. (Canada and 79 other countries do it this way.) Secondly, the Act ensures the right to a speedy contract. The third part of the Act puts teeth into labor law—fines and penalties. We need this legislation to "level the playing field."

At this writing, we wait to hear the future of the auto industry. We wait to see how many campaign promises can become reality. We hope for the best, but try to plan for the worst. Thanks to all IBEW locals that are employing our members. We will return that favor again someday! It's a new year and we have a new U.S. president—it doesn't hurt to hope a little.

*Elaine Crawford, Pres.*



Attending 2008 trade union rally in Detroit for the Employee Free Choice Act are, from left: Local 58 Rec. Sec. Susan McCormick, Bus. Mgr. Joe Abdo and IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill.

## Employee Free Choice Act

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—With 2008 elections behind us we now face a future that still requires our involvement in the political arena. One of our many tasks: Help secure enactment of the Employee Free Choice Act.

We are seeing strong attacks aimed at defeating the proposed Employee Free Choice Act, which would restore workers' freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life. At every turn we see news items asking the public to believe unions are bad.

Here in Colorado we just experienced an election cycle where campaign contributions to labor-friendly candidates were forced way down, because all available resources were needed to fight off three horrible anti-labor amendments including the "right-to-work" (for less.) Thanks to all union members who helped fund our efforts! We were successful in most of our battles.

The National Right-To-Work Committee is hell-bent on destruction of organized labor, and news outlets are being used to trumpet the anti-union messages.

Our collective job is to work for enactment of the Employee Free Choice Act. For more information visit Web site [www.employeechoice.org](http://www.employeechoice.org).

Our deepest sympathy to families of our lost brothers: Ernest G. Acton, Ronald L. Forbes, Michael



Local 90 service-award honorees attend annual retirement/25-year pin dinner.

L. Morales, Andrew Blount, Orville D. Brown, John A. Trujillo, Kenneth Mendoza, Gordon L. Rist, George A. Beverly Jr., Haddon W. Leibbrandt, Joseph A. Gaulin, Dennis J. Gebers and Charles Eha.

*Ed Knox, Pres.*

## A Productive Year

L.U. 76 (c,i,rts&st), TACOMA, WA—2008 was a very productive year and work was steady. Local 76 conducted contract negotiations for two motor winding shops, two marine industry shops, Washington state electrical inspectors and residential wiremen. Contract negotiations for 2009 are for ADT (a low-voltage security and fire alarm company) and inside wiremen.

Additionally, Local 76 members provided over 3,000 volunteer hours in community service and political action.

Local 76 held its seventh annual giveaway benefiting Evergreen Elementary School located in Spanaway, WA. The benefit helped provide Christmas gifts and food baskets to over 300 families. We thank our members for their commitment and generosity; they made a difference in these families' lives.

*Mac McClellan, P.S.*

## Thanks to Member Volunteers

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA—Work slowed here during the fall of 2008. However, as of this writing, our outlook for the first months of 2009 is steadily improving. Several contractors have picked up jobs in our jurisdiction and should be calling for manpower over the next few months.

We thank all our members for their help with getting out the vote for the 2008 presidential election. Through your work on precinct walks and evening phone banks, we succeeded in helping to bring true change to this country.

Once again, the children's Christmas party was a success last year. Our thanks to all who helped set up and prepare for the occasion. A special thank-you to Bro. Terry McPhillips and his wife, Maureen, for everything they did to make this party memorable for the children.

*Dennis Floyd, P.S.*



Local 96 Bus. Mgr. Leo E. Miller Jr. (fifth from left) congratulates retiring members at the holiday pin night. From left: Timothy P. Fleming, Adam H. Skrzypczak, Michael A. Grasseschi, Leonard C. Spooner Jr., Bus. Mgr. Miller, G. Timothy Brosnihan, James E. Ostromecky, Stuart B. Anderson Sr., Bruce F. Provo and Thomas Menard.

## PLA Work Under Way

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—As the new year begins our work picture has not been affected that badly by the economic crisis. Recently a large mixed-use building project of 30 stories in New Haven broke ground. This is called the 360 State St. project. We are also busy on quite a few PLA projects in our jurisdiction.

In October 2008 we held our Annual Retirement/25-Year Pin Dinner in Groton, CT, with over 150 members attending. Twenty-six Local 90 members hit the mark of 25 years and received their service pins.

Eleven Local 90 members were honored on reaching their retirement. We congratulate these brothers. They will be missed but by no means forgotten. Recent retirees are: Paul Amenta, Franklin Brooks, Raymond Cogshall, Victor "Ed" Cretella Jr., Alex Gulianello, Gary Lassinger Sr., William Munger Jr., John Occhionero, Robert Therian, Mike Brown and Joe Baracco.

*Sean Daly, V.P.*

## IBEW-MTC Solar Project

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—The holiday pin night was held to honor the members retiring and active members for their years of service. Congratulations to all!

Continuing with solar projects in Massachusetts, Local 96 and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative installed additional SolarOne lighting systems for flag poles, allowing the flag be flown at all times in Lunenburg, Winchendon, Grafton, Southborough, New Braintree and Charlton. The month-long projects were completed by the following union members: Arnold Melanson, Matt VanOrden, Matt Ladden, Rich Gagnon, Craig Morrone, John Buffone, Mark Malmi, James Burke, Steve McCulley, Pete Roy, Andrew Chandler, Kurt Smollin, Brian Conlon, Justin Beauregard, Joe Messier and Ekaterina "Kat" Pashkevitch. Thanks to these all for their time and effort.

On a political note we are all happy with the Obama-Biden victory. Locally, we had success in most of our races and are hopeful that with working with the legislature we will have more movement our way.

Local 96 also thanks IBEW traveling brothers and sisters for helping us meet our demand for work. Their help is much appreciated.

Throughout the year Local 96 will be seeking more member participation in union activities. For more information visit us online at [www.ibewlocal96.org](http://www.ibewlocal96.org).

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

## Officers Elected

L.U. 98 (as,em,i&it), PHILADELPHIA, PA—In the 2008 election of local union officers, the Local 98 membership overwhelmingly re-elected the John Dougherty team for a record sixth term.

Local 98 officers are: Bus. Mgr. John J. Dougherty, Pres. Brian Burrows, Vice Pres. Mike Hnatkowsky, Rec. Sec. Jim Foy, Treas. Todd Neilson and Fin. Sec. Fran Walsh. Executive Board members include Timothy Browne, Chris Owens, Kevin McQuillen and Steve Wolfe. Examining Board members include Joseph Bledsoe, Robert Gormley and Robert Thompson. The Dougherty team was honored to be sworn in by Pennsylvania State Supreme Court Justice Seamus McCaffery.

Under the Dougherty team's leadership for more than 15 years, Local 98 has seen its membership and man-hours increase exponentially. The local also continues to be a force in Pennsylvania politics, most recently helping deliver a massive plurality out of Philadelphia for Barack Obama for president, which secured him the key battleground state. Despite the slowing economy, Local 98 is positioned for continued success.

*Brian Burrows, Pres.*

## Fresno Work Picture

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rts&st), FRESNO, CA—After almost three years of full employment, work in Local 100 has started to slow down.

Bates Engineering, out of Georgia, started work on the Starwood Midway 120 MW peaker plant. Construction should be complete by summer 2009. Electrical contractor Hamilton-Dillon, for Kiewit Power Constructors, is working at the Panoche Energy Center and should finish a 400 MW gas fired power plant by late summer 2009. Both projects will see an increase in manpower until completion.

The potential for additional power plants in Avenal, San Joaquin and Parlier still looks hopeful.

A-C Electric Co., Visalia Division, with Dennis Doran, Stephen Salcedo and crew, recently completed a 1 MW solar project for VF Outdoor Inc. distribution warehouse. (See photo below.)

Organizer Ronny Jungk and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Kevin Cole completed Local 100's fifth COMET class for 2008, and 134 members were trained.

Remember to renew your California State Electrical Certification. Completion of 32 hours of specified instruction within the last three years is required. Call the JATC for available classes.

Local 100 will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2012. We ask members to pull out any memorabilia they may have for this monumental occasion.

*M.A. Caglia, P.S.*



IBEW Fresno, CA, Local 100 crew installs VF Outdoor Inc. solar project.

## Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 102 (c,catv,i,it,o&t), PATERSON, NJ—Led by Bus. Rep. Mark Roche, a number of journeymen and apprentices volunteered to provide electrical renovation and repair work at the battered women's shelter located in Wayne, NJ. The shelter provides

support to victims of domestic violence and provides transitional housing while the women receive training and education so they can make better lives for themselves and their children. The renovation work was done on three residential buildings. Our local contractors donated some of the materials.

Another group of journeyman and apprentices continued another volunteer tradition in support of the Morris County 4-H. They wired all lighting and power for the tents used to house the annual 4-H Fair in Chester, NJ.

Local 102 officers thank all the volunteers for their work. It is these types of community service that separate the IBEW Brotherhood from our nonunion peers.

Special congratulations to our former Bus. Agent Joe Krawchuk. After 42 years of dedicated service, Joe has retired. We wish him a happy retirement and thank him for all the years of service and contributions to our local. Joe will truly be missed.

*Ed Fredericks, P.S.*

## IBEW Multi-Generation Families

L.U. 112 (c,i&st), KENEWICK, WA—At a recent union meeting Local 112 past president Paul "Skip" Elgin, a 41-year member had the privilege of swearing in to membership his grandson James Elgin. Skip's grandfather Paul L. Elgin (deceased) was a 53-year IBEW member. Skip's father, George Elgin, joined the IBEW in 1942 and among other accomplishments served as Local 112 business manager/financial secretary for 18 years. James's father, G. R. "Buster" Elgin, a 20-year member, joined Local 112 in 1988.

At the same meeting Diana Christianson was sworn in, cheered on by her father, Jim Christianson, a 29-year member of Local 112. Diana joins her father, grandfather Jim Christianson (deceased), who was a 22-year member; great grandfather Kermit Christianson (deceased), who was a 60-year member; aunt Michelle (Fleming) Hale, a 17-year member; and grandfather Mike Fleming (deceased), who was a 65-year member.

We welcome these newest additions to our local as they carry on the tradition of service, hard work and dedication embodied by their family legacy.

*Greg McMurphy, P.S.*



Attending the swearing in of new Local 112 member James Elgin (second from right) are several generations of the Elgin family. From left are Local 112 members Buster Elgin, George Elgin, James Elgin and Skip Elgin.

## Honored for Service

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mr,rts,se&spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—With this article, Local 124 wishes to congratulate two of our finest, JATC Instructor Charles "Mick" Owens and wireman George Heath.

On Nov. 12, 2008, Mick was awarded the 2008 Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO George Meany

Award for his tireless dedication to the Boy Scouts of America. As a 34-year IBEW member, the last ten as a JATC instructor for Local 124, Mick has managed countless volunteer hours to the Boy Scouts. He has been an adult scout leader for 22 years, with a list of credits and awards too long to list here. For the past seven years he has helped over 400 scouts earn their electricity merit badge.

On Nov. 12, 2008, Local 124 wireman George Heath was presented the IBEW Lifesaving Award, the highest award the IBEW offers. While working at the Western Reception Diagnostic & Correctional Center, stationary engineer Dennis Griffin suffered a heart attack. George Heath's first-response CPR and quick action in summoning medical assistance saved Griffin's life.

Local 124 members wish to honor these two wiremen for their brotherhood and dedication in serving their local and community.

*Frank D. Mathews, Jr., P.S.*

## Working to Promote Change

L.U. 130 (i&o), NEW ORLEANS, LA—There will always be people who struggle to achieve change and a better life and there will always be those who are controlled by the past. Brothers and sisters, I say that the greatest revolution in our generation is that of human beings, who by changing their attitudes can improve their lives. Some people achieve change for the better when they see the light; others when they feel the heat.

In today's tough economic climate, American working families need a fair deal and a chance to get ahead. Things are only getting worse for working people as costs soar and jobs are lost. That's why we all need to sign a petition supporting the Employee Free Choice Act, which would help level the playing field and give workers the freedom to join a union. The goal is 1 million signatures. Please sign the online petition and pass it along. Go to [www.employeefreechoice.org](http://www.employeefreechoice.org).

Congratulations to Pres. Barack Obama! A vision without a task is but a dream. A task without a vision is drudgery. A vision and a task are the hope of the world. Let's work together to promote positive change for working people and their families.

*Alvin Riley, P.S.*

## Work Picture Slows

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—Local 146 held the children's Christmas party in December. The weather cooperated and there was a big crowd. Each child received a gift from Santa himself. Thanks to Vice Pres. Jason Drake and all his elves for a successful event. The apprentices also held their annual party with all members receiving

gifts. Thank you to Chmn. Jason Aughenbaugh and the third-year apprentices for hosting the party.

The work picture has slowed considerably this winter as has been the trend nationwide. We have had several jobs either scaled back or cancelled altogether. The number of members on the books has started to rise. It is hoped that with a new U.S. president we can get this thing turned around.

Congratulations to Pat Slaughter, Kenneth Hilligoss and Floyd Williams on their recent retirement.

Our condolences to the family of Mike Hamm, who passed away. Bro. Hamm had 14 years of IBEW service.

*Rich Underwood, R.S.*

## Political Action Success

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Our local was enthusiastically involved in the 2008 elections. Many volunteered hours doing walks, phone banking, job site visits and rallies, all of which paid off big dividends. We did well nationally as well as in the state of Wisconsin.

With winter upon us the work situation has slowed down a bit. There are some potential calls for manpower coming if the jobs proceed as anticipated.

Local 158 once again participated in the sponsorship of lights for Christmas displays at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens and New Zoo. The beautiful holiday light displays always draw a large public attendance to see them.

*Donald C. Allen, B.M.*

## Code of Excellence Training

L.U. 160 (lctt,o&u), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—On Nov. 20, 2008, Sixth District Int. Rep. James Dahlberg was on hand to give a presentation on the IBEW Code Of Excellence.

Local 160 officers and business representatives were present to discuss significant topics such as: union membership, the future of our industry and why we need a plan. In the United States, union membership has declined in recent decades and it can be hard to compete with low-wage/limited benefit nonunion workers. It is important that we work with pride and professionalism. The local thanks Bro. Dahlberg for his wonderful presentation.

Minneapolis membership meetings are held the first Thursday of each month. Becker meetings are held the third Thursday of the month. The minutes of all business conducted by the local are presented at these membership meetings. The discussion of these minutes, the business manager's report, and the reports of delegates and committees make the union meetings a great way to stay in



IBEW Local 164 helps welcome U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (holding microphone) of New Jersey, as he addresses a rally of over 250 building trades members at the \$1.6 billion New York Giants-New York Jets football stadium project under construction at Meadowlands in East Rutherford, NJ.

touch with what is going on at the hall. All other meetings can be found on the events calendar at Web site [www.ibew160.org](http://www.ibew160.org).

Local 160 welcomes Kevin Peterson, our first full time organizer, to the office staff. We wish Kevin all the best.

*Daniel S. Seawell, P.S.*

## 2008 Election Volunteers

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—Local 164 rank and file members heeded the call of Bus. Mgr. Richard "Buzz" Dressel, and came out in record numbers for labor walks and phone banks for the momentous 2008 election. Our members hit the streets for over 450 walks and 120 phone banks, volunteering over 2,000 hours—with many returning every weekend from September to November. Thanks to all who turned out and kept labor in the forefront of the election! Standout jobs were performed by Natalie Vogt, Local 164's political organizer, and members Warren Becker, Dave Gonzalez and Bill Jones, who were there every weekend.

Autumn was also a busy time for all the fun activities that Local 164 members share. The annual outing was held Sept. 13, 2008, with 640 attending. The outing gets better every year under the tutelage of Bro. Ray Manfred and the dedicated outing committee. Project Grandma also had another successful fundraiser. A beefsteak gathering at the hall on Oct. 18, which featured comedians and prizes, raised over \$25,000 for a good cause. Barry Hammond and his guys did a great job! Come out to your union events and enjoy the brotherhood that is free to all Local 164 members.

*John DeBouter, Pres.*

## Sustained Political Action

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—We are happy to report that recent state and local-level elections were good for working people in our region. Several people from labor were elected to city councils; and two labor-friendly supporters were elected to the state legislature. Getting those candidates elected, however, was no easy task as the race for the White House tended to eclipse the importance of electing worker-friendly candidates at home.

Intermittent spurts of political action during the peak periods of campaign seasons won't work for us. Continuous political action, especially at the local level, is necessary to gain the support we need to succeed. After all, most state and national elected officials often start out by serving on local commissions, boards and councils.

When I entered the IBEW 20 years ago, I personally detested politics and believed that superior craftsmanship and performance were sufficient to

win the market. My personal experience with local politics radically corrected that preconception.

Upon completing a four-year term as a city council member and having been heavily involved in local and regional government, I've discovered that sustained political involvement is indispensable to the IBEW's strength and welfare.

*Michael Smith, B.A.*

## Illinois Capital Bill

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Our work for outside construction, both overhead and underground, is very slow and we don't see anything picking up in the very near future. Unfortunately, we still need to defend our work from other trades.

We have several contracts open with our municipalities along with several ULPs filed. All of our outside commercial and utility agreements are also open as of this writing.

We are in need of a capital bill in Illinois and the IBEW Sixth District International Vice President's office is working very hard to get this done. Our local appreciates everything Int. Vice Pres. Joseph F. Lohman is doing in this regard. We all hope a state capital bill will be enacted, as there is already work waiting to start and it is hoped there will not be a long lag time for some projects to begin.

Remember to vote in all elections and attend monthly union meetings.

*Edgar R. Mings Jr., B.M.*

## Service Pins Awarded

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL—On March 16, 2008, we enjoyed another local union picnic, held at Westgate River Ranch. Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell presented service pins to several members for their many years of devoted service to the Brotherhood.

Bro. Dennis Moody received his 50-year service pin. Moody was initiated into former Local 323, West Palm Beach, in 1958. He completed a four-year apprentice program and became a journeyman lineman in 1962. He served as Local 323 assistant business manager for eight years. Former Local 323 was amalgamated into Local 222 in 1989.

In 1978 Moody became training director of the Southeastern Line Construction Apprenticeship Training program and retired from SELCAT in 2002. He also served two terms as a Local 222 executive board member. Dennis has two sons in the trade; Michael and Randal Moody are both proud members of the IBEW.

Other 50-year pin recipients were: Fred S. Deno Jr., Robert Greene, Davis Hurst and George Matcovich. Receiving 55-year pins: Marvin Apte, John Gaffney, Clyde Parker and Murl Price.



IBEW Sixth District Int. Rep. James Dahlberg (back row, third from left in white shirt) is joined by Local 160 officers and representatives at a Code of Excellence training session. Front row, from left: Bus. Rep. Dan Kieffer, E-Board member Dan Seawell, Rec. Sec. Barb Kuck, Bus. Rep. Shawn Daly, Vice Pres. Kurt Zimmerman, Bus. Rep. Bob Boogren; back row, Organizer Kevin Peterson, Treas. George Huber, Int. Rep. Dahlberg, E-Board member Jim Brereton, Bus. Rep. Daryl Tindle and Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Tom Koehler.

Local 222 thanks and congratulates all the award recipients.

We mourn the passing of Bros. Ben Lawings and Doug Pittman. Both were dedicated Local 222 members.

*Dale Smithmier, Pres./P.S.*

## Annual Holiday Party

L.U. 236 (catv,ees,govt,i,mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY—We had a great turnout of members and retirees for our December 2008 meeting and annual Christmas party. It was the good to see and talk with people you might not have seen for a while, especially retired members. It was a good time for everyone.

With Barack Obama as our new president, we anticipate new legislation that will promote the interests of working-class people. The state of the nation is in dire shape. We wish Pres. Obama and his team the best.

Trustees of the Tri-City JATC thank Klein Tools for the company's generous donation. The \$5,000 grant was used to purchase tools needed at the training center for the many different hands-on labs utilized by IBEW Local 236 apprentices.

*Skip Goyette, P.S.*



Local 236 Bus. Mgr. Don Rahm (standing) visits with some retirees at the Christmas party. From left: Don Riley, Phil Clemens, Morgan James and Mark Sperber.

## Volunteers Get Out the Vote

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—At this writing, we still have a large number of our members on the out-of-work list due to the troubled economy. New candidates elected to office have a big job ahead of them just to get Oregonians working again.

Local 280 did well in the November 2008 elections with pro-labor candidates winning a substantial advantage in the Oregon House and Senate. The first Democrat to take a House seat on the east side of the Cascades in a long time will be a welcome change for the working families of Oregon. Another positive upset was U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley's successful bid to win the seat then held by 12-year incumbent Gordon Smith. Anti-labor attitudes such as support for unfair free trade agreements and oppo-



At the Local 280 picnic, Bro. Larry Taylor (left) and his wife, Wanda, talk with Bro. Denny Ellis and retired Bro. Dick Murdock about the 2008 elections.

sition to the Employee Free Choice Act are causing the middle class to lose ground, and unions are leading the fight for education on these important causes.

Big thanks to Local 280 volunteers who worked on the campaign to get the vote out. Bros. Tim Nicol, Larry Taylor, Greg Creal, Lance Zifka, Denny Ellis, Executive Board members and many others staffed phone banks, knocked on doors and worked long hours to get pro-union candidates elected and anti-union measures such as Bill Sizemore's agenda defeated.

*Jerry Fletcher, Pres.*

## Steel Industry's Impact

L.U. 294 (ees,em,i,rts,spa&u), HIBBING, MN—As the steel industry in northern Minnesota continues to show signs of despair, Local 294 will be very fortunate if the work status stabilizes or improves.

Minnesota Power at Cohasset, MN, has a new scrubber project under way. Mesabi Nugget at Aurora is erecting steel, and Essar Steel at Nashwauk recently announced groundbreaking on the new steel mill.

We hope that in the spring Local 294 will be able to provide employment for many of the locals that have provided our members work in past years.

With sadness, Local 294 announces the passing of Bro. Bob Prout, who actively served the local for many years. He was 87. Bro. Prout was initiated into the local in 1956 and was business manager from 1968—1984. He was instrumental in allocating the local Death Benefit Fund, local Pension Fund and Annuity Fund for Local 294. Our prayers are with Bro. Bob Prout and all our departed brothers and their families.

Be proud of your union. We are the IBEW.

*Dan Aho, P.S.*

## Solar Industry Night

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—IBEW Local 300 held a Solar Industry Night Dec. 3, 2008, at the University of Vermont to educate business owners about renewable energy training for electricians.

The open house-style event drew nearly 40 electrical and solar contractors who were interested in the union's new solar photovoltaic energy systems training, the only year-round course of its kind in the state. Accompanied by electrical apprentice Matt Murphy, IBEW Local 300 staffers Jean Watkins and Matt Lash presented information about the solar training and the union as a whole.

Renewable Energy Vermont Exec. Dir. Andrew Perchlik also spoke about the green economy and the importance of the IBEW Local 300 solar initiative.

"The demand for a Solar Industry Night was definitely clear," said Watkins, Local 300's training director. "Since we announced our solar program in October, calls and e-mails have been coming in at a steady pace."

IBEW Local 300 recently began solar training as an enhancement to its existing five-year electrical regimen. Utilizing framework developed by the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, trainees learn about the fundamentals, design and installation of solar photovoltaic technology through both classroom and hands-on components. Initially, at least four eight-person classes will be held per calendar year, with each lasting about 40 hours over 10 weeks, at the union's state-of-the-art South Burlington facility.

*Matt Lash, P.S.*

## Thanks to Volunteers

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—"Thank you, America!" We extend heartfelt congratulations and thanks to all our members who participated in phone banks, walkathons and job site visits to get out the vote for the 2008 presidential election. Thanks also to all our members who voted and showed the world that democracy is alive and well! We will all be rolling up our sleeves and taking our belts up a notch for a while but that happens when we seek to reverse bad policies.

Thanks to our Social Committee for yet another outstanding Christmas party. Excess toys were once again donated to the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program here in Akron and everyone had a good time!

With the economy slowing, this may be the time for the United States to pursue a maglev (magnetic levitation) train electrical rail system, or a local monorail system similar to Disney World's 1950s vintage units.

*Bob Sallaz, P.S.*

## Energy Sector Work

L.U. 322 (govt,i,it,lctt,o&u), CASPER, WY—The work in the Inside and Outside branches of the local remains strong. There is a variety of work including: wind turbine farms, oil field upgrades and recovery projects, power plant upgrades and several large commercial projects taking place around the state. We are blessed here to benefit from the large amounts of work taking place in the energy markets. We have several travelers working to help man the work; a big thanks to them and their home locals for the help.

The largest union electrical contractor in Wyoming, Automation and Electronics, recently received the Governors' Award on safety for large construction. This is the second year in a row that Automation received this award.

*Chris Morgan, P.S.*

## Solar Panel Installation

L.U. 354 (i,mt,rts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Utah Electrical JATC Training Dir. Dave Kingery, a Local 354 member since 1972, has retired after many years of dedicated service to the electrical industry. We wish Dave and his wife, Mary, a long and happy retirement.

Bro. Carl Brailsford was promoted to the training director position and Bro. Brad Baugh is the new assistant training director. Congratulations to these dedicated men.

We thank all members who volunteered their time to install solar panels on the union hall. We will put up a wind turbine sometime next spring. The JATC will hold solar installation classes for our members.



Attending the Local 354 JATC apprentice graduation ceremony held in November 2008 are, from left: JATC Training Dir. Carl Brailsford, Local 354 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Rich Kingery, retiring training director Dave Kingery and Asst. Training Dir. Brad Baugh.

The following members passed away in 2008: Joseph R. Gray, Lance Cook, Guy Giles, Paul McCarty, Roy Kohlschein, Parley Parkinson, T.R. Christiansen, Lynn Bird Sr., Frank Norris, Joseph Jacobson, Ronald W. Harrison, Jack Strong, Richard McCandless, Raymond O. Smith and Kenneth Carlson. Our sincere condolences to their families.

We thank all union members who proudly represent the IBEW every day. Continue to take pride in your craftsmanship as well as your union membership.

*Manya Blackburn, R.S.*

## 'Yes, We Did!'

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—Yes, We Did! The election of Pres. Barack Obama, our former senator from Illinois, is historic and stands among the greatest elections ever. Obama is the first African-American elected to the presidency, overshadowing much of the racial tumult of our nation's past. Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of equal rights for all has taken a giant leap toward being realized. Pres. Obama also promises to be the most union-friendly president since FDR. His election is a decisive victory for pro-working family policies.

Bus. Mgr. Darrin Golden recognized the election's importance for our local and encouraged members to volunteer and support our candidates. On Election Day, 23 members worked the polls to support endorsed candidates. Two-thirds of the worker-friendly candidates we endorsed prevailed.

Union members made the difference! Some 26 percent of voters were from a union household. Union voters supported Obama 67 percent to 30 percent for McCain. We registered 96 percent of our members, sent them letters and called their homes. We produced work-site flyers and e-mailed our members encouraging them to vote for labor-friendly candidates.

*Ray Pendzinski, P.S.*

## JATC Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 380 (ei,es,i&it), NORRISTOWN, PA—Local 380 JATC held its annual graduation banquet to honor the class of 2008. (See photo, pg. 9.) The electrical industry is undergoing major changes and today's electrical professional must be proficient in a wide range of topics and adaptable in this constantly changing field. Technology advancements, safety and energy conservation have combined to change the face of apprenticeship. After five years of apprenticeship training, these new journeyman wiremen are prepared for the challenges and rewards this trade offers.

Each year graduates vote for one of their classmates to receive the leadership award. The 2008 award was renamed the Stephen Malinowski Leadership Award in honor of the previous year's recipient. Bro. Malinowski, who was a true leader, tragically passed away since his 2007 graduation banquet. The 2008 leadership award went to John M. Glass. Awarded for perfect attendance in the fifth year were: Jeffrey Beaudet, John Glass, Joe Iacovino, Robert Pickell and Ryan Wilkinson. Awarded for perfect classroom attendance for all five years: Dan Bonner, Hal Dunlevy, Ricky Gehret, Jason Richards and Sean Wagner.

The scholastic award for overall achievement third place went to Sean Wagner; the second-place award went to John Glass; and the James Mayall first-place award went to Dan Bonner.

*Scott R. Sheldon, P.S.*



Local 380 JATC 2008 apprenticeship graduates: Jeffrey Beaudet, Brian Gordon, Robert Pickell, John Glass, Robert McCoy III, Patrick McKeon, Jason Richards, Daniel Bonner, Stephen Kammerer, Emerson Johnson, Mark Downs, Brandon Geiser, Sean Wagner, Kenneth Yetter Jr., Ricky Gehret, Cameron Troxel, Michael Sohl, Matthew Kawczynski, Hal Dunlevy Jr. and Ryan Wilkinson.

## 20-Year Safety Milestone

L.U. 386 (mo), TEXARKANA, AR—IBEW Local 386 congratulates its members employed at the Southwestern Electric Power Company's Fayetteville Service Department for achieving a safety milestone record of 20 years without a lost-time accident. (See photo below.)

The Fayetteville Service Department employees are first responders for utility trouble calls, working alone all hours of the day and night and in inclement weather.

Over a 20-year period, their achievements include working safely during service and storm call-outs, ice storm restoration and hurricane recovery.

Local 386 Troublemaker Dick McChristian says the great safety record is a result of a real team effort. "Everybody looks out for one another," he says.

The group maintains a constant focus on safety through daily safety meetings and job site briefings. The service department troublemakers bring extensive experience to the job, including previous line crew work. They are widely commended for their record of excellence. "This is a great group," says Judy Harwell, supervisor of distribution systems. "They are committed to the company, to the customers and to each other, which equates to a safe and successful team."

*Jeffrey E. Hale, B.M.*

## Alzheimer's Fundraiser

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—IBEW Local 388 Bus. Mgr. Dave Northup presented a \$500 check from the local union to Eric and Rochelle Franken for the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk fundraiser held in Wausau, WI. Eric is a Local 388 journeyman electrician employed with the affiliated electrical contracting firm of Newton Electric of Wausau. Eric's father, Pete Franken, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease recently and now requires full-time nursing care. Pete is a former partner of the Newton Electrical Contracting Firm. The Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk is an annual event to raise awareness and funds to help find a cure for the disease.

*Guy LePage, B.R.*



Local 388 Bus. Mgr. Dave Northup (back row, fifth from left) presents a check to the Pete Franken family during the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk fundraiser.

## Recession Calls for Organizing

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—Predictably, the global recession, compounded by uncertainty generated by the current political machinations of the four major political parties in Ottawa, has impacted the construction industry—the oil sands "mega projects" in particular.

A few projects have been cancelled or postponed. Suncor's "Voyageur Project" will proceed, but scaled back in size and scope. Shell Oil's Scotford Refinery, although with a later start date, is still a "go," as is the two-year Keephills 500-megawatt power generating unit.

This lull means back-to-basic job site organizing. Comet courses will be available to members in early 2009. The approximately three-hour courses explain why and how we must organize. Members are invited to sign up for Comet in the Membership Development office and talk with an organizer about working in a targeted nonunion company. It is vital that all members help expand our contractor base by organizing. "All hands on deck!" Unions will succeed and obtain fair wages and good benefits for us only if we participate.

On a lighter note, Pres. James Watson and 424 Retirees Chapter Pres. Bob Lamont, former local union business manager, held a meeting in Edmonton regarding reactivating the chapter. A similar meeting was held in Calgary with Bus. Mgr. Tim Brower. Response was good; over 40 retirees attended each meeting. A committee was formed on ways to make the retirees a vital part of the local union, so their knowledge can be passed on to younger members.

*Dave Anderson, P.S.*

IBEW Local 386 members with SWEPCO's Fayetteville Service Department helped achieve a 20-year safety milestone in July 2008. The Fayetteville Service Department includes, from left: Tonda Bates, Jimmy Layman, Rob Cheatham, Phil Mortensen, Jerry Turner, James Spears, Dick McChristian, Larry Tomlinson, Mike Pearce, Pete Renda and Judy Harwell.

## New Web Site Launch

L.U. 426 (i,lett,o,spa,t&u), SIOUX FALLS, SD—Local 426 is proud to announce the launch of our new Web site [www.sdibew.com](http://www.sdibew.com), which went online in September 2008. A more detailed view of eastern South Dakota electrical work, plus stories and pictures of our volunteer work and social events can be found there. We are also still involved with our original Web site [www.smart-wire.com](http://www.smart-wire.com), which is a partnership of four IBEW locals in North Dakota and South Dakota.

On Oct. 24, 2008, current Bus. Agent Steve Miller, along with former business agent and retired IBEW Eleventh District Int. Rep. David Feller, presented retired Bro. Herb Bawdon with a 65-year membership award. Brother Bawdon, age 92, is a World War II veteran and survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. Herb served the local as business agent from 1948-'52.

Local 426 congratulates Scott "Lunchbox" Barnes on his recent performance at the American Powerlifting Federation's Senior Powerlifting Tournament. Bro. Barnes was crowned the 308-pound national champion when he bench pressed 666 pounds in Omaha, NE, on May 29, 2008. He qualified for the World Powerlifting Congress world championships held in November 2008.

*Jon Olson, P.S.*



Local 426 retiree Herb Bawdon (center) receives his 65-year membership award. Making the presentation are Bus. Agent Steve Miller (left) and retired Eleventh District Int. Rep. David Feller.

## Retirees Honored

L.U. 456 (i&o), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—At the December 2008 meeting, Local 456 honored members who retired in the past year. Retirees in attendance received IBEW watches for their years of dedicated service. The local also remembered deceased members for their lifetime union service. Members who died in 2008 are: Gerald Buda, Albert Ogden, Thomas Zadlock, Benjamin Payson, James Callahan, Ernest Marrpodi, Edward J. Sofield, active member Ross Jacobs Jr. and Thomas A. Egan. These members are in our thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations and best wishes for a happy retirement to the 2008 retirees: George Beauchamp Jr., Jose Beltran, Gary Chavan, Russell Clement, George Dahms Jr., Wasy Dashkiewicz, Lee Hansen, Anthony Hubbard, Joseph Jennings, John Kozak Jr., Edward Kurczeski, Thomas Langer, Stephen Nagy, Rondie Newberry, Richard Nicholas, James Sutton and Clarence Taylor Jr.

Special congratulations to Bus. Rep. Joseph Jennings on his retirement. His leadership and dedication have been an inspiration to our union and all the building trades in New Jersey.

*Wayne Martiak, P.S.*

## A Union Brother Mourned

L.U. 488 (i&mt), BRIDGEPORT, CT—On Oct. 1, 2008, Local 488 lost a true brother, Richard Manzo. Rich joined the IBEW in 1961 and gave 42 years of

service before his retirement in 2003. His commitment to our local included serving as steward and general foreman on many projects as well as taking on leadership roles in various special committees, on our Executive Board and as president. Rich was assistant business manager at the time of his retirement. He will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

On Dec. 6, 2008, Local 488 held its annual children's Christmas party at Testo's Restaurant in Bridgeport. Santa arrived at noon to hand out presents to 120 children. Bus. Mgr. Peter F. Carroll thanks all who helped out with wrapping gifts and buying tickets to support this event. A special thanks to Chm. Jay Sportini for a job well-done.

*Anthony M. Soter, P.S.*

## Compressor Station Work

L.U. 498 (c,catv,em,i&spa), TRAVERSE CITY, MI—At this writing the Cold Springs Compressor Station near Kalkaska, MI, is still keeping some of our members working. Waggener Electric was recently awarded the seventh-floor electrical work at Munson Hospital.

Thanks to Chris and Dawn Dubois, Jason and Misty Cudney, Matt Phillips and Lisa Riber, Jeff and Mary Bush and Caroline Demeter for helping Santa with the Christmas party.

Our local recently lost retired members Al Church and Dan Taylor. Our condolences go out to their families.

*Timothy R. Babcock, P.S.*



Local 498 presents 50-year service awards to retired members Dan Taylor (left) and Jerry Houts. Bro. Taylor has since passed away.

## New Members Welcomed

L.U. 502 (c,em,i,it&t), ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—At our November 2008 regular meeting Local 502 was pleased to welcome 10 new members to our union, and also pleased to present service pins to members with five to 45 years of service. Congratulations to all and thank you for your service to our union.

At press time negotiations are currently under way for our collective agreement, which expired Dec. 30, 2008. Our experienced negotiating committee has the full support of the membership.

We are fortunate to have continued full employment in our jurisdiction. 2009 promises to be a challenging year with some mega projects winding down while others are starting.

Thanks to our Building Committee for their hard work in locating a new home for Local 502. We look forward to continued growth and service to our members from the new IBEW building at Kiwanis Court in Saint John. This 12,000 square-foot building will provide our membership with much-needed space for training, administration, meetings and social functions.



We mourn the passing of retired Bro. Alden Lockhart.

Local 502 thanks brothers from the following locals for their help on projects: Locals 2166, 1555, 625, 1852, 1432, 2330, 568, 105, 120, 894, 586, 530, 424 and 230.

*Dave Stephen, P.S.*

## Solar Photovoltaic Training

L.U. 508 (i, it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—Local 508 is looking toward the future of our nation with an eye on photovoltaic systems. This rapidly growing sector of the energy market is practically untapped in our jurisdiction. To continue to stay abreast of this renewable energy technology, our members elected to send a representative to Tampa, FL, Local 915 to participate in the NJATC training program on photovoltaic systems. The course, taught by author Jim Dunlop, was informative and electrifying.

A glimpse into the future of our industry places high importance on producing clean “green” energy. Photovoltaic is an environmentally friendly technology that produces energy with no noise or pollution. PV systems are extremely reliable and last a long time with minimal maintenance, and also offer energy independence. It is our responsibility to become involved in educating the public about solar energy through training programs, publicity, tax incentives and other activities.

*Judith Sheahan, P.S.*

## Major Solar Farm Project

L.U. 530 (i, o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—At this writing, we still have full employment with many travellers in town. Some of our biggest projects are winding down, but the hospital job is rolling around well with local tax-payer dollars and local donations being used to employ local workers, rather than out-of-town nonunion contractors. The solar farm is off to a good start with only a few minor problems, which we will deal with. It is hoped this will keep the work picture rosy as we convert 1,050 acres into North America's largest solar farm. Other announcements are expected; however, with the recent economic downturn and low oil prices, our fingers are crossed.

Local 530's annual golf tournament was successful and pros and hackers alike had a ball. Winners were Brady McDonald, Mark Witlock, Mike McCullough and Jamie Pallister.

On Sept. 1, 2008, at Sarnia's Labour Day parade Local 530 won every award available for marching units. Thanks to all participants.

On Nov. 21, 2008, Local 530 held its annual dinner dance where members received their years-of-service pins. As usual it was a great success with many friendships renewed.

Local 530 thanks our brothers and sisters from across Ontario, Quebec, the East Coast, and Detroit, MI, Local 58 for their professional trade unionism in helping us during our busy times in recent years.

*Allan Byers, P.S.*

## Newly Appointed

L.U. 538 (i), DANVILLE, IL—Please help welcome Colby Rennick as the newly appointed president of Local 538. Colby fills the vacancy created when Eric Bell stepped down from the post to accept a position out of town. Filling Colby's seat on the Executive Board is Amanda Rice. By accepting the Executive Board appointment, Amanda becomes Local 538's first female to serve as an Executive Board member. Best

wishes are extended to Colby, Amanda and Eric.

As I write this report, the work picture has started to fade. Many projects in the area are beginning to wind down and some have even been cancelled. We have been very fortunate for the last few years with full employment and are grateful for the help of many IBEW brothers and sisters from across the country. There is great hope that our newly elected officials will succeed in the challenging times ahead, improving our economy to keep us all working.

See you at the union meeting.

*Kathie Porter, Training Dir.*



Two recently retired Local 538 members: Terry Bodine (left) and Gary Cronkhite.

## Two New Web Sites

L.U. 558 (catv, em, i, mt, o, rtb, rts, spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—Congratulations to U.S. Rep. Parker Griffith on his election to office. The IBEW-backed candidate won a hotly contested campaign in the November 2008 election. We wish Rep. Griffith success in Washington, D.C., and our hopes and prayers go with him.

We wish to announce the establishment of two new Web sites connected with our local union. The new Local 558 Web site is [www.ibew558.org](http://www.ibew558.org) and the North Alabama Electrical JATC apprenticeship program Web site is [www.naljatc.org](http://www.naljatc.org). Please take the time to browse these sites for information about the local union and the apprenticeship program.

*Steve Crunk, Pres.*

## Congratulations to Members

L.U. 606 (em, es, i, rtb, spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Union electrical contractor Ermco of Florida won the 2008 Excellence in Construction Award for Aquatic Sea World's water park. Watch for an upcoming article about this achievement in a future IBEW publication or on the IBEW Web site. Congratulations to our IBEW members for their contribution to this success.

Local 606 journeymen who work for Buena Vista Construction Co. successfully completed a “Confined Space” training class. The class is required for each journeyman who works for BVCC to keep their Confined Space training card up-to-date.

*Janet D. Skipper, P.S.*



Local 606 journeymen employed by Buena Vista Construction Co. complete a “Confined Space” training class.

## November Election Gains

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—The November elections couldn't have gone much better for us. A labor-friendly president and a bigger majority of Democrats in Congress will hopefully present us with some legislation and regulation that is more in touch with the needs of working-class America.

Many members actively participated in this election and their hard work paid off. Nearly all of our endorsed candidates won their respective elections. A notable gain was the narrow victory by State Rep. Tom Houghton, who won his bid for State Representative, District 13 representing Chester County, PA. We thank all the members who helped make this possible.

*Jim Russell, V.P.*

## 'Doors of Opportunity'

L.U. 684 (c, i, rts&st), MODESTO, CA—It will be a long, hard road back, but we are on our way. In the words of President Barack Obama: “America can change. Our union can be perfected and what we have already achieved gives us hope for what we can and must achieve for tomorrow. ... This is our time to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth that out of many we are one. ... God bless the United States of America.”

*Torrey Newton, P.S.*

## Appointment Announced

Local 688 (em, i, t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—Local 688 Bus. Mgr. Carl Neutzling was appointed chairman of IBEW Telephone Coordinating Council TCC-3.

TCC-3 consists of 14 IBEW local unions across the United States that represent members employed by Embarq, a communications service provider. Congratulations on your appointment, Carl, and keep up the good work.

On Sept. 20, 2008, Local 688 held its annual golf outing at Mohican Hills Golf Course. On the winning team were: Bob Crumm, Skip Frontz, Jim Stuart and Linda Wenzel.

Four Local 688 members, Andy Biglin, Jim Herrick, Paul Smith and Jim Strickling, donated their time to the United Way Day of Caring. The work included a feeder installation to a maintenance garage at the Rehab Center in Mansfield. Both Alpine Electric and Lake Erie Electric Charnan Division donated tools for the project.

The future work outlook includes two larger jobs—construction of an addition for Gorman-Rupp Industries in Mansfield and two new buildings at the Rolls Royce plant in Mount Vernon, OH. With these jobs, we should have decent employment opportunities through the winter.

Local 688 wishes Charles Burch, Joie Saunier and Jim Strickling well on their retirement.

*Dan Lloyd, P.S.*

## A New Outlook

L.U. 692 (i, mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—At this writing, 72 members are on Book 1 and over 500 are on Book 2. Work has slowed, as it does in the winter months, with jobs taking longer than projected to start. The way the economy is going, it seems that projects are waiting to see what will happen. New restrictions on unemployment multi-state claims for 2009 do not help the traveling brothers and sisters.

We do have good things to look forward to: a new president in the White House who has a concerned, union-friendly agenda, and a state governor who has a working relationship with our new leader and chief. We should feel proud that Michigan was among the states that helped elect the new president. It will take time to undo what the last president had eight years to do. We know the work outlook will not change overnight, but it's finally nice to take a deep breath and rest assured we are moving in the right direction! A big thank you to all the IBEW locals that have helped keep our members employed during these troubled times.

Our condolences to the family of retired Bro. Louis E. Ladouceur, who passed away.

*Tom Bartosek, P.S.*

## 'A Brighter Future'

L.U. 702 (as, c, catv, cs, em, es, et, govt, i, it, lctt, mo, mt, o, p, pet, ptc, rtb, rts, se, spa, st, t, u, uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—As of this writing we have 19 journeyman wiremen on the Book 1 Out of Work List and 300 on the Book 2 Out of Work List. Our inside construction work should be in full swing starting spring 2009.

Outside construction work continues to explode and we currently have 53 apprentice linemen working.

At press time, line clearance negotiations continue with the current expiration date of Dec. 31, 2008.

Organizing continues in our southeast Missouri jurisdiction.

We can look forward to a brighter future with Pres. Obama.

*Marsha Steele, P.S.*

## Federation Leader Visits Local

L.U. 712 (c&i), BEAVER, PA—It was an honor to have AFL-CIO Pres. John J. Sweeney stop in and address over 100 labor walk volunteers on Sat., Oct. 25, 2008. (See photo, pg. 11.) Pres. Sweeney spoke regarding the Employee Free Choice Act, U.S. jobs and the economy. He stressed the importance of electing Barack Obama as president, as well as other endorsed candidates for area elections. Steelworkers Int. Pres. Leo Gerard, along with Pittsburgh Steelers owner Dan Rooney and some of the players were also on hand to rally our union volunteers.

Thankfully, the efforts of working people across our country helped elect Barack Obama to the White House. We also thank all our members who volunteered for the labor walks, phone banks and work site leafleting.

Our work picture is still slow. We thank sister locals that have provided our members with work. May this year be more prosperous than the last. See you at the meeting!

*Larry Nelson, P.S.*

## Post Hurricane Renovation

L.U. 716 (em, i, lctt, rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—At last, labor has a Democratic president in the White House to stop the attacks on labor and working families that we have endured for the last eight years. We hope for passage of the Employee Free Choice Act so workers everywhere can freely choose to organize without fear of retribution from employers.

Our local union sustained severe damage from Hurricane Ike last year and we have been



IBEW and AFL-CIO officers, joined by Beaver, PA, Local 712 volunteers, gather for a November 2008 get-out-the vote labor walk. Participants included, from left: Local 712 apprentice Ryan Snizek, Registrar Robert Schmetzer, apprentice Billy Young Jr., JATC Instructor David Bupp, apprentice Alco Lyle, JATC Dir. Greg Hojdila, AFL-CIO Pres. John J. Sweeney, Local 712 Bus. Mgr. Frank Telesz Jr., Local 712 Bus. Rep. Larry Nelson; Beaver-Lawrence, PA, Central Labor Council Pres. Dennis Bloom; Local 712 retired Rep. Patrick Davis, IBEW Int. Rep. John E. Malagise and AFL-CIO Field Rep. Frank Snyder.

operating out of temporary office trailers since Sept. 14, 2008. We hope that by publication time we will be back in our newly renovated building. We appreciate our members' patience and understanding during this time. Thanks to all the local unions that assisted us in our time of need and a special thanks to our sister Local 66 for use of their hall for our monthly meetings and other annual events that were scheduled. I also thank IBEW traveling members who are helping man our calls.

A message to our retirees: Once again the Local 716 pension trustees unanimously voted to provide a "13th" check, which we hope arrived in time for the Christmas holiday.

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

## Service Awards Presented

L.U. 760 (i,lect,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Local 760 congratulates all who received their service pins in 2008. (See photo below.)

God bless each of you and our IBEW.

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

## Community Service

L.U. 894 (i&o), OSHAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Members of our local are committed to active support and participation in our community. Bus. Mgr. John Gillett and Organizer Terry Dorgan presented University of Ontario Pres./Vice Chancellor Ronald Bordessa with a cheque for \$20,000 as part of our local's bursary program to the area university and technology institute.

Organizer Dorgan reports that salting nonunion shops in our jurisdiction continues with many members contributing to this essential tool in the IBEW's struggle with nonunion contractors. Over the past couple of years, Terry and Bus. Mgr. Gillett have successfully created a fair wage policy that has been adopted by the City of Oshawa and the University of Ontario.



Local 760 congratulates service pin recipients. Back row, from left, Chris Shipe, Conney Jack Spears, Joseph Antaya, Ben Davis, Joe Elkins, Tom Jones, Bill Mason, Ted Long, John Bowman, Doyle Prichard, Andy Worsham; front row, Terry Cole, Lee Kennedy, Ben Gregory and Thomas Swabe.

Our entertainment committee organizes many events including Ladies Night, Family Picnic Day at an area water park and Family Fun Day with pizza, go-carts, bumper cars and arcades for members' children. All our events are well-attended and are a great way to meet and greet members and their families. Many thanks to Jerry Skratz, Brad Stewart and the rest of the dedicated volunteers on the committee.

We mourn the loss of Bros. Robert "Lazerbeam" Lazure, Joe Brown, Bill Miller, Joe Bland, Marvin Dowdell, Gord Dejaeger and Vern Dunk.

*Darrell Scott, R.S.*

## Solar Installation/Open House

L.U. 968 (catv,i,mt,o,rts,spa&t), PARKERSBURG, WV—Parkersburg goes solar! On a sunny fall Saturday morning, over 40 journeymen, apprentices and retirees volunteered to help install a 6,000 kW photovoltaic system at our union hall.

Local 968 also hosted an open house for area residents, which allowed the community to learn about our solar system, apprenticeship training program, and the history of our local. Area media and the Affiliated Construction Trades were on hand to report the day's events.

Local 968 also hosted a train-the-trainer session presented by the NJATC. Twenty-four journeymen representing 10 JATCs from six states attended the course.

U.S. Rep. Alan Mollohan paid a visit to Local 968 while out on the 2008 campaign trail. Rep. Mollohan was very interested in our newly installed PV system and spent over an hour discussing topics ranging from America's energy future to our area working family needs.

Although West Virginia came up short for Barack Obama last November, we were successful in the election of 83 percent of our endorsed candidates. As our work continues to be very poor, we look forward to a new administration and fresh ideas to help America's working families start the long climb back to the standard of living they enjoyed eight years ago.

*Jeff Fox, B.M.*



Local 968 members install 30 solar panels for the union hall's photovoltaic system.

## Union Yes!

L.U. 1116 (em,lect&u), TUCSON, AZ—With the current economic times, our local looks to perform as we did in 2008. Working as skilled union labor, Bro. John Dungan at Trico Electric Cooperative organized 10 new members since he became unit chairman last July.

Four years have passed since our Unisource Gas members were organized and Chmn. Frank Gillis feels that learning the value of being union will only improve in the coming year, as preparations get under way for contract negotiations, scheduled for June 2009.

Bro. David Cardy from Prescott reported their union Christmas parade float received first place for most creative, and several other awards.

Local 1116 filed as interveners for the rate case increase involving Trico Electric and Unisource Gas.

Some 21 apprentices will turn out during 2009 in Tucson; our electrical industry can really use these craft workers in the years ahead.

To Bros. Terry Barton and Larry McNair, thanks for your many years of service. Enjoy your retirement, brothers.

By now TEP and Trico members are reaping their 2009 benefits; although the economy has caused strife for most, the union was still able to negotiate modest increases in wages and benefits—once again proving that America works best when you say: Union Yes!

*R. Cavaletto, P.S.*

## Honorees & Emmy Winners

L.U. 1220 (rtb), CHICAGO, IL—As we review 2008, we honor those who weathered the technological and production storms to bring their consummate professionalism to air.

Pres. Al Skierkiewicz awarded years-of-service pins to: 40-year members Don Coleman, Treas. Ed Glab, Gerald Swanson and Jim Wirth; 35-year members Bill Corcoran, Greg Gressle, Phil Hejtmanek, Jan Hendrickson, Jim Holland, Morris Jones, Andy Kalayta and Stephen Stribling; 30-year members Carolyn Broquet, Bill Crane, Karen Demos, Greg Erickson, Jim Guthrie, Jim Knowlton, Mike Staben and Casher Wharton; and 25-year members Bob Albrecht, Kevin Cassidy, Harry Doyle, Anna Marie Klingele, Bill Laing, Ken Lyles, Russ Rodriguez, Clark Szabo, Carmen Trombetta and Diane Vrlich. Bus. Mgr. Madeleine Monaco presented Pres. Skierkiewicz his 35-year pin; Al has served as president for 23 years.

2008 Emmy winners are as follows. For CBS/WBBM's coverage of the Northern Illinois University Shootings story—Nathan Delack, Morris Jones, Bond Li, Allen Maniscalco, Dino Pillizzi, Kyle Porter, John Truitt, Paul Wheeler, Carolyn Broquet, Carlos Monge, Deborah Segal, and Gary Wright. For The Greening of Chicago story—Terry Bates and Mary Bohentin at WGN. For Eye On Chicago, Looking Glass Hephaestus—Chris Cangilla at CBS/WBBM. For Cubs Forever, Celebrating 60 Years of WGN TV and the Cubs—Terry Bates and Jim Tianis at WGN. For Super 2 Investigators Promo—Robert Thompson and Freddie Breitberg at CBS/WBBM. For directing—Christopher Faulkner at WWME. For videography—Mike D'Angelo at WGN. For editing—Vicky Thomas at WGN. For editing "WGN at 60"—Nancy Burns at WGN. For individual excellence off camera in CBS/WBBM's coverage of the 2007 Chicago Marathon—Dan Stella, Tom Pawelko, Mike Aiello, Kathryn Swanson, Bob Kent, Terry Schilling, Joe Amigle, Greg Pavis, Joe Pausback, Eli Clarke, Mike Clay, Dave Cella, Kevin

Flagg, Bond Li, Mike Klingele, Bill Kieri, Stan Kidd, Chuck Ayers, Ken Lyles, Brian Smolik, Andrew Fontana, Gerard Evans, Al Ortiz, Andrea Randall, Richard Lanza, Bob Minor and Dave Koltis.

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

## Helping Families in Need

L.U. 1362 (em&govt), CEDAR RAPIDS, IA—IBEW Local 1362 members employed by Rockwell Collins began gearing up to "adopt" families for Christmas 2008 through the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program organization. These members work in the Flight Systems IPT at the C Avenue facility. This is the third year they have adopted families through HACAP.

Their goal is simple: to provide as much as they can for families in need. The volunteers got an early start raising money by holding fundraisers such as lunches, bake sales and daily raffles. Our members have gone above and beyond with excitement and enthusiasm to provide for needy families.

Our Rockwell members worked with local businesses for donations of food and raffle items. They provided families with winter clothing and food before Thanksgiving. Santa delivered gifts and more food for Christmas. The generosity and energy put into this great cause is a shining example of character and community service. In addition to helping HACAP families, the Local 1362 Rockwell Collins members donated money to Waypoint; the Salvation Army; Isabelle Kelly, a two-year-old in need of physical therapy equipment; and the Taylor 3 Wish Club, established for children from Taylor school affected by the floods.

*Jerry Vuichard, B.M.*

## 'A Year to Remember'

L.U. 2320 (t), MANCHESTER, NH—2008 certainly will be a year to remember. FairPoint Communications took over the operation of the former Verizon wire line business on April 1, 2008, and by the time you read this the cutover hopefully will be complete. A tornado ripped through the central and eastern part of the state and our members responded with hard work, replacing over 100 poles and repairing miles of aerial wires. The election of labor-friendly candidates locally and at the national level was made possible by the hard work of many union members and by everyone getting out to vote.

The 13th annual Collette LeMay Scholarship Golf Tournament was again a huge success thanks to Bro. John Morrison and over \$9,500 was raised. This year we gave out three \$2,000 scholarships.

Bus. Mgr. Glenn Brackett thanks all those who have worked to make Local 2320 a force to be reckoned with.

*John Murphy, P.S.*



Local 2320 Safety Coach Dave Coates shows bucket controls at the Bring Your Kid to Work Day at the FairPoint Communications Holt Avenue service center in Manchester, NH.

# Retirees

## ATTENTION RETIREES CLUB PRESS SECRETARIES

Beginning in 2009, Retirees Club articles will be published quarterly in The Electrical Worker. The Retirees deadlines for upcoming 2009 issues are listed below.

The word limit for your articles is now 200 words. Because of space limitations, you must strictly adhere to that guideline. You are encouraged to submit articles and photos via e-mail. Please address your submission to [locallines@ibew.org](mailto:locallines@ibew.org), and include your Retirees Club local union in the subject line.

Your cooperation in mailing your material early enough to arrive in the Media Department before your deadline is greatly appreciated. This schedule and the guidelines for submitting Retirees Club articles have been sent to Retirees Club press secretaries for whom we have an address. This information is also available on the IBEW Web site [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org) or by contacting the Media Department at (202) 728-6057.

### Deadlines for Submission of Retirees Club Articles to The Electrical Worker - 2009

Issue	Deadline
May	April 1
September	August 3
December	October 28



While vacationing at Santorini Beach Resort, members of the North New Jersey Chapter of the Local 3 Retirees Club gather for a group photo.

## Fenton Heroes Memorial

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—In September 2008 we had our annual retirees luncheon. Members and their wives enjoyed lunch and refreshments and friendly conversation.

The November 19 meeting of the retirees featured a guest speaker whose topic was long-term care. The meeting was well-attended and the information well-received. An attorney also provided information on estate planning.

Some of our Local 1 retirees recently completed the electrical work at the Fenton Heroes Memorial in Fenton, MO. The final task was to place a light fixture to illuminate the plaque and piece of iron that came from the Twin Towers. With the iron in place, the retirees were able to successfully complete the job at the memorial.

The Ladies Auxiliary held their annual Christmas party for the retirees Dec. 10 at the union hall. It was a festive occasion.

*Rich King, V.P./P.S.*



IBEW Local 1 retirees completed the electrical work at the Fenton Heroes Memorial in Fenton, MO.

## Summer Beach Vacation

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER—The North New Jersey Chapter of the Local 3 Retirees Club enjoyed their 2008 summer vacation at Local 3's Santorini Beach Resort, Long Island, NY. Kathy LaBate snapped the photo shown here. It was great fun and great camaraderie.

*Anthony A. Mancini, P.S.*

## Annual Holiday Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA—The Local 11 Retirees Club held its annual holiday luncheon. We raffled off a number of great gifts and enjoyed a delicious meal in the company of good friends. We are glad so many members were able to join us. Harvey "Butch" Bachand, former staff member, joined the Retirees Club and attended the holiday luncheon. Local 11 Pres. Joel Barton attended and updated the group on progress made in the local over the last year. Joel was appointed when former president Dean Todd announced his retirement at the December general membership meeting.

Veteran organizer Larry "Bulldog" Henderson also retired after many years of dedicated service to Local 11. A party was thrown for Larry at Cirivello's Restaurant in Long Beach. Dignitaries from the Los Angeles City Council and Port of Los Angeles honored Larry with proclamations for his efforts on behalf of workers.

Retirees Club Pres. Marty Cohen's grandson Daniel is scheduled to graduate the apprentice-



Detroit Local 58 Retirees Club members enjoy a week-long September 2008 bus trip to the Smokey Mountains.



Local 11 retiree John Sanderson (left), Bus. Rep. Mark Meyer and Retirees Club Pres. Marty Cohen enjoy union get-together.

ship program early this year. The house they share was narrowly missed by recent wildfires. Daniel evacuated to a nearby church while his grandfather chose instead to go to Las Vegas.

We invite all retired members of Local 11 to join our club.

*Bob Oedy, P.S.*

## Retirees Club Travel Plans

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC—Last fall our travel plans increased and included our second cruise, our annual crab feast, and our first train trip aboard a coal-fired steam train for a ride up to Frostburg, MD. On Dec. 2 we visited Lancaster, PA, the National Christmas Center, enjoyed lunch at the Fulton Steamboat Inn and a Christmas show at the American Music Theatre.

Please read your mailed monthly minutes, especially if you cannot attend meetings regularly, as you may miss a trip!

Our 13 boxes of books reached the military personnel who participate in Operation Paperback. This was our fifth shipment! We received a thank-you note from Col. Michael F. Scott.

We thank all who supported our raffle. The money goes into the Medical Equipment Fund. For the Nov. 8 drawing, winners were: 1st prize—Tom Clark; 2nd prize—James Bedilion; 3rd prize—Lesley Shreve; 4th prize—Michael and Christine Malone; and 5th prize—R. Kearns. Special thanks to Tom Clark, who donated some of his winnings to the club!

We are booking our third cruise! Departing Baltimore on Aug. 27, 2009, to Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and the Dominican Republic. For infor-



Local 26 retirees receive years-of-service awards. From left: James Williams, 30-year member; James Kieffer, 40-year member; Gary Distler, 50-year member; and Retirees Club Pres. Dick Bissell.

mation, call Rick Warner at (240) 472-0438 now! Sadly we report that Wade H. Sheriff, Jr. peacefully passed away on Dec. 17, 2008. He was a former business manager and former club vice president as well as a good gamesman.

*Susan Flashman, P.S.*

## Smokey Mountain Bus Trip

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—Since we last wrote, some 50 members and their spouses/companions embarked last September for a week of fun to the Smokey Mountains in Tennessee. With the exception of one incident (it seems that the bus was involved in a minor accident), everyone had a great time. Charlie Mott led the entourage once again. You do a wonderful job, Charlie. Thanks!

The September 2008 luncheon was well-attended at the Gazebo in Warren with 84 people reminiscing over old times and acquaintances. Our annual Christmas party on Dec. 3, 2008, was a wonderful holiday gathering with approximately 240 members and family in attendance. We thank all who participated and helped make it a wonderful celebration of the season.

Many thanks to all our brothers and sisters who helped elect our country's new president. Buy union! Buy American!

*Frank A. Maisano, P.S.*

## Notable Celebrations

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 90, NEW HAVEN, CT—On Oct. 14, 2008, Local 90 held its annual retirement dinner at the Groton Motor Inn. Eleven gentlemen were honored: Paul Amenta, Joseph Baracco, Franklin Brooks, Michael Brown, Raymond Coggshall, Victor Cretella Jr., Alexander Gulianello, Gary Lassinger Sr., William Munger Jr., John Occhionero and Robert Therian. Also at the same gathering 32 active Local 90 members received their 25-year service pins. We congratulate all 43 gentlemen and thank them for their distinguished years of service.

Our annual holiday luncheon was held Dec. 2, 2008, at the Fantasia Banquet Facility, for all Local 90 retirees and their spouses. Again, as usual, it was a wonderful time with great food and good company. We all thank our club officers for a job well-done.

*Richard Launder, P.S.*

## Club Outings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI— Since our last publication we have experienced some great events, namely our two fishing trips that were planned by Bro. Robert Beardwood, the opportunity to attend two PawSox ball games, and the great clam-bake that was planned by Bro. Michael D'Amico.

Although we did not meet during the summer months, we certainly kept in touch with all our retirees because of the planned activities.

Recently our sunshine committee had the pleasure of awarding a gold watch, which was provided by the local to our retired Bro. Alfred Spaziano, who is in a nursing home.

Our monthly meetings resumed during the fall. Our Christmas luncheon was held Dec. 16 at the West Valley Inn and sponsored by the local. Everyone enjoyed the festive occasion.

Our club is saddened by the passing of retired Bros. John Cubellis, Vincent Fragano, Roger Lagace, Kenneth Mello, Robert Campbell, Raymond DeLuca and Vincent DeLuca. May they rest in peace.

Remember to keep the spirit of brotherhood alive by attending our meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at 12 noon.

*Raymond Germershausen, P.S.*



Local 99 retired Bro. Alfred Spaziano (seated) receives gold watch. Also shown, standing, from left: Bros. Donald Simpson, Roland Furia and Richard Irace.

## March 19 Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 103, BOSTON, MA— Greetings to retirees wintering in warmer climates. No club luncheons during January and February in Boston because of the weather. We got 20 inches of snow two days after our December Christmas party.

At the Christmas party we enjoyed good food, and dancing to Bro. Jim Sachetta's Orchestra. We also held a silent prayer for lost comrades, too numerous to list here (all happily performing for Paddy Sullivan on that slab job in the heavens). The Executive Board voted to donate the \$2,400 proceeds of our Christmas Special Dinner to the "Brotherhood Fund," as many members are unemployed. Active members voted to match the donation.

Our next luncheon is March 19 (a corned



Shown are the last revelers to leave the Local 103 Retirees Club Christmas party, were attendees enjoyed dancing to Bro. Jim Sachetta's Orchestra.

beef and cabbage St. Patrick's meal); and thereafter each third Thursday throughout 2009.

"Happy days are here again!" Congratulations to all who helped elect Pres. Barack Obama. He instills in us great hope for working people.

Treas. Joe Murphy sends a reminder that this year's dues are still \$12 per year. Send a check along with your membership card and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Local 103 Retirees Club, 256 Freeport St., Dorchester, MA, 02122. New members will receive a membership card, good for 10 years, that is a facsimile of the active member card, and will receive our monthly newsletter.

George Ringland won the retiree golf trophy last year. Thanks to Bill Walker for keeping the golf stat cards. Also, thanks to E-Board member Paul Toner for leading the volunteers at the Irish Cultural Center, and Vice Pres. Vinny Crowley for lining up guest speakers for our monthly luncheons. Special thanks to Local 103 retirees who keep the spirit of brotherhood alive by attending club events.

*Leo E. Monahan, Pres./P.S.*

## Anthony Ziegler Mourned

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—Anthony Ziegler, a former Local 130 business manager, passed away Dec. 7, 2008. Bro. Ziegler was a longtime Retirees Club member and a 70-year IBEW member. He was business manager from 1960-62. Our hearts go out to his wife, Geneva, and family.

Our December Christmas party was wonderful. Bus. Mgr. "Tiger" Hammond presented 70-year service pins to Bros. M.E. Joseph and Gerard Tonglet. We thank Local 130, The Home Association, local contractors, office ladies and staff for helping make the party a success.

Congratulations to all recent service-pin recipients. Among members presented 60-year pins were: Bros. Joseph Bertucci, Simon Kiefer, George Comeaux, John Tauzy and John Delord.

At our next quarterly meeting in March, we will hold nominations and an election of club officers. This meeting is for members only, no spouses or guests. We will send members a reminder letter in February.



Local 130 Bus. Mgr. "Tiger" Hammond (left) presents 70-year service pins to retired members Gerard Tonglet, M.E. Joseph and Retirees Club Pres. George Clesi.

The Retirees Club has 105 active dues-paying members. Yearly dues are \$35. We welcome new members.

Our Nov. 20, 2008, bus excursion to the Hollywood casino was great; we had 55 kidders on board.

We mourn the passing of Bro. Elroy J. Boasso, Paul B. Datri, Jerome Giardina, Terry J. Johnson, Edward H. Talley, Warren A. Oden, Ralph Camardelle, Jack Donnelly and Anthony Ziegler. May they rest in peace.

God bless our country's new president and keep this country united.

*Buddy Carver, P.S.*

## 'History in the Making'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL— Beginning with this issue, Retirees Club articles will be published quarterly in The Electrical Worker.

The 2008 presidential election was history in the making. Our country has a new president who will take us to better times. This effort will require bipartisan work on both sides of the aisle to succeed.

Our corned beef luncheon was held Dec. 10, 2008, and we all had a good time. We had some snow, but we still had a good turnout. I thank all who came out for the event as well as the people who helped me with the luncheon. We had some new faces in attendance, and I'm sure there will be more next December.

Our 2008 John Cummins Golf Outing was cancelled because of all the rain and standing water.

Let's hope the economy picks up in 2009 so all of our members across the country can go back to work. So until our next article in the May issue of The Electrical Worker, take care, stay healthy and good luck.

*Richard E. Bronars, P.S.*

## 2008 Summer Trips

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 150, WAUKEGAN, IL— Our annual kids party was a wonderful success. Many retirees volunteered to help and we thank everyone who pitched in to make the party fun for all. Among those who took care of the shopping were: Ruth Lange, Arlene Klemp, Maureen Sullivan and Diane Holst. Playing Santa and Mrs. Santa were Jack and Maureen Sullivan.

Last summer was a busy one. We had our annual trek to White Pines State Park, where we had a great luncheon, enjoyed a play, dinner, overnight in a lovely cabin, campfire and breakfast. Such a deal.

We also visited Great Lakes Naval Training Center for an interesting tour of a training ship. Then a visit to Cuneo Museum followed by the Tempel Lipizzan horse show. We also enjoyed our quarterly luncheons, the Labor Day parade float and a potluck at Holst's.

We hope we see new faces at club meetings this year. Our meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the union hall. We have a short business meeting and a social time with coffee and dessert provided by the members.

*Diane Holst, P.S.*

## 'New Year's Wishes'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 306, AKRON, OH— New Year's Wishes:

- That last year's list of artificial joints installed in our membership will require no new additions this year. (Last year's surgeries included knees for John Scafi and George Peters;

shoulder for Vern Saylor; all-thread and tapcons in Dick Muha's back.)

- To see our troops back home and out of harm's way. (Our members have children and grandchildren serving in the military.)
- To see the economy moving forward and employment for our brothers and sisters.
- That we will wake up each day in 2009 and say "Good morning, God!" instead of "Good God! It's morning!"

*Bob Sallaz, P.S.*

## Club Marks 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

RETIREES CLUB OF LOCAL 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—In 2008 our club celebrated its 23rd anniversary. The club continues to grow and prosper thanks to the following: Local 353 executive officers and staff, Local 353 trusts and trustees, the ladies in the office, all those who help serve at our luncheons, our retirees' contribution of time and effort, and all the locals that honour us by inviting us to their functions or participating in ours.

Our annual Christmas Dinner Dance was attended by over 620 retired members and guests including: Int. Vice Pres. Phillip J. Flemming, retired former Int. Vice Pres. Ken Woods, retired former Int. Rep. Bill Warchow, and guests from Hamilton, ON, Local 105; London, ON, Local 120; St. Catharines, ON, Local 303; Ottawa Local 586; Kitchener, ON, Local 804; and Oshawa, ON, Local 894.

Local 353 Bus. Mgr. Joe Fashion published the dinner/dance programme with names of members receiving pins for 50 or more years of service. Last year Local 353 honoured one 65-year member, 16 60-year members, 28 55-year members, and 56 50-year members—bringing our honour roll of living recipients of awards for 50 or more years of service to over 366 members.

Our working members owe a great deal to these retirees, who continue to raise the bar for building this great organization. For more information visit Web site [www.ibew353.org/retirees](http://www.ibew353.org/retirees).

*Robert Rynyk, P.S.*

## 50-Year Service Awards

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 400, ASBURY PARK, NJ— Congratulations to all retired members who received service awards last year for 50 or more years of service to the IBEW.

Shown in the group photo below are eight of the Local 400 retired brothers who received 50-year awards last year: Pat Rampino, Al Rutledge, Sal Ruggieri, Art Newman, Phil Dinkelberg, Ziggy Olving, John Scisco and Joe Caliendo.



Among Local 400 retired members who received 50-year service awards in 2008 are, from left, seated, Pat Rampino, Al Rutledge, Sal Ruggieri, Art Newman; standing, Phil Dinkelberg, Ziggy Olving, John Scisco and Joe Caliendo.

RETIREES 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.

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**HOW TO REACH US**

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

**Send letters to:**

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

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## Green Crossroads



**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

**T**humb through the pages of any recent IBEW publication, and you'll see that the union hasn't been waiting for Congress or the president to act before getting on board with the green revolution.

In this issue alone, you'll see reports from locals across North America—from Utah to Ontario—that are running solar and wind turbine installation trainings, and we're seeing more and more of them each month.

For the IBEW, the importance of the new green economy is more than just the work it provides our members. Done correctly, green energy—everything from retrofitting buildings and installing a smart grid to wind, solar, biofuels, hydroelectric and nuclear—offers the possibility of recreating the balanced economy of the post-World War II era. Back

then technological innovation drove domestic job growth and economic opportunity for working families while building North America's industrial base.

The post-World War II period saw the greatest growth of productivity in our history, which translated into a rising standard of living for most North Americans.

Deregulation, anti-unionism and free-trade fundamentalism have taken hold in the last 30 years, resulting in an eroded manufacturing base and shrunken middle class, but the potential of a new energy revolution holds out the opportunity of changing course.

Kicking our dependence on foreign oil requires an active partnership with governmental leaders and private companies to invest in millions of new jobs and a renewed industrial base.

There is no reason those jobs can't be decent American and Canadian ones that come with a good paycheck and benefits.

The shared prosperity of the post-war world wasn't just granted from up high; it was fought for by the labor movement. And green power won't translate into good jobs and a new model of shared economic growth without the IBEW continuing to take the lead through our training programs, grassroots political action and our continuing commitment to excellence on the job. ■

## The Freedom to Choose

**M**ost of the doublespeak by former President Bush and his pals—about the state of the economy, reasons we went to war in Iraq, the condition of our crumbling infrastructure—has been discredited.

But one lingering, glaring Big Lie still holds sway, ticking away like a time bomb—the argument that the Employee Free Choice Act denies workers a secret ballot on whether to form a union.

Stewart Acuff, special assistant to the president at the AFL-CIO, went on Fox News last month to refute the Big Lie, telling viewers that the Employee Free Choice Act does not take away the secret ballot. The only change it does make is that it allows workers—not bosses—to decide if they want to use majority sign-up or a secret ballot.

The politicians, right-wing blowhards and corporate interests opposing the act are working overtime to sell you on the idea that the Employee Free Choice Act is non-democratic—and in some cases, they're doing a good job.

But the key to their hypocrisy lies here: by beating the drum of “no secret ballot” over and over, they appear to be on the side of workers' interests. They aren't. Think about those who oppose it—the same people who don't want to pay for their employees' health care, who don't want wages to increase, who don't want to give employees a contract and who chafe at the idea of workers having a say at their jobs.

Now, consider who supports it: President Obama. A majority of Congress. Labor unions. And the majority of the American public.

In these times of financial decay, workers fortunate enough to have jobs need more ways to get ahead. Union members make on average 30 percent higher wages and are 60 percent more likely to have employee-sponsored health care than their nonunion counterparts. This is the pillar that will continue to support the survival of the middle class and our shared access to the American Dream. ■



**Lindell K. Lee**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

## Letters to the Editor

### Reflections

Shirley and I were privileged to see our son elected to Congress representing New Mexico's U.S. House District 1. Martin Heinrich won this seat in November with 55 percent of the vote. The labor movement's strong support for him with endorsements and active campaigning is a major reason for his success.

We want to thank you for the great support the International has given Martin during both the primary and general elections. He won't disappoint you.

Last month I received my 50-year membership pin. Reflecting on my 50 years, they've been good years for us. My "A" card has been this family's primary asset. It's given us both mobility and security.

These past two decades have not been kind to the labor movement. I would feel much more comfortable if training, health insurance and retirement benefits were administered by unions.

Again, many thanks for IBEW backing Martin both at the local and national levels.

*Pete Heinrich  
Local 814 retiree, Sedalia, Mo.*

### Help Restore Our Economy

I am a retired member of the Motion Picture Studios since 1980. I have seen a lot of changes in our economy and most of them seem to be for the worst. Prices have gone sky high, jobs are getting scarcer and the dollar has really depreciated. I have predicted for at least 10 years now that this would happen.

Due to the outsourcing of our manufacturing plants and jobs, this can be expected. I firmly believe that this is the way that the rich, many of our politicians, manufacturers, etc. are eliminating the middle class in our country. I have a big question.

If our jobs are sent to foreign countries and there is no middle class, then who do they expect to buy their products and services?

Let us all hope that our new president and Congress will really go to work, as they have promised to turn our economy around. They can pass laws or regulations restricting the foreign manufacturers such easy access to our markets. They can close the loopholes where they do not have to pay income taxes on their terrific profits. They can stop our manufacturers that have sent their factories to foreign countries and close the loopholes that they and the rich also have on sending their profits to foreign banks so that they do not have to pay income tax.

Let us all do what we have to do to make sure that our economy will turn around, but not at the expense of the middle class.

*William F. Miner  
Local 40 retiree, Hollywood, Calif.*

### Real Leadership

On Saturday October 18, 2008, a "Justice for Workers Now" rally was held in downtown Detroit, Mich. in support of the Free Choice Act. Building tradesmen from throughout Michigan met at IBEW Local 58's union hall and marched to a staging area at the foot of the federal building where the NLRB offices are located. Many IBEW members attended and made this rally a success. The thing that most impressed the IBEW members in attendance was the presence of President Hill and Sixth District Vice President Joseph Lohman.

Both of these leaders walked throughout the union hall, meeting and talking with IBEW members. One of our newly organized journeymen and an apprentice had the opportunity to meet both of these distinguished leaders. They were amazed how easy they were to approach and how down to earth they really are. President Hill, as well as other labor leaders, spoke at the rally. We applaud both President Hill and Vice President Lohman for giving up their Saturday and joining us in Michigan. Members commented at our next union meeting on these positive experiences they had at the rally. They got to see firsthand how blessed we are in the IBEW to have such strong leadership.

*Mark A. Bauer  
Local 692 member, Bay City, Mich.*

## Who We Are

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org).

## Virtual Recruitment: Savvy Locals Draw Members Via YouTube, Facebook

For many IBEW locals that are pushing further into cyberspace, social networking sites are augmenting tried-and-true methods of reaching prospective young members. Leafleting and industry nights still play a vital role—but for many new to the trade, worker testimonials on MySpace, Facebook and YouTube paved the way to apprenticeship.

"What I like is that I'm challenged intellectually, that I'm constantly learning something every single day," said Portland, Ore., Local 48 apprentice Angelica R. in a YouTube piece produced for the local by Pac/West, a public relations firm. "Being part of the team environment, everybody looks out for each other."

"We were one of the first locals to start using Web site technology in the mid-1990s, and we've tried to stay very progressive as far as our Internet presence is concerned," said Local 48 Business Manager Clif Davis. Since the beginning of the local's marketing campaign a year ago on Facebook, YouTube and MySpace, the number of apprenticeship applications has spiked considerably. "That shows that we need to adapt to new techniques to reach the younger set and those in their mid- to late-20s."

Local 48's Web presence is broad and deep, even drawing attention from the Wall Street Journal. The newspaper recognized the local's innovative efforts to bring young people into the trades, noting that the IBEW's apprenticeship program is often a more pragmatic choice than going to college.

"Companies and unions don't dispute that college can be a wise investment, but they also say some unionized craft workers can earn more than the average college graduate, without the burden of student debt," Anton Troianovski wrote in the Wall Street Journal.

Of course, testimony from the young workers themselves resonates more than newspaper articles. As Local 48 member Brian Couch says in a YouTube piece aimed toward younger workers, the magic words are "earn while you learn."

"It's not like going to college where you go to school for five to eight years...and you're having to work a part time job," Couch said. "In



the apprenticeship, you're working as an electrician while you're going to school. The money—you can't beat it."

Facebook's search engine yields hundreds of hits for "IBEW." On YouTube, "IBEW" returns 546 results—some are videos produced by locals, while others are submitted by individual members. In a few clicks on sites like these, one can see testimonies about working for a union shop or read dialogue between members about pay increases, job safety tips and other stories.

"As we reach out to communicate with a more technologically savvy generation of apprenticeship candidates and unrepresented electricians, it is paramount that we utilize the appropriate media of the era," said Director of Construction Organizing Kirk Brungard. "The proliferation of tools like MySpace, Facebook and YouTube in growing the IBEW is both necessary and inevitable."

For a detailed look at the work of an apprentice, YouTube visitors can watch footage of prospective electricians learning at the Tom Cashen Electrical Training Facility in Anchorage, Alaska. Instructor and Local 1547 member Allan Rusenstrom narrates and teaches as apprentices practice switching outlets and running wire. "They're doing real well and learning a lot," Rusenstrom says in the three-minute clip.

"I think we'll start to see more and more that this is where we're headed with further recruitment efforts," Davis said. "I feel confident that these sites and our presence on them will continue to showcase the benefit of union jobs to young people all over the country." ■

### CORRECTION

The December installment of "Who We Are" contained an inaccuracy regarding the technologies used in the new I-35W bridge. The bridge is protected from ice build-up by a "state of the art anti-icing system, provided by Boschung, and proudly installed by IBEW members," says Sean Bryant, a member of Duluth, Minn., Local 242, who worked on the project and corrected our statement that the de-icing is accomplished by blowers under the roadway.

## Retirees

continued from page 13

Other recent 50-year award recipients not pictured include: Douglas Braeuer, Tony Costa, Dick Grimme Jr, Louis Havison, Leroy Horner, Phil Salamone, Billy Homeyer, R. Totaro, Dick Cassidy, Eddy Cohagen, Eddy Edwards, Louie Defazio, Harry Leimberg, Billy O'Donnell, Bill Parmentier, Richard Reuter, George Scott, Paul Shwaha and Ray Scisco. Recently deceased 50-plus year members: Frank Van Dusen, Frankie Eastwood and Oliver Herbert Jr.

Best wishes to all for a happy retirement.

*Richard Fogacci, P.S.*

### Funds for Needy Families

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 558, SHEFFIELD, AL—Our June decision to raise funds for needy families turned out very well. Donations from club members and local union active members were great. Many thanks to all. The officers and board decided to try a charity golf tournament also and it did very well. All of our contractors and several area businesses sponsored holes as did the local union and the Building and Trades Council. A total of 15 four-person teams played and everyone enjoyed the tournament. All told, we raised \$4,600 for those in need! We are already planning to do this again in 2009 and hope all who participated will do so again. Our club members thank all of you for the success of this venture.

We have two new board members: Bros. Tommy "Ta-Ta" Alexander and Jerry Tate. Welcome aboard, brothers, and we hope you find your service as rewarding as the rest of us have!

By the time you read this our Christmas dinner will have taken place and the needy families will have received their gifts from the fundraiser. All of us should feel good about helping those less fortunate. Our membership in the IBEW has made this possible and we should all be grateful for that.

*Tom Whitfield, Pres.*

### 2008 Retirees Fall Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 606, ORLANDO, FL—Our club is always having a great time of feast and fellowship. Throughout the year the club has several luncheons at the union hall. The 2008 Retirees fall luncheon was held at the Fort Christmas Park. At this meeting the keynote speaker talked about political issues and the presidential race. The weather was great for an outdoor get-together. The retirees are always looking for new members to join their club. If interested, contact Pres. Bob Hamburg.

*Janet Skipper, P.S.*



Orlando, FL, Local 606 retirees and family members attend luncheon. Seated, from left: Betty Hamburg, Dorothy Walizer, Annie Sokolowsky and Vermel Graves; standing, Daryl Walizer, Tom Ard, Bob Hamburg, Larry Kidd, Tony Sokolowsky, John Griffis and Jim Sullivan.



IBEW Local 611 members are shown in a 1980 photo snapped at the Anaconda Copper Mill site in Grants, NM. From left: Jay Halverson (then foreman), Hal Kissenger, Ruben Romero, Grady Gamble, Gabe Rivera, Norman Karney, Brian Werner, Doug Markey and Billy Britt. Bros. Britt and Gamble are now deceased.

### Retirees Research History

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—The picture above shows how time changes. This picture was printed in the IBEW Journal 28 years ago and since then Britt and Gamble have passed away. Bros. Hall (who took photo), Halverson and Kissinger have retired. Karney withdrew from Local 611. Markey, Rivera, Romero and Werner are still working.

Well, the presidential election is over and Barack Obama, the IBEW choice and the first African American, is our new president. It's time for a change and the majority believe he can do it.

The research of Local 611 history by the retirees is ongoing. The years 1941-1950 were good years for Local 611. From 1944-1949, Local 611 records show that over 150 travelers dropped their tickets into Local 611 and one-third of them were journeyman linemen.

Remember our brothers and sisters in nursing homes and assisted living, and those who are sick. Bro. Nap Duran has severe back problems. Bros. Ted Cordova and Tracy Hall are undergoing cancer treatments and Bro. Albino Garcia, past Local 611 president, is ill with Alzheimer's disease.

Best wishes to all for the year ahead.

*Tracy Hall, P.S.*

### Christmas Dinner Gathering

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 613, ATLANTA, GA—The Retirees Club had a great Christmas dinner at our Dec. 17 meeting.

The Club held our regular quarterly meeting on Sept. 23, 2008, at the union hall. We discussed pensions and spouse benefits and will discuss issues important to retirees at future meetings. Thanks to our local for serving a hot lunch.

We mourn the passing of our brothers and our condolences go out to the families of the following: D.J. Tally, B.C. Hobbs, D.H. Mount, C.F. Wade, C.F. Griswell, J.K. Schultz, Davis Carter, Mike Rachels, J.H. Bently, Gary Clayborn, M. Clankscals, Johnny Reynolds, Jerry Boleman, D. Lupkin, Jack E. Jameson and Thomas Dunn.

*Blake McLeod, Pres.*

### Service Awards Ceremony

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 666, RICHMOND, VA—The annual awards ceremony sponsored by IBEW Local 666 and the Richmond Electricians' JATC was held Sept. 19, 2008, at the Wyndham Virginia Crossings Resort. Congratulations to all our service-pin recipients, with special recognition to retired for-

mer JATC director Raymon M. Roberts, who received his 70-year service pin for longtime, dedicated service to Local 666 and the electrical industry.

Also receiving service pins were 65-year member Harry H. Vaughan; 60-year members John D. Barker and Charles J. Teeter, Jr.; 50-year members Thomas D. Freeman, James H. Pace and Thomas W. Tuck Jr.; and 40-year members Robert L. Broach, Russell A. Grammer and Billy B. Stroud.

We also recognized 31 members with 25 years of service, and 25 RJATC graduates for the school year of 2007 and 2008.

*Mary Ann Bernier, P.S.*



Local 666 retired former JATC director Raymon M. Roberts (second from left) receives his 70-year service award. Presenting the award are retired former business managers Harry F "Butch" Zahn II (left), Wilbur Collins (third from left) and Leroy Van Fossen (right). Former business manager Waddy E. "Buck" Bryant was unable to attend the ceremony.

### Varied Club Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 804, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA—The Retirees Club has grown steadily since our first meeting and subsequent charter on Sept. 5, 2003.

Our activities are many and varied, from our monthly meetings and socializing at the "hall" followed by a luncheon, many wonderful trips, entertainment and theatre (mostly arranged by Bro. Frank Ische, our tour guide and entertainment director). We also assist at our local union election of officers by serving as judge and tellers. We wire Habitat for Humanity homes (organized by Bro. Doug Richards), volunteer at places like community centers and support local and provincial political candidates. Bro. Harry Holloway volunteered his time to arrange for computer courses, which were so successful they are back by popular demand.

Our thanks: to Toronto Local 353 Retirees for their great hospitality over the years. On Oct. 14, 2008, we hosted retired Local 353 brothers and sisters at our Oktoberfest festivities at a local German Club.

Our membership has worked in many other local union jurisdictions and has returned the favour when we needed the extra help. We look forward to renewing friendships at some of our future functions with those we have worked with. It is also great to renew acquaintances with Local 804 members.

Special thanks again to Local 353 for a wonderful meal and a spin on the dance floor. As a bonus, our spouses now get to meet some of the people we worked with over the years.

*Thomas B. Gardner, P.S.*

### PG&E Bargaining

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1245, VACAVILLE, CA—Efforts to negotiate improvements to retiree pensions and medical insurance during general bargaining with PG&E were torpedoed by the September 2008 meltdown in U.S. financial markets, but bargaining on behalf of retiree medical will begin anew in 2009.

At a summit meeting on Oct. 15 that included Retirees Club leaders, the union's bargaining committee, union staff members and company representatives, PG&E laid out the economic obstacles to improving retiree benefits at this time. Retiree leaders did not quarrel with the data, but did not hide their disappointment.

"We have a serious problem," said former Bus. Mgr. Perry Zimmerman. "We should have been working on this 18 months ago. You knew this was a problem. People are suffering out there. They are making choices between putting food on the table and paying for health care."

Also expressing concern were Merced Chapter Retirees Club Pres. Mike Bonds and Vacaville Chapter Retirees Club Pres. Robert Renoude.

A major priority for PG&E during general bargaining was to negotiate an increase in medical premium co-payments for current employees. The union refused to consider any such increase given the company's refusal to offer relief on retiree medical premiums. Both topics will be on the table in early 2009, following ratification of the Table Agreement. Any subsequent agreement on medical benefits could take effect only with the approval of members in a separate ratification vote.

*Eric Wolfe, P.S.*



From left: retired former Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. Perry Zimmerman; Robert Renoude, president of the Vacaville Chapter of the Local 1245 Retirees Club; and Mike Bonds, president of the Merced Chapter of the Retirees Club.

### Get Connected

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