

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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## IBEW Customer Campaigns in South Stir Interest

Instant success is a rare event in any organizing campaign. But, with good planning, magic can strike. While 30 organizers fanned out in late February to advertise the savvy and competitiveness of IBEW labor to 330 Atlanta-area end-users of electrical services—customers from hospitals to architects, engineers and general contractors—phones started ringing with new business for signatory contractors. That’s welcome news for a 3,800-member local with 40 percent of its electricians out of work. The “end-user blitz,” initiated by Atlanta Local 613 Business Manager Gene O’Kelley and Jed Dunagan, the local’s membership development coordinator, assisted by organizers from Fifth District locals and the International Office, was based on similar successful efforts pioneered in south Florida as part of the Florida Initiative.

### End-user Campaigns— ‘The Next Logical Step’

Setting the stage for more nonunion worker and contractor contacts, this kind of organizing goes straight to the customer—the company, firm, institution or municipality—and sells them on the benefits of IBEW labor, namely a highly-skilled work force with the work ethic and professionalism of the Code of Excellence. “End-user campaigns are the next logical step to promote the training and productivity of IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors



Miami Local 349 and Fort Lauderdale Local 728 are establishing and improving relationships with customers. Meeting are Rodney Alvarez, left, International lead organizer; Walter Bost, director of business development, Locals 349 and 728; Roberto Verzura, CEO, Verzura Construction; consultant Leo Zeferetti, a former member of Congress; David Svetlick, business manager, Local 728; and Lee Rudnitsky, Verzura Construction.

Association,” says Walter Bost, who works in business development, a division of the organizing programs developed by Miami Local 349 and Ft. Lauderdale Local 728. “General contractors want two things: good prices and fewer headaches,” he says.

### ‘Keep Re-inventing Ourselves’

“We need to keep re-inventing ourselves,” says Bost (See “Former NECA Manager Spreads the Gospel for Florida Initiative,” IBEW Journal, March-April 2007). Cold calls on potential customers, he says, build upon a pyramid for growth that commenced with

another successful organizing tactic out of Florida: the industry night, a job fair that gives nonunion workers a chance to meet potential employers. It also allows the IBEW to highlight composite crews using a mix of classifications, including construction wireman and construction electrician, which makes using union labor more affordable.

Atlanta’s blitz began on a Monday night with a PowerPoint presentation for organizers outlining goals and tactics. Early Tuesday morning, organizers grouped into 15 teams. Dressed in business attire, they mapped out their visits using GPS systems, dividing up glossy brochures titled, “Connecting People, Projects and Opportunity—IBEW Local 613.”

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## IBEW Customer Campaign in South

### 'A Home Run and a Slam Dunk'

"The blitz was a home run and a slam dunk," says Local 349 Organizer Chris Simpson, who helped introduce the concept to Local 613 leaders several months before. Three union contractors immediately went to work for general contractors contacted during the blitz. Forty-seven appointments were set up for future discussions.

"We got more hits from this blitz than any other," says Dunagan, who is busy following up on leads harvested during the campaign.

O'Kelley says the orientation session prior to the visits was critical. "We rehearsed our speeches and anticipated questions that would be asked by customers," he says. "We set our guys up with the questions and answers and gave them real live situations to address."

For instance, says O'Kelley, in visits to office building managers, they were asked what they would do if a switch gear went bad, shutting down power to their premises. Many managers, he says, were

*Glossy brochures delivered to more than 300 Atlanta-area customers of electrical services boast the skills and training of IBEW members.*



unprepared to answer. This offered an opening for organizers to propose a maintenance contract to prevent such catastrophic occurrences.

### Selling the Green Team

Bost, whose daughter is a property manager, says that many building managers are young, college-educated women—like her—looking to achieve major savings through greener technologies.

More than one-third of electrical consumption in the U.S. comes from commercial and residential buildings. With large retail and condominium complexes under pressure to reduce energy costs in common areas to keep from losing tenants, times are ripe for developing new business relationships.

NJATC's courses in renewable technologies and building automation systems—including fire security systems—are key to new business. The courses are part of the fourth and fifth year apprenticeship curriculum in Locals 349, 613 and 728. Locals 613 and 728 also offer courses for journeymen to upgrade skills in automation and/or fire security systems.

"We have the greatest job in the world telling people how our organization works," says Simpson, who directed one of the largest energy management projects at Miami International Airport as a foreman for Fisk Electric. "But we can't go in like salesmen. We are and need to be industry experts."

Alvin Riley, membership development coordinator for New Orleans Local 130, who helped out in Atlanta, is considering launching an end-user

blitz in his jurisdiction. It's important to visit with architects and engineers, say Riley, because they are the "influencers" who often determine who works on their projects.

Thomas Gay, an associate with SB Architects, based in Miami and San Francisco, was visited during the Miami blitz. "We get a lot of presentations on products," says Gay, but "very rarely on the work force. It's educational to hear about the proactive stance of the union [on green technology]."

**"When members see the high-end professional brochures and hear about the positive response from customers, they get excited."**

— Chris Simpson, Local 349 Organizer

### Success—A Spreading Commodity

Judy Sheahan, recording secretary of Savannah, Ga., Local 508 was recently appointed as an International Organizer. Returning from Atlanta, Sheahan says, "I thought this was the best thing IBEW has done yet." Sheahan and International Organizer Dave Cornelius have been working to extend the concept to Charleston, S.C., Local 776.

Cornelius, International Organizer Gary Maurice and O'Kelley visited an Atlanta law school. The official in charge of the building said, "I can't use IBEW unless you cut your prices in half." The team helped convince the manager to meet with two signatory contractors who showed him that his assump-

tions were incorrect.

End-user campaigns also dispel some preconceptions among the general membership, says Simpson. "When members see the high-end professional brochures and hear about the positive response from customers, they get excited."

While Simpson saw some early hesitation among his peers to embrace the construction wireman and construction electrician job classifications, he says many of the members now understand that composite labor rates have increased the overall pool of work for union contractors.

### For Contractors, Shortcuts Don't Work

Bost and Florida Lead Organizer Roddy Alvarez visited Roberto Verzura, CEO of general contractor Verzura Construction, who was attracted to the IBEW's rates and the union's professionalism. He was among several general contractors visited by organizing teams.

"When I think about unions, I think about workers who come in with the right tools, attitude and skills to get the job done right the first time," says Verzura, an Italian immigrant who came to the U.S. in

1968, worked his way through school and started building luxury beach houses before moving on to major commercial projects like the 39-story, 1,000-room Diplomat Hotel and accompanying 18-hole golf course.

"I could take shortcuts with a nonunion contractor, but it ends up being 'pay now or pay later,'" says Verzura. That sounds good to Simpson who, at 35, feels the urgency to keep the work coming in for a long time to come.

"I'm young and have a long way to go before retirement. I feel like union electricians are on a building with a fire up on the roof," says Simpson. We can either jump off, or set up a tightrope to another building." End-user campaigns and new classifications are part of the tightrope to survival. ■



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# The IBEW Logo— Protecting A Proud Symbol



The patented symbol of the IBEW is our logo. Here, a member attaches it to a podium at the 37th International Convention in Cleveland.

The rise of Internet communications and the advent of social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter are allowing union members to communicate, organize and advocate for workers more effectively than ever before.

That means that it's more important than ever to protect the IBEW's brand and our official logo, the fist grasping 10 lightning bolts. It is registered as an official trademark of the IBEW—and we protect it as such.

Unfortunately, some people in cyberspace are inadvertently or

intentionally exploiting the union's official logo.

A search on Facebook for "IBEW" or "International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers" yields hundreds of results. Many of these pages are run by local unions that have put their own creative and approved spin on the official logo by including alternate graphics or their local number—like Albany, N.Y., Local 236 or Montpelier, Vt., Local 300. These are sanctioned uses of the IBEW logo.

But the most popular social networking site, the official

Facebook page of the union, is the only page that can legally display the patented logo. The same holds true for official MySpace, Twitter, and other social media pages.

Many members are using the logo in a benign fashion, as several proud members have started their own Facebook, MySpace or Twitter pages to positively identify themselves with the Brotherhood. Our goal is not to dissuade anyone from showing their IBEW affiliation online. But it is in the interest of the membership that the International Office retains sole ownership and usage of the logo to protect members from confusing information and to maintain the integrity of this treasured symbol.

The IBEW retains the prerogative to initiate legal action against anyone using the IBEW logo without permission. Anyone running for a union office may not use the logo in campaign materials, as it may give the impression that the IBEW is backing that person in his or her election. Unofficial Web sites that touch on IBEW issues using the logo could confuse visitors in search of official information regarding a particular local union or the International President.

Thank you for adhering to these guidelines as we push further into cyberspace together to promote union values and vision. ■

## Health Care Reform: What it Means for You

President Obama signed into law sweeping legislation in March to renovate America's health care system—extending coverage to millions of working families and ending abusive insurance industry practices.

"This bill is a big first step on the road toward reforming our health care system so it works for everyone," said International President Edwin D. Hill. "Finally, affordable and comprehensive health care coverage will be available for millions of working Americans."

Many IBEW members are asking: how will the bill affect me and my family? For members who are happy with their current coverage, little will change.

While many of the bill's provisions will not go into effect until 2014, the following reforms will be effective this summer:

### If you have private health insurance:

- No need to change doctors or plans
- Insurance companies can no longer drop your coverage if you get sick
- Health care plans cannot place lifetime limits on coverage, nor can they have restrictive annual limits
- Children can remain on their parents' health plan up until their 26th birthday
- The proposed excise tax on benefits has been put off until 2018 and its dollar impact has been reduced by 85 percent, thanks to the efforts of the labor movement

### If you don't have private insurance:

- For those who can't get insurance because of a pre-existing condition, the government will help provide immediate affordable coverage through a temporary purchasing pool
- Children with pre-existing conditions cannot be refused insurance

### If you own a small business:

- Tax credits up to 35 percent of premiums are available immediately

### If you are retired:

- Medicare Part D recipients who fall into the coverage gap known as the doughnut hole—which lies between the program's initial coverage limit and the catastrophic coverage maximum—will receive a \$250 rebate. In 2011, seniors who fall in the doughnut hole will have a 50 percent discount on their prescription drugs
- Insurers can't charge seniors more than three times the amount younger people pay
- Starting in 2011, seniors will receive free annual check-ups. Co-payments for mammograms, colonoscopies and other screenings will be eliminated
- The federal government will provide financial assistance to employer health plans that cover early retirees

### In 2014, the following reforms will be effective:

- No discrimination against anyone with a pre-existing condition
- Through state sponsored purchasing exchanges and financial subsidies for working families, an additional 30 million Americans will have access to affordable health care coverage
- Guaranteed renewal of policies
- Cap on out-of-pocket expenses
- Tax credits of 50 percent for small businesses to cover premiums ■

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

### www.ibew.org

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

### IBEW on the Huffington Post

President Hill has a blog championing green jobs and more. Read it at [www.huffingtonpost.com/edwin-d-hill](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/edwin-d-hill).

### YouTube

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



# New Ontario Law Confronts On-the-Job Violence

Changes to Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act that strengthen protections for employees from workplace violence and harassment go into effect June 15, and IBEW leaders throughout the province are working to make sure members know their rights under the bill's new provisions.

Bill 168, which was passed by the legislature last fall, gives employees the right to refuse work if they believe a violent situation could endanger themselves or their co-workers.

The legislation mandates that employers must develop internal policies to deal with the threat of workplace violence and harassment and inform employees of their rights regarding these new regulations.

"The incidence of workplace violence, bullying and harassment are increasing at an alarming rate," said Toronto Local 636 Education and Training Officer Paddy Vlanich. "In passing this bill, a victory for all workers, the government has recognized this and is finally doing something about it."

Giving impetus to the bill was the high-profile death of 37-year-old Lori Dupont in 2005. Dupont, a nurse, was stabbed to death by one of her co-workers—a former boyfriend—during her morning shift at the Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital in Windsor.

Months before, she had complained to hospital management about her assailant's frequent violent threats and harassing behavior, even seeking a restraining order against him.

For more than a decade, a coalition of labour unions, women's

groups and other workplace safety advocates called for new government regulations to protect workers from the kind of on-the-job violence—much of it directed toward women—that led to Dupont's death.

"We must take every measure possible in the legislature, at the bargaining table and in the workplace to ensure that violence against women in all its forms is ended," said Ontario Federation of Labour Secretary-Treasurer Irene Harris in a statement issued by the federation.

The legislation defines work-

place violence as not only the use of physical force, but statements or behavior that could be interpreted as a threat.

"If a worker has reason to believe that they are at risk of workplace violence, they will have the right to remove themselves just as if they were facing any other safety hazard," Vlanich said.

The bill also applies to domestic abuse situations. Many incidents of workplace violence involve victims being targeted at work by abusive spouses or family members.

Vlanich has written a summary of the bill's provisions for provincial IBEW leaders and is preparing to lead workshops on implementing violence prevention plans for shop stewards and local officers later this spring. Vlanich said he is focused on raising awareness of the law and making sure members know their rights.

"No one should have to put up with threats and violence at work," said First District Vice President Phil Flemming. "This bill makes clear that there is zero tolerance for on-the-job harassment in Ontario." ■

## Le gouvernement de l'Ontario adopte une nouvelle loi pour combattre la violence au travail

Les modifications apportées à la *Loi sur la santé et la sécurité au travail* visant à renforcer les protections des employés contre la violence et le harcèlement au travail, entreront en vigueur le 15 juin prochain. Les dirigeants de la FIOE de l'ensemble

de la province vont s'efforcer de faire connaître aux membres les droits que leur confèrent ces nouvelles dispositions de la loi.

En vertu du projet de loi 168, si le travailleur a raison de croire que de la violence au travail est susceptible de le mettre en danger, ou de mettre en danger ses collègues de travail, il est autorisé à refuser de travailler.

Ce projet de loi imposera de nouvelles obligations aux employeurs. Ils devront, notamment, élaborer des programmes d'application des politiques sur le harcèlement et sur la menace de violence en milieu de travail et informer les employés de leurs droits concernant cette nouvelle réglementation.

« Les incidents de violence, d'intimidation et de harcèlement en milieu de travail s'accroissent à un rythme alarmant. L'adoption de cette loi démontre que le gouvernement a reconnu la gravité de la situation et qu'il a décidé de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour y remédier. C'est une victoire pour tous les travailleurs. » déclare Paddy Vlanich, responsable de l'éducation et de la formation syndicale pour la section locale 636 de Toronto.

En 2005, le décès de Lori Dupont a fait beaucoup de bruit, redonnant un nouvel élan au projet de loi. Cette infirmière de 37 ans avait

été poignardée à mort, par un collègue de travail,—son ex-petit ami—alors qu'elle effectuait son quart de travail en matinée, à l'Hôpital *Hôtel-Dieu Grace* situé à Windsor.

Au cours des mois qui ont précédé ce drame, elle avait fait rapport à la Direction de l'Hôpital des nombreuses menaces de violence et du harcèlement de la part de son assaillant. Elle avait même demandé une injonction contre lui.

Une coalition rassemblant des syndicats, des groupes de femmes et d'autres défenseurs de la sécurité au travail revendiquent depuis plus d'une décennie, une nouvelle réglementation du gouvernement visant à protéger les travailleurs contre la violence en milieu de travail—orientée surtout vers les femmes—et qui a mené au décès de l'infirmière.

Dans un communiqué émis par la Fédération du travail de l'Ontario, Irene Harris déclarait : « Nous devons prendre toutes les mesures concrètes possibles que ce soit par projets de loi, à la table de négociation et en milieu de travail afin de mettre fin à toutes les formes de violence faites aux femmes. »

Le projet de loi ne définit pas la violence au travail seulement par l'emploi de la force physique contre un travailleur, mais également par l'adoption d'un comportement caractérisé par des remarques ou des

gestes pouvant être interprétés comme une menace.

« Si un travailleur a raison de croire que la violence en milieu de travail le mettra probablement en danger, il aura le droit de s'écarter de cette situation, comme il le ferait dans le cas de toute autre situation dangereuse pour sa sécurité. » ajoute le confrère Vlanich.

Le projet de loi s'applique également aux cas de violence conjugale. Plusieurs incidents de violence en milieu de travail impliquent des victimes poursuivies au travail par des conjoints maltraitants ou par des membres de la famille.

Le confrère Vlanich a rédigé un résumé des dispositions de la réglementation pour les dirigeants de la FIOE en Ontario et il prépare des ateliers sur l'implantation de programmes de prévention de la violence qui seront offerts aux délégués syndicaux et aux officiers des sections locales d'ici la fin du printemps. Sa priorité est de sensibiliser les membres au contenu de cette loi et de les informer de leurs droits.

« Personne ne doit tolérer les menaces et la violence au travail. Cette réglementation affiche un message clair de tolérance zéro face au harcèlement en milieu de travail, en Ontario. » conclut Phil Flemming, Vice-président du Premier District. ■

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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## Transitions

### RETIRED Buddy Satterfield



Cecil "Buddy" Satterfield, Special Assistant to the International President for Membership

Development, retired effective May 1.

Initiated into Washington, D.C., Local 26 in 1969, Brother Satterfield served as assistant business manager from 1983 to 1989 and business manager from 1992 to 1998.

The son of a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Union, Satterfield says, "I was told by my father at a young age to get into a trade and join a union. He told me that union craftsmen are respected for their skills and make a decent living. Now the union is my passion. I'm giving up a career, but I'm not giving up that passion."

A native of Washington, D.C., Brother Satterfield graduated from Northwestern High School in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and attended Stroudsburg (Pennsylvania) State Teachers College. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force from 1963 to 1967.

Appointed International Representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department in 1998, Satterfield became director of the CIR, Bylaws and Appeals Department in April 2003. In November 2003, Satterfield was appointed Special Assistant to the International President for Membership Development.

During his tenure as special assistant, the IBEW launched the successful Florida Initiative and completely reorganized membership development efforts, leading to impressive gains, despite economic difficulties and unprecedented resistance to change.

"Organizing work is the key to the IBEW and always has been," says Satterfield. "But we haven't properly educated the members of our branches as to what this means."

Responding to criticisms from unemployed construction electricians who contend that organizing is undermining their reemployment possibilities, Satterfield adds, "We

live in an economic system based on free enterprise. People aren't going to hire union contractors who employ union electricians just because it's the right thing to do."

"We need to showcase the union's skills and productivity," says Satterfield, but the union also must establish composite crews with competitive rates to take on nonunion contractors. That's the way to organize the work and put members back on the job, he says. "If our union signatory contractors are not competitive and therefore can't win bids against nonunion contractors, there will be no jobs for our journeymen wiremen and apprentices."

Praising the leadership of International President Edwin D. Hill and numerous mentors, Satterfield says, "I believe the times today are just as tough for our union as they were when Henry Miller and others founded the IBEW, but we can thrive again if we're smart and organize work."

He is looking forward to traveling with his wife, Vicki, and spending more time with his family. Satterfield is also writing a book on his family's history. Rounding out his newfound spare time, he will golf, practice the piano and write music.

On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother Satterfield a long and healthy retirement. ■

### APPOINTED Kirk Groenendaal



Director of Construction Organizing Kirk Groenendaal was appointed Special Assistant to the

President for Membership Development, effective May 1. Groenendaal replaces Buddy Satterfield, who retired.

Last December, Groenendaal was appointed Director of Construction Organizing, replacing Kirk Brungard, who was appointed executive assistant to Liz Shuler, the newly-elected Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO.

Initiated into Erie, Pa., Local 56

in 1977, Groenendaal was elected business manager in 1995 after serving in several other capacities.

"We all need to remember what it felt like the first time we volunteered in support of our local union, or the first time we were elected to a union office. We did those things because we believed in the IBEW," says Groenendaal. "It is with that same driving force and enthusiasm I look forward to the new challenges ahead of us all."

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

### DECEASED Lloyd R. Lynch



The IBEW is saddened to report the February 27, 2010, death of retired Tenth District

International Representative Lloyd Lynch. He was 67.

Brother Lynch was initiated into Little Rock, Ark., Local 295 in 1962, where he worked as an inside wireman and served on the executive board, negotiations, JATC and COPE committees before being appointed assistant business manager in 1972.

Nine years later he joined the IBEW staff as an International Representative, organizing and servicing local unions in Arkansas. He retired in 2007.

"He was completely dedicated to the organization," said Tenth District International Representative Jim Springfield, who described him as someone who worked hard without complaint. "It was strictly business when he had a job to do. If it was an assignment, he put it under his arm and finished it, and then went on to the next one."

As devoted to his family as he was to the IBEW, Lynch enjoyed retirement, spending time with his wife, Shirley, two daughters and four grandchildren.

A 1961 graduate of England (Ark.) High School, he attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and took labor-related courses at the George Meany Center in Silver Spring,

Md., and the Maritime Institute for Training and Graduate Studies near Baltimore. Lynch was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite. His hobbies included archaeology, his-

tory, hunting and fishing.

The IBEW members, officers and staff send our deepest condolences to Brother Lynch's many friends and family. ■

## Organizing Wire

### Iowa Utility Workers Go IBEW

Economic uncertainty and arbitrary cuts to hard-earned benefits are driving many utility workers in Iowa to seek the security that comes with a labor contract and a union shop.

#### Amazing Energy

Last fall, more than 20 workers at the Amazing Energy ethanol plant in the western part of the state voted overwhelmingly in favor of representation by Cedar Rapids Local 204, making it one of the few unionized ethanol plants in the country, said Eleventh District Organizer Brian Heins.

The campaign started when one of the workers at the plant complained to his uncle, who is a union member, about management's decision to cut their benefits.

"The uncle told his nephew, 'It sounds like you need a union, and if you are going to go union, you should go IBEW,'" Heins said.

The workers—whose jobs range from inside electricians to water testers—began meeting on their own. After deciding to seek union representation, they contacted the IBEW.

The local is currently negotiating the unit's first contract.

#### Dispatchers 'Ready to Roll'

In early March, a group of nearly 30 dispatchers for Alliant Energy in Cedar Rapids voted to join Local 204, which already represents more than 800 workers at the utility.

Heins says job security and fairness were the workers' top priorities. "They weren't looking for more money," he said. "They were looking for something in writing that would protect their jobs from arbitrary decisions by management."

The workers had already gathered enough signed cards to file for an election by the time they held their first meeting with Heins. "They were ready to roll the moment I met them," he said. "It was one of the fastest campaigns I've ever seen."

#### Prairie Victory

Less than a month later, linemen at Prairie Energy Co-Op in Clarion voted 14-3 to go IBEW.

"They were one of the most solid groups I've talked to," said Local 204 Business Manager David George, who credits Eleventh District Vice President Curtis Henke and the Membership Development Department for their work in making these victories possible.

Employees at the utility were upset over management's decision to cut its 401(k) matching contribution. George says that even though utilities are holding up much better than other industries in this shaky economy, many employers are using the downturn as an excuse to cut benefits for their employees.

"I told them that with a union, they could have had it in writing," George said. "Management couldn't just take it away without bargaining with you first." ■

# Local Lines

## Union Family Celebration

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st &ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—Congratulations to retired Bro. Harry Mauchenheimer Sr., who celebrated his 100th birthday on Jan. 10. At his birthday party a proclamation, written by journeyman wireman and state Sen. Tim Green, was read celebrating Harry's achievements.

As a young man, Harry graduated from trade school and later worked for Union Electric Company in St. Louis. When the Great Depression struck he lost his job. As World War II loomed, Harry landed a job at the small-arms plant in St. Louis, which soon was organized by Local 1. Harry became a Local 1 member with a plant maintenance classification and worked to journeyman wireman status. He retired at age 65, some 35 years ago!

Attending the celebration were Harry's son, retired journeyman wireman Harry Mauchenheimer Jr., and Harry's grandsons Dan and Marty Mauchenheimer, both Local 1 journeyman wiremen. Special thanks to Harry Jr. for the photograph.

We mourn the death of members William Brant, Edward Pettit, Quinten Campbell, John Gray, Gerald Kientzel, Wayne Kupferer, David Young, Denvy Sayles, Herbert Boehme, John Hiles, Ernst Kolbensschlag, Joseph Moonier, Eugene Gradl, Joseph Brubin Jr., Walter Petri, Dennis Curry, Jack Crigler, Melvin Pitman, Everett Holloway, Robert Stuhlman Jr. and Roy Underwood.

*Matt Gober, P.S.*



Local 1 retired Bro. Harry Mauchenheimer Sr. (seated) celebrates his 100th birthday. Joining him at the party are family members, standing, from left: Local 1 journeyman wiremen Dan Mauchenheimer and Marty Mauchenheimer, and retired Local 1 journeyman wireman Harry Mauchenheimer Jr.



Local 11 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Kim Craft (left) greets AFL-CIO Pres. Richard L. Trumka at the Electrical Training Institute.

## AFL-CIO President Tours ETI

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—AFL-CIO Pres. Richard Trumka recently toured the Local 11 Electrical Training Institute and dropped in on an apprenticeship class to introduce himself and offer encouragement to the surprised students. Trumka spoke admiringly of the opportunities offered by IBEW apprenticeship programs. He complimented the Local 11 leadership and the Electrical Training Institute for investing heavily in renewable energy training and skill-improvement classes.

Congratulations to our members at CSI Electrical Contractors Inc. for collecting more than 6,800 pounds of canned goods for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Your efforts to assist the community during these challenging economic times are greatly appreciated.

Please note we've upgraded our Web site [www.ibew11.org](http://www.ibew11.org) to accept credit card payments for basic dues. Utilizing this convenient feature will help free up staff for organizing additional contractors and bringing in more work for our members.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to receive our e-mails through the Local 11 Web site. Members are volunteering in record numbers to help us get project labor agreements passed in cities throughout our jurisdiction. Your participation at public hearings, rallies, phone banking and precinct walking is vital to our securing union jobs.

*Bob Oedy, P.S.*

## Agreements Approved

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Local 15 members in the System Services Group overwhelmingly approved an agreement by a 70-1 vote. The three-year agreement included 3 percent raises.

Our members in the Overhead Department also approved a package by a vote of 297-143.

Highlights include establishment of two new job titles, "crewleader planner" and "lead crewleader." The lead crewleader wage rate will be a 6 percent increase above the crewleader rate.

Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dean Apple met with the Illinois Attorney General's office to discuss concerns regarding the fossil division, mainly environmental issues.

Local 15 representatives and Exelon management signed several Nuclear Agreements. We signed two different reciprocal Travel Agreements, one with Clinton Power Station (IBEW Local 51) and another with Three Mile Island (IBEW Local 1289). We also signed an Outage Agreement for 2010, covering hours of work, overtime, per diem and travel issues. Finally, an Operations Package was agreed to, covering shifts to be worked, required training for promotions, etc.

We remain committed to educating members and sent six stewards to an arbitration school at the University of Illinois.

Our members at Kincaid donated more than \$18,000 for United Way.

The fossil division has kept safety on the right track. Will County Station achieved two years without any accidents and Kincaid Station achieved three years without a lost time accident.

*Doug Vedas, P.S.*

## Code of Excellence

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—At this writing, the local is in contract negotiations on the line clearance tree trimming (LCTT) agreement, the 6-17-A construction agreement, as well as for the newly organized Substation Design Group and the municipality of Sebewaing, also recently organized. All have their challenges, as the economy continues to fuel management's desire for concessions.

Work remains slow for our 6-17-A agreement. Many of our construction linemen are forced to travel in order to provide for their families.

We extend a special thanks to Bro. Tim Head for his many years of service to the local as a union representative and officer.

The LCTT apprentice program will turn out the first class of journeymen this summer after receiving recognition by the Department of Labor in August 2009 for our Tree Trim Apprentice Program. Work remains strong with more than 600 trimmers currently working.

Local 17 is proud to announce the completion and implementation of the IBEW Utility Code of Excellence training program. We thank all of our utility brothers and sisters for stepping up to the plate and taking the lead on a workplace Code of Excellence.

Congratulations to Bros. Tom Helig, Pat Fogerty,

Dennis Lixey, Paul Ashford, Mark Mitchell and Charley Bonner for retiring safely after long, prosperous careers.

*Dean Bradley, P.S.*

## 'COPE'ing With Challenges

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Members continue dealing with the anxiety and challenges of an ever-changing and quickly transforming telecommunications industry. Changes in technology and the increasing pace of competition are translating into a speedy loss of union jobs. These are just some of the reasons we must be involved daily with changing regulatory issues at the state and national level. Topping this list is the Illinois Telecommunications Act rewrite, set to expire this year, and the continuing push by industry giants like AT&T and Verizon to eliminate current consumer protections and exit the land-line business altogether. Brothers and sisters, let's be clear—emerging technologies plus deregulation equate to job loss, period!

In these trying times, the funding of higher education is difficult for individuals and families alike.

Each year, ten \$1,000 scholarships are awarded through the Local 21 scholarship program, available to all Local 21 members and their immediate family members. Congratulations to all 2010 scholarship winners: Jason McGrady-Szremba, Melissa Bagnara, Michelle Benegas, Aimee Jalley, Giulia Lino, Eric Keith Mullins, Christopher Stancato, Joseph M. Stancato, Caitlin Sullivan and Kevin Yatsushiro.

Stay informed by attending monthly unit meetings and signing up for news updates and e-mail action alerts at [www.ibew21.org](http://www.ibew21.org).

*Thomas Hopper, P.S.*

## Senior Stewards Recognized

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—As part of Local 37's Senior Steward Recognition Program, 23 members were recently designated as senior stewards for the exemplary leadership and commitment they have demonstrated in the role of shop steward. At a special meeting, they were formally recognized by the Executive Board and IBEW First District Int. Vice Pres. Phillip J. Flemming.

The purpose of this new program is to recognize shop stewards who are committed to ongoing training, involved with committees, and take on leadership roles within the union. In order to be considered, shop stewards are required to meet

## Trade Classifications

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

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



Among attendees at a Local 37 meeting to recognize members designated as senior stewards are, front row: Bus. Mgr. Ross Galbraith (center, light blue shirt), Pres. Steve Hayes (second from left) and IBEW First District Int. Vice Pres. Phillip J. Flemming (fourth from left).

certain eligibility criteria and go through an application and review process. The goal of the program is to further develop shop stewards as leaders, identify potential mentors, and make the union stronger. Eligibility Criteria:

- Shop steward for at least three years
- Held (or holds) positions such as Executive Board member, IBEW committee member, unit executive member, workplace committee member, etc.
- Attended at least three role-related training courses or conferences
- Participates in union meetings and events.

On behalf of the union, Bus. Mgr. Ross Galbraith congratulates the new senior stewards and all shop stewards for their dedication to Local 37.

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

## Work Picture Brighter

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Work slowed down considerably over the winter months. With the approach of spring, the work picture looks better. Our contractors have been awarded many projects that should start by late spring. Employment looks as though it will be good through the summer.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to work on the Eisenhardt family home. More than 24 members helped make the project a success for this family that has two boys with special needs. Special thanks to Bro. Dennis Pollinger, who did a fantastic job organizing this effort.

Once again our children's Christmas party was a huge success last year. Thank you to Bro. Jim Devany and his committee for making this event possible every year and for arranging a visit from Santa as well.

At this writing, New York state's political climate is changing almost daily. Now more than ever, we need to be politically active to advance the cause of working people and hold elected officials accountable. Remember, their actions affect all of us.

Michael J. Gaiser, A.B.M.

## 'Heart Run & Walk' Benefit

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Our work picture is still slow. One of the bright spots will be a refuel outage at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear facility. Although anticipated to be only a 19 to 26 day outage, the pre-outage and shut down work is expected to employ more than 140 journeymen.

Local 43 again put a team together for America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk, held in Utica, NY, at Utica College. Local 43 has participated in this annual event for three years and we have raised

more than \$6,000 to date. The event itself started in 1974 with five runners. This year was a new record with 8,740 walkers and runners, who raised \$1,125,032 for the one-day event. Pictured in the accompanying photo is our team taking a "refresher" break at the home of retired IBEW Local 97 member James Cook, president emeritus of the Central New York Labor Council.

Jim Corbett, P.S.



IBEW Local 43 Heart Run & Walk team takes a break at the residence of IBEW Local 97 retired member and Central New York Labor Council Pres. Emeritus James Cook (front row, second from left). From left, front row, are: Local 43 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Pat Costello, J. Cook, Al Marzullo, Andy Gadek, Natasha Wells, Jeff Cassano; back row, Jim Corbett and Pat Harrington.

## Making Progress

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—As summer approaches let's hope the worst of Bush's recession is behind us. Despite the bad economy, Local 47 and our members are making progress on several fronts.

We organized workers at two line-clearance companies—Mowbray and Guzman Gardens. Contract negotiations have begun.

The line-clearance employees at Asplundh and Davey Tree ratified multi-year contracts with general wage increases averaging 3 percent to 3.5 percent per year and improved medical insurance.

Our municipal employees are struggling. We have extended several agreements for one year with no changes, assisting the cities and protecting jobs.

Our Smart Meter Installation Agreement with Corix has already created more than 250 union jobs. Corix is installing new meters throughout SCE territory.

Our treasurer, Roger Heldoorn, stepped down due to a promotion out of the bargaining unit. Heartfelt thanks to Roger for all his good work. Greg Vetter was appointed our new treasurer.

We are sad to report the passing of: Chris Bernal, SCE garage foreman from TSD; former member Michael Wayne Spence; and Kirby Joiner, IBEW

Local 222 journeyman lineman. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our brothers.

Live safe, live well, work union!

Stan Stosel, P.S.

## Local Union Election

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—2010 is an election year for Local 51 officers, unit officers and delegates to the 2011 International Convention. Ballots will be mailed in early May and tallied on June 4. Construction unit member Jason Carl will serve as election judge, and Springfield unit member Dick Wood as alternate judge. I urge all members to participate in the election process.

Local 51 recently re-negotiated agreements with: American Line Builders NECA (power and LCTT), Henkels & McCoy (power), Asplundh (power and LCTT), Nelson Tree Service, Wright Tree Service, Frontier Communications, Village of Chatham and the L.E. Myers Shop. As of this writing, negotiations continue at the Village of Riverton, Aqua Water, Corix Utilities (meter changers), Donco (meter readers), City of Peru and Corn Belt Energy. On the organizing front, the local filed for an election at the City of Geneseo (water department). The local thanks all members

who assist during the negotiation and organizing process.

As of this writing, the work scene is slow compared with past years. Hopefully with the arrival of spring, our work outlook will improve.

Dan Pridemore, Pres.

## Contracts Ratified

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Two contracts were recently ratified. The membership voted to ratify a two-year Intermountain outside line construction agreement, effective through March 2012. Also ratified was the tree unit agreement with

Trees, Inc. This is also a two-year agreement, for tree trimming work on Rocky Mountain Power property.

The work picture is slow. There are several projects out for bid that have been postponed until late spring or summer. The biggest is the Oquirrh 345-kv transmission project from Mona to Tooele, UT.

The local recently organized a group of Fairpoint Telecommunications combination techs in St. Anthony, Idaho. We are in negotiations for a first contract with Fairpoint. The local is also pursuing additional campaigns in our jurisdiction. As the economy continues to drag and corporate America implements takeaways, workers are turning to the only real choice—the IBEW, the right choice.

Scott Long, P.S.

## Working for Labor Agenda

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA—IBEW Local 77 attended the annual Democratic Crab Feed fundraiser on Feb. 15. Special guests included Gov. Chris Gregoire, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, and U.S. Reps. Jim McDermott, Rick Larsen and Adam Smith. The Puget Sound Dungeness crab, steamed clams and barbecued salmon served were delicious.

Local 77 has worked diligently on several pieces of legislation. Among them are Arbitration Bills SB 5492 and HB 1389, which allow our workers at the Columbia Generating Station binding arbitration. We have also worked to raise Washington to one of the top five states in providing adequate unemployment insurance benefits to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. This effort is now under attack by some state business leaders. The Building Industry Association of Washington may run an initiative reducing workers' coverage.

We have been at odds with our area's environmental community. They want the only coal-fired power plant in the state shut down. This could cost the region's economy \$200 million per year and 600 workers their livelihoods.

As a leader for the labor agenda presented by organized labor in Olympia, we will continue to work to maintain and improve working conditions for our membership.

Pat Darling, P.S.

## Members Aid Charities

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—In these tough economic times, the local union is proud to witness the generosity of our union members, who continue to donate their time and volunteer to help area charities.

In December 2009, the area fire and emergency medical services departments of southeast Colorado were presented with benefit funds, which were previously raised in July at the 22nd Annual Southeast Charity Classic.

Kudos to all the great members and sponsors who participated in the Southeast Colorado Power Association 22nd Annual Fundraiser. The annual golf tournament raised more than \$10,000, which was distributed to fire and EMS departments throughout Southeast Colorado Power Association's service areas. Departments receiving funds were those in Hasty/McClave, Wiley, Granada, and Holly, CO. In the 22 years of this fundraising event, approximately \$500,000 has been raised for local charities.

Dennis Z. LeTurgez, P.S.

## All Member Meeting

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—Mark your calendars and plan to attend the June 12 All Member Meeting. The meeting begins at 9 a.m., and Local 125 members will receive a state of the local update and hear from various guest speakers including IBEW Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael Mowery and International Executive Council member Patrick Lavin. This meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites located near the entrance of the Portland International



Attending Democratic Crab Feed fund-raiser are, from left: Local 77 member Jeffrey High, Jana High, U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott, Debbie Guillot and Local 77 Bus. Mgr. Don Guillot.

## Local Lines

Airport. Reminder: Bring your dues receipt or IBEW membership card for entrance to the meeting.

On June 11, training will be held for our shop stewards, unit chairs and unit recorders. If you hold one of these positions and have not received your training registration information, contact the Local 125 business office at (503) 262-9125. Members who are interested in becoming a shop steward, unit chair, or unit recorder should contact their business representative about attending this training.

Marcy Putman, P.S.

## Memorial Day

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Happy Memorial Day to all.

On a sad note, I wish to report the passing of four Local 159 members: Bros. Tim Polnow, Robert Behling, John Kelch and Robert Cushing. Bro. Polnow was killed in a car accident and Bro. Kelch in an all terrain vehicle accident. Reminders to everyone: Please stay safe always, especially during the holiday weekend.

Local 159 has a little bit of good news lately, with a couple of good-size projects going our way. However, we still won't clear Book I anytime soon. The only project that might have helped us with that was put on hold until 2014.

We look forward to our Local 159 family outing at the Mallard's baseball game on June 13, as well as our annual golf outing to benefit our Suchoman Scholarship fund.

Let's hope to hear that many of our brothers and sisters are finding work this summer and that the work outlook around the country continues to improve.

Have a happy and safe Memorial Day.

Joel Kapusta, B.A.

## 'Jobs for Jacksonville' Rally

L.U. 177 (bo,ees,i,mo,o&pet), JACKSONVILLE, FL—Recently, our Membership Development Volunteer Committee (MDVC), the driving force behind "Jobs for Jacksonville" turned out approximately 400 protestors to rally around the construction site of the new county courthouse and then march to city hall for the city council meeting. More than 100 attended the city council meeting, getting the attention of the council on our issues of local jobs for local workers. Jacksonville's unemployment rate is more than 20 percent in the construction industry and our municipal jobs are being given to out-of-town contractors and out-of-town workers. The MDVC worked hard to make the rally a success, utilizing phone banks, mailings and flyers.

Work in the Jacksonville area remains dismal, with the only two jobs of any size being done nonunion. I thank those locals that are able to employ our brothers and sisters during these times.

Alan Jones, Pres.



Local 177 Bro. Jeff Powell displays banner for the Jobs for Jacksonville rally.

## Above and Beyond

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—On Jan. 15, Local 191 had a 4th Bone Marrow Drive on behalf of Turner Patterson, 12-year old son of Local 191 Bus. Rep./Dispatcher Travis Patterson. Thanks to the Washington Stealth (Everett's new lacrosse team) and Puget Sound Blood Bank for helping host the yearly event. We had a great turnout with 94 new registrations for the National Bone Marrow Registry. From a previous drive, there's an apprentice who is a potential match for a child with leukemia. What an amazing feeling to give the gift of life. Special thanks to our members who volunteered: Donnie Lewis, Melinda Barnett, Darrell McGlaughlin, Cheryl McGlaughlin, Beau Hannifious, Kellie Sagen, Rob De Velder and Travis Patterson.

Local 191 was proud to have our members volunteer on a Habitat for Humanity house located in Sedro-Wolley, WA. The volunteers roughed in the electrical work on Feb. 6 and 7. Their work was greatly appreciated. Many thanks to the volunteers: Sanya Hardin, Monica Quist, Ralph Leavitt, Devyn Johanson, Pat Gallatin, Chris Rader and Jodi Howson.

Please contact the Everett union hall if interested in volunteering. We could always use your help. Thank you.

Rob De Velder, P.S.

## Kudos to Volunteers

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—Last winter our members, including many apprentices, volunteered to help area charities. At Christmas our apprentices held a canned food drive for a food pantry. The first-year class headed up the drive and delivered food collected. Our bowling team (Brian Graves, Daryl Erschen, Jim Suppan, Dale Glasscock and Matt Strupp) raised money for the Great Plains Foundation. At this writing, Josh Mathis, Phil Crabill and Mike Raikes were scheduled to be on TV as volunteers for the Easter Seals telethon. Thanks to all members for their community service.

We are seeing the benefits of union friendly politicians at the federal and state level. The Transportation Center in Normal, IL, received \$22 million in federal stimulus TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) funds. The project is shovel-ready and will put our people to work in coming months. The state of Illinois ruled that work performed on residential housing on the campus of Illinois State University in a public/private venture will be done under prevailing wage. In upcoming elections we must continue to work hard to elect labor-friendly candidates.

Recently we had to picket a job at China Star Buffet. The picket turned out a success in only a few hours. Thanks to the other trades for their solidarity, as they would not cross our picket. Thanks to Dale Glasscock, who took charge of picket duties. Take pride in your union and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, P.S.

## Annual Awards Dinner

L.U. 237 (i), NIAGARA FALLS, NY—We are saddened to report the unexpected passing in January of Bro. Robert M. Johnson.

Local 237 journeymen and apprentices volunteered countless hours for last year's United Way Holiday Lights of Niagara extravaganza. The light display ran from Thanksgiving 2009 until the New Year. See IBEW Web site photo and article, "Niagara Falls



Attending Local 237's annual awards dinner are: from left, back row, Fin. Sec. Salim Kinan, Bus. Mgr. Russ Quarantello, Vice Pres. Larry Krueger; front row, members Doug Anderson, John Anderson and Jim Anderson.

Local Lights Up the Holidays," at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org). Click on "Read More News" to see the Dec. 28, 2009, article.

Local 237 held its Annual Awards Dinner on Sat., Feb. 13, at the Crowne Plaza in Niagara Falls, NY. Ladies in attendance received a beautiful rose and vase (thanks to Bro. David Stewart's wife, Nancy). Everyone enjoyed a scrumptious dinner and music by the Jamie Holka Band. Jamie is the son of retired Local 237 member Henry Holka.

Among those honored were the following retired Local 237 members: For 55 years of service—Roger Augerot, Donald Carter Jr., Karl Krueger, Fillmore Rickard, David Robbins; and for 50 years of service—John Anderson, Robert Allen, Henry Holka, Clarence Krull and Aldo Ruta.

Local 237 members Douglas J. Anderson and James K. Anderson assisted in presenting their dad, John Anderson, his 50-year IBEW service pin. It was truly a proud moment for the Andersons.

Russ Quarantello, B.M.

## River Cleanup

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—Morrisville Borough officials were pleasantly surprised at this year's annual Delaware Canal Cleanup. An event that usually musters only a few volunteers got a taste of what the power of IBEW Local 269's brotherhood can accomplish.

Approximately 20 Local 269 members converged on Delaware Canal State Park armed with nets, grappling hooks, branch cutters, gloves and waders—along with motivation to serve their community. Members removed debris (cans, bottles, logs and branches) to both maintain the historic beauty of the canal and keep the waters flowing to help prevent flooding. The river dredger team was spearheaded by Morrisville Borough Councilman and Local 269 Bro. Dave Rivella. Another job well-done by our members, who continue to make an impact on the communities and organizations they belong to.

With anticipation that the economy and, consequently, our work picture will pick up, members have used their downtime wisely updating their skills. Members are participating in CPR and AED first-aid classes taught by Bro. David Pinelli, as well as journeyman welding courses conducted by Senior Welding Instructors Mark Waladakewics and Michael Rinkus.



Fourth-year Apprentice Instructor Chris Mains (center) instructs students Mark Locane (left) and Timothy Rivella at the Local 269 Rupert Jahn Trade School's motor control lab.

We hope spring will bring employment for our members and their families.

D. Brian Proctor, P.S.

## Anti-Worker Bills Defeated

L.U. 291 (i,o,rtb&rts), BOISE, ID—So far this year organized labor together with the Idaho AFL-CIO banded together to defeat three bills before the state legislature that were very anti-labor. Two were firmly directed at unions regarding project labor agreements and market recovery, while the third was focused on county options for permitting, which was a shot at our industry as a whole. We can fight the fight when we stick together!

Opening letters were sent out to begin negotiations on our Residential and VDV agreements.

Thanks to all the volunteers on the recent Habitat for Humanity project. At press time, we have completed two units out of a three-house complex.

Local union nominations for all elected positions are coming up in May with elections in June.

Congratulations to our 2010 JATC inside graduates: Steven Amado, Chris Ankrom, Ray Atkinson, Mathew Bruns, Russell Colburn, Jesus Coronel, Aaron Granden, Luke Hardy, Nicholas Harris, Justin Hugo, Travis Hust, Ryan Jenkins, Michael Jeske, Phil Keetch, Jennifer Logan, Joshua Mangum, Samuel McConnell, Wayne Nihart, Paul Perala and Craig Shively.

Ron Ely, P.S.

## Brothers Lend a Hand

L.U. 309 (i,lcttt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—In February journeyman wiremen Steve Bendick and Bob Frisse traveled to Memorial Christian Hospital located in Malumghat, Bangladesh. The national power grid there is unreliable and fails several times each day. The missionary hospital compound uses two generators for back-up and both automatic transfer switches had failed. Bros. Bendick and Frisse went in with new parts and replaced both with new switches.

For the Inside branch, the work picture remains slow with 101 journeymen and 35 apprentices currently out of work. We hope the second half of the year will show improvement.

Line construction has steadily improved into the spring. All of our apprentices and journeymen are employed. A few operators are still off.

Negotiations have begun with Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville for the maintenance electricians. The negotiations should be concluded by the time this is published.

Our Annual Golf Tournament is set for June 11. Sign up your teams early as the event is always a sell-out.

Remember: Our strength depends on the quality of our work.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.





Local 349 members, Bus. Mgr. Bill Riley, IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Int. Sec.-Treas. Lindell K. Lee gather for a big "Save our Jobs" trade union rally in Titusville, FL.

## Jobs Campaign Rally

L.U. 349 (em,i,mps,rtb,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—The new casinos opened at the Flagler Dog Track and Calder Race Track, with the help of our union electricians from Tri-City Electric and Parsons Electric. These two casinos opened on time and with a fast-pace build. Our electricians showed their skills of the trade in completing these projects. With the opening of Calder's Casino, we were able to put one additional electrician to work in the Electrical Maintenance Department.

The AFL-CIO national jobs campaign held a kick-off rally in Titusville, FL. Budget cuts could eliminate human spaceflight by NASA. More than 1,200 high-skilled union jobs could be lost. [See "Outsourcing Space: IBEW Workers Face End of Shuttle Era," *The Electrical Worker*, January 2010.] AFL-CIO Pres. Richard Trumka, IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and IBEW Int. Sec.-Treas. Lindell K. Lee attended the rally.

For the Edison Festival of Lights parade, our Local 349 West Coast Division and the Southwest Florida Chapter AFL-CIO entered the apprenticeship's photovoltaic trailer with lights and decorations. Bus. Asst. Mike Nagle, Local 349 members and members of Southwest Chapter AFL-CIO did a great job decorating and our entry won the grand prize trophy, The Edison Lighting Award. A total of 198 floats entered the event. Congratulations to all on a job well-done.

Remember to attend your union meetings.  
We remember our troops here and overseas.

Frank Albury, P.S./Exec. Board

## Bill Signing Ceremony

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa &t), FOLSOM, NJ—On Jan. 11, then-acting New Jersey Gov. Steve Sweeney signed Assembly Bill 4293 into law at our Local 351 union hall.

This was a very historic and important day for the IBEW in the state of New Jersey.

The bill—sponsored by Assemblyman Joe Egan, IBEW Local 456 business manager, and Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, IBEW Local 269 assistant business manager—guarantees that all solar projects in the state are covered by prevailing rate. With the huge list of solar projects proposed in the state, this is a very significant event for IBEW labor.

This bill levels the playing field and will help ensure these



IBEW Bus. Mgrs. Edward Gant (front row, third from left) of Local 351, Denny Doyle (front row, second from left) of Local 269 and Pete Geronimo (front row, fourth from left) of Local 400 look on as then-acting New Jersey Gov. Steve Sweeney (seated) signs solar bill into law at the Local 351 union hall. Also attending are: IBEW business agents; New Jersey Sen. Donald Norcross (far left) of IBEW Local 351; and New Jersey Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo (foreground, standing) of IBEW Local 269.



Local 357 members, along with Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. David R. Jones (second row, standing, far right), gather at the new hiring hall site.

projects are completed by IBEW labor, the best trained and skilled workers in the state.

Daniel Cosner, P.S.

## New Hiring Hall Dedication

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—On Dec. 10, 2009, Local 357 held its annual retirees Christmas party honoring our retired members. Food was served and a live band performed. Among those presented service pins were: Gene A. Goodnough—for 45 years of service; Benjamin L. Sims—for 50 years; Dayton H. Barney and Richard M. Tinney—55 years; and Otto Hurst, Roy R. Pease and Lucines S. Perkins—for 60 years. For the many retirees eligible for pins who could not attend, their pins were to be mailed.

Last year, Local 357 broke ground on a new 35,000 square-foot hiring hall. We now have more than 4,000 members and have outgrown our current

hiring hall. Our new hall will combine IBEW's local history with future technology, and will feature a state-of-the-art photovoltaic system.

Clark and Sullivan, the general contractor, along with Bombard Electric Co., Bombard Renewable Energy, Sun City Electric Co., and S.A.F.E. Electronics Co., with the help of local technicians and wiremen, have managed to get the building ready for dispatch. The building will be dedicated on May 15. Local 357 will be dispatching calls from the new hall, at 808 N. Lamb Blvd., toward the middle of 2010.

Timothy Bolton, P.S.

## Support Union Activities

L.U. 359 (u), MIAMI, FL—It's been a tough year with the loss of jobs in all areas.

The president worked hard to win health care reform, fighting heavy opposition from the other side in Congress. Everyone in this country has a right to health care coverage at a reasonable cost. We all need to support our president and elected officials who are with us on the issues. When we are asked to call or e-mail our congressmen, we need to respond and push for legislation beneficial to working families.

The local is busy trying to keep up with the many changes managers are implementing in the field, which affect our members in their daily work environment. This isn't only affecting the Florida

Power & Light work force but also our sub-locals with the Cities of Homestead and Lake Worth. The cities are trying to withhold negotiated wages and benefits due to the loss of tax revenue.

Even FP&L is cutting back on major projects, since the Public Service Commission denied a requested rate increase, including the apprentice lineman program.

In the nuclear plants, however, the situation is quite the opposite. The nuclear apprenticeship program in the three journeyman fields is still working out after the apprentices graduated from the college program with two-year degrees. The third-year training is progressing in the plant. We expect the first graduating class to top out in May or June. Local 359 commends the union instructors teaching at the college and at the plant for the hours they devote designing programs to teach future journeymen.

Steve Flynn, F.S./P.S.

## New Web Site Launched

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—We recently launched our new, interactive Web site. Both active and retired members contributed positive feedback and have reported it is remarkably user-friendly and informative. We encourage everybody to visit us at [www.ibewlu363.org](http://www.ibewlu363.org).

Bus. Mgr. John Maraia appointed a bargaining committee and bargaining began in March. At press time, a small works agreement is being discussed between the committee and the contractors.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Timothy Poulin, P.S.

## 'On the Road to Recovery'

L.U. 405 (em,i,rtb&spa), CEDAR RAPIDS, IA—It has been nearly two years since the flood of 2008 left our city and our hearts in ruins, but we are well on the road to recovery. A good number of businesses in the affected areas are back and we continue to see former tenants return.

According to numbers given to us by [corridorrecovery.com](http://corridorrecovery.com), the flood left Cedar Rapids with \$1 billion in damage. Just over 9 square miles of this town were affected, including 5,400 homes, 1,049 commercial properties and 486 non-profits.

Notable industries affected include Quaker Oats, Penford, Cargill, Diamond V Mills and our two main power plants. One hundred percent of the reconstruction work at those sites was done by IBEW members and signatory IBEW contractors.

We could not have done this without



Local 359 line crew gathers outside FP&L's Turkey Point nuclear power plant to work on a pole and wire down. From left are: journeymen Gary Sands, Chris Molnar, Abel Garcia, Mack Mincey and Jonathan McMorris.



Flood of 2008 Cargill day crew. IBEW members aid reconstruction efforts in Cedar Rapids, IA.

## Local Lines

the help of our brothers and sisters from other locals. During the one-year period immediately following the crest, Local 405 referred 817 travelers from throughout the United States. The majority of these came from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

So, to those of you who traveled here to help us get back on our feet—thank you! We will not forget your hard work and generosity.

Dan Hopper, P.S.

## Work Picture Difficult

L.U. 415 (c,govt&i), CHEYENNE, WY—We just had one of the toughest winters for quite some time in this jurisdiction. Traditionally, Wyoming has been fairly insulated from the rest of the construction industry nationally, because of our energy sector. But this year has proven otherwise.

Although several good projects are going on in our jurisdiction, union contractors are not getting very much of this work. State-funded and private-sector work is also going nonunion. Our officers are working hard to turn this trend around and our contractors are doing what they can, but it seems our efforts are never well-received.

We are witnessing a change in the construction business, with unscrupulous, at-risk construction management firms coming in and corrupting the legitimate work picture with illegal tactics.

If any one of the current projects had been awarded to a fair contractor, our books would be clear; and if two had gone fair, we would need traveling members to help staff this work. So we have a lot of work to do with our legislature, to ensure that this disturbing trend could be reversed.

We also have some changes to our referral procedure, so please check with the hall or our Web site [www.ilocal415.com](http://www.ilocal415.com) to review these changes.

John Voytko, P.S.

## Cities Honor Union Members

L.U. 441(as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA—With the help of Local 441 Bus. Rep. Ernie Oviedo, the City of Anaheim honored its Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3173. Ernie was instrumental in working with his VFW Post to coordinate and design a placard to be placed at the city's entrance. Ernie is a lifetime member who is very active with his Post. After months of planning, the VFW Post #3173 sign was displayed on the Harbor Boulevard entrance in February 2010 at a dedication ceremony hosted by City Councilwomen Lorri Galloway and Lucille Kring.

In the City of Placentia, retired Local 441 mem-



IBEW Local 441 Bus. Rep. Ernie Oviedo (right) attends dedication ceremony with VFW Post Cmdr. Gary Mason and Anaheim City Councilwomen Lorri Galloway and Lucille Kring.

ber Joe Samaniego has made a habit of brightening the day of morning commuters and recently received special recognition for his friendly routine. Now age 89, Joe sits near a busy Placentia street corner and waves to morning passersby for several hours each day. The mayor of Placentia has taken notice and recently honored Joe at a breakfast ceremony. Joe has also been featured in local newspapers for his positive act of citizenship.

Rich Vasquez, B.R.

## Report from Idaho

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—Twenty-four out of 40 counties in Idaho fall under the jurisdiction of IBEW Local 449—that's over half the state. With our large jurisdiction, construction members find themselves meeting in the wee hours of the morning to carpool. The roads are torturous and often Mother Nature does her thing with horizontal snow, high winds, ice, rain—and sometimes sunshine. Then there is the wildlife, and I don't mean the other drivers; there are antelope, deer, elk, moose and skunks. Many hazards put our members in peril when they travel to and from their jobsites. I'm trying to convey just how large our jurisdiction is and what many members face each and every day—even before they get to work. Wearing seat belts, having a four-wheel drive and driving defensively helps; however, timing, luck, karma whatever you want to call it plays a big part. I take comfort in knowing that should something happen, there is a brother or sister not far away—ready and willing to help.

Congratulations on their recent retirement to: Scott Hadley, Gary Jester, Donald Patterson and John Qualls.

With their passing, we will miss Lloyd Berg and Leland Staten.

Laurie Watters, R.S.

## Annual Food Drive

L.U. 459 (ees,em,govt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Since 1983, Local 459 has conducted annual food drives, and our contributions have grown each year. For the recent drive, the local was very successful in the amount of monetary contributions and non-perishable items received.

Local 459's 2009 Food Drive collected and distributed a total of \$10,378, for a grand total of approximately \$150,500 in cash donations since 1983.

Our donations are received from Local 459 members, employers of represented members and friends of the community. Local 459 represents members in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland. The donations are distributed to food pantries in those areas in which our members work and reside. Food drive funds were also used to purchase food coupons that were distributed to members who were off work because of long-term illnesses.

The success of the drive is a great tribute to Local 459 members, who generously supported this valuable initiative. The local thanks all who contributed. Thanks to all the union stewards



Local 557 members and friends celebrate a Detroit Red Wings win after a game in January.

who collected funds and a big thank-you to Mary Perdew, chairperson of the 2009 Food Drive.

Kenneth L. Richards, Pres./A.B.M.

## Scholarships for the Future

L.U. 543 (mo&t), SAN BERNARDINO, CA—In our endeavor to provide the best "day to day" service to our membership by taking care of the grievances, contract negotiations, problem solving, etc., we cannot lose sight of the future needs of our members. We, at Local 543, have taken a step to further this effort by establishing a scholarship fund for the children and grandchildren of Local 543 members. Applicants this year competed for the scholarships by submitting an essay on "Why should I buy union made, American products." The essays show that the ideals of the "union concept" are alive and well in America.

Scholarship recipients this year are: Chance Erwin, Kurt Bernardin and Sarah Schrader. Congratulations to these students for outstanding essays, which are posted on the local's Web site [www.ibew543.org](http://www.ibew543.org).

We hope that by investing in the future of a member's children and grandchildren, we can present an alternative to the "corporate America" mindset by promoting the ideals of "unity through union." We hope we can, in a small part, provide a positive influence for these young adults to help ensure their future and ours.

Larry Schrader, Exec. Brd.

## Tribute to a Union Brother



Local 551 retired former business manager Richard Clarey (1931-2010).

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—It is with sadness that we report the loss of retired Bro. Richard Clarey, a former business manager of Local 551. Bro. Clarey was born in August 1931 and passed away in January 2010.

Bro.

Clarey was initiated into Local 551 in

February 1957. After graduating the apprenticeship and becoming a journeyman, over the course of his career he held every local union office and sat on numerous committees. Bro. Clarey worked for several contractors in the area prior to serving as business manager. He retired in 1996 after serving as business manager/financial secretary of Local 551 for 18 years. He looked forward to

receiving his 50-year membership pin, which was awarded in 2007, and was very proud of this accomplishment. A mention in the Congressional Record was made by U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey noting his fine contribution to labor, and this honor was presented at his funeral service.

I would like to thank Sue Miller, 30-year honorary member, who contributed the information for this article.

Denise D. Soza, B.R.

## Important Decisions

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—This spring will be an important time for the local's membership. As we begin contract negotiations and elect local officials, we must decide what direction to take our local in. In these uncertain times, with an unstable economy and high unemployment, we must all pull together to make the right choices for our future. Leadership is especially important in these trying times. This local, as well as the entire state of Michigan, has felt the impact of the economic downturn. With some members off work for long periods, it is time to come together as a body and figure a way out of this mess. Only by coming together in solidarity can we make a bright future for ourselves.

In the midst of all the economic woes, our local found time for some fun recently. On Jan. 29, a bus full of members and friends took a road trip to see the Detroit. [See photo above.] Red Wings hockey team play in Detroit. The Wings beat Nashville by a score of 4-2! It was a great way to spend a winter weekend night and have fun together. We hope this can be the start of a great tradition for us.

Evan Allardyce, P.S.

## Advocacy for Recovery Agenda

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—On March 8-9, IBEW Local 569 electrical workers Kevin Alvin, Tammy Spinks, Glenn Wallis and Dave Taylor joined other union members in Sacramento to



Joint Legislative Conference of California attendees include, from left: Local 569 members Tammy Spinks and Kevin Alvin; Speaker of the Assembly John Perez; Local 569 members Dave Taylor, Glenn Wallis and Jen Badgley, political director.



*Local 573 second-year apprentice class members, joined by Instructor Bill Beck (left), include: Steve Morse, Wilbert Collins, David Folley Jr., Justin Fisher, Nick Ocheltree, Jacob Paridorn, Jason Pate and Mark Phillips.*

advocate for a recovery agenda to attract good jobs to California, put Californians back to work, repair the safety net, increase corporate transparency and accountability, and protect workers' rights. Our 2010 California legislative agenda includes bills that will put us back on the road to "Renewing California's Promise."

*Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.*

## Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 573 (as&i), WARREN, OH—Warren is known throughout the state for its annual Relay For Life. It is the largest such relay in the state, raising approximately \$1million annually for the American Cancer Society. Our secretaries at the training center hold basket raffles for the relay.

Last fall, Local 573 office secretaries put on a rummage sale with items donated by members and area residents. Special thanks to the secretaries, Jewel and Dee, for their hard work to benefit this worthy cause. Thanks also to all Local 573 members and IBEW travelers for their support.

Our apprentice food drive came to a close. The five apprentice classes held a friendly competition to collect the most canned and dry goods for donation to the Warren Family Mission. [See photo above of winning second-year class.] These donations made the holidays brighter for approximately 50 area families. We thank our office staff and all Local 573 members who helped make the food drive a success.

*David Bush Jr., P.S.*

## 'Brighter Days Ahead'

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i&st), DUBLIN, CA—After a dismal 2009 and early 2010, full employment for our apprentices and calls for journeyman wiremen indicate brighter days ahead. Several larger projects will provide much of the hiring, but the small private work that is the bread and butter of our industry has been the slowest sector to recover. With the introduction of Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill's mandated Market Advancement Initiative, we will continue to organize workers and contractors to regain market share.



*First phase of construction at Solyndra plant, a Local 595 project, will be a 600,000 square-foot photovoltaic manufacturing facility.*

In California we need to elect a Democratic governor to begin to repair Arnold's damage to organized labor. Trying to get a timely state budget out of Sacramento is also a huge challenge. Our good friend U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (11th Dist.) will be in a fight for re-election in November, and Local 595 members will work to ensure that he continues his great work for labor, veterans, alternative energy and workers' rights.

Through our Building Trades Council, we are securing project labor agreements throughout the jurisdiction and hope this continues. Our biggest project is the Solyndra solar manufacturing plant being built in Fremont. Ironically, it is just down the block from our proud NUMMI plant, which recently stopped production after 40 years of successful car manufacturing. Although the decommissioning process hired a number of our electricians, it is a sad day to see the plant close. We hope these manufacturing jobs will be replaced by green tech jobs making products for America's future.

*Tom Mullarkey, B.R.*



*IBEW Local 601 members Stuart Weiss (left) and Chris Lueth (obscured from view) work on a green lighting project at the University of Illinois.*

## Going Green

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—Local 601 looks forward to spring after a very slow winter. At press time, there are 102 journeyman wiremen on Book I, 22 on the Apprentice Book and 643 travelers on Book II.

Green has been the color of work in the 601 jurisdiction. A total of 364 wind turbines have been completed or are finishing up at this writing.

At the Krannert Center for Performing Arts at the University of Illinois, a green lighting project was recently completed, replacing 575 150-watt fixtures with 32-watt LED lights. The project was completed by our local contractor, Coleman Electric Service, and Local 601 members. Michael Williams, lighting director at Krannert, said the new fixtures save energy and last 50,000 hours compared with 2,000 hours for the incandescent bulbs. The new LED fixtures run on a computer system and the new LED bulbs have a color range of 16.9 million different colors. The proj-



*Local 611 switchgear crew with Rosendin Electric Inc.: from left, front row, Ruben Martinez, Matthew Ramsey, Henry Ortega, Richard Aragon, Bobby Martinez.; back row, Austin Johnson, Adelaido Sanchez, Andrew Romero, Gabe Morantes, Adolf Garcia, Garland Leatherman and Mark Trujillo.*

ect was funded in part by the Student Sustainability Committee, using income from a \$2 a semester clean-energy fee paid by UI students.

*Dan Hatter, P.S.*

## Kudos to IBEW Switchgear Crew

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—In a previous article I inadvertently left out a few names of the recent graduating apprentices. They are: Patrick L. Candelaria, Michael J. Green, Jonathan Locker, Joshua A. Montoya, Tony L. Read Jr., Stuart Smith, Jonathan B. Thompson, Christopher E. Thornton and Adrian Valdez. Congratulations, guys! You are a great asset to the local.

We are working under a new three-year contract, effective Nov. 1, 2009, through Oct. 31, 2012. The wages will increase \$0.50 on Nov. 1, 2010; \$0.50 on May 1, 2011; \$0.50 on Nov. 1, 2011; and \$0.60 on May 1, 2012.

Shown in the photo above is the switchgear crew from Rosendin Electric working on the P1268 project at one of the world's largest chip manufacturing plants, located in Rio Rancho, NM. The employees received a \$50 Lowes gift card for their safe work practices, quality of work and meeting all schedule requirements. The major portion of their scope involved replacing two unit substations and dual module UPS systems with two new double ended 400A substations, multiple 800KVA UPS modules, static switches, battery racks, load bank terminal boxes and all associated conduit. Great work, guys.

Local 611 extends condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Roger Abeita, Thomas W. Sturtz, Gerald Vincent Garcia, James C. Ray, Paul L. Bridges, Kenneth R. Beeson, Albino C. Garcia, Henry L. Gallegos, Eloy E. Gomez and Franklin G. Rosewell.

*Darrell J. Blair, P.S.*

## High-Speed Rail Project

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—High-speed rail is coming to Northern California and Local 617 stands ready to provide competent and skilled labor for the project. Dedicated members of the local along with those of the building trades recently attended an open forum for public comment and supported our leadership as they spoke in favor of the project and effectively overshadowed those who oppose it. While it is just the beginning and the process will take time, local members and leadership will meet the challenge every step of the way.

A vote on Measure M a few years ago is about to translate into big benefits for local workers, residents, families and their students. The School Board

of the San Mateo Union High School District has voted to install solar systems at all the district high schools with Project Labor Agreement projects starting this year. This \$30 million investment will offset energy costs for decades, allowing the district operating budget to pay for education and not utilities.

The local has launched the long-awaited All Electrical Service. AES advertises trained, experienced and licensed electrical service to the community and will increase our market share and broaden opportunities for our contractors and members in the service sector.

*Dan Pasini, V.P.*

## In Tribute to a Brother

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—The work picture is still slow as of this early March writing. Hopefully a little hiring will start soon at the Tufts Cove Generating Station and a shutdown in May at the Refinery.

Bro. Lenny Shaw received his 50-year pin at the January unit meeting, as well as a certificate signed by Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill. The following received 45-year pins: Bros. Wayne Christie, Irving Marshall and Henry Moore. Congratulations, brothers, on reaching these great milestones in your IBEW careers.

The IBEW lost one of its proudest members on Feb. 11 when Bro. John Wayne "The Duke" Fougere suddenly passed away. Wayne was a Local 625 Executive Board member and a past president of the local. As a 40-year member, Wayne traveled the U.S. and Canada. From the "Big Dig" in Boston to the "Tar Sands" in Alberta, the Duke was well-known for his passion for the IBEW. One of his proudest moments was when, as local union president in 1991, he served as a delegate to the 34th IBEW International Convention and centennial celebration in St. Louis, MO. The Duke went suddenly due to heart failure while boarding the bus at the Scotford Upgrader Project in Alberta. Wayne was 58.

*Tom Griffiths, Pres.*

## IBEW Bowling Tournament

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—The local will host the 66th Annual IBEW International Bowling Tournament on May 21-23 at the Columbus Palace Bowling Lanes. Competing locals need to contact Local 683 for further information. Bob Garich and his crew have planned a good time for all. The local will also host the IBEW Softball Tournament; details are available at the hall.

I also wish to remind Local 683 members to sign up and attend classes required by our contract,

## Local Lines

Code of Excellence, OSHA 10 or 30, and NFPA 70 E.

It is time, by use of the Internet or other means, to update the methods of our out-of-work members to find jobs in other locals. This would assist our out-of-work members who travel to find work. Are there any suggestions or ideas?

We extend condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Michael Burchett, William New, George Spires Jr., Charles Holley and Michael Casey. Our brothers are deeply missed but not forgotten.

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

## Alternative Energy Grant

L.U. 725 (i,rts&spa), TERRE HAUTE, IN—Local 725 was awarded a \$42,580 alternative energy federal grant administered through the Indiana Office of Energy Development under Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman. Our journeymen and apprentices will volunteer to install a 60-panel 14.1 kW solar system. The final installation will be available for public inspection and educational tours. Additionally, we were able to secure a net-metering agreement with Duke Energy to offset our electric bill.

Our local took the lead on behalf of the local building trades to secure passage of a second Responsible Bidder Ordinance (RBO) within our jurisdiction. Bloomington, IN, implemented the ordinance on Oct. 21, 2009, and Terre Haute passed the RBO on March 11, 2010. These steps will assist our contractors to secure more jobs. Bus. Mgr. Todd Thacker and staff worked hard for passage, and these successes prove the importance of political involvement and participation in local organizations. Monroe County and Vigo County are next. We thank all apprentices and journeymen who attended meetings and contacted our councilmen.

Bus. Mgr. Thacker, Rep. Brian Wood and I thank members Larry Boyles, Mike McNabb, Kent Mundy, Jason Newton, Eric Tingley and Leon Trosper for attending the Whirlpool rally in Evansville to protest the loss of 1,100 jobs.

*Tom Szymanski, Organizer*



*IBEW Local 725 was awarded an alternative energy federal grant.*

## Annual Work Party Volunteers

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—We had our annual work party in February and what a cold morning it was. To say our members care about their local union is an understatement. Even though it was only about 38 degrees, we had our greatest turnout yet. More than 50 members brought their rakes, chainsaws and strong backs and went to work early maintaining our local union grounds. We even had some retired members come out to help, and they must miss being in the trenches because they tried



Photo by Theresa King.

*Local 915 members volunteer for the local's annual work party.*

to work us long into the day. We had a great cookout for lunch and enjoyed great brotherhood all day. Many thanks to all who took time out of their busy schedules to help take care of our home local.

We continue to struggle in this economy. The need for jobs for our members is great. That said, this is an election year. Let's all be diligent in screening and endorsing candidates who support union labor. It is up to each of us to educate ourselves so we make the right decisions at the ballot box.

*Theresa King, P.S.*

## Business Manager Retires



L.U. 949 (em,t&u), BURNSVILLE, MN—Local 949 bids a happy retirement to Vince Guertin, who served as business manager. Effective March 11, Vince joined the ranks of those too busy enjoying life to go to work every day.

*Local 949 Bus. Mgr. Vince Guertin retired March 11, 2010.*

Vince came on board at Local 949 as a business representative in 1990 and was elected business

manager/financial secretary in 1998. He brought with him energy, experience, commitment and dedication—confirmed by the growth of the local, necessitating three additional business representatives, and by success in making the local financially secure.

Vince liked to say his role was to provide the members with a “tool box with the right tools.” These tools included member participation in stewardship education, in national conferences, and the creation of a Web site bringing the local into the digital age.

We wish Vince Guertin the very best!

*Cy Grover, P.S.*

## Move to New Headquarters

L.U. 965 (em,govt,ptc&u), MADISON, WI—Local 965's investment in its future is coming into fruition as it moves into its new headquarters at 701 Watson Ave., Madison, WI.

Much of the minor work done prior to moving in was accomplished by member volunteers during February and March. Our heartfelt thanks go to all our members and families who worked to fix up the building and assisted in the actual move. We look forward to better serving our membership, as well as spreading the message about the benefits of union affiliation, from this wonderful new facility.

The local is well along in conducting listening sessions with those members who work for

Wisconsin Power & Light Co., a subsidiary of Alliant Energy. The listening sessions are in preparation for contract negotiations, which begin next year. WP&L is the largest employer of Local 965 members.

The local will soon announce recipients of the 2010 IBEW Local 965 scholarships, which are available to current high-school seniors who are dependent children of Local 965 members.

Local union elections are scheduled for June. Nominations for officers, delegates and the Executive Board/unit chairs were accepted during unit meetings in April.

*Kurt Roberts, P.S.*

## Rio Grande Valley VA Clinic

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TX—Local 1015 and L&O Electric joined together in the opportunity to construct a lifelong dream for Rio Grande Valley military veterans who fought hard for many years to be able to receive the health care they need closer to home. At this writing, the new South Texas VA Health Care Center at Harlingen, TX, is now under construction.

Our RGV-Laredo/ JATC is also proud to report that as of press time six apprentices are among the union members working at the L&O clinic project. This is a great experience for our brothers, especially considering one of our apprentices is a veteran and proud to work on a facility that will help many Rio Grande Valley veterans receive medical attention.

Although, work in the Local 1015 jurisdiction has not yet bloomed, members have taken a turn toward education in the industry.

Thank you all for your support of the union.

*Ray R. Duran, P.S.*

## A Strong, United Voice

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY—We continue to closely follow the relationship between the Long Island Power Authority and National Grid. There has been much speculation as to what the future holds, specifically which company or companies will own, operate and maintain the electric generating stations and the Electric T&D System. Currently, the Maintenance Services Agreement is out for bid and the power plants are for sale. LIPA Chmn. Kevin Law was quoted in several news articles praising the hard work and dedication shown by IBEW Local 1049 members. He has given us many assurances that the members will not be hurt by any changes that may occur.

In our Craft Division, Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand formed a Health and Welfare Committee, tasked with lowering costs for our Health and Welfare Fund. This fund was recently hit with a 23 percent increase in premiums. The committee is reviewing all available health-care plans, carriers and plan designs.

Our leadership met with all the local unions that work on the various properties of National Grid. In attendance were five IBEW locals along with representatives from the Steelworkers, Utility Workers and Transport Workers. It was an opportunity for all of us to work together and to speak with company representatives with one strong, common and united voice.

*Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.*

## Labor Lobby Day

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—Elected officers participated in an interactive training program in January presented by Int. Rep. Mike D'Amico.

Feb. 4 was Labor Lobby Day at the Augusta State House. We were pleased to participate in this annual event sponsored by the Maine AFL-CIO.

The Legislative Breakfast, sponsored by the Eastern Maine Central Labor Council, was held Feb. 20 in Brewer. This was a good opportunity for members to discuss pending bills with lawmakers. Inside Apprentice Scott Cuddy represented us well in his presentation of misclassification of employees as independent contractors.

Work opportunities seem to be picking up as we continue to work with our signatory contractors to overcome this harsh economy.

Congratulations to recent retirees Ken LeGasse



*Local 1015 journeymen and apprentices are working with L&O Electric on construction of the new VA health care center in Harlingen, TX. From left, back row, are: Aaron Bazan, Rigoberto Gonzalez, Jesus Salinas, Antonio Iruegas, Hector Banda, Wenceslaco "Willie" Castaneda, Frank Eckert, Juan Arevalo, Felipe Espinoza, Miguel Sanchez, Jesus R. Rodulfo, Dereck Crockett, Juan M. Contreras; front row, Robert Mujica, David Juarez, Robert Juarez, Elpidio Ortiz, Mario Villegas and Guadalupe Villareal.*



Local 1253 Dir. of Business Development Calvin Murphy (right) discusses issues with state Rep. Tim Driscoll of the Labor Committee at the Augusta, ME, state house on Labor Lobby Day.

and Bob Thompson. Thanks to both for longtime, dedicated service to the IBEW. We wish them a happy, healthy retirement.

William Gifford, P.S.

## Contract Negotiations

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—By the time this finds print, we should be in negotiations with Delmarva Power. With the current economy, we expect a difficult negotiation. On our negotiating committee are: Local 1307 Bus. Mgr./Pres. David Adkins, Fin. Sec. Michele Horner, Rec. Sec. Debbie Fidderman, E-Board members Vaughn Horner, Chuck Harris, Heather Adkins and Eddie Sparks; and member Jeff Shrieves.

In these tough times, working people need all the friends they can find. COPE is the union's political action fund to help elect friends of labor. COPE also keeps score of how major elected officials vote on issues important to labor. You can check the voting records of elected officials to see if they are really voting in your best interest.

Most of our employers offer payroll deductions for contributions to COPE. For less than \$1.50 per week, you can help make a difference in the lives of working families. Big business contributes millions to elect candidates who support their positions. We also need a voice. COPE helps provide that voice. Please contact your steward to participate in COPE. If your employer does not allow for payroll deduction for COPE, the local will also accept COPE contributions. Be part of this important program to maintain and improve the lives of working people.

Edward D. Sparks, P.S.

## 'We Continue Forward'

L.U. 1357 (t), HONOLULU, HI—Local 1357 elections are over and our members overwhelmingly re-elected Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Scot Long and Pres. Ted Furukado, recognizing their strong leadership over the previous three years.

Now, we continue forward preparing to elect a new state governor, working to retain favorable representation in the U.S. Congress and to secure the seats of our state representatives who have supported labor.

Of course, these efforts are in addition to the local's daily representation and protection of labor. This Local 1357 team, along with IBEW Ninth District Int. Rep. Harold Dias Jr., is ready for the challenges ahead.

Karenann Wedge, P.S.

## Slots at Racetracks

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Our neighboring states demonstrated to Maryland how to successfully implement slot machine gambling at racetracks. A good example is Charles Town, WV. There a rundown facility was turned into a booming showplace, bringing in needed revenue enabling the track to offer larger purses and attract the best horses. A visit to Charles Town parking lots reveals many autos with Maryland tags as Marylanders travel there to play the slots. Yet there is resistance to slots by those who oppose gambling. I am sure our neighboring states appreciate that sentiment, for as long as Maryland does not have slots, Marylanders will travel to states that do.

Why our state Legislature abandoned this money-making formula of slots at racetracks and instead opted to build free-standing casinos is hard to comprehend. One venture proposed was to build a gambling facility near a giant shopping mall, Arundel Mills. The nearby community objected to gambling near the mall and this proposal has an uncertain future as the citizens are trying to get it on the ballot this fall to defeat the proposal.

At least 25 states are considering expanding their gambling facilities in hopes that gamblers can fill budget shortfalls. Will Maryland join this group with slots at racetracks? Our members employed at Amtote certainly hope so.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.



IBEW Local 1501 Bus. Mgr. Dion F. Guthrie (second from left) and state labor leaders meet with Maryland governor. From left: Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Pres. Ernie Grecco; Guthrie; Gov. Martin O'Malley; and Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO Pres. Fred Mason. At issue: reaching an agreement on slots in Maryland at the tracks.

## Updates from Wichita

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—Later this year negotiations will open up with Sedgwick County Co-op, City of Coffeyville, and Asplundh Tree Experts.

The Local 1523 election of officers is approaching. Nominations will be made at the May meeting. Elections will be held in June, and officers will be sworn into office in July.

We welcome Seventh District Int. Rep. Todd Newkirk as our new district representative. He brings much skill and knowledge from Washington. Recently retired Int. Rep. Dwayne Nordick takes with him a fine legacy and we wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors. Todd will have his hands full with the many issues affecting our members.

A new apprentice class begins in May. Class sizes have been averaging 15-20, with an average of only about five making it through. It seems that it isn't as easy as it looks. There are eight instructors per class, which is good because this allows students more one-on-one instruction. Excellent training

and basics fundamentals are keys to keeping our linemen safe—and to keep them climbing.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

## Looking Ahead

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—Construction is still slow, but the future looks bright for the Augusta area. The Mixed Oxide and the Salt Waste Projects at the Savannah River site have both had setbacks. Once the wrinkles are ironed out, both these projects combined will employ about 300 journeymen and apprentices. Units 3 and 4 at Plant Vogtle will receive the construction site permit in late 2011 and will employ about 350 journeymen and apprentices at its peak.

Plant Vogtle was rumored to be nonunion for several months and if left up to the previous administration in Washington, DC, it would have been. Local 1579 Bus. Mgr. Ken Ward made several trips to Washington to meet with political leaders and communicate our message on why Vogtle needs to be a union job. He also met and communicated with power company officials and worked with trades council members to help secure this work.

Thank you, Bus. Mgr. Ward, for a job well-done.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

## Projects in the Works

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—The Examining Board gave the journeyman wireman exam recently to William Curl, and the board reports he passed. Congratulations and welcome, brother.

Bus. Mgr. Gary Osborne reports that Melkay Electric was awarded the Owensboro Public Works project and will be staffing up soon. We reached an agreement on the Cannelton Dam project, which will utilize the building trades to perform the work. At this writing, Bus. Mgr. Osborne is working on a possible project labor agreement at the Kentucky NewGas project in Muhlenburg County, KY.

JATC secretary Larry Boswell reports the committee has OSHA 30, BICSI training and continuing education ongoing. The committee is also offering stick, MIG and TIG welding classes at the community college. These classes will count toward college credit when completed. Contact the hall for more information.

Local 1701 will hold its election of officers in June; candidate nominations will be held in May. 2010 is also an election year here in Kentucky, with the primary elections on May 18.

Brothers and sisters, please exercise your right to vote. We ask that you vote for labor-endorsed candidates. Contact the hall for a list of these candidates.

In sadness we report the passing of retired Bro. Don Clark. May he rest in peace.

Tim Blandford, R.S.

## Focus on Union Principles

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—During these tough economic times in which many members are struggling, it is important as union members to focus on the principles this union was founded upon. These include cultivating feelings of friendship, assisting each other in sickness or distress, and seeking security for the individual. Together we can build a better union if we focus on these areas.

We are sad to announce the passing of Bro. Bill Woods. Bill joined the IBEW in 1982 and was known as a great mechanic, with a very good work

ethic. Our sincere condolences to the Woods family.

Local 1739 also wishes Bro. Ron Lambert a speedy recovery. He was involved in a serious head-on collision in Sudbury on Jan. 31.

Our hockey team is looking forward to the OPC Hockey Tournament April 16-17, 2010, in Windsor. We will see everyone there.

Frank Kastle, P.S.

## Register & Vote

L.U. 1749 (u), NEW JOHNSONVILLE, TN—This is a big election year—remember to register and vote. Your job depends on it!

State Sen. Roy Herron is a candidate for the U.S. Congress, running for the seat being vacated by our friend Rep. John Tanner. I thank the following for making possible our presentation of a COPE check to Sen. Herron: Local 1749 Bus. Mgr. Chester Dawson, Int. Rep. Keith Craig, Int. Vice Pres. Robert P. Klein and Local 1749 members. Sen. Herron thanked all of us and asked for our support and vote in this race. For information go to [www.royherron.com](http://www.royherron.com).

People don't believe politics affects their jobs. They are wrong! Who did we write last time we faced threats to shut down the Johnsonville, TN, steam generating station? We wrote to Democrats in Congress—Reps. John Tanner, Bart Gordon and Jim Cooper! Some blame Democrats for strict EPA rules—but they create many union jobs on installation!

It was under former Pres. Bush that we saw policies—pertaining to the EPA, the NLRB, OSHA, wage and hour commission, etc.—creating havoc for brothers and sisters in the labor movement.

Former Republican senator Bill Frist could not pass legislation to privatize TVA, so he jammed provisions into the 2005 budget that opened up the TVA Act. Consequently, the nine-member board was created, no longer comprising employees of TVA. Look at us now—top heavy with management and under-staffed. Look at the multimillion dollar bonuses—and the condition they let us get into.

Every year since, Republican Sens. Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning, both of Kentucky, have sponsored bills to privatize TVA, so their rich friends can pick us apart. Remember, we do not have a successor clause in our agreement—so they can throw us out on the street if TVA is privatized. Nothing the unions can do about that.

We can thank the IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Department for helping with the new TVA board appointees that Pres. Obama nominated and the Senate confirmed, giving us a majority.

So—don't tell me politics doesn't affect your job!

Mark J. DeJuliis, P.S./E-Board



IBEW Local 1749 Political Registrar/E-Board member Mark DeJuliis (right) presents COPE check to state Sen. Roy Herron, a candidate for the U.S. Congress.

# Retirees

## March Club Meeting

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 retirees held their first meeting of 2010 on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Old friends greeted each other and enjoyed social activities after the business part of the meeting. We encourage retired members to come and enjoy the good fellowship of club meetings. The retirees present were made more aware of the catastrophic employment situation by a presentation of the facts from Bus. Mgr. Stephen Schoemehl. The work picture is heartbreaking for unemployed members, their families and the Local 1 family at large. We were urged to help in any way possible, and will surely do so.

We continue to welcome new retirees. We respectfully acknowledge those who have passed away and pray for their souls.

All Retirees Club officers were unanimously re-elected: Pres. Dick Weller, Vice Pres. Rich King, Sec. Don Appelbaum, Treas. Dale Missey, Sgt. at Arms Ted Laventure, and Exec. Board members Ron Breedon, John Pils and Paul Lammert.

Local 1 retirees pray the year ahead will bring good news of renewed prosperity and hope for the future.

*Don Appelbaum, P.S.*

## North Florida Annual Party

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER—Our chapter held its annual Christmas/Hanukah/New Year's party at Benvenuto's in Boynton Beach on Jan. 8, 2010. The food, one-man band and dancing were excellent and fun! Attendees had a great time, thanks to Norma Modena and her helpers who made the arrangements. A barbecue was held at the Delray Beach South Civic Center on March 12 and all Local 3 retirees were invited.

Our meetings feature informative talks by area doctors and others. Currently we are having lively discussions about the new contract and other union benefits. The chapter meets the second Friday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Delray Beach South County Civic Center, from October to May. Many of our members are "snow birds" and we welcome all Local 3 retirees to our affairs and meetings. This is a good time to meet old friends.

*Dick Dickman, P.S.*



*Attendees enjoy the Local 3, North Florida Chapter, Retirees Club annual party at Benvenuto's.*

## 26th Pensioners Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER—Our chapter attended the 26th Pensioners Luncheon in Westin Beach Resort, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The weather was a bit cool, but look at those warm, smiling faces (see photo)—all having fun reminiscing. It was a great time.

At the meeting our Local 3 pension director,



*Local 3, North New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club members attend Pensioners Luncheon. From left, front row: Abe Fichtenbaum, Annette Giuliano, Barbara Kimkowski, Cathy McCormick and Ed Kimkowski. Back row: Charlene Blow, Reva Dickman, Sandy Fichtenbaum, Marty Beck, John McCormick and Bob Rosenhouch.*

Thomas Gallagher, gave us updates. We hope we can get our brothers and sisters back to work soon.

Those who could not attend the luncheon were missed. We look forward to going to the new Education Center, in Cutchogue, Long Island. May all be well.

*Anthony LaBate, P.S.*



*Local 3 Pres. John E. Marchell (second from left) and Local 3 Bus. Mgr. Christopher Erikson (right) proudly sport their newly designed Southwest Florida Chapter hats with logo. Making the presentation for the Retirees Club chapter are Haberdashery Chmn. Del Grosso (second from right) and Chapter Chmn. George Dondero (left).*

## Annual Pension Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SOUTHWEST FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER—On Feb. 13, the Southwest Florida Gulf Coast Local 3 Retirees Chapter traveled from the west coast of Florida across Alligator Alley (I-75) to the Westin Hotel and Conference Center in Fort Lauderdale, FL, to attend the 26th bi-annual pension luncheon. The banquet hall was filled with 700 Local 3 retirees and their spouses. More than 30 members from the SWFL Gulf Coast Chapter attended. Local 3 retired or visiting members living or visiting Florida look forward to this reunion held during the month of February in even-numbered years.

After enjoying a great lunch and camaraderie amongst old friends, those attending heard Local 3 Bus. Mgr. Christopher Erikson report on the general health of the construction industry in New York City. Local 3 Pres. John E. Marchell gave a detailed report of Local 3 activities in 2009 on behalf of retirees and the entire membership. Pension Dir. Thomas Gallagher also attended, greeting and making everyone feel at home throughout the day.

More News: A golf outing is planned for April and a ladies night is planned. We meet 12 months a year in Fort Myers, FL. If in Florida, send an e-mail to [gdondero@aol.com](mailto:gdondero@aol.com) for information on the chapter's meeting times and dates. Hope to see you soon.

*George Dondero, Chmn./P.S.*

## Special Events Planned

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—Spring is here. We had quite a winter, heavy duty snow, winds and rain. But we survived. Our meetings had a good turnout despite the weather.

The special events committee is in full-swing planning events. The Putnam Golf Classic is May 13. A visit is planned for April 22 to the aircraft carrier Intrepid, which served in the World War II Pacific fleet and is now a museum. We will have a trip to the Local 3 Educational Center in Cutchogue, Long Island, NY, in July

or August—no date yet; will keep you informed of these events in future letters.

Local 3 set up a Web site for Retirees news: [www.wfjatc.com](http://www.wfjatc.com). Password is: wflocal3. New contract 2010. Send any suggestions to local negotiating committee.

Our chapter mourns the loss of member Paul Pavia, a Korean War veteran and longtime Local 3 member; and Alfred White, former Local 3 apprentice director and U.S. Navy veteran.

We join in support of our working brothers and sisters in this economic downturn and hope working conditions will improve. We also support our military service men and women and wish them success.

Happy spring. Live for the day.

*Edward A. Rubow, P.S.*



*Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club officers attend annual Retirees Christmas/Hanukah luncheon at Travelers Rest in Ossining, NY. From left: Chmn. Dominic Peronti, Rec. Sec. Martin Hogan, Treas. Dick Mills, Trustee Dominic Malandro; William Robertson, Special Events; Fin. Sec. Vincent Panzarino; and Genaro Pasquale, Golf Committee.*

## Invitation to Participate

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA—Local 11 Retirees Club Pres. Marty Cohen wishes to remind everyone that the retirees meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Metro facility in the city of Commerce. Please plan to attend our fun-filled meetings. There are many ways you can remain active in Local 11. Retirees host a booth at the annual local-wide picnic, serve on the organizing committee, and participate in other activities.

The Retirees Club is busy planning this year's summer luncheon. This is a wonderful event, so please plan to come and stay awhile. An RSVP is required in advance so we know how much food to order.

The Local 11 Retirees Club enjoys earnings from the Price Worley Fund, set up by a longtime member and retiree. This kind and selfless gesture by a former member of the club has helped retirees living on fixed incomes to participate in club activities they might not otherwise afford.

We mourn the loss of club member Dan Ginsburg. During his career Dan was head of the University of Southern California maintenance department. He is missed by all his friends in the club.

*Bob Oedy, P.S.*



*Local 11 Retirees Club Pres. Marty Cohen and Diana Limon, Local 11 Compliance Dept., attend club function.*

## Welcome to Club Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 21, DOWNERS GROVE, IL—The Orland Park Chapter meets at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Orland Bowl located at 8601 W. 159th St. in Orland Park, IL. All Local 21 retirees and their spouses are encouraged to attend the meetings. For information on joining the club, send an e-mail to [lu21ofretireeclub@ameritech.net](mailto:lu21ofretireeclub@ameritech.net). The club is social by nature but communicates with the Local 21 retiree liaison on issues affecting retiree health care benefits.

The Orland Park club continues planning events for 2010. During April, we enjoyed dinner out at the Robert Morris Culinary College. An upcoming outing is the Chicago White Sox against the Seattle Mariners, scheduled for July 26. Send an e-mail to the Orland Park club president at [lu21ofretireeclub@ameritech.net](mailto:lu21ofretireeclub@ameritech.net) to get detailed information and tickets for this event.

If you wish to establish a new IBEW Local 21 retiree chapter in your area, it's easy to do. Just contact IBEW Local 21 retiree liaison Larry Moeller at (630) 432-3836 for more information. To receive information on issues affecting local union retirees, e-mail Larry at [lmoeller@ibew21.org](mailto:lmoeller@ibew21.org) and your name will be added to the Local 21 retiree e-mail list.

*Thomas Hopper, P.S.*



*Local 21 retirees fight for health care at AT&T Illinois shop.*

## Fall Bus Tour to Vermont

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—Greetings to all IBEW retirees. Michigan's weather is trying to break through. The work picture is still desperate for our unemployed members. Some have been unemployed for several years. But hope reigns eternal.

Congratulations to Local 58 Bus. Mgr. Joe Abdo on his re-election.

Club Pres. John Ahern attended the luncheon in Florida set up by former president Bill Rushford. Some 35 members and guests attended. At age 80+, Bill has reluctantly turned the reins over to Syl Ludwic for next year's Florida extravaganza. Tremendous gratitude goes out to Bill for all his efforts and good will on behalf of our Local.

The 2009 Christmas party luncheon was a huge success with some 100 attending. Lunch was exceptional, the company superb and the stories great.

In February some 90 members and guests convened at our favorite haunt in Warren, MI—The Gazebo. In March we met at Vladimir's Banquet Hall on Grand River in Farmington with more than 70 gathered for a wonderful time. It was great to have an influx of new members attending.

We currently have one full tour bus scheduled for Vermont in the fall. If interested, call Rick Koerber for information at (248) 421-2636 as soon as possible. If there's enough interest, another bus will be opened for new registrations.

Frank A. Maisano, Registrar

## 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 68, DENVER, CO—We certainly were blessed at our recent retirees meeting. One of the finest ever, Gabe McDuffee, was honored to celebrate his 98th birthday. What a great man he is, a loyal union member. We sang happy birthday to him and were honored to share our love for him. I had the pleasure of working with Gabe during 1965 in Rockford, IL, through Local 364 at the Chrysler plant.

We must say a fond farewell to Lucille Hecht, who recently stepped down as our longtime recording secretary of many years. We thank and salute this lady who has been so gracious with her talent, energy and dedication.

I know we are happy to see the health care bill passed. It's not perfect, but we now have our foot in the door and hopefully this issue will be built upon to achieve better health care for all of us.

We also hope to see continued gains in all of our "green energy" endeavors. Colorado is a leader in green energy efforts; of course we still have to try to protect our environment at the same time we are drilling for gas and oil. And of course we remember all our disappointments in the previous presidential administration's missteps.

At our March meeting, 37 members signed in.

Ron House, P.S.

## Update from Rochester Club

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 86, ROCHESTER, NY—We had our annual St. Patrick's Day party on March 17. More than 70 retirees and spouses enjoyed the meal catered by McGinnity's.

Recently many retirees, led by Ed Lindskoog, completed electrical work for renovation of the benefit office for the Eastern Service Workers Assoc. Lighting fixtures for the project were purchased through the NLMCC Fund.



Officers and service-award recipients attend Local 110's annual luncheon for retirees. From left: Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mike Dufour, John Wagner, Charles Wagner, Richard Lundahl, Richard Elgaard, Roy Anderson, Robert Karel, Kenneth Farber, George Hill and Retirees Club Pres. John Heuer.

Also, many retirees are working at the area Boy Scouts office and camp updating lighting systems. In recent months, we have been selling cookbooks under the direction of Nancy Schneider. Since our last article, we also enjoyed our annual picnic, clam-bake, Halloween and Christmas parties.

With spring arriving we look forward to our annual pin party and golf tournament.

Donald L. Peters, P.S.

## A Legacy of Union Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 103, BOSTON, MA—Russell F. Sheehan of Whitman, MA, and formerly of Dorchester, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on March 11, 2010. He was 64. Russell was born in Boston and was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a proud and honorable member of IBEW Local 103 for more than 40 years.

Bro. Sheehan was a former officer of Local 103 and served as past business manager, Trust Fund administrator and in other posts. He was a graduate of the Harvard Trade Program and was an official observer of past El Salvador democratic elections. A proud two-time member of "The Hole-in-one Club," he was also a member of Preferred Liar's Golf Group at Ridder Country Club. May he rest in peace.

Golf dates for 2010 are the following Wednesdays: May 5, May 19, June 23, July 14, July 28, Aug. 11, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, Sept. 22 and Oct. 13. Golf is at President's Golf Course, North Quincy, MA. We negotiated the same rates as 2009.

Leo Monahan, Pres./P.S.

## St. Paul Retirees Report

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 110, ST. PAUL, MN—Local 110 hosted the annual luncheon for retirees at the Prom Center on Oct. 6, 2009, in Oakdale, MN, with more than 357 retirees, widows and guests attending.

A 60-year pin was awarded to George E. Hill. Awarded 55-year pins were: Richard L. Elgaard, Kenneth L. Farber, Robert C. Karel and Richard N. Svoboda. Awarded 50-year pins were: Roy W. Anderson, Richard L. Lundahl, Charles L. Wagner, John J. Wagner and Walter D. Weber.

Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mike Dufour thanked the honorees for their years of service.

April Lyons from the Local 110 office did an outstanding job planning the event. We extend deepest thanks for all her hard work.

The Local 110 Retirees Club is an active group meeting monthly with 75-120 people attending. All retirees are welcome to attend and meet new friends. The retirees serve food to members at the Local 110 picnic. Additionally, retirees stuff 600 Christmas

stockings with candy for the children's Christmas party and they also decorate the hall for the party.

Many thanks to Local 110 for supporting their retired members.

Jon "Jack" Buchal, P.S.

## V.P. Ronald Gurtner Mourned

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—Our Christmas party was held Dec. 9, 2009, and was catered by Capdeboscq Catering Services. We had an outstanding 250 members attend with either their spouse or a guest.

As of March 2010 our casino trips have been postponed/cancelled due to an illness of Sec./Treas. Harry "Buddy" Carver. Bro. Carver has been actively involved in the bus trips for the past 12 years.

Our club held its election of officers in March 2010. We had to revoke the election of our vice president and secretary/treasurer, due to a death and an illness. We are saddened by the passing of Vice Pres. Ronald A. Gurtner. We wish Bro. Buddy Carver a good recovery.

We wish to inform brother members that several members are currently in an assisted living center: Henry Daries, Winfield Salathe and Warren L. Seher.

We mourn the passing of: Bros. Edward J. Landry, Anthony D. Cado, Maurice Bersuder Sr., Charles Zeringue, Darryl J. Gallaty, Gregory T. Arnold, Edgar L. Cretin Sr., Edward J. Newman, Frances W. Kolb and Vice Pres. Gurtner. May they rest in peace!

Until next time, God bless our brothers and sisters.

George Clesi, Pres.

## Election of Club Officers

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—We welcome the arrival of spring. I can't wait to get on the golf course.

On March 10, the following club officers were elected: Pres. Mario Coletta, Vice Pres. Richard

Sipple, Treas. Bernard Martin, Sec. Don Mahoney; and Board members Robert Smedberg, Lou Leneggert, Jerry Warchol and David Chapman. Congratulations to you all and thanks to the prior officers for their work the past two years.

Now comes the time to say this is my last article. I enjoyed writing in the *IBEW Journal* and *The Electrical Worker*. I also want to thank the people in the IBEW Media Department. They were very cordial to me.

Richard E. Bronars, P.S.



Chicago Local 134 Retirees Club members enjoy Christmas holiday dinner at The Irish Club.

## Officers Elected

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 223, BROCKTON, MA—At the March 3 meeting, members elected a new slate of officers. Pres. Burton Bouldry, Vice Pres. Charles Wise, Rec. Sec. Steve Bowers and Treas. Richard Bradbury will fill the current administrative positions. The new appointees to the Executive Board are: Ronald Dutra, Ralph Gronlund, Richard Joerres, Herbert Lewis and Ronald Moniz.

Pres. Bouldry thanked the previous administration for their past service and outlined his vision for the future of the club. He hopes to introduce community service projects, maintain stronger ties with the local's working force and involve more members and their spouses in the club's activities. Tim Cayton spoke to the club on various work-related issues and then introduced Robert Revil as the new Local 223 apprentice director. Deputy Chief David Goodfellow of the Lakeville Fire Department delivered an informative presentation on the latest in life safety and fire prevention.

Condolences were extended to the families of the recently deceased members: Benjamin King, Edward Rovas, Fred Schofield and Bruce Wyman.

Burton Bouldry, Pres.

## Retirees Club Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 291, BOISE, ID—The club's election of officers was held in February. Joe Sirani was elected president and Herb Churruca accepted the vice presidency. The new secretary/treasurer is Linda Sirani. The newly elected officers held their first lunch meeting in March at Idaho Pizza in Boise



Among those attending a Local 291 Retirees Club luncheon with the members and newly elected officers are, standing, from left: Pres. Joe Sirani, Sec./Treas. Linda Sirani and Vice Pres. Herb Churruca.

## Retirees

with 24 members and three visitors attending. The club continues to grow as baby boomers retire and snowbird retirees return home from Arizona.

Everyone looks forward to the warmer weather so we can enjoy outdoor activities, such as the picnic at Settlers Park in June. Our lunch meetings are held every second Thursday of the month, except for July and August, when we break for the summer. The club wishes to express their gratitude for the fine work of the previous officers. See you at the next meeting.

Joe Sirani, Pres.

## Skills USA Testing

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 313, WILMINGTON, DE—Local 313 hosted Skills USA to test both residential work and motor knowledge of students attending the six vocational schools of Delaware. The Local 313 retirees served as judges. Local 313 apprentices and the training director put up the cubicles.

The students, after taking a test, now have to do hands-on of what they read and wrote using “romex.” The students are given three hours. When they are finished, the local union feeds them a healthy lunch (pizza) and they go back to their schools.

For the recent event, the retirees were given lists to rate the installation. The students had a plan and isometric view of the cubical to locate the devices to be mounted. The retirees asked each other if they could still read a ruler, read a meter, etc. Then we went to work checking the NEC, terminal correctness, neatness, etc., for each of eight categories for points. The training director then totaled everybody’s sheets and scored the students. The next day a different group of students went through the same procedure for the motor wiring using EMT.

Greg Stilwell, P.S.



Local 313 retirees judged a recent Skills USA event. Observing a student taking the test are, from left: Gary DeShong, Press Sec. Gregory Stilwell, Dan Lacro, Training Dir. John Hagelstein, Ed Davis and Jake Good.

## New Club Welcomes Retirees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 415, CHEYENNE, WY—We continue to gain members in our newly certified Local 415 Retirees Club. I invite any retired local member to attend our next meeting.

At our February meeting, our guest speaker was Joel Steward from the Milliman actuarial group that does work pertaining to the Eighth District retirement plan. Joel gave us an overview of the current status of our pension plan. This really gave us some insight as to the commitment shown by our union, our trustees, and our officers in dealing with difficulties faced during these hard times. They have had to make some hard choices, but things look good and our plan remains very solvent.

One of the things we look forward to at our



Local 415 apprentice graduating class of 1956. Front row (from left): James Price, Francis Magrath, David Day, Frank Morrow, Lawrence Rezac and Instructor Van Horn; back row, Cecil Westil, Robert “Mike” Forister, William Curran, Robert Switzer and Clearaonce Webster.

meetings is an informative report and a question-and-answer period with Local 415 Bus. Mgr. Harvey Humphrey. It’s a great way for us to keep up with the local we love.

My “Picture Diary” of the retired members and history of the local is taking shape. Retirees, if I haven’t gotten your picture for the diary let us know. I am also looking for pictures of past apprenticeship classes. I hope to include a photo of every Local 415 class that has graduated. Can’t do it without lots of help. Some of the pictures I already have are pretty cool (see photo).

John J. Occhipinti, P.S.

## Sarnia Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our members gathered on March 17 at the Point Edward Casino for our annual St. Patrick’s Day lunch. This outing was well-attended and we enjoyed the fellowship.

Our club members appreciate all the time and effort that our Pres. Bo Kohut and his wife, Marie, and our Sec.-Treas. Ed McCormack and his wife, Carol, devote to the success of our club. They put in many hours planning wonderful destinations for our travelling pleasure, and enjoyable events for us to attend. We need only sign up, pay for our tickets and enjoy. Our membership wishes to say, “Thank you very much!”

With deep sadness we report the death, on Jan. 19, of club member Elsie Morrison, wife of Local 530 retiree Bob Morrison. Elsie had a wonderful gift of making everyone feel welcome with her warm smile and kind words. Elsie never hesitated to contribute her talents for the success of our club. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Bob and his family.

We also mourn the death of Dave

Tayles, retired Local 530 electrician. We extend condolences to his wife, Jean, and family.

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.

## Fundraisers a Success

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 558, SHEFFIELD, AL—2009 was a good year for our club! We had two successful dinner meetings with 80 or more in attendance, and one included the election of officers and board members. For the last few years we have held fundraisers for needy families—and 2009 was the most successful of all. We were able to give \$300 to each of 27 families.

This success was due to a lot of hard work and generosity on the part of club members, active local union members, our contractors, local businesses and area politicians. To all of these, we extend our thanks. Special thanks to Bros. Fred Pendergrass and Tommy Alexander for putting together and completing our charity golf tournament, which raised \$2,700. Bros. Tommy Thompson, Danny Joe Rickard, Kenneth Bishop, Joe Boyd, Tommy Brown, Tommy Bottoms, Don McMeans, Mickey McGuire and Tom Whitfield also helped make the tournament a success! Hopefully we can do as well again this year. See you all in June.

Tom Whitfield, Pres.

## Tribute to Union Brother

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—The late Bro. Albino “Al” Garcia, past Local 611 president, recording secretary and organizer, will surely be missed. Bro. Garcia was also a past Retirees Club president. He was a good example of servant leadership and a strong IBEW member and volunteer. His children, grandchildren and yours truly were at his bedside when he passed on.

Work in the jurisdiction is a little slow.

As of late March, 135 were on Book I and 234 on Book II. Steady jobs are: the uranium facility in Eunice and the General Mills plant in Albuquerque; and Sandia Base and Los Alamos are both holding their own.

The JACT opened up a new 1,900 square-foot training facility in Eunice and started training classes there on April 29.

We extend condolences to the families of the following brothers who recently passed away: Roger Abeita, Thomas W. Sturtz, Gerald V. Garcia, James C. Ray, Paul L. Bridges, Kenneth R. Beeson,

Albino C. Garcia, Henry L. Gallegos, Eloy E. Gomez, Franklin G. Rosewell, and Michael P. Murphy.

Attend your union meetings and stay in touch with a call or note.

Tracy Hall, Pres.



Bro. Albino “Al” Garcia (left) received his 55-year certificate, presented by Local 611 Retirees Club Pres. Napoleon “Nap” Duran, at a Retirees Club meeting on Nov. 4, 2004.

## Meeting Update

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 613, ATLANTA, GA—The Local 613 Retirees meeting was held March 17. There was further discussion about Health & Welfare and International benefits. We talked about a way for the out-of-work books for other locals to be signed on the Internet and notification sent via e-mail when someone’s name comes up. Also when that person goes to work have it set up where one click removes him from all out-of-work books that he signed.

We sadly mourn the following members, who passed away: Bill Watson, Daniel Pickering, Bud Gentry, James Moody, Thomas Jennings, Earl Bartsch, James Walters, Jack Drew, John Hendrix and William Martin.

Blake McLeod, Pres.



At a previous Local 654 retiree luncheon party, Local 654 office manager, Mrs. Jeanie Swift, speaks with retired Bros. Steve Sop (left) and Frank Powell.

## Retirees Luncheon Gathering

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 654, CHESTER, PA—At this writing, Local 654 has suffered the loss of four members this year: Bro. Stanley Strazala Jr. and retired Bros. B.F. Hutchinson, Wayne Edwards and Gerald E. Beebe. We express our condolences to their families.

Our retirees held their Christmas luncheon last December and we enjoyed the company of old friends. These luncheons are always nice, well-attended get-togethers. Please see the accompanying photo, courtesy of retired Bro. Larry Baker.

In the future if you are in the area and able to



The Local 530 Retirees Club gathers for a bus trip to Toronto on April 29, 2009.







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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**FROM THE OFFICERS****Real Recovery Means Growth**

**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President



**Lindell K. Lee**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

**W**ith 27 percent of our inside members and 23 percent of our outside trades on the street, there's no way that the 2010 Construction Conference could or should have been any ordinary event.

The worst economy facing the Brotherhood since the Great Depression is showing some signs of picking up. That's why hundreds of delegates came to Washington with the same question tugging at their gut: Will the IBEW take advantage of the recovery when it comes?

Abraham Lincoln once said that "History is not history unless it is the truth." And the nagging, sometimes hard-to-face truth of our own history is that every time we emerge from a downturn, the IBEW seems to have less of the market.

You've all heard the stories of how the organized construction industry only wanted the big jobs. And in doing so, we started losing the residential market virtually everywhere, except for a few pockets. Then we lost the smaller commercial projects like gas stations, fast food joints and shopping centers. Now, we are losing some of the big projects too—hospitals, industrial complexes, refineries, large office projects. More and more of them have the signs of nonunion electrical contractors hanging on their job sites.

If we're really concerned about tomorrow—if we really want to emerge from a recovery stronger, not weaker, we need an aggressive new playbook. And we need to start today.

Building broader and deeper market share in our industry—controlling more of the work—is the only way that we will be able to sustain the benefits of trade unionism that so many members and our families have enjoyed over generations. The IBEW can always best our nonunion competitors in skill and training. But if our composite price for journeymen and apprentices leave signatory contractors with uncompetitive bids, our skills and training will be wasting on the bench.

So we established new classifications—construction electrician and construction wireman—not to dilute our skills, but to win projects that were slipping through our fingers.

If you don't believe me, just ask Local 349 Business Manager and IEC member Bill Riley or Local 728 Business Manager David Svetlick (see front page story). They will tell you that new classifications and the more competitive composite rates that they make possible have put journeymen and apprentices to work—on jobs that they would not be doing were it not for the cost advantages that we negotiated.

Organizing the work and increasing our market share will take a strong chain of command combined with full buy-in from our local unions. So we are bringing our organizing program closer to home by appointing construction coordinators for each vice presidential district who will serve as liaisons between the vice president and the Membership Development Department.

Every construction local union will be required to have a full-time organizer. Our International Office will provide support from our Research and Information Technology Departments to help local unions keep track of what nonunion contractors are working in each jurisdiction.

By Labor Day, we expect that every construction local union in the Brotherhood will be signatory to an agreement, subject to review by the International, that addresses our ability to recover the work we are currently not doing.

Local agreements will continue to have distinct features based upon geography and other factors. But every such agreement must include certain features. They include: NEBF pension contributions, health care insurance, construction electrician and construction wireman job classifications, enabling language for the Code of Excellence, safety and health language, more portability for work that the local is not doing and training funds to update skills.

We must never forget that the IBEW Constitution calls for organizing all workers in the electrical trade. Over the past few years, more local unions have rediscovered this mission, but some still lag behind. And it's not just future members who are losing out, but our retired and soon-to-be-retired members.

More than a few delegates to the Construction Conference said that one of the most meaningful presentations was the one by Larry Bradley, executive secretary-treasurer of the NEBF. Wise investments have kept our fund relatively stable in tumultuous economic times. But Bradley clearly demonstrated that the only way to maintain current benefit levels and to ensure the NEBF's long-term strength is to grow its number of participants. That, brothers and sisters, means organizing, plain and simple.

They say habits are either the best of servants or the worst of masters. We are confident that by the time we convene next year's International Convention, our inside and outside local unions will be carrying along the hard evidence that we are creating the habit of winning. ■

**HOW TO REACH US**

We welcome letters from our readers. The writer should include his or her name, address and, if applicable, IBEW local union number and card number. Family members should include the local union number of the IBEW member to whom *The Electrical Worker* is mailed. Please keep letters as brief as possible. *The Electrical Worker* reserves the right to select letters for publication and edit all submissions for length.

**Send letters to:**

Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

**Or send by e-mail to:** [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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## Letters to the Editor

### The Value of History

I have been reflecting on your article in the March issue of the Electrical Worker on "Filling the Holes in IBEW's History." I am attempting to fill in the holes of my union, Albuquerque, N.M., Local 611. I realized a couple of years ago that our local would be 100 years old in 2014, so I started collecting its history. I first searched through past minute books of the local for names, dates and events, but found that the minute books of the first 15 years of my local were missing or had been destroyed. Through public library research of city directories, I was amazed to find that my local has had 12 different addresses since 1914.

I collected pictures and correspondence from my local's archives and my own personal archives and encouraged Local 611 members to identify the hundreds of pictures collected. I advertised in our retiree newsletter and the Electrical Worker. I received a letter with pictures and a phone call from a retired member who had a picture of a Local 611 member who had attended the first IBEW electronics workshop in the 1940s. My other sources include personal interviews with retired members and books written by other union crafts, past local newspaper articles and even the History Channel Magazine. I have a report that is now almost 100 pages and I am not done yet. I felt it important to record anything that affects the local union, its members' working conditions and the impacts on their families' way of life.

I encourage all locals to start a history committee within your local. Every union member should know their local union roots. I can be reached at Local 611 or at [tracy.d.hall@peoplepc.com](mailto:tracy.d.hall@peoplepc.com) by anyone who can share what they did for their local's anniversaries and any suggestions they can offer.

Tracy Hall  
Local 611 retiree, Albuquerque, N.M.

### Made Where?

It is wonderful that the IBEW has won grants to train young people to work on the wind farms.

My problem is why are the wind blades being manufactured in China? Why are our battleships being built in China? Our people need these jobs. Who signs the contracts to outsource our work? If I know I will not vote for that person.

Patricia Schneider  
Local 2270 member, Wilmington, Del.

### The Stimulus: Fact or Fiction?

Mr. Lee [in his March editorial, "Double-Talk on the Recovery Act"] unfortunately omitted a few significant details regarding the Recovery Act. First, the president assured us unemployment would remain under 8 percent with the passage of the bill. After its passage the rate soared to over 10 percent; it stands today at 9-plus percent.

The bill was sold to the public as a huge infrastructure undertaking to rebuild the nation's roads and bridges. In fact, most experts estimate only 12 to 15 percent of the funds were used for that purpose; the rest was dedicated to the Democrats' special interests, such as family planning, performing arts and growing more government.

Additionally, the bill had a \$4.5 billion expenditure for "green energy projects." A full 80 percent of those funds went to China to build windmills, while an American company that builds them has people out on layoff. Those economists Mr. Lee cites will also tell you that the primary thing that saved the nation from another depression was the TARP program, which the president takes credit for, but which was passed and implemented by his predecessor, George W. Bush.

John A. Ciak  
Local 94 retiree, Cranbury, N.J.

*[Secretary-Treasurer Lee responds: Nearly every nonpartisan economic researcher is in agreement that the Recovery Act helped stem the tide of job loss—which was approaching Great Depression levels—by creating nearly 2 million jobs. More must be done, but it's a good start. The fact that the Republicans I mentioned in my column were eager to take advantage of stimulus funds to help their own constituents find work—while denouncing the legislation itself—proves the point. We have raised the issue of green stimulus funds being used to create work for overseas companies before and we have pushed Congress to institute "Buy America" provisions. But before arguing that the green portion of the stimulus has gone to waste, I would have Brother Ciak take another look at the March issue of the Electrical Worker. On the front page we discuss how the IBEW was awarded more than \$20 million in stimulus funds—monies we are using to prepare our members for the renewable energy jobs of the future.]*

## Who We Are

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org).

# A Second Chance for Taylor

*The following article, written by South Bend, Ind., Local 153 Membership Development Representative Troy Warner, originally appeared in the local's newsletter.*

Jim Ring opened the envelope and the amount on the bill made his heart stop. The surgeries and treatments at Riley Hospital for Children for his daughter Taylor had totaled up to \$395,000—an amount most construction electricians like him had never contemplated.

Calm returned when he got to the last page of the explanation of benefits. "Amount you owe: \$20."

"Thank God for health insurance," he said. Because without it, it was a quick trip to bankruptcy. He called his wife, Katie, in the hospital with their daughter, Taylor, who was receiving seven weeks of radiation treatments. "Can you imagine having to pay that bill if we didn't have insurance?" Katie asked.

The problems with Taylor started in March 2009 with a number of apparently unrelated health problems: ear infections, hand, foot and mouth disease, vomiting. The week before Easter, she was lethargic and the vomiting increased dramatically. Katie and Jim took Taylor, almost 2, to the emergency room, where a CAT scan showed she had some fluid in her brain, not a life-threatening illness. The next day, the doctors decided to run an MRI to verify the diagnosis.

Immediately the Rings knew something was wrong. An entire team of doctors entered with the results: Taylor had a brain tumor. She would be driven from South Bend to Indianapolis by ambulance in an hour.

Jim went home to pack a bag and make arrangements for his other children. He called his supervisor at the DC Cook nuclear plant in Bridgeman, Mich., and was told: "Don't worry about anything, just take care of your family and keep us up to date."

His co-workers, fellow members of South Bend Local 153, spread the news and took up a collection. Within three days, they had deposited a large amount of money into the Rings' checking account.



Jim and Katie Ring with their kids Madison, left, Taylor, Peyton and Emma.

Two days after arriving at Riley hospital, during an 11-hour procedure, neurosurgeons removed 90 percent of Taylor's tumor. But the doctors were concerned that the remaining pieces could branch dangerously into the brain stem. Another surgery to get the rest of the tumor out occurred three days later. Then Taylor's kidneys shut down and the doctors feared she had H1N1. All Jim and Katie could do was pray. A few days later, Taylor improved.

After two weeks, Taylor was well enough to be transferred to another hospital in Indianapolis for radiation treatments. When they got there, the staff needed to be repeatedly reassured there was insurance and the therapy had been approved. Meanwhile, Taylor's room had been filled to overflowing with flowers, balloons and stuffed animals from well-wishers. Katie asked the hospital to distribute some to other patients' rooms in need of brightening.

Seemingly overnight, word spread across the country. They received cards and checks from union electricians in Las Vegas, Florida, Georgia and across the Midwest. The Rings were amazed at the generosity of people they had never met.

Three weeks into the ordeal, Jim returned to work. By that time, his co-workers at the plant had collected more than \$7,000. Electricians from across Local 153 dropped off checks. A news crew covered a pancake breakfast that raised \$6,000. Katie told them, "When all this happened, we

weren't asking anyone for help. They just wanted to."

Seven more weeks of radiation treatment awaited Taylor. The donations, plus the proceeds from another fundraiser, allowed Katie, her mom, Emma, Taylor's twin sister, four-year-old Madison and six-year-old Peyton to stay in Indianapolis while Jim continued to work. Living expenses and medical treatments were racking up at an unbelievable rate.

Altogether, Jim estimates his family received nearly \$30,000 in donations. Without them, Jim and Katie would not have been able to stay in Indianapolis through Taylor's surgeries and the whole family would not have been able to stay together during her treatments. "There were many children who were left parentless during the day because parents were at work due to lack of insurance or mediocre insurance," Katie said.

The union-provided health insurance covered the majority of the medical expenses. The support of the hall was just as important.

It's been a year since all this started. Now almost 3, Taylor's outlook is good, although she will always have to worry about cancer risk, because the radiation that got rid of the last bit of the tumor can cause more tumors.

Katie says before this experience, she really did not know what the union was. She said, "It has made me realize that the union and its people are about a whole lot more than just work."

For more, see the Local 153 Web site at [www.ibew153.com](http://www.ibew153.com). ■

## In Memoriam continued from page 17

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
602	Schumann, C. F.	1/13/2010	1186	Higa, T.	1/2/2010
611	Gallegos, H. L.	1/6/2010	1220	Mitnick, M.	11/30/2009
611	Ray, J. C.	2/4/2010	1245	Cahoon, J. A.	2/1/2010
611	Reyos, L. F.	10/25/2009	1245	Grubisic, J. M.	1/9/2010
611	Sturtz, T. W.	1/30/2010	1245	Lyday, D. P.	10/1/2009
613	Green, M. R.	12/31/2009	1245	Mallory, T. M.	6/16/2009
613	Jennings, T. J.	1/9/2010	1245	Mana, F. J.	2/16/2010
613	Moody, J. A.	1/19/2010	1245	Pearson, D. W.	11/30/2009
613	Walters, J. P.	1/25/2010	1245	Williams, A. B.	8/14/2009
647	Donnell, J. W.	1/25/2010	1249	Gardner, E. G.	1/5/2010
648	George, H. S.	1/7/2010	1316	Griffin, H. E.	1/15/2010
648	Rethford, R. E.	1/15/2010	1319	Kroft, H. L.	12/9/2009
649	Norville, C. D.	11/30/2009	1393	Stanton, E. B.	10/8/2009
654	Hutchinson, B. F.	1/7/2010	1475	Miller, T. H.	1/31/2010
659	Whitaker, J. D.	1/28/2010	1547	Alden, M. L.	10/15/2009
661	Arnold, J. R.	2/9/2010	1547	Clark, M. E.	1/9/2010
663	Bielecki, M.	11/23/2009	1547	Erickson, B. E.	1/27/2010
665	Babcock, J.	1/14/2010	1547	Gross, R. E.	11/21/2009
665	Douglass, J. P.	1/31/2010	1547	Gruca, W. T.	3/13/2008
666	Guyton, S. U.	2/20/2010	1579	Stansell, W. G.	12/26/2009
666	Schooff, M. D.	1/19/2010	1583	Motes, W. B.	1/12/2010
668	Brown, R.	2/1/2010	1625	Clendening, L. F.	1/26/2010
683	Casey, M. P.	1/21/2010	1703	McWhirter, G. J.	1/16/2010
683	Dudley, S. L.	1/31/2010	1710	Bemis, J. W.	2/21/2010
683	New, W. S.	11/28/2009	1924	Crater, D. S.	2/22/2010
684	Dale, W. R.	2/6/2010	2129	Holland, C. W.	6/6/2008
684	Grigsby, H.	5/22/2009	2150	Rhode, M. R.	9/22/2009
684	Nance, J. F.	12/21/2009	2330	Camp, H. B.	11/8/2009
684	Rabelos, T. N.	2/21/2010	I.O. (26)	Sams, R. K.	11/25/2009
697	Bailey, P. G.	2/13/2010	I.O. (134)	Bankston, R. C.	1/26/2010
697	Carnell, P. L.	12/27/2009	I.O. (134)	Fredericksen, R. K.	2/9/2010
697	Smith, T. W.	2/18/2010	Pens. (424)	Kovick, I.	9/4/2009
700	Vafakos, P. J.	11/29/2009	Pens. (835)	Hart, H.	1/24/2010
701	Bartunek, H. R.	12/24/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Allen, J. G.	12/18/2009
701	Nicholson, S. O.	12/18/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Benson, A. J.	2/7/2010
702	Borah, A. K.	11/7/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Birkland, A. M.	12/28/2009
702	Frizzell, E. L.	2/3/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Blakeman, S. G.	8/20/2008
702	McNeely, D. E.	12/29/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Boatright, C. E.	2/1/2010
702	Worley, R. C.	1/20/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Borkstrom, C. A.	12/22/2009
712	Bradley, R. E.	2/19/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Brewer, M. F.	1/22/2010
716	Combs, J. A.	12/4/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Brinker, M. A.	4/15/2007
716	Couch, G. F.	1/22/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Brolin, F. O.	9/1/2009
716	Peirsol, J. P.	12/31/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Burtner, D. P.	1/23/2010
716	Simmons, G. G.	1/10/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Chancey, J. W.	2/15/2010
725	Raley, W. E.	12/14/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Chase, T. E.	1/1/2010
728	Cook, G. E.	1/24/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Christenson, E. C.	1/16/2010
728	Hardekopf, J.	8/11/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Cressey, C. R.	12/29/2009
733	Blackmon, T. W.	1/6/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Davis, C. L.	11/11/2009
734	Southern, F. T.	1/22/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Derby, R.	12/2/2009
738	Stidham, T. D.	2/5/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Flint, W. H.	1/19/2010
756	Plate, T. E.	1/28/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Fournier, R. E.	1/19/2010
760	Bales, C. E.	12/15/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Frakes, S.	11/22/2009
760	Okain, G. L.	1/29/2004	Pens. (I.O.)	Gilmore, W. H.	1/26/2010
760	Roper, J. T.	2/4/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Goodrich, R. A.	1/31/2010
760	Sherrod, C. H.	1/10/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Grimes, J. C.	1/2/2010
768	Paulson, W. L.	1/1/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Hinkle, W. M.	1/31/2010
768	Pedersen, R. A.	2/1/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Huff, W. R.	12/13/2007
774	Hughes, N. S.	1/18/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Johnston, W. H.	12/14/2009
794	Schultz, R. J.	12/30/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Jones, H. W.	2/18/2010
812	Loudenslager, C. V.	1/27/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Kelly, P.	10/1/2009
816	Riley, J. E.	12/22/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Kern, R. E.	12/20/2006
852	Young, C. W.	1/13/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Lindquist, D. F.	4/8/2008
861	Hargrove, J. H.	1/23/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Love, R. G.	12/27/2009
898	Stephens, B. L.	12/18/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Martin, C. L.	1/16/2010
915	Lambo, R. T.	1/22/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Mayer, J. J.	12/29/2009
915	Stephenson, W. H.	1/29/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	McDonald, J. T.	11/27/2009
952	Bluemel, L. K.	1/3/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Moran, R. J.	1/9/2010
952	Chacon, J. L.	12/1/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Morley, W. F.	12/30/2009
952	Chapple, N. L.	5/30/2008	Pens. (I.O.)	Mumma, W. L.	1/31/2010
952	Gonzalez, J.	12/22/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Pate, A. F.	1/12/2010
976	Whitfield, J. D.	1/6/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Prokop, J.	12/29/2009
985	Weaver, T. P.	1/17/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Quick, G. A.	1/20/2010
995	Hutchinson, C. W.	3/24/2008	Pens. (I.O.)	Radez, H. F.	9/26/2009
995	Kelley, H. J.	11/10/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Sandor, S.	7/31/2009
995	Yglesias, J. J.	7/19/2008	Pens. (I.O.)	Sanford, R.	11/17/2009
1049	Christine, W. D.	1/30/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Steele, J. L.	11/17/2009
1049	Rutherford, J. P.	2/15/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Stubblefield, W. J.	2/3/2010
1105	Hohl, W. R.	1/30/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Sutton, J. L.	2/12/2010
1105	Kobel, W. J.	6/26/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Swaney, R. F.	1/18/2010
1141	Sams, H. M.	1/11/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Zimmerman, R. E.	2/1/2010

## February International Executive Council Meeting

## Minutes and Report of the International Executive Council's Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m., by Chairman Pierson, on Monday, February 1, 2010, in Naples, Florida. Other members of the Council in attendance were Lavin, Riley, Calvey, Clarke, Calabro, Lucero and Schoemehl. Due to the hospitalization of council member Dowling's wife, Marga Dowling, he was excused from attending this regularly scheduled meeting. The council members wish to extend their best wishes to Marga for a full recovery.

## International President Hill

International President Edwin D. Hill met with the members of the International Executive Council a number of times to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood.

## International Secretary-Treasurer Lee

International Secretary-Treasurer Lindell Lee presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood—both in Canada and in the United States.

## Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1, of the IBEW Constitution.

## Financial Reports

The International Secretary-Treasurer's reports for the various funds of the Brotherhood were presented to the members of the International Executive Council, examined and filed.

## Local Union Under International Office Supervision

International President Hill advised the Council members that there are no local unions, as of this meeting, under the supervision of the International Office.

## Charges Filed with

## The International Executive Council Against Samuel W. Oaks, Jr., Retired Member of Local Union 306, IBEW

On June 5, 2009, charges were filed with the International Executive Council against Samuel W. Oaks, Jr., Card Number C18668, retired member of Local Union 306, IBEW, Akron, Ohio, by Stephen A. Stock, Organizer, also a member of IBEW Local Union 306.

Brother Stock has charged retiree Oaks with violation of Article XXV, Section 1(f), for a "practice detrimental to the IBEW."

After a thorough review of the facts presented, the council members decided to pend this case until February 1, 2010, at which time additional documentation was presented for further consideration.

On February 4, 2010, International Secretary-Treasurer Lee received a request from Brother Stock wherein he requested to withdrawal his charges against Samuel W. Oaks, Jr. International Secretary-Treasurer Lee presented Brother Stock's request to the members of the council, and based on its presentation, the charges against Brother Oaks were withdrawn.

## Charges Filed with

## The International Executive Council Against Raymond Lambert, Retired Member of Local Union 99, IBEW

On April 15, 2009, charges were filed with the International Executive Council against Raymond Lambert, Card Number D368534, retired member of Local Union 99, Miami, Florida, by Michael Nagle, a member of Local Union 349, IBEW.

Brother Nagle has charged retiree Lambert with violation of Article XXV, Section 1(a), (e), (f), and (g), of being employed by ABC Electric Services, Inc., a contractor not currently holding a letter of assent with Local Union 349, IBEW.

After a thorough review of the facts presented, council members decided to pend this case until February 1, 2010, at which time, additional documentation was presented for further consideration.

Let it also be noted that council member William Riley has recused himself from hearing this case due to his currently holding the position of Business Manager/Financial Secretary of IBEW Local Union 349.

On February 1, 2010, additional documentation was presented, and based on the newly presented facts, Brother Lambert was found guilty, and charged with violation of Article XI, Section 6(d) "Prohibition of Work."

## Charges Filed with

## The International Executive Council Against Terry J. Nemecek, Retired Member of Local Union 405, IBEW

On September 17, 2009, charges were filed with the International Executive Council against Terry J. Nemecek, Card Number D308471, a vested pension member of Local Union 405, IBEW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, by Bill Hanes, also a member and the Business Manager, of IBEW Local Union 405.

Brother Hanes has charged Brother Nemecek of violating Article XI, Section 6(d), "Prohibition of Work," for operating a business, Nemecek Electric, which is currently a non-signatory contractor.

After a thorough review of the facts presented, the council members decided to pend this case until February 1, 2010, at which time, additional documentation was presented for further consideration.

On February 1, 2010, additional documentation was presented, and based on the newly presented facts, Brother Nemecek was found guilty, and charged with violation of Article XI, Section 6(d) "Prohibition of Work."

## Article XX and XXI Cases

The IBEW is not involved in any disputes arising under Article XX of the AFL-CIO Constitution, during 2009. However, two matters involving "organizing responsibilities," under Article XXI developed and are captioned, and recorded, as follows:

## Article XXI ORP 09-1—

## Cingular Wireless (AT&amp;T Mobility)

Dispute arose from a campaign the CWA originally registered under the AFL-CIO's Strategic Campaign Registration Program in 2004, targeting what was then Cingular Wireless and is now AT&T Mobility.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council's Article XXI Oversight Panel rejected the limitations the IBEW sought to impose on CWA's SCRP, and extended the registration for another two years. Although the Panel made clear in its decision that CWA cannot interfere with Local 1547's existing bargaining relationship with AT&T Mobility, the result of these two decisions is to bar the local from strengthening its representation by securing a statewide unit.

## Article XXI ORP 09-2—

## Tennessee Valley Authority

IBEW Local Unions currently represent approximately 3,000 annual TVA employees (as well as another 3,000 contractor employees on TVA's site.) The locals launched a campaign in 2008 to organize an additional 3,000 TVA transmission and generating plant technicians and field engineers represented by the Engineering Association ("EA"), an independent union. As the campaign gained strength, the IBEW filed for Article XXI protection. At a mediation session on the petition, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Employees ("IFPTE") stated that, although they were seeking to represent these employees, they were not engaged in organizing. Instead, they had negotiated a merger agreement with the EA, which they were about to submit for membership approval.

Article XXI deals with traditional forms of organizing, and not with union mergers or affiliations. Accordingly, Article XXI protection for the IBEW's campaign at TVA would not have precluded the IFPTE from proceeding with its merger plans with the EA. The IBEW therefore withdrew its petition. The membership of the EA subsequently voted to approve the merger and joined the IFPTE.

## Article XXI ORP 08-2—

## AT&amp;T Yellowpages.com

As reported at the last meeting, the IBEW has been engaged in an ongoing dispute with CWA that arose from an Article XXI petition the IBEW filed in April, 2008, seeking exclusive right to organize employees at AT&T's Yellowpages.com. The Article XXI mediator, Sarah Fox, issued a final decision finding that neither union was entitled to an exclusivity award. She also found it unlikely that either union would win an election if they continued to compete in the same locations, and therefore assigned each union exclusive organizing rights in different states, based on the locations in which each then represented AT&T employees performing similar tasks.

## The Next Regular International Council Meeting

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Thursday, February 4, 2010.

The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

## For the International Executive Council Patrick Lavin, Secretary February 2010

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund. For a complete listing, consult [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org), clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "About Us" page.