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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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IBEW Says it is Time for Real Reform

Amid the noisy debate over health care reform, many TV and media sources are focusing coverage on the polarization between Americans on the left and right wings of our political spectrum.

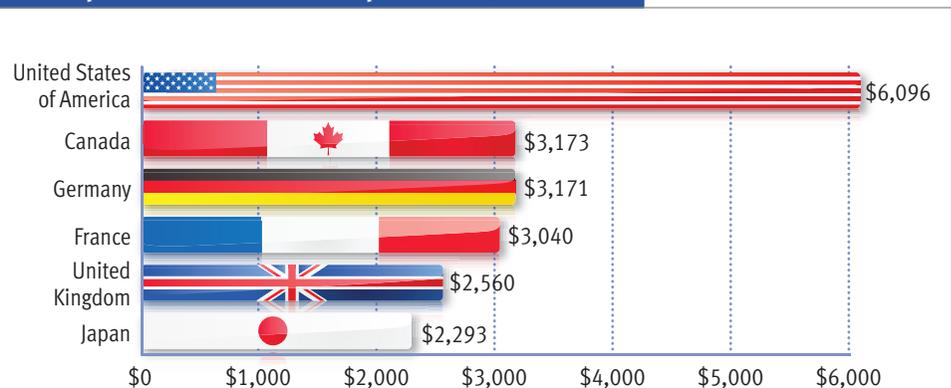
In the vast middle ground—where many members of organized labor find ourselves—it seems clear that even families who are satisfied with their current insurance coverage are concerned about rising costs, or finding out that medical expenses that were covered yesterday are now their personal responsibility.

“There’s a consensus among the members,” says Phoenix Local 640 Business Manager Dean Wine, “that something needs to be fixed.”

Fixing skyrocketing costs, expected to double by 2016, is at the heart of health care reform, says Dan Gardner, International Representative, Political and Legislative Department. The medical insurance industry—whose executives profit from price inflation—is pouring millions of dollars into advertising to “confuse and scare people,” says Gardner. “So it’s more important than ever for union members to get clearer on what change needs to look like.”

Orlando, Fla., Local 606 organizer Larry Kidd believes that reform also has to address the needs of 47 million Americans, including 8.7 million children, who lack affordable health care insurance. It’s not just a moral issue.

Per Capita Health Insurance Expenditures, in Dollars



Source: United Nations Human Development Report, 2007

Research studies show that premiums for employer-provided family coverage are inflated by \$1,000 to cover care for the uninsured.

Kidd regularly reaches out to workers at nonunion electrical shops who receive no health care benefits from their employers, creating a competitive disadvantage for signatory contractors who contribute \$5 per hour to health care and pensions. “It also shifts the burden for covering some of the uninsured onto taxpayers,” says Kidd, who is concerned about Local 606 members who are on the bench paying exorbitant COBRA payments to continue their health care coverage while trying to survive on one of the nation’s lowest unemployment insurance payments.

By requiring all employers to pay into a fund to cover uninsured workers (“play or pay”), another proposal in health care reform legislation, the playing field for costs between union

and nonunion contractors will be more level, says Kidd.

Rising health insurance costs for domestic manufacturers versus their overseas competitors put a drag on our nation’s economic recovery. And real pain is spreading as plants have shut down and workers are forced to choose between meals, housing and health care insurance.

In Cochran, Ga., outside of Atlanta, 550 members of Local 1132 who produce lighting fixtures at Acuity Brands know that with every open enrollment period to choose their health care, they will be facing rising costs. Business Manager William Hill has heard about more paycheck garnishments than ever before. Some folks are in financial trouble, he says, because of health care costs.

While reform’s opponents label a proposed “public option” for health care insurance another step toward “socialized” medicine, members like Christy Miller, a member of Bellefontaine, Ohio, Local 1691, see it as a potential life line.

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Confronting the Health Care Crisis

Canadian IBEW Member Looks at the Health Care Debate

Toronto, Ontario, Local 353 Political Action/Media Strategist for the First District Office Barry Stevens has been baffled by the distortions of the Canadian health care system spread by opponents of health care reform in the United States.

"I've heard from right-wing media in the states that you have to wait months to get basic treatment or that you can't pick your doctor," Stevens said. "None of it's true."

Most Canadians would agree. A recent poll found that 82 percent of Canadians think their system outperforms the U.S.†

Canada has what is called a "single-payer" system. Doctors and hospitals are largely private, but instead of private insurance companies, the government paid for health care. Out-of-pocket costs are zero.

Every Canadian receives a medical ID card, which they present to the doctor when they receive treatment. Most treatments are covered, as are prescription drugs. "No one in Canada is ever turned away from getting the medical coverage they need," Stevens said. "And no one goes bankrupt or loses their house because of it."

The program isn't totally free, as Canadians pay for public health care through increased taxes. But by spreading the costs of the program equally throughout the country, Canada has cut health care costs to nearly one-half of those in the U.S.

Canada's health care system also takes the financial pressure off unions, which don't have to worry about bargaining for basic health care benefits.

The program is so popular that even the Conservative Party, a right-wing party, defends it.

While there are major differences between President Obama's health care plan and the current Canadian health system, Stevens thinks trade unionists in the U.S. should take a look at what they've been able to accomplish in Canada when creating a model of comprehensive health care. ■

Miller, who worked for 19 years assembling electrical breakers at Siemens' Bellefontaine plant, lost her job in March as the company shifted production to Mexico. She will receive eight months of health care insurance before being forced to pick up the cost of COBRA coverage. "In my mind, I should then be able to be covered by a public plan," says

Miller, age 50, who is now entering a two-year training program to be a medical administrative assistant. "Maybe [on my new job] I can help older people comprehend their health insurance options," she says.

A public option, says Gardner, could provide immediate help to workers like Miller, but it could also help employed workers by establish-

ing healthy competition for insurance companies, driving costs down and improving quality. Among the beneficiaries would be IBEW members in the utility industry—many of whom work for highly profitable companies but already pick up 20 percent of the cost of their health care insurance.

"Health care reform can't wait," says International President Edwin D.

Hill. He says rising costs and lack of access hurt our union and our nation's economic future. "Whether we're talking about a public option, 'play or pay,' or cutting off legislators at the pass who want to tax our hard-won health care benefits, we need to get active." That means talking to friends and family members and contacting elected officials, says Hill. ■

IBEW's Five-Point Plan for Real Health Care Reform

1. A Public Option

President Barack Obama and many Congressional Democrats support giving Americans the choice of a government-funded public insurance plan in addition to existing private insurance plans. A public plan, which would be voluntary and not affect existing coverage, would provide a safety net for those without access to a private plan. It would also create competition with private insurers, helping to drive down costs and improve quality of service.

2. Affordable Health Care for All

In order to make sure all working Americans are covered, employers should be required to provide health care to their employees or pay into a public fund to cover uninsured workers. This will level the playing field for employers who do provide health insurance by making sure companies like Wal-Mart, which provide minimal or nonexistent coverage, can't undercut unionized companies.

3. Limit Employer Exemptions

Some in Congress are proposing to exempt small businesses from mandatory coverage regulations. This would be disastrous for workers in the construction industry as the majority of construction firms have 10 employees or less, giving nonunion contractors an unfair advantage over union ones.

4. Cover the Medicare Gap

For many companies that provide health insurance, the biggest cost comes from providing coverage for retired workers who are under 65.

Health care coverage remains the top reason workers eligible for retirement stay on the job. The government needs to provide affordable coverage for retirees who are between the ages of 55 and 64.

5. No Taxation of Health Care Benefits

Taxing existing health care benefits would hurt workers who have forsaken wage increases in order to get better health care benefits, and it would punish companies that have done the right thing by making sure their employees are covered.

IBEW's Partnership with Community College Attracts New Generation of Utility Workers

The economic downturn and decimated 401(k)s may have convinced some utility workers to put off their retirement for a couple more years, but the coming skilled-worker shortage is still on track to put a squeeze on utility companies without the recruitment of a new generation of linemen and power plant workers.

"We are about to get hit," said Seattle Local 77 Business Manager Don Guillot. "More than 60 percent of our workers are eligible to retire."

To meet the coming labor crunch in the Pacific Northwest, a partnership between the IBEW, local utility companies and the Washington state community college system has pioneered an innovative program to attract a new generation of workers to the utility industry.

In 2004, the state board of community and technical colleges designated 11 Centers of Excellence at colleges throughout Washington to support workplace development needs.

Centralia College, located in southwest Washington, is home to the Center of Excellence in Energy Technology—which in only a few years has become one of the leading training programs for power production workers in the region.

Students in the two-year program are introduced to the basics of energy technology, using a curriculum jointly developed by the IBEW, utilities and state officials. They also get to see the workings of local power companies up-close through summer plant tours. Graduates of the program can get credit toward their apprenticeship, which can shorten it by as much as a year.

More than a dozen utilities have partnered with the program, as have Local 77 and Portland, Ore., Local 125.

"We're recruiting younger folks to take a look at the utility system and make sure they have the skills needed to get into an apprenticeship and land a job with a utility," said Local 77 member Bob Guenther, who helps lobby state officials.

Students can also use credits earned in the program to later on get their bachelor's degree, so going into the trades doesn't mean giving up on getting a college education.

Since the Energy Technology program first started, it's graduated more than 50 students.

According to the program's Executive Director Barbara Hins-Turner, 80 percent of graduates land positions with local utilities.

Randy Steadman, the human resources manager for the Chelan County Public Utility District told Power Engineering Magazine that the "(program) is a very efficient way for us to develop talent from our local market."

To facilitate the expected demand for green jobs, the Center for Excellence partnership will unveil its wind turbine technician associate's degree through a partnership with community colleges in eastern Washington and the new IBEW regional training center located in Richland.

Hins-Turner, Guenther and Guillot were invited by the Democratic Policy Committee—the policy group for Senate Democrats—to come to Washington, D.C. last summer to talk about the Center of Excellence program at its Green Jobs summit.

"We think it's a model for other jurisdictions to look into," Guillot said. To find out more, go to www.centralia.edu/coe. ■

San Francisco Contractor Facing 48 Felony Counts for Cheating Immigrants

Tough prevailing wage enforcement and sharp organizing by two northern California local unions have led to 48 felony counts against NBC, a general contractor infamous for underpaying immigrant electricians from China. In the process of documenting the company's law-breaking, Dublin, Calif., Local 595 has stripped several skilled electricians from the company and initiated them as journeyman wiremen.

In May, the Alameda County District Attorney's office charged NBC's owner, Monica Ung, and two employees with public works wage fraud, grand theft of personal property, forgery and insurance fraud. The construction firm's illegal activities resulted in an estimated \$3.6 million dollars in unpaid wages to 19 construction workers. Losses due to illegally misclassifying workers cost the state nearly \$1.5 million. Fraudulent wage records were submitted to at least 27 public works awarding agencies.

"This is one of those campaigns that make you proud to be a union member," says Victor Uno, business manager of Local 595, who had grown frustrated with NBC's flagrant abuse of skilled building trade workers within his jurisdiction on San Francisco's East Bay.

On the opposite shore, John O'Rourke, business manager of San Francisco Local 6, was also running up against NBC, especially on public works projects. Together, O'Rourke and Uno decided last year that Johnny Huang, a Local 6 business representative who specializes in compliance and speaks fluent Cantonese, would be best suited to reach out to NBC's work force. He was assisted by compliance officer Andreas Cluver.

After meeting NBC electricians and gaining their trust, Huang reviewed their pay stubs and established that they were routinely being shortchanged with NBC underreporting their work hours. Some were even forced to sign blank time cards.

"John let us know our rights," says Ricky Lau, a one-year NBC electrician who came to the U.S. from China with his parents at age five and had worked for nonunion electrical contractors since graduating from a Job Corps training program nine years ago.



▶ Johnny Huang (right), a San Francisco Local 6 business rep., joined with Ricky Lau, a one-year NBC electrician (far right), to set up a meeting, recruiting some of Lau's co-workers into Dublin, Calif., Local 595.



San Francisco trade unionists and supporters call for justice for immigrant workers cheated by NBC, a contractor charged with 48 felony counts, including grand theft, forgery, insurance fraud and public works fraud.



Lau convinced his co-workers to come to a meeting at the Local 595 hall where they were given information on the IBEW and the state's prevailing wage laws. After the meeting, several electricians decided to leave the company to work for signatory contractors. Local 595 members helped several former NBC electricians pass journeyman electrician tests.

Monica Ung's problems were just beginning with the loss of well-qualified electricians. Thirty NBC workers from different trades filed a civil complaint against the company. The charges are being held in abeyance pending the criminal case.

"Because of our lawsuit, dozens of exploited Chinese workers came forward and gave testimony, not only for their civil suit for wages, not just for economic justice, but for the criminal system as well," says their attorney Elyn Moscovitz.

"Our success at NBC hinged on Johnny Huang's hard work," says O'Rourke, who says that Huang patiently explained the union's culture and goals and joined the NBC workers in after-work activities, including getting up early in the morning and going out to dive for abalone.

O'Rourke likened Huang's activism to Local 6's past battle with the anti-union Residential Builders Association, which employed Irish

immigrants who "were paid under the table at the bar." The success in exposing NBC, says Huang, was not his alone, but was a product of the courage of Ricky Lau and other workers who stood up and confronted their own fears.

The struggle at NBC has been widely covered in the mainstream media and in Chinese-language publications. After locals became aware that Ung is being represented by former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, a traditional labor supporter, they took on the defense's argument that Ms. Ung was being victimized as a minority small-businesswoman.

An NBC workers support committee was formed by IBEW Local 595, NECA and the Asian Pacific Labor Alliance (AFL-CIO). Developments in the case are being closely monitored, and local leaders, community groups and unions are joining the effort to support the NBC workers. A lunch-time rally of union tradesmen working adjacent to an NBC project drew 100 supporters.

Now an IBEW journeyman, Ricky Lau hopes that the exposure of NBC's scam will lead other immigrant workers at nonunion shops to seek out help from unions to bring renegade businesses to justice. He knows it won't be easy.

Facing high unemployment and a competitive labor market with limited English language skills, many of these workers "simply have no choice," says Lau.

"We are elated that a contractor is finally being held accountable

for many years of illegal activities," says Don Campbell, executive director for the National Electrical Contractor's Association.

"Contractors that cheat workers out of wages and cheat on insurance costs undercut good, law-abiding







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HOLLYWOOD

IBEW Members Keep Power-Hungry Hollywood Up and Running

You won't see them on the big screen. They don't strut down the red carpet. And they rarely sip champagne at glitzy box office premieres. But in a town chock full of big-name stars, big-shot producers and big-budget blockbuster movies, they are the film industry's real-life power brokers.

"We don't need the applause or the attention," said Don Easy, an IBEW electrician who works on movie sets around the world. "But we do need adventure, and this job has plenty of that."

In the movie business, where the lights, the cameras and the action all require one basic thing—electricity—Easy and about 650 other members of Hollywood, Calif., Local 40 are the behind-the-scenes engine powering a multibillion dollar industry. Their work—for Universal, Paramount, Fox, Disney, Warner Brothers and nearly a dozen other studios—keeps the energy flowing and the movies coming to a theater near you. And they do it with none of the fanfare of a big-time Hollywood production.

"People always ask what it's like to rub elbows with the stars," said Bill Brinkmeyer, Local 40's business manager and a former movie studio electrician. "We don't rub elbows. We do all the jobs that keep the studios up and running."

Members of Local 40 are quick to point out that they are bona fide electricians and not the lighting technicians often recognized come Oscar-time. (The work of creating lighting effects on film went to the



International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees way back in the 1940s.) But IBEW members have a long history—more than 85 years—of doing jobs critical to the movie and TV industries.

At Universal—which combines the world's largest movie studio with a massive theme park—members built and maintain the entire self-contained electric grid, including a switch and substation powering the 420 acres of soundstages, sets and backlots, plus the world-famous studio tour. They are also in charge of audio systems, special effects and pyrotechnics for theme park attractions like "Terminator," "WaterWorld" and "Fear Factor." IBEW members install, maintain and troubleshoot air conditioning and heating systems for soundstages and offices. One electrician is even assigned to the monumental task of monitoring and changing thousands of light bulbs across the studio and



theme park. "Anything electrical, we do it," Brinkmeyer said.

On location, IBEW members like Don Easy have a critical role in making a movie happen. Easy—who has worked on movies like "Star Trek," "Pirates of the Caribbean 2 and 3," "Mission: Impossible 3," "Amistad" and "Vegas Vacation"—is in charge of keeping entire base camps—rows after rows of trailers and equipment used in movie production—up and running for weeks at a time. That means powering everything, big and

small, from the massive camera equipment on set, all the way to the hair dryer inside a movie star's trailer.

Like most people in the industry, Easy—who has worked on five films with legendary director Steven Spielberg—has a list of stories about memorable encounters with celebrities. On one set, John Travolta rode his scooter. On another, a young Jodie Foster defended him to an overbearing boss. On yet another, Sir Anthony Hopkins encouraged him to "just call me Tony."

But Easy says the most important part of his job is keeping the producers happy. "We have to push ourselves as hard as we can to do a good job, to uphold the reputation of quality work that the IBEW is known for," he said. "We always have to show them we are the best."

At Warner Brothers, IBEW members have the same commitment to quality. One of their many jobs is running the big electric wind machines that sent a breeze through the outdoor set of "ER" and helped



Don Easy (far left) at work on the set of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" sequels. Hundreds of electrical cables (left) helped power the multi-million dollar production. IBEW members operate power systems at all major Hollywood studios, including Warner Brothers (above).

Successful Wisconsin Factory Adopts Code of Excellence

Even before the recession hit, manufacturing in the Midwest was facing hard times. But an IBEW-represented plant in Pardeeville, Wis. has become an exception to the rule. It's still operating at 100-percent capacity despite the tough economic times, with little sign of slowdown in the near future.

More than 80 members of Madison Local 965 are employed at All American Scoreboards—a division of Everbrite, LLC—where they build scoreboards for high schools and community centers.

While scoreboards have traditionally been the plant's main product line, commercial signs have emerged as All American's bread and butter. The plant produces signs for all of Marathon Oil Corp.'s gas stations and for many fast food chains.

All American's geography works as an advantage over its cheaper Chinese competitors. The company is able to get a new sign out of the door of the factory within 48 hours of a customer order.

"Our speed gives us our edge," said Local 965 Business Manager Tony Bartels. "No Chinese factory could get a sign to the customer that fast."

The plant's competitiveness is also a tribute to the IBEW's Code of Excellence, which All American's workers adopted last year. The Code, which is already operative in



Madison, Wis., Local 965 first-year apprentices at Wisconsin Power and Light pose at their training center in front of a new IBEW sign manufactured by Local 965 members at All American Scoreboards.

"We're able to sit down with management and honestly and openly talk about our issues and differences. And both sides listen to each other."

—Kemp Grutt, Local 965 assistant business manager

the construction and utility branches of the Brotherhood, is an agreement between managers and the IBEW to increase labor-management cooperation and professionalism in the workplace.

"(The local) is mainly utility and

we were setting up Code of Excellence training for our members at Wisconsin Power and Light when we decided to invite one of the stewards at All American to attend," Bartels said.

While the Code hasn't been officially taken up by the IBEW's manufacturing branch, leaders of Local 965 saw that it could be useful in opening up clearer communication channels with management and increasing productivity.

"We're able to sit down with management to honestly and openly talk about our issues and differences," said Local 965 Assistant Business Manager Kemp Grutt. "And both sides listen to each other."

Included in the language is a commitment to eight hours' work for eight hours' pay and a strict adherence to safety regulations.

Bartels admits the reaction from members was mixed at first, but gradually the value of the Code won most of them over. "Unions get stereotyped as just defending the bad eggs and not caring about quality," he said. "A lot of folks appreciated that the union was making sure we were doing what we are supposed to be doing." ■



IBEW members at Warner Brothers (above) work on a generator. During film production, each soundstage requires dozens of the huge machines.



rock George Clooney's boat during the filming of "A Perfect Storm." The machine—basically an airplane propeller with six-foot wooden blades—is called a "ritter" and provides everything from a quiet breeze to a powerful gust of wind. Running them is just one of the many tasks for the studio's unified electrical shop.

"We are a diversified work force at Warner Brothers," said Robert Kelly, foreman of the electric construction department. "We do production, maintenance, construction, high voltage. We really do it all."

At Universal's theme park, some attractions present special challenges for IBEW members, according to Alicia Allen, foreman of the theme park's electric department. Millions of gallons of water constantly pour through the "Jurassic Park" ride, which takes visitors on a white-knuckle boat trip through the land of dinosaurs. "Water and electricity don't mix," she said. "Boxes and conduits get rusty pretty fast. We change out a lot of those."

Universal was also the first Hollywood studio capable of running

entirely on emergency generators. When rolling power outages struck California in 2003, Local 40 electricians kept the studio going while many of its competitors were forced to shut down. The continued production saved the studio millions of dollars.

With more than eight decades of Hollywood history, just two Local 40 members have been recognized with the ultimate movie achievement award. In 1997, electricians Bill Masten and Rick Prey won Academy Awards for technical achievement. The pair developed a unique mobile lighting system still used for exterior shooting today.

Still, few other IBEW members ever see their names up in lights. While other unions get on-screen credit at the end of Hollywood films, the IBEW has been satisfied so far to continue its work in anonymity. That could change in upcoming contracts, Brinkmeyer said, as Local 40 prepares to ask studios to put its name and logo in the credit roll of feature films.

"We want people to know the IBEW name," he said. "And we want them to know it stands for quality." ■

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Labour Pushes for Employment Insurance Reforms

Rising unemployment across Canada has forced a serious re-examination of the nation's employment insurance system. If reforms being pushed by the Canadian Labour Congress and supportive members of Parliament are not made soon, many workers will be denied needed income and the government could be faced with a no-confidence vote.

More than 1.6 million Canadians are out of work. But fewer than half of the unemployed are actually collecting benefits due to rules, regulations and red tape in the employment insurance system.

Workers are finding it harder to qualify for benefits because they often lack sufficient hours on the job due to frequent furloughs, says Barry Stevens, First District political action/media strategy coordinator. The unemployment rate—currently between 8 and 9 percent—would be more than 12 percent if it included Canadians who have given up looking for work.

The IBEW and the Canadian Labour Congress are supporting a measure being studied by Parliament to reform the employment insurance system.

The proposal, under consideration by a bilateral panel, calls for changing accessibility rules to provide regular EI benefits on the basis of 360 hours of work, no matter where people live and work in Canada; extending benefits to at least 50 weeks in all regions of the country; and raising benefits immediately to 60 percent of earnings calculated on a worker's highest 12 weeks of earnings.

Over the past several years, both Liberal and Conservative governments have diverted EI funds into deficit reduction and other channels.

Because of those cuts, Ontario workers will receive \$3.2 billion less in EI benefits in 2009 than they would have under the program in 1990. "Many people who lost their jobs last fall ... will be forced to rely on provincial social assistance programs and food banks," says Ken Georgetti, president of the 3.2 million-member CLC.

Labour leaders say that reinvesting in the EI program would reduce pressure on the provinces and provide an economic stimulus

to a suffering economy.

"I would like to think that benefits can increase by the unemployed joining together in some fashion," says Ernie Boundy, a 47-year member of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085, who has been out of work since April. "The government seems to have endless funds to assist corporations and executives," he says, denouncing earlier decisions to remove money from the EI fund.

If the Liberal Party, the New Democrats and the Bloc Québécois all vote no-confidence because of insufficient action on reforming EI benefits, the Conservative government would fall. The panel was due to make a report at the end of September. ■

Canadian IBEW members rally with members of the Canadian Labour Congress to support EI program changes.

La FIOE avec d'autres membres du Congrès du travail du Canada s'étaient mobilisés pour encourager des modifications au régime d'assurance-emploi.



Les syndicats font pression sur le gouvernement pour une réforme du Régime d'assurance-emploi

Avec la hausse du taux de chômage à l'échelle nationale, un sérieux réexamen du Régime national de l'assurance-emploi s'imposait. Si les réformes revendiquées par le Congrès du travail du Canada et par plusieurs dirigeants politiques se font trop attendre, plusieurs travailleurs seront privés de prestations et le gouvernement pourrait s'exposer à un vote de non-confiance.

Il y a maintenant 1.6 million de chômeurs et chômeuses au Canada. En fait, un peu plus de la moitié seulement touchent des prestations d'assurance-emploi; les autres en sont privés en raison des règles, des règlements et des formalités administratives définis dans le régime d'AE.

"Il est plus difficile pour les travailleurs d'être admissibles aux prestations parce qu'ils ne peuvent accumuler suffisamment d'heures de travail en raison des fréquentes mises à pied," déclare Barry Stevens,

Coordonnateur de l'action politique et de la stratégie médiatique pour le Premier District. Le taux de chômage qui se situe actuellement entre 8 et 9 pourcent, pourrait atteindre 12%, si on y incluait tous les Canadiens qui ont abandonné la recherche d'emploi.

La FIOE ainsi que le Congrès du travail du Canada ont donné leur appui au projet de loi à l'étude visant à réformer le régime actuel de l'assurance-emploi.

La proposition à l'étude par un comité bilatéral, demande de changer les règles d'admissibilité pour que des prestations régulières d'AE soient versées après 360 heures de travail, quelle que soit la région de résidence ou de travail au Canada; d'augmenter jusqu'à 50 semaines la durée d'admissibilité aux prestations d'AE pour les travailleurs et travailleuses de toutes les régions du pays; de hausser immédiatement le niveau des prestations à 60% du revenu calculé

d'après les 12 meilleures semaines de rémunération.

Au cours des ans, les gouvernements libéral et conservateur, ont réaffecté l'excédent de la réserve de la dette publique ainsi qu'à d'autres fins. À cause de ces réductions, les travailleurs de l'Ontario toucheront, pour l'année 2009, 3,2 milliards de dollars de moins en prestations d'AE comparativement à celles qui auraient été versées sous le programme en 1990. "Plusieurs travailleurs et travailleuses qui ont perdu leur emploi l'automne dernier se retrouvent maintenant dépendants de l'aide sociale et des banques alimentaires," déclare Ken Georgetti, président du CTC représentant 3,2 millions de travailleurs et travailleuses.

Les dirigeants syndicaux sont d'avis qu'un réinvestissement dans le programme d'AE contribuerait à atténuer la pression exercée sur les

provinces et à stimuler une économie encore mal en point.

"J'aimerais croire que le regroupement des chômeurs pourrait, d'une certaine façon, faire augmenter les prestations," dit Ernie Boundy, un membre de la S.L. 2085 de Winnipeg au Manitoba depuis 47 ans, en chômage depuis le mois d'avril. "Les fonds du gouvernement semblent inépuisables lorsque vient le temps d'aider les sociétés et leurs dirigeants," ajoute-t-il, dénonçant les décisions du gouvernement de réaffecter l'argent provenant du fonds de l'AE à d'autres fins.

Advenant que le gouvernement ne prenne pas les mesures satisfaisantes en vue de réformer le Régime de prestations de l'AE, le Parti libéral, le Nouveau Parti démocratique et le Bloc Québécois pourraient exprimer un vote de non-confiance et faire tomber le gouvernement conservateur. Un rapport préparé par le comité doit être soumis à la fin de septembre. ■

Transitions

RETIRED Michael J. Flanagan



Third District International Representative Michael J. Flanagan retired August 1 after more than four decades of service to the IBEW.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to be a part of the IBEW and to be able to improve wages, benefits and working conditions for the members and local unions that I serviced,” he said.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., he started his career in 1966, working as a meter reader at Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation. He held many other utility company positions until being elected business manager and financial secretary of Buffalo, N.Y., Local 1339 in 1975. After serving in the position for nearly 13 years, he was appointed to the International staff in 1986, servicing utility local unions in New Jersey until 1989 and in New York thereafter. He also served in the United States Army Reserve from 1966 to 1972.

In 1988, Brother Flanagan was part of the first International team sent to Japan to exchange ideas and learn about the philosophy of that country’s labor leaders.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to be a part of the IBEW and to be able to improve wages, benefits and working conditions for the members and local unions that I serviced.”

One of his proudest accomplishments came in the early 2000s, when he helped organize workers at Rochester Gas and Electric Company, something the IBEW had been trying to do for several decades.

“Nothing had ever worked,” he said. “But finally the employees came to us and it was a terrific win.”

In retirement, Brother Flanagan plans to spend more time with his three daughters and eight grandchildren. He also plans to ride his motorcycle more than he has before.

The staff, members and offi-

cers of the IBEW thank Brother Flanagan for his dedicated service and wish him an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement. ■

RETIRED Michael P. Blanchard



Seventh District International Representative Michael P. Blanchard retired August 1

following more than 40 years of service to the IBEW.

“Being a part of the IBEW gave me the chance to see what it was like to work alongside brothers around the country.”

Three days after graduating high school, the native Texan followed in his father’s footsteps and was initiated into Beaumont Local 479 in 1968. As part of his apprenticeship, Blanchard earned an associate’s degree in vocational electricity from Texas’ Lamar University. For the next several years, he worked as an inside wireman and took every opportunity to travel the nation, carrying his card to more than 35 different locals.

“Being a part of the IBEW gave me the chance to see what it was like to work alongside brothers around the country,” Blanchard said. “It was a great experience.”

He later found his niche in union leadership. Blanchard served on numerous local committees, was a member of the executive board and was elected business manager and financial secretary of Local 479 in 1986.

International President J.J. Barry appointed Blanchard to the Seventh District office in 1993. Tasked with coordinating organizing efforts in the construction field, Blanchard helped spearhead a petrochemical plant campaign in the late ‘90s which became the Gulf Coast Initiative. The first goal of organizing 1,000 new workers inside of 18 months was a success, so he ramped up his efforts to double that within the next six months. Rather than picket contractors, Blanchard oversaw

production of a weekly newsletter that he and his team distributed to nonunion worksites from Mobile, Ala. to Corpus Christi, Texas. The 14,000 copies circulating amongst unorganized workers helped draw scores of electricians into the IBEW and allowed Blanchard to keep anti-union opposition at arm’s length. “The nonunion bosses knew that you don’t pick a fight with a man who buys ink by the barrel,” he said. “It was a successful way to boost the membership.”

Blanchard was a member of the resolution committee at the IBEW’s 34th convention in 1991. He also served as secretary-treasurer for the Sabine Area Central Labor Council.

His family includes his wife, Carmen, and son, Jason. With a lake 30 feet from his back door at his home in Village Mills, Texas, Blanchard looks forward to spending more time fishing and doing outdoor activities in his retirement—including traveling with Carmen and hitting the open road in his Corvette.

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

RETIRED Charles McKenzie



First District International Representative Charles McKenzie retired effective August 1.

“My biggest reward was serving our members. They are really what the IBEW is about.”

Born near Stratford, Ontario, Brother McKenzie moved to Kitchener after completing high school and went to work as a tool-and-die maker. He befriended a member of Kitchener Local 804 who convinced him to become an apprentice electrician. He started his apprenticeship May 1963.

There was little opportunity for apprentices to be involved in the local. Brother McKenzie took a lead role in creating an apprenticeship

committee to communicate their concerns to Local 804’s leadership. “I made sure to never miss a union meeting,” he said.

Soon after completing his initiation into the IBEW, Brother McKenzie became an active organizer, successfully salting different worksites, including one campaign which brought 27 new workers into Local 804.

In 1973, McKenzie became vice president and then assistant business manager in 1975 before being appointed business manager in 1980.

In 1976, Brother McKenzie worked with other Local 804 leaders to create a pension plan for local members, and he was a founding director of the Union Benefit Plan Service, the company established by union trust funds in 1983.

In addition to his leadership role with the IBEW, he was also active in the wider-Ontario labor movement, serving on the education and apprenticeship reform committees of the Ontario Federation of Labor and on the employment insurance committee of the Canadian Labor Congress.

In 1987, McKenzie joined the First District staff. He originally serviced construction locals throughout Ontario, but over time he was responsible for servicing members in everything from paper mills to telephone companies.

He was responsible for leadership and steward training sessions throughout the province. McKenzie also served as a board member for 11 years and then as chairman for the Electrical Utility Safety Association of Ontario.

In looking back at his career in the IBEW, Brother McKenzie says: “My biggest reward was serving our members. They are really what the IBEW is about.”

Brother McKenzie’s family includes his wife, Chris, two sons, one stepson, one daughter, one stepdaughter and eight grandchildren. His sons, Brett and Blaine, followed their father into the trade and are active members of Local 804, with Brett previously serving as business manager of the local.

He plans to spend his retirement traveling and practicing his golf swing.

The officers and members of the IBEW wish Brother McKenzie health and happiness in his retirement. ■

APPOINTED Randal Middleton



International Representative Randal Middleton has been appointed director of the Manufacturing

Department. He succeeds Bobby R. Roberts, who retired August 5.

A native of Flint, Mich., Middleton was initiated into Milwaukee, Wis., Local 663 in 1981. Local 663 represents electricians at several Milwaukee-area manufacturing plants.

“We can’t be a first class economy without manufacturing,” Middleton said. “We need to enforce existing trade laws so we can level the playing field for workers.”

Elected Local 663 business manager in 1996, Middleton worked as a journeyman wireman for AC Spark Plug, which was spun off by General Motors to become Delphi in 1999. The plant closed in 2008.

Offered a position with management soon after completing his apprenticeship, Middleton turned it down, preferring to get active with the union. He became shop chairman before being elected financial secretary in 1993.

“The company was ignoring a lot of our contract, and my coworkers needed to have a voice,” he said.

As Local 663 business manager, he was responsible for representing seven different manufacturing facilities. The many trades of other unions that had members at the plant also turned to Brother Middleton to represent them in bargaining. “Some workplaces had more than a half dozen unions,” he said. “And I was selected to chair the joint union committee and bargain for all of them.”

Middleton also served on the EM-5 council, which represents IBEW members at the General Electric Co. In 2007, he was appointed International Representative in the Manufacturing Department by International President Edwin D. Hill.

Married for nearly 30 years, he has four children and three grandchildren.

The officers and members wish Brother Middleton great success in his new position. ■

Circuits

Locals and Media Department Win 2009 ILCA Awards

Two IBEW local union newspapers and the International Office Media Department were recognized with awards at the International Labor Communication Association Biennial Conference on September 12 in Pittsburgh.

Eric Wolfe, editor of Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245's Utility Reporter, took home multiple awards as in several previous years. Wolfe won first place awards for coverage of political action, news and analysis. Wolfe's series "Global Warming, Electric Power and IBEW 1245" won a first-place award for best series of articles. The Utility Reporter was honored with additional first-place awards for best informational graphic and best photo essay.

"Eric Wolfe is a unionist at heart and a journalist second," says Local 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. "He has a great feel for bringing big national issues home to people and showing how things like deregulation and health care reform affect our lives." Dalzell calls Wolfe the "most popular guy in the local" for the respect that comes through in his coverage of dues-paying members and the work that they perform.

IBEW Frontline, the newspaper of Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21, won a first place award in the general excel-

lence category for local newspapers with a circulation of fewer than 20,000. IBEW Frontline editors Tom Hopper, Nancy North and Bob Przybylinski also received a second-place award for their organizing story that focused on an internal campaign to set up a new mobilization structure in the local. They also won a second-place award for best front page.

The IBEW Journal—in its last year of publication—won an award for best informational graphic. Media specialists Len Shindel and Lucas Oswalt received first-place and second-place awards, respectively, for profiles published in the IBEW Journal.

The IBEW Web site received a third-place award and a second-place award for short videos dealing with the 2008 election and labor history. ■

Ill. Union Coalition Puts Computers in Schools

Back to school day was a little brighter for students in Quincy, Ill., thanks to Union Difference, a six-month-old coalition of building trades and other unions which formed to improve the community and job opportunities for local citizens by promoting union principles.

The coalition donated 10 new computers to the Quincy Board of Education for use in school libraries, says Business Representative Rich Jones of Peoria, Ill., Local 34, one of



Mayor Salutes IBEW

A strong supporter of union labor, Bridgeport, Conn., Mayor Bill Fitch, center, stopped by Bridgeport Local 488's annual summer outing. From left to right, Local 488 Assistant Business Manager Anthony Soter, City of Bridgeport Public Facilities Director and Local 488 member Charlie Carroll, Mayor Fitch, Business Manager Peter Carroll and President Richard Dabrowski. ■

the participating local unions. In addition, Union Difference donated \$4,000 to the Help Fair, a yearly event that distributes school supplies and provides dental checkups and haircuts to students in financial need.

"We're changing the perception of unions in west central Ill., a region dominated by nonunion employers," says Jones.

Quincy Superintendent of Schools Lonny Lemon says, "We greatly appreciate Union Difference for providing the computers." ■

IBEW On Duty

Delaware Apprentice Wins Air Force Achievement Medal



Chris Panico, third-year Wilmington, Del., Local 313 apprentice, served as a journeyman/craftsman electrician in Kuwait.

Chris Panico, a Wilmington, Del., Local 313 third-year apprentice, was honored with an Air Force Achievement Medal for his service as a journeyman/craftsman electrician in Kuwait from September 2008 to January 2009.

An enlistee in the Air Force Reserves, Staff Sgt. Panico has served six years in the civil engineering squadron of the 512th Airlift Wing based at Dover Air Force Base.

The Air Force medal was accompanied by a statement crediting Panico with "significantly contributing to the security of 301,000 transitioning forces and \$3.2 billion in combat assets." Panico executed 50 convoys transporting almost 2,000 tons of materials through high terrorist threat areas. He supervised the installation and construction of an automated vehicle photography system that inspects 300 vehicles daily and, says the Air Force, "significantly [decreases] the vehicle borne improvised explosive device threat."

"Local 313 backed me all the way throughout my deployment," says Panico. "That's what true brothers do." Local members sent care packages and provided books for Panico to continue studying during his down time.

"When I returned," says Panico, they offered me extra tutoring after hours and weekends to catch up with my studies and make sure that I didn't fall behind." ■

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

In addition to your monthly issue of The Electrical Worker, check out the wealth of IBEW-related information in cyberspace.

www.ibew.org

From breaking news to video stories, our updated Web site has information not available anywhere else. Visit us to connect with the IBEW on **Facebook** and to follow International President Edwin D. Hill on **Twitter!**

IBEW on the Huffington Post

President Hill has a new blog championing green jobs and more. Read it at www.huffingtonpost.com.

YouTube

The IBEW has its own channel on YouTube, devoted exclusively to videos about the union and its members. Watch online at www.youtube.com/user/theelectricalworker.



HourPower

With more than 2 million videos viewed, IBEW HourPower this month features a story about two locals working together. Why the team up? Tune into www.IBEWHourPower.com to find out.

ElectricTV

Now updated twice a month, ElectricTV.net has seen a 65% increase in web traffic. Watch how the NECA-IBEW team saved the NY Times 70% on its electricity bill at electricTV.net.



In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in August 2009

Note: In order to provide more relevant information, beginning with the last issue we have changed In Memoriam to include the date of death. This replaces the previously published amount paid.

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Holtmeyer, A. H.	7/3/2009	66	McGriff, B. D.	5/11/2009	212	Cannon, A.	4/15/2009	480	Blackwell, F.	6/10/2009	894	Immel, R. G.	6/1/2009
1	Jordan, H. W.	6/3/2009	66	Strickhausen, W. J.	6/8/2009	212	Johnson, C. V.	4/20/2009	481	Davis, E. E.	6/9/2009	915	Kline, G. E.	5/13/2009
1	Levin, B. L.	6/16/2009	68	Elio, D. G.	6/1/2009	212	Wethington, J. A.	5/8/2009	481	Manns, D. E.	5/27/2009	949	Gall, W. C.	6/1/2009
1	Meyer, A. K.	4/11/2009	68	Scardello, S. D.	7/6/2009	213	Gurniak, E. J.	4/30/2009	494	Heinritz, R. E.	5/4/2009	953	Kraft, W. E.	6/22/2009
1	Molly, J. E.	6/24/2009	71	Daugherty, H. M.	6/2/2009	230	Meyer, K. T.	3/1/2009	494	King, G.	4/14/2009	965	Schuler, B. L.	6/4/2009
2	Buyan, J. M.	4/9/2009	71	Kessler, C. A.	6/11/2009	237	Frank, R. J.	1/2/2009	494	Millane, E. F.	6/5/2009	968	Dray, N. B.	3/24/2009
3	Battcher, K. E.	10/27/2008	73	Hooper, B. R.	8/4/2008	238	Taylor, J. L.	5/3/2009	494	Sysavan, J.	5/2/2009	995	Ballard, H.	5/4/2009
3	Berrocales, F.	6/13/2009	73	Wolverton, A.	6/7/2009	242	Ellefsen, L. F.	6/11/2009	494	Watson, L. T.	6/1/2009	995	Hurst, W. W.	5/31/2009
3	Bishop, K. A.	4/14/2009	77	Bewlay, R. H.	5/29/2009	254	Sawatzky, J. D.	6/25/2009	495	Stangeland, B. W.	6/19/2009	995	Wilson, J.	12/17/2008
3	Boffa, L. B.	5/6/2009	77	Cragerud, H.	6/8/2009	258	Norris, T. J.	3/21/2009	498	Vanepps, W. I.	5/12/2009	1002	Patterson, C. E.	6/11/2009
3	Corns, C. H.	6/20/2009	80	Garner, A. L.	6/1/2007	269	Disler, N. H.	5/29/2009	499	Truhe, J. H.	6/17/2009	1040	Litourneau, W.	1/18/2009
3	De Albergo, C.	1/27/2009	84	Barton, D. W.	7/8/2009	269	Walters, G. J.	6/2/2009	502	Briggs, F. W.	7/3/2009	1066	Lasorsa, I. A.	6/17/2009
3	Kirschner, S. M.	6/26/2009	86	Byrne, M. K.	6/4/2009	278	Eastwood, J. F.	6/1/2009	502	Folkins, F. C.	6/23/2009	1141	Findley, B. B.	5/31/2009
3	Llado, M. A.	6/30/2009	86	Thornton, H. H.	5/16/2009	291	Dean, C. E.	6/14/2009	508	Olliff, W. D.	5/10/2009	1141	Kindrick, P. W.	4/20/2009
3	Mazzeo, J. W.	3/30/2009	90	Lesage, E. A.	5/29/2009	292	Benedix, R. L.	3/16/2009	520	Kyser, H. W.	3/18/2009	1220	Placko, M. M.	6/4/2009
3	Minuta, M.	5/6/2009	96	Aquino, M. A.	4/1/2009	295	Wetherington, E. C.	6/27/2009	527	Schmidt, W. J.	6/12/2009	1253	Thibodeau, R. L.	6/22/2009
3	Muccio, V. F.	6/18/2009	98	Haggerty, S.	2/15/2009	302	Borders, C. F.	5/26/2009	533	Hill, D. S.	5/9/2009	1306	Barber, B. B.	5/5/2009
3	Mulroy, J. P.	12/15/2008	98	Robinson, M. H.	6/14/2009	303	Gibson, R. A.	7/10/2009	557	Coe, D. H.	6/29/2009	1319	Dixon, T. L.	6/6/2009
3	Reilly, J. P.	7/4/2009	99	Butler, W. T.	1/31/2009	303	Rudd, E.	4/16/2009	558	Cutshall, A. J.	6/5/2009	1319	Susarchick, P.	6/23/2009
3	Rogers, W. F.	5/26/2009	100	Ferrare, S. J.	3/15/2009	305	Buuck, J. E.	5/29/2009	558	Sherrad, L. E.	6/15/2009	1340	Hudson, W. D.	6/21/2009
3	Rosenblum, M. E.	4/28/2008	102	Skeliski, P.	1/20/2009	309	Gibbons, L. A.	5/29/2009	567	Conway, D. D.	4/6/2008	1377	Krieger, H. A.	5/12/2009
3	Schwartz, J.	5/28/2009	102	Weisner, D.	5/22/2009	317	Bragg, M. B.	5/16/2009	567	Groleau, L. G.	6/29/2009	1391	Boyd, R. F.	6/14/2009
5	Hiles, J. A.	6/18/2009	102	Zankowski, J. S.	4/19/2009	319	McWillie, R.	4/25/2009	568	Crevier, L.	5/1/2009	1393	Hedden, D. M.	5/8/2009
5	Wolffhope, W.	6/15/2009	103	Comtois, R. J.	5/26/2009	325	Carson, L. E.	6/21/2009	569	Cormier, R. J.	6/5/2009	1547	Bailey, D. L.	3/30/2009
6	Johnson, H. C.	6/7/2007	103	Donovan, W. P.	7/5/2009	332	Brint, D. D.	2/3/2009	569	Sanchez, M.	6/14/2008	1547	Dockery, J. F.	1/2/2006
6	Wagner, M. D.	6/26/2009	103	Goodwin, J. D.	6/25/2009	332	Milan, J. O.	4/30/2009	583	Nail, E. G.	6/22/2009	1547	Reddington, D. E.	7/4/2009
9	Danner, R. E.	6/24/2009	103	Kelly, G. F.	6/5/2009	340	Biggs, J. D.	6/26/2009	595	Martin, S. W.	6/5/2009	1583	Fields, A. P.	9/26/2008
9	Emery, M. H.	5/14/2009	103	Maguire, R. F.	2/23/2009	340	Fritts, R. D.	1/18/2009	596	Harbert, T. H.	7/3/2009	1600	Breznay, J. E.	12/30/2008
9	Gallagher, W. C.	6/28/2009	103	Stocco, G. A.	4/16/2009	340	Garcia, P.	4/29/2009	605	McGuffee, J. C.	12/1/2008	1701	Cassilly, J. T.	2/27/2009
11	Johnston, J. D.	12/10/2008	105	Kuretski, D. S.	6/27/2009	349	Marquez, A.	1/21/2009	611	Cook, W. J.	5/17/2009	1928	Brown, P. B.	1/26/2009
11	Krause, W. H.	5/14/2009	108	Minton, H. B.	6/14/2009	349	Poirier, R. J.	6/20/2009	613	Adams, J. O.	6/9/2009	2084	Przepiora, J. G.	1/20/2009
11	Lynn, J. W.	4/26/2009	109	Edgar, D. L.	5/30/2009	351	Bansky, R. P.	3/3/2008	613	Entrekin, J. R.	6/12/2009	2085	Lavergne, R.	5/9/2009
11	Sokol, F. D.	6/30/2009	110	Koelndorfer, B. V.	5/11/2009	351	Murphy, G. R.	6/16/2009	617	Allan, J. A.	7/2/2009	2295	Tinkham, H. A.	7/13/2009
11	Stone, C. T.	6/7/2009	111	Nelson, M. D.	6/2/2009	351	White, G. M.	6/20/2009	639	Ruedi, J. F.	6/27/2009	2330	Manning, J.	5/1/2009
13	Ells, W. D.	3/25/2009	111	Thorngate, L. L.	6/16/2009	353	Boddie, S.	7/3/2009	640	Beckham, J. T.	6/7/2009	I.O. (134)	Slavick, R.	6/23/2009
14	Roellich, T. E.	6/9/2009	112	Smith, D. D.	6/19/2009	353	Irwin, D. R.	6/28/2009	640	Benning, B. F.	5/14/2009	I.O. (134)	Taylor, A. C.	5/2/2009
17	Coulombe, M.	4/24/2009	115	Bazinet, A. I.	7/12/2009	353	Isnor, H. P.	7/13/2009	640	Fuller, G. L.	6/4/2009	Pens. (353)	Yonar, B.	6/26/2009
17	Jones, K. D.	4/30/2009	120	White, G. A.	6/7/2009	354	Jones, T. L.	5/6/2009	640	Gautier, R. K.	9/23/2008	Pens. (686)	Skeeba, S. J.	7/4/2009
18	Maruyama, S.	5/12/2009	124	Horton, V. E.	4/19/2009	357	Andrews, A. L.	5/19/2009	640	Hurley, T.	7/31/2008	Pens. (1393)	Clark, E. W.	7/3/2001
18	Painter, R. W.	6/10/2009	125	Sirpless, W. J.	7/5/2009	357	Bauer, B. B.	1/2/2009	640	Peters, R. D.	6/21/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Anders, J. P.	6/16/2009
18	Strawn, R. D.	7/4/2009	129	Hall, L. W.	6/22/2009	357	Oliver, D. R.	12/19/2008	640	Ritchie, H. W.	6/17/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Boyd, N.	12/18/2008
20	Barresi, J. V.	6/14/2009	130	Caccioppi, S. J.	5/28/2009	363	Meier, F. X.	5/26/2009	647	Price, W. H.	5/24/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Chapman, D. O.	4/28/2009
24	Smith, H. W.	6/10/2009	130	Rolling, E. A.	5/22/2009	369	Baker, K.	5/19/2009	666	Phillips, G.	5/22/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Decesare, R.	5/29/2009
25	Anderson, R. J.	7/3/2009	130	Zimmermen, F. F.	5/29/2009	369	Spradlin, G. A.	6/1/2009	668	Harris, I. R.	4/3/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Dickson, J.	5/14/2009
26	Fuller, P. M.	7/13/2009	134	Donnelly, E. J.	6/2/2009	379	Fowler, J. A.	7/4/2009	676	Gard, R. G.	6/20/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Furlan, J.	6/19/2009
26	Morris, J. C.	6/7/2009	134	Donoghue, P.	4/1/2009	387	Barnett, E. L.	3/22/2009	683	Bruner, F. D.	12/11/2008	Pens. (I.O.)	Gohde, G. R.	6/3/2009
26	Williams, J. O.	7/5/2009	134	Dunn, M.	6/21/2009	400	Megill, K. J.	6/2/2009	692	Clayton, W. R.	4/20/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Golen, A. C.	6/27/2009
40	Williby, R. B.	6/10/2009	134	Florian, K. L.	5/14/2009	413	Renfroe, G. M.	7/3/2009	697	Barcus, R. R.	7/4/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Goulet, B.	12/31/2008
41	Warner, W. W.	1/8/2009	134	Hruby, F. E.	5/28/2009	413	Yenne, A. L.	6/12/2009	697	Fleischer, W. J.	6/14/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Graham, E. N.	7/7/2008
44	Simons, R. R.	5/6/2009	134	Novak, G. A.	6/11/2009	424	Garinger, K.	6/19/2009	702	Robertson, J. T.	12/22/2008	Pens. (I.O.)	Herzing, M. J.	6/17/2009
46	Bachman, B. W.	6/16/2009	134	Oneill, E. M.	5/30/2009	428	Miller, A. W.	5/17/2009	716	Biddle, W. C.	3/8/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Hoffmann, R. H.	6/15/2009
46	Cummings, L. C.	5/5/2009	134	Pluard, G. C.	5/21/2009	429	Cox, E. E.	6/8/2009	721	Newell, O. B.	7/8/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Hultman, R. F.	6/17/2009
46	Hauck, P. S.	6/2/2009	134	Quinn, B. F.	12/3/2008	429	Deering, A. M.	4/19/2009	725	Hamilton, R. E.	7/3/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Jaszczenski, M. G.	2/9/2009
46	Mittelstadt, T.	2/1/2009	134	Rumachik, G.	6/1/2009	429	Jones, H. L.	4/15/2009	725	Nickles, D. C.	6/13/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Johnson, D. L.	6/18/2009
46	Phillips, F. C.	4/30/2009	134	Zaverdas, A.	6/8/2009	441	Cooper, G. R.	6/6/2009	725	Varda, R. P.	5/16/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Matier, J. R.	8/29/2008
46	Warren, J.	7/5/2009	136	Minor, M. M.	6/9/2009	441	Evans, J. R.	6/16/2009	728	Lewis, I. E.	6/29/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	McElwee, J. P.	5/1/2009
48	Adams, M. L.	7/3/2009	136	Robinson, B.	6/6/2009	441	Hayward, R. J.	5/7/2009	743	Davidson, R. S.	6/23/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	McIntosh, N. J.	6/29/2009
48	Shrier, P. P.	9/17/2008	143	Rittle, E. H.	4/28/2009	441	Johnson, R. K.	6/15/2009	756	Severson, A. M.	6/27/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Miller, M. E.	5/30/2009
57	Johnston, L. W.	11/27/2008	145	McCutcheon, J. P.	6/18/2009	441	Kehrborg, M. J.	5/30/2009	760	Phillips, H. G.	6/8/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Moore, J. C.	4/24/2009
57	Oliekan, H.	4/26/2009	153	Nemeth, F. L.	7/7/2009	441	Schofield, H. J.	6/14/2009	760	Reagon, C. L.	6/15/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Rosenthal, H. E.	6/25/2009
58	Artley, R. H.	6/20/2009	163	Alles, J. R.	5/15/2009	445	Ellis, R. G.	7/4/2009	769	Jonas, D. L.	6/10/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Sackett, R. M.	4/19/2009
58	Sadler, E. B.	4/2/2009	164	Geyer, R. A.	7/6/2009	453	Cook, R. P.	6/24/2009	776	Lacoste, D. A.	5/31/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Seeley, J. A.	6/17/2009
58	Smutzki, P. J.	12/23/2008	175	Richie, B. C.	6/23/2009	461	Patterson, W. R.	7/3/2009	833	Simmons, W. R.	7/7/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Wheeler, D. E.	6/9/2009
58	Walsh, R. L.	6/26/2009	176	Keating, A. J.	3/30/2009	466	Alexander, R. O.	5/4/2009	855	Haynes, J. R.	6/16/2009			
58	Williams, A.	6/15/2009	176	Swanson, R. A.	7/4/2009	474	Ingram, R. W.	7/2/2009	861	Noblit, G. F.	4/27/2009			
64	Lepsik, E. V.	7/6/2009	191	McDonough, D. J.	6/19/2009	474	Keith, D. A.	6/21/2009	861	Plaisance, C. D.	6/22/2009			
66	Britt, H. C.	6/28/2009	197	Fick, E. W.	5/22/2009	474	Liles, R. T.	6/6/2009	876	Legault, C.	6/19/2009			

Local Lines



On July 5, IBEW San Francisco Local 6 members and other trade unionists marched to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the West Coast Waterfront General Strike of 1934, joining the International Longshore and Warehouse Union's "Bloody Thursday" memorial procession along the Embarcadero. From left are: Local 6 members George Salih and Michael Doherty, Local 6 Bus. Rep. John Doherty, Local 1245 Bus. Rep. Hunter Stern and Local 6 Pres. Phil A. Farrelly.

Union Support for Progress

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—On the 75th anniversary in July of the 1934 General Strike in San Francisco, it seemed in some ways history was repeating itself; the stock market had taken a dive, unemployment was on the climb, the banking industry had been crippled, and the economy was a mess.

However, we now have a U.S. president who is concerned about the needs of working people. The Democrats now have a strong majority in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

We all need to lend a hand to support Pres. Obama's leadership. It's up to us to contact our representatives in Congress, to show grassroots support demanding common-sense solutions and legislation that benefits working people, not just transnational corporations.

It pays to find innovative ways to utilize our resources, as work continues to be very slow in the local. Our apprenticeship program has been flourishing apprentices in rotation, so everyone shares the work together. Of course, in times like these, we have to rely on and support each other, most of all.

Phil A. Farrelly, Pres.

Update Classes Offered

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Our work situation has definitely slowed down. A note to our members: While you are waiting for your next referral, consider taking some classes offered at the JATC, and update your safety portfolio. If you plan on traveling to sign other books, some locals require the OSHA 10 card. Our JATC does offer that class and provides you with said card upon completion of the course. Before you hit the road, contact Mark Ehrenfried at the union hall for information on where you might find the best opportunity for work.

With a few projects coming up this spring, we look forward to seeing smaller numbers on our books. As of this writing the government's "cash for clunkers" program for cars was going great, and we hope that will mean more sales in autos and more work for us as a result. The GM Powertrain plant in Toledo has been putting in some updated lines and it will be nice to see more updates at other facilities. We are optimistic that Pres. Obama's policies will help stimulate the economy to enable companies to spend more money, which means more jobs for us.

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

Successful Political Action

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—In April more than 70 representatives of the local union went to the state Capitol in Indianapolis to lobby successfully against proposed cuts in unemployment benefits. This legislation would have reduced benefits and would have made eligibility so restrictive that few, if any, construction workers would ever have been able to receive them.

In May the JATC put on a great open house that showcased the abilities of the IBEW in the field of alternative, clean energy. The event was well-attended by members, contractors and area dignitaries. The JATC exhibits revealed fuel cells and solar panels. Special thanks to Bright Idea for its dynamic displays and demonstration on wind generation, and to Chad Morton of Morton Energy for attending.

In June Local 16 was well-represented at the Tri-State Industrial Safety Council's scholarship banquet. Of the 30 award winners from all the participating building trades, industries and businesses in southern Indiana, 11 were from IBEW families. Council Chmn. Louis Duncan, Charmaine McDowell, and each of the council directors made this great event possible. Congratulations to the following award winners: Brittany Beavin, Alan Bittner, Andrea Bittner, Lauren Conkling, Kayleen Glaser, Danielle Harth, Sarah Hoppen, Benjamin Lasher, Julie Lasher, Rachel Weinzapel and Stephen Weinzapel.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Retirees Awards Banquet

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—On July 21, the Local 24 Retirees Club held its awards banquet and dinner party. Twenty retirees were honored at the event. Service awards ranged from 50-year to 70-year awards. Among those on hand to receive their awards were 50-year member Robert Mongan and

60-year member Lloyd "Skeets" Milbourne. On behalf of the membership, I congratulate all the honorees and thank each and every retiree for their past service to the local. Without you we would not have the quality of life we enjoy today.

Gary R. Griffin, B.M.

'Bonds of Brotherhood'

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Local 26 held its 63rd annual graduation ceremony in June. Congratulations to the 164 "R to A" upgrade graduates and Inside and Telecommunications apprenticeship graduates. This year also marked the 11th anniversary of day school!

Decisions came back from CIR on the Inside and Residential wireman agreement, and at press time we were getting new agreement books printed. We also reached a settlement on the Teledata agreement.

Local 26 recently enjoyed many activities that cement the bonds of brotherhood beyond the workplace: the Dollars Against Diabetes golf outing; clay shoots, softball team games; and the Roanoke and Edgewater picnics. Our retirees are very active, with Eastern Shore excursions, fall foliage train trips and cruises, and their annual crab feast!

The following brothers recently passed away: Thomas F. Dixon, Robert O. DeMarr, Gary P. Kilmer, Charles R. Best, John C. Morris, Bernard Thomas Jr., Paul A. McConkey, Stephen L. Taylor, John O. Williams, Peter M. Fuller, Paul J. Webb and Paul S. Reid.

Best wishes to recent retirees: Norman Black, Ernest Curtin, John Ebron, William Giusti, Conrad Gyuras, James Kingery, Gerald Lafferty, Jimmie Miles, Charles Mahoney, Carl Reno, Raymond Smith, Ray Stansel, Leo McKeever, George Bailey, James Blanche, Roger White, Charles Strickland and John M. Anderson.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.



Local 24 congratulates recent service award recipients. From left are: Retirees Club Pres. Robert Tombaugh, 60-year award recipient Lloyd "Skeets" Milbourne, 50-year award recipient Robert Mongan and Bus. Mgr. Gary R. Griffin.

Trade Classifications

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

Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.



Local 32 congratulates recent apprentice graduates: David Tighe, Kegan Pringle, Nick Smith, Chris Lamb, Joel Baker, Chuck McKercher and Matthew Sterrett.

Promoting the IBEW

L.U. 32 (i&u), LIMA, OH—A dinner was held to honor the Local 32 apprenticeship graduating class. The new journeyman inside wiremen are: David Tighe, Kegan Pringle, Nick Smith, Chris Lamb, Chuck McKercher and Matthew Sterrett. Also, the new journeyman installer technician is Joel Baker. After their five years of training and hard work, Local 32 welcomes the graduates to their new classifications and wishes them a successful career.

Local 32 members volunteered for a community service project in Lima for the Faurot Park children's fountain construction. This project will provide many enjoyable hours for area children. Local 32 volunteers were: Doug Beining, Tom Landwehr, Brent Shaffer, Derek Sterling, Vince Scheid, Larry Kroeger and Jerry Dickrede. Contractor Sidney Electric donated the use of a bucket truck and tools. We thank these members for their community service promoting the IBEW.

Jerry Dickrede, B.M.
Doug Beining, P.S.

Steel Mill Opening

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—At press time, we received great news about the ArcelorMittal steel mill opening back up for production in mid-September. We previously got word that some of our members from three different shops would be on-site earlier to help prepare for the reopening, with more members to follow as the blast furnace comes online and the mill restarts projects.

Some of our contractors put in calls for wire-



Local 38 members worked on a wind turbine project at Cleveland State University. At the site are, from left: Jerry Salontay, Matthew Elliot and Bob Wollen.

men recently and several of our contractors picked up work that they may start hiring for soon. Harrington Electric will start hiring for the VA hospital bed tower construction project, as well as several jobs at Cleveland State University.

ESI Electrical Contractors has the Hillcrest Hospital expansion job. Lake Erie Electric picked up work for the Regional Transit Authority and Key Bank at the Higbees building, as well as other projects.

We had a beautiful day at the Local 38 summer picnic, held at Cedar Point, for nearly 3,200 members and their families. The 'Old-Timers' Picnic at Astorhurst was also a great success.

Local 38 members with Work Best Electric Inc. performed electrical work on an experimental vertical-axis wind turbine attached to the 20' by 25' cylinder at Cleveland State University. [See photo, below left.] The innovative project was designed by a CSU professor to be effective in areas with lower wind speeds. Four wind turbines, each rated at 1,500 watts, are attached to the side of the cylinder. There is also one 1,500 watt control turbine.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.

Family Tradition of Service

L.U. 44 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,s&u), BUTTE, MT—Members of the Finkbeiner family have a combined total of 194 years with the IBEW in Montana. All have worked for Williams Construction Co. Inc., Mountain Power, Northwest Tree Service, Utility Service Contractors Inc., and/or Rocky Mountain Construction.

Bob, Russ and Roy Finkbeiner started in Lewistown as members of Local 1022. Bob and Roy moved to then-Local 185 in Helena and then on to Local 44 in Butte and were joined at Local 44 by



Six members of the Finkbeiner family in Butte, MT, Local 44 are: from left, back row, Bob Finkbeiner, with 51 years of IBEW service; Russ Finkbeiner, three years of service; Dick Finkbeiner, 37 years; Roy Finkbeiner, 47 years; front row, Bryan Finkbeiner, 30 years; and Ron Finkbeiner, 26 years.

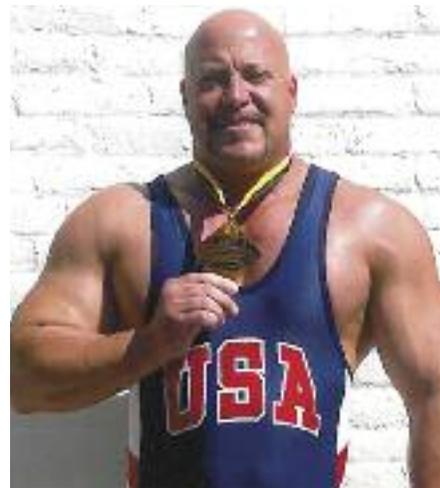
Dick, Bryan and Ron Finkbeiner. Congratulations to the Finkbeiner family for their many years of dedicated service.

Chuck Dixon, B.M./F.S.

USA Weightlifting Champ

L.U. 70 (lctt&o), WASHINGTON, DC—On April 5, Bro. Jeff Hickerson participated in the USA Masters Weightlifting Competition held at Fort Bliss in El Paso, TX. Bro. Hickerson took first place, winning the gold medal in the heavy-weight division.

Chris A. Brown, Pres.



Local 70 member Jeff Hickerson wins gold medal at USA Masters Weightlifting Competition.

2009 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA—Work remained slow through the summer, with very few large jobs in the foreseeable future at press time. Remember to re-sign to stay on the books. Initial signing must be done in person; re-signs can be mailed, faxed or handled via the Local 80 Web site at www.ibew80.com.

Local 80 thanks members who traveled to Washington, D.C., on June 25 to rally for health care reform. It was an awesome sight to see so many union members standing for this legislation.

Congratulations to the 2009 graduating apprentices. They worked hard for five years and deserve accolades for their accomplishments. Graduates are: Kittrell McNair, Jeffrey Trimm, Wellington Fa, Isaiah Summers, Herbert Wynn, Adam Fell, Sean Ottey, Jerome Harrell, James Kloeppel, Jeremy Smith, Christopher Stone, Mark A. Frazier, Jr. (top apprentice), Swanson Boone and Detrick Owens.

W. Dennis Floyd, P.S.



Local 80 apprentice graduates gather in front of the solar photovoltaic system they installed.

Steady Work Picture

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—We are all staying busy with a steady work picture. Our vigilance with project labor agreements and targeted projects is keeping our members working in these tough economic times.

Local 90 had its two golf tournaments over the summer, both successful. At the Tom Lyke Tournament, more than 60 members played. This year's honoree was retired member E.T. Everts. Tournament winner was Ron Stack.

Two teams of the best scorers went to the Greater Eastern Open, our second tournament, with over 80 players. IBEW teams from the Second and Third Districts compete. Local 25 won first place; Local 35 won second, and Local 90 was third. All enjoyed the sportsmanship and brotherhood. We thank our golf committee: Ken Berkmoes, John Berry, Mario Capozzo, Jim Clabby, Bill Fitzgerald, John Jerz, Bob Mordecai, Angelo Palmieri and Ron Stack. Also thanks to the office staff for their efforts and to all the players.

We also had a great union labor night of minor league baseball at the New Britain Rockcats. President Frank Halloran threw out the first pitch.

Our two enlisted active duty members were honored on the field by Helmets to Hardhats. We thank Bros. John Coggs and Brendon Toth for their service to our country and our union. [Watch for an "IBEW On Duty" article in an upcoming issue of The Electrical Worker.] Return home safely, brothers.

Sean Daly, V.P.

Project Goes Union

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—Wal-Mart broke tradition and is breaking ground with union trades for its new store in Worcester, MA. Support from local politicians and the building trades was crucial to this construction project going union.

Let's show our support in return for local politicians. Elections are Nov. 3, 2009. Please get out and vote. To learn more about candidates the local is endorsing, or to volunteer as a supporter, contact the union hall or visit the local's Web site at www.ibewlocal96.org.

Congratulations to former Second District Int. Rep. Richard Panagrossi on his Aug. 1, 2009, retirement. Bro. Panagrossi served the IBEW as an International Representative since 1981. Local 96 was among the locals he serviced. We thank him for his service.

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

Green Day Open House

L.U. 102 (c,catv,i,it,o&t), PATERSON, NJ—Led by an introduction from Bus. Mgr. Lou Baram, along with the assistance of Pres. Bernie Corrigan and Int. Rep. Wyatt Earp, Local 102 enjoyed a successful day

Local Lines



Chicago Local 134 members are employed on the Allied Tube and Conduit warehouse construction project. From left are: Jim Hilton, Bus. Rep. Frank Cunningham, Dave Novotny, Jeremy Brandt, Jon Sucic, Tom Maloney, general foreman; Mike Feasley, Nick Crissie, Jim Klingelschmidt, Dave Cormir and Tom McLean, general foreman.

explaining to guests that the IBEW and Local 102 have the best qualified and trained professionals to do the green energy work in a growing market. The open house was an opportunity to promote the benefits of using union labor.

Approximately 70 people attended, including city council members, business leaders and representatives of area vocational schools. We showed guests our new state-of-the-art training center, and introduced them to our highly qualified instructors, who explained the apprentice program and the continuing education updates for journeymen to stay current with green energy technology.

We showed several green projects that Local 102 recently completed. Everyone was impressed; some had never realized how much training it takes to become an electrician and others wanted to know how they could get started on their own projects. It was a very positive day for our local.

Ed Fredericks, P.S.

Work Picture Slow

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rt,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL—The work picture remains slow in the Cook County area as of this writing, with a limited number of new jobs coming out of the ground at press time. There has been some vertical construction of the FedEx maintenance facility as well as the recent start-up of the FedEx cargo facility to complement the airfield construction of the new 10C Runway.

On a 20-acre site in the south suburbs of Chicago sits Allied Tube and Conduit, which is a major supplier of conduit and various electrical construction components for Chicago as well as national distribution. The existing 13-acre size plant is currently adding a 514,000 square-foot warehouse addition with rail and road access. Local 134 members employed by Maron Electric are installing the temp lighting, general lighting and office build-outs while Continental Electric is providing the switchgear and fire alarm installations. [See photo above.]

Always remember to work smart/work safe.

Mike Nugent, P.S.

Appointments Announced

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—Local 146 congratulates Asst. Bus. Mgr. Shad Etchason on his recent election as president of the Decatur Building and Construction Trades Council. The council represents over 2,000 members in 16 crafts in the Decatur area. Congratulations also to Vice Pres. Jason Drake on his appointment as the new JATC training director for Local 146. Jason replaces Steve Wrigley, who will retire at year's end. Best wishes to both.

At our Labor Day parade and picnic in

September, we had one of the largest crowds in recent years. Everyone had a great time and all were impressed with the new Local 146 sign and recent landscaping at the Local. Thanks to Sister Mary Sapp and her committee for a great job.

We received bad news regarding the Secure Energy project. The project was not given the government loan guarantees and the project is now on hold. However, we look forward to the Tenaska project in Taylorville, which was granted loan guarantees; and also the upcoming refuel outage at the Clinton Power Station.

We remind all that we can only create a worker-focused economy by building power—politically, economically and socially.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

JATC Graduation

L.U. 150 (es,i,rt&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—Recently ceremonies were held for the latest graduates of our training program. Seventeen members successfully completed their Inside Wireman program: Scott Baun, Jeff Buckley, Tobias Hogan, Bryan Mathes, Nicholas Potter, Robert Selin, James Birkenkamp, Edward Cameron, Jacob Husko, Ryan Morley, Deryll Richter, Bradley Shields, Michael Brosseit, Joseph Grissom, Jayson Lange, Brad Porch and Andrew Schaefer. Seven members successfully completed the Residential Training program: Brandon Fernandez, Edin Rama, Irek Tulacz, Christopher Kolar, Justin Ryan, Dejan Kuljanin and Scott Snyder. We wish heartfelt congratulations to the graduates and may they have long, healthy and profitable careers. Please remember if some of them chose to upgrade or re-apply to the program—they are trying to better themselves and provide for their futures; just like all of us. Be supportive.

The following were also acknowledged for their achievements: highest GPA of 2008/2009 class year—Joseph Grissom (inside apprentice) and Scott Snyder (residential trainee); highest overall five year GPA—Robert Selin (inside apprentice); and highest overall three year GPA—Justin Ryan (residential trainee).

Retired Brother Don Lahey recently passed away. Don was terrifically funny and always enjoyed golfing and bowling. I've known Don most of my life and he was a wonderful man; a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. He will be missed.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Power Plant Outage Work

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—After a slow start to summer, calls for manpower started coming in around mid-July. Calls for our two nuclear power plants employed quite a few members for pre-outage work, as well as for the outages them-

selves. We're hoping many will be retained. We however didn't fare as well in the commercial market. Non-signatory contractors were awarded the few projects that were available to bid.

Our local continues to be involved politically—attending many fund-raisers; writing letters in support of EFCA, prevailing wage laws and health care reform; and even attending a town hall meeting on health care with Pres. Obama in Green Bay. There was a good turnout at the Labor Day picnic; many politicians spoke, there were games for the kids and lots of food.

We also did a lot of volunteering this summer with setting up temporary power for a few picnics as well as some work on houses for the Rebuilding Together—Greater Green Bay project. Efforts of IBEW volunteers were much appreciated.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

Work Picture

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—As of this writing, our projected work picture is below normal. Due to the economy, many projects have been cancelled as of press time, or put on long-term hold. The public works pipeline is waiting for the stimulus funding. Most of our renewable, grid and energy upgrade projects are being held up as various interests bicker.

One project that has successfully navigated the rough economic waters and started is the Valero Refinery in Benicia. This one project will put most members to work and might reach Book II. For this reason, we have taken proactive steps to keep everyone informed. Everything we know about the project—i.e., manpower, duration, job calls, where the last job call went, and how many people are on the various books—is posted on the local's Web site www.ibewlu180.org under the work picture page.

For those without Internet connection, the same information is provided on a recorded message. Call in during business hours and ask for the recorded work picture. After business hours, just dial Extension 180. Please remember to re-sign early and call to confirm that we received your faxed re-sign.

Michael C. Smith, B.A.

'Stand Together'

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—As of this writing we are experiencing high unemployment with not much relief in sight. Our work picture on transmission, overhead distribution and underground distribution is very slow. We have had some lighting projects pick up due to road projects in our area. We are still in a fight with other trades who encroach on our work. The other trades go after already union jobs instead of trying to organize the nonunion. We will use all our resources to keep the work we have and fight to gain back what has been wrongfully taken away from our trade. This will be a long, hard fight but we must prevail. If we stand together in this fight, we can win and leave this trade better than we found it.

Attend your monthly union meetings. Buy American and when possible buy union!

Edgar R. Mings Jr., B.M.

[Editor's Note: At press time, Edgar R. Mings Jr. was appointed IBEW International Representative assigned to the I.O. Construction Department, effective Sept. 15. Newly appointed Local 196 business manager is Eric Patrick.]

Casino Construction Project

L.U. 212 (i), CINCINNATI, OH—The Hollywood Casino construction project in Lawrenceburg, IN, was a great job for IBEW Local 212. Our members were employed by contractor Mayers Electric on the project.

General foreman on the casino job was Dan Nelson and the steward was Rod Fischer. The project lasted nearly 20 months from start to finish and the peak manpower was 82. With the work picture presently slow in our jurisdiction, the casino project kept many Local 212 members working.

Wayne Myers, B.A.



IBEW crew members gather at the jobsite of the Hollywood Casino project in Indiana. Local 212 members on the project were employed by Mayers Electric.

New Meeting Hall

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL—As of summer, the work picture here was still slow. The last quarter of the year seems to hold more promise of work than the first three quarters. Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell is working with our contractors and their customers to secure any and all work coming up.

At our April membership meeting, Local 222 was pleased to present Bro. Frank Couch his 60-year service pin. Bro. Frank told us he built a special camper trailer to pull behind his motorcycle and traveled the country for several years. He is now kayaking the local rivers. Go, Frank.

The July meeting hosted our annual Building Association meeting. Bus. Mgr. Bell had a presentation detailing progress of construction on our new local union offices and meeting hall. At press time, indicators pointed to a move-in date of about Sept. 30. We look forward to seeing you at our monthly union meetings, and with the upswing of work, at the December meeting/Christmas party/grand opening at the new hall.

James M. "Mike" Bell, B.M./F.S.



Local 222 Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell (left) presents Frank Couch his 60-year service pin.

Community Service Recognized

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—Local 234 is proud of contributions made by our members and retirees in giving back to the community.

A recent notable project is the work done by Bro. Lawrence Mellick, who has invested much time and energy at a hands-on train museum in Salinas, CA. It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience when children go through the museum and operate the equipment—an opportunity made possible through the volunteer work of Bro. Mellick's train club.

Bro. Mellick started his IBEW apprenticeship in 1960, graduated to journeyman wireman in 1964, retired in 2002. He remains a loyal IBEW supporter to the present day.

Ken Scherpinski, B.M.



Local 234 Bro. Lawrence Mellick wires a control cabinet for the signal arm beside a boxcar at the train museum in Salinas, CA.

National Training Institute

L.U. 252 (ees,i,rts&spa), ANN ARBOR, MI—Local 252 is still basking in the afterglow of the National Training Institute. We thank all the nearly 2,000 brothers and sisters who attended. NJATC Exec. Dir. Michael Callanan and his staff did a wonderful job getting things organized and Ann Arbor was excited to host for the first time. The University of Michigan, currently doing over a billion dollars of construction (100 percent union), also did an outstanding job as first-time NTI host. Our local looks forward to next year with a new booth at the trade show for all the requests for union shirts, hats and pins. We also plan on an even bigger block party in downtown to get to know our guests even better.

At our September meeting we hosted our retirees, handing out service pins. It was a great time to talk about how we have grown over the years. What a debt we owe these great brothers for all they have done so we can have so much today. We wish them all well as they enjoy the retirement they greatly deserve.

John Salyer, Pres.

TVA Project

L.U. 270 (i&o), OAK RIDGE, TN—As of this writing our work has slowed down tremendously. We have had several large ongoing projects that are winding down and should finish up soon. D&N Electric out of Atlanta had a major Tennessee Valley Authority project at Kingston steam plant that peaked at more than 200 electricians. Local 270 thanks all the traveling brothers and sisters who helped us successfully staff up and finish our jobs.

Congratulations to our 2009 graduating apprenticeship class: Casey Ray, Travis Rather, Jeremy Brooks, Brad Hale, Terry Basler, Rocky Estes, Amran Adkisson, Linda White and Matt Mehlom. Rocky Estes was



IBEW Local 270 members and travelers worked on a big D&N Electric job at the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant.

named the 2009 outstanding apprentice. He put forth great effort and dedication and his hard work paid off.

At press time, the Local 270 Family Fall Festival was set for Sept. 26. We invite everyone to the annual golf tournament on Oct. 24. For details call the hall or visit our Web site www.ibewlocal270.org.

Regina Guy, R.S.



Retired members of Local 292 gather for the 2009 retirees picnic.

New Officers Sworn In

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—On July 16, Local 280 had the honor of swearing in our new officers at our union meeting in Tangent. Let's welcome them and give them our full support! All positions had an excellent slate of candidates! The results were close and we thank all the fine members who ran for office to represent our union.

Newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew, Pres. Drew Lindsey, Vice Pres. Mike Spade, Rec. Sec. Eric Davis, Treas. Tim Miller; Executive Board members Joe Evans, Michael A. Murphy and Julie Emmett; and Examining Board members Larry Fisher, Susan Garstecki and Tom Mann. Delegates to the International Convention are: Tim Frew, Dan Campbell, Mike Spade, Wayne Lathrop, Tom Baumann and Tim Miller.

Bus. Mgr. Frew gave a heartfelt speech to the membership after being sworn in; he and his staff of Tom Baumann, Bill Kisselburgh and Lance Zifka are ready to serve the local. Outgoing business manager Tim Nicol received applause for his service as well.

Another big thank-you goes to Bro. Mike G. Murphy for his energy, loyalty and commitment for teaching our safety classes such as OSHA 30. Mike has always been there when we needed him and is a true union brother!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.

Retirees 'Paved the Way'

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—The annual retiree's picnic was June 10 at Wabun Park. This event is held to honor those members who helped build our union. Local 292 thanks the retirees for their longtime service.

Winning protections for worker rights did not come easy. It took diligence to earn what is just. Because of the passion of those retired, we have a solid foundation to build upon. Our retired members helped gain the comforts we enjoy today. It is through our freedom to organize and their hard work that gains were made. It is now our responsibility as

IBEW members to "further the purposes for which the IBEW is instituted." We took an oath to do so.

I appreciate the hard-fought gains for working people made by those before me. It is because of their service that I have all the tools I need to continue the pursuit of a safe and comfortable living for my family. Thank you, brothers and sisters.

Brandon L. Romann, P.S.

Hybrid Bucket Trucks

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Burlington Electric Department, in continuing its pursuit of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and improved air quality, has included in its fleet a first-of-its-kind bucket truck that represents a basic shift in the future of bucket truck engine technology. BED is a municipally owned power utility whose employees are represented by IBEW Local 300.

The truck, developed by Freightliner Trucks, together with Eaton Corp. and D.C. Bates, is a Freightliner Business Class M2e hybrid truck. It is equipped with an Eaton Hybrid Electric Drivetrain System and Posi Plus aerial device. The hybrid electric motor provides power to run the hydraulic pump for the aerial device and mounted equipment, improving fuel economy and greatly reducing emissions at the jobsite. Because the diesel engine only needs to run occasionally for the hybrid motor to recharge the lithium ion batteries, engine on-time is



Burlington (Vermont) Electric Department deploys a green technology hybrid bucket truck. BED employees are represented by IBEW Local 300.

significantly reduced while in electronic PTO mode. Fuel savings of 40 to 60 percent are anticipated, with commensurate reductions in emissions.

"In true IBEW fashion, our members at Burlington Electric Department are continually trailblazers in green technology," said Local 300 Bus. Mgr. Jeffrey Wimette. "This truck will reduce BED's carbon footprint and provides workers with cutting-edge technology to get the job done."

Matt Lash, P.S.

Kudos to 'Pension Brothers'

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—Congratulations and best wishes for a happy retirement to Bros. Gil Hart, John Collier, Steve Hinkle and Jim Huston. Concluding these careers was not an easy decision. They will be missed on the job, in the Training Center and at the Local.

Our annual golf outing ended at the sound of a nearby storm siren and a torrential downpour, but a good time was had by all.

The annual picnic, held at the Akron Zoo, was well-attended by members and their families. Retirees were well-represented, and a three-way tie for the biggest smile went to Howard Wood, Tony Felber and Chuck House! Thanks to the outstanding Local 306 Social Committee.

Benchmarks for economic recovery are slowly being revealed as the American economic engine chugs along. Working people hope and pray for continued improvement.

Work smart, work safe and most of all may you have work!

Bob Sallaz, P.S.

Union Picnic at Coyote Ranch

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—Local 332 held its 27th Annual Picnic at the Coyote Ranch on July 11. Over 1,200 attended the outing, which was a big success. Thanks to all who stepped up to help prepare and serve, with special thanks to the cooks, for making it a great day. The Retiree's Club staffed the ticket and service pin award table.

Thanks to the Members Assistance Committee for creating the beautiful gift baskets; the committee sold raffle tickets and had a drawing at the end of the picnic to benefit the Member Assistance Fund. Attendees enjoyed a horseshoe tournament, talent contest, pig calling and many other activities. Thanks again to the Picnic Committee for a great picnic.

At the July union meeting, members donated 54 pints of blood during our quarterly blood drive at the union hall. Thank-you, Cheryl Brady, for coordinating the blood drives. Great job.

Gerald Pfeiffer, Pres.

Local Launches New Web Site

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—This past summer our local launched our new Web site, designed by Oswego Creative. This site will be used as an organizing tool for new employers and new members, and also provide local union information for current members. Members can now check on daily job calls, get up-to-date news on members (accidents and illnesses, death notices), business office events, etc. The Web site will also be kept fresh with quarterly news briefs. Check it out at www.ibewlocal340.org.

Our membership picnic in September

Local Lines

(organized by our picnic committee and 2009 apprentice graduates) was attended by hundreds of active and retired members and their families. It was great to see everyone. We are planning a Pin Presentation Luncheon for our members receiving service pins for 50 or more years of service.

I wish I could report a better work picture, but at this writing work for Local 340, like many other locals, is very slow.

I am sorry to report the passing of active member Bro. Michael Kee and retired Bros. James Biggs, Paul Garcia, Norman L. Grothe, Robert R. Jenkins, James Muck, Jack Robblee, John Wyman and James Coatney (father of Local 340 member Nick Coatney).

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

A Salute for Service

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—U.S. Army Sgt. First Class and IBEW Local 364 Inside Apprentice Chris Collins recently returned from service in Afghanistan as a member of the Army Reserve. At the union meeting prior to his deployment, Bro. Collins was “conditionally” presented an IBEW Local 364 flag to fly at his base; Bus. Mgr. Darrin Golden made the presentation. The condition was that Bro. Collins and the flag return home safely at the end of his tour of duty.

Local 364 salutes and thanks Bro. Collins for his selfless sacrifice to defend our nation. Brother Collins returned home shortly after Labor Day, and we welcome him back.

The Local 364 softball team recently participated in both the August IBEW Midwest Regional and September Illinois State IBEW softball tournaments. They played very well and proudly represented our local.

Ray Pendzinski, P.S.



U.S. Army Sgt. and Rockford, IL, Local 364 Apprentice Chris Collins proudly flies the IBEW Local 364 union flag.

Midwest Renewable Energy Seminar

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—Local 388 sent three instructors to a five-day train-the-trainer session at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association in Custer, WI. Also attending were 21 other IBEW instructors from around the state. Attendees received instruction in solar photovoltaic systems and becoming site assessment certified.

The local thanks Julie Brazeau, Gregg Zipp and John Klosinski for participating in the seminar. As instructors, they will bring the training they received back to the local and set up classes for our members.

Thanks to members who helped set up temporary power at the Lincoln County Rodeo Days. Rodeo proceeds go to Children’s Miracle Network, which



IBEW volunteers provided temporary electrical setup at the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair. From left, front row: Local 577 Organizer Dan Rickel, Sixth District Int. Rep. Terry Roovers, and Local 388 members Rodney Gutenberger and Ronald Bores. Back row: Local 388 Instructor Julie Brazeau, Local 388 members John Siegel and David Jaeschke, Local 388 Organizer Guy LePage and Local 388 Executive Board member Robert Cyran.

benefits sick and disabled children in Wisconsin and other charitable organizations in Lincoln County.

Thanks also to members who helped set up temporary power at Midwest Renewable Energy Association for the annual energy fair, attended by 24,000 people from across the country. IBEW organizers from Wisconsin also had a greatly successful booth at the energy fair. It gave us a chance to talk to alternative energy contractors and the general public about benefits of working with the IBEW.

Local 388 does not see any projects coming up that would put all our members to work this winter. We thank the locals that are employing our members; it is greatly appreciated.

Guy LePage, B.R.

Tribute to Longtime Member

L.U. 412 (u), KANSAS CITY, MO—Union Steward “Mean” Joe Greene, toolroom attendant at Hawthorn Station, has worked with Kansas City Power & Light for over 60 years. He has been an active union member for more than 50 years.

As a union steward and former Local 412 Executive Board member, Brother Greene says: “It’s been a struggle and I hope I’ve been able to help



IBEW Kansas City, MO, Local 412 extends a tip of the hat to shop steward “Mean” Joe Greene, a longtime union member and KCP&L employee.



Participating in Local 502’s rigging course are, from left: Herb Huizinga, Tom Bass, Norm Dechenes, Denis Leblanc, Dan Seeley, Gary Clements, Adam Rogers, Ted Richard, Carson Dares and John Bosence.

lay the groundwork for the acceptance of minorities to come into the mainstream and be given equal opportunity.”

Debi Kidwiler, P.S.

Annual Pancake Breakfasts

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,sap&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—Sunny skies prevailed for our Annual Pancake Breakfasts held in Unit 2 Calgary in conjunction with the Calgary Stampede, and a week later, in Unit 1 during Edmonton’s “Capital Ex” exhibition. Rec. Sec. Dave Handley is “lead organizer for the Calgary function along with Unit 2 Chmn. Paul Stanicky and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Larry Gatner. They served a breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage/bacon and fruit, and then later for lunch smoked hot roast beef and trimmings.

The Edmonton Retirees served the same breakfast menu. A salute to “Chefs” Bob Hunter and Dennis Unguran, who tended the barbecue griddles, and to “Sous-Chefs” Russ Taylor, Ken Doucette and Bob Wright, who kept a food prep assembly line going so the chefs could stay ahead of the lineup of hungry members and their families. Gordon Thompson, Julio Bailon and Bill Luchak assisted with setup and take-down. Thank you to the “advisory committee” of wives Priscilla Taylor, Lynn Wright and Rachele Anderson, who helped greatly. Orest “The Banker” Zaozirny was on ticket sales and the planning committee. The Unit 1 crew raised \$300 for the Local 424 Retirees Fund. Although we underestimated the crowd a bit in Edmonton, with some fine-tuning, next year’s breakfast will be even better.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

JATC Instructors Attend NTI

L.U. 498 (c,catv,em,i&spa), TRAVERSE CITY, MI—At this writing work in our area is still slow. At press time our contractors are awaiting the results on some work that was bid during the summer.

Our annual picnic was Aug. 22 and we thank all who volunteered time and energy. We also send a hello to our members who are traveling around the country and overseas.

Our JATC instructors will attend training classes at the National Training Institute in Ann Arbor, MI, this year.

Members who have not received their service pins may pick them up at the hall.

Our local recently lost retired members Don Carls and Bill VanEpps. Our condolences go out to their families.

Timothy R. Babcock, P.S.

Rigging Courses Offered

L.U. 502 (c,em,i,it&t), ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—The Local 502 Training Center continues to offer the best in trades training to our members with rigging courses throughout this fall. New courses will be added as required.

The Point Lepreau Nuclear Station refurbishment continues to provide work for our local and valuable experience for our new apprentices. The Canaport LNG construction continues to wind down as the maintenance work now begins. We look forward to a busy fall with major work coming at the Irving Oil Refinery and the PotashCorp mine in Sussex.

July 2009 saw the last of many traveling brothers leave our jurisdiction, capping off 18 months of unprecedented work in our area. We sincerely appreciate the support we received from locals across Canada to bring in these major projects and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

The economic downturn caused the Eider Rock Refinery project to be postponed, if not cancelled. We will work diligently with our contractors to secure other opportunities for our members.

We mourn the passing of Bros. Gerald Hedburg, Frank Folkins and Fred Briggs.

Dave Stephen, P.S.

Service to Community

L.U. 508 (i,it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—Local 508 journeyman wireman Ken Morgan recently assisted with renovation of the new location of the Brantley County Emergency Medical Services Facility. This project will provide EMS employees with a professional atmosphere in which to work and train—which ultimately also benefits the entire community. Our local is proud of members like Ken who unselfishly give their time to worthy causes such as this.

Local 508 bids congratulations and farewell to



Local 508 member Ken Morgan (second from left) helped renovate a county emergency medical services facility. Shown with Morgan are EMS employees Marc Nadeau (left), Lorne Andraea, Mike Gamble and Brenda Crosby.

recently retired Int. Rep. Gerald "Jerry" Counihan. Jerry joined Local 508 in 1977 and served as business manager for two terms. He also served as secretary-treasurer for the Savannah Building Trades and the Georgia Electrical Workers Association. In 1988, he was appointed IBEW International Representative for the Fifth District. Jerry retired Aug. 1 after more than 30 years of IBEW service. On behalf of members of his home local, we thank Jerry for his service and devotion to the Brotherhood and wish him a happy retirement.

Judith Sheahan, P.S.

Sarnia Solar Farm Project

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Local 530 is pleased to have our workers back at Sarnia's solar farm. New owners and new technology are making this project better than before, employing many of our members.

On Aug. 7 we held our annual golf tournament at Huron Oaks Golf and Country Club in Brights Grove. While there were many prizes to be won, first place went to Nick Powell, Matt Worsley and Kevin Morgan with a score of 11 under par.

On Aug. 8 all members and their families were invited to attend Family Fun Day at Blue Water Funpark to enjoy play in pools, waterslides and bumperboats. The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time.

While work has picked up at home, we still have many members on the road and we thank Locals 1687, 804 and 529 for these jobs.

Local 530 is saddened to report the passing of retired Bro. Kenneth Brice.

Al Byers, P.S.

National Training Institute

L.U. 538 (i), DANVILLE, IL—This entry is being written from the hospitable city of Ann Arbor, MI, new home to the NJATC National Training Institute. The enthusiasm and excitement at the NTI event at the University of Michigan has been inspiring. It is humbling to be among so many IBEW members devoted to training, and rewarding to witness the level of commitment by the IBEW and NECA to continued education in our industry. NTI offers many training opportunities for members, outstanding apprentice graduates and longtime JATC members.

Our JATC 2009 Outstanding Apprentice is Matt Hinchee. Congratulations to Matt for a job well-done in his five-year apprenticeship. Matt had a superior grade point average, and he never missed a union meeting!

We are saddened by the passing of Bro. Fred Morris. Fred was initiated into the local in 1955. He



Local 538 retired Bro. Lauren "Gene" Carpenter receives his IBEW 50-year service pin. Following an illness, Bro. Carpenter passed away in mid-August.



Local 570 congratulates 2009 apprentice graduates. Front row, from left, are: Instructor Steve Lundvall; graduates Philip Blair, Alvaro Moreno, Kaji Reyes-Gertes, Michael Kozubal, Robert Crosland, Eric Bourgois, John Keys; back row, graduates Jesus Gonzales, Pedro Tachiquin, Joseph Hesselgrave and Greg Chmelik.

worked for Anderson Electric for 17 years and remained busy after retirement by helping at the YFRC (formerly YWCA). Our deepest condolences go out to Fred's family.

The work situation has not improved much in recent months; however, some of our journeymen have caught calls nearby. We thank the local unions that provide our members with much-needed work.

Kathie Porter, Training Dir.

New Training Center

L.U. 540 (i), CANTON, OH—As of this writing, Local 540 is gearing up for another apprenticeship school year. This year is especially exciting for us. We have just moved into our own training center. The class of 2014 will be the first class to have completed all five years at our new facility.

Along with the new training center we are also excited to have all our instructors NTI trained. The NJATC National Training Institute is an IBEW/NECA sponsored instructor training class that features professional educators from universities across the United States. The NTI offers a wide array of training opportunities and during the summer the institute offers a one-week class for apprenticeship instructors.

The great "pride" we have in being the best electrical workers in the world begins with the "best apprenticeship." The best apprenticeship hinges on having the "best instructors."

Here's looking forward to another successful apprenticeship year.

Jerry Bennett, P.S.

Service Awards Presented

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—The work situation in our jurisdiction has slowed considerably since the beginning of the year. Our construction members are seeking work across the nation. Hopefully relief will come soon.

Here at home, the local held a service-pin presentation at our regular meeting on June 22. Members present and receiving service pins were: for 60 years of service—Donald B. Canaday, William T. Peeden, Charles H. Wright; for 55-years of service—Henry D. Allen; 50 years—Bus. Mgr. James L. "Larry" Farmer, William G. Menne, Frank H. Stoll Jr.; 45 years—James R. Robbins; 40 years—Bobby R. Amos, Billy F. Williams; 35 years—William T. Peck, James T. Springer, Cleveland Williams; and 30 years—Ricky W. Austin, Michael D. Frye, Franklin D. Holt and Larry Smith.

See you at the next meeting.

Steve Crunk, Pres.

Kudos to Class of 2009

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ—IBEW Local 570 and the Tucson Electrical Joint Apprenticeship & Training Program congratulate the 2009 graduates.

We also wish to recognize the following:

- Awarded Outstanding Apprentice of the Year—Eric Bourgois;
- Awarded Overall Highest Average over the past five years—Greg Chmelik;
- Voted by his peers for overall highest effort during his apprenticeship—Philip Blair;
- Passed certification exam of the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP)—Robert Crosland;
- Awarded \$800 from the American Society of Professional Estimators for his commitment to community service—Jesus Gonzales.

The TEJATP had a good response with the first photovoltaic class and has two more classes scheduled. Local 570 started the Seventh District's new foreman training class. We had a good response to the first class, and at press time, had a second scheduled along with a New Member Orientation class for the incoming first-year apprentices.

The work picture is still very slow in Tucson and we are anxious for upcoming work to start.

Scott Toot, Org.

JATC Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 576 (i), ALEXANDRIA, LA—We congratulate the 2009 JATC graduates. Our fifth-year graduates are: Andrew Brown, Cody Brown, Jeremy Jones, Joseph Charrier, Erica Wilson and Joseph Milligan.

Joseph Milligan was our top apprentice for five years straight. We are proud of his exceptional achievements; he sets an example of what it means to be union!

JATC Dir. Johnny Cook is retiring this year but he will still teach our first-year students. We respectfully wish Bro. Cook a great retirement. He



Local 576 congratulates the class of 2009 JATC graduates.

has been a welcome and valued leader at our school for the last nine years.

We welcome Matthew Hennings as our new JATC director. He will be a great asset to the JATC.

Vikki Cole, P.S.

Brother Awarded 50-Year Pin

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Bro. Herman "Skip" Bonner was presented his 50-year pin at the July general meeting and received congratulations from officers and members in attendance. Bro. Bonner formerly served on the Executive Board and was very active in the local.

We extend sincere condolences to the families of two members who recently passed away, Coleman "Fuzz" Ridings and Kenneth McMahon.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.



Local 606 Herman "Skip" Bonner (second from left) receives his 50-year service award. From left are: Bus. Mgr. Harry Brown, Bro. Bonner, Pres. John Bregg, Executive Board member Bob Bartlett, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Rich Sikorski, Executive Board member James Krause, and Organizers/Executive Board members Fernando Rendon and Larry Kidd.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 612 (u), WHEATLAND, WY—In contract negotiations with Basin Electric Power Co-op, we are seeking an honest wage package, more vacation, and training for the safety and efficiency of our membership. Management's unwillingness to negotiate a fair contract has only increased our resolve. Our union thanks the core negotiation team of Bus. Mgr./Pres. Greg Masie, Vice Pres. William Allison, Rec. Sec. Kayleen Wunder and Fin. Sec. Scott Olson for their hard work, dedication and perseverance.

Every year, our members support many area charitable activities. This year many raffle tickets were sold for our college scholarship fund to benefit dependents of IBEW 612 members. The local donated \$3,500 in scholarship money this year. We thank Nick Cancino for donating four nights at his Las Vegas condo for our scholarship raffle.

Our stewards have all been busy. The recent outage created many unusual situations for our stewards; a few significant grievances were filed and are awaiting decision or arbitration.

Our annual fishing derby was a great success with over 120 entrants.

Local Lines

Everybody is hoping for relief from the massive amounts of overtime required in such a short time. We all want to return to our families. Remember to check all of your boundaries every day and follow all company rules.

Congratulations to Jonivan Stanley and Scott Aurich on successfully completing their apprenticeship. Best wishes to Al Schubic and Terry Rice on their recent retirement.

Scott Obertal, P.S.

'Inspiring Courage & Change'

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—Inspiring courage and influencing change—this is the mission of Rob Ellis, an amazing champion who began his campaign to raise the safety awareness of young workers after the tragic death of his son. The IBEW First District and Local 636 are proud to be partners in this noble cause. Support from our members has been remarkable, and we thank everyone who has stepped up to help.

So touched by Ellis' message, Local 636 Sister Erin Edwards went from the sidelines to the frontlines—working tirelessly with both her employer, Chatham-Kent Utility Services, and community leaders to coordinate a "Day of Champions" that will not be forgotten. [See photo below.] We salute her efforts and encourage all members to stand up against dangers in the workplace that resulted in the injury of 47,000 young people last year. We must do all we can to ensure that young workers are not left on the shoulder as we travel down the "Road to Zero" injuries.

It seems that unions are increasingly under attack; but those who criticize the guardians of social justice fail to recognize the many ways our members make a positive difference both in the workplace and the community. Stay strong—be union proud!

Paddy Vlanich, P.S.

'Getting the Word Out'

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—On Aug. 22 at our annual picnic, service pins were awarded. Award recipients are: 25-year member Warren Hyer; 30-year members Mark Bowden, Jerry Field, Michael Pease, Robert Strandwold, Don Sullivan, Scott Zeigler, Art Zimmerman; 35-year members Kevin Dunlop, Ron Fudala, Dan Murray, John Pacheco; 40-year members Steve Dunlop, Steve Gardebheir, Larry Partridge, Gary Robbins, Jerry Williams; 45-year members Wayne Arlberg, Billy Brewer, Carlos Herrera, Norman McCown, Russ Sargent; 50-year members James Drummer, Richard Peabody, Frank Silveria; and 60-year member Bill Siglin. Congratulations to all for a job well-done.



Helmets to Hardhats Night at Ballgame

IBEW Phoenix, AZ, Local 640 apprentices Jose Coria (second from left) and Tim Arellano (right) were among the union military veterans in the Helmets to Hardhats program honored on the ball field during an Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game.

On Aug. 5 our members manned the central labor council booth at the Stanislaus County Fair and on July 25 we manned the labor council booth at the Merced County Fair. We are getting the word out.

Torrey Newton, P.S.

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 688 (em,i,t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—We welcome journeyman installer technician Brad Cooperrider and apprentices Josh Craft, Dustin Endicott, Michael Greszler, Jamie Heacock and Dusty Milligan, who were inducted as new members on July 14.

Congratulations to our newest journeyman, Mike Crider, who topped out in July.

Thanks to all who donated time and expertise at the City of Ontario July 4th Festival to provide power for rides, games and food vendors. Volunteers were: Mark Danals, Tony Finley, Jim Herrick, Carl Nuetzling, Denny Spangler and Jake Thompson

On July 22, the Red Cross held a blood drive at our union hall. Thank you to all the people who participated.

Dan Lloyd, P.S.

'We Can Make a Difference'

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—We have 120 on Book 1 and 750-plus on Book 2. School work kept our book moving earlier, but was short lived. Midland Country Club was awarded fair.

"Buy American" sounds easy, but it actually

requires some effort to find American made and assembled products. It's hard to spot companies that maintain manufacturing operations in the U.S. and Canada. As union members, we should search out these products. For big purchases, such as cars or trucks, it's easier to determine, but with many other items, it's difficult to tell.

Barcodes help indicate where goods come from. The first three digits of the barcode are the country code where the product was made: 00-13 Made In USA, 30-37 France, 40-44 Germany, 49 Japan, 50 UK, 57 Denmark, 64 Finland, 76 Switzerland, 471 Taiwan, 480-489 Philippines, 628 Saudi Arabia, 629 United Arab Emirates, 690-695 China, 740-745 Central America. Some items may say where they are made. Barcodes are not foolproof; some countries ship their goods to nearby countries and barcodes get put on there, but they won't have the USA code.

The bottom line: It's hard to buy all goods made in USA, but by making an effort we can make a difference, help our economy and feel good about it.

Our condolences to the families and friends of recently deceased retired brothers: William R. Clayton, William J. Allen, Jack A. Rolley.

Tom Bartosek, P.S.

Golf Outing Benefit

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa, st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—Our Annual Golf Outing was held June 19 on behalf of the Poshard Foundation. Those



Local 702 Bus. Mgr. Paul Noble (right) presents donation to Glenn and Jo Poshard of the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children.

in attendance raised \$18,331 for the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children in our communities. We had excellent participation and thank everyone involved for such a worthwhile organization. Visit our Web site at www.ibew702.org to view pictures of the golf outing.

We currently have 23 on the journeyman wireman Book 1 out-of-work list and 1,000 on the journeyman wireman Book 2 out-of-work list. Our work picture continues to improve, in our Outside Construction and Line Clearance.

Frontier Communications has made acquisition to purchase Verizon in 14 states. Locals 21, 51 and 702 have intervened in the sale and will be involved in all proceedings going forward.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

Election Season

L.U. 716 (em,i,lctt,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—I hope this finds all members well. At this writing, we are dealing with oppressive heat in Houston and we look forward to cooler weather. The work picture is not terribly bad at this writing, but we do have members on Book I. By publication of this article, negotiations will have been concluded on a new inside contract agreement, with the likelihood of outstanding issues having been brought before the CIR for resolution.

I hope the membership and their families enjoyed the Brotherhood Bash Picnic and the Labor Day celebration.

Congratulations to all retirees who recently received service pins. A special thank-you goes to John D. Heinlein for 70 years of service.

We welcome our new members, including apprentices who made membership recently.

With the election season upon us and city council races in full swing, I encourage all members and their families to get involved. The AFL-CIO Labor Neighbor program is sponsoring block walking every Saturday. Let's get our labor-friendly candidates elected.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to members and their families who recently lost loved ones.

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



Chatham-Kent Team of Champions, from left: Tomo Matesic, CKUS president; Rob Ellis; Randy Hope, mayor of Chatham-Kent; Erin Edwards, Local 636 Executive Board member; Hugh Bridgen, CKUS Metering director; Pat Caron, CKUS Customer Service manager; Local 636 member Tracy Richmond, Joint Health & Safety Committee and CKUS customer service rep; and Gary Aitken, C-K Hydro Risk Management officer.

Give It Your Best Shot

Enter the 2009 IBEW Photo Contest Today!

Have you got an eye for captivating images? Visit www.ibew.org to enter this year's competition, in which \$500 in prizes will be awarded to the best artists. Like last year, IBEW members will vote on their favorite photos—so break out those cameras and see what develops!

Now—
Enter online.
Visit www.ibew.org.

DEADLINE: November 30, 2009

FULL CONTEST RULES AT WWW.IBEW.ORG



Local 756 congratulates 2009 apprentice graduating class. Front row, from left: Training Dir. Scott Jarvis; graduates Greg Hood, Eric Tagliamonte, T.J. Lawson, Sean O'Brien; back row, graduates Don Chambers, Jesse Williams, James Oswald, Greg Henry, Andrew Peters, Andrew Hanson; and Instructor Jim Downs.

Topping Out

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Local 756 is proud to announce the recent graduation of our fifth-year apprentices. The class of 10 students was honored at a ceremony held at the local's meeting hall Aug. 15. Bus. Mgr. Steve Williams, Pres. Dan Hunt, JATC Dir. Scott Jarvis, the Apprenticeship Committee, the Executive Board and family members were in attendance to honor the graduates. Special guest speaker Richard Melton, from the Florida State Bureau of Apprenticeship, gave a fine congratulatory speech to the new union journeymen. It is a testament to perseverance to complete a demanding, yet fulfilling, five-year apprenticeship program in the IBEW. Special congratulations to Eric C. Tagliamonte, overall Outstanding Apprentice Award recipient.

A new class of 25 began as first-year apprentices on Aug. 25. We wish the new class and the graduating class best of luck in their journeys.

Daniel Hunt, P.S.

Habitat for Humanity Blitz

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Congratulations to the Knoxville JATC class of 2009 apprentice graduates.

Local 760, along with Knoxville NECA and the Knoxville JATC, partnered with Habitat for Humanity to complete a 2009 six-house blitz. The Knoxville NECA contractors that participated were: Progression Electric, Standard Electric, Tennessee Associated Electric, Service 1 Electric and BESCO Electric. Thank you to all who participated. IBEW is on the move!

Congratulations to members who received 20-through 45-year service pins at a recent Local 760 regular meeting. At this writing, plans were under way for the local to present 50- through 65-year pins to eligible members. Congratulations to all honorees. We couldn't do it without you!

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



Newly elected 824 officers were sworn in July 3. Gathered are, from left, back row: Rec. Sec. Dora Mullis, Pres. Erik Jones, Bus. Mgr. Robert J. Prunn, Treas. Dan Kemmeling; front row, Executive Board members Michelle Agne and Lee Richardson; Bus. Rep. John Glye, Executive Board member Noah Kaaa, Vice Pres. Wendell Greenhalgh, and Executive Board members Keith LaPlant, Dan Wagner, Danny Alfonso and Todd Bolick.

Service Pins Awarded

L.U. 776 (i,o,rts&spa), CHARLESTON, SC—Our local had the recent privilege of honoring three members with their service award pins. Creighton Kelly received his 65-year pin, Robert "Shine" Wyndham Sr. his 60-year pin, and John "Jackie" Butler a 40-year pin.

That comes to a grand total of 165 years of loyalty to this local and our Brotherhood. For that we are very thankful. Local 776 thanks these gentlemen for all their hard work, support and practical jokes.

Chuck Moore, B.M.



Local 776 service award recipients are, from left: 65-year member Creighton Kelly, 60-year member Robert Wyndham Sr., and 40-year member John Butler.

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 824 (t), TAMPA, FL—We are pleased to announce the election of new officers and Executive Board members for Local 824. [See photo below.] Votes were counted on June 6 and the swearing-in ceremony was held at the July 3 general meeting. The hall was full of loyal union brothers and sisters.

Bus. Mgr. Prunn thanked our previous business manager, Doug Sellars, for his years of work at the hall and for helping the transition go smoothly. Everyone joined a standing ovation to honor retiring president Harrison Thornhill for his

longtime service and dedication.

Please visit our updated Web site at www.local824.org for the latest news and information.

Dawn Livingston, P.S.

Dedicated Trade Unionist

L.U. 910 (i&rts), WATERTOWN, NY—The 2008-2009 apprentice classes were completed in the spring. Congratulations to the apprentice graduates: Eric Bombardier, Frank Boyer Jr., Peter "Joe" Cornea, Brian Fikes, Chris Lewis, Bryan Pharoah, Melissa Rogers, Randy Trombly and Chad VanBrocklin.

The first journeyman photovoltaic classes were completed for both Plattsburgh and Watertown.

Asst. Bus. Mgr. Thomas Millea decided to retire after 35 years in the electrical industry. Bro. Millea served former Local 781 and Local 910 in several capacities. For then Local 781, he served on the Executive Board and the Apprentice Committee; and as apprentice instructor, training director and organizer. In 1990 he was appointed 781 business manager. He served in that office until the merger with Local 910 in 1993, at which time Tom was appointed assistant to then Local 910 business manager George Intschert.

Bro. Millea has been an active member of the local community and of the Plattsburgh/Saranac Lake Building Trades Council, having served as its president from 1992 - 2008. He is a delegate to the Northeast Central Labor Council and a member of the Industrial Development Agency and Workforce Investment Boards. Tom is also the labor representative for the City of Plattsburgh Economic Development Zone and he's active with the area United Way, Boy Scouts, Elks, Rotary, and Clinton Community College Foundation.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

Half Century of Service

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—Bro. Bernie Young received his 55-year membership pin at the August meeting. Bernie was our local business manager from 1963-75; was active with the start-up of the first HMO in Tucson; and returned to the power plant in July 2005. Since retiring, he has stayed active assisting retired union members with Social Security and Medicare issues. Two other retired service award honorees were unable to attend the meeting: 65-year member Wesley Bramhall and 50-year member Rayel Lozano. Together, Bros. Young, Bramhall and Lozano represent 170 years of union membership.

Welcome to new members: Jason Lock, Norman See, Josh Myers, Gary Sympson, Ricky Barraza, Ryan Bliss, James Cosgrove, Dallas Cox, Brandon Garcia, Alan Laney, James Miller, Roman Romero, Jon Salazar, James Thomas, Chase Vaughan, Robert Vaughan, Jason Hobson, Robb Norton, John Miaglia, Patrick Dempsey, Joseph Sanders, Nathaniel Hartley, Christopher Hill, Michael Strickland and Mindy Stewart.

Hopefully our December issue will have good news on contract negotiations with SES

and Asplundh members. The negotiating committees are working hard in these difficult economic times to get the best for our members.

R. Cavaletto, P.S.

Community Activist Network

L.U. 1306 (uow), DECATUR, IL—Our local union's benefit agreement with AmerenIP has been carried forward "status quo" through June 2012. We sincerely thank Sister Kim Williamson for her time and effort with this interest arbitration case.

Congratulations to Steven Johnson, who was selected as our 2009 Kenneth G. Coleman scholarship winner. Steven is the son of Local 1306 member Debbie Johnson, who works at AmerenIP's Galesburg office.

Congratulations to Bros. David Kuepper and Charles David on becoming senior engineering representatives.

Sisters Rhonda Gooding, Karlene Knisley and Connie Schabowski are recent graduates of the 2009 Union Community Activist Network (UCAN) class held in Decatur. Bus. Mgr. Knisley was awarded the Helen Duncan Labor Award at the 2009 Women of Excellence Awards.

We thank the following members who volunteered to serve as union stewards: Nikki Taylor, Brauder Smith, Sara Reynolds, Earline Allen, Arlene Trusner, Veronica Beck and Heather West.

Please support your local union by attending your unit meetings.

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

Officers Sworn In

L.U. 2324 (t), SPRINGFIELD, MA—Elections for all Local 2324 officers were held during June 2009. On July 6, Int. Rep. Carol Fitzgerald swore in Bus. Mgr. John Rowley and the newly elected Executive Board members to serve three-year terms. We congratulate all, including outgoing board members, and thank them for their service to the IBEW.

Congratulations also to Dr. Paul Mark, former Unit 2 Pittsfield chairman and now a Local 2325 member, on receiving his law degree from Suffolk University in Boston, and his doctorate in letters degree from Northeastern University in Boston. Good job, Doctor Mark. Education is the key to our future success.

Joe Floyd, P.S.



Newly elected Local 2324 officers are, from left, front row: Executive Board members Todd Lincoln—Unit 4 N. Adams/Great Barrington, and Chris Casino—Traffic at Large; Rec. Sec. Ann Bonneville, Treas. Katherine A. Collins, Vice Pres. Joseph Floyd; back row, Executive Board members Joseph O'Brien—Plant at Large, and Matt MacDonnell—Unit 1 Springfield; Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. John D. Rowley Sr., Pres. Martin Feid and Int. Rep. Carol Fitzgerald. Not pictured: Executive Board members Paul Danielczuk—AVAYA at Large, Don Wasuk—Unit 2 Pittsfield, and Jesse Kovalsick—Unit 3 Northampton.



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 is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairman
Robert W. Pierson

First District
Joseph P. Calabro

Second District
Myles J. Calvey

Third District
John R. Clarke

Fourth District
William W. Riley

Fifth District
Stephen Schoemehl

Sixth District
Gregory A. Lucero

Seventh District
Patrick Lavin

Eighth District
Rick Dowling

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

First District
Phillip J. Flemming

Second District
Frank J. Carroll

Third District
Donald C. Siegel

Fourth District
Salvatore J. Chilia

Fifth District
Joe S. Davis

Sixth District
Joseph F. Lohman

Seventh District
Jonathan B. Gardner

Eighth District
Ted C. Jensen

Ninth District
Michael S. Mowrey

Tenth District
Robert P. Klein

Eleventh District
Curtis E. Henke

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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Edwin D. Hill

C. James Spellane

Mark Brueggenjohann

Mike Nugent

Malinda Brent

Len Shindel

Carol Fisher

Alex Hogan

Lucas Oswald

James H. Jones

Len Turner

FROM THE OFFICERS**Tough Choices, Better Future**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Anguish grows as thousands of IBEW journeymen and apprentices are still out of work. Some have exhausted unemployment benefits; others could soon.

Some unemployed journeymen and apprentices are now suggesting that they would be working today if only the Brotherhood hadn't agreed to negotiate alternate agreements and establish construction electrician and construction wireman classifications in their jurisdictions.

I understand the distress that comes from being out of work, but blaming unemployment on the efforts of our Brotherhood to establish job classifications to help us move into new sectors of the electrical construction market is just plain self-defeating.

Our nation's manufacturing-based economy—which provided thousands of big jobs for our members in steel mills and power plants—has changed. In this boom and bust economy it's *more important than ever* for our contractors to challenge their nonunion competitors in the small commercial and residential markets that many of our locals conceded years ago.

When our employers submit winning bids in those markets—using composite crews—we will gain *more* manhours, not just for CEs and CWs, but for journeymen and apprentices.

Can our alternate works agreements be abused? You bet they can. It takes strong local leaders and our *members standing behind them* to keep contractors honest.

Any new program will have growing pains, but those members who say that by negotiating alternate agreements, we are no better than the players in the nonunion sector of our trade are dead wrong. The IBEW is the *only* organization that exists solely to better wages and conditions for everyone in our craft.

Organizing the work goes hand-in-hand with organizing new members. A video posted on the IBEW Web site shows unemployed members in Jacksonville, Fla. continuing to organize despite the economic downturn.

A member commenting on the Jacksonville video on the IBEW's Facebook page states the case as well as I can: "When we have all of the electrical workers, or at least the biggest majority," writes the member, "the contractors will have to come to us ... not because they want to, but because they have to." That brother gets it. ■

Doing the Right Thing on Trade

When the International Trade Commission found China guilty of violating Section 421 of the Trade Act for swamping the United States with cheap tires, threatening the future of our domestic tire industry, President Obama was presented with the first major trade test of his administration.

Was his talk on the campaign trail about defending our existing trade laws and standing up for American manufacturing for real or just more Washington double talk?

Obama could have taken the easy route and let China continue to violate existing World Trade Organization rules by letting surging imports put a major domestic industry out of business.

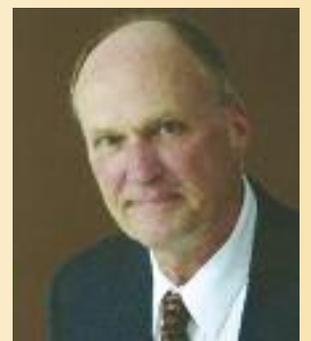
But he didn't. Despite having more than enough on his legislative plate already, Obama slapped a 35 percent tariff on Chinese tire imports, hopefully slowing the surge and giving some relief to embattled rubber workers who have seen their industry decline by almost 30 percent in the last five years.

We do have laws that, on paper at least, uphold a modicum of safeguards against unfair trade. The problem is that there has been little political will to enforce them. When China was granted Permanent Normalized Trade Relations in 2000, Section 421—the anti-surge provision—was added to the Trade Act to help convince congressional representatives that free trade with China wouldn't lead to a massive wave of cheap imports.

But the Bush administration turned down the ITC's recommendation to invoke Section 421 four times to counter such surges during his time in office.

Both the Chinese government and the dogmatic free-trade pundits in Washington are now predicting an immediate trade war in the wake of Obama's decision. Fear-mongering and empty threats should have no role in real discussions on how to make our trade laws work for everyone.

At least four other nations have already adopted similar restrictions on Chinese imports without any drastic impact on the world economy. Rules set up to help protect workers and companies from unfair competition abroad should be taken seriously by lawmakers, and it's refreshing to finally have a president who's willing to make the tough calls to do so. ■



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

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Letters to the Editor

Cleaner, Safer Power for the Future

I have to disagree with Jakob Juntunen (The Electrical Worker, August 2009, Letters to the Editor) on his letter "A More Sustainable IBEW." While I agree that the IBEW has to move forward to survive, promoting clean coal and nuclear energy does exactly that. Clean burning coal has come a long way from the Dodge Dart era. And as for the nuclear energy sector, nuclear is a very safe and clean manufacturer of energy.

Designs and safety have made such monumental gains that nuclear energy is a major supplier in other parts of the world. Both of these industries have made great strides. They're safer, cleaner, more economical and—here is the kicker—a lot of IBEW jobs are created and kept intact with these energy producers. I, for one, am a proud member of the IBEW family and embrace all IBEW members and their livelihoods.

To call nuclear or coal outdated is like calling renewable energy and environmental issues futuristic ideas. This is not true. All energy produced by IBEW members is a union-produced commodity, and I am more than happy to say that I belong to this organization.

Mark Schrack
Local 1096 member, Blairsville, Pa.

A Proud Sister

After reading a recent Local Lines article, as well as a new revision of an NJATC class book, I have been taken back by the new political correctness being demonstrated in an effort to not offend the women of the IBEW. The "B" in IBEW stands for Brotherhood, and I am a proud sister in this Brotherhood. I am not a journeyperson or wireperson, but a journeyman wireman in this Brotherhood. I worked hard to be a sister in this Brotherhood and take offense in being called otherwise. No disrespect to my fellow brothers and sisters, but please keep our traditions in place and not allow a few to change the path that so many paved before women were a part of this great Brotherhood.

Theresa King
Local 915 member, Tampa, Fla.

Kudos to N.Y. Local

I was hired by Verizon in Buffalo, New York as a service representative in April. This was truly life-saving for me, because I had to leave my job as a service representative in Los Angeles with AT&T to come home.

I want to thank the hard-working members of Syracuse, N.Y., Local 2213 for doing such a superior job that the upper management chose to hire so many people in this economically hard-hit area of the state. If it wasn't for their excellent work and dedication to quality, I would still be looking for a job that paid me a living wage and benefits.

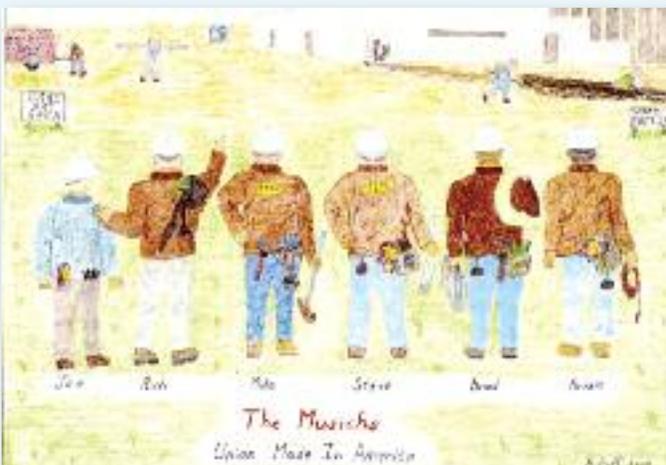
A heartfelt thank you to all the members of IBEW 2213.

Robert A. Knight
Local 2213 member, Syracuse, N.Y.

IBEW Tradition Inspires Artist

A very good friend of mine, Bob Heffelfinger, at age 75, took a course in art and one of his first creations was this drawing of four generations of proud electricians—members of Aurora, Ill., Local 461. We represent many years of loyal service to the IBEW and hope we will see a few more generations follow in our footsteps.

Richard M. Musich
Local 461 retiree, Aurora, Ill.



Who We Are

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

"Power Couple" Gives Nearly a Century of Service

As Frank and Monica Maher retire from the top two jobs at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Local 320 this fall, the husband and wife leave behind a union legacy few other couples can match.

Frank, 79, and Monica, 57, have been together for decades—a major accomplishment, of course. But it's their combined time in the IBEW that really impresses their union brothers and sisters. Together, they've been involved with the Brotherhood for an amazing 95 years.

"We've done this as a team," said Frank, from the couple's home in New York's Hudson River Valley. "But I always know who's in charge. By day, I'm the boss. At home, she takes over."

After serving a tour of duty in the Far East during the Korean conflict, Frank started his union career in 1953, working as a gas mechanic and shop steward at Central Hudson Gas and Electric. By 1960, he was elected president and business manager of his local. He won those top posts again and again for the next 49 years—a tenure that makes him one of the longest-serving business managers in IBEW history.

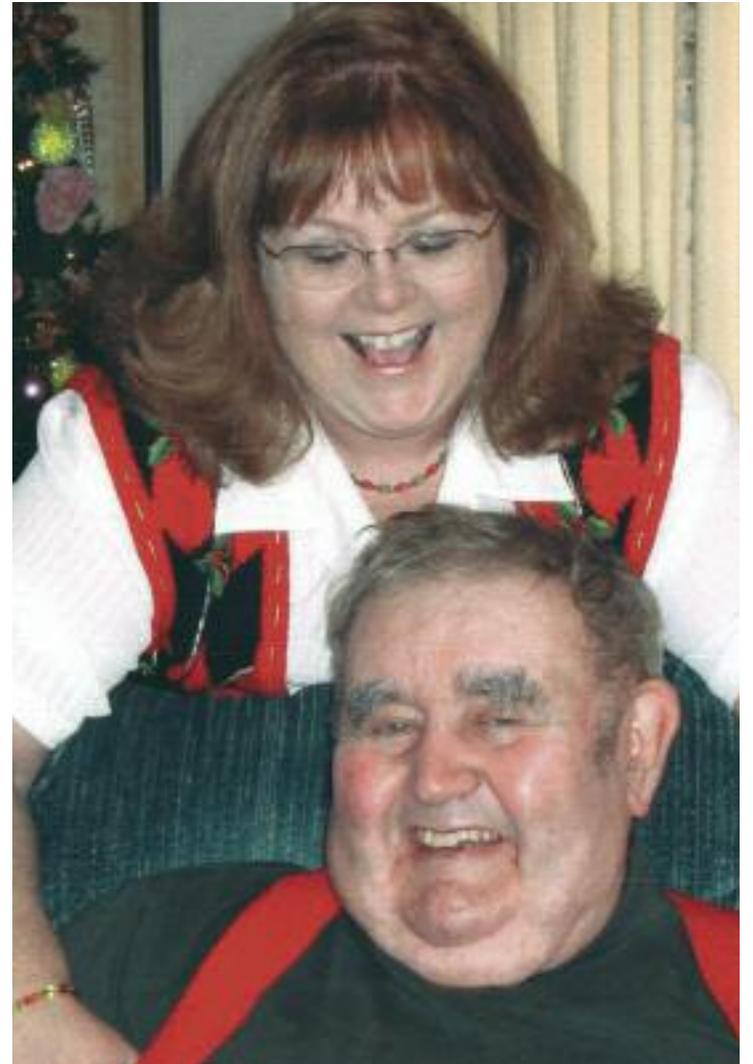
He got to know his future wife during contract negotiations at a utility company. Monica worked behind the reception desk and watched Frank come in and out, joking with her each time he passed by.

Monica would later become the first IBEW woman to graduate with a bachelor's degree from the labor studies program at Antioch University. She served as president and business manager of the now-defunct Local 2218, until it merged with Local 320 in 1999.

The couple has been together at the helm of their hometown union ever since.

"They are more than just a married couple," said Third District Vice President Don Siegel, who praises the Mahers' work and counts the couple among his friends. "They are also very good partners in leading Local 320."

Making it work has been a balancing act for this match made at the union hall. Monica praises Frank for



Frank and Monica Maher say teamwork is the best way to build a successful union—and a great marriage.

his listening skills. "He's the negotiator, and he loves to argue," she said. Frank praises his wife for her attention to detail. "She likes to write and read the fine print. It's been the perfect combination," he said.

After nearly a century of combined service, the couple's greatest reward comes from observing the lives of their friends and neighbors.

"My husband has helped make a huge difference in the quality of people's lives," Monica said, referring to Frank's years of negotiations benefiting local workers. "We see families that can send their kids to college, men and women who can retire with dignity and people who don't have to worry when they go to the hospital."

Frank, who made it through 19 or 20 union elections (he lost count at some point), said his proudest

career accomplishment is simply that he survived in a tough job all those years. His wife is urging him to spend part of his retirement writing a book about his experiences in the labor movement.

Both plan to keep paying their dues to Local 320. "We've done it for almost a hundred years, between the two of us," Monica laughs. "Why quit now?"

Frank, facing physical challenges, now uses a wheelchair to get around. Still, he and Monica are planning an ambitious road trip soon, with stops in Florida, New Orleans and Memphis. And, as usual, they'll be doing it together.

"We've always been a team," she said. "And so we thought, as a team, we'll just keep on going." ■

Notice to Employees Covered by IBEW Union Security Agreements: Fee Payers Objection Plan for 2010

Many collective bargaining agreements between employers and the IBEW or its local unions include "union security" provisions stating that employees must become and remain members of the union as a condition of employment. The National Labor Relations Act permits employers and unions to negotiate these clauses where they are not otherwise prohibited by state law. These provisions are also permitted under the Railway Labor Act and under many state public employee bargaining laws. Under these laws, employees may fulfill their "union security" obligations either by joining the union and thereby enjoying the full rights and benefits of union membership, or by simply fulfilling their financial obligations to the union.

Employees who elect to become agency fee payers—that is, who choose not to become full-fledged IBEW members—forefeit the right to enjoy a number of benefits available only to union members. For example, only union members are entitled to attend and participate in union meetings; to run for union office and to nominate and vote for candidates for union office; to participate in contract ratification and strike votes; to participate in the development and formulation of IBEW policies; to participate in the formulation of IBEW collective bargaining demands; and to serve as delegates to the International Convention.

Agency fee payers are generally charged the same dues and initiation fees uniformly required of IBEW members. However, agency fee payers who object to supporting certain union activities may pay a reduced fee to ensure that none of their money is used to support those activities. In particular, objec-

tors are charged only for activities or projects that are reasonably related to collective bargaining. Examples of such "chargeable" activities are negotiating collective bargaining agreements; meeting with employer representatives; meeting with employees on employment-related issues; participating in proceedings on behalf of workers under the grievance procedure, including arbitration; and managing internal union affairs.

Among activities considered "nonchargeable," which objectors are not required to support, are support of political candidates, general community service, legislative activities, certain costs of affiliation with non-IBEW organizations, and members-only benefits.

The IBEW Agency Fee Payers Objection Plan establishes the procedure for obtaining a fee reduction and is set forth in full below. By way of summary, the objection plan runs on a calendar year basis, and objections must be filed annually. Current fee payers who wish to file objections for calendar year 2010 must do so during the month of November 2009. Objections must be addressed to the International Secretary-Treasurer, IBEW, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, and must be postmarked during the November open period.

No special form is required to register an objection. However, please include your full name, your mailing address, the local union to which you pay fees, your nonmember identification number (if known), and your Social Security number. In addition, if you move during the year, please advise the International Secretary-Treasurer of your new address.

Dues and fees paid by employees covered by IBEW bargaining agreements consist of a portion payable to the local union and a portion that is transferred to the International. During January 2010, the International will mail a check reflecting the reduction in the International's portion of the fees to each objector who has filed a timely objection with the International Secretary-Treasurer, along with a detailed explanation of the basis for the fee reduction. Also during January, the local union that represents the objector will provide him or her with a reduction in its portion of the fees, either by sending a reduction check or by adjusting the amount of the objector's periodic payments, and will provide information explaining the basis for its reduction.

Employees who become fee payers at other times during the year (either because they are newly hired into the bargaining unit or because they resign from union membership) may file their objections for the balance of the calendar year during the first 30 days in which they are required to pay agency fees. Objections must be addressed to the International Secretary-Treasurer, and must be postmarked during the 30 days after the employee becomes obligated to pay agency fees. The International and the applicable local union will provide the objector with his or her reduction in fees for the balance of the calendar year as soon as they are able to verify the objector's status.

The reductions are based on the percentage of the unions' expenditures that were devoted to "chargeable" and "nonchargeable" activities during the previous fiscal year, as defined above. For example, the International determined that during its 2008 fiscal year, 51.91% of its expenditures were for "chargeable" activities and 49.09% of its expenditures were for "nonchargeable" activities. The locals' portions vary, with most local unions devoting between 90 and 95 percent of their annual expenditures to "chargeable" activities. In no year has any IBEW local union spent a smaller percentage of its expenditures on "chargeable" activities than the International, although some of the locals use the International's percentage to calculate their own annual reduction—thereby giving objectors a larger reduction than if the locals used their own figures.

The IBEW Agency Fee Payers Objection Plan

1. Nonmembers' Right to Object.

Any employee who is not a member of the IBEW and who pays agency fees to an IBEW local union (LU) pursuant to a collectively bargained union security provision in the United States has the right to object to expenditures of his or her fees for activities that are not reasonably related to collective bargaining. For purposes of this plan, such activities will be referred to as "nonchargeable activities." The agency fees paid by a fee payer who perfects an objection under the procedures set forth below will be reduced to reflect the expenditures of the LU and the IBEW that are used for "chargeable activities" (including, for example, negotiating and enforcing collective bargaining agreements, dealing with employers on employment-related concerns, and union administration).

2. Procedure for Filing Objections.

Objections must be made annually and will be effective for a single calendar year (January 1–

December 31). Notice of this plan will be published annually by the IBEW. Each fee payer who wishes to file an objection must do so in writing, addressed to the International Secretary-Treasurer (IST) at the International Office of the IBEW, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. In registering their objections, objectors must include their name and address, the LU to which they pay fees, their nonmember identification number, if known, and their Social Security number. Objections must be post marked during the month of November preceding the calendar year for which the objection will be in effect, or during the first 30 days after an employee becomes an agency fee payer (either by being hired or transferred into the bargaining unit, or by resigning from union membership) and becomes obligated to pay agency fees to an IBEW LU under a collective bargaining agreement. All objections must be renewed annually, during the month of November.

3. Reduction in Agency Fees.

The agency fees of nonmembers who file timely objections will be reduced for the 12-month period beginning January 1 of the year for which they are registering their objections, and ending December 31 of that calendar year. (Timely objections filed by employees who begin paying agency fees during the course of the year will be effective through December 31 of that year). Unless advised otherwise by their respective LUs, objectors will be expected to remit the full amount of fees charged by their respective LUs. No later than January 31 (or as soon as possible, in the case of timely mid-year objections), both the International and the LU to which the objector pays agency fees will mail to each objector who perfects his or her objection under this plan a check reflecting the reduction in payments to which he or she is entitled, or will otherwise advise the objectors how their payments will be reduced.

Agency fees are composed of a portion forwarded to the International as per capita payments, and a portion retained by the LU. When the IST receives timely objections, he will forward the names of the objectors to the LUs to which they pay their agency fees. As set forth in greater detail below, the International will determine the percentage reduction to be applied to the per capita portion of the objector's fees, and will issue checks reflecting the reduction in per capita payments to which objectors are entitled. In addition, each IBEW LU will establish its own procedure for determining the reduction in its portion of the agency fees and for reducing the objectors' payments by the appropriate amounts.

4. Calculation of Reduction in Per Capita Payments.

Before the beginning of the calendar year, the IST will calculate the International's per capita reduction as follows: The IST will determine the International's total operating expenditures for all purposes during the preceding fiscal year, the expenditures made for activities that are chargeable to objectors, and the nonchargeable expenditures. The IST will then calculate the ratio of chargeable and nonchargeable expenditures to total expenditures. The International's expenditures and calculations will be verified by an independent auditor.

5. Per Capita Reduction Check.

No later than January 31 (or as soon as possi-

ble after receiving a timely mid-year objection), the IST will mail each individual who has filed a timely objection a check representing the reduction in per capita payments to which he or she is entitled for the entire calendar year. The reduction checks will be accompanied by a description of the major categories of expenditures, an explanation of how the amount of the reduction was determined and an explanation of the appeal procedure.

6. Appeal to Impartial Arbitrator.

An objector who has filed a timely objection and who believes that the per capita reduction provided by the IST does not accurately reflect the International's expenditures on chargeable activities may appeal to an independent arbitrator.

- The appeal must be made in writing and must be received in the office of the IST within 30 days of the date on which the IST mails the objector his or her per capita reduction check. The appeal should explain the basis of the challenge.
- The impartial arbitrator will be appointed by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) through its Rules for Impartial Determination of Union Fees, issued on June 1, 1986.
- Such appeals will be consolidated to the extent practicable and heard as soon as the AAA can schedule the arbitration. The presentation to the arbitrator will be either in writing or at a hearing, if requested by any objector(s). If a hearing is held, any objector who does not wish to attend may submit his or her views in writing by the date of the hearing. If a hearing is not requested, the arbitrator will set a date by which all written submissions must be received and will decide the case based on the records submitted. The International will bear the burden of justifying its calculations.
- The costs of the arbitrator's services and any proceedings before the arbitrator will be borne by the International. Individually incurred costs will be borne by the party incurring them.
- While the appeal is pending, the IST will hold in escrow a portion of the fees paid by objectors in an amount sufficient to insure that the portion of the fee reasonably in dispute will not be expended during the appeal procedure. In the event that the impartial arbitrator determines that the objectors are entitled to a greater reduction in their fee payments than that calculated by the IST, additional checks will be issued for the balance of the reduction due, as determined by the arbitrator.

7. Appeals from Local Union Fee Reductions.

An objector who has filed a timely objection and who believes that the reduction provided by the LU to which he or she pays agency fees does not accurately reflect the LU's expenditures on chargeable activities may appeal through procedures established by the LU. An objector challenging both the International's and the LU's reductions must appeal through the procedure specified in paragraph 6.a., except that the appeal must be received in the office of the IST within 30 days of (a) the date on which the International mailed the objector the per capita reduction or (b) the date on which the LU mailed its reduction, whichever is later. ■

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