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ANOTHER **BAD** CONNECTION?

Damaging Deals Worry More Telecom Workers

The deal by Verizon Communications Inc. to sell off a chunk of its rural land-line system to Frontier Communications Co. is giving IBEW members across the country a disconcerting sense of déjà vu (see sidebar, page 2).

"We've seen this story before," said Telecommunications Department Director Martha Pultar, who was active in the campaign to stop Verizon's sale of its northern New England landlines to FairPoint Communications Inc. "And it's always ended badly."

The FairPoint deal ended up with the underfunded and debt-heavy company in financial disaster, placing the economic health of the communities they serve at risk, a fate shared by two other previous sales made by Verizon—Hawaiian Telecom and Idearc Media.

Now many Verizon employees and customers are worried that the looming Frontier sale is another catastrophe waiting to happen.

"Utility commissioners and political leaders should do their homework and look at what happened at Hawaiian Telecom and FairPoint," said Honolulu Local 1357 Business Manager Scot Long, who represents more than 900 workers at the now-bankrupt company. "Both companies were swamped as soon as the cutover happened. They can't just let Verizon say to heck with its customers and its responsibilities and walk away with the money."



Augusta, Maine, Local 2327 Business Manager Pete McLaughlin helps deliver more than 5,000 postcards in 2007 opposing the sale of Verizon's northern New England system to FairPoint Communications. The company is now nearing bankruptcy.

Hawaiian Telecom's Collapse

More than three years ago, Hawaiian Telecom Communications Inc.—a former GTE company that became part of Verizon in 1999—was sold off by the telecom giant to the Carlyle Group, a private equity firm, for \$1.6 billion. Investors put up \$425 million in equity and financed the rest through debt for what became the largest telephone company in Hawaii.

But soon after the switchover from Verizon's systems, the company found itself in over its head.

"The managers they brought in knew nothing about the telecommunications field," Long said. "They were overextended."

Customer service and billing issues began to mount, leading to an exodus of customers and uncontrollable debt levels for the company, which lost more than 20 percent of its customer base.

Hawaiian Telecom was soon approximately \$1 billion in debt.

Last December the company filed for bankruptcy protection. The courts are currently reviewing reorganization plans submitted by company stakeholders. Local 1357 members—

DAMAGING DEALS continued on page 2

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Damaging Deals

who have been working forced over-time since the sale—are still on the job. Long is fighting to make sure the company's pension plan will remain solvent.

"It's a demoralizing experience for our members," Long said.

For Long, the lesson from the sale is clear. "There has to be stronger oversight from regulators so this kind of bad deal can't happen again."

FairPoint's Dead End

According to its latest Securities and Exchange Commission filings, FairPoint Communications may soon join Hawaiian Telecom in bankruptcy. The Charlotte, N.C.-based company requested a delay in interest payments to bond holders on more than \$500 million in debt it incurred when it purchased the northern New England portion of Verizon's landlines for more than \$2.4 billion in March 2008.

The deal brought 2,220 IBEW members in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont into the company.

The IBEW and the Communications Workers of America fought the sale, saying that the mainly rural and underfunded carrier wouldn't be able to handle the more than 1 million additional customers that came with the purchase or be in a position to compete in the growing broadband and wireless markets.

At a Glance

VERIZON'S SALES: Recent transactions have ended badly for companies that purchased Verizon's assets.

FairPoint Communications

WHAT: 1.5 million landlines in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont

WHEN: March 2008

COST: \$2.3 billion

CUSTOMER BASE: Down 200,000 since sale

CURRENT STATUS: \$531 million in debt. Forced to postpone interest payment.

Hawaiian Telecom

WHAT: 715,000 landlines in Hawaii

WHEN: 2005

COST: \$1.6 billion

CUSTOMER BASE: Down 21% since sale

CURRENT STATUS: More than \$1 billion in debt. Filed for bankruptcy last year.

Wary Locals Eye Verizon-Frontier Deal

In the Pacific Northwest, home to Microsoft and Boeing, there is growing concern that a mega telecommunications deal could bring an end to years of high-tech growth. Verizon Communications wants to sell its rural phone and broadband systems in 14 states—including networks in Washington, Oregon and northern California—to Frontier Communications for \$8.6 billion. While the gigantic deal may be good for Verizon's bottom line, critics say it is bad news for huge swaths of rural America.

"We've always been a leader in communications in this part of the country," said Ray Egelhoff, business manager of Seattle Local 89. "If this happens, we're afraid businesses won't move in, and some may even move out."

Verizon wants to sell 4.8 million phone lines and 900,000 high-speed Internet lines, mostly in rural areas where the company believes it will be too expensive to expand its next-generation fiber optic network. In addition to systems in the Northwest, the company plans to get rid of operations in Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana, Wisconsin, South Carolina, North Carolina and Arkansas. Frontier will become the new employer of close to 11,000 workers, including more than 4,000 members of the IBEW. The company will triple in size.

"There are worries about the company's ability to sustain itself, retain its employees and maintain an acceptable level of service for its customers," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill, who expressed concern that smaller communities will be locked out of the new, high-speed fiber optic technologies for which Verizon has become known.

Egelhoff, along with more than 1,500 Verizon Local 89 workers who would become Frontier employees, has deluged officials with letters and

e-mails. More than 500 have gone out so far to senators, house members, governors and business leaders. The workers worry that Frontier—at about a third the size of Verizon—won't be able to absorb the huge Verizon assets, or retain customers and, eventually, will have to shed staff.

"Verizon doesn't have a great track record on these kinds of deals," Egelhoff said. "It could be just a matter of time before what happened in other places happens here."

Critics say similar Verizon deals have left companies on the verge of bankruptcy and consumers stuck with the mess.

"Frontier is making all kinds of promises about synergy," said Robert Erickson, International Representative for the IBEW's Telecommunications Department. "We don't believe that they can keep those promises."

West Virginia could be especially vulnerable, according to opponents of the deal. Verizon previously committed to a major expansion of fiber optic services in the state. Frontier would be required to replace all of Verizon's operational, support and administrative systems on the day the deal closes, a task some experts said would cripple Frontier financially.

Opponents of the deal are also frustrated by Verizon's use of a controversial tax loophole that will allow the company to avoid paying taxes on its anticipated \$3.3 billion in profit from the deal. Verizon can only get the tax-free deal by selling its operations to a smaller company.

The transaction needs the approval of the Federal Communications Commission and nine state regulatory agencies. Verizon hopes to close on the deal by the spring of 2010. ■

The IBEW's warnings proved to be all too prescient.

Soon after FairPoint broke all connections with Verizon's IT and computer systems last January, problems began.

Hundreds of customers found they couldn't access their e-mail accounts, understand their bills or reach customer service centers, where there were reports of service wait times exceeding an hour. For weeks, computer glitches left hundreds of IBEW members employed by

FairPoint with incorrect paychecks.

The whole process has been difficult for FairPoint employees, who went from working for the top telecommunications company in the United States to a small and struggling company on the edge of bankruptcy. While keeping most of the contract language they had with Verizon, the company's financial difficulties call into question how long the IBEW's agreement can hold out.

"It's been very stressful on my members," said Manchester, N.H., Local 2320 Business Manager Glenn Brackett. "Working for

a company that is in such a precarious financial situation makes every day uncertain."

The Maine Public Utilities Commission, which approved the sale in 2008, has fined FairPoint more than \$840,000 for poor service to local phone carriers, which rely on Verizon's network.

And earlier this summer the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission agreed to the state's consumer advocate's request to open an investigation into the company.

"For months now, FairPoint has been unable to provide even the most rudimentary level of customer service to many of the retail customers it inherited when the company took over the New England operations of Verizon," stated an editorial in the Kennebec (Maine) Journal and Morning Sentinel. "Phone lines haven't been hooked up, Internet can't be connected and the prolonged wait for a response from customer service staff has angered customers and frustrated regulators."

For System Council T-9 Chairman Peter McLaughlin, who leads the three-local council that represents workers at the former Verizon facilities owned by FairPoint, it's an unfortunate case of we told you so.

"Everything the 'Stop the Sale' coalition warned would happen is coming to pass," said McLaughlin,

who is also the business manager of Augusta, Maine, Local 2327. "I can only hope that people learn from our experience in dealing with another Verizon spin-off."

Idearc Media, whose workers are IBEW members, purchased Verizon's yellow page directory in 2006. The company quickly went into the red, filing for bankruptcy last March.

Leaving Rural America Out in the Cold

Verizon's critics notice a pattern behind its recent sales. "Clearly the company is trying to ditch its more rural systems and less profitable services in favor of putting its resources into more densely populated areas," McLaughlin said.

Verizon's interest clearly lies in its new fiber optic service, FIOS, a bundled high-speed communication package it has been heavily marketing in areas that have been upgraded for fiber optics. As the Wall Street Journal reported in 2006, soon after FIOS was unveiled: "The possible sales are part of the New York-based

phone giant's strategy to delve deeper into the wireless and broadband arenas, while getting out of the traditional phone business in U.S. areas that aren't slated for fiber upgrades—which allow the company to sell more Internet-based services—and therefore are less valuable to the company in the long run."

But Verizon's abandonment of its rural systems to unprepared companies to focus on urban markets has left many customers in danger of falling off the information superhighway altogether.

Companies like FairPoint and Hawaiian Telecom lacked the resources to make investments in advanced telecommunications technology like high-speed broadband, said International Representative Bob Erickson. And many are worried that the 14-state Frontier sale will put large parts of the country in a similar situation.

"Verizon is abandoning large parts of America, making products like high-speed Internet—vital for economic growth—off-limits for large areas of the country," Erickson said. ■

Correction

In the August 2009 article, "New York City Building Trades Sign Historic Agreement to Save Jobs," we incorrectly quote New York Local 3 Business Manager Christopher Erickson on how the June project labor agreement will affect the local's current contract. We apologize for the error.

In Pa., New Classifications Build A Stronger Union

This is the second article in a series on how locals are expanding market share and creating opportunities for contractors, local unions and members looking for careers in the electrical trade.

National unemployment statistics are still on a scary incline. Inside construction locals, like Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Local 163, aren't waiting on better days. They are sharpening tactics to win new customers and keep members on the job.

Local 163 and its signatory contractors are winning lucrative contracts on projects ranging from strip malls to larger jobs such as hotels, stand-alone medical facilities and large retail stores.

Lowe's Home Improvement, for instance, contracted with signatory contractor Cavanaugh Electric Inc. to build a new distribution center in Local 163's jurisdiction. The contractor, employing IBEW-NECA's Pennsylvania Initiative, placed 13 newly-hired workers (construction electricians and construction wiremen) on the job with 65 journeymen and apprentices. When it came time to install conveyors, the local negotiated with BCU, an Ohio contractor, to put an additional 23 inside wiremen on the job. "Our ratios worked out for everyone," says Local 163 Business Manager Michael Kwashnik.

Joseph J. Cavanaugh, president of Cavanaugh Electric Contracting Inc., says, "We have the ability to compete in non-traditional work without any wage concessions for any of the classifications on the projects."

Cavanaugh says that the company's projects under the Pennsylvania Initiative for 2007-2008 were worth \$9.6 million and generated 55,000 inside journeyman man-hours by utilizing composite crews.

Expanding the use of the CE/CW classifications has generated some controversy within the local. However, says Kwashnik, "by strategically targeting specific jobs, we have increased local man-hours on the types of jobs that we had not been doing in the past."

The Pennsylvania Initiative Committee increased contractors' training contributions from \$0.25 to \$0.40 per man-hour, based upon a study on training needs



Increased employer contributions funded a JATC-certified training room for Wilkes Barre, Pa., Local 163 to help upgrade the job skills of CE/CWs and inside apprentices.

conducted by Local 163's training director, John Nadolny.

Increased contributions helped fund a JATC-certified training room that is being used to help upgrade the job skills of CE/CW and inside apprentices. Enhancing the training of CE/CW boosts productivity, allowing union contractors to pick up market share, says Kwashnik.

"I am proud to be following in the footsteps of many great journeyman wiremen."

—Jeremy Polney, Wilkes-Barre, Local 163

Extra attention to training is not just helping employers, but is boosting career opportunities.

Jeremy Polney is one of four construction electricians who have already used their training and on-the-job experience to enter the apprenticeship program.

Polney, 29, worked as a nonunion electrician for about seven years on residential and small commercial projects after receiving an associate degree in electrical construction. "As I was gaining more knowledge and getting more experience in the field," says Polney, "the

room for advancement seemed to be getting slimmer." With his pay scale close to topping out and lacking retirement benefits, he started investigating the IBEW.

When he learned about the union's efforts to expand its share of the small works market, Polney submitted his resume to Local 163 and a local contractor. He was hired as a construction electrician, worked a few months, and is now enrolled in the apprenticeship program. "It's much more satisfying to talk about my career now," says Polney. "I look forward to a better lifestyle for myself and future family. I am proud to be following in the footsteps of many great journeyman wiremen," he says.

More electricians will see future opportunities as Local 163 continues its involvement in other large-scale jobs.

For more than two years, 200 Local 163 journeymen and apprentices have been building a 500,000-square-foot cocoa-processing factory on 74 acres in Hazleton, Pa., for Archer Daniels Midland. All of the work is being performed under the parties' inside agreement.

ADM, which calls itself "super-market to the world," bargains tough, says Kwashnik. But the company—which declared \$1.8 billion in profits in 2008—is more than satisfied with Local 163's commitment to excellence on the job. ■

Organizing Wire

Tight-knit Cable Crew Organizes Tennessee Subcontractor

Marc Moncier says he and his 11 co-workers were "over a barrel with no ground to move," working for K&S, a nonunion cable subcontractor, when the IBEW came knocking. They had endured numerous pay cuts—from \$1,500 a week take-home to \$500—and had even walked off the job once, but their managers "ruled with an iron fist," said Moncier, a broadband technician with 10 years of experience in the industry.

In late June, Moncier and his co-workers voted 9 to 3 to be represented by Kingsport, Tenn., Local 934 after a union campaign directed by Lead Organizer Joe Skinner.

The winning vote could help spread the union's influence at K&S, a Charter Communications subcontractor, employing over 300 workers at 10 locations in Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

"We chased down K&S trucks and struck up conversations with the workers," says Skinner, who worked with Organizer Craig Perica, a former K&S supervisor, Regional Coordinator Larry McGlamary and Local 934 Organizer David Combs on the campaign with support from the Research and Telecommunications Departments.

The company called workers into meetings where they showed anti-union videos. But managers couldn't divide them or dislodge the workers' desire to have a bargaining agent. The unit, which included several blood relatives, accurately predicted the vote before it took place.

Moncier voices concern about first-contract negotiations. Directly after the vote, his brother, Matt, a union supporter, went up to a manager to shake hands. The manager refused. His brother quit his job on the spot.

"The company guys were pouting like elementary school children after we won," says Moncier, who is calling his congressman to get him to support the Employee Free Choice Act. "Tennessee is a right-to-work state and we could sure use first contract arbitration language [in EFCA] to help give workers a chance," he says. ■

Western Utility Mechanics Win Voluntary Recognition

Western Utility Electric shares a signatory relationship with Chicago Local 9 and Rockford, Ill., Local 196. The company has employed union members—electricians, laborers and operating engineers—on outside construction projects for many years. However, mechanics on the job remained unorganized.

After two international unions attempted to organize the mechanics, a Local 9 lineman suggested to them that their best option in seeking a voice on the job and fair treatment from their shop manager would be joining IBEW. The lineman then called the union hall.

Local 9 Business Manager Bob Pierson, who is also chairman of the International Executive Council, notified the Membership Development Department of the mechanics' interest in representation.

International Organizer Mike Green met with the four mechanics, who signed authorization cards.

Western Utility Electric recognized the new bargaining unit without a representation election.

"Now when mechanics come out on the job and work with electricians, they will be members of the same union working together," says Green. ■

Public Safety Officers Join IBEW

Twelve public safety officers at Metro Community College in Omaha, Neb., signed IBEW authorization cards after becoming dissatisfied with their representation by another labor organization.

The bargaining unit was recognized by the college's board of governors without an election. The employees are now members of Omaha Local 1483.

"IBEW's strong reputation in Omaha made the difference," says Region 3 Membership Development Coordinator C.J. King, thanking International Organizer Brian Heins and Local 1483 Business Manager Mark Salerno for their work on the campaign. ■

Transitions

Due to the large number of summer retirements, we will report on the rest in the October issue.

RETIRED Bobby R. Roberts



Bobby R. Roberts, director of the Manufacturing Department at the IBEW International Office,

retired August 5 following more than 30 years of service to the union.

Born in Indianapolis, Ind., Roberts was initiated into Bloomington Local 2249 in 1973, while he was employed at the General Electric refrigerator plant. He joined the local's executive board in 1981. He then served as president and acting business manager from 1984 to 1989 while working as System Council EM-5's treasurer and on its executive board. EM-5 is comprised of several locals representing IBEW workers at GE plants across the country.

Roberts served as a central labor council representative to the Monroe, Ind., United Way Board of Directors. He completed labor studies at Indiana University.

Brother Roberts was appointed International Representative to the Manufacturing Department in 1989. He was active in electrical manufac-

turing system councils, which coordinate bargaining agreements for IBEW members in lighting, wire, cable and other industries.

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill appointed Roberts to the directorship of the Manufacturing Department in 2003, where he helped oversee national collective bargaining agreements while servicing and supporting more than 200 locals representing about 72,000 members. As director, Roberts assisted system councils and multi-union coordinated bargaining committees while enhancing the IBEW's training program for manufacturing employees. In providing support for all manufacturing contract negotiations, he strengthened the union's hand at the bargaining table through research and data collection on signatory companies.

"Bob always was the best prepared individual at any negotiating table, and he was highly respected by both the union and management for that reason," said Randy Middleton, who now serves as interim director of the Manufacturing Department. "The level of commitment he applied to doing his job will stand as a benchmark for a very long time."

Brother Roberts is an avid photographer, fisherman and golfer. His family includes his wife, Cindy, daughter Allyson and stepdaughter Amy.

"I plan on enjoying retirement and spending a lot of time with the family," he said.

The staff, members and officers of the IBEW thank Brother Roberts for his service and wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement. ■

RETIRED Gerald P. Counihan



Fifth District International Representative Gerald "Jerry" Counihan retired on August 1 after more than 30

years of service to the IBEW.

"I've made tremendous friends in the Brotherhood that I hope to keep in touch with in retirement," Brother Counihan said.

Counihan is a life-long resident of Savannah, Ga., growing up in an IBEW family. His father, Michael, was business manager of Savannah Local 508 for more than 30 years. He studied respiratory therapy at Charleston Southern College and the University of Chicago, working summers as a helper on IBEW work sites.

After seeing the wages and benefits that come from belonging to the IBEW, Counihan decided to switch careers and enter an apprentice program to become an inside wireman.

Brother Counihan rose through the ranks of Local 508 serving on the executive board, followed by his election as business manager in 1982.

In addition to his service to Local 508, he also served as secretary-treasurer for the Savannah Building Trades and the Georgia Electrical Workers Association.

He also served on the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee.

In 1988, he was appointed by International President John J. Barry as International Representative for the Fifth District. He was responsible for servicing inside and outside construction locals throughout the Deep South.

He was also ran the construction stewards' training for locals in the Fifth District. "It was a challenge because

the program was new and so popular, but I knew the skills and knowledge the attendees learned were well worth it to the union," Counihan said.

Counihan is an active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a fraternal society for Irish Catholics, and the Knights of Columbus.

His hobbies include fishing and jogging. "After all the time I spent on the road, I look forward to getting back into an exercise routine."

Counihan says he is looking forward to spending more time with his family, which includes his wife, Lisa, and his three children. "It will be nice to have some down time."

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

RETIRED Duane Nordick



Seventh District International Representative Duane Nordick retired July 31 after an IBEW career spanning

four decades.

After serving eight years in the U.S. Air Force, Nordick was initiated into Wichita, Kan., Local 1523 in 1969 while working in the substation department of Kansas Gas and Electric. He served 16 years as business manager before being appointed to the International staff in 1993.

"It's an honor and a privilege to have had the opportunity to be part of this organization," Nordick said. "It has provided so much for me, my family and my fellow brothers and sisters."

While his fondest memories take him back to organizing campaigns at the Wolf Creek Generating Station in Burlington, Kan., and the El Paso Electric Co., he is proudest of the union's hard fought courtroom victory over the Public Service Company of Oklahoma in 2004. After an eight-year legal battle, IBEW members in his district won a \$6 million settlement for overtime back pay.

"It felt really good after fighting for so long to see the checks going out to our members. It was money they had earned by working hard on the job," he said.

In retirement, Brother Nordick plans to continue sharing his expertise on arbitration and National Labor Relations Board issues. After traveling extensively for the past two decades, he also wants to spend more time close to home with his wife, four children and five grandchildren. He also plans to restore a classic '65 Mustang purchased almost 20 years ago.

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

RETIRED Michael D. Nugent



International Representative Michael D. Nugent retired August 1 after more than four

decades of

service to the IBEW. Following two years in the Army, Brother Nugent was initiated into Chicago Local 134 in 1968. While working as an apprentice and wireman, he took night classes at Loyola University and earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1974.

Nugent came to the International Office in 1978 as an International Representative on the staff of International Secretary Ralph Leigon. One of his first projects was to help rewrite the guide for financial secretaries.

He was elevated two years later to become director of Financial Operations, in charge of the Investment and Accounting departments. Nugent helped develop a program that enabled the IBEW to move from lender to full partner with real estate developers, vastly increasing the union's profit potential. He also helped select a master custodian, a financial services firm that brought all IBEW investments under one accounting umbrella. Over the years since, the NEBF's pension fund has gone from a small trust to one of the largest Taft-Hartley funds in the country.

Nugent moved to the Research Department in 1990, where he helped devise the ranking system still used today to evaluate Founders' Scholarship applicants. His detailed records on thousands



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of arbitrators helped ensure fair results in local union arbitrations.

In 2002, Nugent transferred to the Media Department, where he helped put together the IBEW Museum, which opened in 2007 at the International Office. In the process, he helped cull the old archives, catalog and photograph the current collection and became knowledgeable in the conservation of historical items. He spent a great deal of time soliciting donations and mined e-Bay in search of the correct pieces to illustrate and highlight the IBEW's role in the development of the electrical industry in the United States and Canada. His command of knowledge about the union and its history has enthralled countless visitors to the museum.

As archivist, curator and tour guide of the IBEW Museum, his work pays off in the appreciation the museum elicits from young and old alike. Many see the museum as the embodiment of their careers. "They have paid their dues to help build our great union," Nugent said. "This is a small gift to them."

Nugent's appearances in recent "Museum Stories" videos on the IBEW Web site have brought the richness of the union's history to life in front of the camera.

"I always tried to make a visitor's trip to the museum a personal adventure," Nugent said.

Nugent is a member of the American Legion Electric Post 769, the Potomac Boat Club, Potomac Masonic Lodge No. 5 and the Washington Association of Money Managers. His family includes his wife, Joyce, and their two sons. Nugent looks forward to further documenting the life and times of IBEW founder Henry Miller and said he may continue to give tours at the IBEW Museum.

The staff, members and officers of the IBEW thank Brother Nugent for his dedicated service and wish him an enjoyable, well-deserved retirement. ■

RETIRED Richard J. Panagrossi



Second District International Representative Richard Panagrossi retired August 1 following nearly

four decades of service to the IBEW.

"I've had some really wonderful times working for the union," said Panagrossi. "It was full of so many opportunities to grow the

Brotherhood and to service well deserving members."

Born in New Haven, Conn., Panagrossi graduated from Providence College in 1961 with a bachelor's degree in political science. He was initiated into New Haven Local 90 in 1968, working as an inside wireman.

The Panagrossi name was well-known in Local 90. His brother, Don, and many of his uncles and cousins were members, while his father, Dominic, was a former business manager. "The IBEW has been a family tradition," he said.

Panagrossi served on the executive board, various union committees and as business agent before becoming business manager in 1974. He was appointed by then International President Charles Pillard to the Second District staff in 1981.

"Many new power plants were being built in my assigned territory so it was a good time to represent the IBEW," he said.

Panagrossi serviced inside, outside and manufacturing locals throughout Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He was also responsible for the major shipyard in Groton, Conn.

In addition to his service to the IBEW, he served on many state boards, including the Occupational Electrical

Licensing Board for more than 15 years, serving as its chairman. He also sat on the Energy Advisory Board.

Brother Panagrossi has also been active in youth athletics, coaching area little league teams.

Panagrossi's family includes his wife, Victoria, two daughters and one son. He plans to spend more time with his 11 grandchildren and volunteer his time with the state Board of Mediation and Arbitration, drawing on his extensive collective bargaining experience.

"The IBEW has been like family to me and I'm greatly honored and privileged to be in its service."

The staff, members and officers of the IBEW wish Brother Panagrossi a long and fulfilling retirement. ■

RETIRED James W. Rudicil



Sixth District International Representative Jim Rudicil retired effective August 1.

A former director of Construction Organizing, Rudicil trained thousands of members in techniques to grow the union

through COMET and other programs. He then put those tactics into practice with celebrated success.

In the late 1990s Rudicil was appointed director of the National Building and Construction Trades Las Vegas Organizing Project. "It was an experiment that yielded 5,000 new union members and immediate political gains," says Rudicil. The new union activists, he says, made the difference in Nevada Democratic Sen. Harry Reid's 438-vote win over now-Senator John Ensign (R-Nev.) in 1998.

As coordinator of IBEW's Florida Initiative in 2005, Rudicil sharpened grassroots and top-down organizing methods. "It's a fast-changing world. If we don't adapt, we won't survive," says Rudicil. "Our new initiatives can succeed when we remember that we represent all members in our industry, not just union members. How we do things affects all people in our trade and their families."

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran of Vietnam, Rudicil was initiated into Muskegon, Mich., Local 275 in 1969. Elected business manager in 1974, Rudicil also served as chairman of the Muskegon Building Trades and chairman of IBEW's Michigan State Electrical Conference.

A strong believer in community activism, Rudicil served as chair-

man of the board of the Muskegon County United Way, vice chairman of the county's economic commission and chairman of its energy commission during his tenure as business manager.

Appointed an International Representative in 1980, Rudicil was selected as director of Construction Organizing in 1992 and Senior International Organizer in 2005.

"Jim's unparalleled institutional knowledge and unbridled passion blazed the trail for construction organizers of all trades and produced tangible organizing successes across the Brotherhood," says Kirk Brungard, director of Construction Organizing. "Many of the necessary structural organizing changes now in place were generated by his progressive and tireless work," adds Brungard, who described Rudicil as a genuine mentor.

Brother Rudicil, who was recently married, looks forward to enjoying boating and spending time with his wife, Patricia.

The officers and members of the IBEW express our gratitude to Brother Rudicil for his dedicated service and wish him the best that retirement has to offer. ■

Circuits

Photo Identification Correction

The July issue of The Electrical Worker carried a piece about South Bend, Ind., Local 153 member Frank Emery, who received an award for saving the life of a pregnant woman. Our caption incorrectly identified the presenter of the local's award as Mike Compton, the local's business manager. The presenter was Stan Miles, the local's president, left, with Emery and Cindee Goodling. ■



Member Awarded for Retiree Activism Research

Toledo, Ohio, Local 245 member Ken Erdmann's award-winning research on retiree social policy was inspired by current events.

"Whatever the government takes away from retirees today may affect all of us tomorrow," said Erdmann, who wrote his National Labor College thesis on inspiring retirees to become involved in shaping policies that affect their lives. The paper earned him an award from the Bert and Annabel Seidman Foundation.

For his research, Erdmann met with local chapters of the AARP, the Alliance for Retired Americans and other groups to discuss Medicare, Social Security and pension reform. "All of the groups were very different," said Erdmann, who concluded that retirees want to get involved, but they just don't know how. By forming groups of activists with a common goal, Erdmann discovered what calls them to action. "What makes them become involved is when they know that their peers will stand behind them and work with them."

Erdmann, an assistant business manager at Local 245, graduated in

2009 from the NLC with a Bachelor of Arts in Labor Studies. Erdmann has long been involved in local retiree organizations.

The Bert and Annabel Seidman Award is presented by the Alliance for Retired Americans, which honors the Seidmans and their passion for retirees, workers' rights and social justice. ■



Generations of Brotherhood in Iowa

Des Moines, Iowa, Local 55 counts four generations of the Thompson family among its membership, starting with Leonard Thompson, who died in 1998. Some family members have retired, others are still active and a few have moved on to other locals. Along with the Thompsons pictured in this 2007 picture, still more of the family have been members, including Emma Jean Thompson, Mary Lou O'Dea and Donna Petterson. One member of the fourth generation, Clay O'Dea, is also not pictured. Pictured from left are Local 55 members Sloan Thompson, Terry Thompson, Clint O'Dea, Maynard Garman, Rio Thompson, Ross Thompson, Dan Persons, Tom Thompson and Martin Thompson. ■



Ontario Electrical Safety Coalition Launches Campaign Against Working Live

A new campaign by the Electrical Safety Coalition of Ontario is hoping to convince contractors across the province to “Just don’t ask” their electricians to work on live, energized equipment.

“We’re trying to make them aware that any short-term inconvenience that might come from shutting the power off is more than made up by the injuries and death that will be avoided by following these guidelines,” said First District International Representative Tom Reid.

The coalition, which includes

the IBEW, the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario and the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, launched the “Just Don’t Ask” campaign at a public event in June hosted by the Center for Health and Safety Innovation in Mississauga.

John Pender, executive secretary treasurer of the IBEW Ontario construction council, said as an apprentice he witnessed his mentor suffer from a traumatic on-the-job accident due to working on live equipment. “The job could have easily been done after the unit was

de-energized, but the mentality at the time was that you did whatever was necessary to please the client.”

Half of all injuries suffered by electricians in Ontario are due to working live. While occasionally inside electricians have no choice but to work on energized equipment, many times working live is done for the sake of convenience or saving a few extra dollars.

“It puts our members unnecessarily at risk and it could end up costing the client a lot more in the long run if an accident occurs that could have been prevented if they

shut off the power in the first place,” Reid said.

In situations where shutting off the power isn’t an option, the coalition supports strict guidelines and safety standards for contractors to adopt.

The “Just Don’t Ask” campaign is getting its message out through a series of paid ads, work site posters and Internet outreach, including using social media tools like

Facebook and Twitter.

The coalition also produced an authorization form for contractors and electricians to present to clients and general contractors before any job informing them of the danger of live work on electrical circuits. “It’s the key item of this campaign,” said Eyal Roberts, executive vice president of the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario. ■

La Coalition pour la sécurité électrique de l’Ontario lance une campagne contre les travaux réalisés sur le matériel électrique sous tension!

Avec cette nouvelle campagne, la Coalition pour la sécurité électrique de l’Ontario veut convaincre les entrepreneurs de la province de “juste ne pas demander” aux électriciens à leur emploi, de réaliser des travaux sur du matériel électrique sous tension.

“Nous voulons qu’ils prennent conscience que les accidents et les pertes de vie qui peuvent être évités en observant cette directive de sécurité, compensent largement les inconvénients provisoires causés lorsque le courant est coupé.” déclare Tom Reid, représentant international du Premier District.

La coalition, formée de la FIOE, de l’Association des entrepreneurs-électriciens de l’Ontario et de l’Association pour la prévention des accidents industriels, a lancé la campagne “Juste ne pas demander” au mois de juin, lors d’un événement public présenté à Mississauga par le Centre sur l’innovation dans le domaine de la santé et de la sécurité.

Le confrère John Pender, secrétaire-trésorier exécutif du Conseil de la construction de la FIOE de l’Ontario, se souvient avoir été témoin au cours de son apprentissage, d’un événement traumatisant dont son mentor a été victime en travaillant sur du matériel sous tension. “Il aurait fallu que le courant soit coupé avant de débiter les travaux, mais la mentalité de cette époque nous dictait de faire tout le nécessaire pour que le client soit satisfait.”

La moitié des accidents dont sont victimes les électriciens en Ontario, surviennent lorsqu’ils travaillent sur du matériel sous tension. Parfois, même les électriciens d’intérieur n’ont d’autre choix que de travailler sous tension, alors que tels travaux sont souvent réalisés pour des raisons de commodité ou dans le but de sauver un peu plus d’argent.

“La vie de nos membres est mise en danger inutilement, sans compter qu’il en coûterait beaucoup plus cher au client à long terme s’il fallait qu’un accident survienne, alors qu’il aurait pu être évité si on avait

coupé le courant avant d’entreprendre les travaux.” dit le confrère Reid.

Dans certaines circonstances, couper le courant n’est pas une option. La coalition serait alors favorable à ce que les entrepreneurs adoptent des directives et des normes de sécurité strictes.

Le message de la campagne “Juste ne pas demander” est diffusé par une série d’annonces publicitaires, des affiches distribuées sur les lieux de travail et sur l’Internet, notamment en utilisant les médias sociaux tels que Facebook et Twitter.

La coalition a également rédigé un formulaire d’autorisation que les entrepreneurs et les électriciens pourront remettre aux clients et aux entrepreneurs généraux avant d’entreprendre les travaux; ce formulaire les informe des dangers que représentent les travaux réalisés sur le matériel et les circuits électriques sous tension. “C’est l’élément-clé de cette campagne” conclut Eyal Roberts, Vice-président exécutif de l’Association des entrepreneurs-électriciens de l’Ontario. ■

One of the ads produced by the Electrical Safety Coalition of Ontario in support of the campaign to prevent accidents caused by working on live, energized equipment.

Une des publicités présentées par la Coalition pour la sécurité électrique de l’Ontario pour la campagne visant à prévenir les accidents causés par les travaux réalisés sur le matériel électrique sous tension.

Locals Approve Change to Constitution

At its May meeting, the International Executive Council instructed the International Secretary-Treasurer to submit an amendment to the IBEW Constitution (full text below) to all IBEW local unions modifying the manner in which pay increases for International Officers, Assistants and representatives are to be calculated over the next three years. The purpose of the amendment was to divert some of the increases that would be due to bolster the funding of the pension plan for International officers and staff.

Local unions voted during the period from June 1 to August 15, 2009. Each local cast one vote. The amendment passed with 374 locals voting in favor and 93 against.

Full text of amendment:

WHEREAS, the International President and International Secretary-Treasurer have discussed the financial situation of the IBEW with the International Executive Council. While the IBEW remains in solid financial shape, it has been

adversely affected, as have all unions, by the current worldwide financial crisis; and

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult to fund the Pension Plan for International Officers, Representatives and Assistants of the IBEW out of General Fund assets; and

WHEREAS, the International President, the International Secretary-Treasurer and the International Executive Council all agree that an amendment to the IBEW Constitution which would modify pay increases for Officers, Assistants, Directors and International Representatives over

the next three years to give the IBEW a greater ability and flexibility to fund the Plan is necessary and warranted.

NOW, THEREFORE, the International Executive Council instructs the International Secretary-Treasurer to submit this proposed amendment to all local unions for a vote pursuant to Article XXVII, Section 1 (b) of the IBEW Constitution. Article III, Section 8 of the IBEW Constitution shall be amended by including the following language at the end of the first paragraph:

“Notwithstanding the above, effective beginning with the October 1, 2009 pay increase, such increase shall be 50 percent of the increase described above and then added to the pay rates in effect. This method

of calculating the pay increases shall be used to calculate the October 1, 2010 and October 1, 2011 pay increases. However, as the intent of this amendment is to result in additional funds for the Pension Plan for International Officers, Representatives and Assistants of the IBEW equal to 5 percent of Officers’, Assistants’, Directors’ and International Representatives’ salaries over the three year period, the International Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to discontinue or modify this calculation in 2009, 2010 and/or 2011 as necessary to achieve the overall 5 percent additional funds. This language shall be removed from the IBEW Constitution effective January 1, 2012.” ■

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 1	X	
LOCAL 2		
LOCAL 3		
LOCAL 4		X
LOCAL 5	X	
LOCAL 6		
LOCAL 7		X
LOCAL 8	X	
LOCAL 9	X	
LOCAL 11		X
LOCAL 12	X	
LOCAL 13		
LOCAL 14		
LOCAL 15	X	
LOCAL 16		
LOCAL 17	X	
LOCAL 18		X
LOCAL 19	X	
LOCAL 20	X	
LOCAL 21	X	
LOCAL 22	X	
LOCAL 23	X	
LOCAL 24	X	
LOCAL 25	X	
LOCAL 26	X	
LOCAL 29	X	
LOCAL 31		X
LOCAL 32	X	
LOCAL 34	X	
LOCAL 35	X	
LOCAL 36	X	
LOCAL 37	X	
LOCAL 38	X	
LOCAL 39		
LOCAL 40		X
LOCAL 41	X	
LOCAL 42	X	
LOCAL 43	X	
LOCAL 44	X	
LOCAL 45		X

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 46	X	
LOCAL 47	X	
LOCAL 48	X	
LOCAL 50		
LOCAL 51		
LOCAL 53	X	
LOCAL 55		X
LOCAL 56	X	
LOCAL 57	X	
LOCAL 58	X	
LOCAL 60	X	
LOCAL 64	X	
LOCAL 66		X
LOCAL 68		X
LOCAL 69		
LOCAL 70	X	
LOCAL 71		
LOCAL 72		
LOCAL 73	X	
LOCAL 76	X	
LOCAL 77	X	
LOCAL 80		
LOCAL 81	X	
LOCAL 82	X	
LOCAL 83	X	
LOCAL 84	X	
LOCAL 86	X	
LOCAL 89		
LOCAL 90	X	
LOCAL 94	X	
LOCAL 95	X	
LOCAL 96	X	
LOCAL 97	X	
LOCAL 98	X	
LOCAL 99	X	
LOCAL 100		
LOCAL 102	X	
LOCAL 103	X	
LOCAL 104		
LOCAL 105	X	

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 106	X	
LOCAL 108	X	
LOCAL 109	X	
LOCAL 110	X	
LOCAL 111	X	
LOCAL 112	X	
LOCAL 113		
LOCAL 115	X	
LOCAL 117	X	
LOCAL 120		X
LOCAL 121	X	
LOCAL 123	X	
LOCAL 124	X	
LOCAL 125		X
LOCAL 126	X	
LOCAL 127		
LOCAL 129	X	
LOCAL 130	X	
LOCAL 131		
LOCAL 134	X	
LOCAL 136	X	
LOCAL 139	X	
LOCAL 141	X	
LOCAL 143	X	
LOCAL 145		
LOCAL 146	X	
LOCAL 150		X
LOCAL 152		
LOCAL 153		X
LOCAL 158	X	
LOCAL 159		X
LOCAL 160		
LOCAL 163	X	
LOCAL 164	X	
LOCAL 175		
LOCAL 176	X	
LOCAL 177		X
LOCAL 180	X	
LOCAL 186		
LOCAL 191	X	

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 193		
LOCAL 194		X
LOCAL 195		
LOCAL 196	X	
LOCAL 197	X	
LOCAL 199		
LOCAL 201		
LOCAL 203		
LOCAL 204		
LOCAL 206	X	
LOCAL 208	X	
LOCAL 210		X
LOCAL 212	X	
LOCAL 213	X	
LOCAL 214		
LOCAL 219		
LOCAL 220	X	
LOCAL 222	X	
LOCAL 223	X	
LOCAL 225	X	
LOCAL 226	X	
LOCAL 229	X	
LOCAL 230	X	
LOCAL 231	X	
LOCAL 233	X	
LOCAL 234	X	
LOCAL 236	X	
LOCAL 237	X	
LOCAL 238		
LOCAL 239		
LOCAL 241	X	
LOCAL 242	X	
LOCAL 244	X	
LOCAL 245		
LOCAL 246	X	
LOCAL 248		X
LOCAL 249		
LOCAL 252	X	
LOCAL 253		
LOCAL 254		

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 257	X	
LOCAL 258	X	
LOCAL 261		
LOCAL 265	X	
LOCAL 266		
LOCAL 269	X	
LOCAL 270		X
LOCAL 271	X	
LOCAL 272		
LOCAL 275	X	
LOCAL 278	X	
LOCAL 280	X	
LOCAL 281		
LOCAL 283		
LOCAL 288	X	
LOCAL 289		
LOCAL 291		
LOCAL 292	X	
LOCAL 294		X
LOCAL 295	X	
LOCAL 300	X	
LOCAL 301		
LOCAL 302		X
LOCAL 303	X	
LOCAL 304	X	
LOCAL 305	X	
LOCAL 306	X	
LOCAL 307	X	
LOCAL 309	X	
LOCAL 311		X
LOCAL 312		
LOCAL 313	X	
LOCAL 316		
LOCAL 317	X	
LOCAL 318		
LOCAL 319		
LOCAL 320		
LOCAL 322		
LOCAL 325	X	
LOCAL 326		X

Change to Constitution

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 327	X	
LOCAL 329		
LOCAL 332		
LOCAL 337		
LOCAL 338		
LOCAL 340		X
LOCAL 342		X
LOCAL 343	X	
LOCAL 345	X	
LOCAL 347		X
LOCAL 348		
LOCAL 349	X	
LOCAL 350	X	
LOCAL 351	X	
LOCAL 352	X	
LOCAL 353	X	
LOCAL 354	X	
LOCAL 355		
LOCAL 357		X
LOCAL 359	X	
LOCAL 360		X
LOCAL 362		
LOCAL 363	X	
LOCAL 364	X	
LOCAL 365		X
LOCAL 366		
LOCAL 369	X	
LOCAL 375	X	
LOCAL 379		X
LOCAL 380	X	
LOCAL 382		
LOCAL 385	X	
LOCAL 386		
LOCAL 387	X	
LOCAL 388	X	
LOCAL 391		
LOCAL 392		
LOCAL 395		
LOCAL 396		X
LOCAL 397		
LOCAL 398		
LOCAL 400	X	
LOCAL 401		X
LOCAL 402		X
LOCAL 405	X	
LOCAL 412	X	
LOCAL 413	X	
LOCAL 415	X	
LOCAL 418		X
LOCAL 420	X	
LOCAL 423		
LOCAL 424		
LOCAL 426	X	
LOCAL 428	X	
LOCAL 429	X	
LOCAL 430	X	
LOCAL 433		
LOCAL 435	X	
LOCAL 436		X
LOCAL 440		X
LOCAL 441		X
LOCAL 443		X
LOCAL 444		
LOCAL 445	X	
LOCAL 446		
LOCAL 449	X	
LOCAL 452		X
LOCAL 453	X	
LOCAL 454		
LOCAL 455	X	

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 456	X	
LOCAL 457		
LOCAL 459	X	
LOCAL 461	X	
LOCAL 463	X	
LOCAL 464		
LOCAL 465		
LOCAL 466	X	
LOCAL 474		
LOCAL 477		X
LOCAL 479		
LOCAL 480	X	
LOCAL 481	X	
LOCAL 483	X	
LOCAL 486		
LOCAL 488	X	
LOCAL 490	X	
LOCAL 494	X	
LOCAL 495	X	
LOCAL 498	X	
LOCAL 499		
LOCAL 500		
LOCAL 502		
LOCAL 503		
LOCAL 505		
LOCAL 506		X
LOCAL 508	X	
LOCAL 510		
LOCAL 512		
LOCAL 513		
LOCAL 518	X	
LOCAL 520	X	
LOCAL 524		
LOCAL 527	X	
LOCAL 529		
LOCAL 530		
LOCAL 531	X	
LOCAL 532	X	
LOCAL 533		
LOCAL 538	X	
LOCAL 540	X	
LOCAL 543		
LOCAL 544		
LOCAL 545	X	
LOCAL 547		
LOCAL 549		X
LOCAL 551	X	
LOCAL 553	X	
LOCAL 557	X	
LOCAL 558	X	
LOCAL 559		
LOCAL 567	X	
LOCAL 568		
LOCAL 569	X	
LOCAL 570		
LOCAL 573	X	
LOCAL 574		X
LOCAL 575		
LOCAL 576	X	
LOCAL 577	X	
LOCAL 578	X	
LOCAL 583	X	
LOCAL 584	X	
LOCAL 586		
LOCAL 589		
LOCAL 595		X
LOCAL 596		
LOCAL 601	X	
LOCAL 602		
LOCAL 604		

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 605	X	
LOCAL 606	X	
LOCAL 607	X	
LOCAL 611	X	
LOCAL 612		
LOCAL 613	X	
LOCAL 614		
LOCAL 617		X
LOCAL 618		
LOCAL 622		
LOCAL 624		
LOCAL 625		
LOCAL 626	X	
LOCAL 627		
LOCAL 632		
LOCAL 633		
LOCAL 636	X	
LOCAL 639	X	
LOCAL 640	X	
LOCAL 641		
LOCAL 647		
LOCAL 648		X
LOCAL 649	X	
LOCAL 650		
LOCAL 653		
LOCAL 654	X	
LOCAL 656		
LOCAL 659		
LOCAL 661		
LOCAL 663		
LOCAL 665		
LOCAL 666	X	
LOCAL 667	X	
LOCAL 668	X	
LOCAL 673	X	
LOCAL 674		
LOCAL 676		
LOCAL 681	X	
LOCAL 682		
LOCAL 683	X	
LOCAL 684	X	
LOCAL 688	X	
LOCAL 690	X	
LOCAL 692	X	
LOCAL 696		
LOCAL 697	X	
LOCAL 700	X	
LOCAL 701		X
LOCAL 702		
LOCAL 704		
LOCAL 706		
LOCAL 708		
LOCAL 712	X	
LOCAL 714	X	
LOCAL 715	X	
LOCAL 716		X
LOCAL 717	X	
LOCAL 721		X
LOCAL 723	X	
LOCAL 725	X	
LOCAL 726		
LOCAL 728	X	
LOCAL 731		
LOCAL 733		
LOCAL 734		
LOCAL 736		
LOCAL 738	X	
LOCAL 742		
LOCAL 743	X	
LOCAL 744		

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 747	X	
LOCAL 750		
LOCAL 753	X	
LOCAL 754	X	
LOCAL 756	X	
LOCAL 757	X	
LOCAL 758		
LOCAL 759		
LOCAL 760	X	
LOCAL 763	X	
LOCAL 765	X	
LOCAL 766		
LOCAL 767	X	
LOCAL 768	X	
LOCAL 769	X	
LOCAL 770	X	
LOCAL 772		
LOCAL 773	X	
LOCAL 774		
LOCAL 775		
LOCAL 776		X
LOCAL 777	X	
LOCAL 778		
LOCAL 780		
LOCAL 783		
LOCAL 784		
LOCAL 791		
LOCAL 794		
LOCAL 796	X	
LOCAL 799		
LOCAL 800		
LOCAL 801		
LOCAL 804	X	
LOCAL 807		X
LOCAL 812	X	
LOCAL 813	X	
LOCAL 816	X	
LOCAL 817		X
LOCAL 820		
LOCAL 824		
LOCAL 825		
LOCAL 827	X	
LOCAL 833		
LOCAL 840	X	
LOCAL 841		
LOCAL 843		
LOCAL 852	X	
LOCAL 855	X	
LOCAL 859	X	
LOCAL 861	X	
LOCAL 862	X	
LOCAL 864		
LOCAL 865		
LOCAL 866	X	
LOCAL 869		
LOCAL 870		
LOCAL 871	X	
LOCAL 873		
LOCAL 876		X
LOCAL 881		
LOCAL 886		
LOCAL 889		
LOCAL 890	X	
LOCAL 894		X
LOCAL 898		
LOCAL 903		
LOCAL 904		
LOCAL 910	X	
LOCAL 912		
LOCAL 914	X	

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 915	X	
LOCAL 917		
LOCAL 932	X	
LOCAL 934		X
LOCAL 940		
LOCAL 942		
LOCAL 946		
LOCAL 948	X	
LOCAL 949	X	
LOCAL 950		
LOCAL 952		X
LOCAL 953	X	
LOCAL 956		
LOCAL 958		
LOCAL 959		
LOCAL 960		
LOCAL 962		
LOCAL 965	X	
LOCAL 966	X	
LOCAL 968		X
LOCAL 969		
LOCAL 970	X	
LOCAL 971		
LOCAL 972	X	
LOCAL 975		
LOCAL 976		
LOCAL 978	X	
LOCAL 979	X	
LOCAL 983	X	
LOCAL 984	X	
LOCAL 985	X	
LOCAL 986	X	
LOCAL 988		
LOCAL 993	X	
LOCAL 995	X	
LOCAL 997		
LOCAL 1000		
LOCAL 1002		
LOCAL 1003	X	
LOCAL 1007	X	
LOCAL 1014	X	
LOCAL 1015		
LOCAL 1022		X
LOCAL 1023		
LOCAL 1024		
LOCAL 1028		
LOCAL 1031		
LOCAL 1040	X	
LOCAL 1042	X	
LOCAL 1047		
LOCAL 1048		
LOCAL 1049	X	
LOCAL 1050		
LOCAL 1053		
LOCAL 1055		
LOCAL 1057		
LOCAL 1060		
LOCAL 1066		
LOCAL 1070	X	
LOCAL 1077		
LOCAL 1087		
LOCAL 1096	X	
LOCAL 1105		
LOCAL 1106		
LOCAL 1108		
LOCAL 1116		
LOCAL 1131		
LOCAL 1132		
LOCAL 1133		
LOCAL 1139	X	

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 1141	X	
LOCAL 1142		
LOCAL 1143		
LOCAL 1146		
LOCAL 1147	X	
LOCAL 1149		
LOCAL 1151		
LOCAL 1153		
LOCAL 1155		
LOCAL 1158		
LOCAL 1181	X	
LOCAL 1183	X	
LOCAL 1186	X	
LOCAL 1189		
LOCAL 1191		
LOCAL 1193	X	
LOCAL 1194	X	
LOCAL 1196		
LOCAL 1199	X	
LOCAL 1200		
LOCAL 1203		
LOCAL 1204		
LOCAL 1205	X	
LOCAL 1206		
LOCAL 1209		
LOCAL 1210		
LOCAL 1211		
LOCAL 1212	X	
LOCAL 1220		
LOCAL 1224		
LOCAL 1225	X	
LOCAL 1228		X
LOCAL 1238		X
LOCAL 1245	X	
LOCAL 1249	X	
LOCAL 1250	X	
LOCAL 1253	X	
LOCAL 1260		
LOCAL 1263		
LOCAL 1269		
LOCAL 1274	X	
LOCAL 1288		
LOCAL 1289		
LOCAL 1293		
LOCAL 1298	X	
LOCAL 1303		
LOCAL 1306		
LOCAL 1307	X	
LOCAL 1316	X	
LOCAL 1317		X
LOCAL 1318		
LOCAL 1319	X	
LOCAL 1323		X
LOCAL 1340	X	
LOCAL 1345		
LOCAL 1346	X	
LOCAL 1347	X	
LOCAL 1357	X	
LOCAL 1362		X
LOCAL 1377		
LOCAL 1379	X	
LOCAL 1383		
LOCAL 1386		
LOCAL 1391		
LOCAL 1392	X	
LOCAL 1393		X
LOCAL 1395		
LOCAL 1400		
LOCAL 1405		
LOCAL 1412		

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 1413	X	
LOCAL 1424		
LOCAL 1426	X	
LOCAL 1430		
LOCAL 1431		X
LOCAL 1432	X	
LOCAL 1434		
LOCAL 1436		X
LOCAL 1439		
LOCAL 1451	X	
LOCAL 1455	X	
LOCAL 1456		
LOCAL 1464	X	
LOCAL 1465		
LOCAL 1466	X	
LOCAL 1474		
LOCAL 1475		
LOCAL 1483		
LOCAL 1491		
LOCAL 1499	X	
LOCAL 1501		
LOCAL 1503		
LOCAL 1505	X	
LOCAL 1507		
LOCAL 1516		X
LOCAL 1517		
LOCAL 1521	X	
LOCAL 1523	X	
LOCAL 1524		
LOCAL 1525	X	
LOCAL 1531	X	
LOCAL 1532		
LOCAL 1536		X
LOCAL 1537		
LOCAL 1541		
LOCAL 1545		
LOCAL 1547		
LOCAL 1548		
LOCAL 1553		X
LOCAL 1555		
LOCAL 1559	X	
LOCAL 1565		
LOCAL 1570	X	
LOCAL 1573		
LOCAL 1574		
LOCAL 1579	X	
LOCAL 1583		
LOCAL 1585		
LOCAL 1587		
LOCAL 1588		
LOCAL 1590	X	
LOCAL 1591		
LOCAL 1593		
LOCAL 1597		
LOCAL 1600	X	
LOCAL 1602		
LOCAL 1604	X	
LOCAL 1613	X	
LOCAL 1614		
LOCAL 1615		
LOCAL 1616		
LOCAL 1618		
LOCAL 1619		X
LOCAL 1620		
LOCAL 1625		
LOCAL 1627		
LOCAL 1629		
LOCAL 1631		
LOCAL 1634		X
LOCAL 1635		X

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 1637		X
LOCAL 1638		X
LOCAL 1645		
LOCAL 1649		
LOCAL 1651		
LOCAL 1653		
LOCAL 1658		
LOCAL 1666	X	
LOCAL 1671	X	
LOCAL 1672		
LOCAL 1682		
LOCAL 1684		
LOCAL 1687		X
LOCAL 1688		
LOCAL 1690		
LOCAL 1691		
LOCAL 1700		
LOCAL 1701	X	
LOCAL 1703	X	
LOCAL 1710	X	
LOCAL 1718		
LOCAL 1730	X	
LOCAL 1737		
LOCAL 1739		X
LOCAL 1740		
LOCAL 1744		
LOCAL 1749		X
LOCAL 1750		
LOCAL 1753	X	
LOCAL 1758		
LOCAL 1759		
LOCAL 1768		
LOCAL 1769		X
LOCAL 1777	X	
LOCAL 1782		
LOCAL 1791	X	
LOCAL 1794		
LOCAL 1799		
LOCAL 1802	X	
LOCAL 1805		
LOCAL 1813		
LOCAL 1814		
LOCAL 1820	X	
LOCAL 1832		
LOCAL 1833	X	
LOCAL 1837		
LOCAL 1852	X	
LOCAL 1856		
LOCAL 1861		
LOCAL 1863		
LOCAL 1865		
LOCAL 1871		
LOCAL 1873		
LOCAL 1888	X	
LOCAL 1900		
LOCAL 1902		
LOCAL 1908		
LOCAL 1911		
LOCAL 1912	X	
LOCAL 1914	X	
LOCAL 1919	X	
LOCAL 1920		X
LOCAL 1922		
LOCAL 1923	X	
LOCAL 1924		
LOCAL 1925		X
LOCAL 1927		
LOCAL 1928		
LOCAL 1929		
LOCAL 1933		

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 1935		
LOCAL 1937		
LOCAL 1941		
LOCAL 1944		
LOCAL 1947		X
LOCAL 1950		
LOCAL 1956		
LOCAL 1957	X	
LOCAL 1959	X	
LOCAL 1963	X	
LOCAL 1974		
LOCAL 1976		
LOCAL 1980	X	
LOCAL 1984		
LOCAL 1985	X	
LOCAL 1988		
LOCAL 1990	X	
LOCAL 1996		
LOCAL 1999		X
LOCAL 2001		
LOCAL 2002		
LOCAL 2003		
LOCAL 2007		
LOCAL 2008		
LOCAL 2010	X	
LOCAL 2011		
LOCAL 2015	X	
LOCAL 2017		
LOCAL 2019		
LOCAL 2024		
LOCAL 2029		
LOCAL 2032	X	
LOCAL 2033		
LOCAL 2034		X
LOCAL 2035		
LOCAL 2038	X	
LOCAL 2039		
LOCAL 2040		
LOCAL 2042		
LOCAL 2043		
LOCAL 2048		
LOCAL 2049		
LOCAL 2050		
LOCAL 2052		
LOCAL 2054		
LOCAL 2055		
LOCAL 2057		
LOCAL 2058		
LOCAL 2061		X
LOCAL 2064		
LOCAL 2066		
LOCAL 2067		
LOCAL 2071	X	
LOCAL 2072		
LOCAL 2077		
LOCAL 2078		
LOCAL 2080		
LOCAL 2084		
LOCAL 2085	X	
LOCAL 2088		
LOCAL 2089		
LOCAL 2099		
LOCAL 2100		
LOCAL 2104		
LOCAL 2109		
LOCAL 2113		
LOCAL 2118		X
LOCAL 2127		
LOCAL 2129		
LOCAL 2131		

L.U.	Amendment Vote	
	FOR	AGAINST
LOCAL 2139		
LOCAL 2143		
LOCAL 2144		
LOCAL 2149		
LOCAL 2150		X
LOCAL 2152		
LOCAL 2154	X	
LOCAL 2159		
LOCAL 2164		
LOCAL 2166		
LOCAL 2172		X
LOCAL 2173		
LOCAL 2179	X	
LOCAL 2180		
LOCAL 2185	X	
LOCAL 2194		
LOCAL 2199	X	
LOCAL 2201		
LOCAL 2213		
LOCAL 2219		X
LOCAL 2220		
LOCAL 2221	X	
LOCAL 2222		
LOCAL 2228	X	
LOCAL 2230		X
LOCAL 2233		
LOCAL 2240		
LOCAL 2241		
LOCAL 2244		
LOCAL 2246		
LOCAL 2249	X	
LOCAL 2251		
LOCAL 2265		
LOCAL 2269		
LOCAL 2270		
LOCAL 2271		
LOCAL 2273		X
LOCAL 2277		
LOCAL 2284		
LOCAL 2285		
LOCAL 2286	X	
LOCAL 2287		
LOCAL 2295		
LOCAL 2298		
LOCAL 2304		X
LOCAL 2313	X	
LOCAL 2320	X	
LOCAL 2321	X	
LOCAL 2322	X	
LOCAL 2323	X	
LOCAL 2324	X	
LOCAL 2325		
LOCAL 2326		
LOCAL 2327	X	
LOCAL 2330		
LOCAL 2337	X	
LOCAL 2051		
LOCAL 2355		
LOCAL 2356		
LOCAL 2357		
LOCAL 2358	X	
LOCAL 2359		
LOCAL 2362		
LOCAL 2366		X
LOCAL 2374		
LOCAL 2376		
TOTAL:	374	93

Local Lines

Veterans Memorial Volunteers

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rs,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—In Franklin County, MO, a new Veterans Memorial was recently erected with some generous help from two Local 1 retirees. Brothers Norm Kloepfel and Frank Kloepfel, retired journeyman wiremen, volunteered their time and expertise to complete the electrical portion of the memorial, which is located at Legion Park in Gerald, MO. The Kloepfels graciously installed a 200-amp service for the memorial, installed walkway lights, lighting for the flagpoles and other power needs. As a result of their volunteer work, the City of Gerald donated an engraved brick at the memorial in the name of IBEW Local 1. The memorial recently opened, and it pays tribute to all those who have served in any war since World War I, as well as those who continue to serve today. Local 1 thanks Bros. Norm and Frank Kloepfel for representing Local 1 well with their hard work.

We mourn the following members' deaths: Harold Foster, George Qualls, H. Wayne Shuffett, Howard Jaromack, Clyde Cooper, William Clarkson, Laszlo Csukas, Vernon Mundwiller, Henry Jordan, John McGrogan, Walter Proehl, Arthur Schuman, Thomas English Jr. and Bernard Levin.

Matt Gober, P.S.



Local 1 retired members Norm Kloepfel (left) and Frank Kloepfel proudly display plaques they received in recognition of their work on a new Veterans Memorial.

State-of-The-Art Auditorium

L.U. 11 (i,rs&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—A new \$1.2 million auditorium was unveiled at the Electrical Training Institute. The project was completed on time and on budget using 100 percent union labor. The certificate of occupancy was granted in time for the June general membership meeting. Future meetings will be held there as well. The new auditorium has seating for 175 in the main area and up to 500 in the adjoining hall. Both rooms feature state-

of-the-art audio and video equipment, large retractable projection screens, Bose speakers, remote controlled video cameras, studio lighting and engineered acoustics. Members in attendance commented on the excellent quality of the construction and materials used as well as the amazing acoustics and lighting. The auditorium and adjoining hall will serve ETI students and Local 11 members well for years to come. It is one more example of the IBEW's ongoing commitment to training.

Thank you to all the members who recently attended COMET training. You have dedicated your commitment to organizing the entire electrical construction industry. We look forward to having you volunteer and we encourage you to remain active in your union.

The apprentice graduation was held aboard the historic Queen Mary in Long Beach. It was an unforgettable evening. We are proud of our members who completed their apprenticeship training and wish them continued success in their careers.

Bob Oedy, P.S.



Los Angeles Local 11 unveils its Electrical Training Institute's new state-of-the-art auditorium and meeting hall.

Smart Meters Pilot Program

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—In June, our local kicked off its inaugural Scholarship Award Program for members and dependents. The program provides for ten \$500 Scholarships. Winners will be announced in September.

The economy has affected our ComEd members; to avoid layoffs approximately 300 members were redeployed to other departments by an agreement with ComEd.

Contracts with ComEd Energy Delivery System Services Group and Midwest Generation LLC expire this year. We will be busy negotiating those contracts.

Midwest Generation LLC and Local 15 continue joint participation on Quality Safety Programs with impressive results. To encourage continued

improvement of these safety accomplishments, each site is holding a Safety and Health Fair to support the Safety Committee efforts.

The local is close to an agreement to expand work duties of the ComEd Overhead Transmission Group and create a work group in the far-west area of Chicago to supplement the existing groups in the north and south areas.

A ComEd Company pilot program is scheduled to install 141,000 Smart Meters in the Chicago community of Hillside and certain high-rise locations within the city. In testimony to the Illinois Commerce Commission, the company stated our members will install these meters. Meter installation begins in late fall 2009.

Ronald V. Welte, P.S.

'Skills Work!' Event

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Local 37, NB Power, and Women in Nuclear were title sponsors of the Skills Work! Networking Dinner, which provided an opportunity for approximately 100 female students in grades 9-12 to meet and network with tradeswomen, educators, dignitaries and business leaders. [Photo below.] The event, the first of its kind in New Brunswick, gave students a unique chance to learn about the skilled trades and technologies by participating in organized networking sessions with the 22 female mentors.

The mentors were women working, training or teaching in a skilled trade. They shared their experiences and encouraged the students to consider the trades as a rewarding and challenging career choice. Many of the mentors were IBEW members—each one of them shared encouraging and inspiring messages that will undoubtedly help the young women make informed decisions about their future.

Not only did this event allow the union to connect with a younger generation, it really brought attention to the pride, passion and professionalism of Local 37 and its members. By continuing to support events such as this one, the union can continue on its progressive and forward thinking path.

Ross Galbraith, B.M.



Local 41 congratulates the class of 2009 apprentice graduates.

Green Jobs Open House

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,e&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Local 41 was host to an open house with a focus on green energy and green jobs. The object was to show local politicians, Department of Labor officials and educators that the IBEW is in the forefront in green training. We showcased our state-of-the-art training facility and how the IBEW is training and preparing for the future with a green work force.

With great pride Local 41 announces the 2009 graduating class of inside journeyman wiremen apprentices. Joining the ranks of the journeyman wiremen work force are: David Bartnik, Matthew Chmura, Danny Gedraitis, Joseph Graham, Dale Kersch, Kristopher Kohlhagen, Jason Kosiak, Christopher Landahl, Marcus Leslie, Kevin Lisnerski, Anthony Marini, Matthew Reed, Scott Szarzynski, Jeffrey Venohr, Christopher White and Marc Zendman. Congratulations to these brothers for their five years of hard work and dedication.

In August we held the annual pensioner's luncheon. Many retirees were honored and received service pins. It was good to see so many pensioners getting together to enjoy each other's company.

Please remember to stay active in the local and participate in all union functions and meetings.

Michael J. Gaiser, P.S.



IBEW Local 37 was one of the title sponsors for a Skills Work! networking opportunity for school students.

Trade Classifications

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

We make every effort to ensure this list is as inclusive as possible, but IBEW members' various job categories are too numerous to comprehensively list all.



Local 43 graduating apprentices, joined by Training Dir. Peter Dulcich (middle row, right) attend graduation dinner. From left, front row, are: Anthony Mazzuca, Christopher Giarrusso, Thomas Carfagano, Adrienne Abear, Andrew Moraco, Edward Prall, Brian White; middle row, Steven Pfeleiderer, Mathew Crye, Rashawn Tompkins, Brent Fedrizzi, Dustin Morgan, Michael Tucker, Jamie Gibson and Training Dir. Dulcich; back row, John Carnes, Gregory Lee, Jason Cianfranco, Frank Zupancic, Thomas Maine and Jesse Burdin. Not pictured: Richard Creaser, Sean Kohles, Donald Sovie and Jeffrey White.

Employment Steady

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Employment continues to be steady in our area. At press time, it is almost 90 percent school work, with little private monies available. Because the work involves schools throughout the whole area of our jurisdiction, we have been able to send out a few of our Book II members.

On June 20, Local 43 held the annual dinner for our graduating apprentices. This year we were honored to have as our guests IBEW Third District Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel and NECA field representative William “Biff” Jones. Also attending were Bus. Mgr. Bill Towsley, Asst. Bus. Agent Pat Costello, Pres. Don Morgan and NECA Finger Lakes Chapter Pres. Marilyn Oppedisano.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

Pres. Obama Visits Tech Center

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy Labor Day, brothers and sisters.

Pres. Obama visited Southern California Edison’s Electrical Vehicle Technical Center. Local 47 member Levon Atarian introduced the president, who thanked IBEW and Local 47 for their work. Bus. Mgr. Pat Lavin shared some banter with Pres. Obama about their mutual hometown—Chicago.

A first contract was ratified with FPL’s Nextera Generation in Blythe, CA.

California’s economy has affected our municipalities. Protecting wages and conditions remains our focus.

The winners at the annual SCE/Local 47 Lineman’s Rodeo were: Journeyman Team—Steve Lekvold, Raoul Carillo and Mike Peterson; Apprentice—Josh Regalado; Groundman—Chris Schafer.

Speakers at our stewards conference included Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey, Int. Rep. Arthur D. Murray and California state Sen. Roderick Wright. “Green Energy” and the “Smart Grid” were topics discussed.

Locals 47 and 440 held an open house at our Riverside office. Guests included City of Riverside Mayor Ronald Loveridge; Riverside City Council members Andy Melendez and Nancy Hart; and California Assembly members Brian Nestande and Hector de la Torre.

Former Local 47 business manager Mike Kelly passed away. We also report the passing of Art Ford,

Jim Bean, Steve Lovelace, Ron Prida, Keith Vorndran and James Johnson. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Live safe, live well, work union!

Stan Stosel, P.S.



Diamond Bar, CA, Local 47 Bus. Mgr. and IEC member Patrick Lavin (left), Eighth District Int. Vice Pres. Ted C. Jensen (center) and Int. Rep. Fred A. “Rocky” Clark enjoy Local 47’s Desert Days event.

Wind Generation Projects

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Recognizing the importance of our members who volunteer to help the local as union stewards, Local 51 recently held seven steward training sessions located throughout the jurisdiction. Over 75 members attended and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The local thanks Sixth District Int. Reps. Richard Gessler and Donald Woolridge for their instruction, and all the members who attended.

Local 51 members, along with members from Locals 21 and 702, employed by Verizon recently ratified a new three-year labor agreement, which calls for wage increases of 2 percent, 2 percent and 2 ½ per-



Local 51 holds a steward training session at Collinsville, IL.

cent, along with lump sum pension benefits being preserved and improvements to retiree health care.

Other recently settled contracts include Enerstar Power Corp., Verizon Retail, and a first-time agreement with the City of Oglesby, IL. As of this writing, negotiations continue at the City of Geneseo, IL; Corn Belt Energy Corp.; and the City of Peru, IL.

While construction work on utility properties is as slow as we have experienced it in the last 25 years, work on wind generation is good with three projects currently under way. For information on our manpower needs, please check the construction jobs board at www.ibew.org.

Remember to work safe and do a full day’s work for a full day’s pay, and attend your union meetings.

Dan Pridemore, Pres.

Workshop Chair Honored



Third District Utility Workshop Chair Frank Maher.

L.U. 83 (u), BINGHAMTON, NY—On April 15, in Corning, NY, a celebration was held in honor of Frank “The Great One” Maher. Bro. Maher had decided to make the April Third District Utility Workshop his last as chairman after many years. Bro. Maher is business manager/president of Local 320. Among those attending the celebration was Local 320 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Monica Maher. Master of Ceremonies was Local 83 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Danny E. Addy. Speakers included Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel, Int. Rep. Michael Flanagan, Local 503 retired business manager Robert Citrolo, and Local 94 retired business manager Charlie Wolfe, and Local 2199 Bus. Mgr. William McMahan, Utility Workshop secretary/treasurer. The event was very well-attended and all had a grand time.

Thank you, Bro. Maher, for all you have given to so many.

Don S. Tuttel, P.S.

Scholarships Awarded

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—Congratulations to our 2009 Vinc Perry-Ellis Scholarship winners. Five children and one spouse of Local 111 members were named as winners of the 2009 Vinc Perry-Ellis Memorial Scholarship program. They are: Christopher Ely, son of Michael Ely, Unit 6A; Robin and Laura Newcome, daughters of Don Newcome, Unit 2; Krista Roberts, daughter of Mike Roberts, Unit 4; Corinna Anthony, spouse of Jason Anthony, Unit 1; and Cody Dinges, son of Morris Dinges, Unit 3.

This year the Executive Board voted to increase the number of scholarships awarded to six (for this year only).The scholarship essay topic was: “What Is



Local 111 awarded six scholarships in 2009. From left are: Local 111 Pres. Duane Lawlor; scholarship recipients Christopher Ely, Cody Dinges and Robin Newcome; and Bus. Mgr. Michael A. Byrd.

the Importance of the Employee Free Choice Act to the American Worker?” Winning essays are posted on the union’s Web site at www.ibew111.com.

Thank you to all who participated, and again congratulations to our 2009 winners.

Dennis Z. LeTurgez, P.S.

IBEW Lifesaving Awards

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—In Sept. 2008, Local 125 members Bob Jones, line foreman, and journeyman linemen Gary Anderson and Mark Moe were working to replace an alley arm on a three-phase circuit when Moe made contact. Due to their quick actions, Anderson and Jones were able to rescue Moe from the pole—which saved his life.

In recognition of their efforts, Local 125’s Executive Board nominated Anderson and Jones for the IBEW Lifesaving Award, which was presented to them at the July construction unit meeting.

Bus. Rep. Don Rose presented the awards. The presentation was followed by comments from Ray Cowell, Local 125 Executive Board recording secretary. “Our members have repeatedly stepped up to save not only our members but lives in the general public,” said Cowell. “We do not shirk responsibility, and I’m proud to be a member of Local 125, where our members have earned so many Lifesaving Awards.”

For more information about this story, please read the Local 125 section of the August 2009 issue of the Northwest Labor Press.

Marcy Putman, P.S.



Local 125 presents IBEW Lifesaving Awards to line foreman Bob Jones (left) and journeyman lineman Gary Anderson (right). At center is journeyman lineman Mark Moe.

Career of Service

L.U. 139 (i&u), ELMIRA, NY—Recently Local 139 held a celebration for the retirement of George “Rick” Saltsman as business manager during its annual “smoker” at Mandells Restaurant. Rick was sworn in as a member in 1972 and served as business manager since 2002. Rick was presented with an IBEW golf bag and was sent to the Construction and Maintenance Conference to bid farewell to all his colleagues from locals around the country. We wish Rick and his wife, Janis, a long and happy retirement.

The Local 139 membership has been very

Local Lines

involved with many Habitat for Humanity projects throughout Steuben and Chemung Counties. These volunteer efforts are also aided by our local contractors. A special thank-you to Bouille Electric for supplying material and to Local 139 members Brett Patton, Billy Mann, Dan Schmidt, Jim Horton, Larry Masi, Mike McLaughlin, Kevin Lauper, Gerry Steed, Brian Bradley, Bill Corbett and Dave Blauvelt.

On April 18, a COMET class was held at the union hall with 16 young apprentice wiremen in attendance. These young members showed interest, enthusiasm and understanding regarding the importance of organizing. These are the members who will lead us in the future. It was rewarding to see their spirit.

David Blauvelt, P.S.

Apprentice Graduating Class

L.U. 175 (c,em,i,lctt,mt,o&u), CHATTANOOGA, TN—Congratulations to the Local 175 inside wireman apprenticeship graduating class of 2009.

The 2009 graduates are: Kelly Burch, Matthew Carson, Ernest Christiansen II, Christopher Crumley, James Davis, Jarrod Doremus, Eric Duncan, William Flippo II, Dustin Gilliam, David Glover Jr., Marshall Gorman, Jason Griffith, Mike Hardinger Jr., Jason Hargis, Logan Haynes, Nicholas Henderson, Justin Higgins, Jesse Lewis, Charles Lovern, Gregory McMasters, Isaac Patrick, Steven Patrick, Christopher Perry, Christopher Pope, Ronnie Raby, Christopher Reed, Matthew Royse, Michael Smedley, Bryan Smiley, Michael Smith, Teddy Smith Jr., David Speer, Eric Threat, Michael Watkins, Robert Williams and Thomas Williams. We wish all these new journeymen the best of luck in the future.

Support your local union. Union meetings are the first and third Mondays of the month.

Keith Owensby, P.S.

'Ahead of the Curve'

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—Thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which was signed into law by Pres. Obama, the local is able to stay ahead of the curve in training our contractors, journeymen and apprentices in photovoltaic systems to keep up with the new demand for trained professionals. This will be a great help to keep the work union as much as we can.

Also we are currently teaching instrumentation to journeymen. This is a great help to our local refineries and paper mills. We appreciate all who are taking time out of their lives to improve our industry and market share. If we work together, there is nothing we can't do.

We are fortunate to have a great relationship with LMCC and all the locals in the state. We get together often to talk about ways to improve our market share and industry.

Work is still slow in our local with no signs of improving anytime soon. Thanks again to all the travelers for your help. We couldn't have done it without you.

Robert De Velder, P.S.

A Contract Year

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—We are happy that Book I has started to move after a long winter. Hopefully this will continue and all our brothers and sisters will be back to work. We are in a contract year and look

forward to starting negotiations soon. Make sure to share your thoughts at the local's monthly meeting.

U.S. Rep. Debbie Halvorson visited our union hall earlier this summer. Mrs. Halvorson sits on the Veterans Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C., and attended a Helmets to Hardhats seminar alongside us and other area unions. We are privileged to have such a friend in Washington. Let's continue to give her the support she needs.

Three of our Local 197 brothers are fighting in Afghanistan. We wish Frank Harold, Kurt Neulib and Sean Tibbs good luck, safety, and a speedy return home from their duties overseas.

As we near Labor Day, make plans to attend the parade and the annual picnic afterward. We always have a good time at our Labor Day activities. Work safe, work smart, get involved in the local union and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, P.S.

Multiple Projects Under Way

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA—We have been fortunate to have full employment in our jurisdiction due to the ES3 project being completed by I.B. Abel Inc., a Brunner Island Power Station precipitator project by NAES contractors, and a Brunner Island cooling tower project by McCarl's Inc.

Projects getting under way include the Conectiv powerhouse and a security modification at Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. We currently have over 450 travelers on Book 2. We hope to put a few of these traveling members to work in the coming months.

The Voice, Data, Video members working for I.B. Abel on the Arm & Hammer project have been busy pulling thousands of feet of fiber and security cable. The bulk of the project is being built nonunion. The craftsmanship and professionalism the union techs have demonstrated to the customer should pay off with additional electrical work in the future expansion project and long term maintenance.



Local 229 tele-data employees working at the Arm & Hammer project include, from left: Shaun Linden, Jason Fink, Mike Leister, Jeremy Smith, Dan Bacon and Kermit Keefer.

Congratulations to Ken Arnold, Ashley Bair, Brad Chapman, Kirk Heflin, Mike Heller, Ian Johnson, Brandon Potts and Jan Wolgamuth on completing the apprenticeship program.

Best wishes to recent retirees: Danny Bowser, LeRoy Hoff and Robert Tomes.

We mourn the brothers who passed away since our last article: William Holland, Rick Potter and Bill Stitt.

Mark Tomes, P.S.

Organizing Win

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—Local 245 won an NLRB election with the Darlington Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. This unit represents approximately 24 licensed practical nurses. Now the work will begin—to get a first contract. Congratulations to the Darlington nurses.

Local 245 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Ken Erdmann was recognized by the National Labor College for his senior project paper, "Retirement! Now the Work Begins." [See article in "Circuits" section, pg. 5, of this issue.] Congratulations, Ken.

As is the case for many locals, we are in a severe economic downturn and the construction work picture is slow. In fact the economy has

affected every branch of our local union. Our major utility employer, First Energy, is also feeling the economic crunch. As of this writing, First Energy was offering the option of early incentive retirement to approximately 151 eligible members at Local 245.

Local 245 is holding a food collection drive for the Northwest Ohio Food Bank in Toledo. Even in this downturn of work for our members, we are all fortunate, and I ask you to share by bringing non-perishable food to the Local 245 union for delivery to the food bank. Thank you for your gracious donations.

Please continue to work safely!

Philip LaCourse, Pres.

Green Jobs Expo a Success

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—On May 28, at the Local 269 training facilities, Bus. Mgr. Dennis Doyle hosted our local's first Green Jobs Exposition to showcase the IBEW's commitment and efforts in green jobs training and skills. This well-attended event included as participants U.S. Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey, state and local politicians, school board members, contractors and financiers.

Bus. Mgr. Doyle welcomed all and spoke about Local 269's five-year history with solar training and installation of photovoltaic systems in our jurisdiction. He also invited those present to attend the break-out sessions covering power purchase agreements, grants, tax credits and the new green jobs curriculum offered through the NJATC.

New Jersey Assemblyman/Local 269 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Wayne DeAngelo spoke on passing legislation covering state funding and grants available for future green projects.

Training Dir. Cliff Reisser described the new green jobs curriculum to be offered to journeymen and apprentices. He also gave an onsite tour of the solar systems installed on the local's four buildings.

The expo was a great success judging from the overwhelming interest shown by participants. As our leaders blaze the trail toward new technologies, we must prepare and train for our future.

D. Brian Proctor, P.S.



Inspecting rooftop solar array on Local 269's training facility are, from left, Training Dir. Cliff Reisser, Bus. Mgr. Dennis Doyle and U.S. Rep. Rush Holt.

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Local 307 Pres. George Koontz administers the oath of membership to new members.

New Journeymen & Members

L.U. 307 (ees,es,i,o&u), CUMBERLAND, MD—Congratulations to Local 307's newest journeymen. Recent graduates are: Garrett Colmer, Doug Kiddy, Joseph Lantz, Harry Mallow, Aaron Ranker, Bruce Sarver, Eric Ward and Derek Yates. We also congratulate and welcome the apprentices taken into membership in July. They are: Shawn Brant, Anthony Chambers, Donald Dare, Chad Ferris, Aaron Parks, Brandon Wright, Troy York, Jessie Koeing, Joseph Koch, Robert Pegg, Patrick Wilson, Brian Koontz and Brandon Stevens.

Members can now check for schedules, scores, updates and pictures on the softball team's Web site at www.leaguelineup.com/ibewlu307. The softball team thanks all who helped with the Golf Tournament—it was a huge success! A total of 96 golfers participated in the tournament.

The journeymen were victorious over the apprentices in the 2nd Annual Spring Fling Softball Game. We had a great turnout and everyone had a lot of fun. Thanks to everyone who helped with the game and picnic, including Bus. Mgr. Rich Carder, who threw out the first pitch.

Thanks to all members who attended the Health Care Rally in Washington, D.C. The bus trip was quite enjoyable.

Local 307's condolences go out to the families of Alton Knight and Timothy McGreevy, who passed away recently.

Jon "Rosey" Rosenberger, R.S.

Proposed New Development

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—Officers and Executive Board members traveled to Springfield, IL, to lobby for the passage of legislation to allow STAR (sales tax and revenue) bonds to be used for a proposed new development. The development would be a huge shopping district, the largest ever built in southern Illinois. The project is projected to cost approximately \$1 billion over a five-year build out. The University Town Center would cover 900 acres and would be located two miles south of Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, IL.

On the inside branch, Suncoco at U.S. Steel and Abengoa ethanol plant projects are progressing nicely.

Thanks to the traveling members from the many locals who are helping staff this work.

Also on a project at Scott Air Force Base (Transcom), many thanks to our local members for the quality work that is moving along nicely.

Our outside branch is holding steady at the present and work is progressing on the much anticipated 345 KV line in Red Bud.

The annual PAC golf tournament was once again a success.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

Training Program

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN—Our local is experiencing the same slowdown many other locals are. Through our training program, members are updating and expanding our electrical job skills to always be the best qualified electricians available. By working together with our union contractors we plan to expand our market share. Wishing all brothers and sisters a safe and healthy fall season.

Phil Heim, P.S.

Green Energy Symposium

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ—On May 29, IBEW Local 351 hosted our first Green Energy Symposium at the Atlantic City Convention Center. This informative symposium was attended by representatives of various companies, (Atlantic City Electric, PSE&G, South Jersey Energy), the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Local 351 contractors, the NJATC, as well as many elected officials.

Representatives of various architectural and engineering firms, along with wind and solar consultants, were available to provide answers to any green energy questions.

The goal of the symposium was to promote green energy, as well as to provide valuable answers to our local and county municipalities and school districts and help them meet their goal in design, financing, lease purchase agreements, credits and installation of green energy projects in their communities.

The symposium was a big success and we are planning more for the future.

Daniel Cosner, P.S.



IBEW Local 351 hosted a Green Energy Symposium at the Atlantic City Convention Center. IBEW members installed the Convention Center rooftop solar panels and the wind farm windmills pictured here.

Senator Visits Local

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), visited our apprentice training facility in April to throw the switch to our first wind turbine. After the commencement of the 51 foot, 2.4 kilowatt Skystream 3.7 wind turbine, Sen. Reid held a town hall meeting to discuss several topics concerning green energy.

In May, the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus held its annual barbecue for the members and their families. Also the same day, the local held its first annual "haws and Harleys" event. The Harley Davidson ride covered 100 miles around Las Vegas and was followed by an awards ceremony and drawing for the over 200 participants. A live band featuring Local 357 members performed.

The last piece of structural steel was set in place at our new hiring hall location on June 22. We expect to be dispatching from this new location in April 2010.

The annual picnic on Sept. 26 will be at a different location this year. Instead of Sunset Park, it will be at Floyd Lamb State Park. We hope to see all our members attend this event.

Tim Bolton, P.S.



Southern Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Dir. Madison Burnett (left) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid throw the switch to a 2.4 kilowatt wind turbine.

Generosity in Tough Times

L.U. 387 (em,lctt&u), PHOENIX, AZ—When times are bad that's when our communities need us the most. And members of IBEW Local 387 once again stepped up to donate more than \$730,000 to the United Way and its partner agencies throughout Arizona and New Mexico as part of Arizona Public Service 2009 Community Services Fund Campaign. That's more money than some entire companies with more than 10,000 employees raised!

Each year, the goals for the APS employee-led campaign are raised, and each year our union brothers and sisters are up to the challenge. We even increased our number of Union Leadership Givers (those who contribute at least \$42 a paycheck) from 253 to 336 during the year's campaign. That's a remarkable achievement, given these times of belt tightening around the country. Time and time, we heard the same sentiment from our generous givers: *I feel fortunate to be in the position I'm in, and there are people out there who need this money more than I do.*

As the 2010 CSF Campaign is coming up fast, we're once again counting on that generosity to make a difference in the communities where we, our families, our co-workers and our neighbors live, work and play.

Sam Hoover, P.S.

Solidarity Key to Success

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—One thing constant in life is change. In my opinion it is imperative that we exercise solidarity through the good times and the bad—in these times of a difficult economy, in an ever advancing electrical industry, in all branches and classifications within the IBEW.

As new ideas for organizing are introduced in areas with low market share, we may have to accept strategies that are outside our comfort zone. But solidarity is the key to our success, from the International to the local to individual members. We don't have to do it alone, which makes change easier to accept.

With successes at the local union level—such as holding job fairs and planting IBEW seeds, working to break down misconceptions about the organized labor movement, participating in community events, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, and pursuing the green energy industry—we are moving forward in a positive manner.

Our annual picnic held July 11 was a great opportunity for the membership to visit those we don't see often enough and to recognize longtime members with service pin presentations. Thanks to all who participated.

Congratulations to recent retirees Paul Carver and William MacFarlane.

We extend condolences to the families of recently deceased members Brian Swanson and John Sant.

Mike Lee Miera, V.P./Org.

National Water Tapping Champs

L.U. 483 (catv,lct,o&u), TACOMA, WA—Congratulations to IBEW Local 483 members Michael McCaffrey, Geff Yotter and Doug Reed—who work in the Water Department at Tacoma Public Utilities—as well as Coach Bob Dimond from Teamsters Local 117, for finishing in first place at the National Water Tapping Competition this year.

The American Water Works Association National Tapping Contest is a competition of skill in which water operators from across the U.S. work against the clock to open a cement-lined, ductile iron pipe and install a tap.

This win placed the Tacoma Water Team as the representative of North America in the 2010 World Water Cup event, to be held in Chicago. The team will compete in three types of tapping—to include UK, Dutch and American tapping. If they turn in a time like they did at the national competition, they should do well next year.

Also, congratulations to the Local 483 mem-



Tacoma Water Tapping Team wins 2009 national championship. IBEW Local 483 team members are, from left, Michael McCaffrey, Geff Yotter and Doug Reed. Not pictured is team coach Bob Dimond, Teamsters Local 117.

Local Lines



IBEW Local 543's Mojave Team 411 operators receive trophy for first in quality nationwide.

bership on purchasing our new union hall. After five years of searching, we finally found a perfect fit. Please feel free to stop by and see our new home.

To see more pictures of the Water Tapping Competition or our new union hall, visit our Local 483 Web site at www.ibew483.org.

Alice Phillips, B.M.

'Challenging Times'

L.U. 503 (t&u), MONROE, NY—We are all aware of this local having some good times, and some very bad times lately. Frontier, Unit 503.1 had furloughs; Warwick, Unit 503.2 possible layoffs; and Mirant, Unit 503.3 filed Unfair Labor Practice charges with the NLRB. Lastly, O&R Unit 503 ratified a five-year bargaining agreement.

Tragically, 1st Class Linemen Steve Altieri was seriously injured on the job.

Times are hard for labor all across the country. Rest assured, our officers, executive board and stewards continue to vigorously work to secure our jobs, rights and most important, the safety of our members, despite the challenging economic times we all face. Please continue to support them in their tireless efforts by attending monthly meetings, keeping informed, and striving to be the first to raise your hand when our local needs assistance.

We ask the membership to remember Steve Altieri and his family in their prayers as he goes through a painful and difficult healing process. Please also continue to remember the men and women of our armed forces as they protect our country with their lives and commitment to our freedom.

Mary M. Casey, P.S.

Green Energy Project

L.U. 531 (i), LaPORTE, IN—On June 27, IBEW Local 531 did a volunteer job at St. Patrick's School in Chesterton, IN. We installed a photovoltaic array that will be used to teach the school students about green energy. Tracy Hall, an IBEW Local 697 member, taught a four-night class about photovoltaic systems to our members who did the installation, and he also did the design on this system.

Members who participated included Randy Parker, Roger Fredenburg, Fred Matuzak, Andy Drake, Tony Klimek, Don Young, Bill Wishevski, Harry Lowenthal, Ed Forney, Rich Richey, Matt Lessner and Jason Pritchard.

We also congratulate our new journeyman wiremen, who recently topped out: Jacob Buksar, James Fish, Brad Glasgow, Edward Miltenberger, Eric Morse, Jacob Shreve, Sean Volom and Ramon

Zacarias. Also congratulations to our two new residential wiremen: Chad Bootz and Kyle Kirsh.

Jim Switzer, P.S.

411 Operators Awarded Trophy

L.U. 543 (mo&t), SAN BERNARDINO, CA—IBEW Local 543 Livesource Operator members located at Verizon's Mojave location in Victorville, California, were awarded Verizon's

First Quarter Quality Cup Challenge Trophy. [See photo, top left.] These men and women worked diligently to provide Verizon's customers with the best possible 411 directory assistance service on each and every call. The members of the Mojave Team successfully completed 14 weeks of scoring 100 percent in quality and not only earned first place in the district but also first place nationwide.

Congratulations to these proud IBEW Brothers and Sisters! They are: Rory Vetack, Kathleen Cord, Yomar Morales, Brett Lawrence, Judy Wickman, Irene Fernandez, Maribel Zetina, Sandra Solano, Sonia Diaz, Kathy Montez, Chantel Gline, Nicholle Badalamenti-Rodriguez, Gloria Guydish, Geri Ewers, Jovonne Nevels, Latieshia Willcot, Stephanie Young, Diana Arroyo, Grace Flores, Amanda Hackney, Naomi Lara, Jessica Franko, Shala Simmons, Tamara Kropp, Dawn Mitchell, Pam Child, Donna Warren, Roberta Perez, Jessica Uzonyi, Cheryl Hemenover, Ed Hall, John Mustain, Marissa Depue, Karen Rhone, Akisha Rosses, Veronica Napoli, Allen Smilden, Shauna Wallace, Jodie Dominguez, Amanda Lopez, Ashlei McMath, Danita Hunt, Nicole Ivey, Rosalba Saldivar, Alicia Kenerly, Daniel Davis and Colleen Williamson.

Brian Peters, P.S.

Saginaw Update

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—We experienced a cool spring and a late summer in our region. The devastated economy hasn't helped tourism in Michigan. The high cost of everything has people doing whatever they can to save money and rebuild in this eight-year slump we are experiencing.

We have a new contract like many other locals statewide. After a trip to Washington to settle at arbitration, we received enough of a raise to cover the cost of increases in our health and pension programs. Our bargaining people were able to reach an agreement with our contractors in a time when nationwide job loss is at a 25 year high. If we look at most industries and agreements, we need to applaud our elected people for keeping conditions while instituting improvements. Thanks for a great job!

Our retired membership has gained new members recently. But, sadly, we lost Dale Schmerheim and Dan Coe, who recently passed away. I was privileged to know and work with both men. Dan was supported by portable oxygen during his last years, but he still always had a great smile. Dale was always jovial; he moved North to be with family after he retired. We wish the best for the loved ones who grieve their loss.

John E. Clemens, P.S.



San Diego Local 569 Apprenticeship Graduating Class of 2009.

'Ready to Power Green Energy'

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—On June 12, our local held a celebration at the San Diego Hilton Bay Resort for 43 graduating apprentices. Congratulations to all the new journeymen, both in the Wiring and Sound Units. Your focus, dedication and commitment have paid off, and may you all enjoy long careers as the best in what you do. The 2009 Outstanding Graduate Award went to Jose Miranda; with runners-up Mark Birdsall and Mark Tabbert. The IBEW Volunteer Award recipient was Jose Miranda; the Lifelong Learning Award went to John Carrington; and the Journeyman Trainer of the Year was Jack Childress.

Local 569 was one of the locals selected by Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill to host a Green Jobs Open House, held at our San Diego Electrical Training Center on May 28. It was a great start for our new Environmental Organizer Micah Mitrosky. Over 100 people attended, including a diverse cross section of elected officials, environmental organizations, educational entities and community members. We emphasized to the audience that although they may not automatically think of the IBEW when they think of "green," we have actually been training for this moment for years, and our members are skilled and ready to power the green energy economy.

Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.

New Solar Manufacturing Plant

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i&st), DUBLIN, CA—Greetings from sunny California. Our work picture has been anything but sunny. Construction in our great state has not seen summer unemployment like this in all of my 35 years. We only hope things get better before they get worse. Our outlook for large projects is pretty positive, but as we all know it's the small contractors and the private work that keep most of us going and that have been hit the hardest.

We recently signed two PLA's with local school districts and we have at least four hospital projects that should start next year.

We hope to break ground soon on a new solar panel manufacturing plant. Solyndra of Fremont, CA, was granted a \$535 million federal loan that will double the company's capacity to manufacture innovative cylindrical photovoltaic systems. This project will employ up to 3,000 construction workers and provide 1,000 permanent jobs upon completion.

On the political front, our state budget situation has worsened. We only hope this leads to positive change that would include bringing an end to a two-thirds vote needed to pass a state budget and the election of a new Democratic governor in November 2010.

On Aug. 1 we started our Drug Free Workplace program in Alameda County, bringing our entire jurisdiction in compliance with the International mandate.

Tom Mullarkey, B.R.

Projects Under Construction

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—As of this summer writing, our work situation is fairly good with several projects under construction. The northern area of the local has three separate wind turbine projects under way, with a total of 229 units and three separate substations. Security work continues at LaSalle Nuclear Power House and the shutdown is scheduled for February; they are planning for 60 journeyman wiremen and three welders. The assisted living facility in Dwight has started to hire.

In the southern area the Super Computer project at the University of Illinois has started. This is the building that will house what is currently the most powerful computer in the world. At this writing, that project was expected to begin hiring again in August of this year. We are keeping Book I working but rarely have been able to send out off of Book II.

Congratulations to the class of 2009 inside apprentice graduates: Jeff Holland, Matt Knoll,



Local 595 Bus. Rep. and Building Automation Instructor David Nelson (center, back to camera) speaks with U.S. Rep. Gerald McNerney (second from left) during his visit to the JATC for the local's Green Workforce Training seminar. Nelson described how the state-of-the-art lab is used for apprentice and journeyman training.



Local 601 congratulates the class of 2009 inside apprentice and telecom graduates.

Derek Jacobs, Chris Dietz, Jesse Allen, Larry Lustfeld, Aaron Manuel, Matt Warren, Blake Withers and Dana Mingee; and telecommunications apprentice graduates Zachary Harrell and Andrew Wacker.

Dan Hatter, P.S.

Tribute to Ernie Hill

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—Local 617 members celebrated the life of Ernie Hill at his memorial service on June 13. The hall welcomed family, friends and members to share memories and stories about Ernie's influence on their lives. His daughter Nancy and son Douglas recounted special and humorous moments shared with their father, as did several union brothers and friends.

Officers of the local and the labor council spoke endearingly of Ernie's selfless years of service to the Brotherhood and those in need.

Born in San Francisco in 1921, Ernie and his family moved to Burlingame, CA. As a young man Ernie attended College of San Mateo and was instrumental in the campus' modernization years later. Ernie eventually taught at CSM as an instructor in the local's apprenticeship program and later remarked that he was proud to "teach at the college I helped to build."

Safety and professional installation were at the heart of Ernie's long electrical career. He was a mechanic before his time—initiating, planning and installing street lights for the first time along El Camino Real in Burlingame. This project cut the nighttime vehicle accident rate in half and led to the extensive project of illuminating Burlingame neighborhoods.

He miss you, Ernie, and thank you for your longtime, remarkable service to Local 617.

Dan Pasini, V.P.

News from Halifax

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—We recently saw our negotiations with the Nova Scotia Construction Labour Relations Association go to conciliation. The negotiation committee requested the members vote on a final offer and a strike mandate. Three weeks later the NSCLRA requested a meeting and put a new offer on the table. The meeting resolved eight outstanding issues. At the time of this writing, with only wage increases left to settle and another meeting set for Aug. 10, it is possible we will have a Memorandum by the time this goes to print.

Twelve members recently completed their apprenticeship and achieved journeyman status: Bros. John Mackenzie, Josh Patriquin, Danny Bowie, Adam MacDonald, Matthew Wiseman, Darrell Joyce, Sam Cassar, Andrew Scott, Kris Carew, Vaughn Rhindress, Jason Demont and Sister Elizabeth Cummings. Congratulations and good luck to all in your careers.

Work has slowed considerably and at this writing we have 457 members not working under

our Collective Agreement. Hopefully we have turned the corner in this recession and things will get better from here on.

With sadness I report the passing of retired member Bob Blackadar. Bro. Blackadar battled cancer and succumbed on June 3.

In June, Nova Scotia elected its first New Democratic Party government and a majority government at that. Hopefully this change will see improved enforcement of labour laws to protect workers.

Reminder: Attend union meetings and get involved with your local.

Tom Griffiths, Pres.



A blast from the past: Retired members Ken "Chip" Cole, former Local 625 president, and Bob Fader, former vice president, pose on a jobsite.

Award for Community Service

L.U. 649 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), ALTON, IL—At the Madison County Federation of Labor 20th Annual Awards Banquet on June 20, Local 649 Bus. Mgr. Jack Tueth received the Odell Fox Award for community service. Bro. Tueth is active in civic and community service organizations. He serves on the United Way board of directors. Bro. Tueth and Local 649 members have wired many homes for Habitat for Humanity, and volunteers from Local 649 installed lighting in Hellrung Park in Alton, IL. In his acceptance speech, Bro. Tueth told the audience that he shares the award with Local 649 members. He thanked those members who donate their time and skills to make our community a better place to live.

After the untimely passing of Bro. David Beeman, Vice President Mark Woulfe held a raffle. The substantial proceeds were donated to Bro. Beeman's widow and children. We thank everyone who participated.

We mourn the passing of: Bro. Edgar Jones, who served on our Executive Board for many years; Bro. Denny Davis, a telephone man known for his programming and design skills; and Bro. Jim Lyons, retired wireman.

Charles Yancey, A.B.M.

Graduates Honored

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—We welcome our new journeymen who graduated May 22. Honored at the graduation ceremony, held at Embassy Suites in Dublin, OH, were: graduating wiremen Aurelio

Botello, Timothy Buck, Tyler Clark, Ryan Covert, Tony Cowans, Matt Dombroskas, Jason Fairbanks, Chris Fooce, Jeremy Grooms, Doug Neighbarger, Maurice Quinchett, Gary Sever, Franklin Stewart, Robert Stewart and David Wilson; and graduating installer technician D'Juan Melson. [See photo, at bottom.]

Guest speakers were Bus. Mgr. Mario Ciardelli, Apprentice Dir. Steve Lipster, Bus. Agent Bill Davies, Apprenticeship Committee Chair Greg Stewart, and keynote speaker Dennis Duffey, Ohio AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer. Our thanks to the instructors and staff at the Electrical Trades Center.

Summer activities included the Black Wing Turkey Shoot (congratulations to Ted Glass, Bob Patterson and Jeff Deckard); the Motorcycle and Custom Car Ride on June 14; the Annual Chuck Bland Fish Fry, chaired by Jim Laemmle; and the softball team shotgun raffle on June 25.

Our condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Harold C. Rice, Bradley Bilyeu, Gene D. Ervin, Robert A. Pattin and Jerry Handley.

We all need to help in every way we can to support passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

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

National Electrical Code

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—Lawrence "Buster" Pelka celebrated his 100th birthday on May 29. Buster was initiated into the IBEW in 1927 and is an 82-year member. He retired in 1973. Local 697 congratulates Bro. Pelka on his milestone birthday, with best wishes for many more.

The state of Indiana is balking at adopting the 2008 National Electric Code, in part because some officials want to exclude the requirement for Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters and tamper resistant outlets.

One of the most important lifesaving provisions in the new code relates to AFCIs. Arcing faults are the primary source of fire ignition in an estimated 30,000 homes annually. These fires annually kill or injure hundreds of people and cause more than \$750 million in property damage. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Healthy Homes report lists the lack of AFCIs among the primary residential hazards associated with



Local 697 retired member Lawrence "Buster" Pelka (left) celebrates his 100th birthday. Extending congratulations are Bus. Mgr. Ray Kasmark (center) and member Ray Killian.



Local 683 recognizes 2009 apprentice graduates.

burns and fire-related injuries. With such overwhelming evidence demonstrating the efficacy of AFCIs, a delay in adopting the 2008 NEC would result in fires and fatalities that otherwise could have been prevented in Indiana.

The 2008 NEC also contains important provisions relating to tamper-resistant outlets. Data collected by the Consumer Product Safety Commission shows that in a 10-year period more than 24,000 children were treated in hospitals for burns and other injuries from contact with electrical outlets.

David A. Soderquist, P.S.

Kudos to Recent Retirees

L.U. 723 (em,govt,rtb,rts&t), FORT WAYNE, IN—With many wonderful members retiring recently, we thank everyone for their service and wish all a happy retirement!

We also wish to give an honorable mention to one retiree in particular, Mark Miller. Mark has been an invaluable member and has served our union since 1973. He became a union steward in 1981, and served on our local's negotiation team during contract talks with GTE and Verizon in 1991, 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2006. He also represented our local as a delegate at the 35th, 36th and 37th IBEW International Conventions. He has been our Unit 1 Executive Board member since 1990 and became the Executive Board chairperson in 1993. Mark touches the lives of everyone he meets and will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mark!

Michelle Barbour, R.S./P.S.

A Favorable Ruling

L.U. 773 (as,em,i,mo&o), WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA—Work is still slow in our area. Due to the determined, diligent work of Bus. Mgr. Sol Furrer in our battle with the school board, work should pick up.

A change in Ontario legislation merged the Essex County School Board and Windsor School Board to become the Greater Essex County District School Board. This new board claimed it was no longer bound to IBEW contracts. After two years, the Ontario Labour Relations Board ruled in our favor.

On Aug. 24, 2004, the GECDSDB took legal action to decertify the IBEW and four other unions. The School Board based their legal action on a change in the Labour Relations Act that was made by the former Conservative Government of Mike Harris as to what constitutes a company or person as a "Construction Employer." The School Board claimed they fell under the revised wording and were not a "Construction Employer" and therefore would not have to honor their Collective Agreements with the unions.

After 4 1/2 years, Ontario Labour Relations Board Vice Chmn. David McKee ruled in our favor. This decision allows Local 773 to do major projects for the school board. These include: a John Campbell

Local Lines

Public School \$12 million renovation; a \$35 million school project in Tecumseh; a \$20 million David Suzuki School project, which will be built under the LEED Platinum standard; plus renovations in Leamington and renovations at many other schools.

David Spencer, P.S.

JATC Graduation Banquet

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our JATC banquet and completion ceremony held in May was chaired by Jonathon Dehmel of the JATC. We had a combined graduating class of 32 graduating as journeyman wiremen and three graduating as residential wiremen.

Graduating apprentice Michael Dearden had perfect attendance for the entire apprenticeship program. Four graduating apprentices had perfect attendance for their fifth year: Michael Dearden, Calmore Jamieson, Erich Halen and Gregory Roberson.

We had two fifth-year outstanding apprentices. The August 2008 outstanding graduating apprentice is Alma Gordon and the December 2008 outstanding apprentice, Erich Halen. They both received a plaque and a set of Klein tools. Michael Dearden received the Brad Felker Memorial Award, which honors leadership, volunteerism, service and academic achievement. Local 915 extends best wishes to the graduates for a successful and prosperous career.

Local 915 members extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Bill Kira on the loss of his son, Bro. Steve Kira. Bro. Steve was killed by electric shock on the jobsite. Please remember how dangerous our trade is and the need for continued safety.

Theresa King, P.S.

Rio Grande Valley Update

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TX—Local 1015 Rio Grande Valley/Laredo has pulled together as they make everything possible for their local union. Despite the troubles in our economy, Local 1015 has stuck together as brothers and sisters and now the time has come when all the hard work has paid off, as the road leads us to a greater future. Now Local 1015 has settled into a great new 2,500-square-foot facility in McAllen, TX, and is looking to grow the membership and educate the entire Rio Grande Valley electrical industry.

Local 1015 wishes to thank Seventh District business managers who have helped us get where we are today. Their contribution is greatly appreciated. We send a message to our brothers and sisters: "We can do anything we put our minds to as long as it's together as a union."

Ray R. Duran, P.S.

Making Strides in Membership

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY—Even with the current economic downturn, we at Local 1049 continue to make strides in expanding our membership rolls. We recently signed J.A. Lee, a wireless Internet installer. After National Grid acquired KeySpan Energy we knew there would be job losses due to workplace synergies. Our Organizing Committee continually explores all opportunities to increase our market share, including, at Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand's direction, current out of contract classifications within the utility.

Our Safety Advocate Program continues to grow. Every division within the local has its own safety advocate. During a recent Utility Conference,

Bus. Mgr. Shand gave a presentation about the program. Numerous locals expressed interest in starting their own programs and are sending representatives to further explore our program.

In the fall we will start the process of preparing to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement on behalf those members who work under our Line Clearance Tree Trim contract. The current agreement expires in December.

See you at the next general meeting. Check out our new, improved Web site www.ibew1049.org.

Thomas Dowling, R.S.

NV Energy Bargaining

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—Members were voting in August on a new benefits agreement with Pacific Gas & Electric that offers current members enhanced vision, dental and orthodontia benefits, an increased company match on 401(k) plans, and a new High Deductible Health Savings Plan option, while raising co-payments on most medical plans from 3.75 percent to 7.5 percent. The agreement would also remove the cap on company contributions to medical premiums for current retirees and begin adjusting benefits for inflation. For future retirees, the agreement would establish Retiree Medical Savings Accounts for both retiree and spouse to replace the current system of capped benefits.

Bargaining was set to begin this summer with NV Energy—formerly Sierra Pacific Power.

Retirement issues were expected to be a major factor in the negotiations.

The union produced a list of 15 safety recommendations following a Safety Summit where dozens of linemen met at Weakley Hall to analyze the causes of recent serious accidents and fatalities. The summit was moderated by Transmission Troublemaker Russ Rylee.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.



Local 1245 Foreman Don Kreuter (center) speaks up at the union's recent Safety Summit. He is flanked by Tim Shaughnessy (left) and Steve Jensen (right). All are employed by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.



Local 1253 Outstanding Apprentice of the year Tim Fader.

JATC Class of 2009 Graduates

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—Congratulations to our JATC Class of 2009. Graduation was held June 19 in Fairfield. In August Tim Fader attended the National Training Institute in Michigan as our Outstanding Apprentice of the year.



IBEW Local 1307 members participated on the team representing NRG Energy in a recent Bike to The Bay event, which raised more than \$11,000 for multiple sclerosis research.

Our annual family picnic will be Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Skowhegan KOA Campground. The event is being organized by the upcoming 4th year JATC class. We encourage all to come and enjoy the day.

Thanks to the efforts of the Building and Construction Trades (including members of this local union), public school construction was added to projects covered by the state prevailing wage rate during the past legislative session.

We mourn the loss of Bro. Ray Thibodeau, who died June 22. We extend sincere sympathy to his family. He will be greatly missed.

William Gifford, P.S.

Kudos to Recent Retirees

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Congratulations to six members who recently retired: Randy Jopp, David Mitchell, Billy Nichols, Bill Ringgold, Richard Robinson and Gerald Tribeck. All were employed by Choptank Electric Co-Op and retired in November 2008.

Bro. Jopp began work at Choptank Electric in 1983 and was a transportation and equipment technician. He served on the E-Board for one term.

Bro. Mitchell started at Choptank in 1990 as a communication clerk. He became a tree trimmer in 1991, an apprentice lineman in 1992, and a journeyman in 1995.

Bro. Nichols began at Choptank as a communication clerk in 1985. He was an operations field helper and transferred to engineering fieldman. Billy served on the E-Board for nearly two terms.

Bro. Ringgold started at Choptank in 1979 as a transportation and equipment mechanic, advanced to technician in 1983, and later worked as senior transportation and equipment technician.

Bro. Richardson came to Choptank in 1990 as a storeroom attendant's helper. He also worked as system controller, garage attendant and storeroom attendant.

Bro. Tribeck began at Choptank in 1974. He became a tree trimmer and later machine equipment operator. He entered the apprentice lineman program and became a chief lineman, later working as serviceman.

Best wishes to all for a happy retirement.

Edward D. Sparks, F.S.

'A Rough Ride'

L.U. 1357 (t), HONOLULU, HI—Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Scot Long and his team continue to work with Hawaiian Telcom as Chapter 11 proceedings move forward and reorganization decisions are made, affecting operations and our members. It has been a rough ride for us, and we continue to work in part-

nership with Hawaiian Telcom, keeping dialogue open and seeing positive results in many cases. The team is receiving support from IBEW Int. Rep. Harold Dias Jr., and through it all our members continue to be the best, work the hardest, and recognize their union's diligence.

Local 1357 Vice Pres. Thomas Grogan and local union Rep. Kimi Koge are putting the final touches on our 2009 Labor Day Golf Extravaganza, to be held Sept. 5 at the Makaha Resort and Golf Club on Oahu. This year's fundraiser will be a joint effort with Hawaiian Telcom, benefiting the Hawaii Food Bank.

The local union staff and our Unit 10 officers continue to work with IT&E to develop a Performance Incentive Plan for our Saipan brothers and sisters.

Such an agreement would give these members another benefit to enjoy as a result of their hard work and dedication. Meanwhile, our Unit 10 membership continues to grow.

Karenann Wedge, P.S.

Walk to Cure Cancer

L.U. 1505 (em), WALTHAM, MA—September is always a very proud month for our local. We have participated in the Walk to Cure Cancer event since its inception 11 years ago.

The Massachusetts AFL-CIO created this event and to date has raised over \$6 million for cancer research. The cancer center on the fourth floor of the Lazare Medical Research Building is named the Massachusetts AFL-CIO Cancer Research Center as a result of these efforts.

Local 1505 Bus. Mgr. David Johnson, elected as a vice president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, takes the leadership roll in coordinating the walk for our local once again. This year's walk will be held Sept. 13. The Massachusetts AFL-CIO had committed to raise \$5 million several years ago and has exceeded that amount by raising more than \$6 million in an effort to eradicate this disease. Bus. Mgr. Johnson is proud of our members who generously donate money and collect pledges as well as walk that day along with thousands of other trade unionists.

Bob Garnhum, V.P./P.S.

'Boot Camp'

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—Westar Energy held its first ever Line Apprentice Pre-Qualification "Boot Camp." For nine days, 15 students received training from seven IBEW Westar journeyman linemen as instructors and Westar's Training Department.

For participants this was an opportunity to get the firsthand basics and fundamentals of becoming a journeyman lineman. It also pre-qualifies them

for a 3½ year apprentice lineman program. The boot camp begins building a foundation for good and safe work habits, skills, knowledge and respect for line work. Through contract negotiations, it was agreed to create a pool of potential apprentice lineman. Candidates who complete the boot camp will be the beginning of the pool.

With completion of the apprentice program, they will be able to qualify as a lineman with Westar and throughout the United States.

IBEW history, basic electricity, CPR and first aid are just a few of many topics participants will be tested on. Safety remains a number-one priority. As lineman all know, given the many challenges faced with everyday work, not only the electricity but also working in all kinds of weather, excellent training is key.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

AJEATT Graduating Class

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—The Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship Training Trust school recently turned out its largest telephone class of COPBX, I&R, Line and Splicing hands. [See photo below.] The third-year graduating telephone class comprises apprentices from all over the state, including southeast, south central and interior Alaska. We congratulate Tyler Aklestad, Andrew Davis, Ruther Frank Echiverri, Carl Gephart, Robyn Gile, Sean Honeman, Robert Jewell, Shawn Landers, Travis Mill, Skip Naylor, Todd Whitmer, Josh Young, Brandon Carle, Sean Cavanaugh, Jeremy Cloudy, Chris Hubbard, Nathan Olson, Andrew Pullen, Sven Westergard, Jeremiah Wolf, Keith Zemke and Andrew Ziegler on their progress in the trade.

Journeyman lineman Joe Hodge recently received his 40-year pin. Bro. Hodge was initiated into Local 1547 on June 1, 1970. He is a former Executive Board member.

Local 1547 recently hosted the Ninth District Progress meeting in Anchorage. More than 200 delegates enjoyed great weather and hospitality in the Land of the Midnight Sun. We appreciate Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill's meeting with employees from Chugach Electric Association, one of Alaska's largest utilities, and our Anchorage training facility packed with apprentices of all three trades, to give them an update on upcoming challenges and opportunities facing the electrical industry.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.



IBEW members from several locals, including Local 1739, are working at the North Bay Regional Health Centre project in Ontario.

Officers Elected

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—Our local held elections in June. Congratulations to Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Ken Ward on his re-election for another term. Other officers elected are: Pres. Raymond Hawkinberry, Vice Pres. Roy Stampely, Rec. Sec. Rick Dubose, and Executive Board members Marty Allen, Travis Bell, Kevin Chriswell, Dennis Dickey, Wayne Irby, Ernie Miller and Eric Swearingen. Delegates to the Convention will be Bus. Mgr. Ward, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Will Salters and Pres. Hawkinberry.

Thanks to the Judge Chuck Woods and Tellers Dennis Dupuis and Tommy Moseley for the great job they did during the election. Thanks also to everyone who participated and voted in this past election.

Our work situation is still very slow but is expected to improve. Work at the Savannah River site and the outage at Plant Vogtle will put many of our members back to work.

Visit our Web site at www.ibew1579.org for the latest news and upcoming events.

Until next time, buy American.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

Health Centre Project

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—IBEW members from Locals 1739 Barrie, 1687 Sudbury, 105 Hamilton, 894 Oshawa, 586 Ottawa and 115 Kingston are working for Dencco Electric and Triple D Electric at the North Bay Regional Health Centre, which is scheduled to open in 2010. [See photo above.]

We thank Local 1687 of Sudbury for providing work opportunities for the many travellers working at this project.

Frank Kastle, P.S.

Our local was honored to participate in the IBEW day of action on June 25 in support of health care for everyone. The rally was held in Washington, D.C., at the Upper Senate Park in sight of the Capitol building. It was awe inspiring to see so many union members, from both the IBEW and other unions, joined together in one purpose and one voice. Thank you to everyone who traveled to Washington to support this important cause.

Paul Mark, P.S.



Local 2325 Press Sec. Paul Mark (right) and Executive Board member Dan Manning attend labor-wide health care rally in Washington, D.C.

Golf Tournament Fundraiser

L.U. 2325 (t), WORCESTER, MA—Congratulations to recently re-elected Bus. Mgr. Dave Keating as well as all officers and Executive Board members also elected.

Local 2325 recently held its annual golf tournament, with all proceeds going toward the second annual Mark Booden Scholarship Fund. Our fundraising efforts were successful and will once again allow us to provide this scholarship to a worthy student. This year's tournament winners were the Jamie Cicero foursome. Special thanks go to 50/50 winners Caleb Charette and Chris Doyle, who generously donated their winnings back to the scholarship fund.

Career: Up. Tuition: Down.

IBEW has partnered with Excelsior College to give IBEW members access to college degrees and significant savings on tuition and fees.

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AJEATT Dir. Dave McAllen (far right) and, at far left, Instructors Bill Merry and Curtis Dunham join group photo with Local 1547 members of the third-year telephone class.

Retirees



Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club members attend 33rd Local 3 Pensioners Luncheon.

Pensioners Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WEST-CHESTER/PUTNAM COUNTY—Seventy members from our chapter attended the 33rd Pensioners Luncheon in New York City in February. Everyone had a great time, met old friends and enjoyed reminiscing.

Our Local 3 pension director, Thomas Gallagher, opened the meeting and welcomed 1,500 retirees. Our business manager mentioned that our pensions and hospital plans were stable. Good news.

At the time of this writing, members and spouses were scheduled to go to our new Educational Center in Cutchogue, Long Island, on Aug. 10-13. Look for my report in December letter.

Awards for service in Local 3 were presented to: Chm. Dominic Peronti—for 55 years of service; Walter McAlpin—60 years of service; Joseph Scaringi—55 years; and James Domini and Michael Helwig—50 years.

Condolences from the officers and members were sent to families of two members who passed away: Bro. Albert Matthews and longtime member Bro. John Kelly, whose smile and Irish wit will be missed.

My grandson received his journeyman card in June. He is a fourth-generation journeyman.

Best wishes from our Retirees chapter to your chapter.

Edward Rubow, P.S.

Tribute to Past President

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 41, BUFFALO, NY—The club's summer picnic for members and spouses or significant others was well-attended, and donations to the auction/raffle were plentiful. Proceeds from the auction benefit spouses of deceased members who retired before 1990, via the Harry Mueller Fund.

The union hall hosted a luncheon in August for all retirees; members received service pins at this event. The luncheon was in lieu of our August meeting. Also on the agenda for August was a Triple A Buffalo Bison ballgame.

September brings the annual outing for the entire local at the VFW Post 8113. A Christmas brunch is planned for December.

On a sad note, Retirees Club members mourn the passing of our past president of 11 years, Al Meyers. Al was a great president. He also was our tour

leader, along with his wife, Sis, for many outstanding trips in the U.S. and abroad. Al will be sorely missed.

Our next regular meeting is in October. All new retirees are welcome.

Tom Feger, P.S.

Update from Detroit

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—Greetings! I missed the previous issue for submitting Retirees articles and I apologize. Anyway, our March luncheon was at the Gazebo in Warren; over 90 members and guests attended. We had a great time as always.

April brought the Retiree's Pin Party. We were fortunate to have as a 65-year pin recipient John Bunetta. What a great accomplishment by a wonderful brother. John "Ace" Gagnon, Joe Dutts and Fred Schroeder received 60-year pins. The 55- and 50-year pin recipients were plentiful also. You know you're in a great gathering when you're getting on in years and you hear a "hey kid, come here" from nearby. What a great feeling.

Our June 24 luncheon was at the Port Huron area at the Black River Country Club, a beautiful



Local 58 Pres. Elaine Crawford and Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joe Abdoo present 65-year service award to retired member John Bunetta.

place to dine. At this writing we were planning a Sept. 13-19 trip to Branson, MO.

As of press time, Board members Isabel Owen and Dolores Barrett have had some major health issues and we've kept them in our prayers.

Remember the needy in our organization and those defending our country as well.

We're always looking for the members to help out on the Board. If you're interested, we meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the hall. Buy union, buy American!

Frank A. Maisano, P.S.

Awards Presented

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 86, ROCHESTER, NY—

On May 28 we had our annual breakfast meeting at McGinnity's restaurant with 45 members attending. At the meeting, Bro. Art Salvione received a certificate acknowledging him and his wife, Mary, as "Retiree Volunteer of the Year." Pres. Jim Schneider reported that he presented two brothers who are homebound with their service pins: Bros. John Blend, a 55-year member, and Bill Pinkerton Sr., a 65-year member.

With the help of our retirees, led by Bro. Ray



Local 86 retired member Bill Pinkerton Sr. (seated) receives his 65-year service award. Standing are Bill's sons, both also Local 86 retirees: 45-year member Bill Pinkerton Jr. (right) and 36-year member Pete Pinkerton.

Hewitt, Project Hope was recently completed. Project Hope was to completely rebuild and add additions to a house for a needy family in our jurisdiction. This was all done in under four weeks.

We recently had our annual picnic at our union hall. The picnic was hosted by Local 86 members, officers and staff. It was a beautiful day for a picnic with great food that was enjoyed by 150 retirees and spouses.

Don Peters, P.S.

Mayor Praises Union Work

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI—

Our meeting in May consisted of our Annual May Breakfast, held at the Marriott Hotel. It was well-attended and enjoyed by all. We were pleased to have in attendance Providence Mayor David Cicilline, who spoke of the excellent work being done by Local 99.

Recently, Bro. Robert Beardwood planned a fishing trip that was very successful with fun for all.

Since our last publication we have been saddened by the recent death of several retired brothers: Charles Purdy, Bento Aguire, John Walsh, Raymond Petraca, William Butler, William McDonald and Anthony Musumeci. May they rest in peace.

In July we enjoyed attending a PawSox Game at McCoy Stadium as well as a great cook-out.

Although we do not hold a meeting in July and August, the local has been very generous to us and we are grateful for their interest and assistance in keeping the spirit of brotherhood alive. The local has supported us with our Christmas luncheon, the May breakfast and the PawSox ballgames. Local 99 has shown us the true spirit of brotherhood by their leadership. We cannot thank everyone enough.

Raymond Germershausen, P.S.

Computer Class Held

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 103, BOSTON, MA—As we move into the 21st century, computers play a larger role in our lives. Communications in general, from banking to mail and newspapers, are affected by widespread use of the Internet.

Many of our Local 103 Retirees Club members are eager to become more familiar with ways to utilize computers.

Recently a union newsletter on a DVD disc was mailed to each Local 103 member. Later, at a Retirees Club luncheon, half the attendees acknowledged not knowing how to view the disc. Bus. Mgr. Mike Monahan and Apprenticeship Training Dir. Leo Purcell



Local 103 retirees and others attend computer training class. Among those joining the group photo is JATC Training Dir. Leo Purcell (front row, right).

instituted a computer class, taught by instructors Tom Rasmussen and Rich Burdick during normal work-week hours and evenings, to extend to retirees the opportunity to use a computer. Sixty members are currently enrolled.

We recently returned from Washington, D.C., where a Local 103 delegation attended the Alliance of Retired Americans Legislative Conference. At the IBEW pre-conference meeting, we were apprised of legislation affecting retirees by IBEW Human Services Carolyn Williams. We delivered our objectives to our congressional representatives. We also enjoyed a tour of the IBEW museum and IBEW historical sites conducted by Int. Rep. Michael Nugent. A tip of the cap to Carolyn and Mike.

Leo E. Monahan, P.S.

IBEW Watches Awarded

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—At the June 25 general meeting, Retirees Club members Henry Haas and William Nauck were awarded IBEW watches for 60 years of Local 130 service. Since June 21, 2001, some 52 IBEW watches have been awarded to club members, courtesy of the club.

Our club started collecting dues after the World's Fair in 1985 and has 95 active members at the present time. Dues are currently \$35 per year and we are always open for new members with IBEW pensions.

We have four membership meetings per year with the Christmas party being the last one of the year. Members and guests are invited to attend. There will be food, refreshments and entertainment at all meetings.

We are saddened to report the passing of Brothers: Salvador Caccioppi Sr., Frank Cannata, Alfred Gifford, Ray Gray Sr., Henry J. Lambert Jr., Earl A. Rolling, Orrell Will and Fred Zimmerman. Bro. Zimmerman, who was a dedicated club worker, passed away May 29 and especially will be missed. May our brothers rest in peace!

We extend get-well wishes to Winfield Salathe. Until our next article in December, God bless America and our troops.

Buddy Carver, P.S.



Local 130 Retirees Club members Henry Haas Sr. (front row, left) and William Nauck (right) receive IBEW watches. Making the presentation are George Clesi (back row, left) and Ronald Gurtner.

'Our Brothers Honored'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—Summer, if that is what you call it, is going by fast. The weather is like a yo-yo. Well at least we don't have to shovel it. Our club is doing fine; the programs have been interesting.

We honored our 50-, 55-, 60-, and 65-year retirees with a luncheon. The occasion included



Local 134 Pres. Richard Rioux (middle row, third from left) and Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Timothy Foley (middle row, third from right) congratulate Retirees Club members honored at luncheon. Front row, from left: Paul Magruder, Paul Gerk, Allan White, Stanley Sowizrow; middle row, William Guidotti, Michael Gaglione, Rioux, Foley, Larry Wolfenschnider, Robert Turek; back row, John Gardner, Phillip Boshes, Warren Koerner and Kenneth Erdman.

music and lots of reminiscing about past jobs. Congratulations to the honorees and also to the brothers who couldn't make the party.

The John Cummins Golf outing is Sept. 24 at Long Wood Country Club in Worth, IL. Starting time is 8 a.m. Results will be posted in our next article. Let's come out and play like Tom Watson or John Daly.

Our next big club event is our corned beef dinner in December. Stay healthy, be happy...see you in the next issue.

Richard E. Bronars, P.S.

Great Participation

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—The Retirees Club met June 30 for our monthly luncheon at the Gibson Girls Restaurant in Holts Summit, MO. The 2009-2010 officers were elected. Because of the great job they have done, the officers were re-elected by acclamation. They are: Pres. Jerry Rehagen, Vice Pres. Betty Nichols, Sec./Treas. June Lenger; Executive Committee members Bob Kauffman, Orval Lenger and Alice Murray. We thank them for their hard work keeping us informed of club activities and planning our luncheons and events. We also thank Charlotte Baxter for all her hard work in recent years as our former secretary/treasurer.

As of this July writing, future events include a luncheon and trip to Arrow Rock, MO, for a show at the Lyceum Theater, and participation in the Labor Day parades in Mokane and Jefferson City, MO.

Our retirees support the Retirees Club with great attendance and participation. We invite all Local 257 retirees, their spouses and guests to join us on the last Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. We meet at different locations in central Missouri each month. Anyone interested in attending one of our luncheons should call Local 257 for contact information. We enjoy new faces and all Local 257 retirees are invited.

Delores Melloway, P.S.

Summer Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 291, BOISE, ID—There were 35 in attendance at our June potluck picnic. Harry and Kay Price graciously provided the location in

Nampa, ID. Many thanks to our cooks, Don Harness, Duane Ferguson and Stan Brassfield.

I am saddened to report the loss in June of 61-year IBEW member Cecil Dean.

The local held its annual picnic in July at Municipal Park in Boise, where some of our members received service awards. Congratulations to Bill Stith (60 years of service), Irene McMillin (55 years), Del Ray (50 years), Herb Endicott (40 years), Dave Wolff (40 years) and John Busack (15 years).

We welcome our newest members: Dave and Janette Wolff, and Darrel and Janet Cornell.

Stan Brassfield, Pres.

Regular Meetings Resumed

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 424, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—Local 424's retirees are very much a viable "presence" within the local. After several years of inactivity, they are again holding regular meetings every second month, for the time being, in both Unit 1 Edmonton and Unit 2 Calgary, and are ready to take on some projects, the first being our annual pancake breakfast held during the 10-day Edmonton Exhibition.

Some retirees in both units are taking computer training classes, made available by Training Dir. Ray Matthews and his super staff in both training centers. The Retirees extend a heartfelt "thank-you" to the Training Center people, the Education Fund Trustees and the ECAA for the opportunity. The next order of battle for the "Vets" will be elections in November of a Unit Executive Committee in both Edmonton and Calgary.



Among Local 530 retired members and service award recipients are, from left: Jack McLellan, Pete Schenk, Cy Fugere (2007 recipient), Robert Blakey, Jake DeJong (2007 recipient).

These retired members worked a lifetime in construction, and have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. They also serve as a reminder that the benefits we have today are in large part due to their contributions over the years in advancing the interests of Local 424. Retirees are also a reminder to younger members that the job is not yet finished, and it is they who must now complete the bridge to the future.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

Scenic Mountain Town

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 449, POCATELLO, ID—The Retirees Club met July 16 in Mackay, ID, a small mountain town in central Idaho surrounded by mountains and history. Mackay is a perfect spot to relax and just enjoy the "good life."

Members met on Thursday, July 16, at the local Ken's Club for a delicious prime rib dinner, good conversations, joking and laughter. On Friday, July 17, we met again in the local park for a potluck picnic and more conversations while soaking in the beauty and serenity of the area.

This is the third year we have held our July meeting in Mackay and plans are already made for next year's Mackay meeting.

Luella Wetherbee, P.S.

Service Award Recipients

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Retirees of Local 530, for the most part, spent their entire working careers initially building and then maintaining the electrical system required of an industrial project the size and cope of Sarnia's Chemical Valley.

At the Local 530 Annual Dinner Dance Banquet, held at the Dante Club on Nov. 14, 2008, a total of 17 retirees received years-of-service awards. Local 530 Bus. Mgr. Mickey Cataford presented service pins to recipients in attendance.

Recipients were: for 35 years of service—Vaclav Lysek, James Wright; for 40 years of service—Robert H. Blakey, Edward Russell, John Weeke; for 45 years—Kenneth Bryce, William J. Bush, Edward J. Fellows; for 50 years—Wilbur Anderson, E. "Tim" Giese, Peter Schenk, Donald Paul Vail, Hendrick "Hank" Visser; and for 55 years—Richard G. Harris, Regent Lamoureux, John McLellan and Leonard H. Scarrow.

Congratulations to all retired journeymen who received recognition in 2008. Our club finds it reassuring that we are able to come together with the active work force in such a positive way.

Our retirees are proud of the legacy they have left in the workplace. They are also proud of the high standard of work performed by our working members.

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.

Retirees

Researching Photo Archives

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—We are still working on the Local 611 archives and history for our 100th anniversary in 2013. Retirees are reviewing the 100-plus pictures we have in our archives. On request, we will gladly ship pictures to any member who would like to help us identify union members in photos on file.

The work situation has slowed. At this writing, 100 are on Book I and 215 on Book II. The large job in Unice, NM, has the largest number of Local 611 members, while the Rio Rancho hospital and Desert Rock jobs are still on hold.

The Local 11 Retirees annual Christmas Brunch and gift exchange is in December, so watch your mail for location and date.

Hopefully everyone read the “Letters to the Editor” published in the July Electrical Worker. A Chicago Local 134 member wrote about “buying American” and not supporting vehicles not made in America. We retirees of Local 611 support the letter writer’s views.

Our condolences to the families of brothers who passed away since March: Alvin Steen Jr., Mike Salway, Wayne Faul, Harold L. Law and Leo Victor Jones.

Please remember our members who are fighting illness and those in assisted living and nursing homes.

Tracy Hall, Pres.



At the June Local 611 Retirees Club meeting, retirees Glen Frazier (left) and Ralph Garcia look over hundreds of photos in the local’s archives.

Report from Atlanta

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 613, ATLANTA, GA—The June 17 meeting of the Retirees Club was a great success. Tom McGuire opened the meeting with a prayer and then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bus. Mgr. Gene O’Kelly explained the change in the Book 1 system. In my opinion this is the best thing that has happened in decades. This change will free up an assistant business manager and a secretary from policing their home book. We did, and will continue to, hold a raffle for members and their spouses.

We sadly mourn the following members: Travis Yearwood, Jerry Pickard, Newby Thurman, George Morgan, Gary Guthrie, Jerry Adams, Roy Entrekin, George Ford and Ronald Naptj Jr.

Blake McLeod, Pres.



Local 666 Retirees Club members enjoy a tour of the IBEW headquarters building in Washington, D.C.

Service Awards Presented

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 654, CHESTER, PA—On Feb. 28, Local 654 held a 70th anniversary party at the union hall. Several retirees attended the party as guests of the membership.

In looking back at one of my old Journal letters, from March 1977, I saw where a letter dated Nov. 4, 1938, was sent from Chester, PA, to the following address: G.M. Bugniazat, IBEW, Washington, D.C.

The letter read as follows: “Dear Sir: Kindly send by return mail an application for a charter in your organization. Yours Truly, Clifford E. Browning.” Other communications continued, a petition for membership was filed and those involved succeeded in receiving an IBEW charter on Feb. 17, 1939. Through those early efforts and sacrifices, today we are IBEW Local 654.

Service awards were presented to the following retirees: for 40 years of service—Bob Bruno, Joe Dellavecchia, Bob Fitch Jr., Joe Igo, Larry Laslett, John McCafferty, Walt Mitchell, Jim Sissons, Alec Walklett; for 45 years—Wayne Edwards, Wayne Heacock, John Thompson Jr.; for 50 years—John Barlow, Jim Connors, Ray McCool, Richard Osman; for 51 years—Herb Osborne; for 55 years—William Goldstein; and for 70 years—John A. Grasso.

Congratulations to all.

Francis “Jeep” Hanley, P.S.

Visit to IBEW Headquarters

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 666, RICHMOND, VA—The Retirees Club expresses our appreciation to the local union for sponsoring our bus trip on May 2 to visit the IBEW I.O. headquarters in Washington, D.C. [See photo above.] We enjoyed a delicious brunch at J. Paul’s Restaurant in Georgetown. This restaurant was a boarding house in the late 1890s and was the residence of the Brotherhood’s first president, Bro. Henry Miller.

Our guide for a tour of the IBEW headquarters and museum archives was then Int. Rep. Mike Nugent, who served as archives curator. Bro. Nugent gave us a fascinating tour. We particularly enjoyed the view of Washington from the building’s observation deck and the extensive museum display of IBEW history and memorabilia, including a great collection of early electrical equipment.

On our way home, we visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, VA. The realistic displays were interesting and brought back memories of the sacrifices that have been made to keep us a free nation.

Mary Ann Bernier, P.S.

Benefits Agreement Negotiated

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1245, VACAVILLE, CA—Long-sought improvements to retiree medical benefits were on the line as members prepared to vote on a newly negotiated benefits agreement at Pacific Gas & Electric. The tentative agreement, if ratified, would increase company contributions to medical premiums for current retirees. The company would also make substantial contributions toward establishment of Retirement Medical Savings Accounts for future retirees.

“It’s a good thing for everybody,” said former PG&E technician Jim Parker, 83, a Local 1245 Retirees Club, Santa Rosa Chapter, member.

“Every little bit counts,” said retired PG&E meter reader Warren Templeman, 82. Templeman noted that both he and his wife would get an extra \$40 a month toward their premium starting no later than June 2010, and that company contributions,

which are currently capped, would be indexed for inflation going forward.

“For me, this is going to be great,” said Ken Rawles, Santa Rosa Chapter recording secretary. “This will be \$2,500 each year starting in 2011 to go toward premiums.”

Santa Rosa is one of five chapters of the Local 1245 Retirees Club that have worked for years to remove the cap on company contributions to retiree medical premiums. Retirees have courted support for their cause from other retiree groups, state and federal legislators, the news media and current union members, who will be the retirees of tomorrow. Other chapters of the Club meet in the South Bay, East Bay, Vacaville/Sacramento, and Merced.

Local 1245 retirees who are interested in starting a chapter in their area may contact union office manager Tonya Alston at (707) 452-2718.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.



Members from several chapters of the Local 1245 Retirees Club rallied at the PG&E annual shareholders meeting in May to ask the company to address the problem of rising medical costs for retirees.

Attention AFL-CIO Convention Delegates!

If you are a delegate and attending the AFL-CIO Convention September 13-17 in Pittsburgh, the IBEW Political/Legislative Department wants to know.

Please e-mail the following information to: ibewpoliticaldept@ibew.org or fax to (202) 728-6245:

- Name
- Local union number
- Title
- State Federation or Central Labor Council
- E-mail address
- Mailing address
- Work phone number
- Cell phone number
- Fax number
- Shirt size

In Memoriam

PBF Death Claims Approved for Payment in July 2009

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

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Csukas, L. L.	5/23/2009	43	McDougall, N. E.	4/27/2009	104	Lohnes, B. J.	12/16/2008	302	Ramey, H. E.	3/28/2009	488	Silverstone, N.	1/19/2009
1	English, T.	6/18/2009	43	Waloven, E. J.	5/21/2009	105	Mihailovich, B.	3/10/2009	303	Smart, J. W.	5/18/2009	488	Wills, C. J.	10/30/2008
1	Jaromack, H. W.	5/15/2009	46	Holt, J. H.	3/24/2009	110	Foss, D. A.	5/16/2009	307	Raley, R. J.	4/28/2009	490	Montminy, P. H.	5/21/2009
1	Meyer, A. K.	4/11/2009	46	Overly, R. F.	3/30/2009	110	Koelndorfer, B. V.	5/11/2009	309	Panzau, C. A.	9/11/2008	494	Behringer, A.	6/7/2009
1	Mundwiller, V.	5/31/2009	46	Sunde, N. O.	5/16/2009	110	Snelson, P. E.	5/13/2009	317	Thomas, D. C.	6/19/2009	494	Schuster, A.	1/14/2009
3	Alexander, H.	4/17/2009	46	Todd, S. M.	5/19/2009	113	Beckley, T.	5/12/2009	322	Anderson, J. K.	9/2/2008	499	Lewis, E. E.	5/6/2009
3	Barry, J. A.	5/7/2009	46	Wasielewski, J. K.	2/16/2009	124	Holeman, G. W.	5/6/2009	322	Middleton, D. G.	5/8/2009	499	Schmidt, G. C.	5/21/2009
3	Bartholomew, W. N.	4/12/2009	46	Wright, B. M.	4/29/2009	124	Jenkins, L. P.	5/13/2009	326	Vardner, J. A.	12/11/2008	502	Leblanc, J.	5/4/2009
3	Bowen, G. O.	2/19/2009	47	Carbone, L. J.	11/25/2008	125	Beard, D. D.	5/1/2009	329	Martin, C. D.	5/18/2009	505	Robinson, J. T.	2/18/2009
3	Davis, R.	2/17/2009	48	Addington, J. B.	6/6/2009	125	Olson, S. D.	12/21/2008	332	Cameron, C. E.	6/1/2009	505	Ross, J. J.	5/22/2009
3	De Marco, R.	4/26/2009	48	Hersch, A.	1/5/2009	126	Smith, R. W.	2/27/2009	332	Carney, J. T.	6/1/2009	527	Einecke, W. E.	1/31/2009
3	Eligon, A. J.	5/7/2009	48	Sherry, C. L.	5/22/2009	130	Bertucci, J. M.	2/13/2009	332	Doerr, P. R.	5/24/2009	527	Sonnenburg, P. R.	5/27/2009
3	Galante, N. J.	3/15/2009	50	Lewis, J. V.	1/3/2009	130	Gifford, A. F.	4/7/2009	332	Vollers, D. L.	5/8/2009	530	Jackson, E. J.	4/16/2009
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26	Moncrief, B. D.	3/29/2009	102	Vockel, W. F.	5/10/2009	266	McIntosh, D. R.	9/22/2008	465	Williams, R. D.	5/24/2009	769	Jensen, L. L.	10/14/2008
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35	Davis, J. D.	1/21/2009	103	Erskine, J. F.	5/8/2009	288	Boesen, W. J.	5/16/2009	479	Hall, B. B.	5/31/2009	799	Portwood, R. F.	1/4/2008
35	Hamilton, M. M.	12/29/2008	103	Johnson, C. W.	5/24/2009	292	Adkins, R. S.	4/29/2009	479	Hardy, C. A.	4/6/2009	804	McKeown, T.	4/23/2009
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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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****Won't Get Fooled Again**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

There's an old adage that goes: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

If Verizon gets the go-ahead to proceed with its planned \$8.6 billion sale of its landline systems in 14 states to Frontier Communications, then it's shame on all of us.

As we report in this issue, in every instance the telecom giant has sold off a section of its more rural system to a smaller company, it's been a disaster for both our members and both business and residential consumers.

A year after Verizon's sale of its northern New England operations to FairPoint, a small and underfunded carrier, FairPoint is on the verge of bankruptcy, leaving angry customers and our members stuck, while the same public commissions that approved the sale are asking how this happened. And the FairPoint executives who engineered this disastrous sale? At least three of them landed safely with golden parachutes while the rest of us are left to deal with the mess they created.

I don't take any particular comfort in saying, "We told you so." I'd rather see political, business and community leaders take to heart the lessons of history.

We can't expect companies like Verizon not to sell its operations in more remote parts of the country to lessen its debt load and focus on big-money urban markets. And we can't hope that the executives of the purchasing telecoms won't be tempted to take the money and run during the post-sale bubble that inevitably precedes the crash. But we can demand that federal and state regulators do their jobs and look out for the public interest. It's time for an end to the type of corporate deal making that got us into the current painful recession.

We are going to let regulators and public officials know that customers and telecommunication workers aren't about to get fooled again.

Fight Back with Facts

As Congress considers whether to make major reforms in America's health care insurance system, media attention has focused on town hall meetings where elected representatives have been shouted down and disrupted even before they can explain their positions on proposed legislation.

I'm all for passionate debate, but citizens and leaders alike need to base our decisions on *facts*.

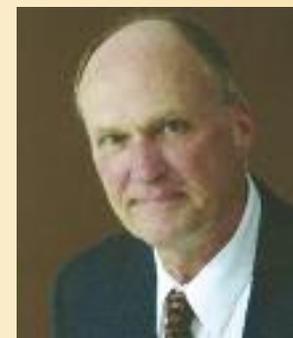
Too many citizens are denied insurance by private carriers because of pre-existing health conditions, raising the premiums both on employers who offer insurance and individuals who are fortunate enough to still have coverage. A growing number of Americans are being forced into bankruptcy because of medical costs. At the bargaining table, local unions are under increasing pressure to agree to higher deductibles and co-pays.

One of the solutions proposed to bring down the costs of health care is a public, government-sponsored insurance option that would provide competition for insurance companies and lower costs in the private market. Unfortunately, the public option has been unfairly branded by opponents of real health care reform—including highly profitable insurance companies—as "socialized medicine," which will lead to the collapse of private insurance. And they're slandering Canada's health care system in the process.

None of the three major health reform bills in Congress calls for "socialized" medicine. I agree with the Maryland activist who was reported as saying that predictions that a public option will put private insurers out of business are no more accurate than saying that public libraries will drive private bookstore chains into bankruptcy.

Shutting down health care reform would hurt a lot of working families. But it just might help big insurance companies that profit from the current system. Some of those companies are spending millions of dollars in advertising to spread untruths about the need for health care reform.

As trade unionists, we need to be just as passionate and active on health care reform as are those who twist the facts to protect their vested interest in the status quo.



Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

What Stimulus?

With 300 of my Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Local 728 brothers and sisters and more than 200 in the local north of me out of work, these are some very dire times. I have called and written my state senator, U.S. senator and congressman—and not one can tell me where the stimulus or infrastructure jobs in my state are.

In May, the news advertised a job fair for a Florida Power & Light solar plant to be built in Martin County. In two days, 8,000 people rolled through. The sad thing is that the nonunion contractor is from out of state and will use nonunion and out-of-state applicants for this two-year construction project. Several tags on vehicles were from South Carolina, the very state whose governor said he wasn't accepting stimulus money.

Brothers and sisters, we need employment and fair wages from our leaders and politicians, not promises. Where is the stimulus money and projects? Our union contractors are being underbid by out-of-state, nonunion contractors who don't pay their fair share for health care to their employees. Where are the jobs?

Scott Nolan
Local 728 member, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

A Breath of Fresh Air

The article in the July Electrical Worker, "IBEW Green-Job Training Facilities Around the Country Open Doors to Public," highlights the current ecological trend toward building environmentally sensitive structures and generating renewable energy. It showcases how the IBEW is ahead of the curve in training the work force that will allow all of this to succeed.

What is not mentioned is the rare opportunity we have to implement a positive shift in basic workplace safety as these construction innovations appear. Providence, R.I., Local 99 is working with groups like the Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Safety and Health to sponsor a policy for jobsite safety named "Green During Construction" that could, and should, be a mandatory component of all green construction. It would require any contractor who bids for work to follow guidelines which would preserve safe air quality while the building is going up. Failure to do so could result in fines or debarment.

Response from the general public has been supportive. The community surrounding the jobsite is reminded that it breathes the same air that we do. There is no reason why that air should be contaminated, and there is no reason why construction workers should be precluded from enjoying protections that the rest of society enjoys.

Patrick Brady
Local 99 member, Providence, R.I.

Strengthening the Brotherhood

After attending my first COMET (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training) class, I wanted to go out and let all the nonunion electricians know how much better it is on our side. A short while after being turned out, I was blessed with the opportunity to serve Riverside, Calif., Local 440 as an organizer. On June 24, Joe Mendoza and I held our first COMET class in which we were the instructors, and this is the picture of our members who attended. I would love for all of our members in 440 to know how important it is to organize and inform the unorganized. I have become a firm believer that COMET can be an excellent tool in strengthening our Brotherhood!

Bernie Balland
Local 440 member, Riverside, Calif.



Members of Riverside, Calif., Local 440 attend a Construction Organizing Membership Education Training class.

Who We Are

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

'The Principle is Solidarity' Apprentices Weigh in on the Thread that Connects the Movement



San Mateo, Calif., Local 617 third-year inside wireman apprentices completed a class assignment extolling the virtues of solidarity in the workplace and in the Brotherhood.

Solidarity. For labor veterans, it's a term that invokes feelings of brotherhood, camaraderie and the sense that somebody's got your back—and vice versa. But what does it mean to a young worker just starting off in the trade?

San Mateo, Calif., Local 617 Vice President and JATC instructor Dan Pasini posed this question one night last spring to his classroom of third-year inside wiremen apprentices. Pasini asked the apprentices to expound on the principle of solidarity in short essay form—and he was impressed with the results.

"The students' observations and reflections were nothing less than insightful, discerning, honest and brilliant," Pasini said. "The perception and wisdom contained in those pages was encouraging."

Here's what some newer brothers and sisters of Local 617 think about the meaning of solidarity:

"Every time I run into a co-worker while I'm out, put on my Local 617 sweat-shirt, go to class, go to work, complete a hard day's work, learn something new, meet a new co-worker or even celebrate a holiday (without pay), I feel proud. This sense of pride doesn't come with an 'I.' It comes with a 'we.'"

— Justin Clark

"Solidarity is more than just sticking together for a common purpose. It's doing the right thing when it isn't easy. It's doing what is right even when you may end up on the short end of the stick. It's doing what is right even when nobody would ever know if you took the easy way out."

— Dave Wilson

"Growing up as the son of a union electrician, I would hear stories about how organized and united the IBEW was. For the most part, if one person walked, they all walked. If one demanded certain conditions to be met, everyone demanded them to be met. [It means] not leaving anyone behind to fight alone, because we are stronger together."

— Mike Perez

"Acts of compassion build solidarity. Being an apprentice, you are used to cleaning, moving and rounding up material—all the hard physical labor of the trade. But you feel solidarity when a journeyman wireman says, 'I'll grab the material, you relax. Put up a piece of pipe or think about the next task.' This expression made me feel equal, made me feel important and made my belief in this union stronger."

— Abe Talakai Jr.

"We don't all have to have the same point of view on every issue, but we all have the same things that matter to us. Every person needs health care for their families. Everyone has to make a living to be able to live the way they want to. But we could all benefit from helping each other out to make our lives better."

— Leah Sachs

"It is not easy for us to change our attitudes to a 'we' instead of 'me' mentality. If we were able to start making solidarity a part of our lives on a small scale, I feel like we would be more willing to expand solidarity to other aspects of our lives as well."

— Eric Sloan

For Pasini, the class' writings signal growing union strength among the newer generation of workers.

"The younger people aren't just our future—they're our present," Pasini said. "To have them writing and thinking about solidarity in this way lets me know that the power of our movement is well-intact." ■

In Memoriam

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Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
816	Travis, W. B.	5/1/2009	I.O. (76)	Taylor, D. R.	6/13/2009
841	Gamble, R. A.	4/26/2009	I.O. (104)	Miele, S. A.	4/25/2009
852	Cowley, R. H.	4/22/2009	I.O. (134)	Ponto, R. V.	3/29/2009
855	Ramsey, L. D.	5/5/2009	Pens. (317)	Thomas, J.	5/24/2009
861	Surles, J. G.	6/1/2009	Pens. (323)	Gregg, E. R.	5/26/2009
865	Drab, J.	12/3/2008	Pens. (561)	Young, N. H.	3/12/2009
876	Houck, M. W.	10/2/2008	Pens. (637)	Ford, B. L.	4/4/2009
903	Martin, H. R.	4/26/2009	Pens. (694)	Uscilowski, S.	3/14/2009
910	Reff, G. F.	5/24/2009	Pens. (1788)	Longley, L. F.	3/1/2009
910	Tarwater, H. W.	5/27/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Albert, R. W.	5/21/2009
915	Janet, R. D.	5/21/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Alter, R. F.	5/8/2009
915	Kira, S. J.	5/29/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Bacon, H. W.	2/27/2009
915	Moon, R. H.	6/4/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Bowden, L. W.	3/19/2009
934	Elliott, T. J.	5/1/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Braun, H. F.	4/8/2009
948	Rivers, J. E.	4/22/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Carlock, M.	3/18/2009
949	Rapp, L. A.	5/26/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Crawford, H. F.	6/1/2009
953	Gunnes, T. P.	4/28/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Crawley, G. G.	12/6/2008
970	Anshutz, R. L.	5/25/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Duffey, J. S.	5/7/2009
970	Whitman, D. D.	6/2/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Ford, J. E.	3/20/2009
975	Ryckman, D. L.	5/6/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Givens, T.	3/2/2009
993	Watkin, A.	5/24/2008	Pens. (I.O.)	Granade, J. R.	12/24/2008
995	Gassie, A. E.	5/19/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Gudgeon, K. L.	5/25/2009
1049	Ittig, T. C.	3/21/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Guinn, F. E.	5/12/2009
1186	Oshita, J. O.	4/28/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Gurley, S. G.	6/5/2009
1212	Silver, S. L.	5/23/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Henry, A. L.	2/1/2009
1220	Prokes, P. H.	4/5/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Henry, C. J.	1/29/2009
1228	Crowhurst, S. F.	5/3/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Jackley, J. W.	4/24/2009
1249	Copeland, D. F.	4/3/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Jalkanen, A.	5/24/2009
1249	Winn, J. L.	4/30/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Lopresti, J. A.	6/10/2009
1253	Rancourt, K. D.	11/22/2008	Pens. (I.O.)	Marrese, V. D.	2/19/2009
1306	Greear, F. R.	3/31/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Mayer, E. C.	5/29/2009
1306	Woodrey, B. P.	12/5/2008	Pens. (I.O.)	Meehan, J. C.	3/2/2009
1319	DePhillips, A. G.	5/31/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Mosley, G. L.	5/15/2009
1319	Gulczynski, W.	6/2/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Pierce, C. F.	6/2/2009
1340	Hirst, J. W.	3/19/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Rexrode, K. A.	2/18/2009
1362	Boehm, A. M.	3/31/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Roberts, R. W.	5/30/2008
1393	Cruzan, C. G.	5/6/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Russell, C. D.	3/13/2009
1393	McCormick, R. H.	5/5/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Schiestl, L. F.	5/14/2009
1393	Rhine, J. D.	6/12/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Sopkowiak, A. J.	5/14/2009
1464	Harvey, A. D.	3/25/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Stephenson, M. H.	5/17/2009
1547	Barineau, G. H.	3/31/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Szymanski, T. F.	6/17/2009
1547	Henley, S. C.	6/5/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Wilkinson, O. N.	3/5/2009
1701	Rowan, J. B.	5/30/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Winegard, W. L.	5/22/2009
1701	Self, H. G.	1/17/2009			

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