

Carhartt

After a year of tense relations, clothing manufacturer Carhartt Inc. signed a Project Labor Agreement to build union at future sites. That signing represents a victory for IBEW Local 1701, Owensboro, Kentucky, where Business Manager Harold Baggett and Organizer Gary Osborne mounted an extensive effort while Carhartt was building a \$23 million facility in Hanson, Kentucky, non-union with a Tennessee contractor. The local's full year of effort won high praise from AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades President Robert A. Georgine, who signed the agreement with Carhartt CEO Verlon Prewitz on November 9.

While losing one battle, Brother Baggett, who is also president of the Owensboro Building and Construction Trades Council, was directing a campaign that won the war. The extensive campaign included requesting a boycott and publicizing a 1-800 number for union craft workers to use to protest to Carhartt headquarters—strategies that finally got Carhartt into the negotiations that led to the project agreement. The building trades council has now dropped the boycott request against Carhartt, which has union contracts with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) at some of its production sites.

Union Membership Rises

Union membership rose by more than 100,000 in 1998, according to the Bureau of Labor statistics, reflecting the new emphasis unions have placed on organizing. U.S. union membership rose from 16.1 to 16.2 million—

but unions had to organize 373,000 new members to produce that net gain of 100,000. The growth was primarily in the service, communications, utilities and government sectors, offset by losses in such sectors as manufacturing. A separate report on union elections shows that unions petitioned for 132 more NLRB elections in the first half of 1998 than in the year before and won slightly more of them—51.7 percent vs. 49.2 percent in 1997.

However, growth in union membership overall still lagged behind job growth. The percentage of workers belonging to unions declined from 14.1 percent to 13.9 percent of the total workforce. Union membership in the

private sector dipped from 9.7 percent to 9.5 percent of the workforce, but the public sector grew from 37.2 percent to 37.5 percent.

"This new data confirm that today's unions are on the right track," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. "Our commitment and dedication to organizing, at all levels of the labor movement, is beginning to bear fruit—but we still have a long way to go. We need to stay focused and redouble our efforts."

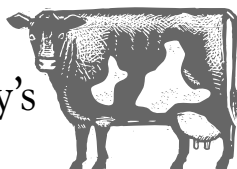
IBEW membership grew by approximately 5,100 in 1998. "We are very pleased with these increases, but we need to organize even more in 1999 and beyond," said International President J. J. Barry.

Viva President Barry



International President J. J. Barry received the José Lopez Memorial Award from the Santiago Iglesias Educational Society in a special ceremony October 3, 1998, in New York City, in recognition of his commitment to social justice and equal opportunity for all. The society, whose members belong to Local 3, is the oldest Latino labor organization in New York with a rich history of community involvement.

Ben & Jerry's & IBEW's



The maintenance workers at Ben & Jerry's ice cream plant in St. Albans, Vermont, are now members of IBEW Local 300, thanks to an 11-8 vote taken in December. Ben & Jerry's is somewhat of a phenomenon on the East Coast, cele-

brated for rapid growth and for being a "socially conscious" company. But the maintenance workers won their right to be represented by IBEW only after Local 300 Business Manager Tim Watkins successfully fought off an attempt by the company to change the unit.

Watkins filed for an election in late October, and the National Labor Rela-

tions Board established the maintenance department as a proper unit. The company appealed, attempting to switch the unit to all 150 employees at the St. Albans plant. Watkins recognized that move as a typical employer ploy to avoid unionization—and prevailed, both in the NLRB finding and in the final election. ■

T R A N S I T I O N S

Fourth District International Representative Dennis M. Johanyak announced his retirement, effective March 1, 1999. He has served the IBEW with distinction for over 39 years.

Brother Johanyak served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1954

to 1957. In December 1960, he was initiated into IBEW Local 306, Akron, Ohio, where he served as business manager/financial secretary from June 1969 to June 1984. He was a local union Executive Board member from July 1967 to June 1969, and he served on numerous local union committees including the: Negotiating, Labor-Management, Steward Training, and Building committees. He was a member of the Council on Industrial Relations from 1982 to 1984. He has also served as Executive Board member and secre-

R E T I R E D



**Dennis M.
Johanyak**

tary-treasurer of the Ohio State Conference of the IBEW.

On June 1, 1984, Brother Johanyak was appointed as an International Representative assigned to the Fourth District staff, where he served until his retirement.

Brother Johanyak attended Akron University and completed labor courses sponsored by Ohio State University. He has served widely within the labor movement and has held the following labor-related offices: vice president, Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council; president, Tri-County Building Trades Council; and Executive Board member, Akron Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

The IBEW extends best wishes to Brother Johanyak for a long and happy retirement. ■

The IBEW is saddened to announce the sudden, tragic death of Ninth District International Representative Richard T. Barrus on December 27, 1998. Brother Barrus was born in Port Byron, New York, on February 23, 1930. In January 1965 he was initiated into then-IBEW Local 2145, Vallejo, California, and served that local as chief steward and press secretary. In 1967 he was elected vice president of the Mare Island Naval Yard Metal Trades Council.

D E C E A S E D



**Richard T.
Barrus**

Brother Barrus was appointed International Representative in July 1968, assigned to government and shipyards, and served in that capacity until his death. He was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, where he served from November 1948 to November 1957. His civic associations included membership in the Elks and the American Legion.

The IBEW extends sincere sympathy to his family and friends. ■

With regret the Brotherhood announces the death of retired Second District International Representative John R. Keilty on December 12, 1998. Born in Watertown, Connecticut, on February 4, 1922, Brother Keilty was initiated into Local 420, Waterbury, Connecticut, on January 14, 1949.

After serving his local as vice president, president and business manager, he was appointed on February 1,

D E C E A S E D



**John R.
Keilty**

1966, as Second District International Representative. He retired June 1, 1988.

Brother Keilty was a Democratic representative to the Connecticut General Assembly from 1958 to 1970. He served in the U.S. Navy from April 1940 to December 1947 and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Knights of Columbus. The Brotherhood extends sincere sympathy to his wife, Annette, and family. ■