

IBEW JOURNAL

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April 2004

Taking Us Out To the Ball Game





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anchors Away

It would seem the United States mirrors the ship Titanic with our industrial base quickly exiting our home shores taking with them many jobs, to, of all places, China.

So much for patriotism—it would seem the only patriots in America are the workers.

Now is the time to vote for change.

H. C. McGarity, Jr.,
Local 20 member, Dallas, Texas

Not Convinced

As a Republican and a journeyman in Local 3 in New York, I resent your “Bush Bashing” and all your socialist propaganda. My own local, (which adores Hillary Clinton) tells us to boycott Wal-Mart because of its working conditions and underpaid employees. However, they don't tell the membership that Ms. Clinton was and may still be on the Wal-Mart board of directors. Anyway, come November, my vote and my wife's vote WILL go to “DUBBYA” again.

Stephen J. Lalino
Local 3 member, New York, New York

Think Before You Vote

American workers, wake up and smell the coffee! I've been an IBEW member for nine years and due to lack of work, I've been on the road. I wonder how many other brothers and sisters are in the same situation, not due to any fault of their own? Ask any spouse and family how this problem has affected their lives also.

It is about time that we as American workers put a stop to this intolerable situation. Why do we as blue collar workers tolerate these companies by buying their products, made overseas? Companies that pay their workers pennies a day and whose executives make six to eight figures a year?

So America, get off your apathetic back side and do something about this enormous problem. Just think, how many workers have been evicted in the past three years? How many trades workers have lost their job, textile, electronic, steel workers? The next job may be yours! Before you vote the next president into office, please just think.

Larry Minton
Local 453 member Springfield, Missouri

Like it or Not

I was outraged when reading the January/February letters where Local 238 member Mike Nix said to drop Local 22 member George Bostick's ticket because of his beliefs.

Last time I checked, we lived in America where we have this thing called freedom of speech. Bostick has the right to say what he believes even though some members might not like it. So, Brother Nix, next time you say to drop someone's ticket—maybe you should drop yours instead. We have

(Continued on page 28)

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

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IBEW JOURNAL

April 2004

Volume 103

Number 3

14

TWO BALLPARKS

COVER

Taking Us Out To the Ball Game

14 Two Cities, Two Sports, Two Parks

On the Cover: Local 569, San Diego, California, members were the first team to perform on the new Petco Field, readying it for this season's opener.



FEATURES

Overtime Pay in Jeopardy for Millions Of Americans

10 New Department of Labor Plan Likely to Hit Workers in the Wallet

Eyes in the Sky

18 Airborne IBEW Local 45 Members are Camera-Wielding Professionals

Summary Annual Report

29 Pension Benefit Fund

18

UNION IN THE SKY



12

LON WORKS® TRAINING



DEPARTMENTS

2 President's Message

3 Secretary-Treasurer's Message

4 IBEW Currents

A Letter from a Business Manager; Brothers Back Home, Local 777 Brother

Peters and Local 1688

Brother York Awarded Medals; Union Labor, Pension Fund Financing Fuel Historic Mall Project; and more...

9 Safety Corner

Former Nuclear Workers May Be Eligible for Benefits

12 Tech Beat

NJATC Offers LonWorks® Training

20 Local Lines

28 In Memoriam Announcement

On The Move

Buildings are powerful symbols. For many in the IBEW, they are the end product of what we do.

Your International Union leadership has decided that the needs of the IBEW, including financial considerations, have made this the time for the IBEW to have a new home.

After careful consideration and considerable research, we have sold our current building at 1125 15th Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C., and are purchasing a new structure that will better suit the IBEW's needs and represent responsible stewardship of our Brotherhood's resources.

The IBEW has had a number of headquarters in its history. Past leaders have made the decision to move based on practical and financial reasons, just as we have done today. We have worked out of our current location since 1970. For more than 30 years, it has served us well. But just as our leaders then had the vision to obtain a new headquarters, so too the financial well-being of the Brotherhood and the need for a modern facility to serve our membership made it clear that another move is in the best interests of the IBEW.

Our current International Office building is in need of a major renovation. To make the needed repairs and technological upgrades would have cost in the vicinity of \$50 million. The lack of an upgraded facility along with the amount of space we occupy in the current building has reduced the amount of rental income we have been able to generate. These factors were leaving us in a position that was not good for our operations.

The current building has been sold for \$66 million, far more than we expected. The investment that the IBEW leadership undertook in 1970 proved to be a wise one, with real estate in prime locations in downtown Washington selling at a premium.

The move makes financial sense when we factor in the amount we made from the sale of the current building along with a restructuring of our operations in our future headquarters. Our new building, now entering the final stages of construction, is located at 900 Seventh Street, N.W., in

Washington's Chinatown neighborhood. This once struggling area has seen a dramatic rebirth in recent years and is now one of the most desirable locations for organizations seeking downtown offices.

The amount of square footage that the IBEW staff will occupy will be reduced, allowing us to maximize our income from rentals. We already have solid or likely commitments to fill the entire building.

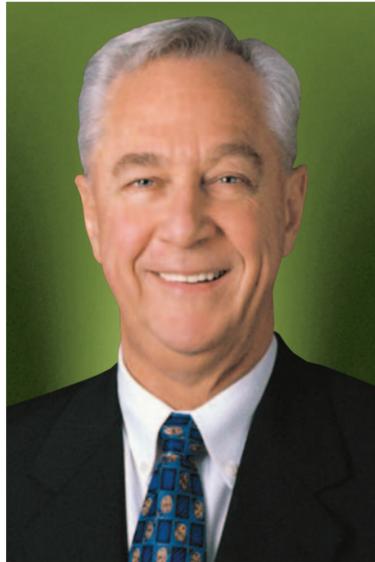
Taken together, the proceeds from the sale of the 15th Street building along with the expected rental income at the new building will actually generate a net financial *gain* for the Brotherhood.

The National Electrical Benefit Fund is a proud investor in the new building. Part of the NEBF's Project Millennium, this real estate investment symbolizes the high quality construction and investment return NEBF trustees demand. This project has been putting local union building trades—including members of IBEW Locals 26, 70 and 1900—to work, while protecting pension dollars for current and future retirees.

The decision to move was a business decision, but it will be more than that. Readers of the *Journal* have seen articles in recent years about how many of our locals have opened new state-of-the-art headquarters and training facilities. These facilities are more than just bricks, concrete, glass and wires. They are solid investments for our union and points of pride for our members.

So too, the new International Office will serve as a symbol of the IBEW and all that we are and can be for the future. Our new headquarters will have state-of-the-art electrical and VDV systems. It will be partially powered by solar panels. It will house new and expanded archives of the Brotherhood. It will be a new address and a new era for the IBEW.

And wouldn't it be great if our move in early 2005 coincides with a change of occupant at another Washington location—the White House?



EDWIN D. HILL
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

“IT WILL BE A NEW ADDRESS AND A NEW ERA FOR THE IBEW.”

Still Looking

President Bush is still looking for someone he knows will help stop the flow of jobs out of America.

He had made a big splash several months earlier with the announcement that he was looking for a “manufacturing czar,” an individual who could help to find solutions to the “loss of thousands of jobs in manufacturing... some of it because production moved overseas.” He was getting ready to announce his choice, Tony Raimondo, when the word got out that Tony wasn't part of the solution, but part of the problem.

In 2002, Raimondo, CEO of Behlin Inc., a Nebraska metal buildings manufacturer, put 75 U.S. workers on the street. Then he set up a 180-worker factory in China. Raimondo had a history of abusing workers. He had played “divide and conquer” in a successful effort to decertify a union. Raimondo was fined \$123,000 by OSHA for unsafe conditions in his factory. He was a board member of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), a group that is fighting to cut overtime protections, stop an increase in the minimum wage and weaken workplace safety laws.

If he could have kept his dirty laundry off the front page, Raimondo would have fit well with Dr. Gregory Mankiw, the President's chief economist, on leave from his professorship at Harvard. As President Hill noted in his column last month, Mankiw openly praised the outsourcing of American jobs. His statement fired up folks across the political spectrum. GOP Rep. Donald Manzullo (Ill.) said: “He ought to walk away, and return to his ivy-covered office at Harvard.”

Even some small and medium-sized manufacturers, the President's traditional supporters, members of Raimondo's NAM, are expressing anguish about the export of U.S. manufacturing. And here's the President's economist and his would-be “manufacturing czar” cheering on the competition. I wonder how the 2,000 IBEW members at Agere System's plants in Pennsylvania

feel about that. Agere is the world's leading manufacturer of microelectronics for the telecommunications industry. IBEW members are highly trained. But Agere, like Raimondo's Behlin and hundreds of other companies, is “decommissioning” the remaining Pennsylvania plants and moving work to China, forcing our members into early retirement or unemployment.

It gets worse. In his report, Dr. Mankiw questioned the very definition of “manufacturing.” He asked if a fast-food restaurant that sells hamburgers is involved in “manufacturing.” Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.) asked if “the 163,000 factory workers who have lost their jobs in Michigan will find it heartening to know that a world of opportunity awaits them in high growth manufacturing careers like spatula operator, napkin restocking, and lunch tray removal.” But, Mankiw is still putting on the happy face, insisting that “market forces” will create new jobs.

What kind of new jobs are being created? Thirty million Americans make less than \$8.70 an hour, the official US poverty level for a family of four. It is estimated that low-wage jobs will make up 30 percent of the economy by the end of the decade. There is honor in work, whether one works in a hotel or cares for our elders in a nursing home. These workers deserve to be organized and respected with decent pay and health care.

The problem is that a service economy cannot sustain a decent standard of living for our nation's workers. Manufacturing is needed to sustain the tax base of communities and provide the impetus for job growth projects from railroads to utilities, new infrastructure, new technologies.

Tony Raimondo got only fifteen minutes of fame. Not to worry. He and his fellow corporate scoundrels have Dr. Mankiw and his staff of 20 working hard to help him.

Dr. Minkow is not the kind of doctor that we sue for malpractice. But we can send him the way of Tony Raimondo by defeating his “free trade” benefactors, Bush and Cheney, the first Administration in 58 years to preside over a loss of jobs. Bring it on.



JEREMIAH J. O'CONNOR
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

“IT IS ESTIMATED THAT LOW-WAGE JOBS WILL MAKE UP 30 PERCENT OF THE ECONOMY BY THE END OF THE DECADE.”

Letter From a Brother

The following letter was sent to the Journal by Local 278, Corpus Christi, Texas, Business Manager Robert Shake. It brings a sobering first-person account of the damage wrought by asbestos on countless workers.

February 26, 2004

To the *IBEW Journal*:

I never thought I would become one of the people I was always trying to help since I became involved in the labor movement. You know, the guy willing to show up every day to work on a construction job, put in a good day's work for good wages and benefits, but is lied to, or not told about the dangers of materials he works with. Now I am one of those guys. I have been diagnosed with mesothelioma, cancer caused by exposure to asbestos. I started working in the trade in 1961. Along about 1973 they started telling us that for some years asbestos was known to be dangerous. I can remember before 1973 I was working on jobs where insulation was being torn from pipes, asbestos was floating in the air like snowflakes and about all you could do was go to the rag box and get one big enough to tie around your face.

I realize that even today there are materials out there that are affecting workers in a bad way and somebody is covering up just to make a bigger profit. As I am writing this letter it remains to be seen if I can be treated. If not, it is quite possible I might not be able to vote in the next general election. I so desperately want to vote against the current administration what with their trashing OSHA'S work force ergonomic recommendations after a ten year study, their cutting EPA funding, and saying it is okay to have the polluters police themselves. They are no better than the deceiving bastards that withheld information from us 30 years ago.

I belong to the best union in the world and the best labor movement in the world. Please think of what really matters when you vote.
Best wishes for a better workplace tomorrow.

Fraternally

Robert S. Shake, Business Manager
Local Union 278, Corpus Christi, Texas

Robert Shake



BROTHERS BACK HOME



J. R. MacDonald

Jeffrey Lodge has returned from Afghanistan to re-join his co-workers in Local 490, Dover, New Hampshire. Brother Lodge won an honorable mention in the 8th Annual IBEW photo contest (Dec. 2003). His picture showed him standing in front of an IBEW banner with other union brothers serving in Afghanistan. Lodge returned home with handcrafted rugs for the Local 490 union hall. They were his thank-you gift to local members who paid his union dues and sent him "goodie baskets" of candy, maple syrup, playing cards, local newsletters and the *IBEW Journal* during his tour.

J. R. MacDonald, Local 1984 member, has returned to his locomotive electrician job at CSX Transportation in Waycross, Georgia, after serving two years in Iraq with the 224th Joint Communications Support Squadron. His tour of two years and three months included four months in Qatar.

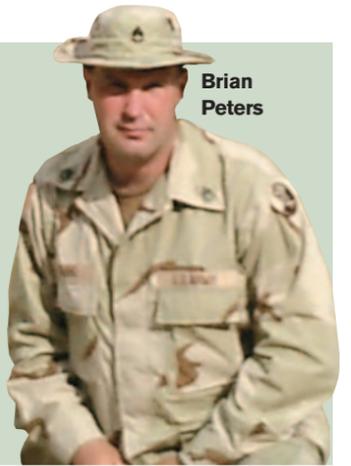
LOCAL 777'S BRIAN PETERS AWARDED BRONZE STAR IN IRAQ

SSG Brian Peters, an IBEW meter reader from Lebanon, Pennsylvania, was awarded the Bronze Star for valor while serving in Iraq with the 94th Military Police Company. Brian's picture was featured in *Newsweek* and in a documentary on the *History Channel*.

On June 19, 2003, Peter's unit was sent to the Syrian border in pursuit of Saddam Hussein and his sons. When the unit crossed the border, pursuing a vehicle, Syrian military

guards confronted the Americans with guns drawn. SSG Peters bravely approached the guards and assured them that no aggression was directed against them. Peters stayed with the Syrian guards until his unit had inspected the vehicle that turned out to be empty.

The IBEW shares in the pride with Brian's mother Pam and father Terry, a lead lineman in 777 and a former unit chairman.



Brian Peters

Gary York, Local 1688, Wins Defense of Freedom Medal in Iraq

Gary York doesn't consider himself a hero. He didn't plan to earn the Defense of Freedom Medal. And he certainly didn't plan to get shot in a firefight in Iraq. All he wanted to do was help the Iraqis rebuild their electrical system.

Brother York is the vice president and assistant business manager of Local 1688 and works for the US Army Corps of Engineers as a senior controller at Gavins Point Dam in South Dakota. Last Sept. 21 he left his home in Yankton, South Dakota, and volunteered for Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity.

York's mission went smoothly until Christmas Eve. Ambushers struck his convoy of three SUV's as it traveled the main highway to Baghdad. The convoy was protected by Iraqi contract guards. A red car attacked the rear vehicle first, killing one of the guards. The attackers then struck the second SUV driven by York. "I took a round that went through the door post of my car and went into my head just in front of my ear," York said.

An Iraqi guard in York's vehicle was killed; the SUV ran into the ditch. York and his passengers took heavy fire from shooters, who were hiding behind a berm at an Iraqi farm, and from occupants of the red attack car. York and the survivors of the rear vehicle crawled about 100 yards along the ditch until they reached the lead vehicle.

"The dirt all around us was alive with bullets hitting ahead, behind, and around



Brig. Gen. William Grisoli, Northwest Division Commander, honors Brother Gary York, Local 1688, with Defense of Freedom Medal for heroism in Iraq.

us," said York. Everyone piled into the lead vehicle.

York and the others took off with the car doors open; occupants continued shooting at the enemy. They were forced to leave their two dead comrades behind.

"The red car had retreated, which gave us a chance to escape. We found out later that our guards had killed one occupant of the red car. Army military police arrested the others."

They sped to an Iraqi police checkpoint, where they unloaded the Iraqi guards and their wounded, who were transported to an Iraqi hospital.

York directed the driver of the lead vehicle to a U.S. Army outpost at Brassfield-Mora. From there the group was transported by Medivac helicopter to the 28th Combat Support Hospital at Camp Speicher in Tikrit. Army surgeons oper-

ated on York to remove the bullet from his head. He was then flown to another combat support hospital in the Green Zone in Baghdad.

On Dec. 29, 2003, York was flown to the Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany where he was joined by his wife, Jane. After a flight back to the U.S., he spent time in convalescence and under observation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; he was then released to return to South Dakota.

On Feb. 20, York was presented the Defense of Freedom Medal by Brig. Gen. William Grisoli, Northwestern Division Commander, in a

ceremony at the Gavins Point Powerhouse in Yankton. The Defense of Freedom award is the civilian equivalent to the Purple Heart.

"Heroes are not just those folks you read about in the paper," said Grisoli during the ceremony. "They're normal people, people who make a difference."

York believes that his sacrifice was for a good cause. He says: "... Saddam [Hussein] routed electrical power to his location. Sometimes he left the rest of the country in the dark. There are challenges in Iraq that you can meet head-on without going through all the red tape. It's very rewarding."

Jane York said that she is "Very proud because I know this is something he really wanted to do. He was torn about having to come back here early, and would love the opportunity to return to Iraq."

(Currents continued on next page)

LOCAL 25 BUSINESS MANAGER BOB DOW APPOINTED COMMISSIONER OF LABOR—SUFFOLK COUNTY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK



Bob Dow

On January 13, 2004, members of Long Island, New York, Local 25 cheered for Bob Dow as he stepped down as business agent to accept appointment as Suffolk County Commissioner of Labor. Now all workers in Suffolk will benefit from Dow's rich leadership and expertise. *Newsday* reported that representatives of many unions urged the County Council to support Dow's nomination—he was approved by a vote of 15-0.

This is not the first time that Local 25 has sent its leaders on to positions of greater influence. Brother John Guadagno, a Local 25 member, said: "We have hit the Trifecta—three straight winners—former Business Manager Jack Kennedy-President of the Building Trades Council; former Business Manager Bill Lindsay-Suffolk County Legislator; and now former Business Manager Bob Dow-Suffolk County Commissioner of Labor."

Skies Still Cloudy: Nav Canada Workers Fight On

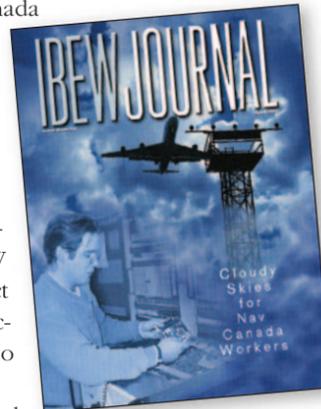
Across Canada, IBEW members employed by Canada's privatized air navigation system (ANS) have worked more than three years without a contract and are continuing their fight for justice.

"Cloudy Skies for Nava Canada Workers," an April 2003 *Journal* cover story, outlined the history of IBEW Local 2228's Nav Canada battle.

In 1996 Canada's air navigation system was privatized and Nav Canada took over ANS operations. In August 2000, the IBEW Local 2228 Nav Canada contract expired—and members have effectively been denied the right to strike.

Approximately 800 IBEW Local 2228 electronic technologists and technicians are based at Nav Canada air navigation sites from Newfoundland to British Columbia. These highly trained IBEW members install and maintain ANS technologies, including the electronic equipment air traffic controllers operate. Local 2228's head office is located in Ottawa, Ontario.

Local 2228 Executive Board member Dan Weber, the local's press secretary, reported recently "Our options for any successful legal labour action are extremely limited. The Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) has yet to rule on 'Maintenance of Activities,' which pertains to required staffing levels during a strike. It was also clear the company was not prepared to negotiate."



The union was "left with little alternative other than to agree to binding arbitration," Weber noted. Presentations were made to the arbitration panel in December 2003. "The local's presentation was outstanding, thanks to the fine work of Brothers Dominic Foglia, Dan Boulet, Larry Roine and our Negotiating Team," Weber said.

"Our members remain frustrated, not only with the intransigence of the company, but also with the poor performance of the CIRB," Weber said. "We hope the panel will recognize the value of this group of dedicated men and women and have the fortitude to impose a fair settlement. Hope, however, does not translate to optimism for most of the membership. There may still be more years of frustration ahead."

The arbitration panel subsequently met, but Local 2228 didn't expect results of the binding arbitration until possibly late March 2004.

On a somewhat brighter note, there have been positive changes in the management of Nav Canada and signs of a more productive relationship, according to Local 2228 representatives.

"We urge the members to stay strong, work to build the strength of their union and above all, not to carry work frustrations into their homes," said Local 2228 Business Manager Paul C. Morse.

IBEW SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Being stuck in the hospital over the holidays is no fun for anyone, particularly children enduring ongoing medical treatments. So four years ago, journeyman inside wireman Vicki Loy decided to do something about it.

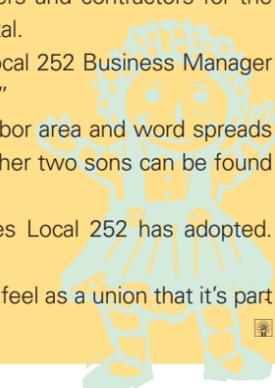
Since then, the Local 252, Ann Arbor, Michigan member has spearheaded an annual charity drive that has raised more than \$12,000 from fellow members and contractors for the children at the University of Michigan C. S. Mott Children's Hospital.

"The children can be there for a long period of time," said Local 252 Business Manager Gregory Stephens. "She wants to try to brighten their Christmas."

Loy places collection cans at union job sits across the Ann Arbor area and word spreads quickly about the effort. When the holiday draws close, Loy and her two sons can be found purchasing and then delivering the gifts in person.

Stephens said Mott's is among the several charitable causes Local 252 has adopted. They have a similar program for veterans at the V.A. Hospital.

"We try to give back to the community," Stephens said. "We feel as a union that it's part of our mission."



Union Labor, Pension Fund Financing Fuel Historic Mall Project

Building and Construction Trades Council presidents officially commence the \$150 million construction project to expand Tysons Corner mall. Shown are Laborers President Terry O'Sullivan, left, Plumbers and Pipefitters President Martin Maddaloni, President Hill, Teamsters President James Hoffa, Ironworkers President Joseph Hunt and BCTD President Edward Sullivan.

The first major all-union construction project in the state of Virginia officially kicked off February 3 with the ceremonial cutting of a red ribbon by several building trades leaders.

Five international building trades leaders joined IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill for the official commencement of the expansion and renovation of Tysons Corner Center in Northern Virginia, one of the largest shopping malls in the United States. The National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF), which provides retirement and related benefits to IBEW members and contractors, is a major investor in the \$150 million project. NEBF's large role in the Tysons expansion ensures it—like all real estate projects in which the fund invests—will be built 100 percent union. This is significant because Virginia is a right-to-work state that has traditionally been unfriendly turf for organized labor.

The other union presidents attending the ribbon-cutting were: Edward Sullivan of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO; James Hoffa of the Teamsters; Joseph Hunt of the Iron Workers; Martin Maddaloni of the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters, and Terry O'Sullivan of the Laborers.

For the past four years, the NEBF has harnessed its significant financial capital to "recycle" pension dollars to invest in high-quality projects that produce solid returns and create union jobs—all while

protecting the funds for future retirement benefits. The program, dubbed Project Millennium, generates new jobs that produce more pension contributions that make the fund even stronger. The win-win-win rationale of Project Millennium has resulted in the creation of more than 7 million man-hours of union electrical work and the investment of over \$10 billion. And it gives the NEBF the freedom to invest in places that have not always embraced unions. Project Millennium helped build the Physicians Medical Office in Dallas, Texas, in the first all union project in Texas since the 1980s.

"I'm proud that we're putting these funds to work in ways that create jobs," said IBEW President Edwin D. Hill.

In remarks before the ribbon cutting, IBEW Secretary-Treasurer Jerry O'Connor said that superior quality, technical expertise and efficiency are the hallmarks of union construction. "This Tysons Corner Center expansion will be just such an investment—a project we can all be proud of," said O'Connor, who is an NEBF trustee. Former NECA President Rod Borden, an electrical contractor who is a trustee of the NEBF, was also on hand for the ceremony.

With the help of the NEBF, what is now the tenth largest mall in the country will become the sixth-largest. The mall will add a 16-screen movie theater, a two-story Barnes and Noble bookstore, several restaurants, an upscale food court, additional retail stores and a parking lot. It is expected to be finished by August 2005. Within five years, annual sales at the mall are expected to exceed \$1 billion.

Also participating in the ribbon-cutting were NEBF investment officials and leaders of building trades locals and unionized contractors from the Washington, D.C. area that will benefit from the work, including electrical contractor VarcoMac Electric, a NECA signator with Local 26. The project is expected to create 1,000 building trades jobs.

IBEW Local 26 Business Manager Chuck Graham said a union project of the scale of the Tysons Corner mall expansion, while commonplace in Washington, D.C. and Maryland, is unheard of in Virginia.

"I think it's a great opportunity for the community of Northern Virginia to see that unions can work together and for the betterment of the community," Graham said.

IBEW's National Women's Conference
Coming Soon to Washington, D. C.

Watch www.ibew.org for exact dates and location.

(Currents continued on next page)

Local 34's Mike Cheatham Named Citizen of the Year—Bartonsville, Illinois

Mike Cheatham, a foreman at Oberlander Electric, assistant chief for the Bartonsville Fire Department and 30-year member of Local 34, has been named Citizen of the Year (2003) in Bartonsville, Illinois. Cheatham's brother, Kevin, is also a member of Local 34 and serves as a captain in the Fire Department.

The February 2004 issue of *The Labor Paper*, produced by the West Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, featured an article on Cheatham's many accomplishments in the community.



Mike Cheatham

Cheatham, an apprentice instructor for Local 34, joined the Fire Department on his 21st birthday. He has served also as a Cub Scout leader, an assistant hockey coach, deacon at Bethel Baptist Church and CPR instructor for the American Heart Association. Mike served for four years on the Bartonsville School Board, two as president. He credits his wife of 20 years, Charlene, a 911 supervisor, for having the patience to support him in all of his community activities.

Brian Fenger, Bartonsville police chief and member of Laborers Local 165 told *The Labor Paper*: "... [Mike] is an excellent guy, who is very pleasant and easy to work with. If there's a difference of opinion, he listens well and he explains his position. We always get it worked out with no hard feelings."

Vernon Lungrin of Local 480 Succumbs to Throat Cancer



Vernon Lungrin

The IBEW regrets to announce the death of retired Local 480, Jackson, Mississippi, member Vernon Lungrin, the World War II and on-the-job hero who was featured in the March 2004 issue of the *IBEW Journal*. He had survived Japanese captivity and a 1981 acid spill that burned away part of a foot, but died February 25, following complications with throat cancer. He was 83. His sons Samuel Vernon Jr. (Sam) and Gary T. (Ted) are also members of Local 490.

TRANSITIONS

The IBEW is saddened to report the February 28, 2004, death of retired Third District International Representative Mede C. Milsom. The Pennsylvania native and longtime IBEW member was 80 years old.

Brother Milsom was initiated into Local 1914, Harwick, Pennsylvania, in 1956. A machinist with Westinghouse, he served the local union in a variety of positions, including chief steward and member of the negotiating committee before being elected business manager

DECEASED



Mede C. Milsom

and president in 1964.

He was tapped as a Third District International Representative in 1976, a position he held until his retirement in 1992.

Brother Milsom was a World War II Navy veteran and was a Mason. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and square dancing.

The International officers, staff and employees of the IBEW send their deepest condolences to his daughter, grandchildren, great grandchildren and many friends.

The IBEW regrets to announce the death February 24, 2004, of Canadian brother Medley J. LeBlanc, who was initiated into the Brotherhood in 1946 and was an International Representative when he retired in 1976. He was 88 years old.

A member of Local 1524, St. John, New Brunswick, he served his local as treasurer, vice president and president before he was appointed to the International Staff in 1952. As an International Representative, he assisted in organizing drives in eastern Canada at that time.

A native of Nova Scotia, Brother LeBlanc attended St.

DECEASED



Medley J. LeBlanc

John Vocational School for electrical training, then served two years in the Royal Canadian Engineers and was a member of the IBEW for 58 years. He and his wife Isabel had one son, Medley J. Jr.

An avid sportsman, he played senior hockey for

seven seasons and was a member of the Canadian Nature Federation, the Hammond River Angling Association and two other associations promoting salmon fishing and conservation. He was also a member of the Maritime Fiddlers Association and counted music, boating and wood finishing among his greatest interests.

Former Nuclear Workers May Be Eligible for Benefits



The Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) of the AFL-CIO is helping streamline the process for workers seeking benefits related to past work at nuclear weapons plants. They are assisting workers verifying employment histories to speed up payment of claims for illnesses that might be tied to work that was done as long ago as World War II.

The BCTD work is being done by the Center to Protect Workers' Rights (CPWR) and the U.S. Department of Labor to smooth the process so union members will receive the medical and financial help they deserve.

Under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, which took effect July 31, 2001, former workers who have chronic beryllium disease, radiation-related cancers, and chronic silicosis are eligible for medical care. They or their survivors are also eligible for \$150,000.

The process of paying former nuclear workers has been slowed by incomplete Energy Department records showing proof of employment. The Department of Labor has processed more than 47,800 claims in just over two years, but only 9,143 have been paid.

If DOE records do not prove a worker's employment at a weapons plant, the Department of Labor can use Social Security, union records or statements from coworkers or other contacts. For help with union records, the Department of Labor has contracted with CPWR, with assistance from the University of Cincinnati Medical School, Zenith Administrators, and affiliated building trades unions.

CPWR and its partners are searching local-union dispatch, health and welfare, and pension records. Some local unions have records from the mid-1950s. The program runs through June 2004.

To learn about the compensation program, call 1-888-859-7211.

In a separate program, CPWR, the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Duke University Medical Center, Zenith, and local Building Trades councils since 1998 have conducted free screenings of more than 4,500 former construction and maintenance workers at some DOE nuclear facilities to find possible health hazards related to past work. The screenings are continuing for workers at Savannah River, Oak Ridge, and Hanford, and have recently been expanded to Paducah, Kentucky, and Portsmouth, Ohio. Information from the screenings can help a worker decide whether to file a claim with the Department of Labor.

Time is limited for the screenings and the compensation program. To learn more about the screenings, call 1-800-866-9663.



Overtime Pay in Jeopardy For Millions of Americans

Under a new Department of Labor plan likely to be imposed by April 1, up to eight million American workers will be required to work overtime without being paid time-and-a-half pay.

At that time, the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act—the wage and hour law that forms the income scale foundation for America's hourly work force—will be weakened significantly. Although the changes have faced forceful opposition by both parties in Congress and by hundreds of thousands of working Americans, U.S. Labor Department Secretary Elaine Chao has the authority to change the rules by administrative order. Under such a fiat, jobs qualifying certain titles of workers for overtime will be altered.

"We are witnessing the unraveling of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the guardian of the wage and hour law for generations," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "Now millions of workers will be held hostage to the whims of employers no longer bound by law to provide decent, fair compensation on the job."

The change in the FLSA would exempt many military veterans from eligibility if their training was gained in the armed services rather than in a civilian professional school. "This is not exactly the gratitude one would expect for the men and women who have made such an incredible sacrifice," said Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) during a last-ditch effort in March to forestall the overtime change.

The erosion of the country's long-standing wage and hour laws concerns even those whom the changes are not expected to affect, at least initially.

"In the construction business, a lot of members look to work overtime during the season, so they have extra money stored for the cyclical downturns," said Local 58, Detroit member Derek Penning-

ton, an inside wireman. "This is going to effect everyone who's not CEOs or management."

And weaker employment laws, coupled with an administration that has published outright guidelines for employers to avoid paying overtime, do not give IBEW members much hope for gains at the bargaining table.

"Anytime something like this happens, it's a wedge that gets used against us at contract time," said Local 2304 Business Manager Dave Poklinkoski, Madison, Wisconsin.

The full effects of the law may not be apparent for months or years, said an economist for the Economic Policy Institute.

"This is a problem that could snowball over time," said Jared Bernstein, a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute. "There's no way, if this rule is implemented on March 31, that 8 million people will immediately lose

their overtime protection. It will be eroded over time as employers begin to take advantage of the new exemptions."

While the government has touted the new law for making approximately 1.3 million more workers eligible for overtime pay, the Labor Department has

published a list of ways employers may avoid paying it. One option included making a "payroll adjustment" that results in "virtually no or only a minimal increase in labor costs," by cutting workers' hourly wages to make regular and overtime pay equal to the original salary. Or employers can provide workers just enough of a raise to

put them above the new cutoff that make them ineligible for overtime under the new rules. So, employers could lawfully require employees to work as many hours as they want, without paying them more.

"You'd think with 10 million Americans out of work, the Labor Department would want to find a way to help those who do have jobs work more, not less," President Hill said.

"NOW MILLIONS OF WORKERS WILL BE HELD HOSTAGE TO THE WHIMS OF EMPLOYERS NO LONGER BOUND BY A LAW THAT MANDATES DECENT, FAIR COMPENSATION FOR TIME ON THE JOB!"



Opportunity Knox.

You have everything to gain by going to this year's National Training Institute, July 31–August 7, Knoxville, TN



Attention all IBEW members:

The National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee invites you for an intense weeklong training session at the National Training Institute in Knoxville, Tennessee, July 31–August 7, 2004. Come and learn all you can about the latest technologies in the electrical industry. It's in-depth. It's affordable. Most importantly, it's all relevant to what you do! Don't miss out on this great opportunity. It's all happening in Knoxville!

For more information, please fax your name and complete home address—along with your Local Union number—to the NJATC at 865-380-9795—or email the info to stevea@njatc.org



The Future is Now!

NJATC training available in LonWorks-Building Automation System Technology

There's an old saying, "You snooze-you lose." IBEW members cannot afford to be snoozing as contractors hunt for individuals who are competent in LonWorks building automation system technology.

The National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (NJATC) is sending out a wake-up call by offering comprehensive LonWorks training. Check out the schedule and enroll now.

What is LonWorks?

LonWorks® is an open interoperable platform, which was developed by the Echelon Corporation. It enables man-

ufacturers to create many different devices, called nodes, which can then communicate over a common network to provide monitoring and control in a building or system.

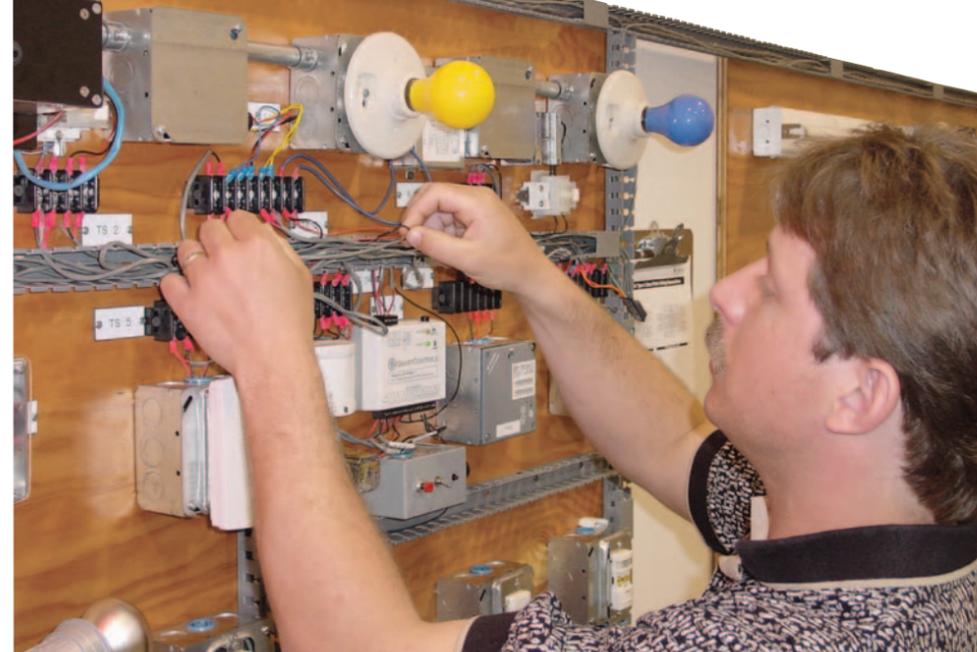
LonWorks lets the systems in buildings talk to each other. Often components for energy management, environmental control systems, HVAC, security, access control and lighting are proprietary to the manufacturer of each system. Building owners are forced to rely upon different sources of parts for each system in the building. With

LonWorks, they have a solution to the dilemma. This new building automation system (BAS) utilizes networked control to provide a building and system operation in which the components can communicate—and at a lower installation cost.

The new technology does not depend upon hard-wired (switch loop) designs to provide monitoring or control of devices or systems. Here are some examples:

- The San Diego International Airport needed to link a newly renovated facility with its existing buildings since the buildings were on opposite sides of the parking lot. To excavate and bury new control wiring would have been cost prohibitive and would have interrupted an airport that services more than 14 million passengers annually with hundreds of daily flights. The solution was a networked building automation system that utilized the airport's existing Ethernet network to provide monitoring and control of the new facility's systems. Since the buildings were already connected via Ethernet, the parking lot did not need to be disturbed.
- In Laredo, Texas, the same technology is being used to provide electric utility customers with the capability of monitoring electrical power usage by homes or businesses to automatically control their appliances, limiting electric costs.
- New buildings all over the country are utilizing this networked architecture. The Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, Trump Plaza in New York City, the Westin Hotel in Denver and the Kennedy Airport's FAA facility in Queens all use networked controls, rather than traditional designs.

An additional value of these networked systems is their ability to provide monitoring of the system anywhere on the net-



Louis Acampora, Local 380, Collegeville, Pennsylvania, member checks wiring to a LonWorks node on a trainer during class at the NJATC in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

work. With the addition of Internet routers, networks can be located in physically separated locations communicating as if they were in the same building. Maintenance and engineering functions can be centralized in a single location, often miles or states away from the primary system; rather than having those functions in each facility. Contractors and System Integrators can access building functions and perform troubleshooting or

make necessary changes from remote locations as well.

What Is At Stake For IBEW Members?

Since LonWorks brings together diverse systems such as HVAC, security, access control and energy management, many competing trades and service providers are moving toward embracing

Training is available in LonWorks Technology from the IBEW/NECA Training Resource, the NJATC.

2004 LONWORKS INSTALLER/SYSTEM INTEGRATOR TRAINING COURSES:

UPPER MARLBORO, MD
APRIL 13-17, 2004

SAN JOSE, CA
June 7-11, 2004

UPPER MARLBORO, MD
August 23-27, 2004

SAN JOSE, CA
September 20-24, 2004

UPPER MARLBORO, MD
November 15-19, 2004

SAN JOSE, CA
December 6-10, 2004

For additional information, please call (301) 715-2300

this technology as their own. *The danger lies in the fact that once a contractor from a particular trade is selected as the System*

Integrator for that job, that contractor will control all devices that are included in the building's network. These electrical systems provide control that has been and is traditionally IBEW work. In order to insure that IBEW members continue to install, service and maintain these systems in the future, it is imperative to embrace this technology and learn how to install and integrate these systems.

**A more detailed version of this article is posted on the IBEW web site: www.ibew.org or write Jim Boyd, Senior Director, National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee at 301 Prince George's Blvd., Suite D, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774.*

Bellagio Hotel-Las Vegas, Nevada, uses LonWorks system installed by members of IBEW Local 357.



(Photo courtesy of MGM MIRAGE)



Participants programming in a LonWorks training class at the Denver Apprenticeship School are, left to right: Bill Jackson, Denver JATC; Mike Dale, Southwest ID JATC; Kelly Lamp, Southwest ID JATC; Rory Berumen, Denver JATC; Jason Ogren, Denver JATC; Michael Clow, SAC Electric Denver.

Two Cities, Two Sports, Two Parks



Soldier Field, Chicago, Ill.

Photo courtesy of webywaymonsters.com.



Nothing but the outside walls were left standing when this \$630 million project started at Chicago's historic Soldier Field.



In all, more than 500 Local 134 members took part in the Soldier Field renovation.

They're beautiful, those shiny stadiums in two famous cities—Soldier Field in Chicago and Petco Field in San Diego. But they wouldn't shine at all if it weren't for the work of IBEW members.

Only the shell was retained when renovation began on Soldier Field in Chicago, one of the most storied football fields in America. And retaining that shell made it a delicate job, say the Local 134 members who completed all of the electrical construction and renovations—

including fire alarm, sound, lighting and communications.

It was not renovation, but brand new construction in San Diego, and Local 569 members did a lot of work on Petco Park long before they did the electrical construction. They were among the leaders

in getting voters to approve the new \$294 million baseball park. "We worked very hard to support this ballpark from the very beginning," said Local 569 Business Manager Allen Shur. "We had as many as 300 volunteers walking the precincts to get the vote out."

The \$630 million Chicago renovation took 18 months and was completed last September in time for the Chicago Bears' 2003 National Football League season.

(Continued on page 16)



Petco Field, San Diego, CA

IBEW Local 569 members worked hard on the funding and the legal battles before they could start their real work on the new home of the San Diego Padres.

Two Cities, Two Sports, Two Parks

(Continued from page 14)

Local 134 Business Manager Mike Fitzgerald expresses great pride in the more than 500 brothers and sisters “who were able to meet all of the complex needs of this outstanding project.”

Elation over the success of the renovation is widely shared by the people of Chicago, who consider Soldier Field, originally constructed in 1924, as a national landmark. Its surrounding park displays impressive memorials honoring the men and women of the armed services as well as being home to “Da Bears.”

It took a fast track schedule to deliver the Soldier Field job in less than 18 months, Fitzgerald says. Local 134 members installed more than 5 million feet of building wire, approximately 1.1 million feet of conduit, 20,000 circuit breakers and 14,500 light fixtures. When the Bears and Green Bay Packers re-christened the field last September, it was lit

by 950,000 watts of light from some 600 fixtures of 1,500 watts—roughly enough to light 500 households.

Among the more delicate work, Local 134 members say, was constructing the two 23-foot by 83-foot video boards in each end zone. No fewer than 14 Chicago-area NECA contractors teamed with IBEW on the job.

In San Diego, Shur says the saga of getting Petco built looked like the twists and turns of an extra-inning game.

In 1998, San Diego passed the ball park proposition. But it won't open until this season, six years later. The city and the ball club had to deal with numerous lawsuits on a multitude of objections. And, despite its strong support of the ballot question, Local 134 also had to pose some harsh objections of its own when the project builders opened talks with one of San Diego's largest non-union electrical contractors.

IBEW filed a three-inch stack of comments on the project, and Shur says that

among the filings by dozens of groups and individual citizens, the background documentation by IBEW was far and away the most comprehensive. “The ballpark developers were shocked by the depth and volume of the comments we filed,” Shur says, and in the end “our comments were the only ones the council took seriously.”

That led to seven months of tough negotiating for Shur and Art Lujan, manager of the San Diego Building and Construction Trades, AFL-CIO. “As you can imagine, the negotiations were not always friendly,” Shur says, but in the end the Padres management signed a Project Labor Agreement for all the construction work on the job.

The PLA allowed smaller contractors to bid—not the common practice on big jobs the size of Petco—and earned a lot of gratitude for the unions. The four electrical contractors on the job were all union, and 95 percent of all the construction work on the job was union.

And then, another snag. A little less than a year into the construction, the job was halted for more than a year while the city and the Padres wrangled with lawsuits that temporarily suspended the project. When work resumed, it was a race to be ready for opening day 2004.

Morrow Meadows was the electrical contractor in what Shur terms a technology rich project. It required more than 1 million feet of conduit to support all services, including two dozen mini-scoreboards, one huge scoreboard, lighting towers 250 feet high and 70 concession stands. At its peak, Morrow Meadows had 150 electricians and 16 foremen on the job.

All the audio and video installations were provided by Audio Associates—800 television sets, over 500 speakers (most about 400 pounds each), approximately 200 amplifiers and a broadcast-ready cabling system for TV coverage of the games. Eric Clevenger, the project manager for Audio Associates, summed up the overall job:

“The level of coordination on this job has been amazing. We never had to worry about theft and we haven't had any work-related injuries. You never get that on a non-union job. The professionalism that came with the Project Labor Agreement was tremendous.”

It took extra innings. But the good guys won. ■

Local 569 At Petco Field



The glitter the fans see at Petco Field required a lot of unseen work by IBEW members. Clockwise from top left, Terralyn Hartman, Fernando Martinez, Barry Ohm, Rodney La Grand (top) with job steward C.J. Towner, Jason Berkshire and Juan Reynaga.



One of Local 569's biggest projects, the gigantic left field scoreboard, is coming along as the rest of the playing field and stands take their final shape.



Local 45 camera photographers Chris Torgerson, left, and Gil Leyvas next to the helicopter they work out of.

Eyes In The Skies

Local 45 Members Have Room With A View

In today's 24-hour news environment, the pressure is always on to get the news of the moment out the fastest. And when local news breaks in Southern California, it is often the images collected by helicopter camera operators that hit the airwaves first.

A combination of sprawling geography and highway gridlock make the presence of news helicopters crucial in the 60-city megalopolis that comprises the greater Los Angeles area. The best of those airborne

camera-wielding professionals are represented by IBEW Local 45, Hollywood, California, which has contracts with some of the biggest television stations in the state.

"Helicopters are a very important part

of the news business here," said Local 45 Business Manager Lloyd Webster. "On every story, the choppers are there, right away."

With a 1,000-square-mile coverage area that includes Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange and Riverside counties, helicopters have the advantage of getting the news best—with great visuals—as well as getting it first. This part of Southern California is the biggest and most sophisticated helicopter news market in the country.

"We usually get a couple of live helicopter reports by the time the ground crews get there," said Aaron Fitzgerald, who works as a cameraman/reporter for KCBS and KCAL, both owned by Viacom.

Often, they even beat responding fire and police departments, said KCAL helicopter cameraman Chris Torgerson.

California news is more than O.J. Simpson-style freeway police chases and traffic gridlock, although it does still have its share of both. "A very small percentage of what we do are the car chases, but it's a cultural phenomenon out here," Fitzgerald said. "We'll also cover shootings, flooding, fire—anything you would see on the news. On the other hand, there are stories that can only be covered by helicopter."

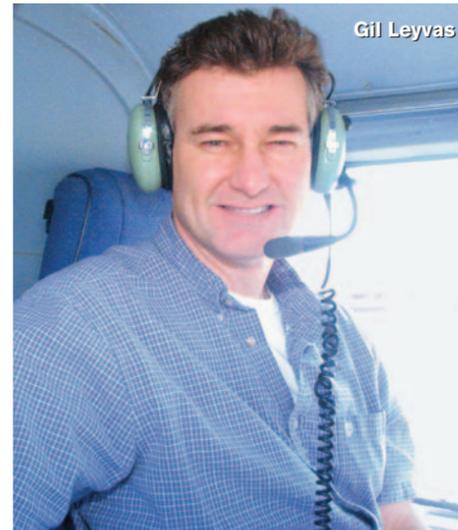
Fitzgerald cited natural disasters that restrict travel in an area, like the brush fires that ravaged mountainside communities last year. Nothing can match an aerial view in providing perspective to a story. Although they may appear to the viewer to be close to the action, the helicopters remain between 1,000 and 1,500 feet above ground.

During newscasts, Fitzgerald said, he and the helicopter pilot usually remain in the air, "cruising," ready to respond to a breaking news event. They listen to police and emergency scanners and rely on a network of official spokespersons and sources in the fire and police departments.

Pressure to be the first on the air with news pictures from the latest scene drives the highly competitive business. All the crews strive for that first "exclusive" shot from a scene. And no one wants to be the last helicopter to arrive.

"When you fly around in an expensive machine, you want to feel you're delivering the goods," Torgerson said.

Fitzgerald said KCBS and KCAL have



Gil Leyvas

the advantage of being based out of an airport miles from the one the other networks use. "It helps us sneak around" without notice, he said.

At KCAL, Torgerson said he uses between six and nine police, fire and emergency scanners monitoring more than 1,000 channels. Last October, the brush fires tested the endurance and skill of the helicopter crews, Torgerson said. He and the pilot/reporter that comprise their two-man team commonly worked intense 12-hour shifts.

"The mental acuity it takes to run a camera and navigate and juggle the different instrumentation takes a lot out of you," Torgerson said. "If you're flying more than four hours a day, that's a lot of flying."

Torgerson said the A-Star helicopter he flies in, which was built as a six-seater, only has room enough for two because it is loaded with heavy newsgathering equipment vital to his work. The ship travels around 105 miles per hour. Most news helicopters in Los Angeles contain two-man crews with one pulling double duty—either a reporter/pilot and a cameraman or a pilot and a reporter/cameraman.

But a job that involves floating over crime scenes or disasters can be dangerous, especially when as many as 10 chop-

pers are covering the same event. That does not include police helicopters also tracking an unfolding scene from the air. Usually, Torgerson said, law enforcement aircraft fly several hundred feet closer to the ground. The main concern for pilots is keeping tabs on the other helicopters occupying the same "level" or altitude. That's why constant radio communication among pilots is vital. "Everybody coordinates with everyone else to make it as safe as possible," Torgerson said.

Recently, when he was hovering over a police standoff involving a man with a rifle, Fitzgerald said the armed man started shooting at the helicopters. Luckily, even though the footage captured by helicopter photographers looks close to the action, it's generally due to a powerful zoom lens. So from the ground, "it's very hard to hit a helicopter," 1,000 feet in the air.

A bullet did hit the rear tail stabilizer of the ship Torgerson was in when he delivered footage of a massive 1997 standoff between two bank robbers and hundreds of police in North Hollywood. Fortunately, the bullet had no impact on the helicopter's ability to fly; the crew did not even discover the damage until days after the event. On live

"WE'RE ALWAYS ON CALL. WHENEVER NEWS BREAKS, WE TAKE OFF. WE CAN BE OFF THE GROUND IN A FEW MINUTES!"

national television, he managed to capture the unfolding ordeal as the scene devolved into a shootout between the police and robbers. Several police were injured in the confrontation that ended after one robber was killed and the other turned his gun on himself.

Weather conditions can cause helicopters trouble. Among the worst

are fog and high winds.

Many helicopter crews tell of near-disasters involving equipment malfunction or engine failure. But despite the danger, all spoke highly of the experienced pilots they work with and were

philosophical about the dangerous potential of their work sites.

"Aviation in general is unforgiving when you make mistakes," said Fitzgerald, a former paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne who is also a helicopter pilot in his spare time.

Webster said Fitzgerald's bravery and quick thinking during a chopper crash earned him a lifesaver award from Local 45. While he and several other helicopter crews were covering the Academy Awards, another helicopter ran into technical difficulties. Keeping in constant radio contact, Fitzgerald's pilot accompanied the troubled ship back to the airport. Before landing, a loss of hydraulics caused the



Aaron Fitzgerald

helicopter to drop 50 feet onto the ground. The pilot managed to escape but the camera operator was still on board as the ruptured gas tank caught fire.

"It was very traumatic to watch it and know that two of your friends are on board," said Fitzgerald, who risked his own life to pull his colleague to safety.

The adventure turned deadly for a former Local 45 member and KCBS reporter who was aboard a helicopter that crashed into the Persian Gulf off the coast of Iran in 2002. Shop steward and award-winning cameraman Larry Greene died when the rotor blade of a military helicopter he was riding in clipped the mast of a freighter and plunged into the sea.

With their bird's eye view of life, "the perspective is very, very different," Fitzgerald said. "Eight out of ten people can't find their own house from that view point." ■



Trade Classifications

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

LOCAL LINES

ATTENTION PRESS SECRETARIES:

The *Journal* has an e-mail address dedicated exclusively to receiving "Local Lines" articles from press secretaries. If you wish to submit your articles via e-mail, please forward them directly to locallines@ibew.org. This will help expedite the production process. As always, inquiries of a general nature or letters to the editor should still be sent to journal@ibew.org.

Wireman's Certification

L.U. 6 (c,i,o,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—In January, Bus. Mgr. John O'Rourke and local staff attended the inauguration of San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. Mayor Newsom, throughout his campaign, vowed to work closely with labor during his tenure.

Newsom's election, along with that of labor-endorsed District Attorney Kamala Harris, took away some of the sting we experienced from the infamous recall election in November. Many thanks to all members who volunteered with phone banking, precinct walking and campaign headquarters work. Local 6 extends former Mayor Willie Brown a fond farewell and praise for his leadership and support.

On Jan. 29, Local 6 Bus. Rep./Compliance Officer Sabrina Hernandez took the oath of office joining the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District. Sister Hernandez was appointed to the position by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to fill the seat left vacant by former director Robert McDonnell, who passed away in August 2003 after serving 20 years on the board.

The work picture in San Francisco looks promising for the year ahead, and the SFJATC is offering new classes after a sluggish '03.

A reminder to all members seeking work anywhere in the state of California: State certification is a reality. As of this writing, the deadline for inside wireman's certification is January 2005.



Local 6 Bus. Rep./Compliance Officer Sabrina Hernandez (left) is sworn-in as a member of the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District.



Fifty Local 18 members picketed alongside striking UFCW members in Bishop, CA, to demonstrate support for the grocery employees. IBEW members helped boost the picketers' morale during the holiday season last year by talking potential Von's customers out of shopping at the store.

All members should complete the certification process as soon as possible.

JEFF SWEENEY, P.S.

'No Millionaire Left Behind'

L.U. 8 (i&mt), TOLEDO, OH—The work situation is far from good in our area, but some sizeable jobs are in the planning stage, so we hope work will soon be forthcoming. Like the rest of the country, we're waiting for jobs projected by Bush in his 2001 State of the Union Address. The next thing we've got to defend ourselves from is the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, which some South American countries don't even want.

We look forward to hosting the IBEW Wireman's Golf Association Tournament in August and we hope to see you there. Come early and see the special attractions Toledo has much to offer.

Our members were glad to hear the local pension had a nice return last year since many of us are nearing retirement. Our Health and Welfare plan is holding its own after we recently increased funding.

In this election year it should be obvious to all that G.W. Bush has declared open season on union members' jobs. In his version of class warfare, Bush is helping the middle class go down the tube while no millionaire is left behind. Get registered and vote for friends of labor in November.

DENNIS C. DUFFEY, B.M.
CHUCK WISTINGHUSEN, P.S.

L.A. Organizing Success

L.U. 18 (u), LOS ANGELES, CA—IBEW Local 18, which serves employees at the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, is proud to report that it won a series of representation elections in the summer of 2003. In all, five new units, totaling approximately 1,300 employees of the utility, have become members of our family.

The new units comprise employees among the Department's supervisory professionals, technical staff, professional personnel, and administrative and supervisory technical & business administration sections.

Even as we have been integrating these new members into our union, we have been representing their needs through Memorandum of Understanding, grievance procedures and other meetings. We anticipate serving them in any way we can as we work to improve their wages, benefits and job-site conditions. We look forward to having our new brothers and sisters participate in all Local 18 activities.

RUSS BUTOW, SR. ASST. B.M.

Golf Fund-Raiser

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—The Dollars Against Diabetes Golf Outing is scheduled for May 3. Butch Ramos is coordinating the event, which has grown so much that it now encompasses four golf courses! The local reaches capacity every year and brings in a tremendous donation for diabetes, thanks to participants and sponsors. Hope to see you there!

Thanks to the many applicants who participated in our scholarship application process. The committee is evaluating applications and we will announce winners in an upcoming Local 26 newsletter and in the *Journal*. Congratulations to Bro. Jamell Thrower, who was reappointed to the District of Columbia Apprenticeship Council for a three-year term.

Local union elections will be held

in June. A mail in-ballot will be used. Nominations take place in May. Local union officers and delegates for the IBEW International Convention will be elected. Be sure the local has your correct address on file so you can participate. Your vote is important for a healthy and strong local union.

Local 26 is saddened to report the deaths of Bros. Dwight Bowdoin and Glen R. Smith, and retired Bros. Sven Anderberg, Richard Berry, David Stump, Earl Boeteler and James Guido.

The following brothers recently retired: Robert C. Allen, Arthur Thomasset, Steven A. Walker, Raymond L. Ellison, Paul M. Hockenbery, David G. Mehrtens, James D. Smith, Mardis D. Whithed, Ronald E. Lancaster, Edward Leary and Herbert S. Hawkins.

CHARLES E. GRAHAM, B.M.



Local 38 Bus. Mgr. Sam Chilia (left) and Bus. Rep. Jim Embrescia (right) congratulate Bros. Bill Banach (second from left) and Bill DeFranco on their retirement.

these men know they always handled themselves and their jobs with class and the skills indicative of the IBEW. We thank both Brothers for their years of dedicated service.

While the work outlook remains slow under Bush Administrations poli-



Local 34 donated \$500 to the Junior Football League in Canton, IL, and was recognized during the league's annual fundraiser with the banner shown.

Steward Training Class

L.U. 34 (em,i,rt&spa), PEORIA, IL—On Dec. 17, 2003, Local 34 held an excellent steward training class taught by Sixth District Int. Rep. Michael Daugherty. Dinner and refreshments were served and participants received a wealth of instructional material as well as information on the IBEW's structure and history, with an emphasis on carrying the dream forward into the 21st century.

The class made clear the roles and responsibilities of an IBEW union steward, which include acting as a conduit between workers, management and the business representative; acting as the first step in dispute resolution; and being an active leader in creating a union environment and promoting IBEW goals.

If you know you can act as a model of fairness, treat people with respect, avoid favoritism, have a sense of humor, greet fellow workers by name, pay attention to others' interests and respect others' point of views, create an atmosphere of friendliness and trust, be willing to listen, think before you act, and hold no grudges—you have what it takes to be an IBEW union steward.

JASON NORTON, P.S.

Work Remains Slow

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Local officers and members congratulate Bros. Bill Banach and Bill DeFranco on their retirement, each with 42 years of IBEW service.

Both men were initiated in 1962 and both served as shop stewards for many years, up to retirement—Bill Banach at Hirsch Electric and Bill DeFranco at Atlas Electric. Those of us fortunate enough to have worked with

cies, there are a few large jobs to report in our area. Doan/Pyramid has the new \$4 million Cleveland Clinic Stem Research Building and the Independence High School Recreation Center, a \$3.1 million project. Hirsch Electric has the new House of LaRose Distribution Center and the new Progressive Insurance Buildings, as well as the remodel at Progressive main headquarters.

DENNIS MEANEY, ORGANIZER

Building Trades Rally

L.U. 46 (c,em,i,rtbv,rt&st), SEATTLE, WA—On Jan. 30 Washington state building trades held a huge rally in Olympia. More than 3,000 brothers and sisters endured rain, hail and severe winds to tell representatives in session: "We Won't Forget!"

Many prominent, labor-friendly speakers outlined attacks by the Bush administration and the Republican Party on working families. U.S. Sen. Patty Murphy spoke of anti-worker legislation and pledged to continue her fight for working families. Washing State Labor Council Pres. Rick Bender encouraged union members to get involved. He spoke about "Labor Neighbor," a grassroots program that gives every member the opportunity to reach out to family and friends on critical issues.

In 2003 our elected representatives dropped a bomb on unemployment, which will cause our members to lose automobiles and their homes. My question to you: Will you forget? We must mobilize now, get registered and bring a friend to the polls in 2004. We have the power to secure our families' futures, if we pull together. Look around at the lives we have here. Is that worth fighting for? Make no mistake—the wolf is at the door!

Local 46 members should contact the local to find out how we all can be part of the solution.

Our local will be in contract negotiations by the time this article is published. Get involved!

KEVIN QUINLAN, P.S.

Storm Clouds

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rt&st), PORTLAND, OR—Oregon has finally given up its first place ranking in unemployment; we are now in second place closely behind Alaska. Measure 30 failed and now Oregon faces another budget shortage of more than \$40 million. Where is the economic recovery President Bush is crowing about?

Local 48 joined with other union building trades in a Construction Workers Rally in Olympia, WA, Jan. 30 to protest recent changes in unemployment laws aimed at construction trades. Unions are watching Washington closely and fighting for fair treatment for their brothers and sisters. Three busloads made the long round trip to participate.

A collection for support of the UFCW situation in Southern California was taken at the last general membership meeting. This has come down to a battle of wills between management and labor for these grocery workers. Please show your support for these union members, who are locked into a struggle to maintain their standard of living.

The election season is warming up. Get out and support those candidates who support the IBEW. Many brothers and sisters are struggling now and another four years of struggle may be too much. By working together WE CAN CHANGE what has happened under the Bush Administration.

DAVE JACOBSEN, P.S.

Put The Rogues Out

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb&spa), DETROIT, MI—Our work picture is still very slow. The casinos are in a logjam, the jail in Port Huron is on hold due to inclement

Partygoers enjoy the Local 58 Super Bowl fundraiser. Foreground, from left, Sisters Lori LeBlanc, Jeanette D'Herdtte and Jackie Malewicz.



weather, and schoolwork has slowed to a snail's pace. For spring, look for some work at the St. Clair powerhouse and construction of the new Federal Reserve Bank in Eastern Market; the Detroit News at Mound Rd. will erect a new building, and the old nonunion-built Novi Expo Center will be replaced by a brand new larger facility built union (guess they finally got the message). We don't expect these jobs will be book clearing.

Sen. Ted Kennedy was in Detroit Jan. 29 and made a public appearance at our union hall. With many of our members in attendance, he gave a very enlightening speech.

Some of his highlights: 90,000 people run out of unemployment every week on a national basis, a 20-year high; the Republican-controlled Congress refused to extend emergency federal unemployment benefits after Dec. 20, 2003. Let's do to the Bush administration what they don't mind doing to us—let's put this administration on the unemployment line in November Vote.

This year's Super Bowl Party, held as a fund-raiser to benefit the local's benevolent fund, was the greatest. Thanks to all who came out for the fun and at the same time supported a good cause.

Support your union and remember, if your cell phone rings audibly during our union meeting, be prepared to pay the consequences.

KATHY DEVLIN, P.S.

Service Awards Record

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—At the Jan. 6, 2004, general membership meeting, 60 active and retired members received service pin awards.

Receiving 25-year service awards were: Steven Bateman, Felix Beall, Terrie Beougher, Timothy Biltz, James "Scott" Broda, David Burris (pinned by his father, Billy), John Carnell, Jack Cox, Joe Dascher, Ron Dion, Gilbert Garcia, Larry Harrison, Daniel Hutton, Tony Jongress, James Keating, David Krusch, Mark Kummer, Timothy Lynch (pinned by his brother Joe), Thomas Martinez, Stephen Milner, Richard Pettinger, Aurthur Reinke (pinned by Local 68 Bro. Tim Martin), Ted Ridel, James Spellman, Duane Tidwell (pinned by his brother Emmett), Dean Trapp, Jay Wallace, Rocky Wendell, Richard Yeager (pinned by Local 68 Bro. Jim Ramsey), and David Zaccagnini.

Thirty-year award recipients were: Phil Abeyta (pinned by his son Robert), Sid Barcelon, Bob Choury (pinned by Local 68 Bro. Ray Pacheco), John Curtin (pinned by his son Casey



A Local 68 service award presentation honored 60 active and retired members.

and his brother Danny), Leon Duncan, David Erickson (pinned by his son Scott), Ray Esterline, Robert Gotchey, Timothy Greene, Gary Hall, Al Hilliard (pinned by his family), Anthony Lopez, Jim Mantele (pinned by Local 68 Bro. Al Reyes), Walter Pantoja, Philip Smith, Doug Spittler, Robert Stewart, Doug Szabo (pinned by Local 68 Bro. Jim Kelly).

A 40-year award went to Carl Hutchins. Awarded 45-year pins were: Billy Burris (pined by his son David), James French, Larry McDuffee (pinned by his father, Gabe) and Keith Wilson.

These members represent 1,555 years of service to the IBEW. Congratulations to all.

DANIEL J. CURTIN, PRES.

Hurricane Isabel

L.U. 70 (lctt&o), WASHINGTON, DC—Local 70 appreciates all the IBEW brothers and sisters who restored electric service and cleared trees after Hurricane Isabel devastated our eastern region. Please keep those workers who lost their lives, and their families, in your prayers. During the storm and its aftermath, Local 70 gathered vital information and data on outages, damages, fatalities, work force locations, staging areas, etc. and passed that information on to International President Edwin D. Hill and Director Rick Ellis, who were monitoring the situation closely.

We were out visiting many of the crews and making them feel welcome. Bros. Gary Horan and James Hair are assets to the IBEW as they inform Local 70 on nonunion activities. Thanks to Locals 24, 26, 50 and 666 for their contributions, which enabled us to converse with thousands of union and nonunion workers.

Yet again, organizing coordinators and organizers from across the East Coast were here to assist our local's organizing efforts. We thank Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Paul J. Witte for his contributions. We are grateful for the dedication of all involved.

At this writing, our work situation is plentiful. We had a lot of work in 2003. We hope this year's annual picnic will be well attended—see you on the beach.

Our condolences to the families and friends of Bros. Bobby D. Smith, James C. Gunter and James P. Wallen.

JEROME J. DEINLEIN SR., P.S.

Training Facility Upgrades

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA—The local JATC program has made some recent improvements and additions to the classrooms here at the union hall. JATC Dir. Mike Iacobellis and several



A Local 80 fourth-year apprentice, Paul Lenthall, is busy at work in the Motor Control lab at the union hall.

apprentices volunteered their help to construct stud walls in one classroom to train residential wiremen. In an effort to create on-the-job conditions, another room was equipped with benders, pipe dies, motor starters and other tools and materials donated by some of our members and contractors.

Another classroom is dedicated to PLC and computer training with eight stations set up at individual desks. The improvements and the additions of the "hands-on shop" are tremendous assets, in that we can schedule the hours and days of training to suit the needs of our apprentices and journeyman upgrade classes.

A journeyman upgrade class on Motor Control was recently completed and a Fiber Optics class is now under way. Local 80 and JATC will continue to expand our commitment to ensure that our journeymen and apprentices receive the finest training available. The IBEW-NECA NJATC training program is considered the best in the industry and we must strive to maintain that excellence.

DENNIS R. DASHER, P.S.

Day School Transition

L.U. 86 (ees,em,es,i,rt&spa), ROCHESTER, NY—The JATC Committee announces the hiring of Phil Smith and Paul Healy as our day school instructors. The entire JATC extends a sincere thank-you to the 12 candidates who interviewed.

Through the transition to day school, we have had to say goodbye to many of our evening instructors. A special thank-you from the JATC to all for many years of service. Also a debt of gratitude to Greg Post, who as our first day school instructor, was instrumental in getting the program off the ground.

Third District Int. Rep. Steven A. Kamen (left) instructed a Local 86 Steward Training class. Among those attending were, from left, Peter Nowak, Jack Meredith, Kyle Norsen and Tom Fraser.



Recently Local 86 held a Steward Training class for the manufacturing sector. Int. Rep. Steven Kamen instructed the class, assisted by Bus. Mgr. Bill Auble and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Tom Shaffer. The interest of our members to better understand the duties and responsibilities of a steward was the catalyst for holding the class. Many thanks to I.O. Rep. Kamen, who presented a thought provoking and informative class, and to the members who spent a Saturday to attend.

Register to Vote! It is your right as an American!

THOMAS SHAFFER, ASST. B.M.

hire new personnel from the hall as they continually expand and grow.

Another tool Local 102 uses aggressively is the picket line. We currently have lines up in Morristown and Hillside. We recently had success in picketing Compaq in Hackettstown, where we were awarded more than 80 percent of the work. We need our membership to get involved in picketing. Please call the hall and help work the lines—it has never been more important that we show our strength and demonstrate that we will remain a force to be reckoned with.

JOE NITTI, P.S.



Local 100 Turnupseed Electric project at the Guardian Glass plant in Kingsburg, CA. Randy Mull, second from right, was general foreman.

Local Union Election

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,o,rt&st), FRESNO, CA—Our local union election of officers will be held in June 2004. Nominations will take place at the May general meeting.

Local 100 general meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Work safe.

M.A. CAGLIA, P.S.

Stepped Up Organizing

L.U. 102 (c,catv,i,it,o&t), PATERSON, NJ—The JATC announced plans to build a 20,000 square foot addition to the Parsippany union hall to enhance our current training facility. It will feature two hands-on shops, including a high voltage splicing area with a man-hole, and will allow for expanded journeyman training. The JATC currently offers a number of journeymen courses and runs OSHA 30 courses year round. These courses make us more employable. I urge all members to capitalize on these opportunities.

Our local is stepping up its already aggressive organizing campaign. Organizing is paramount to our survival as an organization as it brings in competing contractors and gives us access to new customers. It is a fact that more than 90 percent of our organized contractors

Tampa Electric Contract

L.U. 108 (ees,em,es,lctt,mar,mt,rtb,rt,s,spa,t&u), TAMPA, FL—Tampa Electric lineman Bro. Mark Blackburn passed away on Jan. 9, 2004, at age 41. He was an IBEW member for 17 years. Bro. Blackburn will be missed.

Pullman Hold (Unit 12) is restructuring under Chapter 11. The successor should honor the remainder of the contract.

PRECO (Unit 17) had a lineman rodeo in February.

West Central Florida Federation of Labor sent two busses (approximately 180 people) to the FTAA rally in Miami. Thanks to all who participated and helped make this event a success.

IBEW Local 108 (Unit 6) ratified a new three-year contract with Tampa Electric Company. The contract runs to April 2007. TSSI (Unit 3) will merge into the newly negotiated Unit 6 agreement. Twenty-two green band OPEU members will also merge into the Unit 6 agreement. Thanks to committee members Doug Bowden, Gary Raulerson, Robert Thomas, Jeff Woodlee, Rick Coronado, Mark Fersaci, Darrel Purifoy, T.J. Williams, Sam Hamrick, Floyd Suggs and John Murphy for a job well done.

DOUG BOWDEN, P.S.

April Awards Banquet

L.U. 120 (c,i&o), LONDON, ON—Work has come to a snail's pace in our jurisdiction. Negotiations have begun and we expect to have a contract in place by May 1, 2004.

A reminder! The Local 120 election of local union officers will take place in June.

An awards banquet will be held in April. This will be a good time for all members and their spouses to enjoy a get-together and to honor local union members for their contributions to Local 120.

Our Education Committee held several courses geared to the construction industry in recent months. Our thanks to Bro. Don Pallister and his committee for their efforts in obtaining instructors and material for these important courses.

IAN MCCOOL, P.S.

In Search of Jobs

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rt,s,se&spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—Work is slow here, as everywhere. Many brothers and sisters are crisscrossing the country in search of employment, with not much success.

Spring elections are approaching here and seats for several public offices are available. IBEW Local 124 is leading the way again this year—seven Local 124 members are among 25 trade union members running for public office in the Kansas City area.

With all the anti-labor legislation going on now, this is one way to help secure jobs: Get elected to school boards, city councils and state legislatures. Another way is to VOTE. Help with voter registration, assist voters get to the polls, and inform people about legislation that destroys the working middle class. This year's election is crucial

ROBERT E. WARD, B.M./F.S.

to our survival. Pick candidates wisely.

We remember the following deceased members: John Borgers, Glenn Curtis, Bernard Kaiser, John Lee, Roy Lord, James Renne, Howard Satterfield, Floyd Smothers, Leon Tomlin, Robert Wholey, Owen Williams and Walter Wilson.

Congratulations to recently retired members: Kenneth Bahan, James Ferro, David Gray, Rodger Harrington, David Jumet, Louis Rinehart, Gary Malott, Robert McMurry, Manual Meade and Richard Strong.

FRANK MATHEWS JR., P.S.



David C. Ring Retires

L.U. 160 (lctt,o&u), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—Longtime Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. David C. Ring announced his retirement effective March 31, 2004. Dave has been a dedicated member of Local 160 since 1957. He has served as business manager/financial secretary for the past 21 years. Dave has also served as a steward, Executive Board member, vice president, and business representative. Bro. Ring's knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed. Good luck, Dave, and thanks for all your hard work and dedication.

The Executive Board unanimously appointed Asst. Bus. Mgr. Thomas G. Koehler to fill the business manager/financial secretary post for the unexpired term. Tom has also devoted many years of service to Local 160. He has served as a steward, Executive Board member, president, business representative and assistant business manager. Best wishes to Tom as he starts his new job.

Walter Spanier, a Mo Valley Equipment Operator, received an IBEW Life Saving Award. Bro. Spanier save a man's life by performing CPR. Congratulations to Bro. Spanier for his decisive thinking and courage.

DANIEL S. SEAWELL, P.S.

Mobile Command Center

L.U. 164 (c,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—On Dec. 9, 2003, Local 164 was honored by the Borough of Paramus, NJ, at a commemorative dedication of its new state-of-the-art Mobile Command Center, which enables law enforcement and fire officials to orchestrate an emergency response with remote access to the latest information and technology via computers, telephones, satellites and the internet.

Volunteer inside wiremen and telecommunications technicians from Local 164 equipped the converted bus



Local 164 is recognized by the Borough of Paramus, NJ, at the dedication of a newly completed emergency command vehicle. Pictured are: Local 164 Bus. Mgr. Richard Dressel (standing, third from left), Pres. David Milazzo (seventh from left), Paramus Mayor James Tedesco (fourth from left) and Police Chief Fred Corubia (second from right), along with Local 164 volunteer committee members.

Local 160 Bus. Mgr. David C. Ring (right) retired effective March 31, 2004. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Thomas G. Koehler (left) was appointed to fill the post for the unexpired term.

and use in-house employees to perform the installation. There is a demand by all to lower the cost and use of electricity.

Our goal is to answer the demand and create a local market as the means of gaining market share.

MICHAEL C. SMITH, B.A.

Training Classes

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCK-FORD, IL—Our work at this time for Outside construction is holding its own. The future looks somewhat promising. Our Telephone Construction, however, is very slow.

We have settled our Outside contract. Our members voted to add 3 percent to their NEAP the first year and 3 percent into the LINECO Retiree Benefit Plan for the second year. It is very refreshing to see our younger members looking forward to their later years. We hope other locals will join in on the Retiree Benefit Plan so we all may be able to live the same life style we were accustomed to while working.

We have had a very good response to training classes held at the union hall. Our members are seeing the changing times; if we can keep them trained to be qualified in all aspects of our industry this will make all our members more versatile and thus make them more employable. Our local wishes to thank American Line Builders Apprenticeship Training for all the help and training they have given our local union.

Remember to vote in every election and attend your monthly union meetings.

EDGAR R. MINGS JR., B.M.

Interim IPL Agreement

L.U. 204 (t&u), CEDAR RAPIDS, IA—An interim agreement has been signed by Local 204 Bus. Mgr. Ronald Garrett and Mark Thompson, labor relations director, Interstate Power & Light. IPL is a subsidiary of the holding company Alliant Energy.

The agreement states the parties agree that bargaining unit members who are selected and accept positions represented by IBEW Local 204 at the Emery Generating Station will carry their current benefits with them until such time as a labor agreement pertaining to the Emery Generating Station is ratified. At such time, said employees shall be covered under the terms and conditions of the Emery Generating Station addendum. Negoti-

ations are in progress. We will use the facility as a demonstration center. Our plan is to have open houses to show of the system, expose potential customers to our training, offer one stop Q&A and provide a quick estimate of their installed system and the savings.

PV integrators are securing public works projects without going to bid

ations will begin as soon as schedules permit, with the understanding that all mandatory topics of bargaining will be discussed. The Emery Generating Station is currently under construction in Mason City, IA.

All union members: Please continue to take an active part in the critical 2004 political process. Help elect worker-friendly candidates to public office. Four more years of the status quo and we will all be in the soup line.

RANDY DRUMMER, P.S.

'Electric Elfs of the Park'

L.U. 236 (catv,ees.govt,i.mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY—For the seventh year Local 236 has partnered with the Albany Police Athletic League to erect and power the illuminated displays throughout Albany's Washington Park for the annual Christmas Lights in the Park.

Under the direction of Bros. Mike Jennings and Bob Rothaupt, some 30 Local 236 volunteers start in mid-October to ready 90 displays by Thanksgiving weekend. Five miles of cable and lead chords are strung to make this Christmas display one of the best in the Northeast.

After the lighting ceremony, conducted by the mayor of Albany, cars of families are admitted to enjoy the



At the Local 252 Residential Class of 2003 banquet, Bro. Hollis Hamm (third from left) and Bus. Agent Jim Johnson (third from right) pictured with some of the apprentice graduates. From left, Greg Banister, Skylar Budd, Hamm, Chris McCraw, Robert Betz, Johnson, James Betz and Phillip Priest.

Our residential program has been in existence for more than 20 years, and the number of residential wiremen has more than doubled in the past five years. Currently, we have 146 residential wiremen.

The growth of the residential market, including rentals, has been extraordinary in our jurisdiction. The prediction for 2004 and 2005 housing development is extremely high for the Ann Arbor area. The residential market generates over \$18 million in electrical work annually. A market we cannot and will not ignore.

Local 252 has a lot to be very proud of: A new school, dedicated instructors, and the development of quality residential electricians.

TIMOTHY BORTLES, P.S.



Local 278 Instructor Bobby Grant (left) and Training Dir. Ronnie Kolle (front row, second from left) congratulate 2003 apprentice class graduates including: Ron Charo, Robert Ybarra, Oscar Gonzalez, Javier Gonzales, Clifford McKenzie, Richard Henson, Travis Goldapp, Tim Mendoza, Brian Smith, Vic Cantu, Shawn Echols, Ricky Reid and Gilbert Muniz.

to set up and dismantle the Christmas light display at Confederation Park. Larry Dahl has been instrumental in organizing the ENMAX staff parking lot for parking during the Calgary Stampede. Since 1993 this charitable venture has raised over \$180,000. All proceeds have been donated to the STARS (medi-vac) helicopter.

The three members were each presented a plaque in recognition of their services; Rick Strong also received

2003 apprenticeship class graduates. We also thank fifth-year instructor Bobby Grant, Training Dir. Ron Kolle and instructors Joe Tellez, Fernando Segovia, Phil Taylor, Rodney Eulenfeld and Eddie Rodriguez for their continuing dedication. Special kudos to Clifford McKenzie, who finished at the top of the class.

Continuing Education classes are filling quickly. Contact Ron Tolle at (361) 884-8414 for information on courses and schedules.

The Texas State Licensing Law goes



Enjoying the fellowship at Local 294's 2003 Retirees party are: from left, back row, Bill Atkinson, Ed Bozicevich, Glen Hallin and Bus. Mgr. Scott Weappa; front row, John Nivela, Howard Emery, William Pariseau and Don Brown.

ing to stay afloat. The dumping of cheap foreign steel into America undermines the hearts and souls of the people who built this great nation. In a new twist, Laiwu (a steel firm from China) has partnered with Cleveland Cliffs to purchase Eveleth Taconite, which fell into bankruptcy last year. What's next? Please buy made in the USA. The job you save may be your own.

Local 294 Retirees Club meetings are held at the American Legion in Virginia, MN, each Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

DAN AHO, P.S.

The White House also has a new affinity for those who were previously known as "undocumented aliens" or "UDAs" along the Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California borders. Rich ranchers just call them "the help."

On a lighter note, we have no deaths or retirements to report this issue.

BOB SALLAZ, V.P./P.S.

Get Certified!

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i,o&st), SAN JOSE, CA—Bus. Mgr. Bob Tragni has added two new organizers to his staff, Bob Seaberg and Javier Diaz. Bob and Javier are dedicated unionists with lots of energy and enthusiasm and will be great assets to our local.

The deadline for all electricians to be certified by the state of California is creeping up on us. Only about 5 percent of our inside wiremen have taken the test so far. Remember, you can't be dispatched without a license after Jan. 1, 2005, and you may be removed from your job. We pushed hard for this requirement and now our members need to get certified!

Recently-retired business manager Terry Tanner is doing well after his radiation and chemo treatments. He comes to the hall frequently and is looking better all the time.

We are fortunate in this country that we can replace our leaders if we don't like what they're doing. That is such a precious right. We have a duty to exercise it. Make sure to check out your COPE endorsements and vote.

The work picture is starting to brighten a little. The spring should be busier after a slow winter.

ALAN L. WIETESKA, P.S.

Partnering/Sharing Ideas

L.U. 340 (em,i,o,rtb&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—The Local 340 bumper sticker—which reads "Live by the Code"—is the product of an idea suggested by one of our partnering sub-committees.

The "Code of Ethics" adopted for local union employers and members is as follows: 1) Performing the job with integrity, honesty and accountability; 2) Price and craftsmanship with continuous education; 3) All jobs performed productively in a safe and workmanlike manner; 4) Advancing industry standards; 5) Professionally installed with proper tools and materi-



Some of Local 236 volunteers for Albany's Christmas Lights in the Park display.

evening drive. More than 19,000 cars passed through the mile-and-a-half long display last year. All proceeds from the traffic go to support the Police Athletic League programs, which encourage a positive relationship between "Kids and Cops."

Local 236 members return the first week of the New Year to wrap it all up until next October. Every year the city of Albany, the Police Athletic League and Local 236 extend a special thanks to the "electric elfs of the park."

MICHAEL V. DOYLE, P.S.

Topping Out

L.U. 252 (ees,i,rtb&spa), ANN ARBOR, MI—Bus. Mgr. Greg Stephens, Training Dir. Jeff Grimston, staff and members congratulate the graduating Residential Class of 2003.

Local 252 is proud to announce that Greg Banister, James Betz, Robert Betz, Skylar Budd, Doug Frye, Alan Lance, Chris McCraw, Phillip Priest, William Roberts, Maxwell Steffen, Kevin Sweeney and Randy Whisman successfully completed the three-year residential apprenticeship program. Phillip Priest won the "Hollis Hamm Award" for academic excellence.



Local 254 Bus. Mgr. John Briegel (left) and Pres. Carl Sefoot (right) present plaques to Bros. Larry Dahl, Earl Hoefling and Rick Strong as a tribute for their longtime dedicated service.

Tributes For Three Brothers

L.U. 254 (ees,em,mo,rtb&u), CALGARY, AB—Three long-serving members, Rick Strong, Earl Hoefling and Larry Dahl, were honoured at our Dec. 13, 2003, Executive Board meeting.

Rick Strong, a former long-term city of Calgary employee, was our recording secretary for 18 years. He is now employed in the financial industry. For the past 16 years Earl Hoefling volunteered many hours with the Lions Club

the IBEW recording secretary ring.

With summer quickly approaching we, in conjunction with the other Alberta locals, are preparing for the "All Canada Progress Meeting" here in Calgary August 24-26. Plans are under way for some great Western hospitality.

JIM BLEANEY, R.S.

Education and Organizing

L.U. 278 (em.govt,i&o), CORPUS CHRISTI, TX—Congratulations to our

into effect Sept. 1, 2004. Forms to apply for the state license will be available online at www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecfaq.htm. You may also call the hall for more information.

Industrial work has begun to slow, with some layoffs expected. It should pick back up in the spring to early summer. Commercial work is slow in hiring, but should be going well by summer.

Our Pin Ceremony was a big success. Eligible members (10-45 years of service) who were not present at the ceremony may contact the hall to obtain their pins.

We mourn the death of the following members: James T. Glidewell, Michael Byrn, B.I. Rabalais and Robert Terry.

MIKE CARRANCO, PRES.

Bleak Work Picture

L.U. 294 (ees,em,i,rtb,spa&u), HIBING, MN—The work picture in northern Minnesota continues to be bleak as of this writing. We thank the IBEW locals around the country that are providing many of our traveling members employment during these tough economic times. We hope we will be able to provide employment through some large projects projected for the future on the Iron Range.

A 2000 megawatt coal gasification power project has been proposed for the area. But delays, due in part to the fact that the Energy Bill did not pass during the December session of Congress, have put the project on hold.

The lifting of steel tariffs by President Bush has once again increased the burden on our taconite companies attempt-

als; and 5) "On time, every time & looking good." Our employers and members work hard to live by this code, which definitely sets us apart from the non-represented sector.

Another idea from our Partnering Session is the development of Practical Foreman Training classes as continuing education for members who take responsibility to enforce our Code of Ethics, both for employers and members. An efficient well-coordinated job is crucial to our survival.

Also, Outside Local IBEW 1245 will be installing poles on our training lot and will work with our journeymen and apprentices, teaching our respective jurisdictions.

We are saddened to report the passing of retired members Gerald "Gary" Coley, Frederick H. Giles, Thomas L. Gray, August McCurdy, Bennie F. McDowell and Donald R. Thompson.

A.C. STEELMAN, P.S.



A Great Safety Record: Local 396 members employed at Nevada Power's Calar/Sunrise/Harry Allen complex, topped 2 million man-hours worked with no lost time injuries from 1993 to 2003.

Political Action

L.U. 354 (i,mt,rtb&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Salt Lake had plenty of snow over the winter, but not a lot of jobs. We look forward to a better spring.

The Annual Provo Shrimp Party was held Feb. 13 at the Elks Club in Provo.

Just a reminder to everyone that Local 354 will hold nominations for officers and delegates at the May unit meetings with voting in June.

For Political Action activities, Bro. Jason Lambourne is looking for members to help with state/national campaigns. We MUST get out and vote!

Don't forget the great party in July for the installation of new local union officers and service pin presentations.

Congratulations to Bro. William Brett Schmidt, who was appointed to the JATC.

MANYA BLACKBURN, R.S.

Surviving Bush Economy

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rtb&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—In another blow to working families, especially the long-term unemployed, Republicans claimed the "improving economy" was why they blocked an unemployment benefits extension.

Millions of unemployed, including many IBEW members, see differently the economic situation that economists have termed a "jobless recovery." Since George Bush's recession began, there are three new workers unemployed for every job created.

In Chicago recently, Local 364 Bro. Todd Kindred, with other jobless workers, was invited to speak at an Illinois AFL-CIO press conference on joblessness. Bro. Kindred implored Congress and Bush to do the right thing and reenact the extension.

If there's a silver lining to the floundering Bush economy, it's the selfless, brotherly spirit demonstrated by IBEW brothers and sisters in solidarity with unemployed members. Upon learning of the tough times our unemployed members are experiencing, IBEW members employed by Chrysler contributed \$800; Bro. Phil Robison raffled golf clubs raising \$800; an anonymous member donated \$1,000 and many members donated boxes of food for all our unemployed members.

Together, we will survive these harsh economic times. That is what brotherhood is all about.

RAY PENDZINSKI, P.S.

In Remembrance

L.U. 396 (i,mt,rtb&u), LAS VEGAS, NV—This local is saddened by the loss of long-time member, associate and friend Robert "Bob" E. Ely. Bob was very active in the local for 30 years. He served as president, recording secretary, Executive Board member, steward and delegate to the IBEW International Conventions. Bob is survived by his wife, Molly, sons Damon and David, daughters Rene, Adrianna and Austyn, and mother, Mary Ely. May the spirit with which he worked carry forward to his legacy. We'll miss you, Bob!

Safety congratulations to Local 396 members for 2 million man-hours worked with no lost-time injuries from 1993 to 2003. Congratulations to the IBEW men and women on all shifts at Nevada Power's Clark-Sunrise-Harry Allen plants on keeping their workplaces safe. What a great safety record!

With great pride, Local 396 celebrated its 30th anniversary on March 1, 2004. Thanks to officers, stewards and members for keeping us strong.

LARRY EDEN, P.S.

Bright Outlook

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rtb,spa&u), EDMONTON, AB—2004 started on a bright note with 300 members dispatched in January alone.

Unit 3 Ft. McMurray reports that hiring for UE-1 will steadily increase with the advent of warmer weather. Along with other Syncrude projects, our membership should have full employment this year.

Unit 2 Calgary stayed busy last year with 131 members taking Comet courses, and 73 put through the Job Steward & Membership Awareness training. Unit 2 Rec. Com. also has a Valentine's Day dance planned.

In the "Great White North," Unit 1 Edmonton has already done a Comet course and one Job Steward course in late January, with one more of each scheduled in February, and more planned later. The Unit 1 Rec. Committee has organized a sleigh ride/wiener roast for February.

Many members used last year's "lull" to upgrade their skills through various trade related courses at the Edmonton and Calgary training centers. A salute to the Education Trust Fund staff, Trustees and contractors on having the foresight to administer and finance the comprehensive training that keeps our members "current" in a fast changing industry.

DAVE ANDERSON, P.S.

Sioux Falls Update

L.U. 426 (i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), SIOUX FALLS, SD—Greetings, Brothers and Sisters. We had a cold winter here in South Dakota.

In September 2003 Pres. Tom Meyers stepped down from office to take a traveling journeyman teacher job. Vice Pres. Greg Stelzer is replacing him in the president's post until local union elections in 2004.

I would like to say thank-you to the 168 travelers and 35 local hands from the 57 locals that helped make 99 wind towers in Pipestone, MN, a big success.

Local 426 extends congratulations to Lyle Kabeiseaman on his retirement effective Jan. 1, 2004.

DENNIS SCHMIDT, P.S.

Work Picture Slow

L.U. 488 (i&mt), BRIDGEPORT, CT—Our 2003 Christmas party was held Dec. 13 at Liedle's Restaurant in Stratford with more than 180 children of local members enjoying the celebration. Chm. Jay Sportini and his committee give unselfishly of their time selling raffle tickets, shopping and gift-wrapping. Everything is worth it the day of the party when Santa arrives to pass out the gifts with his elves. The Christmas Party Committee deserves a round of applause.

Work here in Connecticut remains slow. However, with the recent signing of project labor agreements in Bridgeport, Danbury and Waterbury, we hope for an improved work picture in the months and years to come. We are concentrating our efforts to regain some of the work we have lost in recent years. Although not an easy task, every step forward helps.

Congratulations to Rich Manzo on his retirement. We thank Rich for 43 years of service to this local. He began as an apprentice and retired as president and assistant business manager. Thanks and good luck, Rich!

GEORGE F. MAGDON, P.S.

Unions on the March

L.U. 490 (i&mt), DOVER, NH—Marching with pride to show support for workers' right to choose a union,



Local 490 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Denis Beaudoin (left), Bus. Mgr. Joe Casey (second from left) and Organizer Tony Pecce (right) greet Sen. John F. Kerry (D-MA) and former New Hampshire Gov. Jean Shaheen at a local union meeting held at the Sugar Shack in Barrington, NH.

Local 490 joined with more than 7,000 brothers and sisters from AFL-CIO affiliated unions at a huge International Human Rights Day rally in Boston, MA, last December. Thanks to Local 490 members and to all the IBEW affiliates. It was great meeting and marching with our fellow brothers and sisters. Special thanks to Local 103, Boston, a march sponsor.

It has been said that it isn't an election until a candidate stops by the union hall for a speech. The accompanying photo shows Local 490 officers greeting Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. John F. Kerry (D-MA) and former New Hampshire Gov. Jean Shaheen at a local union meeting.

We are happy to announce that Bro. Jeffrey Lodge is back home from the war in Afghanistan. Welcome home, Jeff—we are very proud of you.

We mourn the passing of Bro. Gerry Garneau. Gerry was a member of our first Local 490 JATC class in 1964. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

MICHAEL DOLAN, P.S.

Members on the Bench

L.U. 596 (i,o&u), CLARKSBURG, WV—Brothers and sisters of Local 596, you and every eligible member of your family need to get out and vote in 2004. Labor has a voice. Let's make it heard.

A new power plant in Morgantown and a new hospital in Clarksburg are both making their way through the permitting process. We hope these projects will become a reality in the upcoming year. The Institute for Scientific Research is on hold because of the lack of federal funding. With many members on the bench, we are hopeful that 2004 will create several projects in our area.

BUTCH ADAMS, P.S.

'Right-to-Work' Event

L.U. 602 (i,o&u), AMARILLO, TX—On Dec. 10, 2003, L.U. 602 "celebrated" Right-to-Work Day by going downtown to the courthouse in Amarillo to inform the public about this important issue. Volunteers cooked hamburgers and hot dogs and provided refreshments free to the public. Local news teams covered the event and we had a good turnout. Our local union plans to make this an annual event.

The Amarillo ISD voted on and passed a bill to build two new schools in the area. The people of Amarillo have been attending school board meetings to encourage decision makers to hire Amarillo contractors rather than out of town contractors. This will create jobs and keep our tax dollars in the area.

A special thanks to the following hard-working and dedicated brothers and sisters: Pres. John Stoltz, Bus. Mgr. Jody Maples, and Asst. Bus. Mgr. John Gil out of the Amarillo area; Richard Caffey, and Mack Ray out of the Lubbock area; Lynette Smith and Mark Cooper of Midland; and to all the brothers and sisters who devote their time to make a difference in their local union. Remember to attend your local union meetings and make a difference in your area.

With sadness Local 602 reports the death of Bros. Buell Crafton, Ellis A. Smith and Gary D. McConnell.

NICKY BIVINS, P.S.

Local 606 apprentice graduate Casey Howard and Scott Maddox, owner of Ermco Electric of Florida, received major Electrical Industry Awards in central Florida. The presenting organization is made up of both union and non-union electricians, suppliers, inspectors and others from the electrical industry.

Local 606 apprentice graduate Casey Howard and Scott Maddox, owner of Ermco Electric of Florida, received major Electrical Industry Awards in central Florida. The presenting organization is made up of both union and non-union electricians, suppliers, inspectors and others from the electrical industry.

DAN RAFTER, R.S./P.S.

High Hopes

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Most of the contractors expect the work picture to pick up for our IBEW members.

Local 606 apprentice graduate Casey Howard and Scott Maddox, owner of Ermco Electric of Florida, received major Electrical Industry Awards in central Florida. The presenting organization is made up of both union and non-union electricians, suppliers, inspectors and others from the electrical industry.



Local 606 award winners, apprentice graduate Casey Howard (second from left) and Ermco Electric owner Scott Maddox (third from left), with their families at the awards ceremony. At left is Casey's wife, Kelly Howard, and beginning fourth from left are Scott's mom, Donna Maddox, his wife, Mee Won Maddox, and his father, Jim Maddox.

Casey was honored as the top-graduating apprentice throughout central Florida. Scott Maddox and his company received an award for "Outstanding Commercial Project" of the year for the Mission Space project at Epcot Center. The project manager was Steve Pavao. The general foreman was J.C. White. Great job, brothers!

Congratulations on a great organizing success to Bros. John Bregg, Leonard Ross and their crew. Thanks to these brothers' hard work, quality workmanship and Local 606's work ethics, Dan Bar, Inc., a formerly non-union contractor of 30 years, was so impressed the company became a signatory contractor.

JANET D. SKIPPER, P.S.

Bus. Mgr. Conroy Retires

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—The officers and members of Local 654 thank former business manager James Conroy for his 20 years of service and dedication to the local. Bro. Conroy, who retired in December 2003, was business manager for six years. His longtime service included 11 years as local union president and three years as recording secretary. We wish Bro. Conroy and his family a long and healthy retirement.

Bro. Larry Laslett was appointed as our new business manager.

The Entertainment Committee has been busy. They did an excellent job on our annual Christmas party and are now in high gear planning Local 654's 65th anniversary banquet. Hope to see everyone there.

Local 654 journeyman courses are generating good turnouts. Call the local for a list of upcoming events if you are interested. These classes are great ways to get a refresher on, or an introduction to, some of the special skills we use in our trade every day.

We all know how important the upcoming election is. We will need retirees, journeymen and apprentices working together. Soon we will be looking for volunteers to staff phone banks, distribute literature, attend rallies and work the polls. This is our opportunity to help our families and ourselves. Get involved—read the mailings, sign up at the meetings, or call the hall.

DAN RAFTER, R.S./P.S.

State Certification

L.U. 684 (c,i,o,rt&st), MODESTO, CA—The work picture has been rotten all winter, but finally jobs are starting to break.

State certification licensing has not been extended; members must complete certification in order to be dispatched on any union job after this year. So far, everyone who has taken the JATC class reports having passed the certification.

Office and staff at Local 684 were recently devastated by the sudden illness of our organizer Jim DeWilms. Jim has responded favorably to medical treatment and will be able to return home from the hospital soon. Many thanks to all the many friends who have expressed their concern for him.

TORREY NEWTON, P.S.

'Labor Needs a Win'

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et, govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rt,se,s pa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—As of this writing, we have 95 journeyman wiremen on the out-of-work list.

OSHA 10-hour classes continue for our members. Additionally, William "Bud" McDannel, our apprenticeship director, is in the process of acquiring his training certification for the above ground International Mine Safety Health Administration (IMSHA).

A new five-year agreement with Verizon was ratified by the members in January.

The presidential election is right around the corner. Labor needs a WIN this election—not big business. We cannot allow this president to stay another term.

President Bush's actions should convince every working-class person in this country on who NOT to vote for. Bush administration hallmarks include: Helping wealthy and giant corporations, taking away overtime pay, doing nothing concerning the nation's health-care crisis, sending more jobs overseas (including white-collar and high-tech jobs), cutting funds for job training and cutting job-creating programs.

Work safe. Attend your local union meetings.

MARSHA STEELE, P.S.

Bush to the Moon

L.U. 716 (em,i,rt&spa), HOUSTON, TX—The Texas primaries are over and it's time to choose the best candidates for labor to run for office in November. We must now focus on the main objective: To get George W. Bush and his cronies out of office.

The idea of Bush going to the moon does not sound like a bad idea. He would be hard pressed to find a worker there to exploit and oppress.

We are actively getting members, families and friends registered to vote, by providing information on labor-friendly candidates who deserve our support Nov. 2. We work diligently with the Harris County AFL-CIO on selecting and endorsing candidates. We were successful in helping Mayor



Local 716 Pres. David R. Alley (left) assists newly registered voter, Bro. Chris Yates.

Bill White, a Democrat, get elected to office.

If anyone needs more evidence as to what a Republican in office can do to the workingman, just take a look at how many jobs have been lost in this country since 2000. It's time for all of us to unite to get a Democrat back in office. There may be other issues of importance, but jobs with good wages and benefits are what we need today to feed and shelter our families.

Somehow this all seems to escape "wannabe" spaceman George W. Bush.

JOHN E. EASTON JR., B.M./F.S.

Picnic a Big Success

L.U. 728 (em,i,rt&spa), FORT LAUDERDALE, FL—The annual picnic was held Jan. 17, 2004, with 1,200 members and their families attending. Brothers and sisters had a chance to chat with IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Construction and Maintenance Dir. Mark Ayers, who stopped by for a little deep-fried turkey and some stimulating conversation. Our traveling brothers did a great job preparing 26 turkeys.

Many members brought a non-perishable item to donate to the community. Some 833 pounds of non-perishable goods were collected. The union food bank was restocked with 451 pounds of food and the remaining 382 pounds were donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank, a local non-profit organization. An additional \$150 was collected for food vouchers. Well Done!

On Nov. 20, 2003, more than 185 brothers and sisters joined thousands of other union members from around the country to march in Miami to make our voices heard against the Free Trade Area of the Americas. This was just the first of many actions that must be taken to stop FTAA. Many of our apprentices joined us for their first real opportunity to participate in an action of solidarity.

Voter registration is critical. Register! You have a voice, make it heard! VOTE!

BEVERLY CURPHEY, P.S.

Battle Ground State

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Our 2003 Christmas party was a great success with about 100 members and their spouses attending. Congratulations to retired Bro. Bob Iler on winning the grand prize T.V.

Our annual picnic is coming up soon. We will send out information on the specifics.

The work picture is still slow but it is hoped that the Operations Support Building II job at Kennedy Space Center will start to pick up soon. The in-town work is holding its own. Some small work is being bid at Kennedy Space Center and some of our contractors are bidding on it.

In this election year, Florida is a big battleground state. In 2002, approximately 90 percent of our members were registered. If you are not registered, stop by the hall and get a registration form. The AFL-CIO is doing a big member education drive. We must get out to VOTE! George W. stole the last election. Let's not allow that to happen here in Florida again.

JOHN W. BARRINGTON, P.S.

Politics & Purse Strings

L.U. 804 (i&o), KITCHENER, ON—The world in which we live is controlled by politics and those who control the political process control the purse strings responsible for the development of infrastructure. Whether at the federal, provincial or municipal level, those in power make the decisions. They control the fate of new construction.

For years, many of our sister locals have been politically active, and our local has just recently begun to become politically active. We must continue to build and grow our political action and awareness program. We must take it to the next level. Political involvement will allow us the opportunity to meet the movers and shakers involved in our communities and afford us the opportunity to discuss the benefits associated with unionized construction. Our goal is to educate our members on the importance of political action and involvement.

Labor must make certain its voice is heard where and when it counts—in front of the decision makers who control the flow of capital. There is no doubt that political involvement pays dividends. As we build our political program we will, over time, come to be recognized as a powerful force.

BRETT MCKENZIE, B.M.

Stepping Out

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—The following members recently retired: Thomas Gallagher, Doug Bingham, Julie Pawlak, Fran Lopez, Joe Maderas, Johnny Badilla, Eddie Flores, Gerald McNeely and Melvin McGrew. Bro. Thomas Gallagher served the local as business manager, president and Executive Board member. His dedication made this local a better one for all members.

We continue our organizing efforts by approaching new hires about the benefits of union membership and by

encouraging active member involvement and attendance at monthly union meetings. We utilize the Internet to view the IBEW website, a valuable resource to stay abreast of political issues that affect organized labor and read about the triumphs and struggles of other locals. To date, our organizing efforts at UES/Gas have gained us 30-plus members.

Also, thanks to 7th District Int. Rep. George L. Crawford, we recently held two outstanding Industrial Stewards Training classes in Springerville and Phoenix for our UES/Gas, SES/Supplemental and TEP Springerville stewards.

R. CAVALETTO, P.S.

Contract Ratified

L.U. 1900 (u), WASHINGTON, DC—Our members at Frederick Gas Company in the "Clerical" group ratified their contract Oct. 31, 2003. The "Physical" group ratified their contract July 31, 2003.

Our Executive Board appointed Roy Green to serve as the Frederick Gas Board member.

As of this writing, our members at Mirant Mid-Atlantic have been working under the company's implemented "Terms and Conditions of Employment" since August 10, 2003. These "Terms and Conditions" were Mirant's last, best and final offer. The National Labor Relations Board rejected the charges originally filed by Local 1900. Local 1900 is appealing the NLRB's decision and, at this writing, no meetings, have yet been scheduled.

The contract for our members at PEPCO expires May 31, 2004. At press time, negotiations were scheduled to begin in spring 2004.

JOSEPH E. HAWKINS, B.R.

A Buzzing January

L.U. 2286 (o&u), BEAUMONT, TX—January 2004 was a very productive month for us.

On Jan. 1, Bus. Mgr. Randy Albin appointed Pres. Clinton Trahan as assistant business manager.

On Jan. 20, our local received written notice from Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill confirming the amalgamation of former Local 390 (Port Arthur) into Local 2286, effective Jan. 1, 2004.



Local 2286 members attended the Texas AFL-CIO Convention in January: from left, serviceman Leonard Reed, mayor of Willis; customer service representative Kitty Prouse; and journey maintenance operator John Baker, state Democratic Executive Committee member and legislative director.

Local 390 represented 470 maintenance, television and outside construction members. It will take several months to complete all work associated with the amalgamation. Bro. Johnny Wilson, who served as Local 390 business manager, will continue working with members formerly represented by Local 390.

On Jan. 26-27, the 44th Texas AFL-CIO Convention was held in Irving.

Members attending were serviceman Leonard Reed (mayor of Willis), customer service representative Kitty Prouse and journey maintenance operator John Baker (state Democratic Executive Committee) from Local 2286; and retiree Kenneth Lewis, who was a member of Local 390.

IC&E technician Stephan Babin attended the 49th Louisiana AFL-CIO Convention held March 1-3.

On behalf of Local 2286 officers and members, welcome to our new members who hail from former Local 390!

KITTY PROUSE, P.S.

Contract Success

L.U. 2320 (I), MANCHESTER, NH—2003 was a successful year at the bargaining table because of the membership's support of our leader-

ship and, most importantly, our unity.

Our unity and solidarity enabled us to successfully counter Verizon's unrealistic cuts in job protections, health care and retirement security, and other benefits. Reviewing a few of Verizon's initial bargaining demands shows the effectiveness of our bargaining strategy that kept Verizon's high priced anti-union lawyers backpedaling and stopped these concessions in their tracks.

Jobs: The company wanted to move 8 percent out of the Northeast a year in the name of "flexibility." Didn't happen! We retained the .7 percent restriction on job transfers.

Cost shifting on health care: No again—no premium shifting and no premium costs for active and retired workers.

The company demanded a zero percent wage increase over the life of the contract. Not happening. The contract provides a compounded wage increase of 10.6 percent over the five-year contract term, plus a 3 percent lump sum payment this year and at least \$3,000 in profit sharing bonuses.

We also agreed to hold discussions over potential additional wage increases as well as the broad area of jobs and job security once a year; however, only matters that are mutually agreed-to in these yearly talks will be implemented.

Where there is unity there is strength!

JOHN MURPHY, P.S.

Summary Annual Report International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Pension Benefit Fund

This is a summary of the annual report for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Pension Benefit Fund, (EIN #53-0088380 Plan No. 001), for the year ending June 30, 2003. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by Trust. Plan expenses were \$101,780,708. These expenses included \$9,019,358 in administrative expenses and \$92,761,350 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 434,107 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan was \$1,391,196,454 as of June 30, 2003, compared to \$1,385,431,788 as of July 1, 2002. During the plan year, the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$5,764,666. This increase included unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$107,545,374, including member contributions of \$44,558,984, losses of \$82,890,583 from the sale of assets, and earnings from investments of \$145,876,973.

Minimum Funding Standards

An actuary's statement shows that enough money was contributed to the plan to keep it funded in accordance with the minimum funding standards of ERISA.

Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report,

or any part thereof, upon request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. Accountants' report;
2. Assets held for investment;
3. Financial information and information on payments to service providers;
4. Loans in default or classified as uncollectible; and
5. Information regarding pooled separate accounts in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, please write or call the office of Mr. Jeremiah J. O'Connor who is Plan Administrator and Secretary-Treasurer of I.B.E.W., 1125 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 728-6200. The charge to cover copying cost will be \$.25 per page.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover the copying given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the Plan at 1125-15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 and the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department of Labor should be addressed to Public Disclosure Room N5638, Pension and Welfare Benefit Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

ADDRESS CHANGE?

Brothers and Sisters, we want you to have your JOURNAL! When you have a change of address, please let us know. Be sure to include your old address and please don't forget to fill in L.U. and Card No. This information will be helpful in checking and keeping our records straight.

If you have changed local unions, we must have numbers of both.

Mail To: Address Change Department, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 1125-15th Street, N.W., Suite 810, Washington, D.C. 20005 or electronically by visiting our web site at www.ibew.org and click on address-changes@ibew.org.

NAME _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

PRESENT LOCAL UNION NUMBER _____

CARD NUMBER _____
(If unknown, check with Local Union)

CURRENTLY ON PENSION Soc. Sec. No. _____

OLD ADDRESS _____
(Please affix mailing label from magazine)

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

FORMER LOCAL UNION NUMBER _____

Don't forget to register to vote at your new address!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from inside front cover

soldiers fighting to give us the right to express how we feel, whether some like it or not. Politics will always divide us. Everyone has different views and that will never change. You can disagree with him and say he is wrong, but to say drop his ticket...get real.

Keith Perrin
Local 666 member, Richmond, Virginia

Don't Be Fooled

I've noticed that since Saddam Hussein's capture, G.W. Bush's approval rating has gone up. With the presidential elections coming up, I ask the IBEW members, as well as

their families and anyone who reads this, to remember the following facts before casting your vote.

We may have captured Saddam, but it cost us hundreds of American lives. And will most definitely cost us more in the coming months. Unemployment has skyrocketed since Bush was elected. Bush is in favor of "right-to-work," which means he is not in favor of skilled and trained union craftsmen on the job. Bush has no use for unions, therefore we have no use for him.

We must vote Bush and his minions out of Washington.

Pay close attention to what the candidates have to say, vote for the one who supports union working families, and let's help America get back on its feet.

Remember: United We Bargain ... Divided We Beg.

Bob Anderson
Local 25 member, Long Island, New York

N O T I C E

IN MEMORIAM

Due to a changeover in the IBEW computer system, the "In Memoriam" list was not available for this issue. The list will continue in the May issue so that no names are left unreported in the Journal.

If You're Not on **ibew.org**, You're Only Getting Half the Story.

**GOOD
JOBS**

Protect Workers Now

**SAFE
JOBS**

**Workers
Memorial
Day
April 28
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