

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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## Lost Job, Lost Home, Lost Dreams A Broken System's Legacy

Long before the nation's latest economic troubles, some workers at NG Jensen, a custom brokerage firm in the state of Washington on the Canadian border, set their sights on an economic stimulus plan—a union. Their organizing campaign barely got off the ground before it was shot down by management intimidation.

According to a 2006 poll by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, the custom brokerage workers are not alone. Fifty-eight percent of non-managerial working Americans surveyed indicated that they would join a union if they could. However, one worker is disciplined or fired every 18 minutes for their efforts to organize unions.

Much of the national narrative holds union membership is declining as a result of the shift from a manufacturing to a service-based economy. But a compelling body of evidence points to a far more powerful cause—the uneven playing field in U.S. labor law—a playing field that allows companies to threaten, intimidate and fire workers who want nothing more than the security of a contract.

Labor organizations and our political allies have come up with an answer to this stacked deck against hard-working men and women, the Employee Free Choice Act. This major reform of U.S. labor law, which will soon come before Congress for a second time, would make it easier for workers to organize



'This is America, the land of the free, and that includes the freedom to choose to be part of a union,' said Liliana Robbins, who was fired after attempting to organize a union.

and fine employers who threaten and fire workers. And the law would stop employers from endlessly delaying negotiating contracts with workers who have clearly chosen union representation.

If the Employee Free Choice Act had been enacted in 2007, perhaps Liliana Robbins and other workers at NG Jensen would be enjoying the benefits of union workers, who earn, on average, 35 percent more than their nonunion counterparts.

In May 2007, Robbins, one of the most senior and respected workers at one of NG Jensen's customs stations in Blaine, Wash., contacted Seattle Local 77 asking for help for herself and her co-workers, who assign tariff

numbers and clear lumber and other Canadian goods for entry into the U.S. Organizer Chris Martin met with her.

Frustrated and angry, Robbins told Martin how a decent job at one of the company's numerous locations had gone downhill as managers snatched away holidays and vacation time, changed work schedules at will and engaged in blatant nepotism.

"There was huge support for the union at the beginning," says Robbins, who met with some of her co-workers at a nearby gas station. They decided to put informational literature about the benefits of unions on cars in

FREE CHOICE continued on page 2

## Free Choice

*continued from page 1*

the parking lot. Immediately, supervisors went out and snatched the literature, so Robbins brought some pamphlets into work with her.

Overnight, Robbins' relationship with her employer changed. She was written up for distributing pamphlets, even though co-workers routinely brought in catalogues to sell merchandise or distributed sign-up lists for fund-raisers.

"I went full force at trying to find every avenue that would help my co-workers, with the same thoroughness that I applied to my job," says Robbins, who set up a meeting at a nearby library for NG Jensen workers to meet with Local 77.

Only three workers showed up for the meeting. Several drove by, but were afraid to show their faces after a rumor circulated about a supervisor who had lined up a snitch to report back on attendance. But, even more persuasive was watching how Robbins, a model employee, was singled out for harassment because of her support for a union.

The union drive was stillborn. But the company was not finished with Robbins. She got a phone call late one night from Jensen telling her that she was terminated because of "business conditions," despite the fact that more junior and far less-experienced workers remained on the job.

With the help of Local 77, Robbins appealed her dismissal to the National Labor Relations Board as discrimination for union activity. Her case looks strong. But relief hasn't come soon enough for Robbins to save her home in Birch Bay, overlooking the Pacific, from foreclosure. After 20 years, she is moving into an apartment.

"I couldn't blame my co-workers," says Robbins. "It takes a strong person to go through what I did."

Instead, Robbins blames a labor law regime that is stacked against workers who simply want the rights that come with collective bargaining. "This is America, the land of the free, and that includes the freedom to choose to be part of a union."

As the Employee Free Choice Act comes closer to a vote in Congress, companies—defending the status quo—are investing millions of dollars into an advertising campaign to paint courageous workers like Liliana Robbins as the persecutors and their employers as the victims.

The key tactic in the employers' campaign is to accuse the unions and their political supporters of being "anti-democratic," by working to pass a law that would permit employees to opt for a union through majority sign-up, rather than a secret ballot representation election.

"The employers are resorting to Big Lie manipulation," says Brian Ahakuelo, Director

of Professional and Industrial Organizing. "They know how many workers—union and nonunion—fought in wars and in the civil rights movement to defend our right to vote and to practice democracy." So, says Ahakuelo, they turn reality on its head and make it seem like secret ballot representation elections are

run just like elections for public office. "They don't talk about the tricks that they play to undermine any semblance of fairness," he said.

Labor unions will never match the dollars of employers engaged in public relations campaigns to defeat the Employee Free Choice Act, says President Edwin D. Hill. But

average members can bring the truth to the light of day, he says, by exposing the myths being spread by the moneyed elite and supporting majority sign-up. "We owe that much to workers like Liliana Robbins and her friends who deserve the respect that comes from work and standing up for their rights." ■

### Myth vs. Fact

## The Employee Free Choice Act

**MYTH** The Employee Free Choice Act Takes Away the Secret Ballot

*employers fire pro-union workers and 50 percent threaten to close down their workplaces.*

**FACT** *The Act provides that if a majority of employees sign union authorization cards, the company must recognize and bargain with the union. Majority sign-up is a fairer process than the current one, where employers can coerce workers. But, if a majority of employees prefer instead to hold an election, they will have that right.*

**MYTH** Majority Sign-Up Doesn't Work

**FACT** *Majority sign-up is not a new process. In fact, directly after passage of the NLRA, almost one-third of all union certifications took place as a result of majority sign-up.*

**MYTH** Union Elections Are Just Like Elections for Public Office

*Since 2003, more than half a million American workers formed unions through majority sign-up. They include UPS freight workers, reporters, hotel and casino workers and nuclear engineers.*

**FACT** *Union representation elections have almost nothing in common with elections for public office.*

*In public elections, candidates have free speech. In union elections, managers can require employees to attend "captive audience" anti-union meetings. Union supporters can be forced to attend—but denied the opportunity to speak out.*

**MYTH** If the Employee Free Choice Act Passes, Workers Will be Pressured to Join Unions

**FACT** *Studies show that, with majority sign-up as compared to NLRB election campaigns, employees report less pressure from co-workers to support the union and less pressure from employers to oppose the union. In the first 70 years of the NLRA, only 42 cases found fraud or coercion by unions in the submittal of authorization cards. By contrast, there were 29,000 documented cases of intimidation or coercion by employers in 2007 alone.*

*It is illegal for private companies to tell their employees how to vote in a public election. In union elections, supervisors routinely fire, demote, or reassign workers who support the union.*

*There are limits to how much money candidates can raise and spend in public elections. In union representation elections there are no limits to how much companies can spend on anti-union lawyers and consultants.*

**MYTH** The Union Representation Election Process Can Be Fixed Without the Employee Free Choice Act

**FACT** *It is impossible to enforce regulations that prevent employers from threatening workers for organizing unions without increasing penalties and allowing workers to choose unions by majority sign-up.*

*In democratic elections, the winning candidates usually take office just two months after Election Day. In union elections, employers can appeal the result to five different levels for several years.*

**MYTH** Passing the Employee Free Choice Act Will Hurt Economic Recovery

*The power relationship between union supporters and their employers isn't subject to the strict rules that govern other employer-employee relationships. Take, for example, sexual harassment. There is no such thing as a non-coercive sexual approach ("pass") by a supervisor to a worker, even though such an approach would be perfectly normal in a non-workplace setting.*

**FACT** *The best stimulus package for workers is a union job. Union jobs pay, on average, 35 percent more than nonunion jobs. The National Labor Relations Act was first passed during dire economic times to encourage unionization so workers would have more buying power to fuel economic recovery.*

*But, in dealing with union election campaigns, employers can engage in coercion and threats, defending their conduct upon "free speech." This means, for instance, that a supervisor can speculate that—in his opinion—a facility would close if a union wins an election, without being charged with actually making a threat. The Employee Free Choice Act is aimed at the elimination of this kind of unbalanced and unfair power relationship.*

**MYTH** Intimidation by Employers During Organizing Drives is Exaggerated

**FACT** *A study compiled from NLRB reports for 2007 reveals that during that year, more than 29,000 people—one worker every 18 minutes—were disciplined or even fired for union activity. Thirty-two percent of*

## Missouri Members Rescue Woman, Aid Hurricane Victims

**B**raving the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, four Kansas City, Mo., Local 53 members rescued a woman from 10-foot-deep floodwaters while working to bring power back to storm-ravaged Alexandria, La.

Journeyman linemen Ron Mareda, Kip Rorrer, Mark Boyer and Garret Crews were part of a team from Independence Power & Light dispatched to Louisiana to aid victims of Gustav, a Category 4 storm. On the rainy morning of Sept. 3, the men were on the way to repair downed power lines and broken transformers when they came upon a flooded section of the highway. After getting out of their trucks to assess whether they could continue, they saw a woman clinging to her floating car adrift in a flash flood.

"That was when these regular guys suddenly turned into heroes," said Larry Starr, IPL line department manager and member of the relief effort.

Mareda, Rorrer and Boyer each dove into the swift current to reach the vehicle 75 feet from the bank. Fellow member Crews remained nearby to help everyone back onto dry land.

As soon as the men made it out to her car, the vehicle started sinking. Panicked, the woman told the workers that she couldn't swim, and there was no way of evacuating her without facing the flood. Boyer, a former lifeguard, quickly showed her how to position her body to float in the current, and the four

gradually returned to the water's edge.

"I don't think she would have lived if she hadn't climbed out of her car while the waters were rising," said Mareda, the group foreman.

The woman was uninjured and walked away from the accident.

For their bravery, the Independence, Mo., mayor's office honored Rorrer, Mareda and Boyer with a special recognition award at an October city council meeting.

"The rescue just goes to show you that, as linemen, we never know what we're going to run into on a day-to-day basis," Starr said. "I have been in this industry for 35 years, and members amaze me all the time with their courage, skill and determination." ■



Kansas City, Mo., Local 53 members Kip Rorrer, left, Ron Mareda and Mark Boyer were honored for their bravery after rescuing a woman from a flash flood following Hurricane Gustav.

## Verizon Workers Win Outsourcing Decision

**T**elecommunications workers won a big victory in the fight against contracting when an arbitrator agreed with a complaint filed by Seattle Local 89 and ordered Verizon Northwest, Inc. to stop using outside nonunion contractors to do the work of bargaining unit members.

"It's going to have a snowball effect in ending contracting as a means to weaken unions," said Local 89 Business Manager Ray Egelhoff.

In 2002, Local 89, which represents more than 1,000 Verizon employees, negotiated a contract that included attractive incentives for early retirement.

But instead of hiring new employees to replace the newly vacated cable splicer and technician positions, Verizon contracted out many of the long term jobs to nonunion firms.

"It was a clear violation of our contract, which prevents Verizon from using contractors for work of a regular and routine nature and that is exactly what it was doing," Egelhoff said.

The local filed a grievance in 2007, which went to arbitration last fall. In his decision, the arbitrator found Verizon guilty of violating the contract by continuing to use outside contractors for full-time bargaining unit work, requiring Verizon to hire one full-time employee for every 1,500 hours of contracting work.

The company has threatened to appeal the decision in federal court.

Contracting out bargaining unit work has been an ongoing point of contention between Verizon and the two employee unions – CWA and IBEW – and many union members at the company are hopeful that the arbitrator's judgment will discourage the practice.

"It's a problem everywhere," said Mason, Mich., Local 1106 Business Manager Michael Brousseau, who represents more than 500 Verizon employees. "Every time I talk with business managers from other Verizon locals, it comes up."

Local 1106 filed a grievance with the company over contracting last year, which has cost dozens of building service technician positions. The company even reserved employee parking space for the contractors.

The case has been in arbitration since November. "The decision in Seattle gives us hope that it will set a precedent for our case," Brousseau said. ■

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North of 49°

## IBEW Members Power Up '10 Winter Games

The daily labour of IBEW trades seems a world apart from the high-risk sports of freestyle skiing or bobsledding. But the lights, sound and riveting action at Vancouver, British Columbia's 2010 Winter Olympics will never reach the world stage without the electrical work that has modernized existing sports venues and created giant new facilities in the first "all green" Olympics.

From supplying power to a new trade and convention center in Vancouver to energizing a new light rapid transit system and several projects on nearby Whistler Mountain, including a broadcast center and refrigeration units to make artificial snow, members of Vancouver's inside Local 213 and utility Local 258 have completed millions of dollars of work on budget and ahead of schedule.

"Our involvement will become even greater as time goes by," says Local 258 Senior Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell, whose members work for BCHydro, one of the official supporters of the games, and for some of the utility's contractors.

Chris Poulos, a Local 258 general foreman at contractor Alltech, has been supervising the rebuilding of cable along the Sea-to-Sky Highway (Highway 99) into Whistler. Electricians are installing automatic sleeves to protect cables from the deterioration caused by salt air and vibra-

tion. "We don't want any power outages," he says. Local 258 crews will be on around-the-clock standby at Whistler, a world-class resort, during the games.

Olympic competitors and visitors will board a new light rail line at Vancouver International Airport to head downtown. An average of 60 electricians has worked on supplying power to the railroad and new stations for the last two years. The light rail builds upon the Sky Train system that was erected for the city's Expo 86. "With the light rail, Vancouver, a younger city, will catch up to others its size," says Brian Beddow, a Local 213 superintendent at Western Pacific Enterprises.

Past Olympics utilized polluting, unreliable generators to supply power to remote locations. With environmental stewardship as one of the goals of the 2010 games, more than 100 Local 258 members have installed underground and overhead cables to deliver power to venues from normal distribution lines, eliminating the need for generators.

An average of a dozen wiremen and apprentices worked for over a year installing timer systems and 800 lights on a new bobsled track. "It's one of the 15 best tracks in the world," says Gary Bowsher, an 18-year member and project manager. Pierre Lueders, a four-time Canadian Olympian and gold medalist, has already been practicing on the bobsled run. At every corner of the track,



Vancouver's 1.2-million-square-foot trade and convention center will serve hundreds of thousands of visitors to the 2010 Winter Olympics. The center showcases the work of Local 213 members on a \$36 million electrical contract for Western Pacific Enterprises.

electricians installed multi-purpose panels with Internet connections, microphones and cameras to provide TV access and give coaches the capability of remotely watching and listening to their athletes' performances on their laptops.

Crews installed lighting on a new ski lift and supplied fiber optic service and cameras to six new buildings. "The \$8 million project was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," says Bowsher, who supervised the installation of

40,000 feet of conduit, 48 light poles, 40-feet high, with 15 meter arms and 1240 cable connections. "We did all this on a mountain and sometimes in the snow," he says.

"The job is a feat in itself. Our members will never work on a project this large again," says Ray New, a 38-year Local 213 member and superintendent who led 124 electricians and apprentices wiring Vancouver's new 1.2 million square foot trade and convention center, due for completion in March. ■



Au nord du 49° parallèle

## La FIOE alimente les Jeux olympiques d'hiver 2010

Il semble y avoir un monde entre le travail effectué au quotidien par les gens de métier de la FIOE et les disciplines sportives à hauts risques, telles que le ski acrobatique ou le bobsleigh. Pourtant, les activités d'animation, de diffusion et de communication reliées au déroulement des Jeux olympiques d'hiver 2010, lesquels ont été proclamés les "Olympiques verts", ne pourraient constituer un événement de calibre mondial, sans les travaux électriques exécutés pour la réfection des installations sportives déjà en place et la construction de gigantesques nouvelles installations.

Les travaux réalisés par les membres des sections locales 213 [intérieur] et 258 [secteur public] de Vancouver, se chiffrent à des millions de dollars et incluent, entre autres, l'alimentation électrique d'un nouveau Centre des congrès à Vancouver et d'un nouveau système de métro léger reliant

l'aéroport et le centre-ville de Vancouver, de même que plusieurs autres projets à proximité de Whistler, notamment un centre de communications ainsi que des installations de fabrication de neige. Les travaux ont été terminés avant la date prévue et le budget a été respecté.

Comme le souligne Jim Greenwell, adjoint sénior au Gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 258, dont les membres sont à l'emploi de *BC Hydro*, un des supporteurs officiels des Jeux, et d'autres entreprises de services publics, "plus le temps avance, plus notre contribution sera importante".

Le confrère Chris Poulos, un membre de la S.L. 258 et contremaître général pour Alltech, a supervisé la reconstruction du câble le long de l'autoroute "Sea-to-Sky" (autoroute 99) reliant Vancouver à Whistler. Les électriciens ont installé des gaines de protection afin de prévenir la détérioration causée par

l'air salin et la vibration. "Nous voulons éviter des coupures de courant", dit-il. Des équipes de la S.L. 258 seront disponibles en permanence à Whistler, un lieu de villégiature de niveau mondial, pour toute la durée des Jeux.

Les athlètes compétiteurs aux Olympiques ainsi que les visiteurs pourront monter à bord d'un nouveau métro léger à l'Aéroport international de Vancouver pour se rendre au centre ville. Au cours des deux dernières années, environ soixante électriciens ont travaillé à l'alimentation électrique du réseau et des nouvelles stations qui sont des extensions des lignes qui avaient été construites pour l'exposition universelle de Vancouver en 1986. "Grâce à ce métro léger, cette plus jeune ville pourra rejoindre les rangs des autres villes de son calibre" déclare Brian Beddow de la S.L. 213 et chef de chantier à l'emploi de la compagnie *Western Pacific Enterprises*.

Lors des jeux olympiques précédents, on avait eu recours à l'utilisation de génératrices polluantes et peu fiables pour alimenter les emplacements plus éloignés. La gestion environnementale étant une des priorités des Olympiques de 2010, plus de 100 membres de la S.L. 258 ont installé des câbles souterrains et des câbles aériens qui serviront à alimenter les sites à partir des lignes de distribution normale, éliminant ainsi le recours aux génératrices.

"Nos membres n'auront probablement jamais l'opportunité de travailler sur un aussi gros projet" déclare Ray New, membre de la S.L. 213 depuis 38 ans et surintendant pour les 124 électriciens et apprentis préposés à l'installation électrique du tout nouveau Centre des congrès de Vancouver couvrant une superficie de 1.2 million de pieds carrés et dont l'achèvement substantiel est prévu pour le mois de mars. ■

# Weathering Opposition, Cape Cod's Cape Wind Prevails

**W**hile Cape Wind has been mired for nearly a decade in red tape and agency reviews, advocates for the nation's first proposed offshore wind farm cleared a major hurdle in January when the U.S. Minerals Management Service issued its positive final assessment of the project.

According to clean energy activists and experts, the review essentially clears the lane for the construction of the \$1 billion project consisting of a 130-turbine farm five miles off the coast of Massachusetts in Nantucket Sound. The wind farm could generate 454 megawatts, or about 75 percent of the area's electricity.

Labor leaders are looking forward to the 1,000 union jobs the project will create, 60 percent of which will be with the IBEW. Boston Local 103 has had a large stake in the development of the project since the beginning.

"When this finally goes through, it's going to be huge," Local 103 Business Agent Marty Aikens said. He estimates that more than 50 applications for similar projects will sprout up across the East Coast once Cape Wind's mettle is tested. "Lawmakers around the nation are going to look at this and say, 'Hey, we can do that for our state, too.'"

"This is the perfect job at the perfect time," Aikens added.

Since 2002, various state and federal

agencies have vetted the Cape Wind project to determine its potential effects, primarily on tourism and wildlife. The Minerals Management Service, an agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior, released a massive report last spring showing that the farm will have little to no adverse effects.

Cape Wind proponents are hoping for final approval from Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar soon.

But Cape Wind hasn't been without controversy. Opposition from some residents in the area has centered on concern for wildlife and the turbines' aesthetics. Cape Wind's major opponent, the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, has spent \$15 million fighting the project. Local 103 Business Manager Mike Monahan said the group is mostly helmed by a small, moneyed few with beachfront property who see the project as a potential eyesore.

"They talk like they're concerned about the environmental impact, but they're really just a wealthy minority taking a 'not in my backyard' approach to the issue," Monahan said.

Surveys show that an overwhelming majority of residents in Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod and Nantucket support the project.

The wind sector has enjoyed some robust growth lately. Employment in the industry shot up from 50,000 workers in 2007 to 85,000 last year. At the same time, the nation's wind power generating capacity rose by 50 percent.

In February, the Global Wind Energy Council announced that the U.S. is now ranked first worldwide in wind power installations.

But the industry is far from recession-proof. Last summer, factories rushed to keep up with demand for turbine parts. That demand has fizzled during the current recession. Storm clouds are on the horizon for the green sector as many companies are laying off workers. If the economy fails to get a needed shot in the arm, some smaller wind projects may fall by the wayside, American Wind Energy Association CEO Denise Bode said.

Aikens and Monahan stressed that with its strong financial backing, public interest and political support – Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick is an outspoken booster of the project – Cape Wind remains fairly immune to market whims. There is a chance that lawsuits by the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound could hinder progress, but Local 103 leaders remain optimistic.

"Our opponents' arguments are appearing less credible, the project has the needed money and we have a lot of momentum on our side," Monahan said. "I'm confident that we'll see the light at the end of tunnel very soon." ■



When completed, Cape Wind will closely resemble Utgrunden Wind Farm, off the southeastern coast of Sweden.

## February Executive Council Meeting

### Minutes and Report of the International Executive Council Regular Meeting

Chairman Pierson called this regular meeting of the International Executive Council to order at 8:00 a.m., Monday, February 2, 2009. Other members of the Council in attendance were Lavin, Schoemehl, Dowling, Riley, Calvey, Clarke, Calabro, and Lucero.

### International President Hill

International President Edwin D. Hill met with the International Executive Council a number of times to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood.

### International Secretary-Treasurer Lee

International Secretary-Treasurer Lindell K. Lee presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood both in Canada and in the United States.

### Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense made from the General Fund were examined and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1, of the IBEW Constitution.

### Financial Reports

The International Secretary-Treasurer's reports for the various funds of the Brotherhood were presented to the International Executive Council, examined and filed.

### PBF Trustees

The International Executive Council, sitting as the Trustees, along with the International President and the International Secretary-Treasurer of the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund, reviewed Fund investments and related matters.

### Investments\*

The report of the fund investment action by the International President and by the International Secretary-Treasurer, since

the last Council meeting, was presented to the International Executive Council, and it was examined and approved.

*\*The members of the council recognized the effect downturned markets have had on the investments of the IBEW.*

### Local Union(s) Under International Office Supervision

International President Hill advised the Council that there are no local unions under the supervision of the International Office as of this meeting.

### "Revised" IBEW Relocation Policy

The International Executive Council unanimously approved the adoption of the "Revised" IBEW Relocation Policy effective February 1, 2009.

### Retirement Of International Representative

Nathan C. Edgar Effective March 1, 2009  
International Representative  
Tenth District, IBEW

### Vested Pension of International Office Employee

Joan Berg Effective January 30, 2009  
Supervisor  
International Office

### William Riley Appointment December 31, 2008

Effective December 31, 2008, International Executive Council member Jackie Goodwin, representing the Fourth International Council District, submitted his resignation. On January 5, 2009, on a conference call with the IEC, President Hill appointed, and the International Executive Council unanimously confirmed, the appointment of William (Billy) W. Riley, Business Manager of Local Union 349, Miami, Florida, to fill his unexpired term. Billy Riley was sworn into the council, on Monday, February 2, 2009.

### Charges Filed with the International Executive Council Against Bertram B. Noll, Retired Member of Local Union 429

On January 27, 2009, charges were filed with the International Executive Council against Bertram B. Noll, Card Number D200336, for violation of Article XI, Subsection 6(d), of the IBEW Constitution, by Michael Bearden, a member of IBEW Local Union 429, Nashville, Tennessee.

After a thorough review of the facts presented by the Hearing Officer, International Representative, Brent Hall, it is the determination of the International Executive Council that Brother Noll is guilty of the charges brought against him by Brother Bearden, inasmuch as working for a non-union contractor is a prohibition to collecting PBF pension benefits.

It is the decision of the International Executive Council to take action to suspend the PBF pension benefits currently being received by Brother Noll, effective February 2, 2009. Brother Noll is also hereby directed to return all PBF pension benefits paid by the IBEW from September 1, 2008 until February 2, 2009, to the IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer, ex-post-haste. Furthermore, Brother Noll is directed to redeposit his membership card with Local Union 429, and to pay back per-capita payments, from September 1, 2008 until such time that he reapplies for PBF pension benefits through the normal course of action called for in the IBEW Constitution and it is approved by the International Executive Council.

### Charges Filed with the International Executive Council Against Thomas L. Cobble, Retired Member of Local Union 429

On January 27, 2009, charges were filed with the International Executive Council against Thomas L. Cobble, Card Number D200303 for violation of Article XI, Subsection

6(d), of the IBEW Constitution, by Michael Bearden, a member of IBEW Local Union 429, Nashville, Tennessee.

After a thorough review of the facts, presented by the Hearing Officer, International Representative, Brent Hall, it is the determination of the International Executive Council that Brother Cobble is guilty, of the charges brought against him, by Brother Bearden, inasmuch as working for a non-union contractor is a prohibition to collecting PBF pension benefits.

It is the decision of the International Executive Council to take action to suspend the PBF pension benefits Brother Cobble receives for a three month period commencing with March 1, 2009.

Brother Cobble's PBF pension benefits will be reinstated on June 1, 2009.

### The Next Regular Meeting

This regular meeting of the International Executive Council was held in Naples, Florida. This meeting adjourned on Monday, February 2, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council is scheduled to commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, June 1, 2009, in Napa, California.

### For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary February 2009

*The IEC acted on numerous applications dealing with pensions under the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund. For a complete listing, consult [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org), clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "About Us" page.*

## Transitions

### Appointed William W. Riley



IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill appointed Miami Local 349 Business Manager William "Bill" Riley Fourth District International Executive Council member, effective Jan. 1. Brother

Riley replaces former Fourth District member Jackie Goodwin, who resigned.

"It's truly an honor to serve the Brotherhood in this new capacity," Riley said. "I look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead."

The appointment, to fill Goodwin's unexpired term, was confirmed unanimously by the IEC. He was sworn in to the council on Feb. 2.

"I could not be part of a better team," Riley said, citing President's Hill organizing efforts and the success of the Florida Initiative. "This union is firing on all cylinders, boosting the membership and ensuring better wages and working conditions for thousands of men and women."

Riley's interest in the industry started at an early age. His aptitude for electronics and technology bloomed at Miami Senior High School in the 1960s. Soon after graduation, he entered the apprenticeship program and was initiated into Local 349 in 1971. He served on various committees throughout the following decades, addressing apprenticeship, business development, finance, political action and organizing issues.

Brother Riley was elected business manager of Local 349 in 2003 after serving as assistant business manager for nearly three decades. He and his wife, Carolyn, have two children and three grandchildren. He enjoys playing golf and fishing.

"I think the labor movement is going to see an even brighter future in the years to come," Riley said. "I'm glad President Hill has allowed me to be a greater part of it." ■

### Deceased Joseph Cavanagh



Former Legislative Department Director Joseph Cavanagh died on January 8. A former business manager of Long Island, N.Y., Local 25, Cavanagh sparked a long tradition of IBEW political

activism and leadership in Suffolk County.

Brother Cavanagh drew notice at the

International Office after he helped upset a Republican congressman, electing staunch labor supporter Thomas Downey to Congress in 1974. Downey served for 18 years.

A member of the Committee for a New Ireland, Cavanagh joined former Sen. George Mitchell (D-Maine) during peace talks in his ancestral home.

"My dad had no patience for phonies," says Mike Cavanagh, a retired member of Local 25 who now works as an aide to the presiding officer of the county legislature. "He wasn't complicated. He loved to help people, but he'd get his temper up at what he called the 'chiselers' among electrical contractors." Another son, Kevin, was a journeyman wireman in Boston Local 103, before his death four years ago.

A native of the Bronx, N.Y., Cavanagh served in the U.S. Army during World War II in Alaska, the Philippines and Japan. He married his wife, Margaret, on his 23rd birthday while on a weekend furlough. They were married 64 years and had six children.

Starting out as a residential member of Local 25 in 1953, Cavanagh advocated for the local to take in more "A" members. After he achieved the top rate, he served on numerous union committees and took labor courses at Cornell University.

During his term as business manager of Local 25, Cavanagh was appointed to the state Economic Development Board and the Huntington Zoning Board of Appeals and served as Suffolk County's labor commissioner for two years. Cavanagh's activism set in motion a chain of political service that continues today. Former Local 25 Business Manager Bob Dow serves as Suffolk County Commissioner. Bill Lindsay, another former business manager, is the presiding officer of the county legislature.

In 1978, Cavanaugh arrived at the International Office as assistant to then-International Secretary Jack Moore responsible for IBEW-COPE activities, eventually taking over in 1983 as legislative director. He retired in 1987. "Joe was highly respected on the Hill and well-liked by his peers in other unions," says Mike Emig, who succeeded Cavanagh as IBEW Legislative Director.

At the Capitol, Cavanagh was often mistaken for then-House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill. His son told Newsday that O'Neill referred to Cavanagh as "the electrician" and joked that electrical workers are "the guys who make the big money," to which Cavanagh responded, "And we're worth every penny."

The officers and members of the IBEW offer our heartfelt condolences to his wife Margaret, and the rest of the Cavanagh family. ■

## Circuits

### Agreement Launches IBEW Utility Training Centers

The IBEW reached across the aisle to utility industry leaders January 8 to sign a training trust that will support multiple regional utility training centers across the U.S. Funded by industry and labor contributions, the partnership will boost the utility sector while shoring up job options for prospective new union members.

Utility leaders from Kansas City Power & Light in Missouri, DTE Energy in Detroit and Tucson Electric in Arizona were the first to sign on to the trust. Business leaders said the alliance will ensure the long-term health of the industry, as up to 200,000 workers are slated to retire in the next five years.

"This collaboration with the IBEW is perfect," said Bill Herdegen, vice president of transmission and distribution operations at KCP&L. "We want to make sure that there's a qualified group of skilled craftsmen who can follow in the footsteps of those leaving the work force."

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill said that the trust is crucial to extend a lifeline to unemployed people looking to regain a footing in the slippery economic climate.

"Across the nation, people are hurting for jobs," Hill said. "For many, the picture is getting bleaker every day. We believe the trust is largely designed to help the unemployed people in this country to not just stay afloat, but to have the chance of good-paying, thriving careers."

In an era where deregulation and massive downsizing has dealt a sharp blow to the industry, training has taken a back seat to keeping budgets lean and hiring low. That, mixed with the retirement forecast, mandated the need for creative solutions, IBEW Utility Director Jim Hunter said.

"There's a tremendous need to hire and train people within the industry, and we need to get started right now," Hunter said. (See "Regional Training Centers: Solutions to Utility Skill Shortage," IBEW Journal, Winter 2008).

Classes are scheduled to begin this spring in Detroit, Tucson, Ariz., and Kansas City, Mo. ■

## IBEW On Duty

### New Apprentice Serves in Afghanistan



Decatur, Ill., Local 146 journeyman wireman Ken Musick is proud that his son, Joe, is following in his footsteps toward a promising career in the electrical industry.

He's also proud of his son's patriotism. Joe was accepted to the NJATC apprenticeship program in August – the same month that the 24-year-old National Guard reservist got orders to deploy to Afghanistan.

"I'm happy that Joe has a strong work ethic and a sense of loyalty," Ken Musick said. "That will serve him well during his time overseas and when he starts in the trade."

Spc. Joe Musick began six weeks of training August 20 at Fort Shelby in Mississippi before deploying with the 783rd Military Police Battalion out of Inkster, Mich., for a 400-day tour.

As an MP, Spc. Musick often spends up to 12-hour days monitoring his base's walled perimeter, guarding prisoners and performing some classified tasks. Free time is scarce, so he gets the chance to talk with family back home only every couple of weeks.

A 30-year IBEW member, Ken said his son is looking forward to beginning in the trade and expressed gratitude to the NJATC and the union for delaying Joe's apprenticeship start date while he serves overseas.

"It was nice of the apprenticeship committee to take a chance on him," Ken said.

Local 146 training director Steve Wrigley anticipates Spc. Musick being a valued member of the union.

"We told him before he left to keep his head down and be safe – just like he would on a job site – and to remember that all of us are praying for him," Wrigley said. ■

# Local Lines

## Honorary Tribute

L.U. 1 (a,s,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 recently honored Bro. Vito Gowatch, who turned 100 on Dec. 5, 2008. Bro. Gowatch received recognition at the union hall, where a resolution was read in his honor. The resolution, sponsored by State Rep. Tony George, an IBEW Local 1 journeyman wireman, highlighted Bro. Gowatch's life and the dramatic changes he has seen over the last 100 years.

Bro. Gowatch was born Dec. 5, 1908, in St. Louis. His parents immigrated to the United States from Italy. In 1942 Bro. Gowatch was initiated into IBEW Local 1 as a journeyman wireman. He retired from the trade in good standing in 1975. Bro. Gowatch is well-known for his passion for sports, and was a member



IBEW Local 1 Pres. Tom George (left) and Bus. Mgr. Steve Schoemehl (right) present retired Bro. Vito Gowatch with a resolution marking the occasion of his 100th birthday.

of Local 1's bowling team for many years. Local 1 congratulates Bro. Gowatch on his remarkable achievement and thanks him for his longtime, dedicated service.

We mourn the following members' deaths: Anneliese Setzer, Edward Wipfler, Raymond Gable, Scott Price, Norman Singler, Kenneth Rodgers, Steven McIntyre, James Sellers, Elmer Wagner, James Gibson, Jonathan Shaffer, Ora Hendrickson, Amalia Schager, James Manning, Henry Bellinger and Eugene Stillman.

*Matt Gober, P.S.*

## Graduation Celebration

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—Congratulations to Joel Barton, who was appointed president of Local 11 at the December 2008 general membership meeting. He replaces former president Dean Todd, who retired. Dean's longtime service and his work to help move Local 11 into the future are greatly appreciated.

A graduation ceremony for 127 apprentices was held aboard the historic *Queen Mary* in Long Beach. Graduates were honored by Local 11 Bus. Mgr. Marvin P. Kropke; Jim Wilson, Los Angeles County NECA executive manager; and Don Davis, Electrical Training Institute executive director.

Guest speakers included IBEW Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey and U.S. Rep. Laura Richardson. Congratulations to all the graduates.

Receiving outstanding apprentice awards were: Geoffrey R. Marquez, inside wireman; Belete W. Belhu, sound and telecommunications; and Gregory A. Case, transportation systems. Meritorious awards for grade average went to: Michael F. Vaverka, Carlos H. Melendez, Robert B. Kueppers and Jose A. Banuelos.

The organizing department held an industry night event at the Electrical Training Institute. Interested candidates toured the facility and explored opportunities with Local 11. The first 50 attendees received door prizes. Thank you to Kaiser Permanente and Walter's Wholesale Electric for participating.

*Bob Oedy, P.S.*

## Utility Local Update



L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—We mourn the loss of Bro. Alex Collazo, who died Dec. 11, 2008, as a result of critical burns caused by an electrical explosion that occurred at a 12,000-volt cable splice inside a man-

hole cubicle. Local 15 members showed overwhelming support for Alex and his family with cards, visits and donations.

We hope for better times ahead for working families under Pres. Obama's administration. In December 2008, our members at the Exelon subsidiaries in Illinois overwhelmingly ratified a five-year contract that includes a 19 percent wage increase over the term of the agreement.

Our Dominion Energy/Kincaid Station members helped the station surpass its United Way goals. In late 2008, after discussions with the company, we also succeeded in improving health care benefits for our members.

Also in December, our members at Midwest Generation received their compensation from the 2001 illegal lockout/contract resolution, declared by the NLRB. The local is discussing a "new hire bonus" to be paid to our members for successful referrals of future employees. Negotiations are ongoing on reducing the months between time-step increases for our members advancing through the Progression Series/Time Steps.

At press time Local 15 and Exelon Corporation were scheduled to arbitrate, in late February, the question of whether the company had the right to unilaterally change retirees' medical coverage/premiums without negotiations.

*Ronald V. Welte, P.S.*

## EWMC Service Project

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—Local 17, partnered with Local 58, started the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus in the Detroit area. Spearheaded by Local 17 Vice Pres. Lamar Williams and Local 58 Pres. Elaine Crawford, the EWMC's mission is promoting equal opportunity and employment for minorities at all levels of IBEW's structure. Our EWMC decided to do a public project each year. For the 2008 community service project, they removed several large dead and dying ash trees from the grounds of a local church. Over 30 members participated from both unions.

Our Tree Trim Jamboree was a great success. A total of 37 trimmers and apprentices competed; winners were Mike McClellan (apprentice) and Adam Churilo (journeyman tree trimmer). A big thanks to all volunteers.

Local 17 hosted a Detroit Edison Lineman Softball Tournament, won by the Pontiac Service Center's team, and a union picnic at Bloomer City Park. Thanks to Chuck Dortenzio, who organized both events.

We are saddened to report the loss of Bros. Bruce Robertson, Bruce Tackett, Timothy Dembowske, Jonathon Abbott, Herman Hamric, Maurice Thompson, Stephen Gutmann, Neil Hintze and John B. Sheridan.

*James H. Beaubien, P.S.*



IBEW members from Detroit Locals 17 and 58 remove dead trees from a local church yard as part of a community service project.

## Team 'Positive Energy'

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—IBEW Local 37 members from the Point Lepreau nuclear facility recently participated in the Saint John Dragon Boat Festival to raise funds for the St Joseph's Hospital Foundation. Their team, "Positive Energy," made it into the "B" group finals, where they finished a close second to the Rothesay Regional Police Force team. More importantly, however, the team raised over \$18,000 for the foundation, the second highest amount raised by any team. Overall, it was a great day and a great event.

The team was supported by a grant from the local's Health, Wellness & Benefits committee. In 2007 a program was established offering financial support for members who want to get involved in community fundraising projects related to health and wellness issues. Local 37 members who are interested in participating in similar events should contact the office for further details.

*Ross Galbraith, B.M.*



IBEW Local 37's team "Positive Energy" participated in the Saint John Dragon Boat Festival fundraiser.

## Nine Mile Point Refuel Outage

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Work and the economy remain slow in our area. There will be a refuel outage at Nine Mile Point in March, with a few projects at the plant that should extend after the outage is over.

## Trade Classifications

<b>(as)</b> Alarm and Signal	<b>(mar)</b> Marine
<b>(ars)</b> Atomic Research Service	<b>(mps)</b> Motion Picture Studios
<b>(bo)</b> Bridge Operators	<b>(nst)</b> Nuclear Service Technicians
<b>(cs)</b> Cable Splicers	<b>(o)</b> Outside
<b>(catv)</b> Cable Television	<b>(p)</b> Powerhouse
<b>(c)</b> Communications	<b>(pet)</b> Professional, Engineers and Technicians
<b>(cr)</b> Cranemen	<b>(ptc)</b> Professional, Technical and Clerical
<b>(ees)</b> Electrical Equipment Service	<b>(rr)</b> Railroad
<b>(ei)</b> Electrical Inspection	<b>(rtb)</b> Radio-Television Broadcasting
<b>(em)</b> Electrical Manufacturing	<b>(rtm)</b> Radio-Television Manufacturing
<b>(es)</b> Electric Signs	<b>(rts)</b> Radio-Television Service
<b>(et)</b> Electronic Technicians	<b>(so)</b> Service Occupations
<b>(fm)</b> Fixture Manufacturing	<b>(s)</b> Shopmen
<b>(govt)</b> Government	<b>(se)</b> Sign Erector
<b>(i)</b> Inside	<b>(spa)</b> Sound and Public Address
<b>(it)</b> Instrument Technicians	<b>(st)</b> Sound Technicians
<b>(lctt)</b> Line Clearance Tree Trimming	<b>(t)</b> Telephone
<b>(lpt)</b> Lightning Protection Technicians	<b>(u)</b> Utility
<b>(mt)</b> Maintenance	<b>(uow)</b> Utility Office Workers
<b>(mo)</b> Maintenance and Operation	<b>(ws)</b> Warehouse and Supply
<b>(mow)</b> Manufacturing Office Workers	

Shown in the accompanying photo are the 2008 apprentice graduates, our newest journeymen. The photo was taken at the dinner and awards ceremony, where two special awards were presented. Bro. Brandon Reese received the Academic Achievement Award for highest five-year cumulative average, and Bro. Brandon Isaacs received the Outstanding Apprentice Award. JATC Dir. Peter Dulcich has done another outstanding job with this current crop of new journeymen. Congratulations to all.

*Jim Corbett, P.S.*



IBEW Local 43 apprentice graduates attend graduation ceremony. Also pictured is JATC Dir. Peter Dulcich (middle row, far left).

## SCE Contract Ratified

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy St. Patrick's Day! Along with the rest of the IBEW, we are hoping for Pres. Obama to turn this economy around. Thank you to IBEW members throughout the country who volunteered during the 2008 presidential and other federal, state and local races.

We have several transmission line projects ready to start but have not yet broken ground. Our utility workers at Southern California Edison and the municipalities remain largely unaffected so far by the economic downturn. We are working with SCE and the inside locals in our jurisdiction to promote rooftop solar projects under a project labor agreement.

We are in bargaining for several groups recently organized, including the planners at San Onofre Nuclear Generator Plant and the SCE utility workers on Catalina Island.

Our SCE members ratified a three-year agreement by a margin of 92 percent to 8 percent. Wages will increase 3.5 percent in 2009; 4 percent – 2010; and 4 percent - 2011.

We completed negotiations on our "underground agreement." The one-year agreement calls for a 3.25 percent increase.

We are saddened to report the passing of: Rubin Lopez, Joshua Fulayter, Tony "Penguin" Avila and David Mendoza. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Live safe, live well, work union!

*Stan Stosel, P.S.*

## Years-of-Service Awards

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Local 51 presented years-of-service awards to its membership at the December 2008 unit meetings.

Construction unit recipients were: Stacey Edwards, Paul Harris, Levi Rankin, Sean Tracey and Chad VanCamp (for 10 years of service); Wes Hardin, Dan Johnson and Terry Long (15 years); Ron Breeden and Johnnie Horton (20 years); Brad Keffeler (25 years); Paul Blake, Mike Cone, David Fry and Greg Hall (30 years); Lynn Sass and Jesse Wake (35 years); and Carl Theobald (40 years). Local 51 congratulates all members from the local's

14 units on receiving years-of-service awards.

On the organizing front, a first agreement was reached at the City of Oglesby, while negotiations continue for a first agreement with the City of Geneseo. In regard to the campaign at the City of Peru, the State of Illinois and the administrative law judge ruled for the second time in Local 51's favor. We are waiting for the Labor Board to set a date for an election to be held.

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

*Dan Pridemore, Pres.*

## '26 For Africa'

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA—Bro. Craig Conover and his daughter Becky recently returned from a trip to Uganda, where they visited schools they support through their non-profit, 26 For Africa. Bro. Conover founded the charity after traveling to Kenya and Uganda and witnessing the effects of extreme poverty, disease and hardship on many children in Africa. The "26" in the name stands for the 26 miles Bro. Conover ran in the Seattle Marathon on Nov. 30, 2008, to increase awareness and raise funds for the three schools and approximately 400 students they support. All monies raised go toward school construction, food for the children, school supplies and teachers. IBEW Local 77, along with Unit 115, was proud to help sponsor such a remarkable cause. If you wish to know more about 26 For Africa and Bro. Conover's mission to bring hope to impoverished children through education, visit Web site [www.26forafrica.org](http://www.26forafrica.org).

*David Wheeler, P.S.*



Local 77 member Craig Conover (wearing red IBEW shirt) visits schools in Africa.

## Linemen Assist Scouts Camp

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY—On Nov. 15, 2008, eight members of Local 97 volunteered to rebuild a 4,800-KV line to a Boy Scouts camp in upstate New York. The line was destroyed years earlier in a storm. Local 97 linemen spent 10 hours rebuilding roughly eight broken poles as well as a new wire run, and completed additional upgrades at the Scouts camp. Staff members of the Hiawatha Council of the Boy Scouts of America were greatly impressed with the Local 97 linemen's excellent work done so quickly.



Some of the members who participated in the volunteer effort are shown in the accompanying photo.

*Ronald Gosson, P.S.*

## Guest Speakers Laud Service

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—Local 103's annual retirement party was Sept. 27, 2008. Forty of our newly retired members attended. They each received an IBEW watch and were recognized for their service. Congratulations and best wishes to all recent retirees.

The Local 103 children's Christmas party was Dec. 7. Nearly 650 children attended and enjoyed exciting entertainment as well as gifts and a visit from Santa. We thank committee chair Gary Walker, apprentices and volunteers who made this event happen.

The Dec. 9 union meeting featured two guest speakers. Golf Committee Chair Eddie Keough welcomed guest Keegan Clark, chair of the Jimmy Fund affiliate of the Dana Faber Cancer Institute. Bus. Mgr. Michael Monahan introduced Clark and presented the Jimmy Fund a \$31,000 check from the Golf Committee. The IBEW Golf Tournament raises money for cancer research. Over the years the membership has raised over \$500,000 to help find a cure.

Guest speaker Richy Eckley, Helmets to Hardhats regional director, praised Local 103 and Bus. Mgr. Mike Monahan for participation in the HTH program. Helmets to Hardhats provides opportunities for transitioning veterans to train for a career in the construction industry. Thus far, we have placed over 70 returning veterans, providing career opportunities through our JATC.

The annual Christmas party followed the Dec. 9 meeting. Nearly 500 members enjoyed the festivities.

*Bill Molineaux, P.S.*

## Poudre Valley REA Drive

L.U. 111 (em.govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—We welcome the newly organized members of Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, who recently voted to be represented by IBEW Local 111.

A special thank-you to lead lineman Lennie Jordan, member and employee of Poudre Valley REA, for his efforts in this internal organizing drive, which resulted in employees of the Operations Department choosing to be organized into the existing bargaining unit. Local 111 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Timio Archuleta and Pres. Duane Lawlor appreciate the support and dedication Lennie contributed in the workplace in helping this group see the advantages of a collective bargaining agreement. The new members were globed into the current agreement and negotiations are currently under way for wages and work rules.

*Dennis Z. LeTurgez, P.S.*

## Annual Retirees Luncheon

L.U. 115 (i&o), KINGSTON, ONTARIO, CANADA—Local 115 hosted our annual Retirees luncheon Dec. 1, 2008. The event was well-attended with 120 present. Attendees were treated to a wonderful luncheon and many door prizes were presented. The organizing committee thanks our Contractors' Association for its generous contribution, which enabled the committee to provide for the many door prizes.

Thanks also to our local for providing the excellent opportunity for retirees and guests to enjoy a great afternoon of fellowship. Service pins were awarded at the event as follows: for 15 years of service – Robert Norman; 20 years – Frank Doughty, Gord McArthur, Bill McDonald, Ray Sanchez; 45 years – Wally Hiltz, Ed Long, Neal Storrington; and 50 years – Stan Holland, Mike Hamilton, Joe Law, Sam McArthur, Arthur "Bud" Saxton and Richard Soroka.

Our retired member Len Coyle was honored in Kingston by being inducted into the Kingston Sports Hall of Fame. Len was a fixture at Queens University football games since 1947 as score crew member and timekeeper. He was an original member of Kingston's junior hockey franchise, starting in 1973 as assistant trainer, and as referee of the historical hockey series since 1975. Well done, Lennie.

*J. Richard Soroka, P.S.*



Local 115 retired members receive 50-year service award pins. From left: Mike Hamilton, Neal Storrington, Richard Soroka, Arthur "Bud" Saxton and Joe Law. Not pictured is Stan Holland.

## Oregon Burn Center

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—The Oregon Burn Center at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland continues to reap benefits from Local 125 members who are committed to supporting the Burn Center and its patients. For years, our members have donated time and money to the Burn Center.

Recently, the Northwest Lineman's Rodeo Committee presented a check for \$15,000 to the Burn Center. Additionally, Local 125 members



IBEW Pacific Northwest Lineman's Rodeo Committee members present check to the Oregon Burn Center. From left are Local 125 PNLRC members Doug Shaffer, Rob Wales, Bill Quimby; OBC Mgr. Cheryl Ritz; Local 125 PNLRC member Brian Williams; and Kathleen Buckley, OBC Foundation specialist.

employed by Bonneville Power Administration at Chemawa donated \$500 as well. Thank you to our many members who continue to support this valuable resource.

While we hope no one has to use the Burn Center, we should feel secure knowing the best care is available for burn victims if ever needed. In addition to the treatment of actual patients, the Burn Center provides a variety of burn education programs to the community. To learn more about the Burn Center and how you can support it, please contact Karis Stoudamire at [kstoudam@lhs.org](mailto:kstoudam@lhs.org) or (503) 413-6954

*Marcy Putman, P.S.*

## Wheeling Work Slows

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV—Work in the area is slow while waiting for the economy to turn around. As with many local union jurisdictions, plants and mills in our area are cutting back and not many companies are spending or building right now.

The 2008 Christmas party was well-attended. Service pins were handed out. Members receiving 50-year pins were: Werner Bechtel, John Dusci, David Hicks, John Kapak, Charles Knight, Richard C. Mayeres, Harry Orth, Joe L. Sberna, Robert Scheid, Charles Strahl, Joseph J. Straughn and Lawrence D. Wallace. A 55-year pin went to Willis Amend. Receiving 60-year pins: Melvin Fankhauser, Robert Helfer, Henry Miller and Miles Witchey. Bro. Thomas J. Myers, who passed away earlier last year, was posthumously awarded a 55-year pin.

The social committee won second prize in the Marshall County Christmas parade with the local's first float entry. Winnings were donated to the Marines' Toys for Tots program. Congratulations and thanks to everyone for giving their time and hard work.

Our condolences go to the families of Bros. Jerry McDermott and Howard Pickering, who passed away. These brothers are greatly missed.

*Justin Klempa, P.S.*

## Hope for Improved Outlook

L.U. 143 (em,i&spa), HARRISBURG, PA—On Dec. 6, 2008, Local 143 held our annual children's Christmas party. We had 60 kids and their parents in attendance. On Dec. 13, we held our local Christmas party. We thank everyone who volunteered their time to make these events a success.

The work picture here slowed down over the winter but we hope things will pick up soon.

*Mark Holder, P.S.*

## Awards Presented

L.U. 153 (em,i,rtb,rts,se,spa&st), SOUTH BEND, IN—Mike Popovich was honored during the December 2008 union meeting with the IBEW Lifesaving Award for his quick action in performing CPR on an AEP employee at DC Cook nuclear facility. Thanks to Mike, that gentleman was also able to enjoy the holidays with his family, too!

Troy Warner was also honored during the meeting with the Distinguished Service Award for his work with COPE and with the Obama election campaign over the past year.

It was another banner year for the "Stuff a Bus" event, the local's annual food drive. The food collected is needed more than ever this year.

*Troy D. Warner, A.B.A.*



Local 153 Bus. Mgr. Michael Compton (right) presents IBEW Lifesaving Award to Mike Popovich.

## 75-Year Membership Pin

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Local 193 honored retired Bro. Thomas Rachford with a 75-year membership pin on Dec. 13, 2008, at the annual Christmas dinner dance/awards ceremony. Congratulations and thank you, Bro. Rachford, for your years of dedication and service.

Bro. Andy Hart won the 50/50 HELP (Help Electricians Live Proud) Fund drawing that evening. We thank Bro. Hart for donating his \$600 winnings back to the fund to help fellow members who are unable to work due to illness or injuries.

Also that evening, a special raffle and drawing was held for Bro. Ed Shelton, who is undergoing a stem cell transplant. Sara Peterson won the beautiful jewelry donated by Giganti & Giganti Jewelers. \$1,100 was raised for Bro. Shelton to provide assistance during this difficult time. Our best wishes go out to Bro. Shelton.

We extend sympathy to the families of three members who recently passed away: Thomas Redpath, Larry Keafer and Darrell Leesman.

*Don Hudson, P.S.*

## 'Hope for Better Times Ahead'

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—We hope for better times ahead in 2009. Unfortunately, our local had about 25 percent unemployment during 2008. As our economy worsens and plants and retail stores close, this is the time to keep honing our skills to be the very best in our field. Attend journeyman classes when offered. Let's help our Brotherhood by attending these classes, thus showing customers and contractors that we are professional, committed and proud to be the best electrical workers anywhere.

Our 2008 Christmas party featured great food and entertainment, and service pins were awarded. The Chestney family band, comprised of union family and friends, entertained. Two band

Local 197 members receive service pins at 2008 Christmas party. From left, front row, Bus. Mgr. Lance Reece, Larry Mathis, Elmer Alsene, Darrin Rexroat, James Maginell, Michael Mulcahey, Larry Bartosic and Eric Post; back row, J.R. Gordon, Zeke Paire, Bill Swindle, Pres. Rich Veitengruber and Robert Branom.

members, Tim Mattson and Jeff Swartz, are from our own local; and three are union pipefitters.

Service pin recipients in attendance included: 35-year members Elmer Alsene, Larry Mathis, Michael Mulcahey, Zeke Paire, Lance Reece; 30-year members Larry Bartosic, Bill Swindle; 20-year members J.R. Gordon, Darrin Rexroat; and 15-year member Eric Post. Retirees Robert Branom (40 years) and James Maginell also received awards.

Thanks to Steve Rousey, who planned the party, and all who helped make it a success. First-year apprentices set up; Don Armstrong strung Christmas lights; and assistants included Dale Glasscock, Ken McLean, Tom Peasley, Clint Miller, Matt Wall, Rob Strasser, Rich Veitengruber and Bernie Uscienski.

*Mike Raikes, P.S.*

## Informing the Public

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA—The evening of Nov. 15, 2008, marked the 90th anniversary of Local 229. We gathered at the Valencia Ballroom in York for a phenomenal night of great food, conversation and dancing. Service awards were handed out for members with five to 60 years of service.

The local is busy educating the public about the Employee Free Choice Act by such means as letters to the editor in the local newspaper; also, at press time, we anticipated a future article in the local newspaper featuring interviews with organized members and the business manager describing how they were harassed during recent organizing campaigns.

We believe the Employee Free Choice Act will greatly increase our chances of signing contractors in the future. The work picture for the local continues to look promising for 2009. We will possibly be putting out Book II in spring 2009.

*Mark Tomes, P.S.*

## Holiday Festivities

L.U. 265 (i,mt,rts&spa), LINCOLN, NE—On Dec. 7, 2008, Local 265 members held their annual Christmas party for their families. There was a pretty good turnout considering the number of members working out of jurisdiction at the time.

Festivities began with great entertainment by the Shriners, who entertained for an astounding 90 minutes. A clown-magician performed magic tricks and another clown made balloon animals for the kids. When Santa Claus showed up, all the children's faces lit up with anticipation. There were so many children, it took Santa 60 minutes to call their names and give them their gifts. All the excitement was topped off by excellent homemade baked goods. Many thanks to everyone who helped make our Christmas party a success.

*Joe Davis, R.S.*



## Wichita Members Give Back

L.U. 271 (i,rtb,rts&spa), WICHITA, KS—The year 2008 saw several volunteer opportunities for the membership. Last April, Local 271 was represented at the annual SIDS walk at Wichita State University. The SIDS walk supports prevention of sudden infant death syndrome.

Last October, 65 members and family came together with friends and family of Bro. Chris Freed to participate in the annual walk to defeat ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). Bro. Freed was diagnosed with ALS in June 2008. Five teams combined donations, pledges and contributions with matching contributions by local contractor Linder and Associates for a total of nearly \$21,000 for ALS research.

In November, about 15 members volunteered to install seasonal power distribution for Heartspring, a non-profit school and life-skills institution for handicapped children. This work supplied power for Heartspring's "Lights on the Lake" program, the school's primary fundraiser for the year.

Thank you to all the members who helped with these noble causes.

The work picture in Wichita has taken a turn for the worse recently due to the downturn in the economy. We are encouraged by the promise of change and look forward to new leadership in Washington, DC.

*Jay Thomas, Ex. Bd. Chmn./P.S.*



Local 271 Bro. Chris Freed (center) is joined by family, friends and fellow union members at the October 2008 ALS walk.

## Annual Holiday Social

L.U. 307 (ees,es,i,o&u), CUMBERLAND, MD—On Dec. 20, 2008, local members enjoyed our annual holiday social. The evening featured a social hour with hor d'oeuvres, followed by the 2008 awards ceremony, and concluded with electricians showcasing their talents on the dance floor. (See photo on next page.)

Bus. Mgr. Rich Carder requested a moment of silence to honor members who passed away in 2008: Archie Dean, Bud Jewell, John Courier, Robert "Rabbit" Weber, Mike Conner and Mike Lehman.

2008 retirees, who received gold IBEW wristwatches, were: George Shaffer, John Hinebaugh, Dave Dellinger, Ed Harvey, Keith Phillips, Terry Himmler, Bill Shoup, Art Strietbeck and Denny Walters.

Among 2008 service-pin recipients were: For 60 years of service - Darrell Diehl, 55 years - Charlie Finkenbinder, Robert Long, Ted Lynch and Lawrence Stevens; 45 years - Ken Park and John Ritchie; 40 years - Sam Greise, Harold Logsdon and Don Reid; 35 years - Bob Boyle, Rich Carder, Alfred Fairall, Marty Fornwalt, Craig Henry, Rob Klinger, Dennis McCagh, Gene Newhouse, Keith Phillips, William Renner, Murt Robey, Bill Seeders, Ken Skidmore, Art Streitbeck and Gary Wallizer; 30 years -

Kelly Adams, Gary Blake, Jerry Chungo, Harold Cline, Rick Emerick, Denzil Hott, Denny Jedlowski, Frank Ratke, Rick Twigg and Steve Wigfield.

Local 307 congratulates all award recipients.

*Jon "Rosey" Rosenberger, R.S.*

## Work Holds Steady

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—Despite the current economic downturn, the work picture for the inside branch should hold steady. The two big projects in our jurisdiction are Suncoke at U.S. Steel and Abengoa Ethanol Plant in Granite City.

The outside branch is experiencing full employment and working many travelers.

Our 50-year dinner was held at Sunset Hills Country Club. The event was well-attended as usual. It is always nice to see our retired members enjoy themselves.

The date has been changed for our annual PAC golf tournament. It will be held at Locust Hills Golf Club in June 2009.

Stay involved and attend your local union meetings. Work smart and work safe.

*Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.*

## Statewide Electrical Licensing

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA—It should be no secret that Local 347 has worked for a few years advocating the implementation of statewide licensing, and it's finally being successful.

Our motive in this effort was to provide the public with a safer and more reliable end product and to create a reasonable standard that we can all live with in the electrical industry. Just as the IBEW was instrumental in establishing work rules and labor regulations in the past, which were eventually adopted as the law of the land, we feel that these efforts with regard to licensing, electrical permits and inspections will have the same impact on our state. The requirements for license renewal of the Continuing Education Units (CEU) will certainly help bring conformity to all electrical work done in the state. We see this as the IBEW working for the public good. Our JATC is working closely with the State of Iowa to fulfill the requirements for journeyman training.

*Mike Schweiger, P.S.*

## 'Keep Our Union Strong'

L.U. 349 (em,i,mps,rtb,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—Our Entertainment Committee did a great job on all the 2008 events. Closing out the year were two social events, both a great success.

The Friends of Labor event saw a turnout of about 600 friends for food and socializing.

At our annual children's Christmas party, Santa and his helpers handed out toys and prizes for the kids. They also gave out hams and turkeys to the members. Our thanks to Oscar Ordaz for his help with the children's Christmas party.

With the arrival of 2009 and the change to a Democratic president, we hope the work picture picks up by mid-year or sooner. We look forward to a successful year.

We look back with fond memories of our members who passed away in 2008.

Keep our union strong; attend your local union meetings. Remember our troops overseas and away from home.

*Frank Albury, P.S./Ex. Brd.*



Local 307 retired members and officers enjoy the 2008 holiday social. From left are retired members Bill Shoup and Keith Phillips; Bus. Mgr. Rich Carder; retired member Terry Himmler; and Pres. George Koontz.

## Service Award Honorees

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—On Dec. 11, 2008, we had our annual dinner for our retired members. We had a good turnout, and a lot of fun. The evening was topped off by a presentation of service award pins.

A 30-year pin was awarded to Glennwood L. Nason. Awarded 50-year pins were: Oscar W. Bolen, Horace E. Brady, Robert T. Gurdison, Thomas C. Harmon, Calvin E. Henry, Jack D. McClure, Dan A. Moore, Erno Nagy, Everett D. Nason, Raymond A. Trousdale, Michael B. "Brian" Ward, Paul G. Willis, Gerald T. Huston, Frederick S. Baker, and posthumously to Donald M. Giles and Paul B. Schmutz.

Awarded 55-year pins: Obrey L. Davis, Mark A. Ebarb, Oscar K. Freeman, Arnoldo "Arnie" N. Garcia, Thomas B. Nowlin, Thomas P. Scanlan, Ralph R. Stockton, Earl E. Wescoatt, Hugh E. Shirley, Frank R. Helbert, Mario D. Colapelle, Edwin C. Clover, and posthumously to Gene Janski.

Awarded 60-year pins were Joe M. Dominguez, and Lorne R. McKay.

The Dec. 13 Christmas party for Local 357 families was our biggest holiday party ever and a great success.

*Timothy W. Bolton, P.S.*



Local 357 service award recipients are recognized at December 2008 dinner for retired members. Extending congratulations are Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. David R. Jones (back row, left) and Pres. Charles Tom Stetson (back row, right)

## Election & Organizing Success

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA—Our local thanks all members and their families who participated in 2008 election volunteer activities, whether for phone banks, labor walks or assistance with mailings. All our hard work and sacrifices during the election cycle were greatly rewarded by the election of Pres. Barack Obama and also by enhanced Democratic majorities in the U.S. House and Senate! It was also rewarding to receive many thanks and praise from local and national labor organizations, as well as other political organizations that acknowledged our local's dedication!

Our appreciation also goes to the Local 375 organizers, who had a successful 2008.

Organizers held four elections for representation, and three of the elections resulted in a 'yes' vote. The three victories are with PHI/Conectiv Power Generating Plant, Upper Macungie Township Public Works Department, and with North Whitehall Township Public Works Department.

With these elections the IBEW gained 52 new members. The negotiating committees worked tirelessly to negotiate first agreements for these new units. We welcome the new members and look forward to seeing them at future local union family picnics, Christmas parties and clam bakes.

*Roger D. Gaydos, P.S.*

## Promoting Unionism

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—As of this writing the work picture looks promising for Local 449 members and traveling brothers and sisters. With three organizers on staff, we are targeting contractors and learning of their misconception of the IBEW, and of the second and third generation of resentments of those denied membership in the 1960s and '70s.

As I was organized myself, I feel it's my responsibility, and that of the membership, to welcome, help and teach the newly organized contractors and members.

With participation of the local building trades, police, firefighters, teachers, etc., and their retirees, we will soon begin airing a program on the local community access channel and advertising on a local cable channel to promote organized labor and unionism.

With the new presidential administration in place, it's time to promote organized union labor and enhance unity with the passion of our forefathers. Internally we can get involved in our local union, attend meetings, participate in solutions and adhere to our collective bargaining agreements. May we never forget where we came from and always remember, it is "unionISm," not "unionWASm."

Local 449 extends condolences to the families of deceased Bros. David Long and Wilbert McCurdy.

Happy retirement to Bro. Victor Braegger.

*Mike Lee Miera, V.P./Org.*

## 'United We Bargain'

L.U. 459 (ees,em,govt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Local 459 officers thank the members who stepped up and volunteered during the November 2008 presidential election. The local was actively involved with the Central Labor Council neighborhood walks and phone banking. We also phoned our members and sent out

numerous mailings. Thanks to all volunteers who participated and to all members who got out and voted.

Local 459 conducted its annual food drive in December 2008 and it did very well.

Bus. Mgr. Don Hoak and staff successfully negotiated and finalized six contracts in 2008. The local has seven contracts to be negotiated in 2009. Hopefully, Local 459 will be as successful in 2009 as it has been in past years. To accomplish this, we must all work together. United we bargain. Divided we beg.

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

## Electrical Code Review

L.U. 531 (i), LaPORTE, IN—Having recently attended an electrical inspectors code review, put on by NECA and IBEW Locals 531, 697 and 134, I found some of the 2008 changes very interesting.

Some of these changes are as follows:

Receptacles for garage door openers shall now be GFCI protected, as well as all others in the garage. GFCI protection will now be added for all drinking fountains.

Tamper resistant receptacles were also added for dwelling units. All 15- and 20-amp, 125-volt receptacles shall be listed as tamper resistant. This rule applies to receptacles behind appliances, as well as the rest of the dwelling. Tamper resistant receptacles basically have shutters that prevent intrusion unless the device senses two prongs entering at the same time.

New for the 2008 addition of the NEC is further expansion of the requirements that have occurred, with combination type AFCIs now required for all 120-volt, single phase, 15- and 20-amp branch circuits supplying outlets installed in dwelling units, which includes all rooms. Branch feeder type AFCIs are no longer permitted in these applications.

The above are just some of the 2008 changes, which is not to say that the state of Indiana will accept all these changes.

*Jim Switzer, P.S.*

## Santa Rosa Solar Project

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—For you folks out there who don't believe politics play a big part in your work picture, think again. Our Bus. Mgr. Jack Buckhorn, attending to a political matter, was having a cup of coffee with Santa Rosa City School Board member Jim Leddy. While in conversation, Leddy mentioned that Borrego was to finalize a bid on installing a solar system for three area schools. Bus. Mgr. Buckhorn let Leddy know that the company is a nonunion contractor and said he wished they had this conversation sooner.

This conversation led to a phone call the next morning from Leddy asking Bus. Mgr. Buckhorn for his help to find a contractor to install the system, as Borrego at the last minute had pulled out of the deal. Bus. Mgr. Buckhorn and Dispatcher Steve Stobel got on the phone immediately calling all contractors.

Union contractor Bass Electric commissioned the job on Dec. 22, 2008, making the end-of-the-year deadline.

Andre Parlett, the foreman on the job, said the deadline was met because of the trained union inside wiremen. He said "I was very pleased with the hands on this project."

Completed in three months, Elsie Allen



IBEW Local 551 members received plaudits for their installation of a big solar system project at a Santa Rosa, CA, school.

High alone has 2,700 solar panels installed. In comparison the San Francisco Airport has a 3,000 panel system. Another job well-done.

*Denise D. Soza, VP/P.S.*

## 'Jim Westfall Day'

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—Congratulations to Jim Westfall on his Jan. 1 retirement. A reception was held Dec. 15, 2008, with approximately 130 people in attendance, to honor Jim for his accomplishments and dedication to our industry. At the reception, the County of San Diego declared Dec. 15 as Jim Westfall Day.

Jim served as training director of the San Diego Electrical JATC for 21 years. In 2004, he was awarded the Founders Trophy for exemplary service to the electrical industry. In 2006, he was inducted into the California Apprenticeship Hall of Fame by the Governor's Commission on Apprenticeship.

Jim completed the inside wireman apprenticeship in San Diego, worked as a journeyman wireman, foreman and general foreman for a number of years before serving six years as a business representative and one year as an organizer for IBEW Local 569 prior to becoming the training director.

Jim co-founded the Construction Tech Academy, with over 400 full-time high school students, for the purpose of providing the students an opportunity to explore careers in construction and to prepare them for entry into college or apprenticeship. Jim received two associate degrees in business management and electricity from Palomar College.

*Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.*

## A New Day in Washington

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i&st), DUBLIN, CA—We celebrate the historic presidential inauguration and a passage from eight years of attacks on the labor movement to the onset of repair. We look forward to a new day of hope in Washington for organized labor.

Local 595 members helped elect a president who will bring back the middle class, support the Employee Free Choice Act, and more. We are also excited about some of Pres. Obama's early nominees, such as Steven Chu to head the Department of Energy and Hilda Solis for Secretary of Labor. With such choices, we are encouraged about the future of renewable energy and workers' rights in America. Our new president instills hope for working Americans.

Local 595 ended 2008 with wonderful activities for members. Over 200 children attended our two "Santa at the Hall" events, in Dublin and Stockton. Thanks to office staff and retirees for their work on the event. Our annual Old Timers' Night on Dec. 11 at Centennial Hall in Hayward saw a large turnout. Service pins were awarded, including two 60-year pins.

Our Retirees Club's holiday luncheon at Francesco's Restaurant in Oakland on Dec. 18 featured entertainment and prize raffles. The club has many trips booked for 2009.

We mourn the death of retired former Local 595 business representative Wayne Livingston on Nov. 6, 2008. Bro. Livingston previously was president/business manager of former Local 591.

*Tom Mullarkey, B.R.*



Local 595 Bro. Rich Redgrave (at podium) receives his 60-year pin. Also shown are, from second left: Jeff Redgrave, 25-year pin recipient; Rec. Sec. Earl Hampton; Allen Redgrave; David Redgrave, 35-year pin recipient; and Paul Redgrave.

## Wind and Tank Farm Projects

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—Local 601 held a "steak stag" in the Streator area Nov. 1, 2008. There was a good turnout of about 40 members and everyone had a great time. Several retired members also attended and it was nice to see them. Thanks to the Streator Steak Stag Committee for a well-prepared meal. Raffle drawings were held for electrical tools, IBEW shirts and IBEW hats. We thank the businesses that donated raffle items.

The northern area of the jurisdiction has wind turbine projects starting, with 67 wind turbines on one project and 22 turbines on another.

Also in the jurisdiction is a tank farm project, an 80-tank Canadian crude pipeline and storage facility; this project should last for the next five years. When completed, there will be four pipelines from the facility running from coast to coast.

Additionally, a Wal-Mart project is scheduled to start in March. The LaSalle Powerhouse



Standing by the grill at Local 601's "steak stag" are Adam Yuhas (left) and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Lee McMahan.

security projects have started and should be completed sometime in October. At this time, with the way the economy is, we are thankful to have work in the area.

*Dan Hatter, P.S.*

## Work Picture Slow

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—In my last article (*Electrical Worker, January 2009*), I left out the name of one of our recent apprentice graduates; Juan Solano was inadvertently omitted from the list of graduates. The 2008 outstanding apprentice was Peter Lohberger, and David Schroeder had perfect attendance. Congratulations to all.

As of this writing there has been little activity work-wise. There have been a few calls to Eunice and to Farmington, but other than that work has been slow.

Local 611 extends condolences to the families of our members who recently passed away: Lonam Fogelman, Eddie C. Apodaca, Marvin H. Stone, Raymond L. Coen and Scott D. Fincher.

*Darrell J. Blair, P.S.*



Local 611 congratulates its most recent inside wireman graduating class.

## Annual PAC Breakfast

L.U. 613 (em,i,o,rts&spa), ATLANTA, GA—At this writing, our work has slowed a little, but we are very hopeful about the rest of this year. We'll have to wait and see. Our thanks go out to all the locals working our members.

Our annual PAC and friends of the IBEW breakfast (which was started by our past business agent Ron Napy) was a huge success last year. U.S. Rep. David Scott joined us, as did our contractors and many other politicians. Everybody looks forward to this event every year and we appreciate everyone's support.

Our annual kids Christmas party was a huge success with over 500 attending, 350 of whom were children who received presents. (See photo.) We deeply appreciate the support of our members with union events. Remember, none of this would be possible without you the members.

Union meetings are where your union business is handled. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month. The May 2009 union meeting was moved from May 19 to May 26. The E-Board will meet May 25. Your business manager has graciously been having a hot meal prepared for you before each meeting. Meals are served from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., so come join us for supper.

*Steve Warren, A.B.M.*

## 'Solidarity at Its Best'

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—The economic climate has created serious need for many working families, and here in San Mateo our



Atlanta Local 613 members and their children enjoy 2008 holiday party.

members have responded with robust generosity. The union food bank helps families in need through monthly food distributions. Donation receptacles await eager donors at both the union hall and the training center. The difficulties of the holiday season have continued into the first months of the new year and our membership's sustained charitable response continues to make a difference for many local families.

The Local 617 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus chapter arrived at the January National Conference in New Orleans with tools at hand! The two days prior to the conference were spent repairing homes and structures damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Officers of our chapter plan similar efforts at home in coordination with Rebuilding Together on the Peninsula.

Our motorcycle club joined Local 6's Toy Drive on Dec. 6, 2008, with a few hundred other bikers. After dropping off toys and enjoying a hearty pancake breakfast, we enjoyed a sunny and relatively warm ride through the city and up to Point Reyes. It was solidarity at its best!

*Dan Pasini, V.P.*

## Service Awards

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—As I write this article, a new year is upon us. Best wishes to all IBEW bothers and sisters for the year ahead.

Local 625 members who received 40-year pins in 2008 are as follows: In Unit #1 - Angus Bartlett, Arnold Booth, Ken G. Boutilier, Alex Bresson, Leroy Burns, Laurie Card, Ambrose Cole, Leonard Cole, Murray Conrod, Bill Crowell, Allan Currie, Bob Fader, Robert Gogan, Mike A. King, Dwight Ross and Paul Singer; in Unit #2 - Connie Beaton, Craig Buckley, Sandy MacAdam, Donnie Joe MacDonald, Ray MacDonald, John MacKinnon and Reg Robicheau; Unit #3 - Ed Atwell; Unit #4 - Fred Brunt and Frank Huble; and Unit #5 - Daniel Conrod. Receiving a 45 year pin was Frank Holman in Unit #1. Congratulations, brothers, and thank you for proving the IBEW is the right choice.

Several members received journeyman status recently: Jonathan McAllister, David Lade, Mark Stanford, Chris Church, Ben Colter, Brad Boyle, Derek Sampson, Kenny Burt, Trevor Smith, Jonathan Faulkner, Jason MacInnis,



Local 625 Bro. Ray MacDonald (center) receives 40-year service pin at 2008 Christmas dinner/dance. Presenting the award are Bus. Mgr. Tim Swinamer (left) and Pres. Tom Griffiths (right).

James Hubley, Mike Potter, Joe Saulnier and Stephen Foster. That makes 21 total new journeymen in 2008. Congratulations, brothers.

*Tom Griffiths, Pres.*

## Diablo Canyon Plant Work

L.U. 639 (i&rts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—As 2008 came to a close, Local 639 was busy dispatching electricians to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. A majority of the work was with Day & Zimmerman NPS performing the usual refueling outage work, while a second contractor, Washington Group International, worked on the Unit 1 Steam Generator Replacement (SGR). The Unit 2 side of the SGR project was done in early 2008. Together, over 120 wiremen were sent out to the plant. A big thank-you goes to the traveling brothers and sisters who helped on both phases of the project.

The local just completed a remodel on the back half of our building, transforming the rather dreary rooms into state-of-the-art classrooms for the ever-growing apprenticeship program. Plans are now underway to improve the office area in the front of the building as well as the barbeque grounds in the back.

Local 639 continues to position the IBEW/NECA team to be leaders in the emerging "green" technologies in California. We will offer our ongoing solar photovoltaic class again this spring and are involved in an energy efficient lighting and control certification training program being developed by the IBEW/NECA California State Labor-Management Cooperation Committee.

*Hank Lewis, B.M.*

## Year End Wrap-Up

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—November 2008 ended with the Sports Committee hosting the annual OSU/Michigan game party and the Buckeyes scored another big win.

In early December the annual Christmas lights/White Castle breakfast was held on a cold, rainy Saturday morning. Bill Davies organized the event. (The crew is pictured in the accompanying photo.)

The retirees Christmas luncheon on Dec. 13 was well-attended, and the invitation to current officers was greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped out on Dec. 13-14 for the Annual One New Toy Program. This Christmas time program is to help union members who have been laid off.

The 2008 union meeting/Christmas party brought in many members; raffles were held for Blue Jackets tickets, a rifle, money and union apparel. At that event the Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Skip Teaford.

Also in December was the Friends of Labor luncheon, held to extend our thanks to the many people, including politicians, contractors and others, who helped labor during the year. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Hopefully the new president and Congress will work as hard as we did, getting them elected, to better the lives of all union members.

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

## Scholarship Awarded

L.U. 723 (em,govt,rtb,rts&t), FORT WAYNE, IN—We received seven entries for the Local 723 scholarship contest last year. The 2008 essay topic was



Local 683 crew gathers for the local's annual Christmas lights/White Castle breakfast event. Shown are: Chief Dan George, Jeff Kulp, Jerry Lang, Steve Smith, Dennis Austin, Bill Davies, Gary Grcic, Rick Deime, Mike McNeeley and Josh Marcum. Dennis Mullen snapped the photo.

"A native Hoosier and American labor hero, Eugene V. Debs, and his contribution in the labor movement." We have a winner. Congratulations to Molly Getts, who won the \$1,000 scholarship.

*Shelly Barbour, R.S./P.S.*

## Spirit of Union Volunteerism

L.U. 725 (i,rts&spa), TERRE HAUTE, IN—We have been fortunate to have steady employment due to large projects continuing at Union Hospital in Terre Haute, the Edwardsport Coal Gasification plant, and work at the Marathon Refinery in Robinson, IL. We have over 300 currently on Book II and welcome travelers to sign in.

During the flooding in our area last summer, many of our members volunteered their time and assisted those who needed help rebuilding. The parents of member Erin Algood encountered damage, and six of Erin's union brothers from Cassady Electric rewired the Algood's home in a day. Thanks to all the volunteers out there who are doing great deeds and display the spirit of unionism!

We are excited that for the first time since 1964, Indiana went "blue" in the presidential election! Congratulations to President Obama. We hope to see some great things from the newly elected Congress. We need to stay active and continue to inform our elected representatives about much-needed change in labor law, starting with passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

*Tom Szymanski, Org.*



Local 725 volunteers assist with electrical repairs following 2008 summer flooding. From left, back row, Shawn Trendelman, Fred Wellman, J.R. Sturgeon, Earl Stines; front row, Erin Algood, Dave McNally and Chuck Kiser.

## Three Shops Organized

L.U. 773 (as,em,i,mo&o), WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA—Work in our jurisdiction remains very slow and we have many members on the road.

In town, work has finished on the WFCU Centre, home of the Windsor Spitfires hockey club. Demonstrating their first-class workmanship, IBEW members employed by Vollmer and Associates wired this beautiful facility.



Local 773 members socialize at the 2008 retirees Christmas party.



A hearty wood cutting crew, comprising friends and fellow union members, pitches in to assist a Local 953 brother who is recovering from a job injury.

Work also continues on the East Windsor Power Co-Gen with many members on site working for Aecon; and on the Union Gas building for Vollmer and Associates.

We also have members working on the job that has the only tower crane in Windsor, at the Amica high rise on Riverside Drive with Mid South Contractors.

The local continues to regain our work with the use of our market recovery programme and organizing.

In the last quarter of 2008 we organized three new shops, Lear Electric in Leamington, Ambassador Electric in Windsor, and Pro-Trades in Windsor. We welcome the new members to our family, and Local 773 is committed to work with these new shops and all of our contractors to increase our market share.

Our annual retirees Christmas party last year was a big success (see photo). See you at the next union meeting

*Dave Spencer, P.S.*

## Tampa Hospital Project

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—With our economy in a downward spiral, the need to buy American-made products to save American jobs has never been greater. We have a project in full swing now that requires only USA-made materials be used in all installations. In Tampa, the \$48 million VA hospital repowering project, being run by Doan Pyramid, is working about 30 of our members. The work under way at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital involves adding new generators to accommodate power outages when a natural disaster or storms hits. This is a two-year project and it is running on schedule. A&A Electric and Delgado Electric are doing other smaller projects on this site as well. Doan Pyramid is an out-of-town contractor looking at other projects in the area.

Congratulations to Bus. Mgr. William Dever on his appointment to the Council on Industrial Relations board. To our knowledge, Bus. Mgr. Dever is the first Local 915 business manager to have been appointed to the CIR board and to have received the accredited CIR lapel pin.

Our second annual Christmas party was



In Tampa, FL, IBEW Local 915 members are working on a veterans hospital project with Doan Pyramid.

hosted by Bro. Roberta Rosa and volunteers. The meeting hall was beautifully decorated and lots of door prizes were given. This event is a good tradition for our local.

*Theresa King, P.S.*

## Members Lend a Hand

L.U. 953 (catv,em,lect,o,spa,t&u), EAU CLAIRE, WI—On a cold, wet November day last year, friends and fellow union members came together to help a brother in need. The crew cut and split enough wood to get their fellow brother through the winter heating season. Steve Secrist, line foreman at Xcel Energy, was injured on the job during a storm break last July. He is recovering well and is looking forward to returning to work in 2009. The wood cutting crew is pictured in the accompanying photo.

Chippewa Valley Cooperative union employees donated their union Christmas party money to the local food pantry for the second year in a row.

What great gestures from our fellow union brothers.

*Arlin Ziemann, B.M./F.S.*

## 60-Year Service Award



Madison, WI, Local 965 retired member Glen Linde (right) is awarded his IBEW 60-year membership certificate. Presenting the award is E-Board member Mike Broome of Unit 3, Beaver Dam.

## 'A Banner Year'

L.U. 1049 (lect,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY—2008 was another banner year for IBEW 1049. Under the leadership of Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand, we negotiated new collective bargaining agreements for members in our Gas and Electric Craft Divisions. We ended the year negotiating on

behalf of members employed by WRS Environmental Services Inc. In each of these contracts we successfully negotiated increases in the wage, benefit and training packages. Each agreement was overwhelmingly ratified by the membership.

With the merger of IBEW Locals 1049 and 1381 complete, we are now in an even better position to represent our members. With a larger and more active membership, we are better able to support the entire Long Island community. We have been able to do this through our Community Affairs, Governmental Affairs and Organizing committees, all of which actively support the labor's various missions.

In 2008 we also began several initiatives, the largest of which is our Safety Advocate Program. This program has been so successful that several locals have established their own safety advocate programs using ours as a model. We have also endeavored to completely update and modernize our union hall, including the means by which we communicate with members. We have also enhanced our relationships with the local unions that also work for our largest employer, National Grid. Please continue to work safely.

*Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.*

## Public Sector Stewards Meet

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—Robert Mettalia, a GC Painter "A" at Pacific Gas & Electric Company and 24-year member of the IBEW, was honored at the Santa Cruz Unit meeting last December for taking first place in the IBEW Safety Poster Contest. Earlier in 2008, Bro. Mettalia won first place in the IBEW Photo Contest. He scored again with his safety poster themed, "Stay on Track: Pay Attention to the Details." Mettalia says he thought up the slogan first and then took the picture. He did the additional design work in Photoshop.

In other news, the local's public sector stewards met amidst an atmosphere of growing concern over rapid deterioration of the economy and what it could mean to public sector employees. Besides potential layoffs, the declining economy could lead to reduced crew sizes, changed work rules, "doing more with less," and reclassifying jobs. More than ever, it will be important for public sector stewards to be thoroughly familiar with the grievance procedures under their labor agreement.

Members at PG&E in December ratified new Physical and Clerical agreements, which contained significant wage improvements but did not address



Jeremy Carlin (left), a Local 1245 steward at Sacramento Municipal Utility District, raises an issue during a recent Public Sector Stewards Conference. Looking on are Robert Skordas (right) and Patrick Pipis, Local 1245 stewards at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

the growing concern over retiree medical costs. The issue of medical costs for both current and retired PG&E employees will be the subject of continued negotiations in 2009.

*Eric Wolfe, P.S.*

## 2008 A Good Year

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY—As we continue ahead into a new work year, let us hope this year will be as productive as last year was.

In 2008, the local was fortunate to have a wide range of jobs in distribution, transmission, substation and wind projects. We carried full employment in our "A" and "BA" chapters; at one point we also had over 200 travelers employed, plus we increased our apprentices to 146. As of this writing work has slackened off somewhat but is holding steady. Hopefully 2009 will be a good year, too.

The local welcomes Charles Brigham to the staff as an assistant business agent. Charlie is presently our president and has 30-plus years in the field.

*Jay Matthews, P.S.*

## Congratulations to Retirees

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Happy retirement to five recent retirees: Wade Willey, Jane Moore, Robert Bailey, Mary Ann Bailey and Brooks Bowman.

In 1971, Bro. Willey began work at Delmarva Power at Vienna Power Plant. He transferred to Cambridge District as an engineer's helper in 1974 and was an engineering fieldman in Salisbury from 1981 until his July 2008 retirement.

Sister Moore began at Delmarva Power 1968 as a clerk in Salisbury. In 1981 she became a customer information specialist in Ocean City District. She worked as a division helper in Millsboro District in 1999 before returning to the customer information specialist position. She retired in July 2008.

Bro. Bailey started with Delmarva Power in 1987 as a groundman in the Exmore District. He completed the apprentice program and became a journeyman lineman in 1998. Bro. Bailey retired Aug. 1, 2008.

Sister Bailey began at Choptank Electrical Co-Op in 1998 as a regional customer service rep in Berlin. She transferred to Pocomoke District in 2002 and retired Nov. 1, 2008.

Bro. Bowman started with Choptank Electrical Co-Op in 1971 as an apprentice lineman in Denton. He completed the apprentice program and became a journeyman lineman in 1974. He was a serviceman in the Chestertown District from 1984 until his November 2008 retirement.

*Edward D. Sparks Jr., F.S.*

## Hubble Space Telescope

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Our members at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, are employed by Analex, and Jackson and Tull Chartered Engineers; all are part of the team who are hard at work repairing and upgrading the Hubble Space Telescope.

The failure of the on-board science data computer caused a major shutdown, but the problem was diagnosed and a backup system engaged. Fortunately, NASA had a spare computer that was on the shelf for 18 ½ years. They

are confident that they will get it up and running. Tools to repair it are being developed and astronauts trained to install it. They will also install two new instruments and replace batteries and gyroscopes. These repairs will restore the telescope Advanced Camera for Surveys and its Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph, thus extending Hubble's useful life. If this all sounds complicated, it is. The astronauts will do these repairs in outer space, wearing space suits.

Mike Kurtz, Local 1501 vice president and chairman of 1501-2 at Goddard, told Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie that plans are to ship the equipment to Kennedy Space Center in April so it can be on the launch of the shuttle Atlantis as it embarks on its final mission to repair and upgrade the Hubble Space Telescope, with assistance from IBEW Local 1501 members.

*Thomas J. Rostkowski, P.S.*



Shown are those present at the signing of the recently negotiated IBEW Local 1501-2 bargaining agreement. From left, front row: Chuck Chidekel, programming manager, ETIS; Mossi Tull, chief executive officer, Jackson & Tull; IBEW Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion Guthrie. Back row: Bob Denhardt, IBEW Local 1501-2 vice chairman; Rob Taminelli, Local 1501-2 recorder; Paul Lockhart, Analex senior vice president; Local 1501-2 Executive Board members Neil Becker and Fred Richards; Local 1501-2 Vice Pres./Chmn. Mike Kurtz; and Walt Plesniak, Local 1501-2 Executive Board member.

## Wichita Membership Drive

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—2008 ended with a running start into 2009. With the additional new members and healthy meeting attendance, we have stood strong.

Membership drives are always kind of stressful. We want our fellow workers to know what the union is about. I know we often get the same answers. Some co-workers say, "I can't afford it." This would be true if they were sure they would never need the union to protect their rights, or if they knew they would always be treated fairly.

Maybe some co-workers don't know what their rights are. Some say, "I don't have time" for the union. I don't understand this answer. My time is valuable to me and when I spend eight hours a day at work, I want to know that someone has my back and that I will be treated fairly.

Maybe some co-workers don't know who their steward is. Maybe no one has approached them. Stewards are busy people. When was the last time you spoke to a co-worker about the union? When was the last time you asked your steward, "What can I do to help you?"

Our Web site is up and running in a very limited capacity; we are updating as we can and are new at this. Please send in your suggestions, photos and ideas to improve the Web page.

*Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.*

## Anchorage Members Awarded

L.U. 1547 (e,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—Local 1547 honored outstanding members at our November 2008 Shop Steward and Leadership Conference. Ed Gardiner was awarded Shop Steward of the Year. Volunteer of the Year Awards went to: Erika Kelly - Unit 101; Billy Stewart - Unit 102; Vicki Van Fleet - Unit 103; and Ginger Hayter - Unit 104. Larry Metzler was awarded Organizing Volunteer of the Year. Gene White won Political Volunteer. Ralph Klassen received the newly created Safety Award. Shay Malonee, Pamela Cline and Debbie Sullivan were awarded as Rookie Shop Stewards of the Year. The Municipality of Anchorage was chosen Employer of the Year for honoring its commitment to the Employee Free Choice Act. Power lineman Hugo Snell received a special honor for 32 years of unwavering advocacy for the rights and responsibilities of working people.

Local 1547 recently adopted the Code of Excellence into our Inside Construction Agreements and we're looking forward to a busy 2009 for all of our construction members.

*Melinda Taylor, P.S.*



IBEW Local 1547 members and their families prepare to go door-to-door for then-U.S. Senate candidate Mark Begich (center in tan pants) on a cold November 2008 day. After defeating then-incumbent Ted Stevens, Sen. Begich reaffirmed his commitment to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

## 'Stay Involved'

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—Attending union meetings keeps Local 1579 members informed and involved. Our meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 8 p.m. with supper and social time starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Local 1579 Web site at [www.ibew1579.org](http://www.ibew1579.org) is another great way to stay informed and involved. Information posted there ranges from the dates and menus for upcoming union meetings and the current number on Books I and II, to pictures from years ago and the present day.

Work projections for 2009 are encouraging, but a lot depends on funding and the economy. Various jobs at the Savannah River site are awaiting funding. Pres. Obama is already taking steps to help through a stimulus package.

Many IBEW members in Augusta and around the country are having a difficult time making ends meet. With the previous presidential administration's policies against working families, it was only a matter of time before the economy made a complete downturn. Please keep the IBEW and its members in your prayers.

*Will Salters, A.B.M.*



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

*The Electrical Worker* was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper, along with the *IBEW Journal* magazine, now published quarterly, now constitute the official publications of the IBEW and seek to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

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Lindell K. Lee  
International Secretary-Treasurer

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**THE ELECTRICAL WORKER**

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Mike Nugent

Malinda Brent

Len Shindel

Carol Fisher

Alex Hogan

Lucas Oswalt

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## Sending the Message



**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

Michigan was already suffering worse than most even before the current economic downturn. Local 58 in Detroit has about 1,000 members on the out-of-work list and more jobs are threatened by the downward slope of the "Big Three." But Local 58 is not taking any of this lying down.

During some of the coldest days of the harsh Detroit winter, nearly 100 members have gathered along heavily traveled Woodward Ave., protesting the use of a nonunion contractor converting a historic building into a medical center. As reported on the IBEW Web site (see the "Read More News" link on the [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org) home page), the members decided not to stand by while doctors who have no problem getting paid by patients covered by collectively bargained

health insurance let their building be constructed by nonunion carpetbaggers.

There's a lesson here for all of us.

While the stimulus package carries hope of putting some of our members back to work, Detroit will not be alone in facing months and years of difficult times. We cannot sit by and think the work will come to us. We cannot assume that people in our communities know the value of what we do and how we contribute to the standard of living in cities and towns across this continent. We need to fight for our jobs *and* spread our message.

This is no time for passive union membership. We face hostile employers who will say and do anything to prevent us from organizing – like the current Big Lie campaign against the Employee Free Choice Act. We need to pull together and realize that we are only as strong as our solidarity allows.

We can't wish ourselves out of this predicament. But we can take our cues from Local 58 and others by fighting for our jobs while also *persuading* our neighbors and political leaders that the IBEW has a key role to play in the economic recovery in our communities. ■

## Investing in Our Future

The Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Communist Party coming together to lobby Congress would have stunned our grandparents, but they recently found unity in opposition to the "Buy America" requirements in the economic stimulus package signed by President Barack Obama in February.

The provision requires that tax dollars used to fund the recovery package are – when economically feasible – spent on products made in America. It's smart policy to encourage the purchase of domestically made steel and other manufactured products, which puts the stimulus bill one step closer to its goal of pulling the nation out of the economic doldrums.

And despite the accusations of protectionism, the measure would not harm relations with those nations – like Canada – with whom we have a mutually beneficial trading relationship, a promise reiterated by Obama during his recent trip to Ottawa.

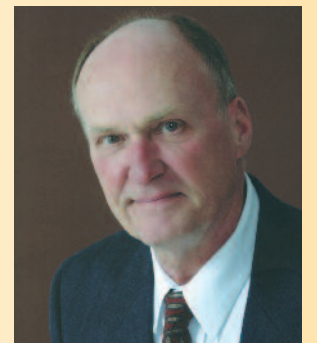
The provision created a firestorm. A coalition of major corporations lobbied the Senate to kill the measure, while the Chinese Communists predicted a trade war if it became law.

With China's economy serving as a low-wage haven for global exporters, it makes sense for its government to oppose any measure that might boost production here in North America.

And it shouldn't come as a surprise that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's loyalty is to a quick buck, not to the men and women of the nation they purport to represent.

What they describe as ugly protectionism is a guarantee to working people that federal spending will help rebuild domestic manufacturing and create good jobs, not keep China's authoritarian economy afloat with taxpayers' money.

Despite the noise made by the big-bucks lobbyist machine, it's encouraging that leaders like Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Rep. Peter Visclosky (D-Ind.) stood up to its wrath to make sure that the American Recovery Act does what it's supposed to do – lay the foundation for a re-energized economy that will benefit workers on both sides of the border. ■



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

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

**Send letters to:**

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

Or send by e-mail to: [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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## Letters to the Editor

### Going Green?

I read with interest the article in the Electrical Worker concerning the IBEW's role at the U.N. Climate Change Conference. I see a desperate need for everyone to do something to help this planet. I am also very frustrated by the fact that so many people and organizations give lip service to the issue but do not take action to help.

I receive a newspaper from my union every month called the Electrical Worker. I can assume that there are at least 4 million more that are delivered each month to my brothers and sisters. How many trees are used to accomplish that? How much diesel fuel and jet fuel and gasoline are used to deliver them? What is the effect of our union on the local environment? On top of the energy used to receive the copy there is the energy and fuel used to recycle or throw away the publication once I am done with it. We can do better.

If you are going to participate in this conference the IBEW must lead the way. In the current computer age we can certainly have an electronic copy of The Electrical Worker. Please, live up to what you say is important and actually do something for our environment.

*Mark Cowie*

*Local 213 member, Vancouver, British Columbia*

*[Editor's Note: We do offer members the choice of receiving a link to the Electrical Worker each month. Those members who opt for the electronic link are no longer mailed a printed copy. See the front page for instructions. Brother Cowie has opted for this link, just as hundreds of other members have. And, just to set the record straight, our press run is about 786,000, not 4 million.]*

### Debating Employee Free Choice

After spending 30 years in the trade, I am sincerely disappointed in your backing open choice. The secret ballot has protected the working man and his right to approve a union. Surely you have to be aware of the intimidation of people's right to vote for unions. This would once again give employers a tool with which to intimidate workers and their security of a vote without someone looking over their shoulder. I would hope you would reconsider your endorsement.

*James K. Murphy*

*Local 134 retiree, Chicago*

I feel compelled to respond to the letter from Brother Vander Brent regarding his view of the Employee Free Choice Act. It seems the message from Wal-Mart and the Chamber of Commerce has gotten through. They want to distort the real meaning of the act and make it un-American to support this good bill. Presently, a secret ballot is available to the employees under the act and it will still be available under the changes supported by labor. The big change Wal-Mart does not want is the increased penalties for their continued violations of the law and employee rights. Every member needs to go to the AFL-CIO Web site and get the real facts on this act.

*John F. Schantzen*

*Retired Fifth District International Vice President, Merritt Island, Fla.*

In his letter to the editor, Gary Vander Brent implies that the Employee Free Choice Act will "take away the secret ballot." This implication is utterly false. There is currently no secret ballot in union elections. Unlike true democratic elections, which are regularly scheduled every two years, workers must demand a union election. Obviously, the only workers who ask for elections are those workers who are already pro-union. Anti-union employers use this knowledge to harass and fire those pro-union workers. Their right to a secret ballot is violated by the current system. The Employee Free Choice Act simply allows a worker to join a union without waiting for his co-workers' permission. Brother Vander Brent mentions that he was in the Navy. How would you feel, Brother Vander Brent, if before you were allowed to join the Navy, you first had to convince a majority of your peers to join up as well? The same right you had to join the Navy without anyone's permission should be extended to workers who want to join a union.

*Damien Finneran*

*Local 3 member, New York*

## 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).

## Young Activist Leads Northwest Indiana Building Trades

When 30-year-old journeyman wireman and Gary, Ind., Local 697 Assistant Business Manager Randy Palmateer was nominated to serve as business manager for the Northwest Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, a lot of heads turned. As tradition had it, the job was usually filled by an older leader—a last job before retirement.

"Randy was an 'up and comer,' not just with the IBEW, but with all of the building trades," says the council's president, Chris Hernandez, a Pipefitter assistant business manager who teamed up with Local 697 Business Manager Ray Kasmak to help get Palmateer elected. Palmateer began work on Jan. 1.

"I always made sure [as a delegate] that I had something to report at council meetings," says Palmateer, who was nurtured in a union family and was going door-to-door on political campaigns in Lake County at age 12. He was elected vice chairman of his local Democratic precinct organization at age 26.

"I'm humbled that people supported me," says Palmateer, the grandson of a union plumber, son of a union printer who became a county clerk, and nephew of retired Local 697 member Bill Palmateer.

Palmateer has already helped to secure project labor agreements and is setting up quarterly meetings with mayors in surrounding communities to keep the lines of communication open on new construction projects. Rounding out his service to the community and organized labor, Palmateer serves on his city's redevelopment commission and his township's advisory board.

"Out-of-town contractors are picking up work, but they aren't putting money into our community," says Palmateer, who offers to help town council presidents in the permitting process for PLAs and educates planning and building departments on the benefits of using signatory contractors.

While the trades have taken some hits with the downward spiral of the steel industry, Palmateer will be monitoring the trades on some promising new projects, including the first garbage-to-ethanol plant in the Midwest and an upgrade to BP's refinery to process crude oil from Canada's tar sands.

"The other trades were convinced that we needed vision and energy, not putting



Gary, Ind., Local 697 member Randy Palmateer took the helm of the Northwest Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council in January.

somebody in a rocking chair job," says Kasmak. Palmateer was hired on a three-year contract which includes annual reviews. He will help coordinate joint activities with 17 building trades and 38 AFL-CIO affiliates. "[With Randy] we have accountability and transparency."

"Randy will be successful in whatever he chooses to do," says Hernandez. "He's already turning over some new rocks, developing new relationships, and bringing some of IBEW's membership development [strategies] to the council."

"We are a great craft and a great trade. I wouldn't do anything else," says Palmateer. "I've had a lot of mentors," he says, thanking his uncle, Chris Hernandez and Ray Kasmak for their advice. "Ray keeps the local on the cutting edge," says Palmateer, who notes that Sixth District International Representatives Mike Daugherty and Tim Collins began their union careers in Local 697. ■

### How to Reach Us

#### Send letters to:

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

Or send by e-mail to: [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org)

## Local Lines *continued from page 13*

### Mike Roby Mourned



Local 1701 late Bro. Mike Roby.

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—We mourn the loss of Bro. Mike Roby, who passed away suddenly Dec. 17, 2008. Mike was our membership development coordinator and a 40-year member. He was a trustee for the NECA-IBEW health insurance fund, JATC secretary, and local

union recording secretary. Mike's father, James, (now deceased) was a longtime member; Mike's brother Larry (retired), is a 35-year member. Mike is survived by his wife, Marsha, and three daughters. Mike was a good friend to all. We will miss him.

At our December monthly meeting, Bus. Mgr. Gary Osborne presented numerous service pins.

We congratulate all awardees, too numerous to list here. Among honorees were: 60-year members Robert Clark, James Weakley; 55-year members Clarence Elder, Richard Elder, Bob Elder, James Gay, Edgar Nave, Paul Puckett; and 50-year members Donald Brey, Buddy Kemp and Jerry Rouse.

Also recognized were several 2008 retirees: Jesse Boling, Pat Cureton, Matt Heltsley and Steve Thomson. Congratulations, brothers.

Remember union meetings, held the third Monday of the month.

*Tim Blandford, P.S.*

### Work Remains Slow

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—The work picture remains slow in our area as well as for many other locals in Ontario. The economic downturn in the auto sector has greatly affected the Ontario economy. Many of our members are currently working in Northern Ontario at several hospital projects. Sincere thanks to members of our sister Sudbury local for providing travel opportunities for our members. Let's hope that 2009 brings a good year for all IBEW members.

*Frank Kastle, P.S.*

### Holiday Spirit of Generosity

L.U. 1749 (u), NEW JOHNSONVILLE, TN—Last December, the folks at the TVA Cumberland Generating Station's electric shop donated toys, clothes, food and furniture to several needy families from six area counties. Several members and their spouses purchased the holiday gifts, wrapped them and delivered them to the recipient families, who live in the following counties: Dickson, Houston, Stewart, Montgomery, Henry and Benton.

Special thanks go to all who assisted with this holiday effort. The shop donated \$5 a pay period throughout 2008 to finance the project. Thanks also to all who contributed. This effort proves the IBEW is a union of hearts and minds!

Thanks to all who updated their voter registration information and voted in the very important 2008 election. We have taken back the presidency and the Congress. For those who did not respond, get on the ball. Last year, the majority in the House held up the last two appointments to the TVA Board for a reason, until after the inauguration of Pres. Obama.

*Mark DeJulius, P.S./E-Brd.*



IBEW Local 1749 members at the TVA Cumberland Generating Station's electric shop assisted with holiday donations for needy families.



## IBEW FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP

### AWARDED ONLY TO IBEW MEMBERS

The IBEW Founders' Scholarships honor the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for \$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in an approved field. The maximum distribution is \$24,000 over a period not to exceed eight years.

### RULES FOR ENTRY

#### Eligibility Checklist

Founders' Scholarship competition is an adult program, to be used solely by IBEW members. It is NOT for the children of members.

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an Honorary Withdrawal for the **four** years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.
2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no office of business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman or general chairman.
3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant's achievements and abilities.
4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.
5. A complete personal resumé is required. The resumé should outline education and work history, any special honors or awards, military service, plus involvement in union, local, civic, community and religious affairs.
6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay. The title and topic must be: "How the Founders' Scholarships will benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the electrical industry." The essay must be typewritten and double-spaced.
7. Applicants must submit a test score from the SAT I or the ACT. **NO OTHER TESTING SERVICES ARE ACCEPTABLE.** Archived scores or new test registration may be obtained by contacting: SAT (609) 771-7600, [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), SAT Program, P.O. Box 6201, Princeton, NJ 08541-6201; or ACT Records (319) 337-1313, [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), ACT Records, P.O. Box 168, Iowa City, IA 52243-0168. To send scores directly to the IBEW Founders' Scholarship, the code numbers are 0485 for SAT and 0697 for ACT. It is strongly suggested that any new test taken should be the SAT I.
8. Materials need not be sent at the same time but must be postmarked prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

#### Selection of Winners

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness and career goals.

The independent Founders' Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of academic, professional and community representatives. They will examine the complete record of each scholarship applicant to choose the winners. All applicants will be notified, and the scholarship winners will be featured in the Electrical Worker.

#### Responsibility of Each Founders' Scholar

Scholarship winners must begin their studies in their next term or, at the latest, in January of the following year. Each term's earned grades must be sent to the Founders' Scholarship Administrator, together with a Founders' Scholarship Progress Sheet. After the first calendar year in the program, and by each August 1 thereafter, the annual Founders' Scholar paper is due. It must be at least 1,000 words on a labor-related topic, covering any aspect affecting the current labor movement or labor history. Scholarships are not transferable and are forfeited if the student withdraws or fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the college. If a serious life situation arises to prevent continuation of studies, the scholarship winner may request that the scholarship be held in abeyance for a maximum of one academic year.

### Free Act of the IBEW

The creation of this scholarship program is a free act of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The IBEW retains its right to alter, suspend, cancel or halt the IBEW Founders' Scholarship Program at any time and without giving any reason, provided that scholarship winners already in college under the program will continue to receive the stipends until graduation or the receipt of \$24,000 for undergraduate study under their IBEW Founders' Scholarships—whichever comes first.

### APPLICATION (IBEW Founders' Scholarship Awarded Only to IBEW Members)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home telephone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print or type)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal \_\_\_\_\_

SS/SIN # \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Member of local # \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Initiated into IBEW \_\_\_\_\_  
(On IBEW Journal Address Label or Dues Receipt) (Month/Year)

Most recent employer \_\_\_\_\_

Job classification \_\_\_\_\_ Work telephone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to study for a \_\_\_\_\_ degree in \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Field of study must contribute to the development and improvement of the electrical industry as determined by the Founders' Scholarship Administrator.)

List your first and second choices for college:

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Did you complete high school or the GED? Yes  No   
(Send transcripts or other evidence to the Scholarship Committee.)

Did you have the opportunity to take apprenticeship or skill improvement training? Yes  No   
(Send transcripts or your courses to the Scholarship Committee.)

Do you have any education certificates or professional licenses? Yes  No   
(Send evidence to the Scholarship Committee.)

Have you taken any college courses? Yes  No   
(Send transcripts of all college courses to the Scholarship Committee.)

Name used on class records \_\_\_\_\_

When did you take the SAT I or the ACT? (Month/Year) \_\_\_\_\_

(To submit new test scores, it is strongly suggested that you take the SAT I. We will use your highest score; therefore, it is in your best interest to retake the test.)

My signature is evidence that I understand and agree to all the rules governing the scholarship as listed on the back of this application.

(Signature)

(Date)

Mail application materials postmarked prior to **May 1** to:  
**IBEW FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**  
900 Seventh Street, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Form 172  
Revised 02/09