

IBEW JOURNAL

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March 2006

A Vision Comes to Life: IBEW National Health Plan





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voice Heard

I have been a member of this union probably longer than you are old, Mr. Hill.

I opened the first page of the December *Journal* to read two letters to the editor, the most despicable buckets of bilge I have read in a long time. Statements and charges made without any validity. I assure you, not all members of this union feel as those two writers do. That they should be allowed to use our *Journal*, in the Christmas issue, without equal comment by those who feel different is censorship, denying many of us a voice. For you to assume that all members, active or retired, feel as you do and to allow our publication to be used in a partisan manner is a misuse of our *Journal* and your office. To show that you're an equal opportunity leader, print this on the second page of the next issue.

Thomas R. Hall

Local 1439 retiree, Swansea, Illinois

(President Hill responds: Here it is, but, as regular readers of this space know, we routinely publish letters reflecting many different points of view.)

Truly Blessed

My family and I wish to thank you so much for your relief contributions. They are so greatly appreciated. We, like many others here on the Gulf coast, have been severely affected by Hurricane Katrina. While we did not completely lose our home, many others have. Your help has been such a blessing. We would also like to thank the many members who have been able to come down and lend a hand with our recovery.

Randy L. Bellon

Local 733 member, Pascagoula, Mississippi

Snow Job

During the past four and a half years, the Bush administration has masterfully maneuvered the American people and national press. Every speech given refers to 9/11 or the war on terror. If I had a nickel for every time the term, "the war on terror" was used, I could retire and forget about the Social Security trust the Republicans are attempting to cut.

All attempts to criticize the president or his policies have been muted by the drum beats of patriotism. President Bush and Karl Rove (commonly known as the architect of Bush policy) have somehow managed to quell the voice of dissent. When we lose the voice of dissent, we lose liberty.

It makes one wonder what the founding fathers (the patriots that all patriots are measured by) would think.

Charles E. Snyder

Local 508 member, Savannah, Georgia

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Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor, *IBEW Journal*,
900 Seventh Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20001

or send by e-mail to:
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of Electrical Workers.

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on Union-made paper.

IBEW Journal (ISSN: 0897-2826) Published monthly, except January/February and October/November, which are combined issues, by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Subscriptions prices in the United States and Canada, \$4 per year in advance. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *IBEW Journal*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. This *Journal* will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents. Paid advertising is not accepted.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to
B&M Mailing Services Limited, 35 VanKirk
Drive, Unit 15, Brampton, Ontario L7A1A5.
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National Health Plan Fulfills Long Sought Goal

If you were to go back and look at proceedings from past IBEW conventions, you would see that the issue of a national health care plan for the Brotherhood has been a union-wide goal for a long time.

The problems that have motivated such a vision have also been around for along time: health care costs rising faster than any other component of the economy, the squeeze on wages and other benefits to pay for health insurance, the erosion of coverage as single employers and labor-management administered multiemployer plans confront tough choices.

Yet, the obstacles to establishing a national IBEW health plan were real and imposing. Questions of cost, administration and the potential disruption to the existing health care structure could not be wished away. But as the IBEW struggled with these matters, the problems associated with health care only grew worse, making it clear that inaction was the biggest problem of all.

It was time to cut to the chase. Clearly, there is no bipartisan consensus or political backbone in the United States to enact any kind of national health care policy. It was also clear that we needed a clear alternative to the current hodgepodge of plans that exist throughout our branches.

And we needed an alternative to the model that is growing throughout corporate America where companies sharply curtail their health care coverage and leave working families without insurance or foist the costs onto Medicaid and other government programs.

The goal is now reached. The NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan formally became a reality on the first of this year.

This plan has not come about in haste or without difficulty. It has taken several years to get to the point where we were ready to launch the plan. Despite the urgency of the problems facing our bargaining units in the utility, manufacturing, telecommunications and broadcasting branches and our local and regional Taft-Hartley multiemployer plans in construction, there was no shortcut around the obstacles. We had to take things one step at a time.

The first step was to start small, test the system and then be ready for expansion. We chose the construction locals in the IBEW Tenth District, covering in total some 5,000 members. As explained in the words of two business managers in the story that begins on page 14 of this

issue, the regional plan covering most construction members in the Tenth District was being squeezed by cost pressures. The local union leadership and contractors in the district seized the opportunity to become part of a national plan with streamlined administration and reduced costs. A local plan in Lake Charles, Louisiana, has also joined the national plan.

In health insurance, high costs come about in many ways,



not the least of which are having too small a pool of covered employees, and a series of plans with duplication of administration and related expenses that occur many times over. The expansion of the group covered means that the risk is reduced by spreading it over a much greater population. The costs of paperwork, consultants, administration, trustee insurance and other costs are consolidated, creating much greater efficiency of administrative operations.

Our goal is to grow the national plan quickly and responsibly. We must continue the process of doing things in steps. Starting from our base of union members and contractors, we are now talking to jointly administered plans in the construction industry throughout the union. We have already joined with the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) in developing the plan. IBEW and local NECA representatives who are responsible for the administration of local or regional health care plans can most easily move into the national plan.

Even though participation in the national plan is optional, we hope that our local funds will see the obvious benefit of pooling our resources and reducing our administrative costs. The crisis facing many of our members in the United States makes it clear that we do not have time for internal politics or the influence of local plan advisors to get in the way of our members reaping the benefits that a national plan offers. We are sorry that some attorneys, actuaries and administrators may suffer a loss of business if a local fund chooses to join the national plan, but that must not be allowed to stand in the way of making true progress on an issue that has reached crisis proportions throughout the continent.

Our next step will be to offer our national health care plan to our employers in other industries as an alterna-

tive to their single company policies. We hope to convince these employers that the same advantages of a wider pool of coverage and reduced administrative costs can benefit them as well.

This is the same model that we used successfully in the implementation of Sav-Rx, our national prescription drug plan in 2003. That plan has now grown to cover 219,500 IBEW members and their families and management participants. Sav-Rx will also provide the prescription drug coverage segment of the NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan.

Eventually, we may be able to offer coverage on an individual basis to members who work in units that do not participate in the national plan. First, however, we must gain the participa-

tion of local or regional multi-employer plans, followed by single employer plans in order to make the national plan grow in strength.

We know that there will be many questions surrounding the launch of this national health care plan. We cannot underestimate the magnitude of the challenge of making this work at a time when escalating costs and other pressures are affecting health care throughout the United States. We ask for your patience, and assure you that more information will be available soon, as we move step by step to make this plan grow and fulfill the vision that many in the IBEW have had for a long time.

In doing so, we will be living up to portions of the Objects of the Brotherhood found at the beginning of the IBEW Constitution, which mandate us "to assist each other in sickness or distress" and "to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship." We consider those words to carry a sacred trust, and that is why the national health care plan exists today. ■



EDWIN D. HILL INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT **JON F. WALTERS** INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

**“OUR GOAL IS TO GROW
THE NATIONAL PLAN QUICKLY AND RESPONSIBLY—
STEP BY STEP.”**

Ed Hill
Jon F. Walters

Las Vegas Organizing Blitz Involves 15 Locals

A coordinated West Coast organizing campaign involving 17 locals in California, Washington and Nevada landed in Las Vegas in October, putting hundreds of workers on notice that the IBEW wants them.

A building boom in Las Vegas made the city the hub for the largest-yet Ninth District bottom-up organizing blitz of California-based Helix Electric, Inc. The company is the country's 13th largest nonunion electrical contractor and the target of an intense year-and-a-half-long effort by the IBEW.

Thirty-two organizers teamed with local rank-and-file volunteers—including a handful of new IBEW members from Helix—to hand-bill worksites and house-call 181 Helix employees, said Ninth District International Representative Cecil Wynn. They carried in hand a copy of a check to an IBEW apprentice who was awarded thousands of dollars in back pay by the company for Davis-Bacon wage violations. They also handed out prevailing wage rates for the Las Vegas area, showing the workers what they would be making under a union contract.

Wynn said when Helix employees

focused on the cost of union dues, he pointed out that dues totaled nearly half of what the nonunion workers have to pay for health and welfare benefits—free to union members.

“Response was about 50-50,” said Local 357 organizer Al Davis. “About half thought we were full of crap and that Helix was right. The other half thought Helix was lying to them.”

Participating locals included: Local 11, Los Angeles; Local 180, Vallejo, Calif.; Local 191, Everett, Washington; Local 234, Castroville, Calif.; Local 302, Martinez, Calif.; Local 332, San Jose, Calif.; Local 340, Sacramento, Calif.; Local 357, Las Vegas, Nev.; Local 401, Reno, Nev.; Local 440, Riverside, Calif.; Local 441, Santa Ana, Calif.; Local 477, San Bernardino, Calif.; Local 551, Santa Rosa, Calif.; Local 569, San Diego, Calif.; Local 595, Dublin, Calif.; Local 617, San Mateo, Calif.; and Local 952, Ventura, Calif. 



More than 60 IBEW members participated in hand-billing and house-calling a large nonunion electrical contractor October in Las Vegas.

Maine Locals Recaptures Residential Market

Quality work, competitive prices and a hard-to-resist guarantee are helping build the IBEW's presence in the residential sector in Maine.

The Plus 5 program, a pioneering residential organizing program from the IBEW's Sixth Vice Presidential District, has transformed Portland Local 567 and Augusta Local 1253 from non-players to a force in Maine housing construction.

“The climate here is very anti-union and we hadn't done a very good job at selling ourselves,” said Local 567 Business Manager Milton McBreairty. “But this program has opened a lot of doors for us.”

Plus 5 alone is responsible for the major turnaround, where the two locals share the inside jurisdiction in the state. In one year, they have signed approximately 41 contractors, including previously nonunion contractors and members opening their own shops. In early November, Local 567 ran out of members to man residential worksites. Today, it is stripping nonunion workers and, for the first time, placing ads in the newspaper for qualified electricians. Local 1253 is averaging five calls a day on its dedicated Plus 5 line.

Plus 5, which targets new single-family homes as well as apartment and condominium buildings, extends five years beyond a builder's standard one-year warranty for electrical work. Under it, new home builders and owners are guaranteed quality workmanship, trained electricians, the latest technology, free estimates and five years of worry-free electrical work. The multi-year warranty is particularly attractive to homeowners seeking peace of mind. Plus 5 was pioneered in the Sixth District, largely through the efforts of Jim Dudley, a now-retired Sixth District residential organizing coordinator.

At Local 567, Plus 5 was launched with a contractor development program that provides key assistance for members contemplating opening their own businesses. Crafting business plans, managing finances and the art of estimating are all covered. For ongoing resource sharing,

they convened a contractor roundtable, which is now at work on an effort to standardize methods so that precise measurements, fuse box contents and outlet heights are uniform among signatory contractors.

Two and a half years ago, Local 1253 had 11 signatory contractors. Since then, they have signed 28—most of whom are local union members who opened their own shops. Many of those nonunion shops who signed up with the local were influenced by the Plus 5 radio and phone book ads, said Business Manager Wayne Rancourt.

Local 567's residential training program recognizes that housing construction is a specialized field that requires different skills for the fast-paced industry



The Plus 5 residential electrical construction exhibit travels to home shows with Maine Plus 5 Coordinator Calvin Murphy, left, and Augusta Local 1253 Business Manager Wayne Rancourt.

that emphasizes high productivity.

The Maine Housing Authority, which distributes funds for low-income housing, is also giving the program a push by favoring contractors who provide on-the-job training and health insurance to their workers. Local 567 Business Development Director Allan Shepard said that by creating work opportunities the local is also helping its organizing efforts.

Putting a successful Plus 5 program into place involves cultivating training programs and committees and contractors dedicated to residential work. Marketing is key to the success of the program. In Maine, they print brochures and sell Plus 5 at housing fairs, to developers, real estate agents and financial institutions. Locals 567 and 1253

frequently share resources, including the Web site at www.plus5maine.com.

Local 1253 organizer Calvin Murphy sends letters to contractors, developers and insurance companies weekly to get out the word about Plus 5. Aside from the warranty, what gets their attention are statistics about electrical fires taking 3,200 lives a year and costing

(Continued on page 26)

FIVE SEATTLE BROTHERS ARE IBEW MEMBERS

IBEW membership is often passed from generation to generation. But in the case of the Burbidge family, five brothers joined Seattle Local 77 one at a time until all were in the trade. Today, all five work in the line construction industry—three for a contractor and two others for the local utility, Grays Harbor Public Utility District.

Jake Burbidge, 33, was the first to hire into the IBEW, after taking a summer job as a grunt. "I was hired and hooked from there," he said. After two years of college, he took an apprenticeship through the Northwest JATC and topped out in 1996. Today he works for Grays Harbor PUD, as does his older brother, Phil, 35. Phil Burbidge, who also attended two years of college, and headed into the JATC, graduating in 1997.

Ryan Burbidge, 31, is a line crew foreman employed by Michel's Power, based in Brownsfield, Wis., which contracts with Grays Harbor PUD for new line construction. Ryan Burbidge, who graduated from apprenticeship school in 1998, worked as a utility lineman for three years before returning to construction. Ryan enjoys working with his younger brothers

Cale, 28, an outside lineman who topped out in 2001, and Mark, 26, an apprentice who is slated to top out in 2007. Cale Burbidge works under big brother Ryan as his lineman and Mark Burbidge, a college graduate, is Ryan's hot apprentice.



Local 77 brothers in every sense of the word are, from left, Jake, 33, Phil, 35, Ryan, 31, Cale, 28, and Mark, 26, Burbidge, at a new line construction site on the Washington coast.

These days, they are winding down an eight-month, \$4 million project building 11.5 miles of transmission line near the Washington coast. They attribute their success on the job to working together as well as with crew staples and fellow IBEW Local 77 members Steve Douglass, Joel Mounts and Jake Bell. "It's nice to work with people you're always on the same page with and trust to always watch your back," Ryan Burbidge said.

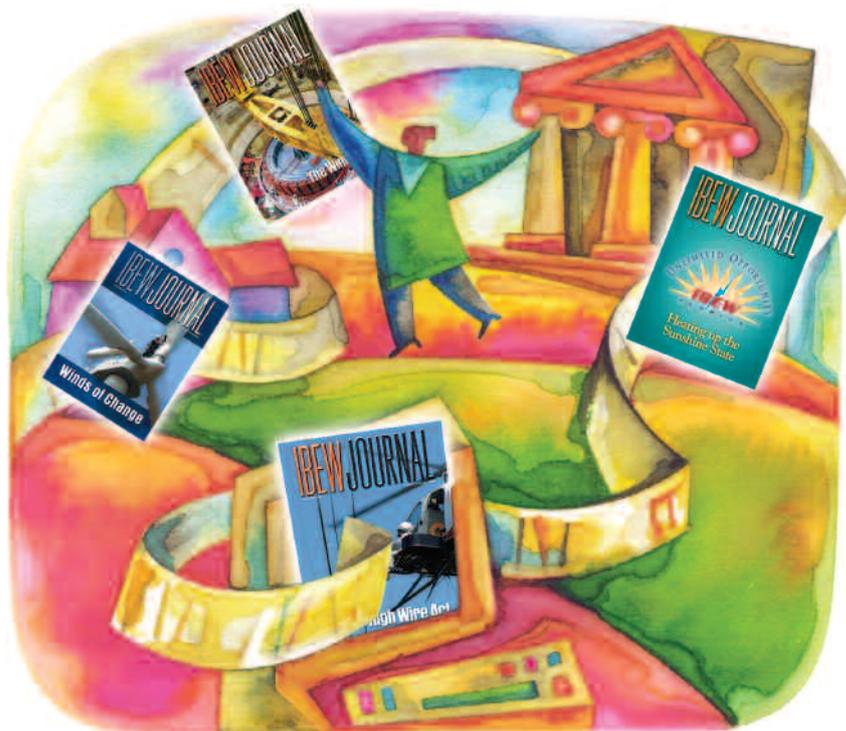
Raised on a small dairy farm by parents Lyle and Kathy Burbidge, the boys have always been close, and share a love for the camaraderie of line work.

"They're well known as hard workers with upstanding values," Kathy Burbidge said. "They are awesome men."

Katie Burbidge, the youngest sibling, opted out of the IBEW, but occasionally works as her brother Ryan's flagger. ■

ATTENTION ALL READERS

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T R A N S I T I O N S

Edward J. France Jr., who served as a special assistant to former IBEW International Secretary Joseph Keenan, passed away on December 25, 2005. He was 94.

DECEASED



Edward J. France

After serving as office manager and dispatcher for Portland, Oregon, Local 125, France was assigned to the International Office staff in 1954 to work on office procedures and local union accounting. France led efforts to convert IBEW's paper membership files to computer databases.

Nancy Kressler, France's oldest daughter, says that he was originally scheduled to be relocated to San Francisco after a brief stint in Washington. "He did such a thorough job, however," says Ms. Kressler, "the officers asked him to stay on."

Educated in Portland's public schools, France attended the Behnke-Walker School of Business.

France retired from the International Office on December 30, 1976. An active member of the National Capital Area Trade Union Retirees

Club, France appreciated music and botany. He sang with the Portland Symphony and loved the opera. During his years in Oregon, he collected rare and unusual rhododendron from all over the world.

Brother France leaves behind his wife of 69 years, Lola Mae, his daughters, Nancy Kressler of Greenbelt, Maryland, and Linda Leaman of Clinton, Maryland, and a son, Richard France of Iowa City, Iowa. He also leaves six

grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The officers and members

of the IBEW convey our deepest sympathies to the France family. ☼

Peter B. McCue, a retired Third District International Representative, died on December 11, 2005. He was 80. Initiated into the IBEW in 1954, Brother McCue served as business manager and president of Newark, New Jersey, Local 1159, which represented workers at Edison Industries. Local 1159 amalgamated with Newark Local 1158 in 1992. McCue was active in the E.I. Mutual Association, a group of employees at Edison Industries. Later, McCue joined former Hazleton, Pennsylvania, Local 686.

Tom Burke Jr., business manager of former Local 686 says, "Peter was a great help to our local, which was construction-based, in representing nearly 800 of our manufactur-

DECEASED



Peter McCue

ing members in two plants."

Appointed as International Representative in 1961, McCue organized and serviced local unions in the manufacturing sector. He took courses at Rutgers University and attended the Newark College of Engineering.

McCue, who enjoyed traveling, reading, gardening and amateur astronomy, retired in 1985. He served as a volunteer courier and Catholic Chaplain's aide two days each week at Morristown Memorial Hospital. McCue once described his volunteer work as "among the most rewarding things I have ever done."

The officers and members of the IBEW convey our heartfelt sympathies to the family of Brother McCue. ☼



HOME SAFETY QUIZ

At work, we require our employers to provide training, safety programs, proper tools and whatever else is necessary to protect workers on the job. So why not take advantage of this training knowledge that we have received at work and apply it at home? If we don't keep ourselves and our families safe at home, no one else will. At work, we stay safe for our families. At home, protect your family from emergencies by developing a home emergency response plan.

The following checklist may help in developing an emergency plan for families to follow in any disaster.

YES NO

- Do you have a home emergency plan, and does it cover all emergencies like fire, weather, etc.? Does your family practice it?
- Does your plan include smoke, gas and carbon monoxide detectors?
- Do you have a weather radio and do all members of your family know what the signals mean?
- Can each member of your family tell you two ways out of your home? If your second way out of a two-story home is a window, do you need a safety ladder? If you live in a high-rise, does your family know—and practice—two ways out of the building? (Remember that an elevator is never a way out during a fire.)
- Can all members of your family operate the locks, windows and doors for escape?
- Does your family understand to leave or seek shelter when an alarm sounds?
- Does each member of your family know where to go after evacuating your home?
- Does each member of your family know who to call for help and are the telephone numbers posted?

YES NO

- In a weather-related emergency, does your family know where to seek shelter?
- Escape planning and smoke detectors are essential for getting everyone out safely. Are the batteries routinely replaced?
- Does your family understand that once they are outside, they should stay outside?
- Do you have a first-aid kit and is it fully stocked?
- Do you have a fire extinguisher and is it serviced?
- Do you encourage family members to take first-aid and CPR classes?
- If needed, do members of your family know how to shut off the water, gas and electricity to your home?
- Does your plan cover whom to call in case of a utility problem?
- Do you maintain a supply of tarps or plywood to cover openings created by a storm or fire?
- Do you have flashlights, radios, etc., and more importantly, batteries located in a central area known to all family members?

Scoring: ____ YES ____ NO

If your responses to the majority of the questions asked in the checklist are "YES," then you are well on your way to developing a plan. If your answers are "NO" to all or most of these questions, then develop and implement a home plan as soon as possible.



Coalition Strategy Drives IBEW Sister's Political Victories in New York State

IBEW activist Kathy Luz Herrera first contested an election for public office on a friend's dare in 2001. Campaigning with a third-party endorsement in the Democratic primary for legislator in Tompkins County, she won by a 2-to-1 margin and went on to victory in the general election.

Four years later, the member of Ithaca, New York, Local 241 was a seasoned and widely respected leader. She ran unopposed in her bid for re-election to the county office on the Democratic line. "I bring a working person's perspective to county government," she says. "I'm plainspoken, but I always stay mindful of the interests of diverse groups and the importance of differences of opinion."

For this Texas native and 17-year IBEW member, politics is not just something she does. Politics is who she is.

Herrera, 53, a maintenance electrician on the campus of Cornell University, is the daughter of John J. Herrera, a taxi driver-turned-lawyer and celebrated pioneer in the fight for the civil rights of Mexican-Americans. Her mother, Olivia, a self-educated migrant farm worker, was a grassroots activist.

"I remember when it was an honor to aspire to public office," says Herrera. She recalls how her father arranged for President John F. Kennedy and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy to address a gathering of Mexican-Americans at Houston's Albert Thomas Convention Center. Her voice trembles as she describes Mrs. Kennedy rising to address the audience in Spanish. "I knew that Mexican-Americans had arrived, that our votes were being taken seriously," she said. The date will never leave her. President Kennedy was assassinated the next day in Dallas.

Herrera spent the late 1970's and early 1980's working on what she calls "non-traditional" jobs in the downtown Houston area. Hired as a stockman at the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, she was promoted to installer, then to repairman, a member of the Communications Workers of America. "I loved working outside, climbing poles and gaining experience trouble-shooting," she says. She attended technical school, received a mechanical license from the city of Houston, and worked for a time for the State of Texas as a boiler operator, going underground beneath the governor's mansion.

The Texas oil bubble burst in the late 1980's, and work slack-



ened for Herrera. Just as troubling as the economy, she says, was what had become of the political optimism of her youth. "President Reagan demonized people in public service," she said and "spread the notion that government is inherently bad." When he fired the air traffic controllers, adds Herrera, "I got a glimmer of how dangerous that thinking is."

On a summer trip to upstate New York, Herrera decided to leave her home state. She applied for an apprenticeship with Local 241, interviewed and was accepted. It wasn't long before she requested to represent the local at the IBEW's Third District Women's Conference. The local agreed to sponsor her participation. Impressed by her strong advocacy skills, members of Local 241 elected Herrera shop representative and chief Cornell Building Trades delegate to the county building trades council.

Working at Cornell deepened Herrera's appreciation of the diverse gifts of Tompkins County. She applied her skills to main-

taining buildings, old and new. On her maintenance route were aging, but revered, vine-covered campus cornerstones mixed in with modern research structures, like the underground Wilson Synchrotron, a particle physics accelerator.

As home to Cornell University and Ithaca College, the county's main industries are education and a growing high-tech sector. But there are still many small family farms going back generations. As chairman of the county's planning, development and environmental quality committee, she has supported tax relief for family farmers who want to work the land, rather than sell to developers.

Herrera first ran for legislator in Tompkins County—population 100,000—in 2001 on a dare from Jen Bloom, a former Ithaca resident who coordinated the Women Labor Leaders Circle. Bloom asked Herrera if she was interested in running in the Democratic primary for a vacant position on the Tompkins County Board of Representatives. Herrera told her “I’m not the one you seek, but I will help.” Bloom replied, “Don’t you think you can do it?” “She was daring me,” says Herrera. “I had to run, and I knew that I could succeed.”

Herrera appealed to the Democratic ward committee for its endorsement. After the committee picked another candidate, Democrats and independents urged her to run, and seek the endorsement of New York’s Working Families Party.

Herrera secured the party’s endorsement and went to work to satisfy a county ordinance requiring 200 names on a petition to run for office.

After announcing her candidacy at a playground built with IBEW help, she started visiting groups that she had worked with, including locals of the machinists, laborers and other unions. She spoke at membership meetings, enlisting volunteers and support for her campaign. She visited homes of residents who lived near major intersections, discussed issues facing the community and won their approval to place her oversized campaign signs on their front lawns.

The key to the campaign, says Herrera, was building the widest possible

base of support. “You can’t wear one label and excite people’s interest,” says Herrera. “I’m an advocate of organized labor, a Hispanic, a Catholic and I’m openly gay,” she says.

Herrera’s union label moved voters to her side. While petitioning door-to-door, a Herrera volunteer gave a man a card featuring the candidate’s background and platform. He, at first, declined to sign the petition, but later came back out, called to the volunteer and signed the petition, saying, “I didn’t know that she [Herrera] was a union electrician”.

One of Herrera’s campaign themes was the need to elect candidates who would not play residents off against one another. Tompkins County, for instance, contains a large constituency of environmental voters who are often opposed to growth. They are sometimes in conflict with labor unions and commercial interests. Herrera, who has been trained in community mediation techniques, says, “I listened to each side’s concerns, and then I advocated growth proposals that were pro-labor and pro-environment.”

Herrera promoted her interest in improving public transportation. Prior to her campaign, she had won a seat on the board of directors of Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, speaking up for keeping fares low and making sure that transit routes serve all segments of the community. Herrera, who is set to become chairman of the transit board in 2007, insisted that the

(Continued on next page)



Candidate Kathy Luz Herrera petitions Ithaca resident in campaign for Tompkins County legislator.

Coalition Strategy

(Continued from page 9)

transit authority preserve worker benefits when the system reorganized, impacting unions representing drivers and other employees.

A self-professed “data freak,” Herrera searched for newly registered voters. She called or visited them, without regard to their party affiliation, convincing some to change their political identifications. She targeted mailings to Hispanic and Asian voters, encouraging them to become politically active.

When a member of the Green Party expressed an interest in running against her, Herrera set up a meeting with him. They ended up talking for over four hours. He instead decided to endorse her candidacy, convinced that she would be a legislator true to her word.

Herrera won the Democratic primary by a 2-to-1 margin and went on to an easy victory in the general election.

Herrera takes pride in being part of strategic discussions that have shaped Tompkins County’s recent economic development. High-tech firms and government contractors have been recruited to provide employment in an area where manufacturing long ago declined.

Mike Talariski, Local 241’s business manager, who was one of Herrera’s apprenticeship classmates, has been attending Industrial Development Agency meetings with her. He says, “Kathy stands up for local people. She lets everyone know that she’s a union member.” Talariski praises Herrera for helping to win mandates for the county to provide the same guarantee as state law requiring apprenticeship participants on projects above \$1 million. Three months after it was passed in the county, the same measure was approved in the city of Ithaca. “I hope Kathy stays in public office and moves up,” says Talariski.

Since the population of Ithaca balloons to 100,000 when colleges are in session and drops by nearly 30,000 in the summer-time, Herrera and other county leaders discussed ways to keep the economy flourishing year-round. They have focused on marketing the area’s gorges, rivers and other natural wonders to attract tourists, bicyclists, hikers and climbers.

“We have been able to bring dollars into our area while maintaining our quality of life, avoiding the strip-mall scenes elsewhere,” says Herrera.

In January, Herrera was appointed to the county work force investment board, which allocates money for job training programs. She hopes to tap her expanded influence to support

project labor agreements, a living wage and job training for the unemployed and underemployed.

Herrera doesn’t just pay lip service to job training and life-long learning programs. She’s a dynamic participant. Working to add the mortar board to her many hats, she maintains a 3.6 GPA at Cornell University’s renowned School of Industrial and Labor Relations. She has been admitted to the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

In 2003, Herrera was selected for a fellowship to Harvard University for the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program.



“This is our turn in the barrel. This is the time for good and decent people, many of whom have already served on PTA’s and school boards to step up and run for higher offices.”

Herrera’s Web site (www.herrera-forithaca.com) reinforces her governing style and coalition-building nature. Part tribune, bulletin board, link between county groups of all stripes and part celebration of her family roots, the site includes a questionnaire soliciting opinions and volunteers to get involved. Herrera’s mission statement is prominently displayed: “As your representative, I approach policymaking as more than the sum of individual issues and parts. I want to keep the high quality of life in Tompkins County within reach of all of us.”

Herrera often reflects upon a political climate that has changed from the one that she encountered when she settled in Ithaca. A Republican majority on the Tompkins County Board of Representatives has shifted to an 11 to 4 Democratic majority, including five women, two from minority groups.

Last November, Herrera was re-elected to office, running unopposed with a 48 percent turnout from her home district and an over 29 percent turnout from the Town of Ithaca’s ninth district. She continues to reel in accolades from her community.

The Community Dispute Resolution Center presented its Eighth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Peacemaker Award to Herrera in January, for “her life-long commitment to economic justice for all people.”

“I would never have succeeded in public office without the support of my brothers and sisters in the IBEW,” says Herrera. From leadership training and fund-raising to support from JATC Director Jake Benninger—which enabled her to balance her job and legislative responsibilities—the IBEW was always there.

Herrera, who has addressed IBEW members in workshops on running for public office, says, “Politics is not reserved for anyone special. This is our turn in the barrel. This is the time for good and decent people, many of whom have already served on PTA’s and school boards to step up and run for higher offices.”

THE IBEW ON DUTY

Wisconsin Member Dies of Iraq Injuries

Matthew Ronald Kading and **Lindsay Sayles**, both Army Reservists, had two months to go on their tour of duty in Iraq before their return home and marriage.

Tragically, Kading, an electrical apprentice with Madison, Wisconsin, Local 159, died on October 31, two weeks after being injured in an improvised bomb attack near his convoy outside Tikrit. He is the second IBEW member to die in the Iraq conflict.

Sergeant First Class Kading, assigned to the Monclova, Ohio-based 983rd Engineers Battalion, put his electrical skills to work in the war theatre, rebuilding schools and government buildings.

Kading joined the Army 14 years ago,



Matthew Ronald Kading

shortly after graduating high school. He served in the active military for seven years and became an apprentice while on leave.

Rick Roeth, Kading's friend, told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, "He was very strong-willed in his belief that what he was doing was proper and correct. He wanted to make the world a better place."

Karla Kading, Matthew's mother, told **Madison.com**

that she had raised Kading to be a pacifist. She said, "His missions were to build up, not to tear down."

IBEW Members Train Iraqi Troops

While political leaders in Washington, D.C., debate the merits of continuing the U.S. presence in Iraq or withdrawing, nearly all agree that a critical question is the readiness of Iraqi troops to maintain order in their nation.

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Radosevich, a voice/data/video technician and member of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Local 158, is in the middle of the U.S. Army's efforts to stand up their Iraqi counterparts.

Radosevich, a 16-year Army veteran, assists in the management of interpreters, coordinates screening

for Iraqi forces on the post and directs maintenance of the Ground Forces Command building in Baghdad. Soon he will be training Iraqi army troops.

Radosevich is one of several IBEW members conducting training in Iraq. National Guardsman **Jonathan Flynn**, a member of Trenton, New Jersey, Local 269, recently returned home from Iraq, where he trained Iraqi National Guard units.

Flynn's Local 269 union brother, **Ed Nowak**, a Navy Seabee, recently left for Iraq as a member of a construction battery.

They Also Serve

Word continues to come in of more IBEW members doing their duty in Iraq.

Huntington, Indiana, Local 983 reports that member **David Dixon** has been deployed to Iraq.

Two members of Albany, New York, Local 236, are on opposite ends of their tours of duty. **Willie Short**, who spent one year working at Ground Zero in New York City after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, recently shipped out. **John Szemplinski**, also from Local 236, recently returned home from the war theatre.

Denver, Colorado, Local 68 sent a local flag and care packages to member **Rafael Andrade**, who is serving with the 133rd Engineering Company.

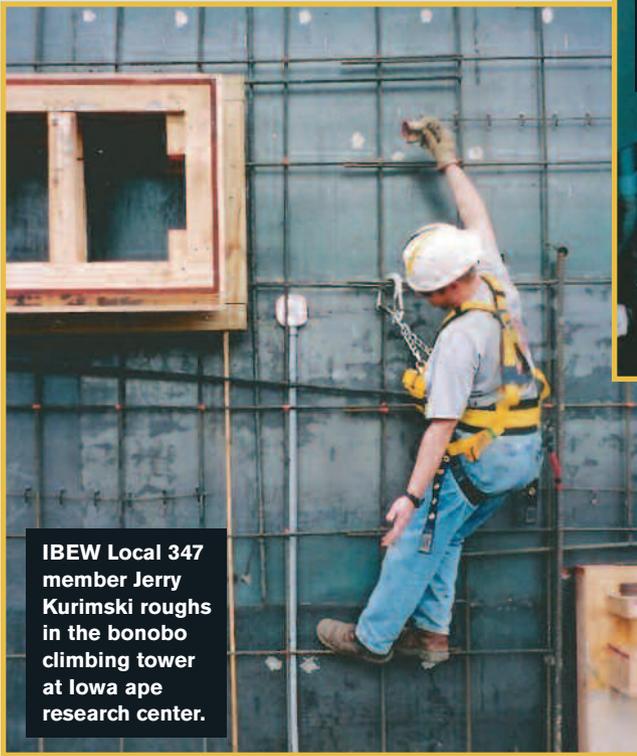
Salem, Oregon, Local 280 reports that **Karl Mielke** and **Michael Archdeacon**, inside apprentices, were both deployed to Iraq in October as members of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. Mielke, a combat engineer, is clearing land mines. Archdeacon, an electrician, is bringing an old building up to code for use as barracks.

Andrew Meredith, a member of Sacramento, California, Local 340, returned from Iraq with plentiful gratitude for his brothers and sisters. Meredith, who was a crew chief on Blackhawk helicopter missions, wore an IBEW patch on his helmet during 500 combat hours, meeting many other IBEW members. He thanks Local 340 for sending care packages and a projector that was used for flight briefings and movie nights. Meredith's co-workers at Cosumnes River Power Plant raised

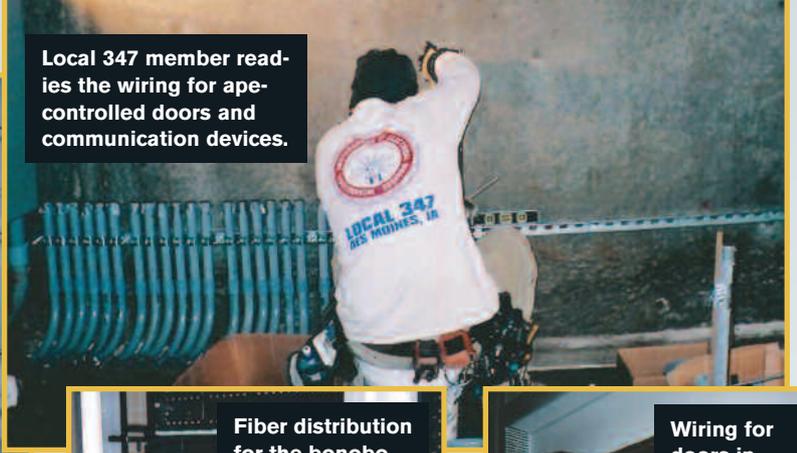


Andrew Meredith

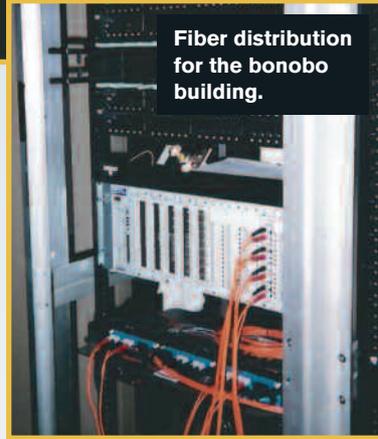
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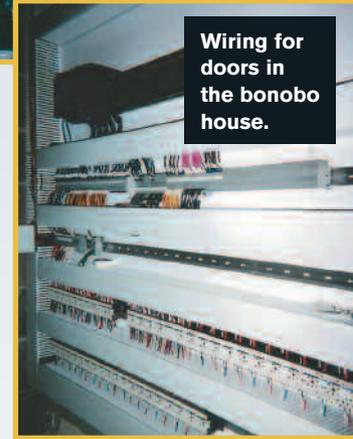
IBEW Local 347 member Jerry Kurimski roughs in the bonobo climbing tower at Iowa ape research center.



Local 347 member reads the wiring for ape-controlled doors and communication devices.



Fiber distribution for the bonobo building.



Wiring for doors in the bonobo house.

IBEW Members Design, Build Groundbreaking Research Center

The snowy cornfields of the Midwest may sound like an unlikely place for jungle dwellers, but the Great Ape Trust of Iowa opened in Des Moines last year on a new campus that duplicates the heat and humidity of their native habitat. At the heart of the world-class research center is the state-of-the-art communications system developed and installed by a team of IBEW and Local 347 members who helped translate the aspirations of the scientists into technological reality.

At what will be the largest research facility of its kind in North America, three computer-savvy orangutans and eight bonobos inhabit a world of their making, with touch keyboards that allow the apes to communicate, order food and even

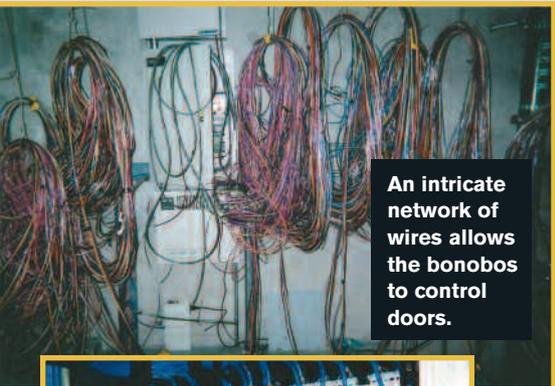
control access to visitors. The technology and computer equipment was developed by Des Moines contractor T3 Technologies, Inc., which worked with the scientists to enhance communications between the species while giving the

apes more autonomy in their new habitat.

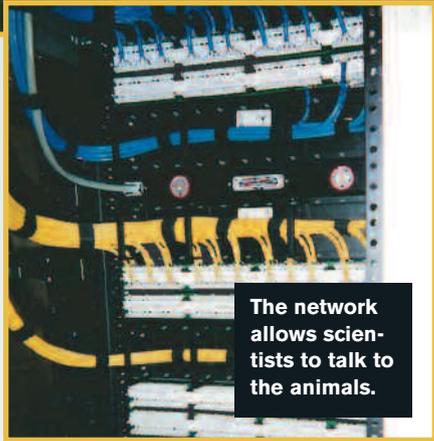
“What we came up with is really beyond the scientists’ expectation of what we could accomplish,” said T3 owner Steve Boers. “A lot of what we did had never been done before.”

Boers and his team spent months designing the first-of-its kind technology envisioned by Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, the scientist who directs bonobo (a type of chimpanzee) research. The bonobo building is the first of several primate homes planned for the preserve. “She would share her vision and we would go back to our team members to see if it was possible,” Boers said.

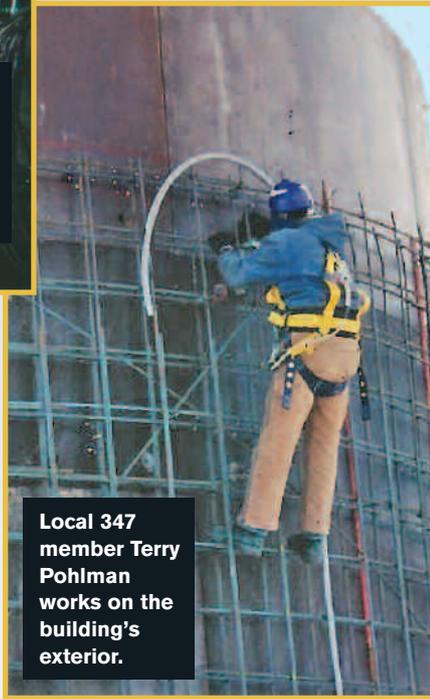
Mostly, it was. Boers and his IBEW employees, along with equipment suppli-



An intricate network of wires allows the bonobos to control doors.



The network allows scientists to talk to the animals.



Local 347 member Terry Pohlman works on the building's exterior.

ers, designed a series of sliding doors and transfer tunnels for the bonobos that allow them to roam throughout the 30,000 square foot building, which includes sleeping quarters, greenhouse, kitchen, music room and a Jacuzzi with a waterfall. They communicate with researchers via a “lexigram” touch screen—a symbolized keyboard—in which the buttons represent a word or concept. The keyboards are equipped with hardware that archives and time-stamps every keystroke, recording for research the primates’ every communication. All the rooms are equipped with cameras and microphones. A dedicated fiber-optic line will enable students and scientists across the world to participate in the research.

“There was no engineering for the technology; we just developed it ourselves,” Boers said. “We went to vendors and put the package together and made it happen.

Before the apes arrived in Iowa, Boers visited their last home, at Georgia State University in Atlanta, where all their comings and goings required a human escort through mechanical doors—unlike the automation in place now. At the new Des Moines campus, the primates are alerted to their ability to enter and exit through doors enabled by scientists via a key

switch, which in turn illuminates a green push button that the apes use to open doors. Most of the work on the doors, computers, security, fire alarms, cell phone boosters and voice-data-video was done by T3 workers before the apes moved in last spring. But they are called back occasionally, to fix glitches, make upgrades and, soon, to continue the several-phase project that is expected to last 10 years and include buildings for more orangutans, gorillas and chimpanzees, plus a visitor’s center with a pedestrian skywalk.

“We’re not your typical plugs-and-switches contractor,” Boers said. “It’s not your regular electrician job.”

The work of the T3 electricians at the Great Ape Trust was featured by voice and data supplier Leviton Voice and Data, whose Web site shows a photo of an equipment room with copper and fiber systems expertly punched out on data panels. Approximately 10 T3 electricians installed the technology systems over two years, Boers said. Signatory contractor Wolin Electric, Des Moines, performed the electrical installation.

Resident bonobo Kanzi, 25, is already a celebrity for his word comprehension and musical ability. Known as the bonobo with the most advanced language skills in the world, he has performed music with Eng-

lish rockers Peter Gabriel and Paul McCartney. With a vocabulary of more than 500 words, Kanzi is regarded as the first ape to demonstrate real comprehension of spoken language. His sister, Panbanisha, is also considered advanced in language. Only 70 bonobos are left in the United States; they are important because they contain 99 percent of the human gene pool.

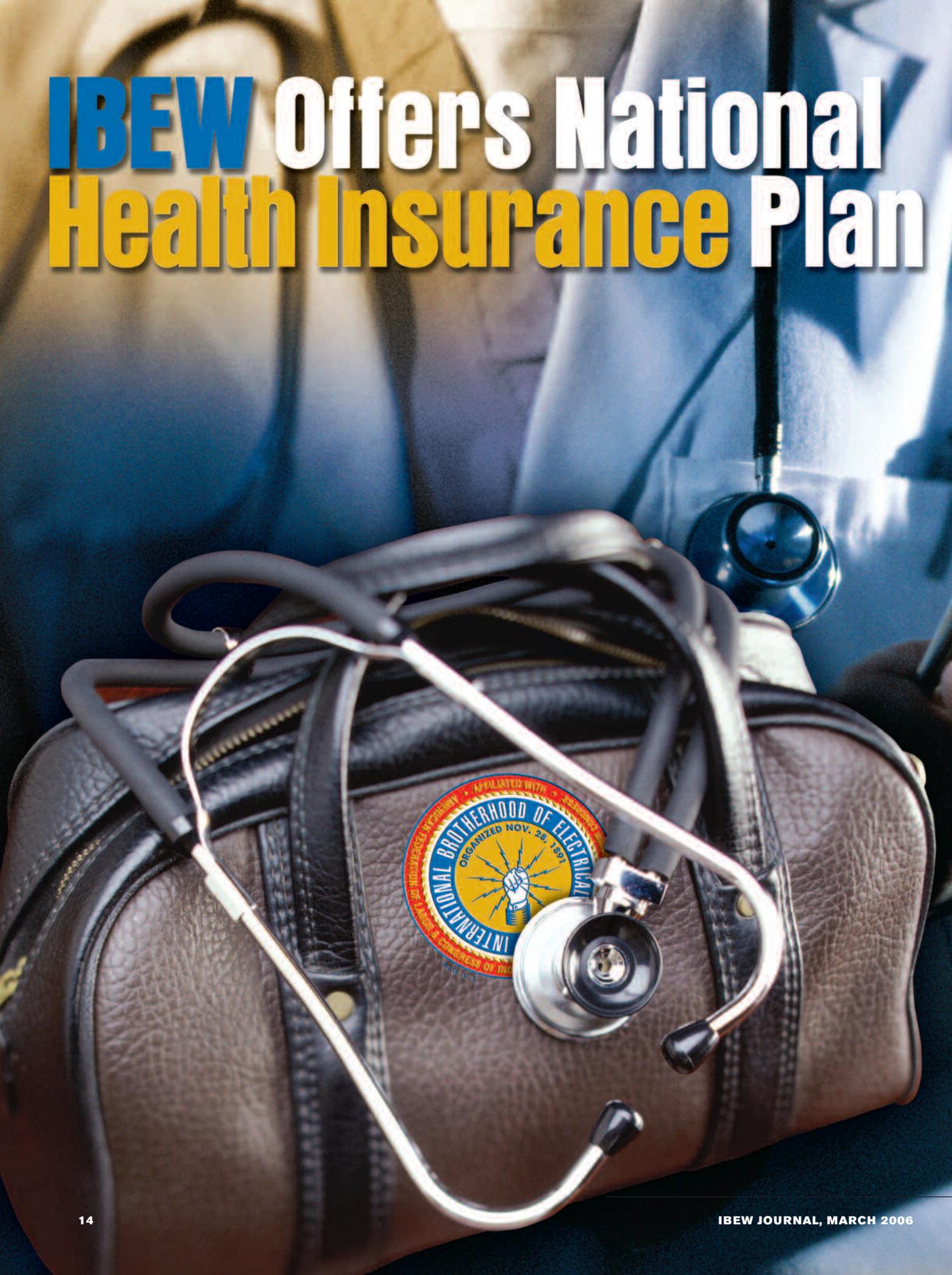
On this job, safety takes on a whole different dimension. When the electricians are called back to work on the bonobo house, they sometimes come uncomfortably close to the primates, who are territorial by nature. Local 347 member Kevin Clark has been told by researchers that Kanzi is threatened by Clark’s 6-foot, 200-pound frame, which is topped by dark hair and a partial beard. “He thought I was a gorilla, and that I was going to bite him,” Clark said.

When working on doors, the electricians try to keep at least two doors between the apes and themselves, in case of a programming error. Once they got a scare when the two-door rule failed and the apes ran in and appeared right next to Local 347 member Terry Pohlman while he was trying to re-program the door. “The only thing between us and the apes was some wire mesh,” he said. “They were screaming and pounding, trying to scare us more than anything else. Other than that hair-raising moment, it’s fine.”

The Local 347 members get a front seat on a fascinating educational experiment, learning for instance that the scientists had to take away the bonobos’ copy of the movie “Karate Kid” because they were too enthusiastic about mimicking the karate moves. Pohlman, who said he spent a year and half on the project, said he often sat watching the apes while on break. “You could bang on the glass and they’ll bang back,” he said. “Especially the younger ones, you’d swear they’d be human if they didn’t have fur.”

Local 347 Business Manager Gerald Granberg said the initial IBEW work on the preserve has only begun. “This is just the beginning of the partnership. I think the fact that we’re learning to communicate with primates here in Des Moines is awesome.”

IBEW Offers National Health Insurance Plan





The health care crisis is widely acknowledged as one of the largest problems facing the United States. On January 1, the IBEW became part of the solution.

Based on the idea that in health care, as in unions, there is strength—and savings—in numbers, the NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan launched on the first of the year with approximately 5000 covered participants, most of the construction members in the 10th Vice Presidential District. The plan is self-insured and uses the largest PPO (preferred provider organization) in the United States, Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

“The bottom line is we are trying to do something so that we can get a better grasp on escalating health costs,” said IBEW 10th District Vice President Bobby Klein. “The more IBEW members we can get into this plan, the better the benefits.”

Because IBEW leaders were already deeply involved in the administration of multi-employer plans, the construction industry was the natural place to start such a health plan. But it is a beginning, and IBEW leaders plan to expand the program soon to include the utility, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing and railroad branches.

For members, it comes down to this: health care under the national plan will be cheaper, offer more benefits and be more widely available. The only difference will be a change in the administration of the plan. In this case, the PPO provider and claims payor will be Georgia Blue Cross Blue Shield using the national Blue Card program throughout the United States. It is believed that these are the lowest discounts available on a national basis. Sav-Rx is the pharmacy benefit manager. Many members, retirees and family members already have mail-in drug coverage through Sav-Rx.

International Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters, who is a trustee in the new plan, has responsibility for the plan on the IBEW side. The other IBEW trustees are two business managers, Dan McAlister from Little Rock, Ark., Local 295, and Donald Cockcroft from Charleston, S.C., Local 776. NECA Vice President Geary

(Continued on next page)

National Health Insurance Plan

(Continued from page 15)

Higgins is a management trustee, along with NECA District 5 Vice President Howard Hughes and NECA District 3 Governor Jerry Sims. The trust agreement provides for 22 trustees. As more plans join the national plan, seats will be added (and one seat from the 10th District will be removed, so every district will have one IBEW and one NECA representative).

Any jointly administered fund can explore whether it can save money (or offer more benefits at the same cost) through the national health plan by asking the plan's consultants to analyze costs and benefits of both. Such an evaluation of the health and welfare funds in another Vice Presidential District determined plans there could save \$23 million annually by joining the national plan, said consultant Jack Diem of Blomquist and Company.

"Each existing health and welfare fund will have to make its own decision about whether to join," said Jim Combs, Executive Assistant to the International Secretary-Treasurer. "We are making this available because our members asked us for an alternative. If this plan offers coverage for less than they pay now, join us. If not, you're better off where you are now."

Once the decision is made to join, the process for moving into the national health plan is not complicated. The collective bargaining agreement between

the union and employer must be amended to direct contributions into the new plan. If a fund has reserves, all of its assets and obligations will be transferred into the new national plan with the signing of a few documents by trustees. If a fund is having financial difficulties, participants can be transferred to the national plan, but not its outstanding financial obligations. The national

Upon merging with the national plan, each former fund's contribution rate must support its level of coverage based on the pool of money it produces. This prevents any region or group of locals from subsidizing another. The national plan offers flexibility in design and benefits tailored to regional conditions. Benefits include major medical, dental, prescription drug, disability, vision coverage, retiree benefits and life insurance.

For those in rural areas where health care is hard to come by, health insurance can further limit accessibility if certain hospitals and doctors are not in the plan's network. But the Blue Cross/Blue Shield "Blue Card" is accepted by and provides discounts at most hospitals, clinics and doctors.

"They're the big dog in the health care industry," McAlister said of Blue Cross. As the biggest, Blue Cross already commands significant discounts from medical providers. As participation in the national plan grows, it will be able to take fuller advantage of those discounts. Blue Cross of Georgia was selected because it has the lowest administration costs in the Blue Cross network, and it has promised not to increase administrative fees this year, and limit future increases to 2 percent and 2.5 percent in the second and third years, respectively. In the event that Blue Cross coverage is not available in certain areas, the plan is free to seek discounts with other



To some degree, the national plan offers flexibility in design and benefits tailored to regional conditions. Benefits include major medical, dental, disability, vision coverage, retiree benefits and life insurance.

plan also provides fiduciary insurance coverage for local hind trustees to protect them from liability.

"It is a very smooth transition," said plan lawyer Hugh Arnold.

providers.

McAlister said he has long been an advocate of starting an IBEW national health care plan. "I have been a real
(Continued on page 28)

Summary Annual Report for 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, (Employer Identification No. 52-0951104, Plan No. 001) for the period July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005. 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 a trust (benefits are provided in whole from trust funds). Plan expenses were \$104,199,035. These expenses included \$8,406,794 in administrative expenses and \$95,792,241 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 428,724 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 \$1,654,823,337 as of June 30, 2005, compared to \$1,535,343,546 as of July 1, 2004. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$119,479,791. This increase includes 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 \$223,678,826, including employee contributions of \$43,756,801, gains of \$85,511,923 from the sale of assets and earnings from investments of \$80,624,741.

The plan has contracts with CIGNA - AMERICA FUND, and ULLICO SEPARATE ACCOUNT P which allocate funds toward individual policies.

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, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant's report;
2. Assets held for investment;
3. Insurance information including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers; and
4. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Plan Administrator

Jon F. Walters

International Secretary-Treasurer
900 7th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

20-2187508 (Employer Identification Number)

(202) 728-6200

The charge to cover copying costs will be \$0.25 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 copying costs 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:

I.B.E.W.—PENSION BENEFIT FUND
900 7th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

and at 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 should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Suite N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210. ☒

THE IBEW ON DUTY

(Continued from page 11)

money for him to take time with his family before he was deployed. Local 340's JATC raised funds for his family during his time in Iraq.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Local 405 reports that **Jeremy Sroka** and **Jon Formanek**, journeymen wiremen, will be leaving for Iraq in March. They will join apprentices **Jessie Ries**, **Tim Jenkins** and **Brad Dolley** and journeyman wireman **Mike Poggenpohl**, who are already serving. ☒

Daniel A. Poczynek (left), **Portland, Oregon, IBEW Local 48**, stands beside **electrician's helper Kamron**, a **Pakistani national**. **Poczynek spent 15 months in Iraq building and maintaining electrical systems on U.S. military camps.** ☒



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

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.

In Tribute

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—In November, Local 1 was saddened to announce the passing of retired former business manager Edward Hoock Jr. Initiated in 1947, Bro. Hoock proudly served the Local 1 membership in many capacities during his career as a journeyman wireman. Elected business manager in 1975, he held this office through 1978, and served as a business agent from 1978 until he retired in 1992.

Bro. Hoock held many labor-related posts and was a member of the National Electric Code Panel, the St. Louis Building Trades executive board, and the PRIDE board of directors. He was an apprentice trustee and coordinator for the IBEW 100th anniversary parade in St. Louis. Bro. Hoock's countless contributions, dedication and pride of membership will be remembered.

Please be advised of the following deaths: Marlin Jepsen, William Siems, Moffit Wyatt, Vernis Stout, Charles Hamilton, Jack Lewis, James Noyes, Richard Miller, Michael Smith, Roy Niehaus, Douglas Moonier, George Souris, Bernard McAnnar and Selden Jordan.

MATT GOBER, P.S.

Super Bowl Success

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—Although the Super Bowl has come and gone, Detroit continues to bask in its afterglow. We thank all Local 17 members who contributed the hard work and tireless effort required to make the big game a success. Thank-you for making organized labor, as well as our proud city and the National Football

League, shine this past January.

We are working on revamping Local 17's Web site. When renovations are complete, you will be able to assess the work picture in our jurisdiction, check potential job availability on various working agreements, and review other available information. Check us out at www.ibewlocal17.com.

As the weather breaks and construction season ramps up, we wish all members a safe and prosperous year.

With sorrow we report the loss of Richard Walker, Kelly C. Dryer, Jose Llano and Donald L. Marlow. Our sincere condolences to their families.

MICHAEL KOZLOWSKI, P.S.

Proud To Be Union

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—As anticipated, last year's agreement between our local and SBC saved hundreds of jobs that had been slated for layoffs, and has already provided new job opportuni-

ties for just over 400 current members. In addition, at press time, approximately 250 formerly laid off members were preparing to return to full-time employment, making our local's largest bargaining unit even stronger. Refreshingly, this provides for a very good start in 2006.



IBEW Local 43 members rallied to support Syracuse Mayor Matt Discoll's re-election campaign. From left: Frank Amie, Chuck Palmisano, Kevin McInerney, Jeff Ortlieb, Joe Woods, Tom Kurak, Dave Nichols, John Carter, Jim Carr, Ryan Costello and Nick Senn.

can to help the people of the region bring their lives back to normal, are recognized and thanked for making all of us proud to be union.

THOMAS HOPPER, P.S.

2005 Election Volunteers

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—On Election Day 2005 Local 43 members took to the streets to show support for Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll's re-election to office. With our support Matt was elected to another term as mayor. Our support did not go unnoticed and Mayor Driscoll pledged to work with us to create jobs for our membership.

In other races throughout our jurisdiction we helped elect worker-friendly candidates. Thanks to all our brothers and sisters who actively campaigned for our friends. Our efforts will be rewarded with work opportunities.

Work in our area is still slow. We thank those locals that are employ-

ing our traveling brothers and sisters. We hope work planned in our area will start soon and that we will have more work opportunities for members in 2006.

PATRICK J. COSTELLO, A.B.M.

Contract Agreements

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Our members at Southern California Edison ratified a new three-year agreement on Wage and Non-Wage Economics. The contract calls for 3.75 percent, 3.5 percent and 4 percent general wage increases in January 2006, 2007 and 2008, respectively. Improvements were made to shift-pay, meal allowance and board and lodging. The contract was approved by a 93 percent margin.

A successor agreement was reached with the City of Colton Electric Utility. The three-year "memorandum of understanding" calls for a general wage increase of 5 percent retroactive to July 2005; a 4 percent increase in July 2006; and in 2007 an increase based on a wage survey plus 0.5 percent. The "meter reader" position will be eliminated and all incumbents promoted to "customer service field representatives."

Negotiations are underway at Bear Valley Electric, Anaheim Stadium (home of Angel's Baseball) and also with our newest unit, the recently organized Davey Tree Surgery.

Our annual Stewards Conference will be Feb. 25 in San Diego.

The Retiree Medical Trust for our public sector employees is fully operational and paying benefits.

We are saddened to report the passing of Bernard "Barney" Allen and Billy Lewis. Our condolences to their families.

STAN STOSEL, P.S.

Regain Market Share

L.U. 143 (em,i&spa), HARRISBURG, PA—Work remains slow in our district, with several projects in limbo. Our local recently held our family picnic, members only picnic, and our annual golf outing. Our newly elected officers are doing a great job in their respective posts. Local 143 has worked diligently to establish a plan to regain market share of residential and small construction projects. We are optimistic that we can slowly make progress in regaining this work. More to come

ROBERT H. WOLFGANG, P.S.

Kudos to Graduates

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Congratulations to our 2005 apprentice graduates! *VDV Graduates:* Patrick Healy, Josh Sheaffer and Andrew Yahn. *Inside Graduates:* William Allbaugh, Ryan Ballweg, Steve Barganz, Colin Berge, Kevin Bracken, John Brandenstein, Johnny Buckbee, Keiwon Caldwell, Steven Collyard, James Dalsoren, Shaun Daniels, Debora Dombrowski, Brenda Egli, Christopher Foskett, Lee Gibbs, Eric Haugen, Todd Herrick, Jeffrey Hughey, Ronald Keller, Lee Jonathan, Travis Lomas, Matt Matney, Brandon McGaw, Michael Mueller, Jason Nelson, Jeff Niesen, Ethan Nolden, Christopher Owens, Aaron Pratt, Daniel Rettkowski, Nathan Retzlaff, Brian Riddle, Manasseh Rivera, Matthew Saunders, Paul Schulte, Peter Severson, Joel Shoemaker, Joseph Shropshire, Bradley Straw, Kyle Sutter, Dimitris Tourtouropoulos, Eric VanVeghel,



Local 159 class of 2005 apprentice graduates.

Bryan Vind, Brian Virnig, Joseph Vosen, Charles Walker, Andrew Wellnitz and Randall Zanoja. *Residential Graduates:* Jeffery Beean, Nathan Coleman, Douglas Eckert, Steven Horn, David Hyatt, Matthew Noll, Bryan Schulz, Richard Showers, Charles Straka and Jeremy Waugh. *Reclassification Graduates:* Asan Asani, Mark Blankenship, Bradley Cirves, David Cummings, Lonnie Fauser, Casey Freeman, Pat Jones, Charles Kurth, Dustin Mainwaring, Igor Milovets, Nick Ring,

Outstanding Apprenticeship award recipients were: Ron Keller and Steve Barganz (inside), Jeffery Beean (residential), Patrick Healy (VDV), and Igor Milovets (reclassification).

A special remembrance for deceased apprentices John Ries IV and Matt Kading.

SHERYL SCHREIBER, B.A.

Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—Local 191 congratulates the entire JATC graduating class of 2005. We are proud of all our apprentices.

We also are pleased to recognize the award recipients. Deborah Castle won the award for Sound & Communication Technician Apprentice of the Year. The Residential Apprentice of the Year award went to Isaac Hanks. And John Kowalski won the Inside Wireman Apprentice

of the Year award. These awards represent very high achievement over the entire course of the apprenticeship.

On behalf of our apprentices, we thank the many journeymen who provide the years of hands-on training that make our apprentices qualified to carry the IBEW banner.

MARCUS ABARCUS, P.S.

Spirit of Brotherhood

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—Our local's 2005 Christmas party for members and the children's Christmas party were filled with good cheer and brotherhood. Many members attended the Christmas party. The hall provided refreshments and a DJ entertained. Area businesses donated door prizes. Service pins were presented to award recipients in attendance, including: Bernie Uszcienski, a 10-year mem-

ber; Beth Sylvester-15 years; Gary Eichelberger-20 years; Cliff Birky, Kevin Lecouris, Jerry Melton and Greg Potter-25 years; James Maginel-30 years; and retirees Norman Phillips, Jay Tyler and Ken Tynan.

Santa visited the children's party. The kids made holiday decorations and cupcakes and watched Christmas movies. The kids and their parents had a blast. Thanks to Derek and Valerie Bauer for organizing the event.

We are saddened to report the death of retired Bro. Heinz Doering. Let's keep his family in our prayers.

Work is still slow in our area. We hope for lots of employment opportunities in 2006. Take pride in your local union.

MIKE RAIKES, P.S.

Dedicated Storm Crews

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—We are proud of all the Outside and Edison lineman who have been working hard at rebuilding hurricane devastated regions of the Gulf Coast. The accompanying photo shows some of our hard-working members taking a break from storm duty for a photo shoot with celebrity Billy Lane from the "Bike Builder Show" on the Discovery Channel.

Outside work is still good in our jurisdiction. At Edison, work force replenishment is finally starting, with hiring both at the Energy Delivery and Generation sides of the company.



Local 245 storm duty crew members with "Bike Builder" Billy Lane (center). From left, front row, Jeremy Acosta and Mike Tackett; center row, John Bernal, Lane and Allen Wright; back row, James Goings, Brian Dauer, Steve Herman and Matt Haney.



Local 191 apprentice graduate award recipients, from left: Deborah Castle, Isaac Hanks and John Kowalski.

Davis Besse is preparing for the plant's 14th refueling outage to start March 6. This is the first refueling since the head replacement. We hope there will be no surprises this time.

On the TV side, Local 245 continues to monitor the takeover of Liberty Corporation, parent company of our CBS affiliate station Channel 11, by Raycom—while at the same time negotiating a contract with Raycom for our NBC affiliate station Channel 24. Negotiations at ABC affiliate Channel 13 also start soon.

Officer training was held Jan. 7 at

the union hall. Presented by Int. Reps. Thomas M. Curley and Gary Klinglesmith, it was a great course and will be helpful to our new officers.

RAY ZYCHOWICZ, P.S.



At Local 265's December 2005 Christmas party for members and their families.

Holiday Party

L.U. 265 (i,mt,rts&spa), LINCOLN, NE—"Twas a few weeks before Christmas, according to lore—the date was precisely December 4—When good old St. Nick, so jolly and hearty—Found his way to our local's holiday party.

Santa once again found Local 265! Kids, refreshments and entertainment by magician "Peter, The Near Great" were the order of the day, as about 120 members and family members enjoyed the local's annual Christmas party. Thanks to all the "elves" who assisted Santa. Gifts were presented to all children in attendance.

Congratulations to James Haake and Jasin Ptacnik, who were recognized as Outstanding Apprentices by the Nebraska/Southwest Iowa Apprenticeship Advisory Council. The awards were presented at a banquet held Oct. 14, 2005, at Ameristar Casino and Hotel in Council Bluffs, IA.

GLEN ISAACS, ORGANIZER

2005 Election Results

L.U. 313 (i&spa), WILMINGTON, DE—On July 6, 2005, former president Ricky Crawford swore in our newly elected officers. Congratulations to: Bus. Mgr. Douglas K. Drummond, Pres. Donald M. King, Vice Pres. Thomas P. Shields, Rec. Sec. George F. Matarese, Fin. Sec. James R. Murrian and Treas. John D. King. Executive Board members: Eric E. Lewis, Andrew J. McNally, Ozzie R. May Jr., Daniel Merrill, Paul F. Campbell and Craig I. Fisher. Examining Board members: Stephen M. Webb, Matthew M. McCloskey and Eric J. Schneider.

The local's annual Christmas party was great. Approximately 200 members' children were treated to lunch and received a gift that was

"Made in America." All the children were photographed with Santa and were entertained by special guests costumed as cartoon characters. Entertainment Committee Chmn. Eric Lewis extends thanks to brothers who volunteered their assistance: Joe Steele, Paul Campbell, Tom Shields, Paul Brainard, Kevin Bryant; and retired Bros. Earl Hudson, Scottie Hudghton, Rocky Cutone and Dave McGinness. Special thanks go to Frank Clymer as "Santa." One helper said that seeing the children's smiling faces makes all the work worthwhile.

SCOTT A. LUPINEK, P.S.

Friends of Labor

L.U. 349 (em,i,m,ps,rtb,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—We thank the Entertainment Committee for a great 2005 Christmas party. Special thanks to Kevin Tamargo and all the "clowns" and helpers.

At our Friends of Labor luncheon, about 450 friends showed up for a great meal and good friendship. Fifth District Int. Vice Pres. John F. Schantzen was in attendance.

In March 2005, Floyd Scott received his 55-year member citation and pin. This citation was signed by Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Int. Sec-Treas. Jon F. Walters.

The sign on the marquee says: "He knows if you're bad or good; He knows if you cuss; Not Santa—but George W. spying on us."

In 2006, let's try to attend more union meetings and help make our local union stronger.

FRANK ALBURY, EXEC. BRD.

Class of 2005

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa &t), FOLSOM, NJ—The class of 2005 graduation dinner was Oct. 22, 2005, at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino. Graduates for the Inside program were: Ryan Allison, Christian Barsky, Dominic Calabrese, Joshua Cooper, Robert Cooper, Davis Cox, David Coyle, Robert Desiderio, Stephen Domonoski, Michael Draggo, Michael Farside, Jason Hentz, Gary Lillie, Guthrie Maier, Thomas Martin, Paul Mattie, Andrew McGowan, Christopher Mielchowsky, John Mitchell Jr., Michael



Local 351 class of 2005 graduates.

Moore, Ryan Myers, Leroy Pierce, Edward Rada, James Rowland, Andrew Ruggeri, Peter Sankowski, Guillermo Saravia Orsorto, Matthew Seddon, Rodney Sistrunk, Jared Smith, Shawn Somerville, Juan Vazquez, Aaron Winarski and Brian Zattoni. Graduates for the Telecommunication program were Laurence Berman, Thomas Coleman, Brian Dawson, Ann Gregory, Giuseppe Pollino Jr., Michael Schaffer, Vicki Smith and Melissa Stowers.

Congratulations to all our graduates. We wish them the best in their future as IBEW journeymen. We encourage them to continue their education with the journeyman classes our local offers and to stay involved by attending our union meetings and other functions during the year.

DANIEL COSNER, P.S.

Former Officer Mourned

L.U. 359 (u), MIAMI, FL—The terribly catastrophic 2005 hurricanes created much work for the crews both in the field and in the power plants, also affecting the members at the City of Homestead and the City of Lake Worth. The crews rebuilt the devastated grid in the area. Then they traveled to various states to assist with repairs, working many long hours. All the crews are commended for their safe work ethic and professionalism.

Our local mourned the death in May 2005 of Pres. Emeritus Leonard J. Spring at age 86. Bro. Spring was an icon in the community and well respected labor-wide throughout Florida and beyond. A man of dignity, referred to as "the Senator," Bro. Spring was president of Local 359 for over 20 years. He was an officer of IBEW System Council-U4 and attended many IBEW International conventions serving on various committees. An IBEW member for over 50 years, he formerly was employed by Florida Power and Light Company. He was a World War II veteran and served on many community service committees.

There will never be another like Bro. Leonard J. Spring. He is greatly missed.

STEVE FLYNN, F.S./P.S.

Work Picture Improves

L.U. 405 (em,i,rtb&spa), CEDAR RAPIDS, IA—As the New Year started, we had a little improvement in our work picture. We hope this trend will get us back on track for good.

In 2005 we gained 28 new members, eight members took withdrawals and 18 members dropped their membership. Five members transferred to different locals. Seven members retired and six members passed away. We gained three new contractors in 2005. We proudly had four members serving in the military in 2005: Jon Formanek, Mike Poggenpohl, Jessie Ries and Jeremy Sroka.

One of the things that bothers this scribe is the number of members who let their tickets drop, or are always late with their dues. We all know the IBEW isn't perfect and not everyone gets what they want; however, after being a member of the IBEW for 45 years, there are two things I know. Working open shop won't get you the standard of living you want and just maybe if we all put back a little more than we take, it would be a better organization.

We didn't get where we are by ourselves.

GARY BUTZ, P.S.



IBEW Local 449 members worked on the wind tower project near Idaho Falls.

Idaho Wind Towers

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa &u), POCATELLO, ID—It started with limited sunshine, and then came the fog, rain and horizontal snow. The mud made it difficult for the trucks to maneuver up the winding, rough cut mountain roads. It would take 45 minutes to travel from one end of the job to the other. And yes, you can see it from my house and I live 22 miles away. What is it? It is the 43 giant wind towers just assembled on the foothills east of Idaho Falls. Each tower is 250 feet tall with three 125 foot long blades. With minimal

winds every tower can generate 1.5 megawatts of power, which is then connected into the power grid. Wind has never been in short supply in Idaho and it is said more towers will be erected in the future. When? Who knows? IBEW crews who worked on this project are to be commended. Even with adverse weather conditions, the job was completed on time.

Presently work is slow. We hope to welcome home members working in neighboring locals soon.

With heavy heart we report the passing of retired brothers Robert Brown and William Phippen.

LAURIE WATTERS, P.S.

Holiday Drives

L.U. 503 (t&u), MONROE, NY—The Toys-For-Tots, Holiday Food Basket Drive and Adopt-A-Family campaign were again successful. Special mention goes out to the Lovett plant. This year, the gang raised \$2,500 and purchased six beds, a couch, and a variety of holiday gifts for a family with five children in Spring Valley, NY. Santa and his elves delivered the gifts from the truckload of goods, while the team assembled the furniture for the children's mom, who was thrilled with the delivery! Eddie Sengstacken extends special thanks to Pat Greaven, who played Santa and was a good sport about receiving the 'traditional Santa beating' in the parking lot from the team!

It was also great to see such a large gathering of brothers and sisters at the Keane's annual holiday party. The limo full of members from Middletown added a nice touch to the gathering!

A reminder: Pres./Bus. Mgr. Bob Citrolo's retirement party will be Friday, April 21. Watch the bulletin boards for details to be posted soon.

MARY M. CASEY, P.S.

Workers' Struggle

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Gas prices zing our wallets, then CEO's get called to Congress and prices drop; they leave and prices rise at twice the rate they fell. Health care is pinching us also. Nothing is being done in Lansing or Washington. If you check into the lives of the journeymen in the accompanying photo, some have exhausted their unemployment benefits and have no health insurance. One is off work with non-job related health problems, and no health insurance. This country has money to explode targets worldwide based on information that our president admitted, on Dec. 14, 2005, was flawed intelligence. However, tax paying citizens are not being cared for and need help. Tax cuts for the



Local 557 members on a Nelson Electric job in December 2005. From left, front row, Bill Link, Walt Stroik, Joe Gomez, Rich Urbany, D.J. Link and Steve Burns; 2nd row, Chad Rockafellow, Marc Johnson, Dan Alcook, Jeff Underwood, Russ Combs and Lavall Scott; 3rd row, Maynard Whitman, Todd Cramer and Matt Hill; back row, Terry Washington.

wealthy, who have health care or can afford out-of-pocket major surgery, are being supported by the Tom Delays of this country.

Many thanks to the locals around the country that have made work available for IBEW 557 hands. Without your help there would be more desperate situations.

JOHN E. CLEMENS, P.S.

Family Celebration

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,o,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—At our December general membership meeting, Santa paid a visit to our members' children in attendance. All the youngsters received a gift from Santa and walked away with a big smile. The beautifully decorated hall was at its full capacity with members and their families celebrating the holiday season with good food and great brotherhood. The local wishes all members and their families a prosperous 2006. Special thanks to the staff for a successful party.

The local pays tribute to the memory of all members who passed away last year. Two very active retired officers, Frank Underhill (who served as president, assistant business manager and business manager) and Terry Godshalk (who served as president and assistant business manager) passed on in 2005. They were dedicated leaders of both the union and the community.

NICHOLAS J. SEGURA JR., P.S.



Local 569 members' children with Santa at the holiday party.

Excellence in Training

L.U. 577 (em&i), APPLETON, WI—Work has been slow as 2006 unfolds. The number of projects available to bid tapered off late in 2005, which has left few opportunities for our members to work locally.

Many members attended continuing education courses in 2005. The annual NJATC survey showed that 790 members took additional training. The local will again be recognized with an "Excellence in Training Award" at the District progress meeting in May. Thanks to all of you who help maintain the truism that the IBEW has the best trained electrical workers in our industry.

The safety subcommittee recommended the topics of high voltage testing equipment and confined spaces to be offered for safety training this year. Commit to making this another safe year by attending these or other safety related classes offered by our education committee.

The Wisconsin primaries are upon us and we have the ability to elect a new representative for the 8th congressional district. The incumbent is not seeking re-election as he has his eye focused on the governor's mansion. Support candidates who will keep working family issues a priority.

GREG BREAKER, B.M.

Local Wins Back Pay

L.U. 611 (catv,es,i,lctt,o,spa&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Our organizing department and other members of Local 611 did an outstanding job in Farmington in 2005 on the San Juan Regional Medical Center addition. It was a \$66 million project of which \$22 million was public works money. Benson Bitsui and Adolph Chavez played a big part in getting workers on the SJRMC project more than \$550,000 in back pay from among six different contractors; \$400,000 of that money was paid out to electricians alone.

The main electrical contractor on the job, Mills Electric, is a big nonunion outfit out of Dallas TX. This contractor is so big most organizing departments would rather not go after a company of such size. Our local wasted no time or energy making sure Mills Electric was brought into compliance under our state and federal guidelines.

In the last three years, thanks to the diligence of Local 611's organizing team, eight nonunion contractors filed for bankruptcy. In those same three years the organizers helped union and nonunion electricians receive over \$1 million in back pay from unfair contractors on public works and federal prevailing wage projects. Great job, guys.

Local 611 extends condolences to the friends and family of Albert Pompeo.

DARRELL BLAIR, P.S.

Graduates Honored

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo,o&st), SAN MATEO, CA—Our 2005 graduating class included 25 inside wireman graduates and six Sound and Communications installer graduates. A graduation buffet was held at the Elks Lodge in San Mateo. Entertainment included Las Vegas type gaming and prizes were provided by the JATC, Toolup.com, Royal Electric and Ideal Tools.

The "Outstanding Apprentice" award went to Michael Galea. Awards for highest grade point average went to Rich Ruegg and Brian Newman. Also recognized were instructors Dave Huston and Steven Tate, 1st year class; John Robins, 2nd year class; John Fitzpatrick, 3rd year; Jim Stewart, 4th year; and Ron Ricci, 5th year. This class witnessed expansion of our shop instruction, developed under the supervision of Long Nguyen, D. J. Siegman and Douglas Goldman. Sister Siegman also provided additional tutoring sessions. And Larry Kroeker, Ph.D., worked with many apprentices juggling pressures of school, work and family.

Since 2003 Local 617 has graduated 20 Sound and Communication



Local 617 inside wireman graduates of 2005. From left, front row, Rafael Calderon, Victor Rodriguez Jr., Rolando Guevara Jr., Wesley Loustalot, Attilio Brandi, Sergio Dilorenzo, Eric Gollier and Steven Roberts; middle row, Daniel Navarro, Jose Maldonado, Rich Ruegg and Michael Galea; back row, Josh Perlow, Eduardo Barba Jr., Joseph Lucus, Rob Gill, Spyros Papas, James Rossi and Troy Brewer. Not pictured: Alberto Arellano, Alberto Dito, Michael Morris, Brian Newman, Michael Phillips and Nick Rossi.

apprentices. This emerging branch requires the expertise of working installers as instructors to keep pace with this swiftly evolving industry. Thanks to James Toy, 3rd year instructor, and Chuck Vella, 1st year instructor. Congratulations to 2005 S&C graduates: Michael Barrientos, Patrick Benson, Ryan Chewing, Joseph Graff, Michael Metz and Jiles Salmon.

KATHLEEN BARBER
APPRENTICESHIP DIR.

Politically Active

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NS, CANADA—Congratulations to our newest journeymen: Bros. Jason Delorey, Andre Gaudrault, Brent MacPherson, Brad MacNeil, Jeff Gallagher, Albert MacDonnell and Peter Hoyt. Carry that Red Seal in your pocket at all times and be proud of it.

Three members retired from Local 625 in January 2006: Bros. Allan Currie, Grant Beaver and Dery Gillis. Congratulations, brothers. We all wish you a long and happy retirement.

Local 625 held a children's Christmas party Dec. 18, 2005. A magician entertained over 70 children until Santa arrived with gifts for every child. Everyone enjoyed the party and many thanked Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Cordell Cole for making all the arrangements.

At this writing the federal elec-

tion was scheduled for January and a provincial election is coming up later in the year. So 2006 is a good year to become politically active. Support those candidates who show support for issues important to working people and their families.

Please visit our Web site www.ibewlocal625.ca and see what is happening. Bro. Phil Wallace and Sister Shirley Burris work hard to keep it current and interesting. We are proud of the job they are doing. Thank you from all of Local 625.

TOM GRIFFITHS, PRES.

Longtime Service

L.U. 649 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), ALTON, IL—Member Larry Bellovich retired from Olin manufacturing in December. His parting leaves a large void to fill. Larry has served an unprecedented 28 years as Committee Chairman for the IBEW. He has been an instrumental figure in nine contract negotiations as well as handling grievances and disputes since 1978.

Olin manufacturing will suffer another loss with the retirement of Charlie Long after four decades of service. Charlie served 12 years as a committeeman and several years as a steward. He will continue with his obligations for this hall as recording secretary and head of the Committee for Responsible Government.

Our December meeting was followed by a pin presentation cere-

mony. It is a good thing to see so many people at a meeting, supporting each other.

Local 649 mourns the recent loss of Bros. Dave McCormick and John Strader. May our brothers rest in peace.

BRYAN BERG, P.S.

Organizing Focus

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—The year ahead will be a busy one. We are focusing on organizing like never before. We welcome the International Representatives who are working hand-in-hand with our organizers. They will continue working hard in this area to help build a stronger local for the 21st century.

Congratulations to Bro. Scott Everts on his IBEW scholarship. We are all proud of him.

This is an election year and it is so important to pick the candidates who are labor friendly. We must be diligent in screening and choosing the candidates who support our cause. It is also critically important for all our members to register and vote. This year, exercise your American right and make a difference—Vote!

THERESA KING, P.S.

Inside Wireman Contract

L.U. 969 (i,o&u), GRAND JUNCTION, CO—A new three-year contract for inside wiremen became effective Dec. 1, 2005. Several changes with this contract affect wages and zone pay. Both sides came to the table with reasonable requests and were able to hammer out the new contract. Thanks to the negotiating team of Larry Beard, Paul Cavanagh, Seth Coyne, Jim Harned and Mark Lambert.

The retirees Christmas party and dinner was Sat., Dec. 10. Twelve retired members, joined by their spouses, attended. Our retired secretaries Roseanne and Kay also joined the festivities. Twenty members were awarded service pins for 30 to 50 years of service. The 50-year pin recipients: Louie Barslund, Andy Gehrig, Sylvan Gross, Robert Rabideau and Jim Ward. Special

thanks to Sharon McCampbell and Ruth Wentworth for spearheading this event every year. The retirees always enjoy this annual party and the local is pleased to host it.

2005 was a reasonably good year for our local and the work outlook for the 2006 appears promising.

GREGG R. BILGER, P.S.



Local 983 member David Dixon is serving in Iraq.

Manufacturing Initiatives

L.U. 983 (em), HUNTINGTON, IN—Local 983 member David Dixon was called to military duty to serve in the Iraq war. Bro. Dixon has been a member of our local since 1998. Our thoughts and prayers are with him while he serves our great country.

Our local union continues to engage in conversations with the company about ways we can bring work back to our manufacturing facility from China. Recent conversations with the new plant manager have been positive regarding this initiative. We hope that by the end of 2006, we will be seeing thermostats built here in America again instead of China.

Other initiatives within our local, such as working with the company in redoing how the plant is laid out, have resulted in the ability to produce more product. As a result, the company hired more than 50 employees in the last six months. More new hires are coming in 2006!

TYLER BROWN, B.M.



March 1, 2006, marks the fifth anniversary of Local 625's member-owned office and training center.



Local 969's 2005 Retirees Christmas party.

Gas Services Restoration

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o&u), LONG ISLAND, NY—Congratulations for a job well done to members from the Gas Field Operations Department. In November, 28 members of Local 1049 were dispatched by Keyspan Energy to Lexington, MA, to assist in a massive restoration effort that affected over 1,800 residential and commercial customers. Local 1049 members helped rebuild, refurbish and relight approximately 1,500 gas services and their associated gas mains.

During 2005 local members were extremely generous. They supported blood drives, the Long Island United Way, Local 1049 Needy Family Fund and IBEW COPE. The Needy Family Fund collected \$2,400 to assist our members who fell on hard times. Through COPE deductions, raffles and the annual golf tournament the membership averaged over \$23 per member in donations to the COPE Fund. Thanks to all participants for helping to ensure our voices are heard.

2005 concluded with the announcement of an agreement between Keyspan and LIPA on the Generation Purchase Agreement. As part of this agreement is the extension of the Maintenance Services Agreement to 2013. Both agreements provide protections, stability and work opportunities for our members. The work picture looks good for 2006 and we look forward to another safe and productive year.

THOMAS DOWLING, P.S.

Agreements Ratified

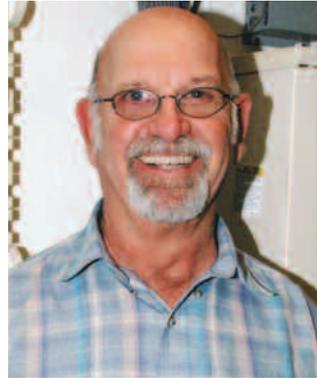
L.U. 1245 (catv,em,gov,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—Local 1245 members ratified new wage-reopener agreements with Pacific Gas & Electric that raise wages for Physical and Clerical bargaining units by 3.75 percent in 2006 and 2007. Current contracts were extended through 2008, providing a 3.75 percent wage increase in 2008 and locking in current health benefits.

Members at Mirant ratified a new agreement with wage equity improvements. Members at Northern California Power Agency/Dispatch ratified a new agreement providing wage gains of 3.25 percent annually for three years. Local 1245 Line Clearance Tree Trimmers ratified a new agreement with EPA PROVCO that raises wages 3.4 percent in 2006 and 2007 for all classifications except VC Specialist, who will receive 4.4 percent each year. Members at the financially-troubled City of Lodi ratified a new agreement that freezes wages in the first year and provides a 3 to 5 percent wage increase based on the CPI in the second year.

Members in the Utilities Services and Maintenance bargaining unit at Modesto Irrigation District voted for agency shop in a special election.

Bus. Rep. Bob Martin retired in January. Bob orchestrated the union's entrance into the computer era by wiring the union hall, installing servers, establishing e-mail, etc. He reestablished the whole shebang when the local relocated its headquarters to Vacaville in 2003.

ERIC WOLFE, P.S.



Local 1245 Bus. Rep. and "Technology Guru" Bob Martin retired in January.

Local Mourns Loss

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY—Local 1249 mourns the loss of our "ARC" Chmn. John M. Troyan Jr. John was founder of our Active Retirees Club.

Bro. Troyan worked diligently to keep the retirees a major part of this local. He planned several activities across the state annually for our retirees and their families. Active members were also encouraged to attend. At these events, the old 'line' stories and the new ones were a delight. We extend condolences to John's wife, Lynda, and to Little John and Jennifer. Godspeed, John — You did a hell of a job!

The work situation remains good throughout the local. This year 78 more windmills will go up on Tug Hill. Con-Ed has more work to be let out. National Grid is still letting out some work. Our Tree Trimmers recently ratified a new two-year agreement with almost 800 people working.

Congratulations to our new journeyman linemen: Yancey Bissonnette, Mark Fairchild, Matt Lastowski, Chris Lilly, Mike Ruminiski and John McLaughlin.

With sadness I report the passing of Bros. Spyros Gibson, Andrew Kuchta, Joseph Lotterio, Robert Marshall, John Peek, Paul Sweeney and Phillip Wilson Jr. Our deepest sympathy to their families.

WILLIAM C. BOIRE
PRES./A.B.A.

Ready for Challenges

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—In 2005 Local 1307 completed two successful negotiations—a five-year contract with Delmarva Power and a five-year contract with Choptank Electrical Co-op.

Also in 2005 we displayed our solidarity with Locals 1238 and 210 during their negotiations with the parent company of both Delmarva Power and Atlantic City Energy. The show of solidarity was a major contributing factor in these negotiations.

To meet the challenges of 2006 we also need to practice unity close to home. Attend union meetings. Understand what is going on and show interest in these meetings. You can be sure the companies know what kind of turnout there is for union meetings. Your union is only as strong as you make it.

Contribute to COPE and help elect political candidates who promote the interests of working people. In most cases COPE contributions can be made by payroll deduction. Such contributions help protect our benefits and way of life. Major mid-term elections are coming up and it's never too soon to start helping the people who will help us. To contribute, contact your steward.

E.D. SPARKS, F.S.

Relay Center Assistance

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Members of our local employed by AT&T at Maryland Relay have agreed to offer assistance to individuals with communications disabilities in states hit by Hurricane Katrina where Relay Centers were destroyed or rendered inoperable as a result of power outages and structural damage. Calls made to and from Katrina-stricken states that would normally be processed through Relay Centers located in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi will be processed by our members in Maryland by using their same telephone numbers; however the calls will be routed through the Maryland Center or those of other states helping with their relief effort.

With the handling of hundreds of additional calls, our union members

processing this added workload expect there may be delays, but view this situation as a temporary one until the Relay Systems in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi have been fully restored. Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dian F. Guthrie stated that our local is proud to help Katrina victims in any way we can. For more information visit www.mdrelay.org or call (410) 767-6962.

THOMAS J. ROSTKOWSKI, P.S.

Steady Growth

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—The work picture for 2005 closed on a strong note. Both inside and outside work remained strong, as jobs were available in all classifications all across the state. We anticipate continued, steady growth for Local 1547 in 2006.

On the legislative side, Alaska's working people will face many challenges this year including more attacks on our workers' compensation system, under-funding of the public employee and teacher's retirement systems, and rumors of "right-to-work" legislation.

On the brighter side, two of 1547's best will run for the state Legislature. Bill Wielechowski, associate general council, is seeking election to the state Senate in Alaska. Chris Tuck, organizer and journeyman wireman, is running for the state House. Both members have run for office before and are considered strong and viable contenders.

Finally, Local 1547 extends heartfelt thanks and congratulations to brave members of Transport Workers Union Local 100 of New York City for standing their ground in the fight to protect worker health care and pension benefits. Their successful battle proved that the men and women of organized labor will not stand by and allow the erosion of the rights our predecessors bled for.

MELINDA TAYLOR
COMMUNICATIONS DIR.

Union Meetings

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—The work situation in Augusta is still a bit slow. Unfortunately, there

Local 1579 members in 1985.



is nothing new to report of work in our area that would be of great relief to our out-of-work members. As usual we have promises of the SALT & MOX project at SRS; also included are hopes of the two new reactors at Plant Vogtle. For members who need work, a few Fifth District locals need electricians. Please call the hall and talk to Steve about work opportunities. I hope by the time you read this article work will have improved.

A bit of history—can you name all the Local 1579 members shown in the accompanying 1985 photo?

I strongly urge members to attend our regular union meetings every third Monday of each month. In November, 25 members out of 750 decided what our by-laws would state. Should just 25 members decide the future of this local union? The answer is “No.” Come to the meetings and participate. You

should not complain about your local union if you do not attend meetings to help direct its path. Remember, your vote is your voice—so be heard.

JOHNNY HUTCHESON
A.B.M./ORG.

Rail Labor Solidarity

L.U. 1631 (rr), HARMON, NY—Metro-North Railroad workers have been without a contract for over three years. The New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) hides behind the Railway Labor Act to avoid a settlement with workers, knowing the Bush-appointed National Mediation Board will not release the unions to seek self help.

The Metro-North Labor Coalition—comprising numerous rail labor unions including IBEW Locals 817, 1631, 747, 859 and 1573—is starting informational pickets to

inform the riding public and lawmakers that Metro-North does not bargain in good faith. Union members from all crafts are in solidarity to bring the carrier to the bargaining table to negotiate a fair contract.

The Labor Coalition stood in solidarity with Transport Workers Union Local 100 of New York City during TWU’s December strike. Metro-North workers attended TWU rallies and gave press conference in support of TWU 100’s efforts on behalf of its members. In a bold move that gained national media attention, TWU shut down mass transit in New York City. The union

and the MTA then reached a deal in 60 hours. But it came at a cost. Union members were fined and the TWU must pay additional fines.

These are the types of take-it or leave-it tactics used by MTA. We must lobby elected officials for fair treatment. We can no longer elect politicians who will not help resolve labor disputes in order to avoid political fallout, as Gov. Pataki attempted. Workers deserve respect. We make government work safely and efficiently. “We Move America.”

MARK CANTAMESSA, B.M./PRES.
GERALD SLISS, EXEC. BRD.



IBEW Locals 1631, 747, 817, 859 and 1573 go to the streets for a contract. After three-plus years without a contract, IBEW locals and other unions of New York MTA Metro-North Railroad decided the public should know how the MTA negotiates.



Order
“Taste of the IBEW”
and the embossed denim
IBEW chef’s apron
online at
<http://www.4ibew.com>

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.

U.S. members—mail this form to IBEW, Address Change Department, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

Canadian members—mail this form to IBEW First District, 1450 Meyerside Drive, Suite 300, Mississauga, Ontario L5T 2N5.

All members—you can change your address on line at www.ibew.org.

NAME _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____ 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/PROVINCE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

FORMER LOCAL UNION NUMBER _____

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

WILDEST DREAMS

ATTENTION HUNTERS & ANGLERS

10

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD SPORTSMEN!

Wildest Dreams is a new show from TRCP & OLN taking Union Workers and Union Contractors on a fantasy hunting or fishing trip.

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Go on an all expense paid hunting or fishing trip to a dream destination

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Send in your Sportsman's Profile today!

- 1. Include your name, address, phone and e-mail address.**
- 2. Tell us about what kind of sportsman you are and where you hunt and fish.**
- 3. Describe your fantasy hunting or fishing trips and why you should be selected for a fabulous trip.**
- 4. Include a personal photo or video of your most memorable hunting or fishing experiences.**

Mail to: TRCP Attn: Wildest Dreams, 555 11th Street NW, 6th floor
Washington DC 20004

E-Mail to: mdorsey@trcp.org

**For more information, application and complete rules,
go to www.olntv.com/wildestdreams**



**Entries Deadline
May 15, 2006.**



www.trcp.org



OLNTV.COM

\$10.2 billion annually in the United States.

Rancourt said with 62 percent of construction spending nationally occurring in

the residential sector, it is no longer possible to cede to nonunion contractors. With the country's industrial base increasingly traveling overseas, residential construction is a logical place to regain domestic jobs.

National Electrical Contractors Association chapters and IBEW locals share

advertising costs, often through the Labor Management Cooperating Committee.

Others in the Second Vice Presidential District are taking note of the Maine success with Plus 5. New Hampshire and Connecticut locals are also looking at the program now. 

Indiana Local Brings Work Back from China

Most headlines linking "work" and "China" introduce a sad story of lost jobs, distressed communities and workers down on their luck.

In Huntington, Indiana, IBEW Local 983, representing workers at Carrier's United Technologies electronics components plant, is writing a story of workers and employers working together to keep jobs at home. The plant has already hired 89 new IBEW members to retrieve manufacturing work that was outsourced to Asia in 2002.

In the summer of 2005, Tyler Brown, Local 983's business manager visited the plant's new manager to discuss the potential of bringing runaway work back. Brown emphasized his membership's role in increasing the productivity of existing assembly lines by five percent in 2004.

The following fall, the plant manager, Joel Jerabek, invited Brown to participate in a strategic planning meeting with the plant's senior management staff to discuss the future of manufacturing operations. "Surprisingly enough," says Brown, they were talking about growing the work force at home, not shrinking it further. While most of the plant's components are used in heating and air conditioning systems, UT was actively developing plans to increase its market share in grill systems for fast food restaurants.

In November, some union members were assigned to brainstorm sessions with management over methods to increase the productivity and overall business operations within the plant. "These productivity initiatives," says Brown, have resulted in ideas and a plan that promises to "help UT Elec-

IBEW Local 983 members, back row, left to right, Julie Seavers and Nick Farkas; and front row, left to right, Mark Sheperd, Alice Dollinger, Dee Gamble, Bobbie Bolden, and Jody Mauller.



tronics Controls remain competitive for years to come."

Under the old production regime, for example, printed circuit boards were moved from one station to another in large racks. Now, work flow is improved by keeping a stream of boards coming without stopping to load racks.

William Davis, who served as Local 983's president for 11 years, credits plant manager Jerabek for recognizing the strength of joint labor-management action during his prior service as the firm's fiscal officer. Under the parties' joint work design process, union workers were rotated, for a time, between jobs that were traditionally filled by management, including human resources and quality control. "This helped hourly people understand the business," says Davis.

Grievances were reduced from 300 to 20 per year by focusing on issues like overtime sharing, initiating mea-

asures to hold both union members and managers accountable for above-board dealing. Some conflicts are inevitable, says Davis, but the work design process is "like a train moving forward that can't be stopped." Numbers tell the story.

When UT's former owner, Hamilton-Standard, moved its electronic component plant from Converse, Indiana, in 1990 to Huntington, there were 300 employees. Now the plant employs 625 and is expected to reach 700.

Today, as UT finalizes plans to bring back 33 thermostat models that were previously outsourced to China, an increase of 300,000 units per year is projected.

Business Manager Brown is anxious for the opportunity to address the next IBEW Manufacturing Conference about how the membership of Local 983 struck back against outsourcing.

"Local 983 has shown that when the creativity and problem-solving skills of union workers are released on the job, seemingly impossible obstacles, including outsourcing, can be crossed," says IBEW President Edwin D. Hill. 

IN MEMORIAM

PBF Death Claims Approved for Payment in December 2005

Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount
1	Dalton, R. L.	4,578.00	48	Spaniol, H. A.	3,000.00	212	Chieftain, M. E.	12,500.00	494	Kutner, J. H.	3,000.00
1	Hamilton, C. F.	3,000.00	48	Wayt, W. J.	2,931.00	212	Neeley, R.	3,000.00	499	Hoogerwerf, H. J.	3,000.00
1	Hoock, E. T.	3,000.00	58	Austin, V.	3,000.00	213	Dick, G.	3,000.00	508	Saxon, R. L.	6,250.00
1	Jahnsen, M.	12,500.00	58	Glueckert, D.	3,000.00	233	Finn, J. W.	3,000.00	531	Houldson, W. F.	3,000.00
1	Jepson, M. E.	3,000.00	58	Stover, F. J.	2,083.33	242	Skerbinc, F. M.	4,588.72	531	McDowell, W. R.	2,916.00
1	Johnston, G.	12,500.00	66	Hruby, R. L.	12,500.00	254	Hare, T. A.	3,000.00	538	Bell, O. L.	3,000.00
1	Nansel, A. A.	750.00	66	Tappe, H. H.	3,000.00	258	Mitchell, T. G.	2,940.00	553	Johnson, H. E.	3,000.00
1	Vaughn, L. H.	8,333.34	68	Gates, M. D.	6,250.00	265	Havlat, L.	6,035.80	553	Reid, C. R.	3,000.00
1	Warner, C. L.	6,250.00	71	Cikosh, M. J.	2,732.00	269	Combs, R. A.	3,000.00	557	Graebner, P. D.	3,000.00
2	Brinkman, H. K.	2,748.00	73	Billings, L. A.	3,000.00	271	Classen, D. O.	6,250.00	567	Sykes, M. P.	3,000.00
3	Brownell, R. J.	3,000.00	76	Thornton, J. W.	3,000.00	280	Lorenz, J. W.	2,938.00	568	Beaupre, M.	6,280.87
3	Hohn, H. G.	2,816.00	77	Dahl, M. L.	3,000.00	292	Amundson, R. C.	2,942.39	568	Hollois, B.	2,920.00
3	Horgan, D. M.	6,250.00	77	Hansen, L. G.	2,878.00	292	Cook, B. B.	6,250.00	570	Bahill, S.	3,000.00
3	Loreto, A. C.	1,500.00	77	Keen, W. H.	3,000.00	292	Getter, J. J.	12,500.00	583	Dominguez, R.	3,000.00
3	Milligan, A. E.	2,000.00	80	Hovlett, M. K.	12,500.00	300	Albarelli, D. J.	2,942.39	584	Boyer, D. L.	4,201.24
3	Olejarczyk, L.	3,000.00	80	Taylor, C. I.	3,000.00	302	Kruse, H. J.	1,470.93	596	Thothman, F. L.	6,250.00
3	Santarsiero, D. A.	3,000.00	82	Murray, T. J.	3,000.00	302	Martel, R. M.	2,873.50	601	Parson, G. C.	3,000.00
3	Schmaling, F. C.	2,972.94	86	Moulton, F. L.	2,500.00	304	Brock, K. C.	2,950.39	611	Alderete, J.	3,000.00
3	Silverman, R. B.	2,939.18	98	Hoffman, J. H.	2,922.00	309	Culli, B. C.	12,500.00	611	Crawford, S. K.	12,500.00
4	Sigman, H. M.	3,000.00	102	Zarestky, S. M.	3,000.00	309	Lyerla, D. O.	3,000.00	611	Norvell, J. R.	3,000.00
5	Amorose, R. F.	2,062.04	103	Mason, C. W.	3,000.00	309	Rutz, O. J.	3,000.00	611	Oden, W. F.	516.70
6	Barba, J. C.	3,625.06	103	Pascarelli, V. J.	3,000.00	317	Howell, C. E.	3,000.00	649	Ufert, H. E.	2,953.29
6	Bianucci, M. J.	2,888.00	103	Ryan, J. E.	3,000.00	325	Panella, D. R.	6,250.00	649	Walter, M. G.	2,940.00
6	Perez, V. J.	12,500.00	103	Schunemann, A. T.	3,000.00	343	Koenig, R. J.	3,000.00	668	Spencer, G. L.	12,500.00
6	Sargent, C. L.	3,000.00	104	Davis, J. A.	3,000.00	350	Baker, P. W.	2,919.12	673	Heinrich, T. J.	3,000.00
7	McGovern, T. J.	3,000.00	104	Fernandez, A. L.	2,788.53	353	Cook, F. T.	3,398.08	673	Vaiksnonas, D. M.	3,000.00
7	Pilon, L. P.	3,000.00	109	Orth, L. P.	3,000.00	353	Currie, W.	3,000.00	684	Boggs, J. E.	1,468.26
8	Bair, H. I.	3,000.00	110	Blossom, R. S.	3,000.00	354	Broomhead, M. S.	3,000.00	697	Akers, D. A.	3,000.00
9	Berkshire, M. F.	3,000.00	110	Duff-Hruby, N. E.	6,250.00	357	Holmes, K. G.	2,868.00	697	Shinneman, L. P.	3,000.00
9	Ellis, D. V.	3,000.00	112	Hartz, L. R.	1,500.00	363	McDonald, J.	3,125.00	702	Friley, W. E.	12,500.00
9	Haines, R. E.	3,000.00	112	Martin, W. D.	1,481.00	363	Smith, J. J.	3,000.00	716	Barnes, G. D.	3,000.00
9	Vohasek, L. J.	2,942.39	112	Williamson, R. W.	1,500.00	364	Koch, K. A.	6,250.00	716	Mahan, D. D.	6,250.00
11	Burns, P. J.	3,000.00	120	Clark, J. J.	3,000.00	369	Bachmann, P. R.	2,931.18	716	Story, S. R.	12,500.00
11	Osterman, H. J.	3,000.00	124	Kenney, E. L.	3,000.00	369	Flick, T. E.	2,963.19	728	Martin, A. M.	6,250.00
11	Perkins, M. P.	3,000.00	130	Parker, D. W.	3,000.00	369	Jantzen, M. L.	6,250.00	728	Posey, J. F.	3,000.00
16	Cavins, J. W.	2,797.00	130	Ziegler, I. F.	3,000.00	369	Whitaker, W. V.	3,000.00	728	Reece, W.	3,000.00
16	Seitz, B. D.	6,250.00	131	Weese, D. A.	3,000.00	375	Kelly, C. G.	12,500.00	734	Light, O. D.	2,946.00
17	Long, G. C.	600.00	134	Botello, F. V.	6,250.00	380	Knoebel, B. R.	3,125.00	760	Lee, R. W.	3,000.00
18	Barker, E. P.	2,959.99	134	Canlas, E. B.	6,250.00	380	Otto, E. A.	3,000.00	763	Wilson, D. A.	2,916.00
18	Brombacher, C. F.	3,000.00	134	Collins, C. S.	3,000.00	380	Smith, J. S.	6,250.00	766	Kerr, G. D.	3,000.00
20	Ginnings, C. B.	3,000.00	134	Cooney, J. J.	3,000.00	387	Rainey, R. H.	2,942.00	768	McLouth, H. E.	3,000.00
20	Miramontes, R.	3,000.00	134	Garritano, S.	3,000.00	396	Devoige, J. I.	3,000.00	800	Irby, J. A.	1,967.76
20	Murley, C. D.	3,612.56	134	Groff, W. L.	3,000.00	424	Cameron, F. E.	6,250.00	804	Ginn, R.	3,000.00
22	Hassel, L. J.	3,000.00	134	Kirscht, R. B.	3,000.00	424	Slocuk, P.	6,250.00	804	Stewart, J.	5,986.78
22	Hunter, A. L.	3,000.00	134	Lopez, J. B.	6,250.00	429	Anthony, H. L.	3,000.00	876	Anderson, A. B.	1,460.00
23	Dahlberg, M. C.	3,000.00	134	Mayer, J. J.	3,000.00	430	Rindahl, D. J.	2,929.00	876	Mondrella, B. J.	6,250.00
24	Sienkielewski, A. R.	3,125.00	134	Mulrain, C. F.	1,500.00	436	Murphy, L. E.	2,930.93	890	Block, L. E.	3,000.00
24	Voris, G. L.	3,000.00	134	Schwerdt, J. L.	3,000.00	440	Rawls, L. A.	3,000.00	932	Ashley, G. J.	3,000.00
25	Meier, W. W.	12,500.00	134	Wain, T. K.	3,000.00	441	Gilman, D. P.	2,934.38	968	Hofmann, J. H.	2,841.57
26	Best, P. T.	6,250.00	134	Wilkins, D. D.	6,250.00	441	Wahl, D. O.	2,936.72	1003	Allen, A. L.	3,000.00
26	Judy, S. M.	6,250.00	136	Fuller, R. V.	1,000.00	443	Richardson, K. J.	3,000.00	1141	Smith, B. C.	6,250.00
26	Tanner, D. N.	6,250.00	143	Irwin, W. J.	3,000.00	446	Griffin, J. L.	3,000.00	1141	Weaver, B. R.	3,000.00
38	Barrow, D. R.	3,739.24	146	Shoemaker, J. I.	3,000.00	453	Stanton, W. G.	3,000.00	1186	Harano, D. M.	2,813.30
38	Horn, D. O.	2,250.00	153	Miller, R. F.	2,932.00	466	Smith, R. R.	2,943.50	1186	Salvani, V. M.	3,000.00
38	Marek, N. L.	3,000.00	159	Deneen, D. W.	984.00	474	Mackus, G.	5,403.84	1205	Banks, B.	3,000.00
38	Meaney, J. J.	3,000.00	164	O'Neill, P. E.	3,000.00	479	Bean, B. E.	6,250.00	1205	Lynn, C. E.	3,000.00
38	Shella, T. A.	3,000.00	175	Harvey, M. L.	3,000.00	479	Hickingbottom, W. J.	2,920.00	1245	Buzanowski, E. P.	3,000.00
38	Strover, T. C.	6,250.00	175	Queen, R.	3,000.00	479	Lovelady, D. L.	3,000.00	1245	Colcleaser, L. I.	1,500.00
41	Clark, W. G.	2,914.50	175	Robertson, H. D.	3,000.00	481	O'Keefe, W. R.	3,000.00	1249	Lotterio, J. J.	1,000.00
46	Holdt, J. R.	3,000.00	175	Willingham, R. L.	2,920.00	488	Carrano, F. L.	3,000.00	1249	Marshall, R. L.	3,000.00
46	Sharratt, V. A.	3,000.00	175	Worley, R. C.	3,000.00	488	Jones, R. C.	3,000.00	1249	Troyan, J. M.	6,250.00
48	Horton, W. J.	3,000.00	177	Stangel, B. W.	6,250.00	490	Sanborn, S.	3,000.00	1260	Murakami, H. K.	2,960.00
48	Phelps, E. I.	3,000.00	210	Allen, D. E.	6,250.00	494	Brissette, R. O.	3,125.00	1319	Clark, G. S.	3,000.00

Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount
1319	Kuchta, A.	3,000.00	Pens. (1354)	Remmen, J. F.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Lemay, R. I.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Swanick, J. R.	3,000.00
1340	Morelli, H. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (1470)	Rybkiwicz, J.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Matalon, E. A.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Theile, W.	3,000.00
1340	Sherr, P. M.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Bennett, R. M.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	McCaffery, G. F.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Theroux, C. P.	2,948.79
1347	Deaton, D. W.	2,875.17	Pens. (I.O.)	Botteron, J. G.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	McCay, J. P.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Trader, E. J.	3,000.00
1393	Abplanalp, F.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Boyer, P. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Munson, R. G.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Triggs, M. C.	1,500.00
1547	Lund, S. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Burns, J. E.	2,647.14	Pens. (I.O.)	Nickels, B. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Unzicker, L. W.	2,951.99
1547	Sparkman, S. T.	3,125.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Carlson, C. G.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Norling, A. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Wald, E.	3,000.00
1547	Vanbuskirk, T. G.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Copeland, V. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Priebe, R. R.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Walker, C. F.	3,000.00
1579	Murry, R. V.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Dedmon, D.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Regan, F. C.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Wilson, R. H.	3,000.00
2085	Murray, P.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Denapoli, P. J.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Ryan, M. A.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Wolfe, J. O.	2,937.58
I.O. (134)	Kelly, K. J.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Gibbs, J. E.	2,944.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Schmidt, G. H.	3,000.00	Total Amount		\$1,131,091.85
Pens. (505)	Cain, C. A.	3,442.25	Pens. (I.O.)	Graber, K. W.	1,500.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Sejtka, F. E.	3,000.00			
Pens. (561)	Seal, E. B.	2,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Henderson, O. C.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Snow, B.	3,000.00			

National Health Insurance Plan

(Continued from page 16)

pusher of this for many years; they always said it couldn't be done," he said. "Now they see it can."

McAlister's local, 295, was among the 20 locals that until Dec. 31, was part of the health plan that covered most of the locals in the 10th District. He said rising costs might have forced them to raise contribution rates or cut benefits. "The cost of health care was driving up our wage rate and putting our contractors out of the market," he said. "Hopefully it will keep the contribution rate from going up more. If so, we can add more benefits to the plan."

"With this plan, if we can pool all of our money and all of our resources, it gives us more bargaining strength with our providers," McAlister said.

Local 776's Cockcroft said savings under Blue Cross made the decision easy. "The PPO's we had been using had claim discounts of 15-20 percent as opposed to the new Blue Cross with 40-45 percent discounts," he said.

The 10th District plans have been joined in the national plan by trusts in Memphis, Tenn., and Lake Charles, La. Discussions are under way with other plans throughout the United States.

President Hill directed IBEW staff to investigate the possibility of starting a national health care plan four years ago, in response to the requests of local leaders and members of the National Electrical Contractors Association, who were approaching him for some kind of

solution to escalating health care costs.

Sav-Rx was rolled out a year later. The national pharmacy benefit program similarly takes advantage of volume buying to give members and retirees prescription medications at discounts that range from 15-60 percent below retail. The program now has nearly 100,000 members enrolled, and total participation of 220,000.

The NECA/IBEW Family Plan could eventually cover everyone who is currently in one of the approximately 150 plans that each have their own third-party health benefits administrators, lawyers, accountants, investment consultants and labor-management boards of trustees. Once costly but essential to small regional health plans, these outside vendors for the national health plan could soon be the only ones left in the Brotherhood. Consolidating those redundant functions alone could save millions.

"This plan will cut down on administrative rigamarole," said plan consultant Diem. Because the professionals that these regional funds have relied upon for advice and expertise stand to lose business if their clients make the jump to the national plan, they are generally dead-set against it. "That's the problem," said McAlister. "They have attorneys, consultants and administrators telling them not to do it. It wasn't an easy decision for us. But we felt it was important for the IBEW members to have a national plan."

Just the possibility of pulling out of existing health care trusts in favor of the national plan has already resulted in lowered costs for some regional plans. But the international officers warn "this technique of using the threat of the

national plan to get a new deal from providers will not solve the problem in the long run. Eventually these local health funds will find it more difficult to compete with the savings available in the larger family plan and will have to pay the full cost of their plans, costs that will likely be much higher," President Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Walters said in a letter to local leaders.

Once the plan has been adopted in the contractor's area, electrical contractors, their administrative staff and their family members will be covered along with bargaining unit workers.

"Unlike the non-union business sector, we are trying to stay competitive while keeping our responsibility to members by improving the system through maximizing efficiencies and reducing costs," President Hill said. "The other side is abandoning responsibility to employees. We're trying to live up to it."

The national plan is modeled on another successful IBEW health care plan that is also national in scope, the Line Construction Benefit Fund (Lineco), which includes approximately 100 outside construction local unions. Participating locals are from across the county, excluding the Northeast. Chicago and Detroit.

The IBEW officers believe that the IBEW can no longer afford to ignore the responsibility to provide its members quality health care. "None of us will win if we continue doing business the old way," they said. "The health care industry is rapidly changing and we have to change our ways of providing benefits if we expect to continue offering real affordable health care coverage to our members."

IBEW FOUNDERS'

SCHOLARSHIP

AWARDED ONLY TO IBEW MEMBERS

The IBEW® Founders' Scholarships honor the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers®. Each year the officers of the IBEW® are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for \$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in an approved field. The maximum distribution is \$24,000 over a period not to exceed eight years.

RULES FOR ENTRY

Eligibility Checklist

Founders' Scholarship competition is an adult program, to be used solely by IBEW® members. It is NOT for the children of members.

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an Honorary Withdrawal for the four years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.
2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no office of business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman or general chairman.
3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant's achievements and abilities.
4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship, or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.
5. A complete personal résumé is required. The résumé should outline education and work history, any special honors or awards, military service, plus involvement in union, local, civic, community and religious affairs.
6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay. The title and topic must be: "How the Founders' Scholarships will benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers® and the electrical industry." The essay must be typewritten and double-spaced.
7. Applicants must submit a test score from the SAT I or the ACT. NO OTHER TESTING SERVICES ARE ACCEPTABLE. Archived scores or new test registration may be obtained by contacting: SAT (609)771-7600, www.collegeboard.org, SAT Program, Box 6201, Princeton, NJ 08541-6201; or ACT Records (319)337-1313, www.act.org, ACT Records, P.O. Box 168, Iowa City, IA 52243-0168. To send scores directly to the IBEW® Founders' Scholarship, the code numbers are 0485 for SAT and 0697 for ACT. It is strongly suggested that any new test taken should be the SAT I.
8. Materials need not be sent at the same time but must be postmarked prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

Selection of Winners

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness and career goals.

The independent Founders' Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of academic, professional and community representatives. They will examine the complete record of each scholarship applicant to choose the winners. All applicants will be notified, and the scholarship winners will be featured in the *IBEW® Journal*.

Responsibility of Each Founders' Scholar

Scholarship winners must begin their studies in their next term or, at the latest, in January of the following year. Each term's earned grades must be sent to the Founders' Scholarship Administrator, together with a Founders' Scholarship Progress Sheet. After the first calendar year in the program, and by each August 1 thereafter, the annual Founders' Scholar paper is due. It must be at least 1,000 words on a labor-related topic, covering any aspect affecting the current labor movement or labor history. Scholarships are not transferable and are forfeited if the student withdraws or fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the college. If a serious life situation arises to prevent continuation of studies, the scholarship winner may request that the scholarship be held in abeyance for a maximum of one academic year.

Free Act of the IBEW®

The creation of this scholarship program is a free act of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers®. The IBEW® retains its right to alter, suspend, cancel or halt the IBEW® Founders' Scholarship Program at any time and without giving any reason, provided that scholarship winners already in college under the program will continue to receive the stipends until graduation or the receipt of \$24,000 for undergraduate study under their IBEW® Founders' Scholarships—whichever comes first.

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____
(Please print or type)

Address: _____

Zip/Postal: _____ Home Telephone #: (_____) _____

SS/SIN #: _____ Birthdate: _____

Member of Local #: _____ Card #: _____
(On IBEW Journal Address Label or Dues Receipt)

Initiated into IBEW®: _____
(Month/Year)

Most recent employer: _____

Job Classification: _____ Work Telephone #: (_____) _____

I wish to study for a _____ degree in _____

(NOTE: Field of study must contribute to the development and improvement of the electrical industry as determined by the Founders' Scholarship Administrator.)

List your first and second choices for college:

1. _____
2. _____

Did you complete high school or the GED? Yes No
(Send transcripts or other evidence to the Scholarship Committee.)

Did you have the opportunity to take apprenticeship or skill improvement training?
 Yes No (Send transcripts of your courses to the Scholarship Committee.)

Do you have any education certificates, awards, or professional licenses?
 Yes No (Send evidence to the Scholarship Committee.)

Have you taken any college courses?
 Yes No (Send transcripts of all college courses to the Scholarship Committee.)

Name used on class records: _____

When did you take the SAT or the ACT?: _____
(Month/Year)

(To submit new test scores, it is strongly suggested that you take the SAT I. We will use your highest score; therefore, it may be in your best interest to retake the test.)

My signature is evidence that I understand and agree to all the rules governing the scholarship as listed on this application.

(Signature)

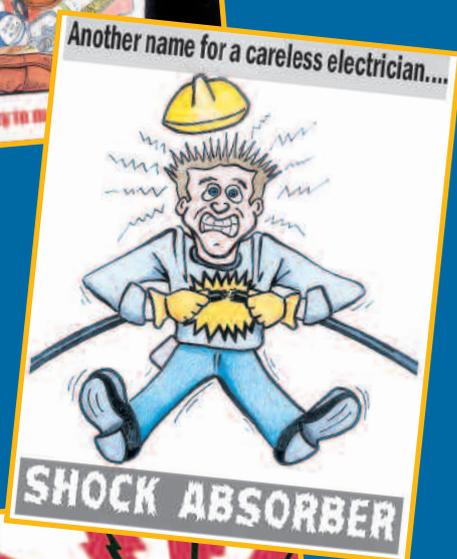
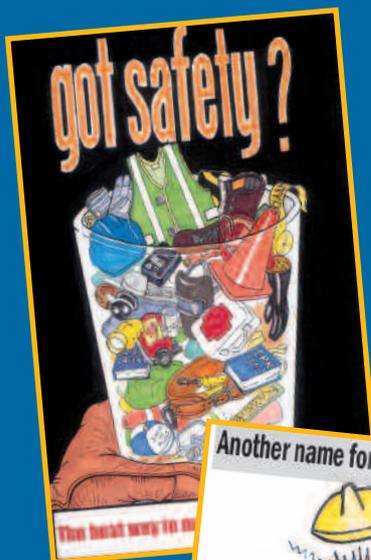
(Date)

Mail application materials postmarked prior to May 1 to:

IBEW Founders' Scholarship Committee
900 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Safety Poster

C O N T E S T



Since the founding of the IBEW in 1891, one of its primary goals has been to promote safety and health—not only for the worker but also for the worker’s family. The IBEW was one of the first unions to have a full-time Safety Department and one of the first to require Local Union Safety Committees in its Constitution. Continuing this proud tradition of being a leader in promoting safety and health, International President Edwin D. Hill and International Secretary-Treasurer Jon F. Walters are pleased to announce the **2006 Safety Poster Contest**. 

RULES

The contest is open to all active IBEW members only. To be eligible for the contest, the posters must address safety either in the workplace, at home, or at play. The artwork may be done either in black and white or in color. The wording on the poster should be limited.

Each poster must be submitted on 8-1/2 x 11 inch white unruled paper or poster board. Posters cannot include a company’s logo or company name. A contestant may submit a maximum of three (3) posters. The following information must appear on the back of each poster entered: Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Local Union Number and Card Number.

Posters not complying with the above criteria will not be judged.

Posters will be judged on (a) content of the safety message; (b) originality; and (c) artwork. All posters become the property of the IBEW and may be used in any manner by the IBEW.

Mail entries to **IBEW Safety and Health Department, 900 Seventh Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20001. Deadline for entries is March 31, 2006.**

The winning posters will be published in a future issue of the *IBEW Journal*. The winners will be notified by mail.

2006 Contest Winner Prizes

FIRST PLACE \$250

SECOND PLACE \$200

THIRD PLACE \$150

HONORABLE MENTION (2) \$50 EACH