

U.S. Capitol Shows Quality of IBEW Work, 1913 & Today

They found it in the U.S. Capitol. "It's a single wire raceway over 80 years old and still in great shape, proving the quality of union work," say the members of Local 26, Washington, D.C., who are remodeling in the same area. They're working inside the dome of the U.S. Capitol, which wasn't there for Abraham Lincoln's first term, but was in place for his second inaugural in 1865.

Local 26 Business Representative Charles "Chuck" Graham said the raceway was installed around 1913, also by Local 26 members. Graham and the three members who are working on the job for the contractor AULSON—Brian Abercrombie, David Moore and Paul

Ratchford—identified the knob and tubing as the first system used for lighting when electric power came to the Capitol around the turn of the century. They're sending a piece of the 1913 work to the IBEW Archives at the International Office to share with other IBEW members. ■

Local 26 members found the date 1913 on work installed in the U.S. Capitol Dome by their predecessors in Local 26, and the date 1865 etched in elsewhere. From left to right are Local 26 members Paul Ratchford, Brian Abercrombie, Business Rep. Charles "Chuck" Graham, and David Moore.



Lane Kirkland: 1922-1999

Lane Kirkland, who brought all the major unions back together in the AFL-CIO during his 16 years as its president, died August 13, 1999, of lung cancer at his Washington, D.C. home. The day he was elected in 1979 to succeed George Meany, Kirkland issued a call for all unions to re-affiliate and in fewer than 10 years they were all back—Auto Workers, Teamsters, Mine Workers, Longshore & Warehouse Union and others, including the Locomotive Engineers who had never affiliated with the CIO or the AFL. "To know Lane Kirkland was to admire him," said IBEW International President J.J. Barry. "And those of us who had the privilege of working with him learned there was no limit to his courage and his dedication to the advancement of working people, at home and abroad."

Tributes to Kirkland from President Clinton, Vice President Gore and AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney all mentioned Kirkland's steadfastness in supporting workers' rights around the world, including support for the independent Polish *Solidarnosc* union that included smuggling \$6 million worth of printing and office equipment into Poland.

Born in South Carolina, Kirkland joined his union, the Masters, Mates and Pilots, as an 18-year-old Merchant Marine cadet in 1940, and served as a deck officer throughout World War II. After two years of night school, he got a degree in 1948 from Georgetown University, where AFL President Bill Green recruited him for the AFL staff. A gifted writer, Kirkland became executive assistant to Meany in 1961 and was elected AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer in 1969. He served 16 years as AFL-CIO president, resigning in August 1995 in the face of opposition to his reelection by a number of union leaders. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Irena Neumann Kirkland, and by five daughters from his first marriage. ■

IBEW-CERTIFIED SOLAR INSTALLERS

The Santa Clara County Electrical Training Center in San Jose, California, recently announced that 24 Solar/Photovoltaic installers completed training and were certified. The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee sponsoring the program is the product of a partnership between IBEW Local 332, San Jose, California, and the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). To demonstrate additional support for this technology, the training center has installed a 4kw solar/photovoltaic system on the roof of the center. ■



Above, the 1999 Solar Graduating Class.

TRANSITIONS

The Brotherhood is saddened to announce the death of International Representative J. Taylor Soop on August 2, 1999. Born in Lanesboro, Pennsylvania on February 17, 1907, Brother Soop became a member of Local Union 544, Hornell, New York, in 1928. After becoming president of his local, he was elected General Chairman of System Council 11 in

DECEASED



J. Taylor Soop

1946. He was then appointed to the Tenth District staff on September 1, 1953, from which he retired in April 1973. During his last years with the IBEW, Brother Soop served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the Railroad Reliability Employee Act (RELA).

After his retirement from the IBEW, Brother Soop was elected mayor of Lanesboro, where he served from 1977 to

1989. During his tenure as mayor, he was instrumental in obtaining grants of \$2.25 million to provide a new sewerage system for the entire town.

To his family, friends and the community of Lanesboro, the IBEW extends sincere sympathy. ■

It is with sincere regret that the IBEW announces the death of Audie R. Brewton on August 7, 1999. Brother Brewton was born in La Grange, Texas, on April 28, 1917, and was initiated into Local Union 716, Houston, Texas, in April 1942. He served that local as

DECEASED



Audie R. Brewton

business manager for four and a half years and then was appointed an International Representative on the Seventh District staff in August 1961, where he served until his retirement in May 1982. The IBEW extends sincere sympathy to his family and friends. ■