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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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Immense Oil Sands Project Challenges Unions

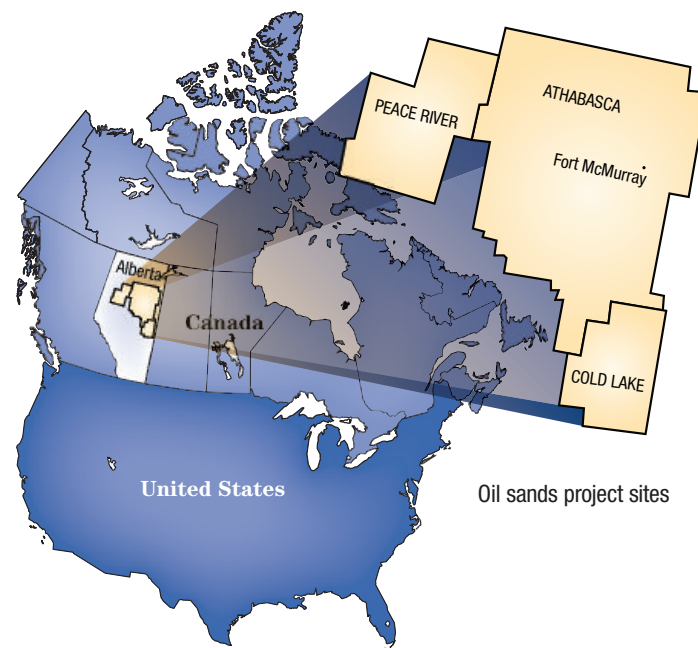
A labor dispute brewing in the “oil sands” of Western Canada could pack powerful consequences for building trades across the hemisphere. The clash pits traditionally strong building trades unions in Alberta against right-wing politicians, powerful oil companies, open shop contractor associations and the Christian Labor Association, a group infamous for signing sweetheart agreements with employers and undermining affiliates of the Canadian Labor Congress.

Last month five building trades unions, including the IBEW, conducted strike votes, the first such action since the 1970’s. The contracts expired on April 30.

The clash over wages and union security centers on a remote forest region where 11 companies lease land and employ 25,000 skilled building trades, including 2,500 members of the IBEW to extract oil. Their projects, in the area also called the “tar sands,” began slowly the 1960’s, but have grown to an estimated \$130 billion over the next 10 years as new technologies have developed to reap an expected 175 billion barrels of oil from the world’s second-largest reserve of petroleum behind Saudi Arabia’s rich fields.

The projects involve clear cutting forests, and moving tons of earth to locations where oil can be extracted, or pumping steam into the ground to heat the mixture of bitumen, a semi-solid form of crude oil, sand, and water to vacuum-pump the crude oil to the surface. Most of the crude is transported to the U.S. for refining.

“Ultimately, this struggle is about whether Western Canada will end up like the



U.S. South, a place where low union density draws employers who drive down the wages of workers across the nation,” says First District International Representative Larry Schell.

When exploration of the oil sands began in the 1960’s, unions negotiated an understanding with the companies and the provincial government that provided for 90 percent of the work to be performed by union workers and 10 percent by nonunion employees. Alberta’s labor code restricts the trades’ right to strike, requiring complex steps and super majorities of workers to approve a walkout.

The 90-10 union-nonunion ratio held until two years ago when Suncor, one of the eleven oil sands leaseholders, brought in two electrical contractors, whose employees are represented by the Christian Labor Association of Canada, which Schell describes as a tool of the employers. “Too often when we apply to organize a contractor, he shuts down the business and opens up the next week under a new name with the CLAC representing his workers.” In some cases, building trades unions have been called in to undo faulty work performed by the nonunion or CLAC-organized workers. Nevertheless, the oil companies’

search for nonunion workers—who will work cheaper without demanding strong safety protection—has gone international.

Despite hundreds of trades members, including 3,400 electricians out of work in Alberta, an airstrip built by oil companies mining the oil sands is landing planes full of “temporary workers” from all over the world who labor for substandard wages under dangerous conditions. Canadian newspapers widely reported on the deaths of three Chinese boilermakers employed by a Chinese-government-owned contractor who were killed when a tank collapsed in April.

In January, President Hill and general presidents of the Mechanical Allied Crafts met with owners of the oil sands companies to hear their concerns and discuss the unions’ objectives in negotiations.

The results of the strike vote by electricians, millwrights, pipefitters and refrigeration mechanics, ironworkers is still uncertain. Whether or not the members vote to strike, says Schell, union members working on the oil sands projects will not relent in the fight to preserve strong, independent unionism on the job and in the labor code of Alberta. ■

Immigration Bill Goes Down; Labor Law Reform Almost Passes

IBEW in Thick of Washington Debates

The IBEW and the labor movement at large can claim two legislative semi-victories in Washington D.C. this summer. Both the immigration bill and the struggle to reform labor laws—two subjects that affect wages, work conditions and the right to organize—failed in the Senate within two days of each other. But the debate goes on.

A repackaged version of comprehensive immigration legislation went down in flames in the Senate on June 28, the victim of a vehement grassroots push against it by the right and the left.

Building trades unions, including the IBEW, have been fighting the bill since it was first introduced on the grounds that its temporary worker program would create a new American underclass that would be ripe for exploitation and drive down wages for all.

Pressure from the right caused many Republican senators to vote against a motion to cut off debate and consider the bill itself. In the end, the 46-53 tally fell well short of the 60 ayes needed to overcome a filibuster.

“It’s clear the majority of the American people want this legislation. A majority of the House wants it. A majority of the Senate wants it. And we will keep coming back year after year.”

— Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill thanked members for their effort to defeat the bill. “We need to fix the immigration system in the United States, but this legislation was seriously flawed from the start,” he said. “As written, it represented an effort to complete the damage done by NAFTA and other trade deals by allowing companies to bring in guest workers and thus drive down wages and benefits for all workers. We will work with legislators of good faith in both parties to help craft a fair and sensible approach to this issue, but this bill wasn’t it.”

The fight for the Employee Free Choice Act moved to next year and the 2008 elections, when opponents blocked the bill that



Thousands of union members rally June 19 on Capitol Hill in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

would have ensured the right of working people to freely join a union from being brought to a vote.

Supporters of the act were unable to get the 60 votes required by Senate rules to force its consideration. The final vote on June 26 was 51-48. All Democrats voted for the motion. They were joined by the chamber’s two independents, Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Bernard Sanders of Vermont and one Republican, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania. All other Republicans voted against the motion, and thus in favor of killing the bill.

The bill—which was passed overwhelmingly by the house in March—would give employees at a workplace the right to unionize as soon as a majority signed union cards. Under current law, companies can make employees wait months, even years, for a secret ballot election. More than 100 rallies were staged across the country in June in support of the law, including one on Capitol Hill attended by a crowd estimated at 4,000.

Despite the setback, organized labor and pro-working family representatives vow that they will continue the fight for the law in the 2008 elections and beyond.

“It’s clear the majority of the American people want this legislation,” said Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), one of the bill’s sponsors. “A majority of the House wants it. A majority of the Senate wants it. And we will keep coming back year after year.” ■

IBEW Teams With NECA to Combat Anti-Contractor Measure

Businesses that treat workers with dignity and respect and pay decent wages and benefits should be valued by our nation’s lawmakers. But a provision slipped into a 2006 tax bill signed by President Bush would undermine the competitiveness of small and medium-sized construction contractors who do the right thing. Yet, no member of Congress is taking responsibility for how a 3 percent withholding requirement—which could obliterate already thin profit margins—made it into the law.

The National Electrical Contractors Association and several building trades-signatory contractor associations, including the IBEW and other unions, are lobbying to repeal the withholding measure set to go into effect in 2011. States and municipalities who will shoulder heavy administrative costs to implement its provisions are also opposing it. A bill sponsored by Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-Fla.) to repeal the withholding tax already has 103 co-sponsors.

Since the 2006 tax act continues cuts in capital gains taxes and changes the alternative minimum tax, lawmakers apparently saw this provision as a way to offset the lost income. Several provisions were added to the

bill to make it “revenue neutral.”

The withholding clause requires any government entity—federal, state or local—with an annual contracting budget of \$100 million or more (not just construction contracting) to withhold 3 percent from every payment on contracts. Currently employers withhold tax on wages paid to employees, but not for workers who are independent contractors. The withholding tax has been estimated to raise \$7 billion between 2011 and 2015 to reduce the underpayment of federal taxes.

But contractors on government jobs often post bonds and frequently have progress payments due them withheld up to an additional 10 percent, says Bruce Burton, International Representative, IBEW Political/Legislative Department. While they wait for their progress payments and their 3 percent withholding monies to be paid at the end of the tax year, their credit is tied up. “This provision can wipe them out,” he says.

“The gains to the government are cosmetic and minimal, and amount to a one-time accounting gimmick that wreaks real damage on contractors and state and local governments,” says NECA. ■

IBEW Members Approve New Four-Year Contract with GE

A new four-year contract between General Electric and 11 different unions was overwhelmingly ratified by union members in late June. Nearly 90 percent of the over 2,000 IBEW members working in manufacturing and as inside wiremen at GE voted “yes.”

“This agreement makes significant progress towards meeting the demands of GE employees, both active and retired,” said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill.

The new contract includes a projected raise of 16 percent over the life of the contract, a structural pension increase for members who retired before June 1, 2003, pension and pension supplement improvements and the addition of Veterans Day as a paid holiday.

Negotiations began in New York City between GE and the Coordinated Bargaining Committee of GE Unions—an umbrella group representing over 20,000 workers—in May. The CBC came to the table proposing wage and benefit improvements, more paid time off, benefit increases for retirees and a commitment to protect job security by investing in American workers. The new contract includes an increase in education and training assistance for workers affected by plant closings.

“GE must understand that we expect investments in our plants here in America,” a CBC negotiator said. “All of our plants need and deserve a commitment to making them the best in the world.”

Strengthening retiree benefits and pensions was one of the top bargaining issues, with the CBC demanding GE honor those who made the company one of the biggest and most profitable in the world. “It’s important for GE to realize that it’s finally time to take care of those who helped make the company what it is today,” International Union of Electronic Workers-Communication Workers of America GE Conference Board Chairman Bob Santamoor said. “(GE has) a responsibility to those who have outlived their pensions.”

Leaders of the United Electrical Workers and the IUE-CWA—the two largest unions at GE—reached a tentative agreement with the company on June 17. The terms of the contract were extended to the nine other members of the CBC.

System Council EM-5, which coordinates IBEW bargaining at GE, unanimously recommended the settlement offer. Local unions affiliated with the council are New York Local 3; Portland, Ore., Local 48; Chicago Local 134; Atlanta Local 613; Milwaukee Local 663; Houston Local 716; Medford, Mass., Local 1014; Lexington, Ky., Local 1627; Buffalo, N.Y., Local 1813; Bloomington, Ind., Local 2249; and Beaumont, Texas., Local 2286.

The unions with local contracts with GE are: the International Association of



IBEW Manufacturing Department Director Bob Roberts and Mary Riordan from the United Auto Workers begin talks with the General Electric Co. on the first day of negotiations.

Machinists, the United Auto Workers, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, the United Steelworkers, the Sheet Metal Workers, the Teamsters,

the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry, and the Service Employees International Union. ■

“GE has a responsibility to those who have outlived their pensions.”

— International Union of Electronic Workers-Communication Workers of America GE Conference Board Chairman Bob Santamoor

IBEW Strikers Beat the Odds at Illinois Racetrack

Members of Chicago Local 134 working at Hawthorne Race Course diligently sell tickets, calculate the odds and count hundreds of thousands of dollars during their six-hour shifts. But after working for 18 months without more money in their own pockets or a new contract and facing management threats to remove jobs from their bargaining unit, the 100-member unit struck on June 22.

A week later, they were back on the job after setting up around-the-clock picket lines, including a mass rally with over 100 supporters from Chicago Local 9, other IBEW locals and the Chicago building trades unions. All track workers will receive a \$1 per-hour increase in wages retroactive to January 2007. The union’s request for back pay for 2006 will be sent to arbitration. The union will also ask the arbitrator to set aside the track’s plan to remove calculator workers, assistant mutual managers, head money counters and their assistants from the bargaining unit.

Before the strike, management at the harness and thoroughbred track locked the gates, telling other members of Local 134—who operate the facility’s cameras—not to

come to work. They also waved off track workers represented by UNITE-HERE, United Food and Commercial Workers and the Teamsters.

Despite the strike, Hawthorne kept scheduling races, assigning managers and an outside firm to broadcast them by satellite across the country. Their decision didn’t sit well with members of Local 134 or the local labor movement.

Five days after the strike began, Local 134, which had removed picket lines at the track’s four gates every evening at 10 p.m., decided to extend them around the clock. Garbage and delivery trucks refused to cross the line. Then union supporters rallied.

“The track lost more in one week on bets, food and alcohol than they had to pay out in back wages,” says Local 134 Business Agent Mary Ellen Foley, praising Local 134 Business Manager Timothy Foley for his support.

“I’m going to the next Local 134 meeting to thank our members for bringing food and water to the picket lines and giving us such



Members of Chicago Local 134 successfully picket Hawthorne Race Course in June after working for 18 months without a pay raise or a contract.

great support,” says Bill Humpich, a third-generation IBEW racetrack worker. With members at Arlington Park, a thoroughbred track, and at harness tracks Maywood Park and Balmoral Park, the total IBEW work force is under 500. “We’re tiny compared to the construction membership, but they stood by us,” says Humpich. ■

Local 21 Leads Efforts to Pass Statewide Video Competition Law

An intense lobbying effort by members and allies of Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21 has resulted in the passage of one of the nation's strongest laws protecting consumers of cable television services and good union jobs in the industry.

The Cable and Video Competition Law, signed by Gov. Rod Blagojevich on June 30, will allow consumers more choice among cable providers by licensing cable services statewide, rather than under local franchise agreements. Comcast was often the first company to win local franchises. The firm spread union hostility in an industry that was only 5 percent organized. AT&T and Verizon, which employ thousands of IBEW and CWA members, entered the market later and have sometimes been shut out.

In Baltimore and other cities, Comcast gave officials tickets to sports events and other gifts prior to votes granting them licenses. In this anti-competitive environment, customer service suffered.

The new bill requires that companies maintain toll-free customer service lines and respond to 90 percent of calls within 30 seconds. Cable installation must be completed within seven days and service outages must be repaired within 48 hours.

"Video competition allows us to recoup over 3,000 jobs that our union has lost since 2001," says Ron Kastner, business manager of Local 21 and a member of IBEW's Telecommunications Reform Committee.



Hundreds of members of IBEW Local 21 rally at the Illinois State Capitol to push for a cable competition bill, which was signed into law in June.

"There are 2,500 union jobs promised to this local, and \$750 million that AT&T will invest in Illinois," he adds.

A dozen other states have passed similar legislation. The Illinois statute is one of the most progressive. In his column in

Frontline, Local 21's newspaper, Kastner tells Local 21 members: "Your involvement has been noticed, and it is the main reason I was asked by Illinois House Speaker [Michael] Madigan to be present at the table when the bill was being negotiated."

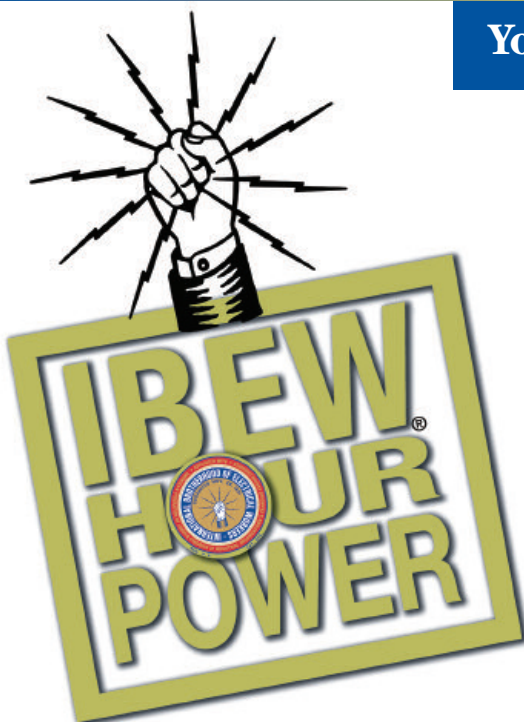
Approximately 500 stewards and activists rallied at the state capitol in favor of the bill. "As I looked into the masses of blue IBEW 21 shirts I had a lump in my throat and held back tears watching all of our members united in the cause," says Rosetta Shinn, Local 21's lobbyist.

A key goal of IBEW's Telecommunications Reform Committee, composed of local leaders, is mandatory "build-out," extending new services to workers and consumers in lower- and middle-income areas, not just the more profitable affluent neighborhoods. The Illinois law will provide mandatory build-out, but still safeguard municipal revenues by requiring video providers to pay fees to municipalities on a quarterly basis.

"This bill helps to level the playing field. Even our members at Comcast will benefit from this legislation," says Kastner. "Comcast will need to treat their union and nonunion employees with more respect since these employees will have a choice to leave Comcast and become Local 21 members by getting jobs at AT&T." ■

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On this edition of ElectricTV, see how the move to Integrated Building Systems, or IBS, spells opportunity for our brothers and sisters. Also, IBEW-NECA get into the race car business to promote apprenticeship. It's just like watching television over the Internet! ElectricTV.net

ELECTRIC:TV

Organizing Wire

New IBEW Contractor Grows with Hot Retail Market

Riverland Electric, a 19-year Los Angeles open shop contractor, was building a thriving business providing service and wiring expanded space for chains like Starbucks, Panda Express, Pizza Hut and Denny's. Organizers at L.A. Local 11 saw an opportunity and met with the company's owner. After eight months of discussions, Riverland's nine electricians are IBEW members and the firm has an aggressive plan for growth.

The key to the signing was the Southern California retail agreement, which provides for greater use of semi-skilled electricians to make IBEW contractors more competitive in a sector nonunion firms had ruled. "Riverland often gets calls from Starbucks reporting that a light or power is out at one of their stores. This is a very competitive agreement for such work," says Mark Meyer, Local 11 organizer. With the flexibility of the retail agreement, Riverland, which already has 250 Starbucks under contract, is well-positioned to gain contracts covering the chain's planned expansion to 1,000 stores by next year. Riverland already maintains 250 Panda Express locations, 50 Jack-in-the-Box shops and 50 Carl's Jr.

Riverland isn't restricting itself to the retail sector. With schools and businesses following new residential development into the region, the company is bidding on public works projects to diversify its profile.

Florida Initiative Success Swells

The Florida Initiative continues to sign new contractors and increase the IBEW's market share. Below we report on a few organizing efforts that show why the initiative is gaining strength and continuing to improve the lives of electricians across the state.

Miami Local 349

Two years ago, Dorothy Brown-Alfaro, president of Jador International, a Miami electrical contracting company, bid on a construction project at the Miami International Airport. She made a credible bid, says Walter Bost, business development director for Locals 349 and 728 (See "Former NECA Manager Spreads the Gospel for Florida Initiative," *IBEW Journal*, March-April 2007), but she lacked enough certified apprentices and journeymen to meet prevailing wage requirements. Then Brown-Alfaro, an electrical engineer, overheard some signatory contractors who also bid on the airport project speaking about their association with the IBEW. She knew it was time to move in the same direction.

She signed with Miami Local 349 in late June, bringing four new members into the Brotherhood. Her contracts with the Department of Housing and Urban Develop-



Riverland Electric electricians gather with organizers after the company's signing with L.A. Local 11. From left are Bob Oedy, Local 11 organizer; Mark Meyer, Local 11 organizer; John von Weien, Robert Newberry, Jose Rosado, Matt Brown, Jesse Machtolf, Sam Hernandez-Cruz, Walter Campos and Dan Covarrubias. (Gorki Mejia is not pictured.)

ment are a departure for the local. "We're pleased to be opening up a new area of work with a contractor who wants to grow," says Bost. Jador International has already called the local for six apprentices and three journeymen.

While Jador International was signing a letter of assent, another contractor in Local 349's jurisdiction on the west coast was following suit.

Mark Heidings, an IBEW member, owner of San Marco Electric, was searching for electricians who could make a good impression and meet the needs of his wealthy residential clientele on Marco Island, located off Florida's southwest coast. Heidings—who was unable to make connections with IBEW locals when he set up his business—was surprised when he received a newsletter promoting the value of IBEW membership during a blitz of over 180 open shop contractors in Ft. Myers and Naples in December. "It was like, bingo, the IBEW is finally here," says Bost.

Prior to the blitz, organizers compiled a list of nonunion contractors, bringing in IBEW staff from all over the state to visit up to 25 contractors each, dropping off newsletters with testimonials from signatory contractors about the benefits of partnering with the IBEW. Twenty-eight contractors, including Heidings, were interested in further discussions. Bost and Florida Initiative Lead Organizer Jeff Rose informed Heidings about Local 349's office and training center in Ft. Myers and reviewed the Florida Small Works Agreement and the Code of Excellence. After several visits, Heidings signed a letter of assent. "He runs a first class shop that shows his IBEW training," says Bost.

The bottom line, says Bost, is that "blitzes work." He is still working with contacts that were made last December. "Many contractors won't sign overnight, but we stay in touch and some sign later," says Bost.

"Without the Florida Initiative, I would not be in business today," Villar told *Electrical Industry News*, the Florida Initiative's advisory for contractors, developers owners and managers.

After signing with Ft. Lauderdale Local 728 nine months ago, Villar has been using IBEW's Construction Electrician/Construction Wireman classifications, subcontracting for Warwick Construction Co., building Old Navy retail stores. He has been selected to wire a Spring Hill Suites Hotel in West Palm Beach and is negotiating a second. Each electrical contract is valued in excess of \$900,000. Villar, a journeyman, working out of Boca Raton, employs five construction electricians and three journeymen on jobs in Naples, Dade County and Tampa in the jurisdiction of Locals 349, 728 and Tampa Local 915.

Zac Cassidy, Local 728 organizer, credits Villar for contacting open shop contractors in South Carolina to encourage them to join the Brotherhood's new Carolinas Initiative. ■

Ft. Lauderdale Local 728

After 16 years as an open shop contractor, Nathan Villar, owner of Empire Electric in Ft. Lauderdale is a changed man.

Circuits

Texas Scholarship Trains Next Generation of Nuclear Power Worker

Investing in a skilled nuclear power work force is vital to the members of Houston Local 66, and one of its major signatory employers, the South Texas Project (STP) Nuclear Operating Co., based in Wadsworth, Texas. STP's reactors provide power to many cities in the state, including Houston and San Antonio, and the company is expanding.

"STP is talking about building two new plants in the future, and you bet that they will be shorthanded," Local 66 Business Manager and Sixth District IEC member Gregory Lucero said.

To attract young people to the nuclear power industry, Local 66 and STP awarded over \$90,000 in scholarships to 10 local graduating seniors to encourage them to pursue associate of applied science degrees at local community colleges. Students selected for the scholarship will spend their winter and summer breaks working a variety of different jobs at the plant. The winning students, who were chosen for their academic achievement, personal recommendations and future goals, will pursue degrees in electronics, chemical technology and electro-mechanical engineering technology, among others.

Wadsworth, which is mostly rural, has little in the way of nonagricultural employment, so the scholarship "is an opportunity for (youth) to build a good paying career right at home," Lucero said.

Member, War Veteran Lindberg Dies

The last surviving Marine of the first 1945 Iwo Jima flag-raising Charles "Chuck" Lindberg died on June 24. The Minneapolis Local 292 member and recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart was 86. He died only days after the Local 292 training center was renamed in his honor. After his 1989 retirement, Lindberg devoted his last years to telling the story about the first American flag that flew atop Mt. Suribachi as the Americans stormed the island in one of the most decisive battles of the Pacific. ■



Transitions

Retired Carl Baer



Eighth District International Representative Carl ("Rick") Baer retired effective August 1 after an IBEW career that focused on organizing. "I grew up in the union," says Baer, who has fond

memories of the social gatherings of former Cortez, Colo., Local 698, where his father, Robert A. Baer, a journeyman lineman, served as president and acting business manager.

Baer completed his inside wireman apprenticeship in Grand Junction, Colo., Local 969 in 1970 and was elected president of the local four years later. He served as business manager from 1977 to 1993 and on the Council on Industrial Relations from 1983 to 1988. Baer attended Fort Lewis College and was a vice president of the Colorado AFL-CIO from 1981 to 1985.

When he was first elected to office at the age of 31, Local 969 had 80 percent market share with 1,100 travelers working on projects from coal-fired power plants to hydroelectric plants on the Gunnison River. By 1985, however, 70 percent of the local's membership was out of work as Business Roundtable members like Exxon, Union Oil and Atlantic Richfield selected non-signatory contractors TIC, Brown and Root, Zachary and Fluor Daniels, which recruited nonunion workers from the South. "We didn't have a nonunion work force in our area, so they imported one," says Baer. "Western Colorado is a pretty nice place to be, so they stayed."

Traveling the "bumpy road" of life as an organizer, Baer worked on rebuilding IBEW market share. One of his most memorable organizing drives as the Eighth District's construction organizing coordinator pitted the IBEW against an employer who illegally recruited electricians from Romania on student visas to work for grossly substandard wages and benefits. "They were treated like cattle," says Baer, who worked under former IBEW Construction Organizing Director Ron Burke on a successful petition to represent the workers, who had spread to different cities. The *IBEW Journal* (January/February 2002) features a picture of Baer holding an orientation session for the newly-organized members. He is still in touch with many who have moved back to Romania.

From 1993 until 2007, Baer served on the Eighth District's Mountain States Line Constructors Apprenticeship Committee. In 2004, he was appointed servicing representative for the district.

Looking back on his career, Baer says, "Organizing is closest to my heart. If we don't organize, we will lose it all."

Baer plans to fly fish during the summers in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana and said he hopes to do some cross-country skiing in the winter.

The officers and members of the IBEW wish Brother Baer a well-deserved, long, healthy and happy retirement.

Retired Keith Feigel



Ninth District International Representative Keith Feigel retired on July 31 after 43 years of service.

Brother Feigel was born in Pittsburgh in 1943. His father—who,

like his grandfather, was a member of Pittsburgh Local 5—moved his family to Vallejo, Calif., during World War II to work in the Mare Island shipyards.

After graduating high school in 1960, Feigel served in the Navy, stationed aboard cruisers in the Pacific. In 1964, Feigel went to work at Pacific Gas & Electric, where he was initiated into Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245. Soon after, he became an apprentice inside wireman, transferring his membership to Vallejo Local 180—the local his father eventually retired from.

Brother Feigel rose through Local 180 ranks, serving in a variety of roles, including as president from 1979 until 1990. He went on to be elected business manager in 1994, a position he held until he was appointed International Representative by International President J.J. Barry in 1997.

Feigel is particularly proud to have worked for the Ninth District, where he served as staff assistant to the vice president, during its period of steady growth and organizing innovations, taking particular pride in seeing its market share in construction grow.

As Feigel likes to say, the IBEW runs in his family's blood. Both of his brothers worked as wiremen as members of Local 180, as do two of his sons; one of his daughters works in the Ninth District office. Feigel hopes to spend his retirement enjoying more time with his wife Jeannie, eight children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His hobbies include fishing, bowling and fixing up classic cars.

The entire Brotherhood extends its congratulations and offers best wishes to Brother Feigel on his retirement. ■

North of 49°



Unions Win in Supreme Court of Canada

Trade unionists are celebrating a June decision by the Supreme Court of Canada that struck down a British Columbia law undermining the collective bargaining rights of workers in the healthcare and social services sector. The court ruled that the province violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Canada's constitution. The court's 6-1 opinion cited human rights standards developed by the International Labour Organization.

"This is a great day for workers because this decision means that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms does protect workers' rights, including the process of collective bargaining," says Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, representing 3.2 million Canadian workers.

The court gave British Columbia one year to remove the unconstitutional provisions of the province's Health and Social Services Delivery Improvement Act. That law allowed the contracting out of non-clinical services, weakened protections against layoffs and restricted current bumping rights for senior employees. The measure would have restricted unions from renegotiating several of its clauses in later contracts.

Lower courts upheld the British Columbia law under the rationale that the Charter of Rights didn't protect collective bargaining. The Supreme Court disagreed, noting that "Canada should be presumed to provide at least as great a level of protection as is found in the international human rights documents that Canada has ratified."

In 2001, the Supreme Court declared in its landmark *Dunsmore* decision that all Canadian workers have the right to organize, select their own leaders and collectively bargain.

"The recent Supreme Court decision affirms that the protections granted to workers in *Dunsmore* deserve the same respect and deference as others that are already enshrined in the Charter of Rights," says First District International Vice President Phil Flemming.

Provincial Free Trade Agreement Threatens Working Standards

In a move that will give corporations sweeping powers over governmental entities, the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement went into effect between the governments of Alberta and British Columbia on April 1. TILMA gives corporations and individuals the right to sue provincial governments and their official agencies over any regulation, public policy or law deemed harmful to investment, which includes those regarding public health, occupational, and environmental standards.

"It's going to drive down working standards to the lowest common denominator," said First District International Representative Laird Cronk. The agreement was negotiated between the premiers of British Columbia and Alberta last year without prior consultation with the public or a legislative vote.

While TILMA's proponents claim the agreement will make inter-provincial trade easier, many are worried that it will create a race to the bottom in terms of public policy and working standards. Under the agreement, a company could sue a provincial government or municipality for up to \$5 million in damages if it feels its regulations and laws are stricter than its neighbors. "For example, in B.C. it takes more training to be licensed as a road-flagger than in Alberta," said Cronk. "Under TILMA, a company could sue the B.C. government over that."

This could act as a downward pull on the qualifications required for the skilled trades. "What (it) means for the rest of Canada if other provinces accept TILMA is very clear—the province with the lowest qualifications for skilled trades will set the standards for the entire country," said the British Columbia and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Director Wayne Peppard.

Critics also complained about the undemocratic and secretive methods behind the agreement's implementation. "It wasn't enacted through the legislature," said Cronk. "The public was never consulted." Unresolved complaints brought by corporations under the agreement will go before an unelected board without any input from members of provincial assemblies or the public. "TILMA effectively hands over to an unelected dispute panel the authority to overrule democratically made decisions," said Vancouver-Kensington NDP representative, David Chudovsky.

According to B.C. Labour Minister Olga Ilich, the closed-shop and project labour agree-



Members of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour call on the provincial government in Regina not to join a free trade agreement that threatens working standards.

ments will be exempt from TILMA's provisions, but this promise has not been put in writing, making some in the labour movement wary. "Considering how secretive and mysterious this whole process has been so far, we are still very concerned on how it will turn out," Cronk said.

The Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly is debating joining TILMA, and the provincial governments of Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes have also indicated interest in joining.

The Canadian Labour Congress, the Alberta Building Trades Council of Unions and the B.C. and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council have called on the governments of Alberta and B.C. to oppose the conditions and terms imposed by TILMA and encourage other provincial governments not to sign the agreement.

"At the end of the day our job is to educate the public and our politicians," Cronk said. "A lot of MLAs [Member of Legislative Assemblies] have no clue what's in TILMA and its incumbent on us to inform and educate politicians from each party so they can have the ammunition to take the issue on." ■

Au nord du 49° parallèle

Victoire des syndicats en Cour suprême du Canada

Les syndicalistes se réjouissent de la décision rendue en juin dernier par la Cour suprême du Canada suite aux agissements du gouvernement de la Colombie-Britannique déniait aux travailleurs du secteur de la santé et des services sociaux le droit de négocier collectivement. Dans son jugement, la Cour suprême indique que la province a enfreint la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés. La Cour a invoqué les normes des droits de la personne adoptées par l'Organisation internationale du travail.

"C'est un grand jour pour les travailleurs car cette décision signifie que la Charte des droits et libertés protège les droits des travailleurs, y compris le processus de négociation collective" déclarait Ken Georgetti, président du Congrès du travail du Canada, qui compte plus de 3,2 millions de travailleurs canadiens.

La décision de la Cour suprême stipule que le gouvernement de la Colombie-Britannique dispose d'un délai d'un an pour procéder au retrait de toutes les clauses anticonstitutionnelles de la loi "Health and Social Services Delivery Improvement Act". Cette loi permettait la sous-traitance de services paramédicaux, en plus d'atténuer les conditions protégeant les employés lors des mises à pied et de limiter les possibilités de déplacement pour les employés avec plus d'ancienneté. Une telle mesure aurait limité les syndicats au moment de renégocier plusieurs clauses des prochaines conventions collectives.

Les tribunaux d'instance inférieure avaient maintenu la loi de la Colombie-Britannique car selon eux la Charte des droits ne protégeait pas le droit de négocier collectivement. La Cour Suprême n'a pas été de cet avis et notait "qu'il faut présumer que la Charte du Canada accorde une protection au moins aussi grande que les instruments internationaux ratifiés par le Canada en matière de droits de la personne".

En 2001, le Cour suprême déclarait dans sa décision mémorable *Dunsmore* que tous les travailleurs canadiens avaient le droit de se syndiquer, de choisir leurs dirigeants et de négocier collectivement.

Selon le Vice-président international du Premier District, Phil Flemming, la Cour suprême confirme par cette décision, que les protections qui ont été reconnues pour les travailleurs dans la décision *Dunsmore*, devraient être considérées et respectées tout comme les autres protections déjà garanties par la Charte des droits.

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Les normes du travail sont en péril avec l'accord provincial sur le libre échange

L'Accord sur le commerce, les investissements et la mobilité de la main-d'œuvre (TILMA), signé par les gouvernements de l'Alberta et de la Colombie-Britannique est entré en vigueur le 1er avril, donnant ainsi aux entreprises des pouvoirs d'envergure sur les entités gouvernementales. Cet accord (TILMA) autorise les individus ou les entreprises à tenter des poursuites contre les gouvernements et les agences gouvernementales, relativement à tout règlement ou toute politique sur les normes professionnelles, la santé publique et l'environnement qui pourrait constituer une restriction à l'investissement.

Selon M. Laird Cronk, représentant international du Premier District, cet accord ne peut que diminuer la valeur des normes provinciales au dénominateur commun le plus bas. L'entente a été négociée l'année dernière par les premiers ministres de la Colombie-Britannique et de l'Alberta sans aucune consultation publique ou de vote à l'assemblée législative.

Tandis que les promoteurs de l'accord (TILMA) prétendent que les échanges interprovinciaux seront facilités, plusieurs sont préoccupés à l'idée qu'il en résultera une course vers le niveau le plus bas en termes de politique publique et normes provinciales. Avec cet accord, une entreprise pourrait décider de poursuivre un gouvernement provincial ou municipal pour des sommes dépassant 5 millions de dollars si elle juge que ses lois et règlements sont plus restrictifs que ceux de ses voisins. "En Colombie-Britannique par exemple, on demande plus de formation qu'en Alberta pour devenir signaleur spécialisé; avec l'accord (TILMA), une compagnie pourrait tenter une poursuite contre le gouvernement de la C.-B. pour cette seule raison", souligne Laird Cronk.

Cet accord pourrait être à l'origine d'une diminution des exigences et qualifications requises pour les métiers spécialisés. Tel que le faisait remarquer M. Wayne Peppard, Directeur exécutif du Conseil des métiers de la construction de la C.-B. et du territoire du Yukon, si d'autres provinces acceptent l'entente (TILMA), il est très clair qu'au Canada, les normes seront établies en se basant sur la province canadienne ayant les qualifications les plus basses pour les métiers spécialisés.

"Les critiques déplorent aussi le fait que cette entente ait été signée secrètement, sans processus démocratique et sans consultation publique ou avec les législatures provinciales", ajoute Laird Cronk. Les plaintes formulées par des entreprises, en vertu de cette entente et qui n'ont pas été résolues, se retrouveront devant un comité dont les membres n'ont pas été élus, sans qu'elles aient été soumises à une consultation publique ou aux législatures provinciales. M. David Chudovsky, représentant du NPD dans la région de Vancouver-Kensington, déclarait : "En réalité, l'accord (TILMA) transmet à un comité non élu le pouvoir de rejeter des décisions prises démocratiquement".

Selon Madame Olga Ilich, Ministre du travail de la C.-B., les dispositions de l'accord (TILMA) ne devraient pas affecter les sites de travail où l'appartenance syndicale est obligatoire (atelier fermé) de même que les ententes de travail mais cette promesse n'a pas été rédigée sur papier, ce qui est assez inquiétant pour le mouvement syndical. M. Cronk se dit très préoccupé de la tournure des événements, si on se fie au côté secret et mystérieux de tout le processus.

L'Assemblée législative de la Saskatchewan étudie présentement la possibilité de signer l'accord (TILMA) et d'autres gouvernements provinciaux tels que celui de l'Ontario, du Québec et des provinces Maritimes examinent la possibilité de se joindre à cet accord.

Le Congrès du travail du Canada, le Conseil des métiers de la construction des syndicats de l'Alberta ainsi que le Conseil des métiers de la construction de la C.-B. et du territoire du Yukon ont lancé un appel aux gouvernements de l'Alberta et de la Colombie-Britannique afin qu'ils s'opposent aux termes et aux conditions imposés par l'accord (TILMA) et ont incité les autres gouvernements provinciaux à ne pas signer l'entente. "Tout compte fait, notre tâche est d'éduquer le public ainsi que nos politiciens. Plusieurs membres de l'assemblée législative n'ont aucune idée du contenu de l'accord (TILMA). Il est donc de notre devoir d'éduquer les politiciens de chaque parti afin qu'ils aient les munitions nécessaires pour prendre position", ajoute Laird Cronk. ■



Lors d'un rallye qui s'est déroulé au mois de mai à Regina, les membres de la Fédération du travail de la Saskatchewan ont lancé un appel au gouvernement provincial afin qu'il ne signe pas l'accord sur le commerce qui pourrait mettre en péril les normes provinciales.

Local Lines

Charity Motorcycle Run

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—On April 28 SFJATC Dir. Steve Powers, along with instructor Tom Burroughs, contractor Jim Reed (Century Electric) and recently retired Dir. Dan Whooley, executed the annual “Rebuilding Together” effort. Over 10 contractors donated materials and 60 Local 6 members volunteered to install electrical upgrades at various community centers and homes of needy residents throughout the city.

On May 11-13, the San Francisco LMCC sponsored the annual Charity Motorcycle Run to Camp Mather in Yosemite National Park. The bike run raised more than \$20,000 for St. Anthony’s Foundation. Prior to the run, a St. Anthony’s priest joined the bikers at the union hall to graciously accept the donation and bless the bikes for a safe

journey. St. Anthony’s Foundation provides over 2,600 meals a day for the underprivileged.

The annual Electrical Industry Golf Tournament is set for Sept. 14 at the historic Presidio Golf Course. Hardhats will not be provided.

Jeff Sweeney, P.S.

Powertrain Investments

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—The Local 8 election of officers was June 4. Some 469 members turned out and exercised their voting privilege. The outcome of the election includes some new and younger faces, which will facilitate a mixture of expertise and enthusiasm. The three-year term began July 2.



Local 6 members gather for Camp Mather Charity Motorcycle Run.

Trade Classifications

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



Newly elected Local 8 officers: front row (L-R), Rec. Sec. Greg Hammer, Examining Board member Carl Cochenour, Pres. Joe Cousino, Bus. Mgr. Jim Kozlowski, Executive Board members Dan Lewandowski and Tim Sigurdson, and Treas. Eric Grosswiler; back row, Examining Board members Kevin Flagg, Shaun Enright, Bill Seyfried and Richard Barkhimer, Fin. Sec. Tom Enright, and Executive Board members Charlie Condon, Shawn Robaszkiwicz and Roy B. Grosswiler. Not pictured, Vice Pres. Kevin Hurley.

On May 18, GM announced another \$332 million investment in the Powertrain facility in Toledo. This will allow for production of the new 6-speed, front-wheel drive transmission. A \$600 million expansion is under way at the Alexis Road plant for production of the new 6-speed, rear-wheel drive transmission. The Powertrain facility in Defiance will also receive \$61 million for technological improvements.

The annual Local 8 Perch Tournament is Aug. 25. The “Scott Jaeger 2007 Memorial Tournament” will be dedicated to our late Bro. Scott Jaeger. A gathering will be held at the Local 8 pavilion after the tournament.

*Jim Szczerbiak, P.S.
Jim Kozlowski, B.M.*

Volunteers Step Up

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—Local 16 members, and other skilled craftsmen from the Southwestern Indiana Building Trades Association, volunteered their time to renovate a former library into what will be a premier safe house, designated Holly’s House, for victims of sexual abuse.

Union members from local labor organizations participated in ongoing job actions against the newly opened Dillard’s department store. This building was recently renovated without the use of professional, qualified tradesmen from the affiliated unions. This blatantly anti-union company takes money from the community, but appears unwilling to support it. Thanks to all who have taken a stand!

Local 16 member Ron Mayer was appointed as an electrical inspector for Vanderburgh County. This helps insure that the highest standards of craftsmanship and licensing will be maintained.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Golf Fund-Raiser

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Our golf outing in May was a huge success with over 550 golfers spanning five golf courses.

Thanks to participants and sponsors who made possible a generous donation for diabetes research.

The Scholarship Committee selected this year’s scholarship recipients: Meghan Newman and Jasmine Ross. Meghan, daughter of Bro. Robert Newman, plans to attend East Carolina University to study nursing. Jasmine, daughter of Bro. Michael Ross, will study engineering at either West Virginia University or Temple University. We are also pleased to announce the scholarship award was increased to \$2,500 per year for four years of college!

We are saddened by the deaths of: Bro. Stephen J. Brosco and retired Bros. Oscar L. Jones, John F. Johnson Jr. and James William Davis.

Congratulations to recent retirees: William R. Cleland, Joseph W. Gheen, James D. Handley, Robert M. Holcomb, Thomas J. McCawley Jr., Joseph A. Ruby, Sidney F. Ratcliff Jr., Harlon E. Blankenship, Raymond L. Gheen, Regis J. Kingera, Duane S. Pase, Paul W. Rose and James D. Tharp.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Construction Projects

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Pictured is a crew of Local 38 members with Doan/Pyramid working at the new \$130 million Steelyard Commons retail center, which has provided tens of thousands of man-hours for our local and still has two more phases to go.

Over 140 members are working at the new Cleveland Clinic Heart Center; the clinic is still planning millions of dollars in construction work. Mittal Steel is a little slow now but has a blast furnace job scheduled for this fall. Bids for the new \$135 million juvenile detention center should be out soon.

Ohio’s new Attorney Gen. Marc Dann is interested in enforcing prevailing wage laws in Ohio. We are working with his office and receiving immediate results. Contractors who have gotten away with cheating over the past 16 years should beware because a new “sheriff” is in town. It pays to vote for labor endorsed candidates. Make your voice heard at the polls.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.



Local 38 Doan/Pyramid crew members at Steelyard Commons project.

70-Year Service Award

L.U. 44 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,s&u), BUTTE, MT—On June 11 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Dan Flynn and his father, Local 44 retiree William S. Flynn, presented Bro. Chuck Bennetts with his 70-year service pin at his home in Fairfield, MT. Local 44 congratulates Chuck and all our members for their commitment and dedication to Local 44, the IBEW and our industry. Special thanks to Bro. William S. Flynn for helping make this a very special day.

Don Hendrickson, B.M./F.S.



Local 44 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Dan Flynn (right) and retired member William S. Flynn (left) present 70-year service award to retired Bro. Chuck Bennetts (center).

Most Valuable Resource

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb&spa), DETROIT, MI—According to experts, the Michigan economy continues to under perform its growth potential. Construction employment is flat and the most activity will be in government infrastructure and commercial projects. Experts believe the picture will be brighter in five years and the state will emerge with a stronger economic base.

Hang in there. Mold this present feeling of helplessness into change. Evaluate yourself; imagine new ways to improve, as you are the union's most valuable resource. Commitment will make a change possible. There are lots of ways to do something positive for your union. Here's one—provide an apprentice with timely instruction, shorten the learning curve and reinforce positive work ethics and attitudes. In doing this you will have captured the need of the apprentice for reliable training, the expectation of the contractor for a skilled and productive employee, and the goal of the union for a secure future through a well-trained, highly skilled work force.

The annual picnic is Aug. 4. Some of our members are working on the electrical reconstruction in Iraq. Keep them in your thoughts for a safe return. Watch for an "IBEW On Duty" photo of these members in an upcoming issue of *The Electrical Worker*.

Kathy Devlin, P.S.

Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA—Work has been steady here in recent months and looks to remain that way throughout this year. In April our local's annual dinner dance was a great success. We thank Bro. Terry McPhillips and his wife, Maureen, for their hard work in putting it all together.

Congratulations to our fifth-year apprentice graduating class, and to all of our remaining apprentices for getting another year closer. Special congratulation to R. Jared Kilgore, who finished at the top of his class. We wish all the graduates the best throughout their careers.

Dave Schaeffer, P.S.

Big Upcoming Projects

L.U. 98 (as,em,i&it), PHILADELPHIA, PA—2007 has so far been a busy and exciting year for Local 98.

Local 98 Vice Pres. Jim Mink retired April 30 after 37 years. Through his longtime union activism, hard work and dedication, Jim played an instrumental part in making Local 98 the success it is today. His service included 15 years as a business representative. Local 98 wishes Jim much happiness in his retirement.

We are working hard to keep all our members employed. We look forward to some big upcoming projects, such as \$1 billion construction projects for two casinos, \$1 billion in Philadelphia public schools construction and the Pennsylvania Convention Center expansion.

This year Local 98 opened our new hall to the Pennsylvania House Majority Policy Committee to hear proposals from leading experts on utilizing new and alternative energy and fuel solutions to lighten our footprint on the environment. Speakers discussed the advantages of implementing initiatives such as Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell's Energy Independence Strategy, wind turbine energy production, solar-powered systems and green building strategies.

Harry Foy, Pres.



Local 98 recently retired Vice Pres. Jim Mink (left) and Bus. Mgr. John J. Dougherty.

State-of-the Art Facility

L.U. 102 (c,catv,i,it,o&t), PATERSON, NJ—Officers and members of Local 102 are proud to announce completion of our new state-of-the-art, 50,000 square-foot office and training facility. Our new building is located at 50 Parsippany Road in Parsippany, NJ.

The grand opening was held Jan. 20. Officers, instructors and members, along with their families, came out for the celebration. Attendees received a commemorative bottle of wine with an artist's rendition of our new building on the label.

The dedication ceremony was Feb. 15. International representatives and officers from sister locals toured our new hands-on training facilities and office complex. A luncheon was held in the apprenticeship cafeteria. Everyone had a good time and left impressed by our new building. Our training facility will allow apprentices and

Local 80 apprentice graduating class of 2007. Standing, (L-R), Jerry Culpepper, Steven Melton, David Colombo, Christopher Craft, Jose Curet, Nicholas Lopes, Matthew Marohl, Eric Powell, Wayne Castles, Michael Castles, Douglas Selby; seated, R. Jared Kilgore and Christopher Harper.

journeymen enhanced opportunities for hands-on training in our larger, fully equipped training labs.

To view photos of our new facilities, visit our new Web site www.ibew102.org.

Ed Fredericks, P.S.



IBEW Third District Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel (left) and Local 102 Bus. Mgr. Louis Baram attend ribbon cutting ceremony at grand opening for new building.

Lifesaving Awards

L.U. 108 (ees,em,es,lct,mar,mt,rtb,rtb,s,spa,t&u), TAMPA, FL—In April 2006 a tragic accident occurred when a Tampa Electric Crew was preparing to set a concrete transmission pole and there was a primary contact with the crane. When the crane contacted the primary, it burned the energized line down. Bro. Robert Galloway, a new apprentice lineman, was working the line truck making up material for the pole when the energized line landed on the line truck.

After the breaker locked out the circuit, Bros. Casey B. McClellan and Curtis Highsmith III removed Bro. Galloway from the line truck and immediately checked for a pulse and signs of respiration. Bro. McClellan administered CPR while Brother Highsmith connected the AED. Bro. Galloway resumed breathing and no shock was needed. Bros. Thomas Fitzpatrick and Raymond Mullis attended to Bro. Galloway's burns by removing smoldering clothing and applying cool cloths and burn gels. Thanks to the quick response of all involved, we have living proof of the effectiveness of our safety training. Bro. Galloway is expected to recover.

The IBEW Lifesaving Award was presented to Bros. Fitzpatrick, Highsmith, McClellan and Mullis.

Doug Bowden, P.S.



Local 108 Bros. Raymond Mullis (left), Curtis Highsmith, Robert Galloway and Casey McClellan, joined by Candy Galloway, wife of Robert Galloway.

Innovation for Growth

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rtb,se&spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—Summer 2007 brings a new and innovative idea to Local 124's jurisdiction. Local 124 is partnering with Kansas City NECA chapter to open new lines of communication to resolve old issues and make new strides. Local 124 Bus. Mgr. Jim Beem and NECA Chapter Mgr. Kenneth Borden are soliciting nonunion contractors and prospective business clients about the benefits of using union labor.

The goal is to improve the image of union labor with business owners and contractors to secure increased employment opportunities and market share in our jurisdiction.

The sales calls and information the two managers collected led to the second phase. Journeymen and apprentices are being called to attend a series of "town hall meetings" sponsored by our joint Labor Management Cooperation Committee. After a barbecue dinner, members discuss ways to improve the image, professionalism and work ethics of our craft. The ideas are presented to NECA and a marketing company, who formulate the information to improve public perception of union labor. Through these cooperative efforts, we can achieve gains.

Frank Mathews Jr., R.S./P.S.

Winds of Change

L.U. 130 (i&o), NEW ORLEANS, LA—Change is only as effective as those willing to take appropriate action to initiate that change.

On March 8, 2007, we amended our bylaws to include two new classifications, Construction Wireman and Construction Electrician, and to make any changes to accommodate these classifications by a majority vote of members present.

Congratulations to our JATC 2006-07 graduating class of 23. Barry J. Mayeux was named 2007 Outstanding Apprentice. Mayeux also was named 2007 Louisiana Statewide Outstanding Electrical Apprentice. He will participate at the NJATC's 2007 National Training Institute in Knoxville, TN.

Much has occurred since Hurricane Katrina's wrath left thousands homeless, struggling and wondering with hope how to rebuild the Crescent City and their lives. Although our hearts were broken here in Louisiana about two years ago, it is with great gratitude we'll remember an extraordinary two years of joy, filled with triumph and hope. IBEW International officials helped galvanize the unity and support from IBEW members across the country to help in rebuilding our surviving city and surrounding areas. We're familiar with the passage, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." With that faith we are optimistic about the future.

Alvin L. Riley, P.S.



Local 130 Outstanding Apprentice Barry J. Mayeux (second from right) displays awards at the 2007 Louisiana Statewide Outstanding Electrical Apprenticeship Competition. From left, Local 130 Bus. Mgr. Tiger Hammond, New Orleans Electrical JATC Instructor Charles Weatherly, Mayeux and New Orleans JATC Dir. M. J. Branighan Jr.

Presidential Debate

L.U. 134 (catv,em,govt,i,mt,rtb,rts,spa&t), CHICAGO, IL—Local 134 has experienced a surge in construction projects this summer but we still haven't attained full employment for our members.

Congratulations to Bro. Gary Callahan, Bro. Barney Leifker and Bus. Rep. Marty Moylan on their recent election to area public office. Callahan was elected to the Oak Lawn Park District Board; Leifker was elected to his local school board; and Moylan was elected alderman in Des Plaines, IL. Working together we can elect labor-friendly candidates to public office where they can make a difference.

Chicago will be the place to be on Aug. 8, when the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Democratic National Committee host a presidential debate at the new McCormick Place West Convention Center. Presidential hopefuls will address issues important to working families.

Sept. 9 is Union Day at the ballpark at Cellular Field. Come out and cheer the Chicago White Sox to victory. For tickets, contact Colleen at (312) 474-4186. Tickets are first come, first serve. Come join the fun.

Mike Nugent, P.S.

JATC Graduation Banquet

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—Local 146's newest journeyman wiremen were honored at a JATC graduation banquet held May 19 at Eagle Creek Resort. Recent graduates are: Derek Bartlett, Matthew Beever, Corey Black, Jason Gentry, Matthew Gordon, John Marley, Taylor May, Matthew McClain, Shaun Mihal, Cody Mihalbachler, Travis Moschenrose, Todd Rigg, Jason Paradee, Adam Parker and Sidney Smallwood. Derek Bartlett received the "Apprentice of the Year" award.

The Local 146 election of officers was held June 5. Elected were Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Jay Dunn, Vice Pres. Jason Drake, Rec. Sec. Rich Underwood, Treas. Donna Edwards; and Executive Board members Mike Brummitt, Ron Cummings, John Koehler, Josh Sapp, John Shores, Susan Varvel and Curt Young. In a run-off election Bret Krutsinger was elected president.

The Local 146 annual golf outing was held at Taylorville Lake Shore Golf Course on June 2 with about 80 golfers participating. The winning team included IBEW Local 51 members Joel Caley, Kevin Ripley, Dave Stuart and Mike Workman. Thanks to Golf Outing Chmn. Bob Brilley, sponsors and all who attended.

Shad E. Etchason, A.B.M.



Some of the Local 146 graduating apprentices, from left: Jason Gentry, Jason Paradee, Derek Bartlett, Matthew McClain, Corey Black, Matthew Beever, Sidney Smallwood, John Marley, Matthew Gordon, Travis Moschenrose, Shaun Mihal, Adam Parker and Cody Mihalbachler.

Community Involvement

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Signatory contractor Qwest Electric teamed up with Local 158 to power up Celebrate De Pere, an annual event held in the city of De Pere, which attracted 23,000 people on Memorial Day weekend. Local 158 members donated their time to set up temporary service to provide power for festoon lighting and vendor sites. Qwest provided a work trailer for supplies and three generators to power the main stage and beverage coolers. IBEW journeymen were provided free passes for themselves and their families to be "on-call" and handle any electrical problems during the event.

We marketed our services by flying the TruPro.org banner, distributing 300 insulated beverage coolers, and providing all our volunteers custom-printed polo shirts. Proceeds from this event are distributed among several local charities.

Jack G. Heyer, B.M.



Local 158 Bus. Agent Ron Vercauteren (left) and member Jim Wood help set up electrical power for the Celebrate De Pere festivities near Green Bay, WI.

Election of Officers

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—Local 164 held its election of officers on June 7, 2007. Our Bus. Mgr. Richard "Buzz" Dressel and his "brotherhood team" were elected by quite a substantial margin. The election was seen as a mandate to continue the progressive leadership of this administration.

Successful candidates, elected for a three-year term, are Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Dressel, Pres. John M. DeBouter, Vice Pres. Barry M. Hammond, Treas. Charles J. Mattson and Rec. Sec. Daniel Gumble; Executive Board members Vincent J. Casey, Kevin Marion, Todd Heuer, Thomas Sullivan, Ray Manfred, Thomas Walker and Eric Zebrowski; Examining Board members Frank Cappa, Manfred Espinoza, David C. Milazzo, Kerwin "Bo" Sampson and Paul E. Zawarkay. Good luck to all the officers.

The members and their families are the top priority of Local 164 officers. Members' needs and concerns will be fought for under this administration.

John M. DeBouter, Pres.

Training Director Retires

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—With regret the Solano/Napa JATC says goodbye to retiring Training Dir. Larry "The Legend" Poyser. Larry has served the electrical industry at Local 180 for 42 years and the JATC, in various capacities, for 28 years.

He did much to strengthen our program. Under his leadership, our training program improved and our finances strengthened. Larry dedicated himself to a stronger local, both as a craftsman and as a guiding hand for apprentices, teaching in the apprenticeship program and mentoring people as they moved into foremanship positions.

We also welcome new Training Dir. Skip Lucier and look forward to enhanced program growth under his leadership. Skip started at the bottom at Napa's oldest and notably well-rounded electrical firm and eventually became a co-owner. To last, to grow in our industry, Skip had to tell the customer, "No problem, we can do that." Therefore, the industry's best training program continues the "no problem, we can teach that" attitude as we grow into the future.

*Glen Loftis
Apprentice Instructor*

Service Pins Awarded

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Shown in the accompanying photo are some members who recently received years-of-service pins: Bus. Mgr. Edgar Mings Jr., Pres. Rod Brossart, Jim Brandon, Denny DeWitte, Mike McConville, Tony Mitchell, Johnny Ellison, Dave Rowland, Scott Anderson, Guy Bast, Doug Reagan, Pete O'Malley, Kelly Kleveno, Troy Harrington, Robert Hopperstad, Bob Morel, John Leigh, Dan Wicklund, Kevin Copeland, Rick Hughes, Scott Eash, Randy Martin, Treas. Tim Shales and E-Board members Bill Holloway and Todd Williams.

Our overhead and underground distribution work is slowing down and we expect some contractors to be leaving the area soon. We hope to see work steady for the next couple of months for a smaller work force. Some lighting projects will start back up as we move into summer.

Newly elected officers were sworn in at the June meeting. They are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Edgar R. Mings Jr., Pres. Rod Brossart, Vice Pres. Jerry Cass, Treas. Tim Shales, Rec. Sec. Randy Martin; Executive Board members William Holloway, Todd Williams, Kirby Kleimann; and Examining Board members Ed Lawler, Jason Jones and Bill Dethrow. All races were uncontested.

Edgar R. Mings Jr., B.M.

IBEW Provides Leadership

L.U. 230 (c,catv,em,i,mar&u), VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—The BC Federation of Labour is the Provincial body that speaks on behalf of the 450,000 union members in British Columbia, and as the IBEW is one of the 14 largest unions in

BC, we're allotted one member as Executive Officer and another as an Executive Council member. At the most recent BC Federation Convention, IBEW delegates elected Sister Michelle Laurie, president of Vancouver IBEW Local 258, to the Executive Officer position and Bro. Phil Venoit, business manager of IBEW Local 230, to the Executive Council. The convention took place in December 2006. With a union density of approximately 31 percent in British Columbia, these are very important positions for the IBEW to hold.

Pat Baxter, R.S.



Victoria, British Columbia, IBEW Local 230 Bus. Mgr. Philip M. Venoit and Vancouver IBEW Local 258 Pres. Michelle Laurie serve as BC Federation of Labour Executive Council member and Executive Officer, respectively.

Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 236 (catv,ees,govt,i,mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY—Local 236 congratulates the graduating class of 2007. We had over 30 apprentices graduate. Mgr. Donald W. Rahm had words of encouragement and wisdom to help graduates embark on the next step of their journey.

At press time, we were looking forward to Local 236's annual family fun day on July 14 at the Great Escape. Also Sept. 8 will be our clambake. Please check our Web site www.ibew236.org for more updates on upcoming events.

Mark Lajeunesse, Pres.

Code Forum a Success

L.U. 252 (ees,i,rts&spa), ANN ARBOR, MI—Bus. Mgr. Greg Stephens hosted another Code Forum, staffed with local and county electrical inspectors, for our members. The inspectors answered code questions from the audience, showed a slide presentation of code violations, and shared unusual electrical installations encountered in the field. This positive relationship with our electrical inspectors is a real benefit to our local.

In May the Michigan Building Trades Council sponsored the Dad's Day (Dollars Against Diabetes) All Trades Softball Tournament. The tournament has raised over \$450,000 since 1990 to help build and benefit a diabetes research center, which was constructed entirely with union labor and dedicated in 1994. Thanks to team manager Bro. Jason Shuster for his work on this worthwhile project.



Local 196 service pin recipients attend awards presentation.



IBEW Foote Hospital crew, from left, back row, Ann Arbor Local 252 Sisters Lisa Chantelois, Renee Brzezinski and Shelly Rentschler; front row, Local 252 Bro. David Molton and Bro. Jerry Bozon of Lansing Local 665.

Delta Electric is completing the Foote Hospital emergency room second-phase addition. We are thankful for the opportunity to keep our IBEW members employed.

Timothy Bortles, P.S.

Kudos to Graduates

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—May 19 was our last day of apprenticeship classes for the class year. Over 225 apprentices celebrated with a hamburger feed by “master chef”/ Training Dir. Dan Campbell and Executive Sec. JoAnne Budden. We salute and thank our apprentices and especially our graduating classes.

2007 graduates are: Inside—Jeff Amacher, Kyle Anderson, Donna Campbell, Aaron Carlson, Lincoln Case, Jacob Chance, Paul Clemmer, Chris Cox, Andrew Dill, Mark Erickson, Eric Everall, Larry Fisher, Charles Hersey, Jay Hobson, Travis Hunt, Daniel Koenig, Franklin Kuenzi, Michael Lamb, Andrew Layman, Gary McDonald, David Meyer, Teresa Parker, Gary Richards, Robert Sapp, Gerritt Schaffer, Chad Storms, Chad Tenbusch, James Thomas and Jeremy Williams; Residential—Sammy Bigby, Rustin Bumgarner, Johnny Dickey, Malachai Frick, David Kirkendall, Lindsey Kuper, Ron Maxson, Marcus Miller, Scott Schildmeyer and Gregory Schweer; and VDV—Daniel Castillo and Michael Henebry.

Local 280 mourns the passing of retirees Blackie Blackburn, Clifford Kochs and Matt Howard.

Remember the Local 280 picnic at Timber-Linn Park in Albany on Sept. 8. Food will be barbecued by Bro. Mike Petersen. Come out with your family for a good time of horseshoes, kids games, softball and brotherhood!

Jerry Fletcher, Pres.

Build on Gains

L.U. 294 (ees,em,i,rts,spa&u), HIBBING, MN—It seems the campaign season never ends. We must remain politically active. The gains organized labor made in the last election cycle, both nationally and locally in Minnesota, breathed new life into the labor movement. We need to go the next step and regain the presidency. Watching a labor

friendly president sign the Employee Free Choice Act would level the playing field allowing us to organize workers who want a union.

U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., took an anti-worker stance opposing the EFCA. He also says the National Labor Relations Board works well. The good news: Coleman is up for re-election in 2008.

Thanks to brothers and sisters who helped us with our work in recent years. Our work picture has slowed and we are waiting for permitting on several larger projects. We are pursuing PLAs on these jobs and on smaller projects. We've been fortunate for the most part that our customer wants the job done on time and within budget with superior quality. By satisfying the customer we can regain our market share. With a healthy market share we can gain better contracts.

Hope to see you at Local 294's annual picnic August 4.

Scott Weappa, B.M.

Town Hall Renovation

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Local 300 thanks journeyman wiremen apprentices for their work renovating the Town Hall in Starksboro, VT. JATC Dir. Claude Brousseau coordinated the community service project.

The Plus 5 program is up and running in Vermont. Local 300 completed its first Plus 5 household with the help of fellow member and contractor, Paul Metruk. Thanks, Paul.

The local continues its hiring and recruiting blitz to help its contractors with staffing requirements. Members are busy this summer and work is steady in Vermont.

Local 300 is sponsoring its first charity boat race this year. The Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival, a fund-raiser for cancer survivors, takes place Aug. 5 at Waterfront Park in Burlington, VT. We welcome the opportunity to support and challenge the community.

Jeffrey C. Wimetle, A.B.M.



Local 300 JATC journeyman wireman apprentices worked on community service project in Starksboro, VT.

Greetings

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—Greetings to Bro. Kevin Jones, petty officer-first class, serving with U.S. Navy NMCB-26 as a construction electrician.

(See “IBEW On Duty” in an upcoming issue of *The Electrical Worker*.)

U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. and Local 306 Bro. Martin Helms was honored, along with Thompson Electric Inc., for participation in the AFL-CIO “Helmets to Hardhats” program. (See “Circuits,” *The Electrical Worker*, July 2007.)

Residential negotiations have gone to CIR for review and resolution. Current economic trends are staring us in the face as we anxiously await the council ruling.

We mourn the loss of retired Bros. Don White and Junior Shaffer. Our condolences to their families.

Stay hydrated and enjoy summer employment!

Robert Sallaz, P.S.

Steward Training Class

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—On May 17, Ninth District Int. Rep. Gregory A. Teeple taught an IBEW steward class. Eleven Local 332 members attended: Wendell Weber, Jeff Brown, Frank Cruso, Mike Mosley, Mark Bonar, Nick Reyes, Pete Reyes Jr., Russ Serenka, John Landin, Rick Gilmer and Dan Romero.

Please welcome and thank the stewards for the time and commitment they give to Local 332. A job site steward is an asset on any work site; stewards are liaisons between union workers and management. The steward is there to prevent and/or solve problems on the job. Please treat stewards with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Gerald Pfeiffer, Pres.

Fight for Worker Rights

L.U. 340 (em,i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Monday, Sept. 3, is Labor Day, a day to celebrate workers' rights. Every IBEW worker should think about where our country would be without labor unions. We would not have decent pay, a 40-hour week, family health care, pension plans, holiday and sick pay, vacations, overtime and job safety laws. We would not have the right to bargain collectively.

We must continue to protect our rights by supporting worker-friendly officials. Last November voters cast their ballots for change and, as a result, Democrats hold the majority in the House and Senate. That was a huge win, and we must keep the momentum going. Don't wait for an election year to get involved—IBEW members need to get politically active now!

We are saddened to report the recent deaths of Bros. Thomas B. Elledge, Leo M. Luse, Robert A. Monzingo and W.T. Roessler. Rest in peace, brothers.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.



Local 340 members Scott Steelman (left) and David T. Bianco attend a Joint Legislative Conference in Sacramento, CA, where they engaged with elected officials on issues important to the IBEW. Among attendees were several state assemblymen and senators.

Work Outlook Good

L.U. 350 (i), HANNIBAL, MO—The work outlook in the Hannibal area is good. We have a cement plant renovation starting. We are getting all the renovation work at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO, and big projects coming up next year at a chemical plant and the General Mills plant.

Another chemical plant obtained permits to build a trash burner in Louisiana, MO. We've heard about this project for 12 years; as of this writing, there's no word when it will start.

In May, Local 350 presented service awards to retired members. Gene Gray and Ansel Sanderson received 55-year pins. Charles Kramer and William Oltman received 60-year pins. James “Jimmy” Kramer, who passed away in January 2007, was posthumously awarded his 65-year pin, presented to his widow.

Congratulations to James Shaver on his retirement in May. James is well liked; if you can't get along with James, you can't get along with anybody. He is a good wireman and a good brother. We congratulate all retired honorees.

William Tate, B.M.

Election of Officers

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—Marking a new beginning for our local, Bro. Darrin Golden was elected Local 364 business manager/financial secretary in June. Also elected were Pres. Patrick Tomlin, Rec. Sec. Charlie Laskonis, Treas. Dave McNamara and Vice Pres. Ray Pendzinski, all running unopposed. Elected to the Executive Board: Richard Anderson, Theresa Fernbaugh, Daniel Schlittler, Samuel Watkins and Brad Williams. Elected to the Examining Board: John Linquist, Timothy Tammen and Craig Thompson. Bro. Tom Sink was appointed assistant business manager. Bro. Tom Kindred will stay on as an agent and Bro. Patrick Tomlin will become an agent as well. Congratulations to all!

Congratulations to Bus. Mgr. Golden and Bro. Todd Kindred, who graduated from the National Labor College. Bro. Golden earned his master's degree and Bro. Kindred his bachelor's.

Congratulations to our new journeyman inside wiremen and residential wiremen who recently topped out after completing their studies.

Local 364's annual golf outing at Lost Nations Golf Course was a great time of fun and camaraderie. Thanks to the golfers and volunteers.

Ray Pendzinski, P.S.

Green Power Seminar

L.U. 380 (ei,es,i&it), NORRISTOWN, PA—Local 380 recently held its first Green Power Seminar at our union hall. Guests included design engineers, the Green Building Council, manufacturer representatives, political leaders and many of our customers and area corporate leaders.

Green building architect Andy Meserve described advantages of building with green technology, such as increased employee productivity with more natural lighting and fresh air. Meserve said green buildings can be comparable in cost to conventional construction methods with proper planning and design. Today's green buildings involve many electrical control systems that control interactive lighting, energy efficient HVAC, water recovery and geothermal systems.

General Electric solar representatives described how solar is a viable option to supplement and offset energy costs. Ed O'Brien from



Local 280 class of 2007 graduates in front of the IBEW-NECA Training Center.

Solar Dock explained the ease of installation and cost of a solar array, and discussed power deregulation. Area legislators gave an update on the status of state and federal grants available to finance alternative energy installations.

After the seminar, the group toured our JATC's new 6 kw solar training site. Many of our customers expressed interest in the concept of green buildings and thanked Local 380 for the seminar.

Scott R. Sheldon, P.S.

Welcome to Team

L.U. 386 (mo), TEXARKANA, AR—Local 386 welcomes the new members of our leadership team. Bro. Stan Stamps was appointed assistant business manager. Stan will replace Bro. Pete Renda in this post. Pete has served our local as assistant business manager for 10 years and we thank him for all his hard work. Bro. Mike Smith will serve as vice president. We welcome two new Executive Board members, Bros. Clint Humphrey and Curtis Gallaway, elected by acclamation. Bro. Leon Wilmoth will serve as lead steward at the Flint Creek power plant.

At this writing, we are preparing to go into contract negotiations with AEP/SWEPCO. An update will follow.

Jeff Hale, Pres./B.M.

Mobile Training Facility

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—Most of our work is in distant locations such as the Ft. McMurray oil sands, 300-plus miles north of Edmonton. Therefore, many members cannot readily attend upgrade training courses available at our Training Centres in Edmonton, Calgary and Ft. McMurray.

To expand training availability, the contractor and union trustees of 424's Education Trust Fund purchased a custom built, mobile classroom so members (and travelers) on distant projects can take classes right on site after work. In addition to the 'established' trade related classes, others, such as "inter-provincial upgrading" or "foremanship" are offered. Seven-foot slide outs running the full length of the unit on each side enable the classroom to accommodate 20 students in a lecture format, or 12 work stations where equipment must be used. DSL capability for video conferencing, with screen, microphones and amplifiers, enables an instructor in Edmonton to teach a class on a remote site. If necessary, the unit is "self contained" with a 60 KVA 3 PH diesel generator and incorporates extensive security features. Thanks to our contractors and local union officers who had the foresight decades ago to 'enshrine' contributions to the Education Trust Fund into the collective agreement.

Dave Anderson, P.S.



Local 424's high-tech 'mobile classroom' extends training opportunities for members working on distant sites.

Picnic & Service Pins

L.U. 428 (govt,i,rts&spa), BAKERSFIELD, CA—Our picnic and pin presentation held Sat., May 5, was terrific. We had outstanding food, fun games and great prizes donated by our generous sponsors. Our pin presentation highlight was a 70-year pin for Bro. Price Wallace, presented to his son Jim Wallace. Price was unable to make the trip.

Congratulations to all pin recipients. Our 60-year members are Phil Bingham, Douglas Dewitt, George Elmore, Frederick Gifford, Robert Huesby, Robert Paxton and Darwyn Switzer; 55-year members—William Peede, Clifton Roden; 50-year members—Kerry Adamson, Don Bonnet, William Harness, James Janzen; 45-year members—John Beauchamp, Fred Doll, Jack Painter, George Serban; 40-year members—Carson Blacklock, James Pence, Ronald Watson, Philip Wedeking; 35-year members—George Alexander, Jerry Brock, Larry Canterberry, Michael Davis, Ronald Davis, Carl Gifford, Domingo Pina, Charles Suderman; 30-year members—Ronald Derbyshire, Terry Herman, Richard Nelson, David Stanley, Michael Thomas; 25-year members—Barry Benhardt, Brett Bond, Michael Brooks, Christoph Bull, Kevin Chidgey, Samuel Dean, Timothy Gray, Earl Hayes, Delbert Jones, John Ostrander, Dan Villalobos, Bradley Webb, Stephen Wenn, Paul White, Peter Whiting; and 20-year members—Richard Bilyeu, Paul Black, Peter Cemo, Eric Cowling, Ryan Hood, Harold Ogan, Jimmy Ortiz, David Stroud and Michael Woodard.

Ivan Beavan Jr., P.S.

2007 Graduating Class

L.U. 440 (i,rts&spa), RIVERSIDE, CA—Congratulations to the graduating class of 2007. Inside class: Michael McCune, David Bowen, Rodolfo Arias, David Wallace, Jacob Gigler, Steven Madden, Andy Egan, Michale Rosenberg, David Jacobsen, Christopher Curran, Michael J. Tito Jr., Tom Fitzpatrick, Cesar Salcedo and Isaiah Mora. Sound class: Paul Aguayo, Jose Barba, Jonathan Baxter, Charlie Haselwood, Patrick Oquendo, Anthony Schaefer, Joshua Stephens, Gerald Trevino and Ramon Villasenor. Advanced class: Elio Barrera, Marius Gulea, Mike McCoy, Alejandro Rodriguez and Raymond Schmidt. We wish you all a great and long career with the IBEW.

Mike Barnum, P.S.

NEC Participation

L.U. 474 (em,i,lctt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), MEMPHIS, TN—I thank IBEW members for their involvement in the writing of the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC). As an IBEW member serving on Code Making Panel 7, I especially thank Local 474 members who shared their opinions with me on Code issues, especially as relates to safety.

Many members who have attended "Code

Changes" classes know the IBEW leads the charge in ensuring the safety of electrical installation. However, we are not the only players in the code-making process. Occasionally some of the other players win the vote and their views become code. It is all part of the process. The 2008 code cycle is near the completion stage and it won't be long before the 2011 code cycle begins. I've been told there are many types of "nerds," but there's nothing wrong with becoming a "code nerd" since the end result may save a life.

Sam LaDart, P.S.

Election of Officers

L.U. 488 (i&mt), BRIDGEPORT, CT—On Sat., June 2, elections were held at Local 488. Thanks to all who ran for office and all who came out to vote. Congratulations to elected officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Peter Carroll, Pres. Michael D'Amico, Vice Pres. Travis Gerald, Rec. Sec. John Sportini, and Treas. Elected to the Executive Board: Kenneth Barchi, Richard Dabrowski, Patrick Driscoll, Willie McBride, Daniel McInerney, Thomas Nolan, John Romano and Anthony Soter. Special thanks to election judge Michael McFadden and tellers Robert Astle, William Clark and Bryan Scinto.

Our annual retirees memorial luncheon was May 31 at Roberto's Restaurant in Monroe. Int. Vice Pres. Frank J. Carroll and Int. Rep. Richard Panagrossi were on hand to congratulate retirees and present service awards.

Anthony M. Soter, P.S.

Red Shirt Friday

L.U. 508 (i,it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—At the end of a successful "shutdown" project at the Rayonier paper mill in Jesup, GA, IBEW members held a "red shirt Friday" in support of solidarity and brotherhood.

The shutdown was completed on schedule with no injuries and only one minor safety violation. Many thanks to the traveling brothers and sisters who helped us on the project. The accompanying photo was taken in the mill parking lot with some of the IBEW members present at the shutdown.

Judith U. Sheahan, P.S.

Project Labor Agreement

L.U. 540 (i), CANTON, OH—As of this writing in June, Local 540 is just coming out of a fair-atest winter/spring. Hopes for the summer are to be able to put all Local 540 members to work.

Organizer Mike McElfresh is working with the Building Trades to service a \$40 million project labor agreement with Westfield Mall in North Canton, along with other projects with Stark County Public Utilities.



Local 540 inside wireman graduates, from left: Robert Flowers, Brian Sears, Ryan Meister, Josh Makism, Dominic Vinas, Tom Allman, Jacob Beaber, David Stratton, John Miller, Ryan Iberis, Michael Hann and Matt Aller. Not pictured, telecommunications graduates: Justin Jordan and Scott Skaggs.

At this writing, Local 540 was preparing for its June election of officers. Our business manager for the past 12 years, Bro. Les Wiley, has announced he will be retiring. He will be missed. We thank Bro. Wiley for his dedicated service and wish him a happy retirement.

To all our recent retirees, we say good luck and enjoy. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2007.

Jerry Bennett, P.S.

Three Generations

L.U. 576 (i&o), ALEXANDRIA, LA—Our local's recent annual Crawfish Boil was a great success. Ronnie Chenevert handed out years-of-service pins. A special certificate went to retired Bro. Ernest D. Cook Jr., a 60-year IBEW member. Bro. Cook was our local's recording secretary for 35 years.

Ernest Cook's son John Cook Sr. is our JATC training director. John joined the IBEW in 1963 and has served the JATC in various posts, including that of teacher, for 27 years. John's son John Cook Jr. joined the union as an apprentice in 1985. John Jr. was the top apprentice in 1989 and is now employed by FruCon Electric at Proctor & Gamble. What a history—a three-generation Local 576 family!

We are proud to host the state apprenticeship competition at the Paragon Casino in Marksville, LA. The competition includes top apprentices from seven locals in Louisiana. It is always an exciting time for us all.

Vikki Cole, R.S.



Local 576 retired Bro. Ernest D. Cook Jr. (left) with son John Cook Sr., JATC training director.



IBEW Local 508 members and travelers gather after successful paper mill project. Standing, (L-R), Russ Mitcham, Travis Coffman, Jason Norwood, Harry Sloane, George Roberts III, Reid Carter, Chris Morehouse and Lance Brown; kneeling, Ray McDuffie, Don Baker, Andreas Johnson, Terry Barker, Earl Mulkey, Rex Frazier Jr., Ben Harrison, Glen McDaniel, Andre "Detroit" Groulx and James McDuffie.

Ralph Capito Retires

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Congratulations to Bro. Ralph Capito on his recent retirement after a 39-year career of IBEW service. Bro. Capito was employed with the City of Reedy Creek, FL, High Voltage Department.

Local 606 held an election of officers in June. Elected were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Harry Brown, Pres. John Bregg, Vice Pres. Cliff Gilmore Jr., Treas. Pete Peterson, Rec. Sec. Jennifer Kenny; Executive Board members Bob Bartlett, Bobby Bryant, Larry Kidd, James Krause, James Derick; and Examining Board members Juan Santos, Richard Merriam and Robin Carey. Good luck to all the officers.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.



Local 606 congratulates Bro. Ralph Capito (second from right) on his retirement. From left, Bros. Walter Dobritt, Tony Opitz, Capito and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Roy Poteet.

Arizona SkillsUSA

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ—Thanks to Bro. Steven Duff of the Phoenix Electrical JATC and retired Bros. Jim McKeever and Jim Mayse for their hard work in contributing to the Arizona SkillsUSA, an organization that provides an annual competition to a statewide high school vocational program. The winner at the state level advances to a national competition given later in the year. Approximately 30 high school students participated in the residential wiring contest this year, which was developed by our volunteers. Thanks to the local contractors for their contributions. This event gives us an opportunity to make contact with graduating high school seniors who are interested in our trade as a career.

Work still looks good in Phoenix. To IBEW "travelers" interested in work in this area, please call the hall.

Frank Cissne, P.S.



Local 640 Bro. Steven Duff (seated, right) grades tests at the Arizona SkillsUSA event.



Local 654 congratulates 2007 apprentice graduates.

Work Improving

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—Hiring for projects was a little slow in the spring, but with summer the work situation has picked up quite a bit. The complex of stores at Route 322 and Route 1 is moving along nicely. The Episcopal Academy project is also coming along.

The social held at our banquet hall was well-attended by both younger members and retirees. It's always good to see everyone.

Congratulations to 2007 apprentice graduates. Our new journeymen are: Scott Abdo, Todd Alba, Michael Barycki, Sean Cape, Paul Ciminera, Patrick Conway, Robert Fuhs, Matthew Glatts, David Griffin, Leigh Guarino, Moran Hatcher, Daniel Henry, Timothy Kaut, Christopher Kilpatrick, Ryan McCaffrey, Christopher Robinson, Anthony Shadbolt, John Storace and Sean Thomas. Residential wireman graduates are: Scott Boyd, Joseph Diluzio, John Gillespie, Lawrence Green, Richard Harper and Vincent Szolack.

Jim Russell, R.S./P.S.

Welcome Aboard

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—Congratulations to newly elected officers: Bus. Mgr. Billy Powell, Pres. Mark Bowden, Vice Pres. Jason Davis, Treas. Steve Bertozzi; Executive Board members Matt Williamson, Larry Machado, Jeremiah Nieman, Adam Jautaikis; and Examining Board members Vic Barron and Jim Marlett.

Congratulations to apprentice graduates: James Barthelemy, Michael Cook, Jayms Gibson, Jerry Miller, Saul Ruiz, Robert Stutzman, Carl Thornhill and Cory Whittenburg. Future leaders for a new millennium—best wishes in your IBEW careers.

Thank you to our sister locals for helping our 684 hands find work during this drought. We hope work picks up soon.

We thank retiring former business manger, Bro. Scott Zeigler, for his many years of service to our local. Happy hunting in those Colorado mountains, Scott.

On May 12 Stan Strohmeier, Brian Dow and I attended a fund-raiser for U.S. Rep. Dennis Cardoza hosted by Bill Lyons at the Old Fisherman's Club.

Local 684 celebrates the JATC apprentice graduation class of 2007. Front row (L-R), Jayms Gibson, James Barthelemy, Robert Stutzman and Saul Ruiz; back row, Training Dir. Mark Bowden, Jerry Miller, Cory Whittenburg, Carl Thornhill, Michael Cook and Instructor Billy Powell.



Support for labor-friendly legislators is critical to the IBEW as attacks on unions continue. It will take all of us working together to make our union work.

Torrey Newton, P.S.

'United & Strong'

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—Ameren/CIPS, Ameren/IP and Ameren/CILCO negotiations continue. IBEW System Council U-05, comprising Locals 51, 309, 649, 702, and 1306, are united and strong during these difficult negotiations.

Picketing of nonunion contractors Advanced Technologies and Jansen Construction continues. The companies are installing fiber and copper aerial, as well as buried fiber and cable, for Mediacom in southern Illinois.

We welcome Bucky Miller to our staff as an outside construction and line clearance organizer. Bro. Miller is an asset to our local and our members.

At press time we have 58 journeyman wiremen on our out-of-work Book I list and work is still slow.

Bro. Gordon Smith, line crew foreman, and Bro. Brad Tabor, line crew apprentice, received IBEW Lifesaving Awards for rescuing an elderly couple from a burning house. Gordon and Brad woke the couple from their sleep and called 911. The home was a total loss, but two lives were saved.

Marsha Steele, P.S.



Local 702 presented IBEW Lifesaving Awards to Bros. Brad Tabor (right) and Gordon Smith (not pictured). Bro. Thomas Smith (left) accepted the award for his father, Gordon.

Contract Settled

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA—We have settled our three-year contract for inside wiremen at home without going to arbitration. Congratulations to our Negotiating Committee members: Bros. Tom Ellwanger and Dave Pregler, Bus. Mgr. Dan Hammel and Pres. Gary Freiburger. Additional recognition goes out to all who were involved in reaching this agreement.

The apprenticeship committee graduation dinner was May 22. Congratulations and a warm welcome to Local 704's new journeymen: Bros. Tom Schwab, Justin Daughenbaugh, Dean Markus, Jeremy Kirk, Jim Vormezele and Brett Ernst. We wish the graduates a long, fruitful career.

At this writing the work situation looks good with Book I clear. Here's to a safe, productive construction season.

Ron Heitzman, P.S.

Houston Work Picture

L.U. 716 (em,i,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—The work situation in Houston is good. Congratulations to newly elected Local 716 officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. John E. Easton Jr., Pres. David R. Alley, Vice Pres. E. Dale Wortham, Rec. Sec. Ronald J. Barrow, Treas. Sid Tarter; Executive Board members Clyde Benoit, John Bogney, Fred Ellis, Robert Fulcher, Antonio Orta, Gary Strouz, Kenneth Sumberlin; and Examining Board members Travis Blackburn, Pat Buckalew, Adrian Saucedo, Carlos Villarreal and Turner Wright. Thanks to all candidates who ran for election. Thanks also to the election judge and election board.

Congratulations to the 2007 outstanding apprentice for the Seventh District, Josue Garcia of Local 716. What a great honor for our local!

Congratulations also to Roy Noack for his 70 years of IBEW service.

Local 716 took first place in the 2007 Houston St. Patrick's Day parade in the float division. We had a great turnout and we're working hard to get the IBEW name out in Houston. Thanks to all who participated.

Prayers go out for our members who are ill. Prayers and thanks also for our military service men and women serving our country. Thanks also to members defending our work here in Houston and out on the road.

John E. Easton Jr., B.M.



Local 716 congratulates 2007 Outstanding Apprentice Josue Garcia (front row, right). From left, front row, Bus. Mgr. John E. Easton Jr., Garcia; back row, Asst. Training Dir. Gene Brinkmeyer and Training Dir. Gary Strouz.

LOCAL LINES continued on page 16



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Jon F. Walters
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
Jackie E. Goodwin

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
Lindell K. Lee

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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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.

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FROM THE OFFICERS

An Honorable Life



Edwin D. Hill
International President

The year was 1945. The place was a tiny volcanic island in the Pacific known as Iwo Jima. What happened atop Mount Suribachi would become a symbol for generations of Americans: soldiers with an American flag staking ground for the cause of freedom in the closing months of a bloody war.

The idea of the "greatest generation," an ordinary group of Americans pressed into extraordinary service by their love of country and the threat to all that we hold dear was popularized a few years ago by a book of that name by Tom Brokaw.

No one embodied that spirit more than Charles "Chuck" Lindberg. This Minneapolis Local 292 member was one of our own, who like many others, returned from the war to resume the role of an ordinary citizen, working hard at his trade. A journeyman wireman, Lindberg made a good living with his tools, working on several Twin Cities landmarks and

raising a family. After 38 years as a Local 292 member, he died on June 24, weeks after the dedication of the Charles "Chuck" Lindberg JATC Electrical Training Center, which was reported in the last issue of this newspaper.

A Marine corporal who came home with a Silver Star and a Purple Heart, Lindberg spent most of his life unrecognized for his bravery atop that hill on Iwo Jima. But he and several others raised the first flag on the mountain – the one that was seen by and which inspired the Marines and Navy personnel below. The famous photograph that became an iconic American image was taken later. Another book and film, "Flags of Our Fathers," told the story of Lindberg and his fellow Marines on Iwo Jima.

Lindberg's life is a testament to the values that matter: family, patriotism, strength in adversity. He was a living reminder that, no matter how our domestic adversaries seek to marginalize unions, we are part of the very fabric of life in the U.S., Canada and everywhere we have members. Brother Lindberg was not the only IBEW member to serve his country bravely. But on one historic day in 1945, he did an extraordinary deed and became part of U.S. history, and for that he will always have our affection and gratitude.

North Americans All

The Chamber of Commerce continues lobbying Congress for a "guest worker" program. Three thousand miles away—on the oil sands of Alberta, Canada—some of the world's most profitable corporations welcome planeloads of skilled workers from China and other countries, even while thousands of organized tradespeople are out of work.

If working people and our unions don't pay close attention to events on either side of the U.S.-Canada border, we could all be dumped into a dark corner of the global economy.

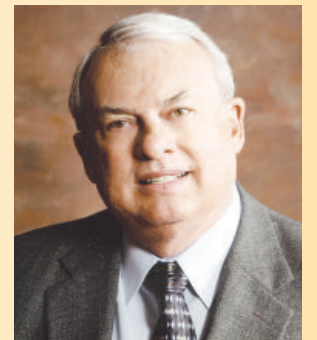
The Electrical Worker's new section, "North of 49°" is designed to help IBEW unionists learn from each other to develop strategies to survive and thrive.

While we have different political structures, the economies of the U.S. and Canada are powerfully linked. In spite of the fact that Canada's population is 11 percent of the United States', exports to Canada in 2005 amounted to 23 percent of total U.S. exports. The United States accounted for 84 percent of Canada's exports and supplied 57 percent of Canadian imports. Two-thirds of the crude oil produced in the oil sands of Western Canada heads to the U.S. for refining.

But numbers tell only part of the story. Working people on both sides of the border share a history of struggle. The IBEW and other U.S.-based international unions have been enriched by the contributions of Canadians. The busloads of U.S. retirees who travel to Canada for cheaper prescription drugs demonstrate the success of Canadian trade unionists in helping to build their nation's stronger social network. Those very successes are now being targeted by big corporate interests.

This issue of *The Electrical Worker* features stories which show how workers on both sides of the border are fighting—with mixed success—to defend our gains and to protect labor rights.

I would guess that most workers in the U.S. and Canada identify more with their country than their continent. But in today's global economy, we need to better understand what we have in common with our closest neighbors. Communications, like this newspaper, can be a big help.



Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Immigration, continued

Some lies are repeated so much that, in the end, they seem true. And even to the reasonable person, the misinformation about illegal immigrants in this political climate starts to be taken as undeniable fact.

But let me remind you of the statistical facts about illegal immigrants. These workers are not destroying good jobs; they have a net positive effect on wages and economic growth (*Wall Street Journal*, April 4, 2007, p. A14). They are not dismantling our schools and healthcare; they pay more into social services than they take out (Bell Policy Center, 2007). They are not criminals who are filling our jails; they commit property and violent crimes less than the general population (American Immigration Law Foundation, 2007).

Many of these workers are here because of a devastated agricultural economy in Mexico, largely due to NAFTA. Millions of Mexican workers' lives have been destroyed by this trade policy. We as American workers look around and see our quality of life tank because of this trade deal and we want someone to blame. Unfortunately, we blame the most vulnerable: foreign workers who are fleeing the same corporate oppression in their own country.

Brothers and Sisters, this is not productive. Watching one worker blame another worker for the crimes of international business is like watching a dog chase its tail. You just wonder when it'll tire.

*Jakob Juntunen
Local 48 member, Portland, Ore.*

Mr. Hill should continue to speak out on the negative impact that illegal immigration has on this country, its working men and women and our long-term quality of life. We are being overrun by a Third World nation and no one in political power seems to care. The unions have had a strong voice in the past and it is more important than ever that the unions create a one-voice position and let our governing parties know that illegal immigration must be stopped. We DO NOT need new legislation; we just need the will to enforce the legislation that already exists.

I am tired of hearing about "work Americans won't do," that we could not enjoy our standard of living without these low paid workers, etc. This illegal underclass is bankrupting our schools, our hospitals, our justice system and our communities. I would gladly pay more to have my roof replaced just so that money was going to American workers.

Please keep up your efforts to stop this travesty of "comprehensive immigration reform."

*Judith M. Shade
Spouse of Local 153 member, Hilton Head Island, S.C.*

On the Cheap?

I've been a union member all of my working career and have been proud to have worked around individuals who take pride in their work and for what we stand for. Not only the craft that I'm in but, all other crafts as well.

I can remember when doing what was right was the norm, and if I told you something, you could count on it, and if I shook your hand it was the same as a contract.

I work for a utility, and they are not maintaining their facilities, their transmission and distribution systems, and using low bid contractors doing poor quality work that calls for more unnecessary maintenance. All this cost gets passed on to the customer in the form of replacement energy or additional maintenance. We are also customers, and we get to pay a portion of it as well. You think we would have state oversight, so these things won't happen but, it appears we don't, or these companies are doing a good job of hiding it.

We as a nation think our government is doing its best on homeland security and yet companies also take the cheap road by circumventing security in order to bring in cheap contracts, supporting cheap labor where we have seen illegal immigrants access a nuclear site.

As a consumer, I don't mind paying a fair price for the things I purchase, but I don't think I should be the security of this nation or line the pockets of executives who don't earn it.

I'm just thankful that we have good union leadership that no matter how hard the battle is they always keep going forward. Union brothers and sisters, keep trying to do quality work even in the face of adversity. I ask that everyone stay safe and focused because we are the best this nation has to represent the working class of America.

*James Edwards
Local 433 member, Inglis, Fla.*

Who We Are

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

Journeying Together

Lisa Owens was working as an instructional aide in the Covina, Calif., school district when her daughter, Natilie Rojas, began the inside wireman apprenticeship program in Los Angeles Local 11 three years ago. Owens says, "Natilie is a very strong person. I don't know if I could do some of the things she does, physically and mentally."

But one year ago, Owens, 46, followed her daughter's lead and entered Local 11's sound apprenticeship. Today, she's alternating between classes and pulling cable on construction sites using "lots of tools I didn't know how to use before."

As for physical strength, Owens has continued a regimen that began years before her apprenticeship consisting of running six miles four days a week, lifting weights in between and competing in marathons.

In May, mother and daughter shared the podium addressing 400 delegates to the Sixth Annual Statewide Conference for Women in the Trades. Owens was stunned to see so many women working in construction, but their competence and eloquence were no surprise. She praised Local 11's women's support group, EMPOWER, led by Jane Templin and Nikki Freeman. "This job has its great days and its hard and frustrating days, but I always have such fine mentors to turn to when I need them," she says.

"My mother was always curious about my job," says Rojas, 25, who majored in biology at California Polytechnic in Pomona for three years before she ran into financial difficulty and needed to find work. While working three jobs—as a shift manager at Starbucks, on the front desk at a music store and administering SAT tests—her father, Jim, suggested that she look into Local 11's apprenticeship. He has been "totally sup-



First-year sound apprentice Lisa Owens, right, stands beside her daughter, Natilie Rojas, a third-year inside apprentice.

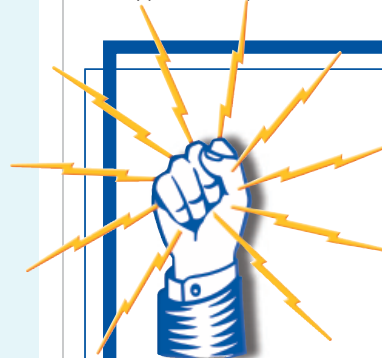
portive" of Natilie and Lisa, even buying tools as gifts, albeit with a bit of ulterior motive: "He wants to put us to work on the house," says Rojas.

"I can see keeping up with my apprentice classmates through my whole career," says Rojas, also praising the journeymen who have helped her along and who call to check up on her progress. She sells the trade to other women. "Keep this kind of career in the back of your heads," she told attendees at the recent Latina Women's Career Day at Pasadena Community College.

Owens is pleased that Rojas, who attended the 37th IBEW Convention in Cleveland and said it was one of the "best experiences in my life," has made so many solid friendships in the Brotherhood. "And yes," says Owens, "I have discussed the trades with my younger daughter, Samantha, who is currently in college."

When her mother first asked Rojas for her approval to enter the apprenticeship, Rojas told her to go for it, saying, "You never told me that I couldn't do something because you had done it first." Now, mother and daughter each have two years to go in their respective apprenticeships. "It's neat thinking that we may journey out together," says Rojas.

"Lisa and Natilie's story is about one tradeswoman inspiring another. Their example speaks to the importance of mentoring programs in the recruitment and retention of women in the trades," says IBEW Human Services Department Director Carolyn Williams. ■



What Do You Think?

Every month we will be asking a different question and inviting reader responses. Please e-mail your response to the following question to publications@ibew.org.

Now that the flawed comprehensive immigration bill favored by President Bush has failed, what factors do you think should be keystones of immigration policy in the United States and Canada?

Check www.ibew.org for responses to last month's question:
What are you doing to improve safety in your workplace?

Local Lines

continued from page 13

OSHA-30 Class

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—School projects scheduled for summer vacation are under way. We have local signatory contractors involved in that work. They are utilizing the new classifications available under the Florida Initiative to secure these projects. Our work picture is improving and the projected work picture is encouraging.

Local 756 OSHA instructor Bro. Buddy Hart recently taught an OSHA-30 class. Twenty-five members completed the course and received certifications. Apprenticeship Dir. Scott Jarvis is coordinating continuing education training and upgrading as needed.

Local 756 officers and Executive Board members were elected in June: Bus. Mgr. Steve Williams, Pres. Daniel Hunt, Vice Pres. Selina Morris, Treas. Buddy Hart, Rec. Sec. Tyler Scholz; and Executive Board members Jimmy Johnston, Billy Albert and Jason Morgan.

Congratulations to retired member Bro. Bob Nelson. We thank Bob for his 45 years of dedicated service to the IBEW and his 40 years as a JATC instructor.

Daniel Hunt, P.S.

Electricians Volunteer

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Local 760 electricians showed up in force to electrify the Habitat for Humanity "7 in 7" project in our area. The joint efforts of all involved, with commitments by the Knoxville Utility Board union members, helped make the Habitat 7 in 7 a success. Local 760 and Training Dir. A.J. Pearson stood together with Tennessee Associated, Service 1, BESCO, Standard and Progression Electric to represent the organized electrical trade in east Tennessee. Great work, great electricians!

Local 760 Bus. Mgr. George Bove was selected as Tennessee state president of the Mechanical Allied Crafts, an alliance of six building trades unions. MAC's goals are to regain market share through customer commitment while creating deeper solidarity among the organized allied craft members. (See "MAC Moves Forward," *The Electrical Worker*, July 2007.)

George A. Bove, B.M.

Western Montana Boom

L.U. 768 (c,i,lctt,o,t&u), KALISPELL, MT—We are full swing into our seasonal construction boom. All our members and some travelers are working. We thank our traveling brothers and sisters for their help.

Construction is not the only busy sector. The utilities are running at full capacity, and contracting work in this area continues unprecedented growth.

Congratulations to our recent apprentice



Local 768 Bus. Mgr. Larry Langley (right) presents 30-year service pin to journeyman lineman Dan Roe.



Local 756 OSHA-30 class participants.

graduates. They are: journeyman lineman Matt Cottle; journeyman wiremen Michael Lynd, Kevin Danczyk, Chad Galbavy, Mike Gibson, Gabe Voller and Ben Stobel (2007 Montana top apprentice); and residential journeyman Richard Glidden.

Local 768 recently presented years-of-service awards to Bros. Dan Rose (for 30 years) and Red McCaskill (for 35 years). Both are journeyman linemen.

Congratulations to Mission Valley Power, City of Troy, University of Montana (electrical department), and IBEW Sound and Communications workers for successfully negotiating new contracts.

Larry Langley, B.M.

A New Charter

L.U. 840 (i), GENEVA, NY—Local 840 is alive and well in the middle of the Finger Lakes region of New York state. We were granted a new charter March 1, 2005. Our geographical area is the same as the "old" Local 840, which was located between Rochester Local 86 and Syracuse Local 43 until 1998.

We are 130 members strong and working to gain market share, organize contractors and take in new members. We are led by Bus. Mgr. Clark Culver and Asst. Bus. Mgr./Organizer/Market Developer Mike Davis.

A Local 840 dinner dance held March 31 was well-attended by active members and retirees. We observed a moment of silence to remember recently deceased members, including former Bus. Mgr. Ed Bolger, who died July 23, 2006. As business manager from 1964-86, Bro. Bolger was highly respected and worked diligently on behalf of union members.

Since January 2007 we have sworn in nine apprentices and seven construction electricians/construction wiremen as our newest members. We are currently at 80 percent employment of our membership. The summer months should result in an increase in employment.

A Local 840 mixed clambake will be held September 8.

Keith Andrews, P.S.

Tribute to a Brother

L.U. 910 (i&rts), WATERTOWN, NY—In 2001, a well-liked local member, Bro. Greg Maur, had a suspicious mole removed, which was diagnosed as melanoma. The initial prognosis was good. However, after four years of regular checkups, Greg learned the melanoma had returned and progressed. Greg endured aggressive treatments at major medical centers. Along this path Greg received very little positive news about his condition. It is amazing how somebody who faced what Greg was facing could still want to make people laugh and put other people before himself, but that's what Greg always did. Although he fought hard, Greg lost the battle in October 2006. Throughout this tragedy, we all have been reminded how important prevention and awareness are with melanoma.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

Work Picture Good

L.U. 932 (c,i&st), COOS BAY, OR—The work situation in Local 932 is good at press time. Work is expected to remain good through September and we expect to get well into Book II.

Thanks to members and their families for attending our winter banquet and pin ceremony held March 31, 2007, at the Mill Casino in North Bend, OR. Years-of-service pins were awarded. An honorable mention to John Murtha, who was unable to attend but was due his 65 year pin! Others to receive pins were, for 60 years – Leonard Hanson, D.J. Smith; 50 years – Richard Blackburn, Frank Booth, Joseph Butt, Sam Stuart; 40 years – William Hawkins; 35 years – Glen Nix; 30 years – Gordon Bridgman, Mike Mault, Mike Richards, Dean Webb; 25 years – Teresa Wilkinson; 20 years – Tim Green and Joel "J.J." Nobles. Congratulations to all!

Robert Westerman, B.M.



Local 932 members at the Three Rivers Casino project in Florence, OR. From left, standing, Rich Edmunds, Mike Pahs, Shannon Coates, Rob Lindstrom, Del Palmer, Elmer Kiewer, Frank Sonnabend, Boone McGuckin, GiGi Cirrioncine, Terry George, Brian Beehler; seated, Scott Bushmaker and Brian Watson.

Citizen 1220

L.U. 1220 (rtb), CHICAGO, IL—Local 1220 lives and works in Chicago. We are part of Chicago's labor community and active in local politics. Several labor-supported candidates won in alderman elections. "Labor has a stronger voice in Chicago's City Council because unions, like 1220, got out the vote," said Bus. Mgr. Madeleine Monaco.

Local 1220 contributed to a fund for a statue of Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor, who fought for better wages through collective bargaining. Gompers said, "The man who has his millions will want everything he can lay his hands on and then raise his voice against the poor devil who wants ten cents more a day." The statue will stand in Gompers Park on Chicago's Northwest side.

WYCC, Chicago City Colleges, PBS technicians ratified a three-year contract with increases in pay, protection and membership. "The new agreement adds videographers that were organized last year," Monaco said. "It is a good example of labor and management working together for the common good."

Jim Sterne, business rep, graduated from the DePaul University Labor Education program in May. Local 1220 supports the education of our staff and members to make us a stronger union.

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

Test Module

L.U. 1316 (i&o), MACON, GA—2007 first-year apprentices are shown in the accompanying photo finishing a test module for craft certification. The apprentices worked on the project under the direction of first-year instructor Wesley Jarrard. The hands-on test was developed by the NJATC as a tool for training a skilled work force. Our members find the test module to be an important tool for our training program.

The Macon Electrical JATC plans to use this module to improve the skills and abilities of our apprentices, construction electricians and construction wiremen.

Ralph Snowden, P.S.



Local 1316 first-year apprentices complete test module. From left, Christopher Head, Bryan Logan, Bryan Weathers, Ronald Embry, Douglas Fuller and Chris Aeschlimann.

A Brother Mourned



Local 1900 member Harold Roberts passed away April 7, 2007.

L.U. 1900 (so&u), WASHINGTON, DC—On April 7 we lost Bro. Harold Roberts. The following excerpt is from Chalk Point's newsletter, *The Chalkboard*.

"We lost one in our Chalk Point family recently. Harold Roberts was a hard worker who took pride in his job. He was a friend to all who knew him and he made Chalk Point a better place

to work. A kind, gentle and quiet man who always pointed out the good in people and seldom found fault. Harold was a down home family man with honest and true beliefs. A farmer with devotion to his family and farm he loved. This world was a better place with Harold in it. God surely must have some land he wants you to tend upstairs with him. Your Chalk Point family will miss you, Harold, until we meet again."

—Signed Anonymous

Karl Furbush, R.S./B.R.

Election of Officers

L.U. 2084 (ees&em), SYRACUSE, NY—On June 26, we held our election of officers. Elected were: Pres. Guy M. Raymond, Vice Pres. Charles R. Thayer, Rec. Sec. Harold E. Mosher, Fin. Sec. David A. Phillips, Treas. Dave W. Pickard, Bus. Mgr. James E. Jackson Jr.; and Executive Board members John B. Annal, William Annicharico, Sylvester N. Beeles, John P. Desiato, Patrick Hadley, Dennis F. Muir, William J. Paninski, David L. Reynolds and Robert J. Robinson. Congratulations to all.

James E. Jackson Jr., B.M.