

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 1 | No. 1 | May 2007

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Unlocking the Code To IBEW's Excellence

If there's a secret to opening the door to regaining market share in the construction industry, the IBEW may have unlocked it. Now the Code of Excellence, born years ago in the 8th District, is going international in an effort to make IBEW electricians the most professional, sought-after workers in the business.

Until now, the Code of Excellence has been implemented on a job-to-job basis, with IBEW leaders, contractors or customers using it to inject an extra level of professionalism on the site, said IBEW Construction and Maintenance Director Mark Ayers.

"The Code of Excellence is intended to reinforce the basic principles and tenets that we are to carry with us every day," Ayers said.

It was conceived to show customers and contractors that IBEW members are serious about their work—and that their attitudes, appearance and productivity are all a reflection of that dedication.

"I compare it to renewing your wedding vows after you've been married a while," Ayers said. "There was a need to demonstrate our best qualities and put them in front of the customers again."

Starting this year, the Code of Excellence will be Category I language, meaning it will be mandatory language on all construction collective bargaining agreements, IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill announced at the Construction and Maintenance Conference in March.

"We intend that the standards set forth in the national Code of Excellence will be the minimum which must be followed," President Hill said at the conference. "We support and encourage all locals to negotiate



Denver Local 68 journeyman wireman James Keating checks a conduit run at a Code of Excellence project at Children's Hospital.

higher standards... This is one more indication of how serious we are about keeping the cultural change moving forward in the Brotherhood."

President Hill said the IBEW is bargaining with the National Electrical Contractors Association to hammer out the language.

Ayers said the code has been successful in winning customers and contractors, and it has been emulated by all of the other building trades.

Denver Local 68 has not only been employing the Code of Excellence on most of its projects, it has made its principles a way of life.

"The sheer buy-in by contractors and members is what's most impressive," said Local 68 Business Manager Dennis Whalen. "We won't even refer a member out of the union hall if they haven't taken the Code of Excellence training course."

"We are ... keeping the cultural change moving forward in the Brotherhood."

—IBEW President Ed Hill

Three years ago, when Whalen started embracing the concept, he had several signs printed up boasting "This is an IBEW Code of Excellence Project."

"We couldn't give them away for free at first," Whalen said. "Now we can't keep them in the building." ■

Mississippi Shipyard Workers Strike and Win— “Victims No Longer”

A month-long strike, driven by the escalating cost of living resulting from Hurricane Katrina, ended on April 4 with 1,000 IBEW members and 6,200 metal trades unionists ratifying a new contract at Northrop Grumman Ship System's Ingalls yard in Pascagoula, Miss.

“Members of Pascagoula Local 733 have stood up and refused to be victims any longer,” says IBEW President Edwin D. Hill, saluting the unity built between veteran workers and recent hires who constitute 30 percent of the work force at the yard which fabricates destroyers and other naval vessels. Members rejected two previous contract offers before ratifying the new agreement by a 67 percent majority. It was the first strike at the yard since a three-week walkout in 1999.

The contract provides for a 15 percent increase in wages over the next three years, starting with an immediate \$1.68 per hour raise, the highest increase ever negotiated at the yard. Shift premium and attendance bonuses could raise pay another 61 cents per hour. Retirements will be enhanced. Most of the contract's gains will also boost compensation for IBEW and Metal Trades members at Northrop Grumman's nearby shipyard in Avondale, La., where unions have “me-too” agreements.

Some members of Local 733 are still living in trailers since losing their homes in Hurricane Katrina's vicious sweep. Prices of everything on the Gulf Coast, from homeowner's insurance to housing, food, health care and building materials, are rising. Workers credit Northrop Grumman for rendering financial assistance to workers victimized by the hurricane, but they are living on less money than two years ago and fought for a contract to keep from sinking deeper in debt.

“I could have legally crossed the picket line and worked seven days a week,” says Gino Bass, a switchboard-watchman, who is responsible for electric security on ships, but “I think this strike was the right thing to do because we've been underpaid for a long



IBEW Fifth District International Vice President Joe Davis visited the picket line of striking members of Local 733 to add solidarity and support. From left are Local 733 member T.O. Ladnier, Fifth District International Representative Joe Pledger, Davis, Mike Byrd (Jackson County sheriff and former Local 733 member) and Local 733 Business Manager Jim Couch.

time, despite our excellent job performance.” Bass, who has 21 years of seniority, says the company's first wage offer barely covered a \$1,400 increase in his yearly homeowner's insurance, thanks to Katrina. Other switchboard-watch electricians followed his lead to the picket line, leaving managers on watch for the duration of the strike.

“Since Katrina, we're used to hard times,” says T.O. Ladnier, a 32-year electrical specialist, who says that the experience helped prepare the younger members for

their first strike. The unions conducted extensive internal organizing at the yard prior to the contract deadline. Only 400 to 600 workers crossed the picket lines, a healthy showing of union influence in a right-to-work state.

“Our members had been forced to live under meager income and bad conditions after Katrina,” says Local 733 Business Manager Jim Couch. “They said if we could make it through Katrina, we could make it through anything.” When it looked like the strike could last beyond a few weeks, all of the locals pooled resources to set up a food bank, staffed by volunteers, for striking families. The food bank was still in operation two weeks after the strike ended for workers in need who had not received their first paychecks.

The workers' solidarity led to an unprecedented picket line visit by Philip Teel, president of Northrop Grumman Ship Systems. Maintaining a stable work force after Katrina was one of Teel's greatest challenges. To retain and attract skilled workers to the shipyard, the unions negotiated enhanced vacation pay for workers with four or fewer years of service.



G.W. Johnson, an electrical lead technician and long-serving Local 733 shop steward, carries canned goods to food bank during the strike at Northrop Grumman's Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss.

While medical premiums will rise, the pact contains a cost-of-living clause linked to the South East regional consumer price index, to protect wages against the volatile economy of the Gulf Coast region.

Wages drove the strike, Ladnier says, but now, there is widespread hope that the unity that developed will also “revamp how the shipyard is run,” ending harassment and favoritism. ■

CORRECTION

In the January/February issue of the IBEW Journal, in the story entitled, “IBEW Takes on Subcontracting at Texas Utility and Wins 254-218,” we incorrectly listed the IBEW locals that represent workers at TXU.

Dallas, Texas, Local 69 represents workers in TXU's distribution group. Dallas-Ft. Worth Local 20 represents workers at the Comanche Peak Nuclear Station. Workers at TXU's four mines and three coal plants are represented by Fairfield, Texas, Local 2337.

Florida Initiative's Spirit Spreads Across the South

Florida Initiative organizers ventured north to Atlanta during the second week of February to blitz nonunion construction work sites, holding another successful event for unorganized workers to meet signatory contractors. This was a true union surge, reinforced by volunteers and full-time organizers from 14 IBEW locals in the South. (See "IBEW Volunteers Boost Atlanta Organizing Event," below).

The numbers tell part of the story, but the "repercussions of the blitz—which covered 207 worksites—have created seismic tremors, felt far and wide throughout the region's industry," says Jeff Henderson, lead organizer.

Eighty-four nonunion electricians and 19 employers attended the "industry night," an event that introduced nonunion workers to IBEW contractors. Fifty-one applicants were hired. Twelve were to be hired but received pay increases from their current employers. Over 20 open shop electricians who didn't attend have called or visited Atlanta Local 613 seeking information about



working union. The local's profile was further lifted by radio spots during the blitz.

Local 613 union organizers are following up on 221 contact cards filled out by un-

organized workers by informing them about new electrical job classifications and the local union's insurance plans.

"The comradeship and bond between 36 organizers from several different locals was an inspiration to all involved, and the leadership displayed by Local 613's business manager and staff was contagious," says Henderson.

Organizers collected data on work force demographics, pay, commuting times and ratios of journeyman and trainees. This information gives Local 613 a "unique, inside view that even open shop employers and organizations don't have," says Henderson.

More than 30 organizers blitzed sites across Atlanta in early February.

Lessons from Florida and Georgia are being applied in North and South Carolina, where IBEW market share is under 1 percent. "A whole lot of buildings are going up down here," says Duane Moore, lead organizer, who is visiting with locals to shape an organizing plan. ■

Siemens to Close Two Ohio Breaker Factories

One of the few remaining domestic circuit breaker manufacturers has announced plans to close its two factories in central Ohio. Shutting Siemens Energy and Automation plants in Urbana and Bellefontaine will result in the loss of more than 700 jobs, mostly IBEW members.

When production at the plants moves to Mexico, nearly 600 IBEW members at Local 1691 in Bellefontaine and Local 1740 in Urbana will lose their jobs making large circuit breakers for industrial and commercial use. The plants have long provided some of the best wages and benefits in the state's Miami valley.

The locals are in talks with the Germany-based company to improve severance pay and retraining allowances and enhance retirement packages. "We're bargaining for anything we can possibly get to help members move on with their lives after these plants close," said Local 1740 Business Manager Jason Woods.

Under the company's plans, the Bellefontaine factory will shut its doors by the end of 2008. Urbana will be mothballed in 2010. The company is assisting plant workers in obtaining Trade Adjustment Assistance. Other federal, state and local

programs may also be available to help the workers, Woods said. They have enlisted the help of several of Ohio's newly elected officials, including Sen. Sherrod Brown, Gov. Ted Strickland and Rep. Jim Jordan.

The locals, with the help of the Fourth District, are hoping to help market the plants—complete with a high-tech work force—to prospective companies seeking factories.

"We can offer them the facility and the ready-made work force," Woods said.

Six years ago, Siemens announced it would cease operations at the Urbana plant in 2003, moving production to Bellefontaine 20 miles north. That plan was scuttled, and in the end, the plant's life will be extended by a few years. Two years ago, a labor-management pact was negotiated that Local 1691 hoped would make the Bellefontaine facility the center for global circuit breaker manufacturing if the union and company made changes to the contract, said Fourth District International Representative Tom Curley. After agreeing to a new pay structure in 2004, Bellefontaine employees raised both their productivity and the quality of their product. Siemens reneged on its end of the agreement. ■

IBEW Volunteers Boost Atlanta Organizing Event

Only special people journey out of town to work for their union without earning glory or cash. Judy Sheahan, Savannah, Ga., Local 508, and Dave Ingram, Raleigh, N.C., Local 553, are special people. Just ask the organizers of February's Atlanta organizing blitz who praise the two for coming in to blitz nonunion work sites and put together a successful organizing event.

"Judy and Dave are the kind of people who built the IBEW," says Kirk Brungard, IBEW director of Construction Organizing.

Ingram, vice president of Local 553, was traveling through Atlanta when he met Florida Initiative organizer Doug Williams. Traveling is second nature to Ingram, the son of an IBEW lineman-turned-wireman who enrolled him in high schools in different parts of the country as work fluctuated. Back in Raleigh, Ingram is dropping in on nonunion job sites, lifted by the spirit of Atlanta's effort. "I feel sorry for people who don't know about unions," Ingram said. He worked on the blitz for no pay, pitching his sleeping bag on the floor of a fellow organizer's hotel room.

"It's exciting to be a part of something that can raise people's standard of living," says Sheahan, the recording secretary of Local 508.

Sheahan, the first female apprentice graduate of her local in 1982, says, "The IBEW's organizing plan is the 'turn-around point' for the union and it was so good to work with people who are really dedicated to the program." ■

Former MCI Technicians Tell Verizon: "Hear Us Now!"

Nonunion technicians at MCI had two choices when their employer merged with Verizon in 2006. They could dwell in silence, hoping that Verizon Business—the newly-formed entity that they were assigned to—would offer job security and decent benefits. Or they could speak up and protect themselves by joining with thousands of IBEW and CWA members at Verizon, who are already preparing for their 2008 contract deadline.

In a series of newsletters, including an open letter from shop stewards, the unions asked their new co-workers to “tear down the walls” between Verizon Business and Verizon and sign union authorization forms to strengthen their bargaining power and future with the \$100 billion telecommunications giant.

The technicians spoke up clearly at a March 4 COPE breakfast, sponsored by Boston IBEW Local 2222. “Hear us now,” they told Verizon, as Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Lt. Gov. Tim Murray, and a host of other political leaders counted forms confirming that a clear majority of New England’s former MCI workers want union recognition. (Video of the scene is available for viewing on the popular Web site YouTube.) One week later, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.) and other elected leaders reviewed the authorization cards signed by a majority of Verizon Business technicians in New York, echoing their New England co-workers.

Verizon is trying to roll back the pro-union tide. On a March 19 conference call sponsored by IBEW and CWA, Felix James, a Verizon Business technician, reported that the company was misleading workers in the business unit, telling them that they would lose their company vehicles and would not be able to negotiate pensions with Verizon if they organize.

“We have a major problem with Verizon moving work that was tradition-

ally done by union members over to Verizon Business,” says Myles Calvey, chairman of IBEW Telephone Coordinating Council 2 and Second District International Executive Council member. Workers on both sides of the divide would lose out, he says, in the “double-breasting” scheme that is reminiscent of others in trucking and construction, where union influence was drastically reduced by shipping work from unionized to unorganized divisions.

Verizon has staunchly opposed granting its unions neutrality in organizing highly-profitable Verizon Wireless. Now, with the formation of Verizon Business, over 70 percent of the company’s work

force remains unorganized. Former MCI workers would constitute a separate bargaining unit, but, says Calvey, “We will show that the unions are proactive heading into our 2008 contract.” The groundwork is being built on the job as former MCI workers are joining Verizon workers who wear red T-shirts one day each week in a show of unity.

Verizon is risking years of productive collective bargaining to keep Verizon Business a union-free entity. The company mailed Verizon Business technicians a 10-page letter opposing the union as a “third-party,” even encouraging workers to check out the rabidly anti-union UnionFacts.com Web site.

On the March 19, conference call, President Edwin D. Hill stated, “Artificial divisions within a company won’t work. Verizon should give the same opportunities to all its workers—now.” Answering Verizon’s charge that unions are outsiders, CWA President Larry Cohen says, “We’re not a third party; we’re the first party, the ones who do the frontline work.”

IBEW and CWA have trained over 1,000 shop stewards to form a “stewards’ army” to organize Verizon Business, stop the sell-off of Verizon’s copper lines in New England (see page 5) and mobilize for a decent contract in 2008. By the end of June, the unions hope to have 4,000 additional stewards trained. ■

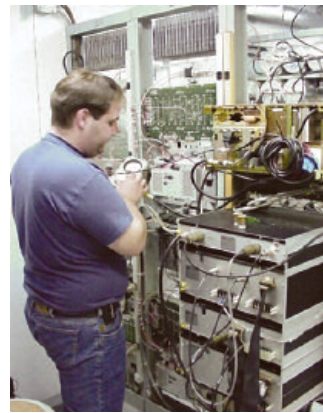
IBEW to Canadian Government: Keep Your Mitts Off Our Cash

A hefty surplus in a federal pension plan should be good news for covered employees. In Canada, however, the federal government grabbed the \$26 billion surplus, leading 18 unions, including the IBEW, to sue to put the money back in the retirement fund.

“The idea that federal public servants have a ‘gold-plated’ pension plan is a myth,” says Dan Boulet, business manager of Ottawa, Ontario, Local 2228, one of the plaintiff unions in the lawsuit. “They pay more than many other employees with similar plans. The plan surpluses are then skimmed off the top to cover government debt. It’s a cheap shot at Canadians who work to serve Canadians,” he adds.

By 1999, the pension plans of federal public sector workers, among the largest in the world, had accumulated a combined surplus of \$26 billion. One of the main contributors to the surplus was the fact that the workers were paying into the pension fund based on calculations that assumed they were receiving annual wage increases. But Canada’s federal workers had their salaries frozen for six years in the 1990’s.

In 1999, a Liberal Party-led Parliament passed an act that permitted the government to expropriate the pension surplus and also allowed the government to reduce employer contributions if the pension fund accumulates a surplus in the future. The law also provided for current



Ottawa, Ontario, Local 2228 member René Longchamps, a Canadian Coast Guard employee, performs maintenance on ground-based communications equipment in the province of Quebec.

contract. The suit contends that active and retired pension plan members are entitled to at least part of the surplus, since they contributed to it.

The 1,000 IBEW members covered by the pension fund are mostly employed in three government departments. National defense workers perform weapons testing, engineering and research. Industry Canada employees manage radio spectrums and frequency allocations. Personnel employed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada perform electronic maintenance and install equipment in support of the Coast Guard. Remaining members are scattered throughout the rest of the public service.

The suit is the largest dispute with government workers since a 1999 battle over wage disparities between female and male-dominated jobs that resulted in a \$3 billion award to plaintiffs.

“The facts are on our side and our arguments are sound,” says Boulet. “This is a complicated case, but I’m optimistic our side will carry the day.” ■

pension funds to be phased out and replaced by new ones that were invested in financial markets.

If that wasn’t harmful enough, the federal government imposed yearly increases in the percentage of pay which 670,000 federal employees will contribute to their pensions during the next eight years.

Canadian laws that prevent private employers from using plan surpluses do not protect federal workers, so the unions were forced to seek relief in the courts.

The lawsuit, by the federal government unions, charges the Conservative government—which opposed the pension grab before taking office—with breach of

Amplification

In the March/April issue of the IBEW Journal, we reported on the new three-year national agreement between the IBEW and CBS. The IBEW locals party to the contract are Hollywood, Calif. Local 45, Washington, D.C. Local 1200, New York Local 1212 and Chicago Local 1220.

IBEW and CWA Challenge Verizon's Sell-Off in New England

The IBEW and the Communications Workers of America have mounted a campaign to reverse the sale of Verizon's 1.6 million copper telephone access lines in northern New England to Fairpoint Communications, a North Carolina-based rural telephone provider.

"Stop the Sale," say IBEW and CWA unionists, who are calling public attention to the harm that Verizon's sell-off would bring to union members, consumers and the economic development of the region. To support the campaign, IBEW has contracted with attorneys, lobbyists, a public relations firm and financial analysts before the sale is approved by state and federal regulators.

With cellular phone usage rising and traditional landline market share declining, Verizon seeks to abandon less densely-populated locales, like northern New England, and cash in on the market for fiber optic video, Internet and phone services in more populated and affluent markets.

For the thousands of IBEW members who climb telephone poles, splice cables, install telecommunications equipment and work as service representatives and operators, Verizon's flight threatens their benefits and job security. Workers and consumers would be much better served by keeping Verizon in New England and retraining workers in new technologies to modernize New England's telecommunications infrastructure.

On March 3, more than 1,100 members and supporters of IBEW Locals 2320 (Manchester, N.H.), 2326 (Montpelier, Vt.) and 2327 (Augusta, Maine) and CWA Local 1400 held a rally in Portland, Maine, to call attention to the Verizon sale's downside to the states. The joint campaign has secured the support of all three northern New England state governors, eight U.S. senators and congressmen and many state legislators.

The sale would split Verizon's northern New England workers from a 12-state regional bargaining group with a history of internal solidarity only one year before their union contracts expire. This is yet another challenge for union members, who are already making progress organizing workers at Verizon Business, a nonunion entity to which the company is diverting bargaining unit work (See "Former MCI Technicians Tell Verizon: 'Hear Us Now, page 4.'")

While Verizon is a \$100 billion company with strong profitability, Fairpoint is a small player, which was \$800 million in debt before the sale and is expected take on \$1 billion of new debt. If regulators approve the sale, the stage is set for Fairpoint's failure. Verizon's sale, tax-free under federal communications laws, raises cash for the company's massive investment in new technologies. Fairpoint is not capable of offering the full range of Verizon's

powerful fiber optic network of video, Internet and phone services at a competitive price.

"We are not going to let Verizon turn the information super highway into a dirt road in New England," says Glenn Brackett, business manager of Manchester, N.H., Local 2320. Brackett says that Verizon is positioned to "win either way." Verizon still retains a presence in New England through Verizon Business. If Fairpoint fails, Verizon could pour more money into marketing Verizon Wireless, another nonunion entity, to pick up customers. Verizon has already purchased Fairpoint's wireless division.

In February, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) organized a meeting between

Fairpoint's CEO and union leaders, including Brackett, Pete McLaughlin, and Mike Spillane, business manager of Local 2326. Brackett asked the CEO if Fairpoint would continue Verizon's fiber-to-the-household program, which has already installed lines to 80,000 New Hampshire households; the CEO said yes. Yet, one week later, another high-ranking executive said no. Hundreds of New Hampshire Verizon workers are now bidding on job vacancies in Massachusetts as a result of Fairpoint's mixed signals.

Currently Fairpoint is only 10 percent

unionized and has a history of hostility to IBEW organizing. Workers doubt the company's claim that it will hire 600 new workers in New England, pointing to other corporate spin-offs where jobs were lost, and to the six percent annual market share decline in landlines. ■



Members and supporters of IBEW Locals 2320, 2326 and 2327 and CWA Local 1400 rally in Portland, Maine on March 3 to oppose the sell-off of Verizon's landlines in northern New England to Fairpoint Communications.

Live Line Helicopter Pioneers Seek Safe Industry Standards

Live-line helicopter utility maintenance falls somewhere between the cracks of the authority of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration.

In the expanse of the regulatory no-man's land lie uninvestigated accidents and too much room for cowboy operators taking chances with lives.

"Right now, there are a lot of renegades doing some really stupid stuff," said Cranbury, N.J. Local 94 member Tom Verdecchio, senior live line coordinator for New Jersey's Public Service Electric and Gas.

Despite the lack of industry standards, many utilities around the country now make transmission wire repairs from the air without having to shut key pieces of the system down for the job. Most use contractors to perform the work of hovering in motorized aircraft around 500-kilovolt transmission towers. PSE&G is among the few utilities that has brought the work in house, hiring a team of specially trained linemen and a pilot for their helicopter maintenance and inspection program (See "Helicopters and High Wire," IBEW Journal, January/February 2006).

PSE&G has just purchased a custom-built helicopter with a platform specially designed to accommodate the team's work 150 feet in the air. All are IBEW Local 94 members, including pilot Eric Carroll.

PSE&G has spent years—and more than \$100,000—to develop a prototype platform ideal for this kind of work. Now the utility is a key partner in the effort to establish a set of training guidelines and safe work prac-



Cranbury, N.J. Local 94 member Eric Carroll pilots PSE&G's first custom-built helicopter for live line repair.

tices. It has joined the IBEW, McDonnell Douglas Corp., EPRI High Voltage Research Laboratories and Tyler Platforms to institute training protocols for the entire industry, Verdecchio said.

Today, Carroll said, private contractors have no hiring standards for minimum qualifications. "Until now, the industry has decided to try it and see what happens," he said. "That's not an acceptable work practice. We're trying to make it as safe as possible."

IBEW Safety Department Director Jim Tomaseski said that involves establishing a

culture that constantly emphasizes awareness of the hazards of the job, particularly the close proximity of helicopters and high-voltage wires. "We look forward to working with OSHA and the FAA to create a safe environment in the future," Tomaseski said.

Verdecchio said the partnership is planning to offer training to all IBEW members in the industry who perform this type of work.

"If utilities recognized how unregulated things have been, they would want to be involved with establishing procedures on their property," Verdecchio said. ■

Circuits

IBEW Museum Opens at I.O.

Featured in a prominent place in the International Office in Washington, D.C., the IBEW Museum that formally opened on March 21 is a new-and-improved version of the old IBEW Archives, which featured framed photos of International Officers past and present and some archival material and displays. Debuting with a ribbon cutting, the museum is in the style of the modern museum, complete with interactive touch-screen monitors with information on local unions and IBEW history and even a recording booth where members can sit down and tell their own stories as IBEW members.

"It's not just a bunch of stuff under a plastic cover," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "We wanted to make it a real first-class museum experience."

The museum begins with the founding of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1891. Through a timeline and a documentary video, the story of the union's 110-year history is told. "It began as a small band of workers at the dawn of the Electrical Age," the documentary's narrator intones.

The museum is also punctuated by three life-sized plasticized cast figures of various workers performing tasks as they would have done during that time period. Those figures include an inside wireman from 1978, a 1930's lineman and a switchboard operator from 1910.

The IBEW Museum, located at the museum level of the International Office in Washington, D.C., is open for IBEW members during business hours and by special arrangement.



International Officers cut the ribbon to the new IBEW Museum on March 21.

NLRB Tells MasTec: Bargain

Satellite television installers at MasTec voted 46 to 39 to be represented by Tampa, Fla., IBEW Local 824 last June. But instead of recognizing the union and coming to the bargaining table, the company responded by filing objections to the election with the National Labor Relations Board, charging the local with "threatening, coercing and/or intimidating employees during the polling period."

With the International's assistance, Local 824 fought MasTec's attempt to overturn the election victory, and last August, a hearing officer issued a decision overruling the company's objections. MasTec appealed to the NLRB in Washington, D.C.

But MasTec's objections were too much even for the employer-friendly NLRB to swallow. In February, the NLRB completely rejected MasTec's appeal. Local 824 is now certified as the exclusive bargaining representative of the company's field technicians and warehouse employees in Tampa. The local has demanded bargaining on a first contract.

Amtrak on Right Track, But Fate Not Assured

Amtrak ridership and revenue peaked early this year at the highest level ever for the month. In February, Amtrak brought in \$103 million and served 1.8 million passengers.

But Amtrak workers, entering their eighth year without a raise, are not sharing in the success of America's passenger system. Yet for the approximately 1,200 IBEW members at Amtrak and the rest of its workers around the country, there is reason for cautious optimism with the new Democratic Congress.

Somehow, through the years of an anti-Amtrak Republican administrations and Congress, Amtrak survived repeated calls for its break-up and privatization. Maintenance was deferred, along with employee raises beyond a small cost-of-living increase.

This year, President Bush sent a 2008 budget request of \$800 million for Amtrak, but Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) has introduced a six-year reauthorization bill that proposes spending \$2.3 billion a year.

IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohne' said that positive development does not mean Amtrak is in the clear. He cautioned that those in charge of Amtrak may be its worst enemies.

"We still have a Republican administration and a board of directors appointed by Bush, and they march to his beat," Bohne said.

At a recent hearing on Amtrak, the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, submitted a plan for Amtrak reform, which included calls for improved labor-management relations, a new board of directors, including an employee representative, and Homeland Security department funding for security costs. The TTD position paper on Amtrak can be found at www.ttd.org.

NJATC and UL Launch Scholarship Program

The National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (NJATC) recently announced the launch of a new education and scholarship initiative created in conjunction with Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc.—America's watchdog organization for consumer electrical safety. Under the program, UL has pledged a \$100,000 to be awarded to union electrical apprentices around the nation over the next five years.

As part of the new initiative, UL will donate \$1,000 scholarships to twenty different JATC's around the nation, with the financial aid reserved for individual apprentice electricians beginning their second year of training. The UL scholarship is intended to cover the cost of textbooks associated with the classification of journeymen wireman for four years. Eligibility will be determined by a committee of UL and NJATC members. The inaugural group of scholarship recipients will be announced this fall.

Beyond scholarships, UL representatives will also be working closely with IBEW trainers to develop and deliver a range of new educational offerings. Early in 2007, UL will participate in an Internet-based seminar designed for NJATC educators; among the issues to be discussed will be the importance of third-party certification in the electrical industry and how it helps promote public safety. Ultimately, UL representatives will visit all 285 NJATC training centers in the United States, taking an active role in trainer education at each site.

Illinois Local Honors Fallen Brother with Marrow Drive



Larry Rupert, Peoria, Ill., Local 34, participates in Blood and Marrow Drive to honor 39-year member Bob Grady, who succumbed to leukemia.

When Bob Grady, a 39-year member of Peoria, Ill., Local 34 and owner of Schaefer Electric, was diagnosed with leukemia, members of the NECA-IBEW 34 Quality Connection took heart that his sister was a proper match for him to undergo a bone marrow transplant. But they wanted to do more to support and honor Grady. So they added a bone marrow donation to Local 34's annual blood drive, even underwriting the cost of testing donors, to help save other cancer victims.

Tragically, Grady died four days before local union members lined up to donate 62 units of blood; sixteen joined the National Marrow Donor Registry. "Bob was an extraordinary man of integrity and character," says Local 34 Business Manager Mike Everett. "He would have applauded our blood and marrow drive effort, and he would expect us to continue rolling up our sleeves to help the next person in need."

Everett thanked Marty Clinch, the drive's chairman, Local 34 member Todd Holzinger and AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison C.J. Higgins, a member of Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, for promoting the drive in his monthly column in Peoria's *Labor Paper*. "We all want the blood, plasma, platelets and marrow to be available at a moment's notice if our wife, our son, or our daughter was the next one to need it," says Everett, encouraging members to continue to ensure that "these life saving products are always available."

Locals interested in setting up bone marrow donation programs can contact Local 34 at meverett@ibew34.org for more information. ■

Transitions

Retired Charles Graft



International Representative Charles Graft retired April 1, after a 41-year IBEW career, including service as a business manager, Fourth District organizing director and assistant to international Vice

President Paul Witte.

Initiated into Sandusky, Ohio, Local 867 in 1969, Graft served as business manager from 1981 until 1994, when the local union was amalgamated into Lorain, Ohio, Local 129. Graft had formerly served as apprenticeship instructor and on several committees, including negotiations, safety, training and health and welfare.

In his retirement letter to Vice President Witte, Graft states, "There is a season for all things and it has now come my season to retire... I am truly thankful for the opportunity that the officers and members have given me to have served this great Brotherhood and the many years of friendship we have shared."

As fourth district organizing director in 1994, Graft led campaigns employing new top-down and bottom-up construction organizing tactics. He was assigned in 1998 as a servicing representative for railroad locals that were formerly part of IBEW's Tenth District. He also serviced construction locals.

Brother Graft served as president of the North Central Building Trades Council and was a co-founder of the Ohio Construction Coalition. He also led the Ohio State Electrical Conference. Graft was trained as an electrician in the U.S. Navy.

A former quarter horse trainer, Graft plans to continue riding horses in his retirement and working with friends to turn older cars into faster models with new motors.

Retired Nicholas Greco



Fourth District International Representative Nicholas Greco retired April 1 after a long and fulfilling career in the IBEW.

Brother Greco was initiated into Cincinnati Local 1347 in 1970, where he was a lineman for Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co. In 1980, he became assistant business manager. He then served as business manager-financial secretary for two years, until his appointment as International Representative.

At Local 1347, Greco served on the workers' compensation, safety, negotiating, bylaws and building committees. He served on the executive board of the Ohio State Conference from 1986 to 1988 and as secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Electric Utility Board, which is comprised of the util-

ity local unions in Ohio, from 1980 to 1988.

As International Representative, Greco served utility members at utilities in Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland and at broadcast companies in Dayton and Washington, D.C.

Greco served in the U.S. Marines for

three years in the late 1960's. He attended Southern Ohio College and Urbana College.

In his retirement, Greco said he plans to travel and spend more time with his wife, Trudy, and his five grandchildren. The IBEW members, officers and staff wish him a long and healthy retirement.

Organizing Wire

Montana Lottery Workers: IBEW is Right on the Money

Tired of frozen salaries and excessive call outs, eight Montana Lottery field technicians voted in March to become members of Helena Local 233.

Six of the eight-person bargaining unit chose the IBEW in mail-in National Labor Relations Board-supervised balloting. The workers, who service approximately 600 lottery terminals at retail stores across the state, hope to secure a contract that includes regular salary increases. Their wages have been stuck at 2001 levels since their employer, Intralot U.S.A., Inc., won a contract with the state two years ago.

"There was high interest in the employee group to organize," said Local 233 organizer Keith Allen, who said the unit is among the only union-represented Intralot work forces in the United States. Intralot's parent company is based in Greece. "The employees took the lead."

The workers had grown weary of arbitrary work hours that require them to travel long distances on little notice on nights and weekends. Most upsetting to them, however, was the issue of wages. By contract with the state, Intralot is required to pay them prevailing wages—from 2001. Allen estimates that with back wages and penalties, the workers could be owed between \$80,000 to \$100,000.

Geography was a particular challenge to organizers. While the lottery technicians were motivated, there was no practical way to get them together for pre-vote meetings.

"Usually potential units are in the same job or the same building, or at least in the same city, not spread out over one of the largest states in the country," said Allen, who credited International Lead Organizer Bob Brock for doing much of the legwork on this campaign. They overcame that hurdle with the use of conference calls.

Local 233 Business Manager Duane Mellinger said he anticipates a difficult road ahead for first-contract negotiations but hopes for some assistance from state leaders. Montana is now governed by a

Democratic governor and state Senate.

"We're looking forward to representing them," Mellinger said.

Open Shop Bankruptcy Brings New Members to Des Moines Local

IBEW electricians in Des Moines, Iowa, could have rejoiced when Meisner Electric, a long-time, open-shop adversary declared bankruptcy in March. After years of fighting off the IBEW in several NLRB elections, the company didn't deserve any pity. But forty good electricians and potential apprentices were losing their jobs and benefits and needed help. Some of them contacted Local 347.

The general contractor on a new public safety building construction project quickly reached out to Wolin Electric, a signatory employer, which assigned an IBEW crew to complete Meisner's unfinished work. In Knoxville, Meisner had seven electricians performing maintenance at a 3M plant that produces pressure-sensitive tape and surgical supplies. Winger, a signatory contractor out of Ottumwa took over the maintenance work. Local 347 and Burlington, Iowa, Local 13 are offering former Meisner employees membership, based upon where they reside.

"Our problem was that we have no work available in central Iowa and most other parts of the state, even though the books look good for the future," says Local 347 Business Manager Gerry Granberg, who put out a call to IBEW's Eleventh District, notifying them about the unemployed Meisner electricians, while the local processed some of the bankrupt company's apprentices through the JATC.

In years past, Local 347, under retired Business Manager Ron Belcher and Granberg, stripped some of Meisner's best electricians, driving the company's costs up as it resisted the IBEW. "Our local has been lucky to have had the support and understanding of the majority of its members to organize and increase our market share," says Granberg.

Washington Update

House Homeland Security Committee Abandons Anti-Union Personnel System

The House Homeland Security Committee approved language for the federal department that would repeal the administration's anti-union National Security Personnel System. The late March 17 to 13 vote against the new personnel rules follows court rulings declaring them in violation of U.S. labor law. (See "IBEW Aims to Knock Out Anti-Union DoD Rules," *IBEW Journal*, January/February 2007).

The House committee approved \$40 billion for homeland security measures, but supported an amendment by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), who argued that the NSPS would "effectively gut employee due

process rights and put in serious jeopardy the agency's ability to retain a work force capable of accomplishing its critical missions."

Last summer, an appeals court upheld a ruling that sections of the NSPS violated basic collective bargaining rights by giving management a green light to set aside agreements that were legally binding.

"The House Homeland Security Committee's rejection of the administration's union-busting rules is one of the best examples yet of the importance of organized labor's participation in elections and the political process," says President Edwin D. Hill. While 36 labor organizations had come together to oppose the NSPS in court, says Hill, it took a Democratic Congress "give the boot to this union-busting scam under the guise of national security."

Local Lines

Trade Classifications

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

ATTENTION PRESS SECRETARIES

Starting with this issue, Local Lines will now be published in *The Electrical Worker* instead of the *IBEW Journal*.

The system whereby odd numbered locals had their articles published in odd numbered months and vice versa for even numbered locals will be retained. However, the transition to the new publication schedule has put the system out of order so that this issue of *The Electrical Worker* has articles from even numbered locals that would have appeared in the April issue of the *IBEW Journal* under the old schedule. Therefore, Local Lines submissions from even numbered locals will run in this May issue of the newspaper. Articles from both odd and even numbered locals will be printed in the June issue, and the regular system will resume for the July issue and beyond.

Thank you for bearing with us during this transition. We apologize for any confusion. The updated schedule of 2007 deadlines appears below. This schedule and guidelines for submitting Local Lines articles have been sent to every local union and e-mailed to every press secretary for whom we have an e-mail address and can also be found on www.ibew.org.

Deadlines for Submission of Local Lines to *The Electrical Worker*—2007

<u>Odd Numbered Local Unions</u>		<u>Even Numbered Local Unions</u>	
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
July	May 7	August	June 5
September	July 5	October	August 6
November	September 5	December	October 5
January 2008	November 5	February 2008	December 5

Legislative Tribute for IBEW

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—Last fall, the Indiana General Assembly approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 44, which recognizes the IBEW and its members for “their diligent efforts to restore power for the citizens of Indiana in hazardous conditions.”

The resolution cited an award, presented to Local 16 Bus. Mgr. Paul Green by Southern Indiana NECA Chapter Mgr. Tom Millay, which states: “IBEW electricians everywhere are highly honored and recognized for their courage, unparalleled determination, and ingenuity in restoring electrical power.”

The membership can only hope that the General Assembly will demonstrate the same “courage” in enacting pro-labor legislation.

Local 16 has 81 journeymen who are currently taking additional JATC classes to further improve their skills. Kudos to these individuals, who are making our local union the most marketable and skilled labor force.

Congratulations also to apprentices Shandalyn K. Hoge and Damien W. Robbins, who recently were inducted into the Alpha Phi Theta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an internationally acclaimed honor society that recognizes scholarship among associate degree students and provides opportunities for leadership and service.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Golf Outing May 7

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—At this writing, the Local 26 Scholarship Committee is reviewing scholarship applications. Winners will be announced in a future article. Thanks to the many qualified applicants for their participation.

The Local 26 Dollars Against Diabetes golf outing is May 7! Bro. Butch Ramos is, once again, coordinating the event, which gets more popular every year! Hopefully you sent in your registration if you intend to join us on May 7.

This spring marks the first year anniversary of Local 26's new headquarters in Lanham, MD. This new building has enabled us to expand our training capabilities and better serve our membership.

Local 26 elections will be held in June. Nominations take place at the May general membership meeting. A mail-in ballot will be used, so be sure the local has your correct address on file. Your vote is important.

We mourn the deaths of: Bros. Melvin E. Grayson, Alexander Ransom, Francis Knott, David E. Johnson, James L. Fones and Richard Lee Helman; and retired Bros. Joseph S. Zelaya and Leonard Mathew Gill Sr.

Recent retirees: George W. King, John W. Lasley, Jerry L. Rexroad, Lewis L. Walker, Jacob C. Epperly, Dwight Glasby, Frank B. Gordon, Hobert L. Hanson, Robert R. Jones, Dennis L. Moore, John W. Woodall and Francis J. Olshefski.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Fifty-Year Member Honored

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT—During our December 2006 union meeting and Christmas “smoker,” we honored those in good standing who have been IBEW members for 10 or more years. Honorees received pins and certificates.

Special congratulations to Bro. Truman Schlehofer, who received a 50-year pin and a special plaque presented by Bus. Mgr. Peter Abrahamsen and Pres. Mark Fusco. Bro.

Schlehofer, now retired, began as a lineman in 1956 with the formerly designated Local 37, then chartered in New Britain, CT. He served as assistant business manager for two years until Local 42 was chartered in 1969. At that time, then-Second District Int. Vice Pres. John Flynn appointed Bro. Schlehofer as Local 42's first business manager. As business manager, Bro. Schlehofer was responsible for starting up the Local 42 Health and Welfare and Pension Funds.

Bus. Mgr. Abrahamsen said he was honored to present the 50-year pin and retirement plaque to Local 42's first business manager and original charter member.

Congratulations to all who received awards. Richard Lytle received his retirement pin and plaque. Additionally, service pins were presented as follows: for 35 years of service—Dana Foster; for 20 years—Peter Jaconski, Kenneth Moffitt and Roland Valley; and for 10 years—Adam Hoskins and Steven McKeen.

John Biehn, P.S.



Local 42 Bus. Mgr. Peter Abrahamsen (left) presents plaque to 50-year service award honoree, retired Bro. Truman Schlehofer, who served as the local's first business manager.

Montana Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 44 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,s&u), BUTTE, MT—Mark your calendars; the plans are set. This year's rodeo will again be held in Deer Lodge, MT, with the fish fry on Friday, July 20, and the rodeo on Saturday, July 21.

Judges, coordinators, teams, apprentices and those who just want to help are needed. Start putting your teams together early. Anyone interested in judging, coordinating an event, or just lending a helping hand should contact the Local 44 office at 1-877-723-3203.

After much deliberation and a tour of the property, it was decided that the rodeo will be moved to a new location next year. Moving is a monumental task. Next year's rodeo will take place just off the Missouri River, about 45 minutes from Helena, and about 35 minutes from Great Falls. Plans for the 2008 rodeo are being made simultaneously with this year's rodeo. Along with on-site camping, shuttle service to both Great Falls and Helena is being looked at. The Montana Lineman's Rodeo Committee thanks all participants.

Don Hendrickson, B.M.



IBEW Local 50 members Ricky Pollard (left), R.T. Jones and William Mackey joined by Target store manager Martha Jackson.

Union Volunteers

L.U. 50 (u), RICHMOND, VA—Four area trade unions joined Target and United Way to help make the 2006 winter holidays a bit brighter for families in need by delivering decorated trees, toys, gift cards and food baskets.

For the past 16 years, Target has donated its decorated display trees through United Way to local nonprofit agencies and needy families.

Last year union volunteers from IBEW Local 50 and fellow trade unionists delivered 24 trees donated by eight area Target stores. Also participating in the volunteer effort were Communication Workers Local 2201, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1220, and Bakery and Confectionary Workers Local 358.

The union volunteers also delivered toys donated by the Salvation Army, gift cards redeemable at a local grocery store, and food baskets donated by the Central Virginia Food Bank.

In 2006 union members had a banner year and were able to help more than 70 Richmond area families.

Michael A. Barclay, R.S.

Intel Data Center Project

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—An out-of-town union contractor, Rosendin Electric, was successful in receiving the bid for the Intel Data Center project in Fort Collins, CO. The brothers and sisters working on the job site are being treated with respect and dignity and are being allowed to produce at a no-holds-barred pace. This is the type of job that will be the topic of break and lunch conversations for years. Everyone on the job, the foremen, journeymen and apprentices, were all fresh off the books with no ties except the bond of brotherhood and the knowledge that all IBEW members possess. Our skilled union tradesmen, along with Rosendin's supervision and its office staff's ability to provide layout, tools and materials, will make this job an accomplishment for all to be proud of.



IBEW Local 68 Rosendin Electric day crew on the Intel Data Center project.

Local 68 members adopted 12 local families through a local "Neighborly Housing Program." They were able to provide these families with food baskets and donated toys for every child in the home. Thanks to the outpouring of support from the members and staff, they were also able to provide the families with coats, hats, mittens, DVDs, DVD players and a video game or two.

Congratulations on a job well-done to Rosendin Electric and to Local 68 brothers and sisters.

Larry O'Neill, Pres.

Faithful Service

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA—Work has been great here for the last few months and looks to increase in the future.

This is the first time in our 108 years that we needed to start a second first-year JATC class. We have had full employment for the past year and our local is steadily growing.

The local thanks Bro. Herb Larkins Jr. for his 31 years of faithful service to the JATC. As a JATC member, Bro. Larkins helped train some of Local 80's finest journeyman wiremen. Bro. Larkins recently was presented a special award in appreciation of his JATC service (see photo).

We congratulate Bro. Louis Ricks Jr. on his appointment to the JATC. Bro. Ricks has some large shoes to fill but he certainly is up to the challenge.

We also thank Bus. Mgr. Matt Yonka and the Negotiating Committee for securing a great contract. We all appreciate the hard work that was put in to get us that increase.

Dave Schaeffer, P.S.



Local 80 retiree Herb Larkins Jr. (third from left) receives a plaque presented by JATC Dir. Mike Iacobellis (fourth from right.) From left are: Bus. Mgr. Matthew Yonka, JATC member Jimmy Vaughan, Larkins, Iacobellis, JATC member Dave Schaeffer, Local 80 member Billy Larkins, and JATC member Louis Ricks Jr.

Awards Night

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—Our December 2006 union meeting played host to our annual service pin award night. Bro. Bill Connors Sr. was

awarded a 60-year pin. Four 55-year pins were also awarded. It was enjoyable to see so many of our retirees attend the festivities. We owe the prosperity that we enjoy today to these brothers. We must never forget their contributions to the local union.

Fifteen graduating apprentices also received their plaques and certifications. We currently have approximately 100 apprentices in the program.

The local also presented the IBEW Lifesaving Award to Bro. Bob McAtee, whose quick action saved the life of a fellow lineman severely injured in an on-the-job accident. Bro. Steve Livingston gave a moving speech, thanking Bro. McAtee for his heroic actions.

Work in the jurisdiction remains steady. We need journeyman linemen for distribution and transmission projects ongoing throughout the jurisdiction. Some of the projects are offering overtime. Call the hall for information before traveling into the area.

Support your local union. Attend the meetings and become an activist. Please continue to support our members serving in the military and buy American!

Stephen O'Donnell, Pres.



Local 104 Bro. Robert McAtee (right) receives IBEW Lifesaving Award presented by Bro. Stephen Livingston.

Upcoming Projects

L.U. 120 (c,i&o), LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA—A \$1.2 billion Toyota plant has finally begun in our area. Thanks to the efforts of our Bus. Mgr. Jackson and the Local 120 Executive Board, working in co-operation with the London Building Trades, it has been ensured this work will be done by union tradesmen.

The Lake Erie Wind Farm project is now online with its 66 windmills providing power to southwestern Ontario. This was a new type of work for us with a lot of new skills learned. Some of our members even worked on Sudbury Local 1687's wind farm project as travelers because of their experience gained on the Lake Erie project.

Other work upcoming in the area includes two ethanol plants as well as two major hospital projects starting in 2007.

After the worst year this local has seen since 2001, it's good to see the work improving in Local 120 for 2007. We thank all the other locals that helped our brothers and sisters through this last year and we look forward to returning the favor.

Ian McCool, P.S.

Key Strategies

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—In November 2006, our new marketing business developer was brought on board.

We have made great strides to personally connect with both union and nonunion contractors within our jurisdiction as well as area busi-

ness associations, developers and planning committees. We have established several key strategies to recover work in otherwise ignored avenues by our contractors. We have combined a branding tool through our TruPro marketing and community charitable efforts and utilized negotiated bargaining tools in an attempt to regain control of these markets. Although in its infancy stages, the plan, collaboratively developed by Bus. Mgr. Jack Heyer and Marketing Business Developer Dave Jungbluth, looks promising.

In March, we held our 87th annual membership banquet. This traditional gathering is a wonderful opportunity for members and retirees to come together and celebrate brotherhood. Everyone had a good time.

Jack G. Heyer, B.M.

Steward Training 2007

L.U. 160 (lctt,o&u), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—On Sat., March 3, on the heels of the second major snow storm of the week, 53 brothers and sisters attended our annual Stewards Training.

Members heard Richard A. Levins, author of "Middle Class/Union Made," explain how the United States, if it is to remain a successful economic model for the world, must sustain the middle class. Levins pointed out how strong and effective unions are an essential part of any strategy that will restore and maintain the American middle class.

Joe Herbulock, of Hauer, Fargione, Love, Landy and McEllistrem, P.A., gave an update on Minnesota Workers Compensation laws. Michael Follese, of the Principal Financial Group, discussed retirement planning. Dick Williams, of the law firm of Williams and Iversen, P.A., presented Steward Handbook education. The training was followed by lunch and door prizes. Local 160 thanks all the guest speakers and stewards who attended this training. We also thank all the local's stewards for the great job they do.

Daniel S. Seawell, P.S.

Leadership and Growth

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—The membership of Local 180 witnessed the end of an era this March as Bus. Mgr. Bruce Gourley retired. Our new business manager is Dan Broadwater, who previously held the office of president and served as assistant business manager.

Under the leadership of Bruce Gourley since the turn of the century, Local 180 witnessed a 100-year anniversary in 2001, achieved great growth and contributed greatly to Napa and Solano counties. Membership, hours worked per year and the contractor base all nearly doubled. Doubling one's market in seven years is a proud accomplishment. However, what instills more pride are the many accomplishments in the community and in labor and political relations.

Bruce helped secure a groundbreaking labor agreement for residential construction for Northern California. The good working relationship with NECA allowed extending the inside construction agreement to 2012. Working together has also been successful, as many of the Napa and Solano unions are working together with local government and businesses.

Bruce Gourley leaves Local 180 in good hands and with more opportunities, all founded with the mindset that to "build" a better community you have to work together at all levels.

Michael Smith, B.A.

Prevailing Wage Work

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Our condolences to the families of Domingo Contreras and Chris Hunter. Both were taken from us suddenly in unrelated auto accidents.

At this writing we are in need of journeyman linemen, as are many outside locals, for overhead and underground distribution. We have a very small transmission job at this writing.

We are finishing up a wind turbine project and it was split up between four IBEW locals, two outside and two inside. Locals 196 and 51 rectified any problems and made sure the work was all IBEW on our side. We still have problems with other trades encroaching on our work.

We settled a two-year outside power agreement with a 4.5 percent wage increase each year. We may pick up some telephone work, as the cities and counties are going to install some fiber cable and conduit. This will be all prevailing-wage work, which will lead to more work for our local. So, if there are members out there who perform this work, please call and we may have a spot for some people.

All members need to make sure they and their family members are registered and vote in all elections. Attend your local union meetings—that's where everything starts.

Edgar R. Mings Jr., B.M.

Wayne Griffiths Retires

L.U. 230 (c,catv,em,i,mar&u), VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—Bro. Wayne Griffiths began building crystal radio sets as a kid in 1946, based on magazine drawings. But when a DOC panel truck arrived to shut Wayne down—for building a spark transmitter on a 50-foot horizontal antenna and using his Boy Scout handbook to send Morse code to his brother while blocking out local radio stations—he was told "no more transmitting!"

Wayne began his 47-year IBEW career at Dockyard as an electronics apprentice. He later worked at the Victoria Machine Depot, building the new BC ferries. He worked at BC Telephone and later went to Prince Rupert to work on the Watson Island pulp mill. Wayne returned to the Victoria shipyards, then on to Gold River to build the new mill. He worked at Rumble Beach in Port Alice, then returned to Victoria and worked with Blackball Electric and Houle Electric at the Victoria Eaton's Centre. He returned to Dockyard in 1988 and retired in December 2006.

"I got to see a lot of British Columbia on a variety of jobs," Bro. Griffiths said, "and I acquired many good friends." Wayne, all your IBEW friends wish you a happy retirement.

Philip Venoit, B.M./F.S.



Local 230 Bro. Wayne Griffiths, who recently retired.



Local 302 inside wireman apprentice graduating class of 2006, joined by local union officers, NECA representatives, JATC members and instructors.



Local 252 journeyman inside wireman graduating class of 2006.

2006 Graduating Class

L.U. 252 (ees,i,rts&spa), ANN ARBOR, MI—Bus. Mgr. Greg Stephens, Training Dir. Jeff Grimston, Instructors Lou Neeb and Robert Kosky, staff and members congratulate the graduating class of 2006.

Local 252 is proud to announce the 2006 graduates who successfully completed the five-year apprenticeship program: Brian Barnes, Benjamin Brown, Jacob Church, Charles Clark Jr., Pierre Dewyer, Joshua Gorham, Kevin Granger, Matthew Kalmbach, Patrick Keene, James Kierst, William McCollough, Caleb McKelvey, Jodee Nichols, John Nykiel IV, Joseph Okoniewski, Dean Racine, Bonnie Ruggles, Leonard Sabala, Raymond Schlaff Jr., Seven Smaga, Todd Sunnarborg, Joshua Tabaka, Thomas Thompson, Benjamin Thueme, Scott Waldron, Michael Wenderlich, Justin Young and David Zaszczurynski. The banquet was held at Weber's Restaurant in Ann Arbor.

Kevin Granger won the Rueben Rose Award for academic excellence. Congratulations, Kevin.

Local 252 recognizes the time, effort, dedication and sacrifice put in by all apprentices to successfully complete the five-year apprenticeship program. Thank you for a job well-done.

Local 252 has a lot to be very proud of: A great school, dedicated instructors and high-quality graduating journeymen.

Timothy Bortles, P.S.

Food/Toy Drive a Success

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—Members enrolled in our training center's solar photovoltaic class in Tangent received hands-on experience installing solar panels. Members are now reimbursed \$250 for 32 hours of continuing and union education classes to encourage the best trained members. Please take advantage of these excellent classes and Local 280's stipend. Education pays!

Our toy/food drive for the Oregon Foster Parents Association was fantastic, with carloads of gifts for children. Many thanks to Greg Creal, Rick Dewitt, Julie Emmett, Taunia Blakely, Sherri Wallman, Donna Evans, Dave Baker and Coordinator Teresa Howard! Sister Howard also has announced that the Local 280

picnic will be at Timber-Linn Park on Sept. 8. Volunteers will be needed.

In sadness, we mourn the deaths of C. Conrad Carlson, Terry Downing, Bill McCulley, Bill Raddatz and Aaron Turley. They will be sorely missed.

It was announced at the February joint meeting that we have about 54 on Book I, which is very good for winter. The Good Samaritan Hospital job has 112 members on the project and it is going smoothly thanks to the good work of Steward Wayne Lathrop.

Have a great spring and please support the Employee Free Choice Act!

Jerry Fletcher, Pres.

Heartfelt Thanks

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Local 300 extends a heart-felt thank-you to all the members and sister locals who contributed, and continue to contribute, to Michael Hemond and his family. IBEW members employed with Green Mountain Power (utility power company) raised over \$4,000 toward Michael's recovery efforts. In response to their employees' efforts, GMP matched the union members' contributions. Thank you! Special thanks also to the CVPS members in St. Albans. Thanks for digging deep.

The IBEW's Code of Excellence is on its way throughout Vermont. We are opening doors in the legislature, and we are pounding the ground in the field with our members and contractors. We hope that through organizing efforts we are able to better ourselves, as well as others we represent. It is our



Local 300 members at Green Mountain Power wish Bro. Mike Hemond well.

hope that we can continue to raise the bar for others to follow. But we can't do it without your help.

We wish you all a safe and productive year to come.

Jeffrey C. Wimette, A.B.M.

2006 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA—Congratulations to all our 2006 apprentice graduates.

Inside wireman graduates are: Michael Aris, Michael Hendricks, Benford Stallworth, Che Valdez, Sean Sullivan, Corey Miller, Ryan Morris, Sammy Barnachia, Joseph Coppa, Valentin Lopez, Rodlfo Gomez, Alex Ayala Jr., Dennis Gornto, Brett Sellers, Daniel Coppa, Patrick Jensen, Jeremy Mears, David Schmidt, Jeffrey Anderson, Shawn Baltzley, Eric Goin, Matthew Brown, Brandon Rinehart, Timothy Kolczak, David Kelly, Troy Palmer, Michael Crosse, Jennifer Larson and Timothy Bright.

Sound and Communication graduates are: James Adkisson, Bradley Harless and Russ Ruggiero.

I encourage all members to remember to thank the stewards working on our jobs for the tremendous service they perform. It is often a thankless job that stewards volunteer to perform for the benefit of all members. They deserve our thanks and support.

Peter Smith, P.S.

Recently Appointed

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—Congratulations to our Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. David E. Moran, who recently accepted a position as an IBEW Fourth District International Representative. Bro. Dave has served our local in several capacities and was elected business manager/financial secretary in 1998. We wish him good health and continued success in all his future endeavors. His dedication will benefit the IBEW for years to come!

Bro. Mark Douglas was appointed business manager/financial secretary effective April 1, 2007. A second-generation journeyman wireman, Mark has served as assistant business manager since 1998 and has burned his share of "midnight oil" finding work for our brothers and sisters. Keep the faith, Bro. Mark.

Bro. Dave Nutt was appointed vice president to complete the unexpired term of Bob Sallaz, who retired. Bro. Dave possesses great insight and the desire to serve our local union.

May our leaders be granted courage and wisdom to embrace education, negotiate fairness and navigate the economic storms that will cross our bows in the future construction industry.

We mourn the loss of retired Bro. Charlie Singleton.

Work safe and think safety!

Bob Sallaz, P.S.

Forever Remembered

L.U. 340 (em,i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—The Local 340 Tribute/Honor Committee was formed to find ways to honor retired and, posthumously, deceased members who went the extra mile during their careers to advance the IBEW and unionism.

An "honor plaque," on permanent display at Local 340's hall, was unveiled at our December 2006 union meeting. It is engraved with names of the first inductees, recommended by our membership. Retired honorees: Art Barker, Winefred Lee Bunch, Earl Christensen, Jack Duran, Gary Hunziker, John Pibbs, Al Romitti, Jim Strain and Paul Tooker. Deceased honorees: Paul Babich, Harry Bain, Don Dyke, Evan Feil, Don Fisher, Lee Frith, Art Gorin, Don Jessee, Lud Larson, Larry Meredith and Larry Sinatra.

These brothers are remembered for contributions including teaching their trade, serving as officers and on committees, and community service. The Tribute Committee will request recommendations of other deserving members to add to the plaque each year.

California State Certification licensing for electricians went into effect Jan. 1, 2007. Traveling members should note that California certification is not reciprocal with any other state at present.



It was standing room only at Local 340's December 2006 meeting. Applauding, from left, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Dwight Evans, Bro. Ron Cooper, Bus. Mgr. A.C. Steelman and former Bus. Mgr. Chuck Cake.

Rest in peace: Bros. Thomas Benedict, James S. Patton (brother of member John Patton), John D. Setzer (father of David Setzer), and Walter Spurlin. All good electricians and union brothers! We will miss them.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

100th Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 354 (i,mt,rts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—At this writing, IBEW Local 354 members were looking forward to the celebration of our local's 100th anniversary on April 22, 2007. A banquet was scheduled for Sat., April 21, at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, as well as an open house April 18-19 to show off our newly upgraded facility. Members were invited to come by to receive their commemorative gifts on those days. The Centennial Committee has worked very hard making arrangements for this once in a lifetime event. By the time you read this, the anniversary celebration will have taken place. We thank all of you for your hard work.

The new journeymen, who completed their apprenticeship in 2006 are as follows: Brian Anderson, Darrell E. Barney, Matthew J. Beauchaine, Richard A. Benson, Darren R. Bolander, David R. Bonnell, David M. Bostwick, Timothy E. Brummer, Neil J. Burton, Rhett Butler, Trevor B. Coleman, Daniel R. DeVoge, Jeff D. Eliason, Timothy J. Hanson, Matthew D. Holman, Jared A. Hutchings,



Local 456 honors recent retirees. Front row, from left: retirees Ricky Puleio, David Kampf Sr., Richard Davison, Roger Smith, Ronald Bulvanoski, Luke Knox, John Gente, Harold Freckleton, Andrew Wojtarowicz and Norman Bubenheimer. Back row: Vice Pres. Barry Cleffi, Bus. Mgr. Joseph Egan, Pres. Michael McLaughlin, Treas. and James Kenny (retired), Sec. Ed Nocek and Bro. John Bonnane.

John E. Nelson, R. Keith Nelson, Anthony J. Pollack, Boyd R. Powelson, Jeffery B. Rasmussen, Derrick M. Rigby, Raul Rodriguez, Michael G. Schille, Tony L. Sharp, David G. Smith, Jacob B. Smith, Chad L. Solberg, and Sage Strasburg. Congratulations on your accomplishment.

Manya Blackburn, R.S.

LMCC Hosts Events

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—Our Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC) held its "Hog Heaven" evening with the Ice Hogs UHL hockey team for members and contractor representatives. Some 100 participants attended the game and enjoyed seats in an exclusive VIP section; food was catered by Famous Dave's.

The LMCC also hosted a dinner for Local 364 members and NECA representatives on April 4. Guest speaker Jeff Vankooten, from the Center for Generational Studies, spoke on "Understanding Age Diversity in Today's Union Environment." The event was an opportunity for union members and contractor representatives to enjoy a good dinner, refreshments and camaraderie away from the job.

Candidates are readying for the 2008 presidential primaries. Of the Democratic candidates, friends of unions who will be running include Barack Obama, John Edwards and Hillary Clinton. Among Republican candidates is John McCain, who tries to portray himself as a moderate. However, McCain's record reveals the real story—radical Republicanism, with a lifetime labor ranking of 17 percent.

Polls show 80 percent of voters think the minimum wage should increase. McCain, along with radical Republican senators, actually tried and failed to abolish the minimum wage altogether. McCain proves undoubtedly that he's no fan of workers.

Ray Pendzinski, P.S.

United for Strength

L.U. 396 (lctt,o,t&u), LAS VEGAS, NV—At this writing, negotiations with Embarq continue for our local union, and with nine different contracts to be negotiated the battle continues. Personally, I want to say thank-you to our staff for their ongoing efforts to bring us a fair wage for a fair day's work as well as benefits and a decent retire-

ment. Remember the words of JFK about citizenship ("It's ... what you can do for your country") and know that those words ring true at the local level as well. Keep in mind the importance of what you as a member can do for your union to advance our goals. In unity there is strength.

We look forward to the 2008 presidential elections and the Democratic caucuses here in Nevada. As the presidential race heats up, we need to keep in mind that our next president must be someone who will help us protect the interests of working families in the struggle with the giant corporations.

Until next time, brothers and sisters—be union, buy union, be proud and "God bless America."

Dale T. Walsh, P.S.

Race Car Exposure

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—For several years, we have helped sponsor a longtime member, Bro. Eric Dowler, and his Monte Carlo NASCAR class race car. The car carries the IBEW 424 insignia and garners exposure for Local 424 and the IBEW across Canada and parts of the United States.

In 2006—with Bro. Dowler at the reins of the 500 horses—the 424 team competed in the NASCAR Dodge Weekly series, winning the season opener. The team posted the fastest lap time for that year.



Local 424 sponsored prize-winning race car.

In addition to racetrack exposure and other high profile "off track" events around Alberta, the car received national TV exposure during Edmonton's "Klondike Days" parade.

For 2007 Bro. Dowler and the 424 team move up into the more prestigious Newalta Late Model Challenge series, featuring nine race venues—in Calgary and Medicine Hat, Alberta;

Kalispell, Montana; Cranbrook and Vernon in BC; and Saskatoon.

They will also compete in the NASCAR Dodge Weekly Series at Edmonton's International Speedway. There will be exposure at car shows, golf tournaments and parades. Along with the IBEW logo and 424 signage on the vehicle, union promotional handouts are also used. See Web site www.justturnleft.ca for more information.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

Retirees Honored

L.U. 456 (i&o), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—The following members have decided to begin a long and fulfilling retirement: James Beacher, Norman Bubenheimer, Ronald Bulvanoski, Edward Conklin, Richard Davison, Michael Egan, Richard Egan, Dennis Florentine, Harold Freckleton, John Gente, Stephen Halasz, Thomas Hussey, Joseph Hyman, Andrew Kacvinski, David Kampf Sr., James Kenny, Luke Knox, Chris Kucharzek, John Lemantovich, Edward Letts, Joseph Lynn, Dante Mammucari, Thomas McDermott, Robert Meixner, Ricky Puleio, Roger Smith, Chris Solivan, Charles Vigeant and Andrew Wojtarowicz. They will all be missed and we extend our sincere gratitude for their many years of service.

Please also remember in your prayers our departed brothers: Joseph Gutsick, Stephen Lahrman, Keith Anderson, Gene Megill, William Simanek, William Rehl, James Lockie, John Butch, Leonard Thomas, Frank Wigmore, Robert Sabo, Howard Therckelsen, John Clark and Charles J. Fazio. We will always remember these brothers. They served with great dedication.

Wayne Martiak, P.S.

PLA School Projects

L.U. 488 (i&mt), BRIDGEPORT, CT—When Christmas break ended for some local students, they were excited to return to the first of six new schools being done in the city of Bridgeport under a project labor agreement (PLA). The school was completed on time and under budget with many city residents who are members of Local 488 working on the project. As the next three schools get into full swing, we anticipate the same results.

Bus. Mgr. Peter Carroll, who worked dili-

gently with the city of Bridgeport and the building trades, also was instrumental in securing \$660 million of school work in Waterbury. At an open forum concerning these upcoming school projects, Local 488 members residing in Waterbury were able to speak to convince the Board of Education to vote for PLAs.

St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport is planning a \$140 million addition and Bus. Mgr. Carroll is currently meeting with hospital representatives to have this work also secured under a PLA agreement.

PLAs work because they put not only skilled craftsmen on the job but also area residents who care about their community.

Anthony M. Soter, P.S.

'Building Phase'

L.U. 500 (u), SAN ANTONIO, TX—As your president/business manager, I have been receiving a number of issues and looking at the number of changes that have come about in the past several years. I have also been listening to the voices of our membership.

In the near future the officers and I will be looking at making changes in how we serve our membership. We will focus on the issues that serve us in the protection of our benefits.

Remember YOU are the union, and standing together as one we can make a difference. This means we will be soliciting new members to come be a part of a new building phase of a growing membership.

We also plan to bring everyone closer together with union functions such as family events and barbecues. It is important that every member become a part of the building process of IBEW Local 500.

We welcome Dennis Thraikill, Dave Arcos, Paul White and Jay F. McGuffin to the Executive Board.

Local 500 celebrates the election of U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez to represent the 23 District of Texas. Bros. Charlie Hinders and Paul Brock attended a 2006 campaign rally, which included former Pres. Bill Clinton, in support of Rodriguez. Rep. Rodriguez is a true friend of labor and Local 500.

Gary Faktor, B.M./Pres.

Construction Projects

L.U. 596 (i,o&u), CLARKSBURG, WV—Construction of the long-awaited Longview Power Plant is in sight. This \$1.3 billion, 660-megawatt coal fired power plant is located on the Monongahela River, near the West Virginia/Pennsylvania border, in Maudsville, WV. The power plant's owner/developer is Genesis Power and the construction manager will be Aker Kvaerner Construction, Inc.

This power plant project and the new United Hospital Center construction project are just a few projects ready to start this spring 2007.

According to Bus. Mgr. Darwin Snyder, manpower projections are very high for the next four years for this central West Virginia local.

Butch Adams, P.S.

Upcoming Elections

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—By the time you read this article, our local union election of officers will be upon us. Nominations



Proudly sporting an IBEW cap is the young son of Ontario Local 636 Bro. Chris Brown, who works at Veridian Corp.

for officers will be held the first Tuesday of May at 7 p.m. Elections will be held the first Tuesday of June. Please come and participate in the local union election process.

Pictured are a few of the "old-timers" who work at Buena Vista Construction Company (BVCC), longtime members of our local. They are also instrumental in supervising the crews that work for BVCC. Keep up the good work, guys.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.

Terrific Safety Record

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—Congratulations to IBEW Local 636 members at Veridian Corp. for achieving 1.5 million hours worked without a lost-time injury. Also, members at Enersource recently achieved 750,000 hours without a L.T.I. Great safe work!

With the recent elections at the local and unit levels concluded, many familiar faces returned to continue the pursuit for social justice and, encouragingly, new faces have emerged to build on our local's continued success. A pat on the back is deserved for exhibiting the strength and courage to stand and to be counted. Thank you, brothers and sisters.

Elected Local 636 officers are: Pres. Jim Millar (Hydro Ottawa), Vice Pres. Ed Lamb (Burlington Hydro), Treas. Don Boyd (Nexans Canada), and Rec. Sec. Lori Thornton (Horizon Utilities).

Elected to the Executive Board: Region #1, Robert Mogus (Enersource Hydro Mississauga); Region #2, Dave Morris (Orillia Power Distribution Corporation); Region #3, Hans Van

Mannen (Veridian Corporation); Region #4, Sharlene Cameron (Waterloo North Hydro); Region #5, Erin Edwards (Chatham-Kent Utility Services); Region #6, Stef Dolizny (Utilities Kingston); Region #7, Linda Georgiu (Windsor Regional Hospital); Region #8, John Thornton (Horizon Utilities); Region #9, Cecile Pawlak (Christie Digital).

Please visit our Web site at:
www.ibewlocal636.com.

Robert Mogus, P.S.



Local 640 Pres. Daniel Pollard.

Dedicated Service

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ—Local 640 extends our heartfelt appreciation to Bros. Dan Pollard and Earl Pierce for their many years of faithful service as, and to, members of this local. Danny and Earl both retired as of Jan. 1 this year, but will continue to serve in their respective offices as president and on the Executive Board for the duration of their term.

Work in the Phoenix area continues to be pretty strong. In downtown Phoenix a new Sheraton hotel and the next phase of the Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center are going up and are both using IBEW electricians. The remodeling project of the Local 640 meeting hall is finally completed. Members who haven't been to the hall for a while should come and check out the upgraded facility. Plans are also under way for the relocation and upgrading of the apprenticeship facilities. Stay tuned for more information as that project gets under



Local 606 members employed at Buena Vista Construction Company: from left, Herman Hudson, Randy Doepel, Cliff Gilmore Jr., Ross Purkis and Barry Krumwiede. Not pictured is Clyde Jones.

way. As always, check the IBEW Web site for the Local 640 work outlook if you're thinking of coming to Phoenix.

Dean Wine, P.S.

Political Action

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—The November 2006 midterm elections were very rewarding for unions. The defeat of former Sen. Rick Santorum and the Democratic gains in both the U.S. and state legislatures should serve to increase the passage and protection of labor-friendly laws nationwide.

Bus. Mgr. Steve McNally thanks all the local union volunteers for their time and effort during the campaigns. Union members helped make these election wins possible. Let's hope the 2008 presidential election will yield similar results.

The Christmas party was well-attended. Local union members and their families enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate and spend time together. Special thanks to the Entertainment Committee. As usual, they did a great job organizing the event.

On a sad note, I regret to report the passing of retired Bro. Bill Jones. Bill was a very involved and vocal member of our local for many years. After his retirement he successfully ran for office in local government and continued to work to advance the union's goals. He will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to Bro. James Bannan on his selection to the Chester County Democratic Committee.

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

June 9 Picnic

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—As of the beginning of 2007, state certification is now required to work in California, as well as for dispatch to any IBEW job in California.

Howe Electric of Fresno continues forward with building the new ethanol refinery.

Our picnic will be held June 9 at Hagaman Park at the upper pavilion. Service pins will be presented at the picnic. To be awarded 45-year pins are Joe Armstrong, Rudolph Buerger, Lawrence Herrera, Norman Hyer and Jerry Yordy; 50-year pins, Robert Caldwell and William Goodrich; 55-year pins, Ralph Headrick, James Nance, John Stevenson and Herbert Vaile; 60-year pins, Benny Eckles, Joe Klobberdanz, Spencer Morgan and Jack Zakarian; and a 65-year pin, Curtis Herring.

Torrey Newton, P.S.

Lineman's Rodeo Winners

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lettt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,pte,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—On Sat., Oct. 7, 2006, the 23rd annual International Lineman's Rodeo and Expo was held in Bonner Springs, KS. Over 200 teams took part from around the world to compete in events based on traditional lineman tasks and skills.

Local 702 journeyman lineman members Jason Novak, Joe McVicker and David Bailey placed first overall as "top contractor journeyman" with the second fastest combined time. They placed fourth in the pole climbing and switch change-out events. Local 702 apprentice lineman Kent Diekemper placed fourth in the insulator change-out event. It should be noted that these lineman were sent to this competition

by Local 702 because the Ameren Corporation, where they are employed, refused to send them as representatives on their behalf.

As of this writing, we have 111 journeyman wiremen on the Book 1 out-of-work list, with very few calls for work coming in. However, the outside construction and outside line clearance work is holding strong.

Marsha Steele, P.S.



Local 702 linemen brought home 2006 International Lineman's Rodeo awards. From left, journeyman linemen Joe McVicker, Jason Novak and David Bailey; apprentice lineman Kent Diekemper; and Bus. Mgr. Paul Noble.

Looking to Spring

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA—Our local is negotiating a new contract with Thermo-Fisher Scientific, of our manufacturing branch. A process called "interest based bargaining" is being used.

The contract for the electricians is also due for renewal in June 2007. At this time the work outlook is promising for 2007, and we hope this is a positive influence in achieving a favorable and fair agreement in a timely manner.

Local 704 extends condolences to the friends and family of Clarence P. Pfohl, who passed away at age 92. Clarence, who was initiated in 1941 and had received his 65-year service award. Clarence worked for United Electric Company from 1938-54. In 1954, he established the C.P. Pfohl Electric Company. A son and a grandson of his are active in the electrical trade. His son Bro. Don Pfohl was initiated in 1957. His grandson Bro. Kevin Pfohl was initiated in 1987. Three generations working in the same electrical business is a great accomplishment that few families attain.

As of this writing in February, work is still slow with approximately 15 percent of our members on Book I.

Ron Heitzman, P.S.

Holiday Party

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—On Dec. 2, 2006, the local had its first children's Christmas party in many years. What a huge success! Bro. Buddy Hart played Santa and Bro. Keith Roberts played an elf. They were delivered to the union hall via a Port Orange fire truck with flashing lights and sirens blaring. Santa distributed gifts for all the children. There were crafts, cookie decorating and food, thanks to our two office secretaries, June and Candice, who always do a fine job for our parties.

The only problem arising from the children's party was that the day before the party, several brothers—Vice Pres. Bill Sweeney, Bus. Mgr. Steve Williams, Organizer Dan Hunt—and myself cleared trees to get the fire trucks around our hall.

Everyone, except me, caught a bad case of poison ivy. Sorry, brothers, but thanks for your work.

At this January writing work in the area is still slow, but we expect work to pick up at the Cape in 2007. The number of shuttle flights will increase this year, but we still have not heard of any new bids for the "next generation space vehicle" and related work as of this writing.

See you at the next union meeting.

John W. Barrington, Pres./P.S.

'Local Motion'

L.U. 760 (i,lett,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Our numbers on performance and growth are out and 760 is a local in motion!

During the recent 2007 Tenth District Membership Development/Organizing Conference held in Murfreesboro, TN, our statistics reveal growth on two fronts.

Peaking at up to 26 percent growth and with an average of 23 percent growth overall, we have all seen what the combined and collective membership can do when united in solidarity and fraternity.

Our Knoxville apprenticeship program has grown by approximately 52 percent. This figure alone shows that Local 760 is growing stronger now with a more secure outlook.

Congratulations to all. Let's look to the future as we continue to regain our market share.

George A. Bove, B.M./F.S.

Record of Service

L.U. 824 (t), TAMPA, FL—The December 2006 meeting provided a history lesson for Local 824, as Bus. Mgr. Doug Sellars presented a 60-year service award to Mary Paynter, a former business manager. Sister Paynter says a memorable highlight of her career was her service as the first woman on the Law Committee for the IBEW International Convention in Cleveland, OH, in 1958.

Generosity was on the minds of our members as they organized a recent food drive for Metropolitan Ministries, a local shelter and food bank. Over 600 pounds of canned goods were collected.

A tentative contract agreement was reached in mid-March for the Verizon National Buried Service Wire Group and, as of press time, the agreement was being sent out to members for ratification. The union negotiating team includes: IBEW Telecommunications Dir. Martha Pultar, Fifth District Int. Rep. Danny Johnson, Local 824



Local 756 Bro. Buddy Hart as Santa and Bro. Keith Roberts as his assistant at the children's Christmas party.

Bus. Mgr. Doug Sellars, Local 143 (Sumter, SC) Bus. Mgr. David Stillwell, and Local 89 (Seattle, WA) Bus. Mgr. Raymond Egelhoff.

Our condolences to the family of Bro. Robert Benton, who recently passed away. Bro. Benton served seven terms as business manager of Local 824 and was instrumental in negotiating some basic strengths of our existing contract. We will long remember his dedication to our union.

Shauna Fulco, P.S.

Awards Presented

L.U. 910 (i&rts), WATERTOWN, NY—Richard Curtis retired as an apprenticeship instructor in June 2006 after 15 years. Dick joined Local 910 in 1979 and achieved journeyman status in 1983. As instructor, he initially taught the second-year class, and later first-year students. At the November union meeting, Bus. Mgr. Dennis Affinati presented Dick with an IBEW watch and a certificate from the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee.

Local 910 first-year apprentices have volunteered their time, and earned experience, working on the Thousand Island area Habitat for Humanity houses—an ongoing project on Erie Street in the city of Watertown. Congratulations to project participants. They include instructor Kevin Norsworthy; apprentices James Dion, Don LaBarge, Steve Derouin, Joshua Murtha, Mark Pommerville, Curtis Wood, Joseph Wagner and Joe Nemeth; and from NITTRIC Electric, journeymen Mike Norstrud and Shaun McCaulay.

IBEW service pins were presented at the December 2006 regular and satellite meetings. Members unable to attend who have reached a five-year milestone, starting with 10 years of service, received their pin in the mail. Among those receiving awards were a number of 50-plus year members. Two members received 65-year pins; eight received 60-year pins; 17 received 55-year pins; and 22 received 50-year pins. Congratulations to all honorees.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

Meeting Challenges

L.U. 1116 (em,lett&u), TUCSON, AZ—This year began with many challenges within Local 1116. However, united we will get through these trying times.

Within our leadership, Bro. Jim Corbin resigned as president for personal reasons. Jim has been a tremendous asset and will be dearly missed. Over the past 11 years he has given this union his heart and stepped up to the challenges, fighting hard for the local's success. Best wishes, Jim.

Welcome to new members: Tim Glockner, April Castillo, Philip Byrum, Doreen Ortega, Kara Craig, Ronald Corbin, Noel MacIntosh, Stephen Doniere, Makeba Grisby, Phillip Gaines, Noel Marcus, Jayme Newan, Jeremy Sandall, Scott Givan and Rebecca Schuster.

Farewell and happy retirement to: Frank Samaniego, Harold Robinson, Edward Luna, Daniel Hernandez and Scott Cole. They will be missed.

Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) is currently before the Arizona Corporation Commission seeking a rate request. The union has intervened and is being represented by Nicolas Enoch, Regulatory Affairs attorney.

R. Cavaletto, P.S.

Record Growth

L.U. 1340 (i&o), NEWPORT NEWS, VA—This past year our local has had the most successful year in its 61 year history, shattering last year's man-hour totals. This good fortune comes on the heels of three years of record growth. The better news is that 2007 looks to be no different. Many of our employers continue to gain work, enabling us to utilize our new construction wireman/electrician classifications as well as work many travelers. This is no anomaly; we are making positive gains toward regaining our market share.

By the date of this publication, our move to the new building will be complete. We are excited about the prospect of owning our own union hall and training facility. Our new home will not only provide much-needed office space, but allow us to provide a higher level of hands-on training to our apprentices and journeymen alike.

Our service contract maintenance units continue to do well. With the new Congress under way, we hope to see an increase in government spending for base maintenance in preparation for our beloved military troops' return home from harm's way.

Neil F. Gray, Pres.

A Proud First

L.U. 1634 (em), CORALVILLE, IA—We proudly announce the Jan. 15, 2007, appointment of Deb Hansen as Local 1634's first female business manager. Deb has been a member of Local 1634 for 16 years and has held various steward and officer positions within the local. Deb's dedication and involvement is greatly appreciated and we look to continue to prosper under her leadership.

Dan Barr, V.P.

Think Union

L.U. 2324 (t), SPRINGFIELD, MA—Bro. Paul Mark, former press secretary for Local 2324, has transferred to the Shrewsbury, MA, Public Communications Department and is now a member of Worcester, MA, Local 2325. We wish Paul good luck in his new job. His dedication to this local, and his skills as a steward and Executive Board member, have been greatly appreciated and will be missed.

A retirement party was held Feb. 3 for Pete Ravish, Don Craig and Linda Rosewane at the American Legion Post 224 in Easthampton, MA.

On Feb. 9 a combination retirement/farewell party was held at the Five Chairs in Lenox, MA, for honorees John Korte, who retired, and Paul Mark, who transferred. Many retirees and active members came out to wish them good luck.

On Jan. 16, 2006, Verizon announced the proposed sale of its local access land line business in northern New England (Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont) to FairPoint Communications based in Charlotte, NC. This is not good. Local union members attended a big rally on March 3 in Portland, Maine, to protest the \$2.7 billion sale, which requires state Public Utilities Commission approval.

Remember, union begins with "U." Please act, work and think like a union member.

*Joe Floyd, P.S.
Exec. Brd. Mbr.*



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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

Send letters to:

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

Or send by e-mail to: publications@ibew.org

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The *Electrical Worker* 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. E-mail: bmmail@bellnet.ca

FROM THE OFFICERS

Living by the Code



Edwin D. Hill
International President

It's no coincidence that this first issue of the IBEW's new publication features a story on the Code of Excellence on the front page. Excellence is our goal for everything that we do in this Brotherhood, and anything less means that we are not achieving all that is possible.

The word should go forth to every member and everyone who supports or opposes us that the IBEW is on the move. We commit ourselves to being the very best we can be on the job every day. We are dedicated to the advancement of our industries and to strengthening the social fabric of our nations. And we will never submit to those who seek to drive us back to the days when hope and opportunity for working men and women was nothing but a distant dream.

We have begun the process of creating a deep and lasting cultural change in this Brotherhood. We are combining the traditions that have served us well for the 116 years of our union's existence and forging new, innovative methods to deal with the real world.

Change, growth, opportunity—these are not things that are the other guy's job. These are the goals that every single member of the IBEW must accept and act on if we are going to remain strong and pass on a worthy union to those who come after us.

Excellence is the theme we sound as we begin down the road to the future. We initiated this newspaper as a means to help us communicate better and grow stronger down that road. This is your publication. Let me know what you think about it, and use it to express your opinion about where the IBEW is going. I'm listening.

Democracy's Payoff

On my job as Secretary-Treasurer, I spend a lot of time looking at the bottom line. Brothers and sisters, of all the Brotherhood's investments, none is paying a higher rate of return than our massive participation in last November's midterm elections.

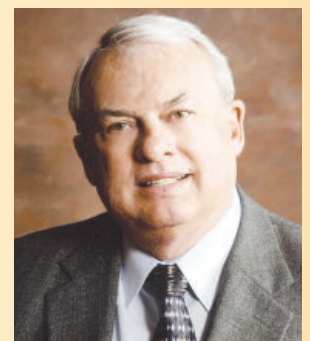
Where do we start? How about with a new Democratic Congress passing the first increase in the minimum wage in a decade? Finally, Washington is responding to the growing economic inequality in our nation.

The House passage of the Employee Free Choice Act—to make it easier for more Americans to share in the benefits that come from union representation—was a giant step in the right direction for working families. The bill stood no chance before democracy roared across our cities, towns and villages last Election Day.

George Bush's rubber-stamp Congress is gone and every branch of our union is better for it. Our railroad members see new funds coming into Amtrak instead of legislation to bankrupt and privatize the carrier. The administration's proposed anti-union personnel system still threatens the job security of our government members, but the new Congress is insisting upon due process in the workplace. Democrats have introduced legislation to stop the NLRB from dumping thousands of journeymen and foremen from union ranks by calling them "supervisors."

The IBEW doesn't take anything for granted. We still need to educate our elected officials and hold them accountable. We have hired a new coordinator to help build an ongoing, year-round, grassroots political program. National and state coordinators played a major role in our successes during the last two election cycles. But, instead of gearing up six weeks before the next election, we will start developing our ground game now.

Our union's involvement in politics always stirs controversy. But the proof is in the bottom line.



Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Trade and Loss

After reading about the sale of the Hoover vacuum cleaner company to China, ("Ohio Members Hold Tight to Hoover Vacuum Cleaning Plant," IBEW Journal, January/February 2007) it makes me wonder what is happening to our country. Don't they realize that by sending our manufacturing plants to China and other parts of the world that they are also sending our jobs there too? If today's workers' jobs are sold and given away to other countries, then where is the money coming from to finance our country? Don't they know that no jobs means no money means no buying.

*Bill Miner
Local 40 retiree, Los Angeles*

Proud Retired Members

Thanks to IBEW I can enjoy my retirement, Social security is not enough, but with IBEW and Social Security I can relax and smell the roses.

The last nine years of my work I drove 85 miles one-way to work. As far as I was concerned, there was no choice because I knew someday staying with IBEW would and did pay off. Thanks, IBEW.

*Jack Williams
Local 716 retiree, Houston, Texas*

Thanks to the IBEW, I retired two years ago with a very healthy retirement! I traveled all across our great nation, worked in many great locals and states, thanks to our organization.

Remember we were the first to admit women and minorities to our union, with equal pay and all the rights we all expect. It breaks my heart to see older people working past their prime, because their employers cheated them out of their retirement. Yes, the years have gone by quickly, but thanks to the IBEW my travels have been a great adventure, not to mention after 8 hours work, a great vacation!

This is the best trade in the world.

*Harry Schmidbauer
Local 768 retiree, Kalispell, Mont.*

Thinking Green

I have been a member of the IBEW as an inside wireman since 1985. Recently, I have become interested in the current debate on global warming. Perhaps the IBEW could declare a "Green Day" and recommend that the membership visit their neighbors and introduce and educate them about compact fluorescent light bulbs. I think it would be good for our union and the public.

*Patrick Hargis
Local 1340 member, Newport News, Va.*

Politics and Energy

Every year, we get 584 million barrels of oil from Mexico, 590 million from Canada, 473 from Venezuela, 547 from Saudi Arabia, and have fought a war over the pitiful 200 we get from Iraq.

The Democrats (our party) consistently block ANWR (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska), off shore oil platforms in California, East Coast off shore rigs, Florida and Gulf exploration (known finds are well over 300 million barrels a year). We have it here, we know how to get it, we know where it is, and we are the best on the planet at getting it. Unfortunately, more Democrats voted to spend hundreds of billions to spill blood in Iraq than to let Exxon, BP and Kerr-McGee pay taxes on retrieving oil we already own. But what does our party want to do instead?

Nuclear power plants could have prevented carbon dioxide global warming 30 years ago and can, if we start now, still end it within a decade and put thousands of good jobs in our skilled union pockets. One guess who keeps voting against them? We need our party back. We need our country back. We have a voice and a choice.

*Trevor Berwick
Local 26 member, Bumpass, Va.*

Who We Are

This is the first installment of a series by and about IBEW members and the impact of the union on their lives and work. If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to publications@ibew.org.

'The IBEW is in Our Blood'

Father Inspires Generations Of IBEW Members

Labor history doesn't get short shrift in the Atlanta Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee classroom of Local 613 member Larry Evans.

In fact, the IBEW history he presents to his students is a living history, a family affair involving three generations of the Evans family that starts with his father, Henry Ford Evans.

"This is a story of a great labor leader and organizer," Larry Evans said in a presentation assigned him in a NJATC National Training Institute course. "He has been a union member and organizer for over 60 years."

Today Henry Evans at age 85 is the oldest member of Local 613. His three sons, Larry, Kenneth and Donald, are Local 613 members, as are four of his grandsons. Donald's sons, Stacy and Donny, and Larry's sons, Jerry and Todd are all Local 613 members. Larry Evans also has several great uncles and countless in-laws who were in the IBEW.

"I'm a part of this great legacy," Evans said. "The IBEW is in our blood."

The history he shares with his students is an outgrowth of an assignment he received last year at the National Training Institute, an annual week-long program for apprentice instructors held in Knoxville, Tenn. He told most of the story using his father's first and middle names, Henry Ford, making it seem as though he was talking about the American car-maker. Fellow instructor Alan Elkins said

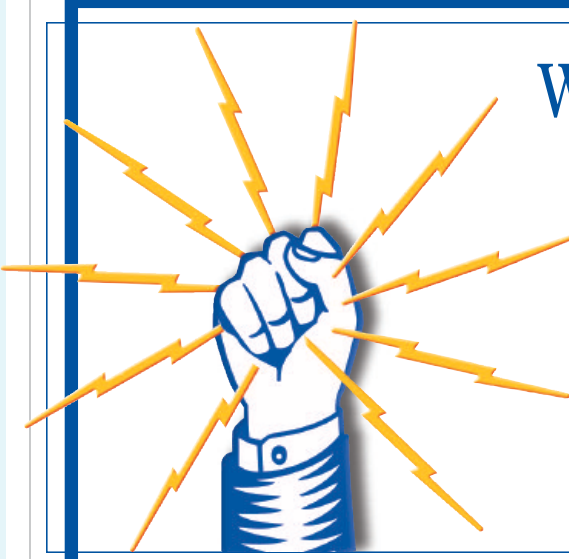
he encouraged Evans to include the material in their labor history class at the Local 613 training center.

"The response that he received at each and every class was phenomenal," Elkins said. "Fellow brothers and sisters shared in the realization that we, the members of IBEW Local 613, are a part of labor history. We should remind others that they too should seek out and recognize the 'Henry Fords' of their locals."

Henry Evans, who retired as an inside wireman from Atlanta's Cleveland Electric in 1987, served as an Army construction lineman in Europe during World War II. His biggest legacy was his work organizing his family and others into the IBEW. "Any person he came into contact with that was interested in a trade, he was influential in bringing them into the IBEW," Larry Evans said. ■

Get Connected

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What Do You Think?

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

What do you think should be done to attract young people into the IBEW?

Spotlight on Safety

Hand and Power Tools

Handheld power and non-power tools are an integral part of our everyday life, both on and off the job. These tools make job tasks much easier to complete, but improper use or maintenance could cause injuries.

Five basic safety precautions can help prevent hazards:

1. Keep all tools in good condition with regular maintenance
2. Use the right tool for the job
3. Examine each tool for damage before use and do not use damaged tools
4. Operate tools according to the manufacturers' instructions
5. Provide and properly use the right personal protective equipment

On the job, workers should be trained in the proper use and care of any tools required. Workers should be able to recognize the hazards associated with the different types of tools. In many cases, hazards such as flying or splashing debris, vapors or harmful gases may require the use of appropriate personal protective equipment. Any necessary safety equipment should be available to affected workers prior to the beginning of the job.

Guards are an important safety feature on hand and power tools, and should never be removed or modified. All exposed moving parts of power tools should protect the operator and others from the hazards associated with the use of the tool. Electric tools should be double-insulated and electric power supply cords should never be modified from the original installation.

Data indicates that common injuries to users of hand tools are musculoskeletal disorders. Prevention of the types of injuries should be a priority in any workplace. In a report issued by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), research indicates a few simple issues to consider when evaluating tools from an ergonomic point of view. The best tool is one that:

- Fits the job you are doing
- Fits the work space available
- Reduces the force you need to apply
- Fits your hand
- Can be used in a comfortable work position

Proper education and practical use of handheld power and non-power tools will get the job done safely, comfortably and productively. ■



MAKE ELECTRICAL SAFETY
YOUR PRIORITY
keep them safe

Whether at home or in the workplace, many of the deaths, injuries and property damage caused by electrical hazards could be prevented. Improved product safety engineering, standards and electrical codes all reduce electrical hazards. So does electrical safety awareness.

Visit the Electrical Safety Foundation International at www.electrical-safety.org for free safety material and information about how you can reduce electrical hazards at home and in the workplace.

**May is
National Electrical
Safety Month!
Be Part of It!**

ESFi
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