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Who We Are

Kansas City Utility Members Join IBEW Health Plan

The National Electrical Contractors Association/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan is welcoming its first members from the utility industry into the fold of the national program.

Kansas City Locals 412, 1464 and 1613, all with members at Kansas City Power and Light, join the IBEW plan on January 1. Their addition will boost the number of participants in the two-year-old IBEW plan to 12,000 members, the first of many thresholds that plan managers say will provide additional savings. These locals represent the first members from outside the construction industry to join the plan.

"The faster we can grow the plan and bigger we can get it, the bigger the benefit will be to everyone," said Local 1613 Business Manager W. Michael Long. "By the addition of our group alone, we were able to receive a dollar discount per month per premium for everyone in the plan."

"There is not a nobler cause that anybody can be engaged in than to make a decision to provide cost-effective, good, solid health care to their members." – W. Michael Long, Local 1613 business manager

New plan members include generation, line, office workers and retirees totaling 2,200 at Kansas City Power and Light, whose parent company is Great Plains Energy. Other utility companies have been watching Kansas City Power and Light with interest, and are now considering joining the plan. One large utility is getting ready to launch a pilot with one of its units, said Larry Reidenbach, Special Assistant



Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters, center, celebrates Kansas City Power and Light's addition to the NECA/IBEW health plan. From left are Local 412 Business Manager Theodore A. Stewart, Local 1464 Business Manager Darrell L. McCubbins, Walters, Local 1613 Business Manager Mike Long and Eleventh District Vice President Lindell Lee.

to the International Secretary-Treasurer.

With the health care market as it is, Reidenbach said, there are not many choices for plans that do not want to increase premiums or cut benefits. "There are not a lot of options out there," he said. "Whenever plans

compare theirs to the IBEW plan, there's always savings."

Financial straits did not pull KCP&L's health and welfare trust into the IBEW national program, Long said. Their trust

had been in trouble years ago, when Long originally spoke with International President Hill about the possibility of a national plan. But in the meantime, the KCP&L trustees hired a consultant, who convinced them to raise employee contributions 48 percent.

"It was a hard pill to swallow, but our members understood why," Long said. "The consultant told me that if we follow this plan, then black ink will flow. It has been flowing ever since."

But he and the other trustees on their Taft-Hartley plan (one of the few in the utility industry) knew that despite their relatively comfortable financial situation, it would only be a matter of time before a grave illness or catastrophe threatened their plan again. "You already know your health care costs are on

the rise," Long said. "If you can maintain the same benefit level and decrease your expenditures over time, that's the right decision. That's the decision the executives of our company made when they looked at this thing."

Long suggested that other utilities that have balked at the idea of giving up control of their plans take a close look at the numbers. "The bottom line is how much money can you save, plain and simple," he said.

Kansas City Power and Light members will have better benefits through the national plan's carrier, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia, adding a preventive wellness program that includes annual physicals and well baby check-ups.

"There is not a nobler cause that anybody can be engaged in than to make a decision to provide cost-effective, good, solid health care to their members," Long said. "You can negotiate the best wages and working conditions anywhere, but if you don't have a good health insurance program, all it takes is one catastrophic illness to wipe it out."

Great Plains CEO Michael J. Chesser said the company's consultants thoroughly evaluated the plan and decided it was better than what Great Plains could provide to its employees. "We think the plan concept makes a lot of sense and enables our employees to be able to be part of a bigger population and have access to better rates," Chesser said. "I'm optimistic it will work well." ■

Six-City Organizing Blitz Wins New Members

More than one hundred members from 30 states descended upon Phoenix, Houston, Miami, Orlando, West Palm Beach and Jacksonville, Fla., for four days of blitzes in mid-September, resulting in the most successful “industry night” in IBEW history.

“This may be the biggest thing to happen in IBEW construction organizing ever,” said Kirk Brungard, Construction Organizing director, of the Sept. 20 job fairs in the six cities. More than 1,200 nonunion electricians showed up—640 in Miami alone—to speak with IBEW signatory contractors, many of whom hired on the spot. “No one has ever had 600 people show up to one industry night before.”

The groundwork for such organizing success starts with two new classifications that take into account the vast difference in experience between an apprentice and a journey-level wireman. Then a temporary influx of IBEW organizers hit 1,000 nonunion work sites, inviting electricians to an “industry night,” or job fair, to meet prospective contractors. They also talk about wages, benefits and pensions.

Florida, where the concept has been honed over the past two years, has seen a 14-percent membership increase.

“We’re showing the nonunion that the IBEW is alive and well in Florida, and that if they don’t take care of their employees, we will,” said Duane Moore, Carolinas Initiative international coordinator.

Moore was in West Palm Beach overseeing teams of three who spent three days in the field hitting nearly 200 job sites with wage information and invitations to the Sept. 20 event. They discussed not the union but economics and opportunities with signatory contractors. “If they have a good work ethic and initiative, that’s what we are offering,” Moore said.

In each blitz city, after a day of visiting work sites and a debrief session, organizers heard presentations on how to host an industry night and organizing. International President Hill visited all four Florida locations during the week, and International Secretary-Treasurer Jon F. Walters went to Houston to rally organizers.

International Organizer Jeff Rose said no one expected 640 people at the Miami event. “It was like a sold-out rock concert,” he said. “It just tells me that a lot of workers down there are not happy and are ready for some change.” Representatives from 30 contractors were there to speak with the electricians, many of whom were working at high-rise condominiums going up in Miami Beach. “Everybody was astounded at the numbers at that showed up.”

Participants were encouraged to fill out

applications listing their wages. “This will give us a very good picture of what the nonunion rates are,” said Florida Initiative Coordinator Jim Rudicil.

Job fairs have been around a long time, but the key difference here is a neutral location—a hotel banquet room—and direct access to employers, who in turn have a stake in hiring.

International Organizer Ron Burke said he had to convince contractors in Houston that participating in the industry night would be a good idea. But in the end, they were glad to have been there; they hired electricians at every skill level. “One of the contractors said ‘I don’t need anybody for a month but I’m taking these three guys,’” Burke said. “The local [Houston Local 716] had had trouble filling calls. So it was a shot in the arm for their database.”

Burke said the contractors even hired four service truck drivers, a highly-skilled job.

Organizers from areas that have never tried the blitz/industry night approach were floored by the new organizing methods.

“Under the old system, when you walk into a job site out in the field, talking to an individ-



Organizers speak with unrepresented workers in Orlando.

ual one-on-one is difficult, but you can do it,” said Burke, who worked with organizers from West Virginia, Colorado, Missouri, Montana and Utah. “But when you can get 177 people in the room at one time, that’s phenomenal. People hang around, get drinks and food, and while they wait around to talk to contractors, you can get some quality time with the nonunion workers.”

Brungard said another key to the successful effort was cooperation by local unions, which hosted events and did key pre-



President Hill meets with International Organizers Duane Moore, left, and Ft. Lauderdale Local 728 Business Manager Dave Swetlick in West Palm Beach.

blitz research. “It was an opportunity for some education, for organizers to see how things are working in Florida, and to bring their own local insights to improve or tweak the process,” he said.

Suddenly contractors wary about bidding on jobs are newly enthusiastic about their ability to man them. Rudicil said the Florida effort is even having an effect on the IBEW’s efforts in the Carolinas, where the organizing successes are convincing contractors that the union can supply their manpower needs. ■

AFL-CIO Launches Campaign for Health Care Reform



The AFL-CIO has launched a new grassroots mobilization to help right the broken system that is health care in America.

“We will put the full force of the 10 million union members and 3 million union retirees behind winning high quality, secure health care for every person in America by 2009,” said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

The Campaign for America’s Health Care—composed of representatives from nearly every union in the federation—has laid out a strategic plan to make the 2008 election a mandate on health care reform by creating a million-member grassroots army of

union activists that will work to elect candidates committed to bringing quality health care to every American.

“The IBEW fully supports the campaign’s goals to make our health care system work for Americans again,” said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. “Our members will be out there doing what needs to be done to get a president and a Congress committed to the idea that in America, no one should go without health care.”

The first legislative challenge of the campaign will be to protect the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, which provides millions of children with health care coverage.

Both the House and Senate voted to expand the program by \$35 billion over the next five years, with the funds coming from a new tobacco tax. The program would cover an additional 4 million children by 2012, but despite wide public support for SCHIP, including from many leading Republicans, President Bush vetoed the legislation on October 3.

“The president’s decision to veto legislation that would provide health care to millions of children is nothing short of disgraceful,” Sweeney said. The campaign plans to lobby members of Congress to get the necessary two-thirds majority to override Bush’s veto.

The mobilization is also starting to target states that are holding elections this year, including Kentucky, where union members recently held a press conference with Rep. John Yarmuth, a Democrat.

While the AFL-CIO has not endorsed any particular health care plan, the campaign is planning to use its resources to support candidates who support its basic health care principles, which include medical coverage for all, lowering rising medical and pharmaceutical costs, and giving every American access to quality preventative care.

For more information on the campaign, check out the AFL-CIO’s health care Web site: www.aflcio.org/issues/healthcare. ■

Workers Key Up Fight on Verizon-FairPoint Sale

The IBEW is stepping up its campaign against the proposed sale of telephone lines from telecom industry giant Verizon to the small rural carrier, FairPoint Communications. As the deal faces scrutiny by public utility commissions in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, the intensity of opposition is growing.

On television, radio, newspapers and in public hearings across the mostly rural communities, the pros and cons of the \$2.72 billion deal are being debated, with each side offering substantially different pictures of a future with a rural telephone provider like FairPoint.

To its IBEW detractors, the sale would mean a certain diversion off the information superhighway onto a rutted road where the small and financially overextended company cannot handle the telecommunications needs of the northern states' future. The North Carolina company, already mired in debt, can't afford the price tag of the sale, not to mention the salaries and benefits of Verizon's work force, opponents say. As for FairPoint's recent promises to invest \$16 million in DSL Internet upgrades, many say, not likely.

"The governor wants us to become an 'e-state,' with broadband and wireless everywhere," said Montpelier, Vt., Local 2326 Business Manager Mike Spillane. "What FairPoint is proposing here does not meet that standard."

To supporters who spoke out in favor of the deal at a public hearing in Bangor, Maine, in late September, FairPoint has great customer service, treats its employees well and plans to increase Internet access from 62 percent across the region now to 90 percent. The company has also said it will create 675 new jobs.

But IBEW members, who like most people in the states, are opposed to the deal, don't buy what FairPoint is selling. "They have not said 'no' to anything that anyone has asked of them," said Manchester, N.H., Local 2320 Business Manager Glenn Brackett. "They say 'we can do that, we'll do that.' They're nothing if not smooth."

The company's sunny projections and the shiny trucks on the commercials running on the airwaves across the three states are at odds with the 4.5 percent attrition rate—a loss of more than 1,000 employees—it is hoping for, according to documents it submitted to the Maine Public Service Board, Spillane said. The states also stand to lose out on approximately \$600 million in revenues from the tax-free sale. A poll commissioned by the IBEW and Communications Workers of America found that most northern New England residents are opposed to it.

Brackett said the only group in New



Hampshire to come out in favor of the sale is the Business and Industry Association, which has several Verizon executives on its board. The AARP has come out forcefully against it because they don't think their members will be well-served by the sale. "The only people who are going to take it in the neck are the people who just want a dial tone," Brackett said.

The Maine Public Utility Commission is the second of the three states to consider the effect of the sale on the state's telephone customers. Vermont opened hearings the second week of September and New Hampshire considered the deal in October. If any one of the state commissions comes down against the sale, it will be nixed. Observers do not expect to hear decisions from the state com-

Augusta, Maine, Local 2327 Business Manager Pete McLaughlin helped deliver to the governor's office 5,000 postcards from residents opposed to the Verizon-FairPoint sale.

missions until December at the earliest.

Augusta, Maine, Local 2327 member Donna Kitchen, a line worker, told the commission at the Maine hearing she has weathered transitions from telephone companies Nynex and Bell Atlantic-GTE, but, "we've never had controversy like we've had with this sale. Something's not right."

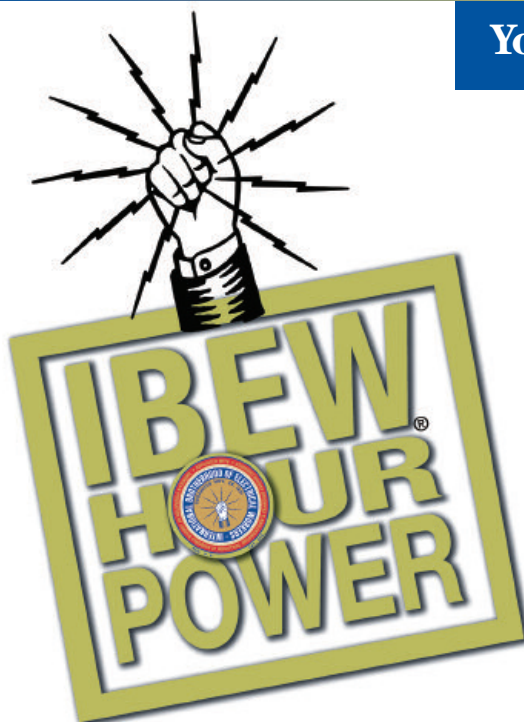
Verizon's motivation in this bargain is fairly obvious, Spillane said. The company sees its future in wireless and would like to ditch the traditional lines that put them in business, especially since it's the only piece of their organization that is regulated and unionized. Wireless for the most part is not.

Even if the IBEW, working with the Communications Workers of America, puts on the best case before the public service commissions, the most compelling argument may not be the deciding factor.

"If it's on the merits of the case, there's no way the Public Utilities Commission can approve it," said Augusta Local 2327 Business Manager Pete McLaughlin. "But throw politics in, and who knows?" ■

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ELECTRIC TV



North of 49°

Canada's Manpower Shortage Challenges Construction Trades

Big opportunity lies ahead in Canada's building trades, and decisions the IBEW makes today will decide whether the union will be able to reap the rewards.

Analysts predict there will be more work in the next 10 years than in the last 50 years rolled together. With 155,000 construction industry retirements expected between now and 2015, and a net employment gain of an expected 90,000, the sector will need 245,000 new skilled workers. And Canada has the world's second largest reserves of oil and is running short on electrical power.

Despite the pick-up in construction projects, union density in the Canadian building trades has dropped from 32 percent of the work force to 30 percent, and the drop has been constant at 2 percent a year since 1981, according to Robert Blakely, director of Canadian Affairs for the Building and Construction Trades, AFL-CIO.

Blakely addressed the IBEW's First District Progress Meeting in August with some tough words for business managers. It "may be great for union politics" to tell your members that organizing new members will hurt their chances for work, said Blakely, "but it will doom your local union in the long run."

Canada's construction industry has grown by over 45 percent in the last 10 years, said Blakely, and the IBEW's skills base is unrivaled, but without taking a team

approach and being open to change, opportunities to grow the union will be lost.

"Effect change now, while you have the power to do so," he told the meeting delegates, exhorting local leaders to be flexible in looking to ways to be the contractors' first choice.

Blakely's pep talk was well-received "because he's passionate, wants to make a difference and tells it like it is," says Peter Routliff, First District International Representative.

"The building trades are at a huge crossroads," says Blakely. "We either start growing or we're doomed."

He has asked some former union contractors why they made decisions to replace union members with unorganized workers. The trades are too "high maintenance," they told him, too willing to stop work over relatively minor disputes that could have been resolved differently.

"Our employers want to know why they

should continue to pay us top dollar, and we need to give them an answer," says Blakely, pointing to the immense oil sands project in Alberta, where 95 percent union density has fallen to between 25 and 30 percent.

"When we stumble," he says, employers will increasingly turn to temporary foreign workers and members of the Christian Labor Association, an employer-dominated labor organization (see "The Bosses' Favorite Union," *The Electrical Worker*, September 2007, p.6). ■



Au nord du 49° parallèle

La pénurie de main-d'œuvre spécialisée prévue au Canada force les métiers de la construction à relever le défi

En regardant vers l'avenir, il est évident qu'au Canada, les opportunités seront nombreuses pour les métiers de la construction et la FIOE devra prendre les bonnes décisions maintenant, si elle veut en récolter la récompense.

Selon les analystes, le nombre d'emplois disponibles dans les dix prochaines années dépassera celui des 50 dernières années réu-

nies. D'ici 2015, avec la retraite imminente de 155,000 travailleurs de l'industrie de la construction ajoutée à une augmentation nette de 90,000 emplois, ce secteur aura besoin de 245,000 nouveaux travailleurs qualifiés. Le Canada se classe au deuxième rang dans le monde pour ses réserves en pétrole et il y a un manque dans ses réserves en énergie électrique.

Malgré la reprise des projets de construction, la densité syndicale dans les métiers de la construction canadiens a chuté de 32% à 30% en termes d'effectifs et cette réduction s'est toujours maintenue à 2% par année depuis 1981, selon Robert Blakely, directeur des affaires canadiennes du Département des métiers de la construction, FAT—COI.

Lors de la Conférence canadienne annuelle de la FIOE au mois d'août dernier, M. Blakely s'est adressé assez sévèrement aux gérants d'affaires présents. Selon lui, dire aux membres qu'augmenter le membership pourrait nuire à leurs chances de trouver un emploi peut paraître bon politiquement pour le syndicat, mais cette forme de politique pourrait éventuellement vouer la section locale à la catastrophe.

"Au Canada, l'industrie de la construction s'est accrue de plus de 45 pour cent au cours des dix dernières années et la compétence de la FIOE est demeurée sans égal, mais si nous n'envisageons pas une approche d'équipe et si nous ne sommes pas ouverts aux changements, nous perdrons toutes les opportunités offertes pour accroître le membership et renforcer le syndicat." déclare-t-il.

Il ajoute: "Vous devez apporter des changements maintenant alors que vous en avez la possibilité, en exhortant les dirigeants des sections locales de faire

preuve de compréhension afin de trouver des moyens qui encourageraient les entrepreneurs à faire appel à notre main-d'œuvre en premier lieu".

Le message dynamique de M. Blakely fut très bien accueilli et selon Peter Routliff, Représentant international du Premier District, c'est parce qu'il est un homme passionné, en quête de changement et qui dit les choses telles qu'elles sont.

M. Blakely croit que les métiers de la construction sont parvenus à un moment décisif : ils doivent réussir à accroître leur membership ou ils se dirigent tout droit vers la catastrophe.

Il s'est informé auprès d'anciens entrepreneurs des raisons qui les avaient motivés à remplacer les travailleurs syndiqués par de la main-d'œuvre non syndiquée. D'après ces derniers, les métiers sont trop exigeants et toujours prêts à déclarer un arrêt de travail en raison de différends de peu d'importance qui auraient pu se résoudre autrement.

"Les compagnies qui embauchent nos travailleurs veulent savoir pourquoi elles devraient payer un salaire supérieur et nous devons leur répondre" ajoute-t-il en se référant à l'immense chantier des sables bitumineux en Alberta où la densité syndicale est passée de 95 pour cent pour se retrouver entre 25 et 30 pour cent.

Si nous hésitons, il est convaincu que les employeurs embaucheront de plus en plus de travailleurs étrangers temporaires ou des membres de l'Association syndicale chrétienne (*Christian Labour Association*), une organisation syndicale dominée par les entrepreneurs (voir l'article *Le syndicat favori des patrons* à la page 6 de la publication de *l'Electrical Worker* du mois de septembre). ■

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Organizing Wire

Internal Organizing Spreads in Alabama Nuclear Power Plant

Chemist technicians and health physics technicians at Farley Nuclear Plant in southeast Alabama approached Dothan, Ala., Local 796 in early 2007 about joining the IBEW. In September, 55 technicians joined operating and maintenance workers in the plant who are represented by the local.

"The new members are a very positive group of mostly college-educated workers," says International Representative Joe Pledger, who worked with Local 796 Business Manager Arthur James and Systems Council U-19 Business Manager Bill Frederick on the campaign. "This win opens the door to professionals who are not in our bargaining units in other places," adds Pledger.

Lacking guaranteed raises or seniority, they felt vulnerable without organization. Bargaining on a first contract at the plant, which is owned by Alabama Power and operated by the Southern Nuclear Operating Co., will begin soon.

For more information and updates on other campaigns, see www.ibew.org.

Long Island Local Signs Growing Security Services Firm

A four-year cooperative organizing effort between Long Island, N.Y., Local 25 and New York Local 3 reached victory with the signing of Universal Security Systems, an innovative player in a sector that has grown exponentially since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Nearly 25 electricians and voice-data-video technicians install Universal's equipment—like pop-up barriers to stop motor vehicles—or antennas on the doors of hospital maternity wards that can protect newborns from being abducted.

With the signing of a letter of assent between Universal and Local 25, the crews are

now members of the Brotherhood. A separate agreement will be signed with Local 3 and the parties have opened up productive discussions on portability, training and the use of labor pools in other local union jurisdictions.

The campaign to organize Universal began late in 2003 when members of Local 25 working at North Shore University Hospital called the local union hall to report that Universal was performing work that was traditionally done by Local 25 members on a nearby site.

Local 25 Organizer Jim Wisdom and Business Representative George Psillos attempted to open discussions with some Universal workers on the site about joining the IBEW, with no success. Later, Wisdom returned with organizers Gene Parrington and Joe Shanahan and made some headway, compiling information about the company's account base. Nine workers signed union cards, but immediately expressed an interest in leaving the company.

In January 2004, Local 25 representatives held a meeting with Ted Meshover and Ed Newman, Universal's owners. Meshover told them that Universal had "nothing in common" with the IBEW.

"We didn't give up. Instead, we showed our professionalism," says Wisdom. Partnering with the JATC, Local 25 set up displays at trade shows attended by Universal. They used the opportunity to re-open discussions.

In April 2007, Meshover and Newman took a full tour of Local 25's training center. A month later, they signed a letter of assent in a meeting with Local 25 Business Manager Donald Fiore, Wisdom and Organizer Ray West and Business Representative Joe Bechtold of Local 3.

The local unions are confident that Universal has a solid plan to capture market share in the \$39 billion private security industry that is expected to grow at over 4 percent annually through 2010.

The Long Island Business News carried a story in June about Universal's technology



Stillwater Power employees were successful in their campaign to be represented by Tulsa, Okla., Local 1002. Front row from left are Mark Miller, Larry Cramton, Wade Coffey, Jackie Wilson, International Representative Fernando Huerta, Local 1002 Business Manager Lonnie Sullivan, Matt Moore, Jeff Porter and International Lead Organizer Kitty Prouse. Back row from left are David Helton, Clint Oliver, Todd Cundiff, Jerry Cundiff, Ed Piilaa, Jim Heskett, David Strickland, Bert Harshbarger, and Charles Buchanan.

to protect newborns and infants. Nearly a dozen hospitals are using the system, which works by attaching a small radio frequency transmitter to an infant's ankle and securing it with a band that includes two wires that complete a circuit. If someone attempts to move a baby out of the maternity ward, antennae on doors pick up the radio frequency signal, sound alarms and signal an immediate lockdown.

Universal also has contracts for security apparatus at the United Nation's Development Corp. and at several schools, including Stony Brook University and Nassau Community College.

Oklahoma Public Workers Say OK to IBEW

More than 50 municipal workers at Stillwater Power won a big victory in September when their petition to join Tulsa, Okla., Local 1002 was certified by the state's Public Employees Relations Board.

Nearly all the employees at the publicly owned power company—from the maintenance electricians to the white-collar and janitorial staff—had indicated their desire to be represented by the IBEW in late June. Under Oklahoma labor law, public employees who work for municipalities of more than 35,000 residents can get automatic card-check recognition for a union if they have the support of the majority of employees. PERB, a three-person board appointed by the governor, is then responsible for certifying the unit.

Workers began organizing in early June after the city of Stillwater made changes to their retirement and insurance benefits without consulting them.

After their first meeting with International Lead Organizer Kitty Prouse, employees set up a volunteer organizing committee and a communications tree to get information from the shop floor to the local and vice versa.

"They wanted the IBEW and were ready to take the lead," Prouse said.

The organizing drive received support from the city's municipal unions, particularly from the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Fraternal Order of Police. "They were there for us from the beginning, coming to PERB meetings on our behalf," Prouse said.

Soon after Local 1002 filed their petition, management made drastic work rule changes, which included altering established work schedules and canceling stand-by pay.

"The workers saw it as punishment for supporting the union," Prouse said. "But it only made it even more obvious why they need a union to represent them."

Local 1002 is now working on negotiating its first contract with Stillwater Power. "The employees stood strong and fast during the certification drive," said Local 1002 Business Manager Lonnie Sullivan. "They are continuing to do so in order to negotiate a good agreement."

Prouse is confident that the new bargaining unit will stick together to get a good contract. "These guys are really strong and solid. As (International Representative) Fernando Huerta told them at the start of this process, 'success won't happen overnight but if you stay strong and united, you can make it happen.'" ■



New members of Long Island, N.Y., Local 25 gather with organizers and owners at Universal Security's offices. From left are Dave Jack, Kurt Seigel, Barry Graham, Tony Scalmato, Anthony Carriello, Craig Cocoblanco, Bob Scofield, Rich Otto, Lloyd Ellis, Chris Borel, Dave Alcaez, Mike Pritchard, Brad Nichols, Sean Penfold, Jose Romero, Mark Archer, Ed Stanton, co-owners Ed Newman and Ted Meshover, Louis Rosado and organizers Jim Wisdom and Tom Hanley.

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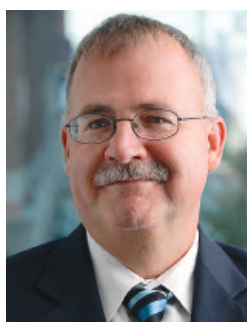
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Transitions

Appointed Larry Reidenbach



Larry Reidenbach has been named Executive Assistant to the International Secretary-Treasurer effective October 1.

Brother Reidenbach brings to the position key knowledge in the administration and workings of the Brotherhood after four years as director of the Pension and Reciprocity Department.

Brother Reidenbach was initiated into Racine, Wis., Local 430 in 1979. A journeyman wireman, he spent 17 years working the trade in Wisconsin and throughout the Northeast and upper Midwest. After serving on various committees, on the executive board, as vice president and president, he was elected business manager-financial secretary of Local 430 in 1995. During his time as an officer, he also served on the Racine County United Way and as chairman of the local's health and pension trust funds, until his appointment to Washington, D.C., as an International Representative in 2002. He also served as president of the IBEW state conference and on the state AFL-CIO building trades committee.

He attended the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Gateway Technical College and the University of Wisconsin School for Workers.

Reidenbach arrived at the I.O. as reciprocal administrator, and took the reins of the electronic reciprocal benefits transfer program, ERTS, when it was implemented in 2002. After he was promoted to head the Pension and Reciprocity Department a year later, he helped oversee the conversion from the IBEW's old mainframe computer program for membership records to a newer system. He also oversaw the registration system at the IBEW Convention last year in Cleveland.

He has also been intimately involved in the rollout and continuing marketing of the National Electrical Contractors Association/ IBEW Family Medical Plan, an IBEW-wide health insurance program launched in early 2006. Reidenbach will continue to promote the health insurance program, as well as overseeing the pension and reciprocity and membership records department in his new position. He will work on any special projects assigned by Secretary-Treasurer Walters.

The IBEW members, staff and officers wish Brother Reidenbach the best of luck in his new position.

Appointed Jerry Westerholm



International President Edwin D. Hill announced the October 1 appointment of Jerry Westerholm as the new director of the Construction and Maintenance Department. He replaces Mark Ayers, who was elected president of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO.

Brother Westerholm was initiated into Minneapolis Local 292 in 1980, where he worked as an inside wireman. He is a graduate of Minneapolis's Dunwoody Institute, the nation's oldest private trade school, where he was introduced to the IBEW.

Westerholm was elected to his local's executive board in 1987 and was appointed business representative three years later. In

1997 he was elected business manager.

During his time at the local, membership grew over 30 percent thanks to an aggressive organizing campaign that combined top-down and bottom-up strategies. As business manager, Brother Westerholm and his staff were responsible for negotiating more than 50 agreements in nearly every sector of the IBEW.

He was also active in the successful lobbying of the Minnesota state legislature for a bill that allowed members performing maintenance for the state and municipalities to continue to pay into their local's health and pension fund.

Westerholm served as a trustee for the Minneapolis Central Labor Union and was elected vice president of the state AFL-CIO in 1996, a position he held until his move to Washington D.C.

Brother Westerholm was appointed International Representative in 2000, assisting in administering various national construction and maintenance agreements. In addition to his work at Dunwoody, he has also taken classes in construction law, construction research, and public sector labor law at the University of Minnesota.

The officers and members of the IBEW congratulate Brother Westerholm on his appointment.

Appointed Lynn Fieldman



IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill has appointed Lynn Fieldman as the new director of the Pension and Reciprocity Department effective October 1. He succeeds Larry Reidenbach, who was appointed Executive Assistant to the International Secretary-Treasurer.

Brother Fieldman was initiated into Joliet, Ill., Local 176 in 1974, where he worked as an inside wireman. Fieldman, who attended Joliet Junior College and Illinois State University, was working as a laborer when IBEW members at his job site encouraged him to apply for an apprenticeship.

Fieldman soon became active in the local and was elected to its executive board in 1983. Three years later, Fieldman was elected business manager, a position he held until his appointment as an International Representative in the Construction and Maintenance Department in 2003. He also served on all the Local 176 Trust Fund Committees, as co-chairman of the Three Rivers Construction Alliance Committee and as president of the Will and Grundy Counties Building Trades.

Fieldman was also active in his community, serving as chairman of the Will and Grundy Counties Building Trades' Dollars Against Diabetes organization from 1989 to 2003, raising nearly a million dollars for diabetes research. He also served on the boards of the local United Way and Habitat for Humanity.

As International Representative, Brother Fieldman was assigned to oversee national agreements for instrument and control system and voice-data-video technicians.

In July he became reciprocal administrator. In that position Fieldman assisted members with the Electronic Reciprocal Transfer system (ERTS), a Web-based program that helps travelers transfer health and pension benefits to their home local's funds.

The IBEW congratulates Brother Fieldman and wishes him every success as he assumes his new responsibilities.

Deceased Willard N. Nye



Sixth District International Representative Willard "Bill" Nye passed away on August 31. He was 75 years old.

Brother Nye was initiated into Local 983 in 1950. The local was then located in Muskegon, Mich., his birthplace. He later moved his card to Local 275, also located in Muskegon.

A former business manager and vice president of Local 983, Nye also served as chairman of the local's COPE Committee, before his appointment as an International Representative in 1969.

"Bill was a great human being, a real personality and a fine storyteller, who put people at ease when he talked to them. And he just loved the IBEW," says retired International Representative Jim

Greenwood, who spent several winters in Florida with Nye.

Nye, who started his IBEW career in a cable manufacturing plant and serviced manufacturing locals during his career, was assigned to an organizing campaign at an electrical equipment plant in Hibbing, Minn., shortly before he retired in 1995. "Nearly every workplace in the surrounding Iron Range was organized already, but people trusted Bill and voted for the IBEW," says Greenwood, who worked with Nye on the campaign.

Nye, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War, attended labor-related courses at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Illinois. He was a member of the Moose and Eagle lodges.

The IBEW's officers, staff and members convey our sincere condolences to Brother Nye's wife, Lois, and to his entire family for their loss. ■

Local Lines

Appointments Announced

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—Congratulations to Bus. Agent Mike Garavaglia, who retired in July. During Mike's 39 years in the electrical construction industry, he served Local 1 in numerous capacities. As a journeyman wireman, he held positions including recording secretary, trustee, jurisdictional director, Examining Board member and Negotiating Committee member. In 1994 Mike was appointed business agent and has worked tirelessly for our members. Local 1 thanks Mike for his service and wishes him a happy retirement.

With Bro. Garavaglia's departure, several appointments were made to fill vacancies. Bus. Agent John Johanningmeier moved into the office to fill Mike's position. Bro. Eric Miller assumed Bro. Johanningmeier's position as business agent in South St. Louis. Bro. Bob Muckler moved from the Executive Board to vice president. Bro. Dave McKay moved from the Examining Board to the Executive Board. Bro. Steve Muehling was appointed to the Examining Board. Best wishes to all.

With sadness we report the following members' deaths: John McAllister, George Pine Jr., Gene Turner, Walter Meinecke Jr., Marlan Murray Jr., Edmund Karibo, William Hartman Jr., Weldon Nebel, Carl Irwin and Roland Ditmeyer.

Matt Gober, P.S.

Photovoltaic Training

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—Over 100 members and their families braved the 105 degree heat to participate in the annual Labor Day parade and picnic in Wilmington. Afterward, marchers enjoyed a barbecue prepared by union staff and volunteers.

Local 11 and our IBEW/NECA Electrical Training Institute were proud to be invited by Local 639 Bus. Mgr. Hank Lewis to conduct photovoltaic training in San Luis Obispo. Instructors trained 200 people from Locals 639, 413, 100 and 428. The hands-on training will help the IBEW expand its influence throughout the industry. We encourage all members to upgrade their skills through train-



Local 11 members display IBEW banner in Labor Day parade.

ing provided by the ETI. Photovoltaic training and classes on becoming a successful union contractor are offered. [For more on IBEW photovoltaic training initiatives in California, see "IBEW Taps Into Power of the Sun," IBEW Journal, Fall 2007.]

Some 150 members volunteered to wire homes for 30 families through Habitat for Humanity. Fourteen of the homes are in South Los Angeles and 16 are in San Pedro. The multi-unit homes feature solar panels installed by Local 11 members and contractors. Congratulations to all involved for your hard work and dedication to the community.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

Strong Safety Program

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Our local mourns the death of Bro. Dan Yost, an overhead electrician-starter. On Aug. 21, Bro. Yost was working with a crew leader and overhead electrician replacing a defective "osmose reject" pole when he collapsed while on the pole. Despite the quick actions of his co-workers, Bro. Yost, age 24, could not be revived. A full investigation is ongoing. Our prayers go to his family and friends.

In July, Sixth District Int. Rep. Lonnie R. Stephenson swore in our newly elected officers and board members. Newly elected officers include: Pres./Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Dean Apple, Vice Pres. Terry McGoldrick, Rec. Sec. Christine Watkins and Treas. Rick Balthazor.

In April 2006, Braidwood Station decided to pursue OSHA's Voluntary Protection Status "Star" Award. During 15 months of internal safety reviews, four OSHA inspectors conducted a week-long assessment. Inspectors declared the site had a strong safety program, specifically noting its Safety Committees, which are all chaired by Local 15 members. The OSHA team recommends that Braidwood Station receive its Star Award.

Our Midwest Generation members now have the benefit of obtaining serviceable work shoes through the company every two years. The company applies a lump sum toward the purchase every two years, unless replacement is needed before then, at which time the company will pay the full price.

Ronald V. Welte, P.S.

Members Step Up

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—Our work picture looks very good. We recently had a windmill project start up in our jurisdiction. Staffing this endeavor was a first for Local 17. The project was a valuable learning experience and once again Local 17 members stepped up to perform beyond all expectations.

We had lots of storms again this summer and Local 17 members worked long, hard hours

to restore power for all customers. Most importantly, we had zero injuries during the restorations. On our Commercial Agreement, Local 17 members have been working diligently to upgrade many substations throughout our jurisdiction.

Many road projects are coming to a close in our area. Local 17 members completed numerous traffic signal and street lighting upgrades.

The Local 17 Tree Trim Jamboree and the Michigan Lineman's Rodeo competitions were great successes. Local 17 members placed in all the top positions in both events.

Local 17 had an exceptional turnout for our Labor Day parade and picnic festivities.

With sadness we report the loss of Bros. Billy Brock and Ronald McCoy.

James Beaubien, P.S.

Chicago Candidates Forum

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Over 100 members and staff from our local joined thousands of other workers and their families Aug. 7 at Chicago's historic Soldier Field, participating in the 2007 AFL-CIO Presidential Candidates Forum. Moderated by Keith Oberman, the event was carried live on MSNBC.

With some 17,000 union members and families attending, the crowd showed that working people are deeply concerned about the future of the country and just as excited about the chance to choose the next president. Working people asked the seven Democratic candidates questions focusing on issues that affect working families—from jobs and wages to health care, retirement, education and the war in Iraq.

Membership surveys conducted earlier this year indicate most members believe Local 21 has substantially improved their benefits, and that they are financially better off because our union bargains on their behalf. Most members believe future contract negotiations will be more difficult than in the past. The good news is that a large majority of Local 21 members said they will participate in workplace actions designed to demonstrate support for the union bargaining team both prior to and during upcoming contract talks.

Thomas Hopper, P.S.

Softball Tournament

L.U. 25 (catv,i,o&rts), LONG ISLAND, NY—Our 37th annual Long Island IBEW Softball Tournament was held Aug. 24-26 at Baldwin Park in Baldwin, Long Island. The weather was great and 28 teams participated. Cleveland, OH, Local 38 received the Brotherhood Award and they also won the upper bracket over the New York, NY, Local 3 "A" Team. The lower bracket winner was Providence, RI, Local 99 over Lorain, OH, Local 129. The two-day barbecue, compliments of the Tournament

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



IBEW Local 21 members, activists, and staff attend AFL-CIO Presidential Candidates Forum at Chicago's Soldier Field.

Committee, comprising members of Locals 3, 25, 1049 and 1381, was well received.

This tournament is always held the last weekend of August before the Labor Day weekend. Any local wishing to participate and field a team for our 38th annual tournament in August 2008 may contact the Local 25 president's office at (631) 273-4567.

Ed O'Donnell, P.S.

'Moving Forward'

L.U. 35 (i), HARTFORD, CT—Congratulations to newly elected Local 35 officers. Sworn in July 24 were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. John Sardo, Pres. Bruce Silva, Vice Pres. William Moriarty, Rec. Sec. Richard Bonadies, Treas. Thomas Cosgrove; Executive Board members Barry Greene Jr., Allyn Miller Jr., Scott Munson; and Examining Board members David Cockerham and Dennis Machol.

Welcome also to newly organized members: Durrell Bobo, Jeffrey Caron, Robert Engleman, Keith Everitt Jr., Joshua Henry, Jeremiah Johnson, Daniel Lodyko, William "Ed" Miller and Brian Moran.

IBEW Local 35 held its second annual Family Outing Sat., Aug. 18. Once again, High Meadow Resort in Granby did a superb job! We had a great day with over 300 people in attendance.

The work picture looks good in this area, with several large projects moving forward.

John Sardo, B.M.

110th Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 41 (em,es,i,se,govt&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Local 41 officers and members welcome our new first-year apprentices. Apprentices, as you start your journey through the apprenticeship program, I urge each of you to take full advantage of all the opportunities available to you.

Local 41 celebrated its 110th anniversary with a dinner/dance Sept. 22 at the Buffalo Convention Center. Our thanks to the guest speakers and committee members who help make this event a great success.

The summer work picture was very good; we even had work for our out-of-town brothers and sisters. Our future looks very promising with several potential upcoming projects.

I invite members to get involved in our committees. We have a wide variety of committees, from the Children's Christmas Party Committee to the COPE Committee. Our continued success depends on the dedication of members.

Kenneth C. Zack, V.P./P.S.

Power Plant Organized

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—In August workers at the FP&L owned power-plant in Blythe, CA, voted to join Local 47.

IBEW Local 47 organizers at Blythe Energy Project, where FP&L employees voted to join Local 47.



Our seventh annual golf tournament was a success. Event proceeds went to Local 47's Injured Workers Fund.

We are pleased to report that, through the efforts of the I.O., other local unions, and those of Local 47 with congressional delegations, we were able to defeat an amendment to federal energy legislation that would have made it difficult to get approval for a 270-mile transmission line between southern Arizona and southern California. The project will create 500-600 jobs, and last two to three years.

Southern California Edison is moving forward with its Advanced Metering Infrastructure. We reached an agreement on a project labor agreement with SCE for work done by contractors on this project to be done with Local 47 members. The successful bidder was Corix, an IBEW contractor from Minnesota.

Mike Baggett, pipe fitter at Riverside's Public Utility, won the Fleet Forces Command High Power Rifle Championship at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, CA.

Our condolences to the families of members who recently passed away: Bros. Steven Sandell, Edward Estrada, Michael Klassen and Richard Eastman.

Stan Stosel, P.S.

Awards for Service

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Congratulations to IBEW Lifesaving Award recipients: Bros. Warren Arterburn, Mike Runyon and Dustin Wiggins. Their quick response and training helped save the life of fellow Local 51 Bro. Scott Bussard, who accidentally came in contact with a downed 7,200-volt conductor during storm restoration.

Local 51 was honored by the American Red Cross for public service at a "Saluting Our Heroes" breakfast in July. The award recognized long hours worked in severe weather to maintain and restore power, telephone and gas service. Accepting the award were Local 51 members Dan Haney, Ameren-IP; Lloyd Elmore, Verizon; and Norm Dunlop and Brian Felker, Corn Belt Energy Corp. The utility workers are proud of their safe work ethic and dedication to serving the public.

Congratulations to our members at the Clinton Power Station for receiving final



Newly elected Local 51 officers and Executive Board members were sworn in by Sixth District Int. Rep. Donald R. Woolridge (at right).



Boston Local 103 IBEW electricians and technicians completed a \$500 million Natick Mall expansion.

approval for recertification as an OSHA VPP Star site. The OSHA area office will present the Star plaque to the station.

At this writing, negotiations continue for members employed by Illinois Power, CILCO, the University of Illinois, WMBD-TV and WEEK-TV, as well as teledata and line clearance tree trimming members.

Dan Pridemore, Pres./B.R.

George Mollo Mourned

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI—Work in our area has slowed a bit, but it seems to be leveling off. With many jobs opening up in neighboring Connecticut, there may be opportunities for employment for Local 99 members. We are also waiting for more information on the Intermodal Transportation System at T.F. Green Airport.

We sadly regret the passing of Bro. George Mollo on Aug. 24. He was a former business manager and treasurer of Local 99. Bro. Mollo invented one of the first pieces of wire tracing equipment. He was 88.

Congratulations to Local 99's softball team. They again brought home the trophy at the 37th annual Long Island Softball Tournament. The Magic Bus was a great asset again, transporting members and equipment to the tournament and bringing recognition to the IBEW.

Local 99 retirees recently enjoyed a successful fishing trip out of Point Judith, RI.

S.P. Callaghan, P.S.

Natick Mall Project

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—Over 400 Local 103 electricians and technicians recently put the finishing touches on the \$500 million Natick Mall expansion, the area's largest construction project. A Sept. 6 grand opening was held in Natick, MA, outside Boston, marking successful completion of the two-year union project. The mall expansion includes the area's first Nordstrom, a Neiman Marcus and over 100-high end specialty stores and restaurants.

Facing a tight schedule of deadlines, General Growth Properties and Dimeo Construction chose Local 103's Dagle Electric over several large open-shop contractors because of Dagle's competitive pricing and reputation for finishing challenging projects like this on time and under budget. Steward Brad Vinton has done an exceptional job working with many members and a multitude of contractors.

Local 103 members and their families appreciate having a union friendly shopping center. Other union only shopping malls in Local 103's jurisdiction include Burlington Mall, South Shore Plaza, Copley Place, Cambridge Side Galleria and the North Shore Mall. Most have major expansions under way or scheduled.

These mall owners note that Local 103 contractors provide workers decent wages and benefits, and also provide competitive prices. Through quality craftsmanship and productivity of our members, Local 103 and our contractors are making inroads. These projects are 100 percent secured and will be done by Local 103 members.

John P. Dumas, Pres.

Labor Day Parade

L.U. 109 (u), ROCK ISLAND, IL—IBEW Local 109 members, retirees and families were among the many participants of the East Moline, IL, Labor Day parade and celebration.

Many thanks to all who turned out for labor and proudly participated (see photo).

Lori Smith, R.S.



Local 109 members and their families gather for Labor Day parade. From left, Local 109 Bro. Frank Buchman, Marika Lett, Local 109 Bro. Tom Schneckloth, Kelly Schneckloth, Tim Adams, Local 109 retiree Jack Hunter, (grandchildren Caroline and Ian), Teena Cook, Local 109 Brother Kelly Cook, (children Kennedy and Kier) and Local 109 Sister Lori Smith, (grandson Tyler Smith).



Local 153 apprentice classes, instructors and coordinator Ron Michaelis (front row, seventh from right) gather for a group photo.

Pacific NW Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 125 (lctt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR—The 14th annual Pacific Northwest Lineman's Rodeo was held Sat., July 28, in Gresham, OR. Fourteen journeyman linemen teams and 45 apprentices participated in the rodeo.

The journeyman team of Ken Spain, Jesse Nielsen and Dan Roberts captured first place in the overall competition. Josh Rinard, Adam Blackwell and Ed Hatanpaa won second place, and the team of Steve Coutts, Kevin Akers and Brian Williams placed third in the overall competition. Apprentice Mike Larsen (third year) won the overall competition, followed by Matt Rinard (first year); Jon Backman (second year) placed third in the overall apprentice division.

A portion of the rodeo's proceeds will be donated to the Oregon Burn Center, which provides advanced burn care throughout the Northwest and is the only facility of its kind between Seattle and Sacramento, CA. Local 125's Executive Board, staff, and members congratulate these winners and thank all the journeymen and apprentices for their participation. Also, thank-you to the many volunteers for their efforts in making this a successful event.

Marcy Putman, Organizer

Wheeling Work Picture Good

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV—Work in our area is good, with many projects under way.

We welcome back Bro. Kevin Stingle, who recently returned from Iraq. Kevin proudly flew our local colors with him. Thanks, Kevin, and all the men and women who fight to protect our freedoms.

Our annual picnic was well attended. Many came out early for the golf scramble, which was won by Mike Haynes' team. We also had what I believe is the event's first ever hole-in-one, shot by Jake Heilman. There was plenty of food, fun and games for the kids. We thank the social committee for always going the extra mile to make these events so great.

Congratulations to Paul Simmons, who graduated from the National Training Institute this year.

The annual Paden City Labor Day parade had a good turnout. Thanks to all who marched to show support.

Remember to go out and support the Local 141 softball team. The fall league has begun; contact Dave Cantrell for information.

Our condolences to the family of Lou Yahn, who recently passed away.

Justin Klempa, P.S.

Apprentices Welcomed

L.U. 153 (em,i,rtb,rts,se,spa&st), SOUTH BEND, IN—Welcome back, apprentices! On our first night of classes this year, we held a corn and sausage roast for the apprentices. We currently have 125 indentured apprentices combined in our inside, residential, and VDV programs. The gathering gave the apprentices an opportunity to meet with instructors, the apprenticeship coordinator, and the local union officers.

The work outlook is slow. The DC Cook outage has been fully staffed and at press time was expected to end in late October. The Four Winds Casino project is finished and is now open. And the new St. Joseph Regional Medical Center project is just getting started.

Also, an FYI for those members who may have a hand in ordering products for your projects. RACO boxes are the only union-made boxes made in the USA; they are made in South Bend, IN. So let's support our fellow trade unionists and order RACO boxes when we can.

Mike Taff, P.S.

Officers Elected

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—This is our first chance to announce the election of our new officers, as we had run-off elections July 5.

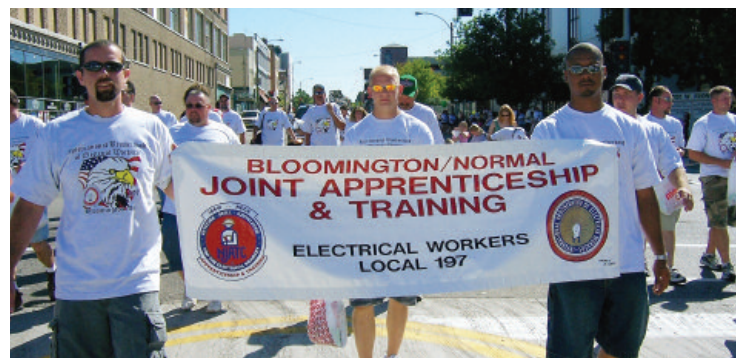
Congratulations to Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Mark Hoffmann, Pres. Michael Mueller, Vice Pres. John Geiger, Rec. Sec. Kevin Buntrock, Treas. John Whitman; Executive Board members Steve Bersing, Craig Hein, Michael Killian and Matt Parks; and Examining Board members Keith Bailey, Anthony DiCristina and Clay Englerth. New appointees are Referral Agent/Bus. Agent Joel Kapusta and Organizer/Bus. Agent Chris Crossen.

Local 59 held our annual golf outing July 28. We had beautiful weather and raised some money for our Suchoman Scholarship Fund.

Our apprenticeship completion banquet was Aug. 27. Congratulations to our 19 inside, six residential and two VDV graduating apprentices.

Work in our area is slowing a bit as some of our bigger projects are winding down, but we should be okay. I anticipate a big surge again in the spring.

Joel Kapusta, B.A.



Carrying the Local 197 Joint Apprenticeship banner at the McLean County, IL, Labor Day parade are, from left, apprentices Eric White, Aaron Rickenberg and Nick Tolbert.

Watts Bar Plant Project

L.U. 175 (c,em,i,lctt,mt,o&u), CHATTANOOGA, TN—Congratulations to our newly elected officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Barry Key, Pres. Dwight Wilhoit, Vice Pres. Danny Grant, Rec. Sec. Winfred Gearrin, Treas. Mike Boatwright. Elected to the Executive Board were: T.J. Wehunt Jr., Jim Longshore, James "Mickey" Smith, Roger Capps, Michael Crowley, Mark Hastings and Ricky Dobbins. Elected to the Examining Board: Jim White, Mark "Butch" Callahan, R.D. Day, Cody Walker and Ronnie Berry.

Former business manager Paul Gass retired after 47 years of service to the local. We wish Paul the best of luck and thank him for his dedication to the IBEW.

The work situation here looks very promising for the next few years. The TVA Board approved completion of Unit Two at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. The job is an estimated five-year, nearly \$2.5 billion project. Approximately 2,300 contract workers are expected at the peak of construction. The completed project will produce about 250 permanent jobs on site.

Keith Owensby, P.S.

JATC Journeyman Class

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—We are pleased that the summer was a busy one for our local. We have been putting out wiremen on Book II and look to continue to do so into the fall. We must continue to staff our work in order to keep the nonunion out of our area.

Thanks to Local 197 members and families who walked in the Labor Day parade and enjoyed the picnic afterward. It was nice to see familiar faces as well as new apprentices and their families taking part in the Brotherhood. Dennis Rexroat and his son-in-law won the horseshoe tournament. Thanks to Steve Rousey for organizing the picnic and to Zeke Paire and Clint Miller for tending the grill.

The JATC held an arc fault class, attended by 26 journeyman wiremen. Such classes enable us to stay ahead of our competition and continue our education. Thanks to the journeymen who took part. If there is a class you would like to see offered, call Renee Riddle with your suggestion.

We are raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thanks to all who supported our football tickets fund-raiser and sold tickets. Remember to take pride in the IBEW.

Mike Raikes, P.S.

Casino/Resort Project

L.U. 223 (em,govt&i), BROCKTON, MA—This past summer Local 223 was involved with a town meeting in Middleborough, MA, for a vote on a proposed resort style casino.

The Wampanoag Indians are looking to

build a casino on their recently acquired land in Middleborough. Residents attended a huge town meeting and by a vote of 2-to-1 approved an agreement to support the Wampanoag and the billion dollar project.

The project will include a 1,500 room hotel, a casino, an indoor water park and a championship golf course. The tribe committed to build 100 percent union. We look forward to working with the tribe in coming months to see this project move forward. We thank all members and their families who helped out during the summer with the casino/resort project.

Over the summer and into the fall we have had work opportunities at Brayton Point Power Station and at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The new science building at Stonehill College is expected to start sometime this fall. The Brockton Power Plant is going through the permit process; there are hopes to start construction in late 2008 or early 2009.

Dave Fenton, A.B.M.

Good Samaritans

L.U. 231 (i,rtb,spa&u), SIOUX CITY, IA—On Aug. 16, journeyman wireman Jason Bowman was heading to work at Nystrom Electric at 7:15 a.m., when he saw flames coming from a house on the bluff overlooking the Missouri River. He called 911 as he ran up to the house.

About the same time, journeyman wireman Doug DeRoos was headed home from the night shift at Gelita U.S.A. and also saw the fire. Doug drove up just as Jason was running to the front door. They pounded on the door until an elderly woman answered. The woman said her wheelchair bound husband was upstairs. Jason and Doug successfully got him downstairs in his wheelchair just as the fire department arrived. Most of the damage to the house was exterior.

Jason, an 11-year IBEW member, and Doug, who was organized in 1999, had not previously met but they came together when it counted most. We are proud of these men and thank them for being good Samaritans.

Debby Spencer, P.S.



Local 231 electricians Doug DeRoos (left) and Jason Bowman came to the aid of an elderly Sioux City, IA, couple.

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 237 (i), NIAGARA FALLS, NY—Over the summer the local had almost full employment. We hope it all continues.

Our NECA Chapter Mgr. David Roll, who also chaired our Board of Trustees, retired July 1. We wish him the best! Succeeding Dave as NECA chapter manager is Rose Haensly.

Elections were held in June, which produced new officers. Congratulations to our new Bus. Mgr. Russell Quarantello and all those elected. Also elected were: Pres. Kurt Bingham,



Local 241 apprentice graduates, front row, from left, Nate Deeley, Ken Decker, Jamie Maywright; back row, Colin McDonald, Andy Waye, Justin DeGraw and Brian Millspaugh. Not pictured: James Willauer, Pete Koch, Dan Martinez.

Vice Pres. Larry Krueger, Rec. Sec. David Felice, Fin. Sec. Salim Kinan and Treas. Paul Williams; Executive Board members Joseph Bielec, Jeffrey Haseley, Mike MacDougall, Robert Napierala, David Naus, Randy Shepard; and Examining Board members Jeffrey Janese, Dennis Schmidt and Kenneth Smith.

Congratulations also to graduating apprentices: Robert Andritz, Jeffrey Davis, George Richards and Marjorie Wrobbel-Gibbons.

Jeffrey Plache, P.S.

Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 241 (i), ITHACA, NY—Congratulations to our apprentice graduates, who have become Local 241's newest journeyman wiremen. All successfully completed the inside wiremen apprenticeship program.

We also commend all of our apprentices of the year. They are: first year—Chris Brown, second year—Brad Jump, third year—David Swearingen, fourth year—Brian LaMorte, and fifth year—Andy Waye.

Local 241 has received Excellence in Training Awards for nine years in a row, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our training staff. Kudos to all. A special thanks to Cliff "Skip" Dickerson, who recently retired and was a member of our training staff and an instructor for 27 years.

Local 241 Organizer Fred Jackson and journeyman electrician Stacy Black have been working with Mark Caruana, a "career & tech trade electricity" teacher at TST Boces (Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services), an area vocational school. Together they have developed a series of challenges to better prepare students as they move on in the next step in their professional careers.

Work productively and safely.

Michael A. Creasy, V.P./P.S.

Labor Day in Toledo

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—Over 100-plus strong, union members and their families marched in the 2007 Labor Day parade. A special guest, then-AFL-CIO Exec. Vice Pres. Linda Chavez-Thompson, made a surprise visit. Her message was loud and clear: Unions have always been in the forefront in the fight for quality conditions including health care. Chavez-Thompson urged union members to find out where candidates stand on the issues and vote only for those who support us.

After the parade, members and their families gathered at the union hall, where they were joined by OPEIU Local 19 members employed as office workers at FirstEnergy, for a Labor Day picnic.

On the local scene, negotiations are in progress with FirstEnergy and Tri-County, the largest and smallest groups we represent. On the outside, work is steady and improving. The local

is taking applications for our three ALBAT training programs, which include Line, Sub-Station, and Traffic Signal and Street Lighting.

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.

Volunteer Project

L.U. 291 (i,o,rtb&rts), BOISE, ID—Congratulations to our newly elected officers: Bus. Mgr. Greg Oyama, Pres. Dea Roth, Vice Pres. Rick Badley, Rec. Sec. Joe Schneehagen, Treas. Shawn Evins; Executive Board members Aaron Alloway, Randy Cope, Aaron White and Casey Wilde; and Examining Board members Eric Cobiskey, Jon Novak and Steve Rivas.

We recently completed a volunteer project at Computers for Kids. Thanks to the volunteers! Our work benefits people throughout our community. We had a great summer picnic awarding many years-of-service pins. Congratulations to service pin recipients.

With sorrow, I report the passing of Bro. Cyrus "Gene" Friend. He was one of our 60-year service pin recipients.

As of this writing, employment into the winter months looks pretty good. Hats off to Bro. Robert Lawrence, who won the annual scholarship to the Grace Carroll Rocky Mountain Labor School. Through classes like these our members continue to be educated about labor issues. Remember to attend the local meeting to stay informed about your union.

Mark Zaleski, B.R.

Agreements Negotiated

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—At this writing, the addition to our training center is almost complete. Hopefully, we continue to outgrow our present facilities.

This year finds my staff and me spending much time in contract negotiations. Almost every agreement we represent expires this year.

Congratulations to our negotiating committees for successfully bargaining agreements for our inside, residential, lighting and maintenance, American Steel and SIUE, as well as two rock quarry agreements.

Our Inside Agreement is for four years with total package increases of \$1.70, \$1.75, \$1.80 and \$1.85. Our Residential Agreement is for one year with a total package increase of \$1.70 per hour. Both agreements include improvements on tool insurance and mileage reimbursement.

We continue to bargain with Ameren Illinois, jointly with Locals 51, 702 and 1306, hoping to reach a fair settlement for our utility branch. Subcontracting, rest period and work rules continue to be the biggest obstacles.

Our work remains solid in both our inside and outside branches, affording our members full employment and allowing us to employ many traveling members.

We mourn the passing of Bros. Alvin Danni,

meter reader; William "Bill" Athy and Robert L. Weidenhoffer, journeyman wiremen; Carl F. Hagemeister, Sherman Parkhill and Lester G. Etling, maintenance electricians; and Larry V. Sudduth, groundman.

Jim Berger, B.M.

New Union Signs

L.U. 349 (em,i,mps,rtb,spa&u), MIAMA, FL—Thanks go out to Paul Yesbeck of Acolite United Sign Company, one of our union sign companies. Mr. Yesbeck donated two signs, for our union hall and our apprenticeship training building. One sign is located at the front of the union hall entrance and the other is on the side of the apprenticeship building.

The crew did a great job installing both signs—they look great. Again thanks to Mr. Yesbeck and his crew.

Our contract negotiations for the inside working agreement were concluded and the local membership ratified the contract. The negotiating team spent many hours negotiating and came up with a good contract. Thanks to Bus. Mgr. William Riley and his team.

We mourn the loss of Bro. R.T. Callahan. The Callahan family has been a cornerstone of this Local for long time.

Support your local union. Work safe.

Frank Albury, P.S./Exec. Brd.



Acolite United Sign Company donated exterior signs for the Local 349 union hall and apprentice training buildings.

Local Union Election

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—On June 23, we tallied election ballots for Local 357.

Congratulation to Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. David R. Jones, Pres. Charles "Tom" Stetson, Vice Pres. Edward "Eddie" Gering, Rec. Sec. Linda M. Bieniek and Treas. Terry Heins. Elected to the Executive Board are: (for inside construction), Al Harris, Jeffrey L. Westover and Jack Fleig; (maintenance), Frank Upright; (sign), Kenyon

Crouch; and (sound & communication), Sue Huening. Elected to the Examining Board are: (for inside construction), Cherie Espinoza Dinkfield and Ronnie Espinoza; (maintenance), Howard Killian; and (sound and communication), Noel Hernberger. Thank-you to our election judge Steve Barker and everyone who helped in this democratic process.

On Aug. 25, Local 357 helped roast retiring Ninth District Int. Rep. Rep. Albert Cecil Wynn Jr., who formerly served as Local 357 business manager. Bro. Wynn retired after 17 years as International Representative.

At press time we were looking forward to our annual picnic on Sept. 29, as well as the brotherhood welfare annual golf tournament in October. Funds raised at the tournament are used to help our brothers and sisters in need.

The work picture here is very strong now and the books are clear.

Timothy W. Bolton, P.S.

Kentucky Governor's Race

L.U. 369 (em,es,i,lctt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), LOUISVILLE, KY—Our local held elections in June. Bill Finn was elected new business manager/financial secretary. James "Buddy" Roberts was elected as the new president. Congratulations to them and to all officers elected.

A sincere thank-you to all officers who formerly served and to all who ran for election for their dedication and hard work.

Kentucky has a general election on Nov. 6, 2007, and we will have an opportunity to replace our current "right to work" governor with gubernatorial candidate Steve Beshear, a friend of labor. Hopefully everyone will do their civic duty and go out and vote for the labor endorsed candidates on Nov. 6.

The work picture should finally be improving for Local 369 with several large projects in the works, including UPS Worldport, Bluegrass Army Depot, River Park Place, Papa John's expansion and Museum Plaza to name a few.

John E. Morrison Jr., P.S.

Generations Celebrated

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA—Congratulations to the Andrew Kubik family on their third generation of IBEW Local 375 membership. The eldest Kubik, Andrew S., is a 48-year member and former business manager. Son Andrew J., a 30-year member, is an Executive Board member and our safety coordinator. Grandson Andrew R. joined Local 375 in August.

Local 375 has seven third-generation IBEW



Local 357 officers are sworn in, from left, front row, Vice Pres. Edward Gering, Executive Board members Frank Upright and Al Harris, Rec. Sec. Linda M. Bieniek, Executive Board member Susan Huening, Pres. Charles "Tom" Stetson, and Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. David R. Jones; back row, Executive Board members Jeffrey Westover and Jack Fleig, and Examining Board members Ronnie Espinoza and Cherie Espinoza Dinkfield.



A Local 375 third-generation IBEW family: from left, retired former business manager Andrew S. Kubik; his son Andrew J., Executive Board member and safety coordinator; and grandson Andrew R., recently indentured.

families, including the Raymond Stoudt family (with father Raymond Sr., his son Raymond Jr., and grandson Douglas); the William Newhard family (father William, his active sons Bus. Mgr. William and Daniel, and grandson Daniel); the Maurer family (father Charles, son Charles and grandson Charles); the Harry Parks family (former Bus. Mgr. Harry Sr., son Harry Jr., and grandson Randy); the Carson Reichard family (father Carson, son David, local union president, and grandson Steven); and the William Moyer family (father William, son Barry, and grandsons Barry and Jessie). Soon to become part of this group is the Thomas Ritter family (father Thomas, son Timothy and unindentured apprentice son Nicholas).

We owe a great deal to these families. Thanks to their hard work, our members have the standard of living we all enjoy today!

Support your union! Attend union meetings, get politically involved and volunteer.

Roger Gaydos, P.S.

Solar Power Expo

L.U. 441 (as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA—In July our Training Center hosted 120 electricians from across Southern California at our first Renewable Energy and Solar Power Expo. Contractors and members from IBEW Locals 441, 440, 11 and 477 received hands-on instruction from experienced instructors provided by Conergy based in Santa Fe, NM. [For more on IBEW photovoltaic training initiatives in California, see "IBEW Taps Into Power of the Sun," IBEW Journal, Fall 2007.]

In-depth instruction during the two-day course introduced attendees to a new market. Topics included solar market overviews, business models and systems design, as well as installation techniques.



Local 441 hosts Renewable Energy and Solar Power Expo.

Our wiremen learned that this work is in many ways the same as work they were already trained to perform—while also being taught about photovoltaic system safety, wiring methods, mounting systems and equipment grounding, as well as an introduction to photovoltaic modules, inverters and other devices and methods common to these systems. We currently have many members doing this work, and now we have more experienced members who have gained additional knowledge to install these systems.

Our training facilities are staffed and ready to provide classes for our journeymen. Local 441 encourages our members to train to install solar and other alternative energy systems for construction of residential and commercial applications.

Steve Igoe, P.S.

Three-Year Contract



Local 453 Activities Committee Chmn. Paul Tuter (left) works on a panel at a Preservation Springfield house as David Joy looks on.

L.U. 453 (govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), SPRINGFIELD, MO—Local 453 ratified a three-year contract, effective through 2010, by a 51-15 vote. Thanks to the Negotiating Committee for their work.

The Local 453

Activities Committee organized work on Habitat for Humanity and Preservation Springfield houses. Thanks to the following members who volunteered, and to any others whose name we missed: David Joy, Ronnie Young, James Cannon, Paul Tuter, Byron Cole, Ryan Huff, Chris Horton, Josh Pendergrass, Chad Ervin, Grant Thompson, Jason Steffka, Adam Gilkey, Steve Wheeler, Charles Markunas, Jeremy Johnson, Spud Pritchett, Richard Fuller, Bryan Henley, Joe Simmons and Eugene Long.

Local union meetings are at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. Hope to see all members attend.

Ryan Huff, P.S.

Past Officers Recognized

L.U. 459 (ees,em,so,govt&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Our local was pleased to have several retired former officers in attendance at our August 2007 Southwest District Meeting. Each was given an opportunity to speak. Former business manager Charles Meo spoke about how lucky we are not to be living in a "right-to-work" state. Others spoke about politics, organizing, safety, and not forgetting our retirees.



Local 459 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Donald Hoak (third from left) welcomes former officers. From left: Bros. Melvin Woodring, former business representative; Harry "Tex" Blenden, former recording secretary; Bus. Mgr. Hoak; Charles Meo, former business manager; Kenneth Walker, former president; Joseph Sanna, former business manager; and Art Smith, former business representative. Not pictured: Paul Pozar, former steward.

Current officers and members pay tribute to our retired officers and thank them for their great contributions to Local 459. (See photo.)

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

Fight for Union Rights

L.U. 499 (u), DES MOINES, IA—In January 2006, clerical employees at Chariton Valley Cooperative voted unanimously for Local 499 union representation. We have represented the lineman at the co-op for over 40 years and one would have thought there wouldn't be much of a problem getting a contract. Well, think again. After a year and a half of negotiations, the cooperative implemented a last, best and final offer without the employees voting on the contract. NLRB charges were filed and Negotiating Committee members gave affidavits.

We could all learn something about fighting for our rights from this Negotiating Committee. They are: Melanie Curtis, operations clerk; Sarah Faber, customer service rep; and Connie Carter, billing clerk. These employees have exercised patience, made tough decisions and have had to put up with a cooperative that belittles their work and service to the co-op. While we were negotiating, these three women kept asking, "When can we start paying union dues?" And they ended up joining the union before they got a first contract. Local 499 also thanks Sarah for stepping up to become our union steward—not an easy job when the co-op leadership thinks so little of its employees.

Don Krause, B.M.



Local 499 Negotiating Committee members employed at Chariton Valley Cooperative: from left, Melanie Curtis, Sarah Faber and Connie Carter

Union Roster Grows

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Another group of journeymen were added to the union roster, as more were sworn into membership at the August meeting. Jobs have kept our members busy, and some from other locals, too, are working in our area.

2008 will be another decisive year on whether public education continues to be outsourced, or if the wagons will be circled, so we join with organized workers to create education with public, qualified teachers. We need safe buildings, with reputable custodial workers, lunch workers and bus drivers who answer directly to taxpayers, through our school boards. Outsourcing creates more low-wage positions and also creates another layer of management to skim income from the people who do the work.

John McKay organized another successful Local 557 picnic. Getting together for union fellowship outside work is fun for all and boosts solidarity.

John E. Clemens, P.S.



Attending Local 557 apprentice graduation held August 2007 are: from left, front row, Steve Burns, Rick Reinelt, Josh Iles, Robert White and Steve Schomaker; back row, Glen Cooper, Joe Eickholt and Matt Hill.

San Diego Graduates

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—Congratulations to the San Diego Electrical and Sound Class of 2007 graduates. The award for "Outstanding Inside Wireman Graduate" went to Bradley Anderson. The "Outstanding Sound Graduate" award went to David Wallace. The San Diego Electrical Training Center is ranked as a top-five training center in the country and produces some of the finest wiremen and soundmen in our industry.



Local 569 congratulates class of 2007 apprentice graduates.

2007 graduates are: Brian Ahern, Bradley Andersen, Chad Barclay, Bryan Barsoom, Christian Carlson, Armond Clemons, Matthew Cotton, Jose Cuevas, Jessel Dattadeen, Susan Ertman, Adolfo Estremera III, Anthony Evans, Jeff Fields, Marcos Gallardo, Randall Galloway, Isai Garcia, Jose Garcia, Jason Garcia, Eliazar Garcia, Patrick Gauthier, Elias Gonzalez, Guillermo Gracia, Andrew Griffin, Jesus Guzman-Tirado, James Hansen, Kevin Hansen, Mark Haskins, Craig Holton, Kevin Hopkins, Ryan Houx, Enrique Ibanez, John King, II, Stuart Lee, Maximiliano Lopez, Michael Lovin, Jose Loza, Omar Lozano, Benjamin Matteson, Andrew McKercher, Sean McCarthy, Andrew Mendoza,

Andrew Mohr, Matthew Ogden, Ricardo Olivo, Wesley Parrott, Philip Pearce, Peter Perna, Chuck Plaistek, Gregg Prather, Craig Safley, Nicholas Scalone, Joseph Slayton, Christopher Smith, Jared Strong, Stephen Torres, James Truckenbrodt, David Wallace, Sean Webster, Kaipō Whittington and Keith Wilson.

Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.

Union Volunteers

L.U. 577 (em&i), APPLETON, WI—The work picture as of early September is still not very strong in the Fox Valley area. Two recent short-term manpower requests were filled using local help. Thanks to members who gave up part of their Labor Day weekend to keep a good, longtime customer making paper.

Local 577 received a framed Certificate of Appreciation from the Neenah—Menasha Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross asked for our assistance with its move from the second to the first floor in the E. D. Smith Community Building in Neenah. The new office space wasn't quite what was needed, so with all volunteer help, they relocated doors, walls and added a window. Our donation of time and expertise doing the electrical work was a big help. Thanks to Jerry Schraufnagel for helping me complete this work.

Data from August shows activity on the TruPro Web site is up for the month. In addition to the print media that we continue to use, a billboard was obtained along a busy stretch of highway in Northeast Wisconsin and I believe that has caught some attention. Watch for a new series of commercials to be aired this year on local television stations.

Greg Breaker, B.M.

Negotiations Under Way

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lectt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Congratulations to Local 611's newest journeyman linemen: Don Burton, Gilbert Martinez, Robert Salas, Joshua Staley and Emmanuel Valdez.

Our IBEW picnic on Sat., Aug. 25, was a terrific success. Members, families and friends of the IBEW gathered at the Jemez Co-op picnic grounds to eat and enjoy music and activities. There were many door prizes; the grand prize (a 42-inch LCD TV) went to David A. Marquez. A big thanks to this year's picnic committee: Paul Kress, Tim Beebe, Lloyd Beebe, Gloria Silver, Terry Peters, Randy Cummings, Adolph Chavez, Carl Condit and Bus. Mgr. Chris Frenznel.

Local 611 opened negotiations for the statewide inside electrical construction agreement on Aug. 2. On the committee are: Steve Horcheimer, Guillermo Trujillo, Lloyd Beebe, Tim Beebe, Carl Condit and Chris Frenznel; the apprentice observer is Ruben Lujan.



Attending Local 611 picnic are, from left: Bros. Alvin Lopez, Bus. Mgr. Chris Frenznel, Benji Ortiz, Kerry Shawn and Jerry Gregory.

Our condolences to the families of members who recently passed away: Joseph Bencsics Jr., Kenneth R. Edwards, Paul Graham, Bobby C. Vigil, Fred C. Gray, Roman K. Martinez, Mark M. Atencio, Lawrence A. Guttke, William J. Romero, Duane L. Tribble and J.G. Brunt.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 617 (e,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—The local held elections in June and officers were installed in July. Officers elected were: our new Bus. Mgr. Dominic Nolan, Pres. Mark Leach, Vice Pres. Daniel Pasini and Rec. Treas. D.J. Siegman. Also elected were Executive Board members Scott Wright, Bill Mendola, Paul Martin and Frank Thomas; and Examining Board members Long Nguyen, Paul Carrington and Joe Sweating.

Chuck Beering joined the staff as business representative. Dan Haggerty is now our membership development officer and Jacquelynn Harris is our new dispatcher and business representative. Our NECA chapter and the local assigned John Fitzpatrick as the new compliance officer; he will head the LMCC compliance program. Welcome to all the new faces. We also extend our gratitude to the previous administration for their hard work and will appreciate their continued support of Local 617.

Our local is almost a century in the making. The thought of eight visionaries convening one evening in 1908 and seeding the welfare of today's nearly 1,000 members and their families still inspires us today. What a remarkable achievement.

Pierre St-Cyr, P.S.

'Battle Still On'

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Congratulations to Bro. Harris LeFresne on his retirement.

The battle is still on to convince the Provincial Government to address the pension solvency issue. This issue affects all building trades with multi-employer plans, and the Mainland Nova Scotia Construction Building Trade Council is heading up the campaign. IBEW Local 625 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Cordell Cole is president of the council and chairs the committee for this effort.

Local 625 members thank Alberta Local 424 and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Local 2085 for the much awaited travel calls. The work situation remains slow in Nova Scotia. Members here are frustrated by all the talk of a "skilled labour shortage" and the perceived need to bring in "temporary foreign workers." The only shortage is in the nonunion



Local 625 Habitat for Humanity volunteers who worked on the finishing crew are, from left: Stephen Rogers, Mathew Rafuse, Bill MacEachern, Mark Kinslow, Liz Cummings and Dave Crane. Not pictured: Mike Davison and Tom Griffiths.

sector, and the workers they can't find anymore are those willing to work for low wages, no benefits and straight time weekends!

Another Habitat for Humanity house was completed in September. Volunteers for the rough-in were: Bros. Steve Abikhattar, Colin Binnington, Phil Foster, Paul Kamperman, Blair Mikkelson, Donny Snow, Ron Williamson and myself. (See photo of the finishing crew.) Thanks to all our volunteers, and also to IBEW Local 1928 and to contractors Bond & Coolen and Easco Electric for supplying electrical material.

Tom Griffiths, Pres.

Ameren Contract Ratified

L.U. 649 (i,lectt,o,rts,spa&u), ALTON, IL—Alton's annual Labor Day parade was well-supported by our attendance. Participating members and their families exceeded 250.

Utilities members ratified a five-year contract with Ameren. Maintenance workers on the Alton Belle casino project ratified a four-year contract with Argosy Casino.

Our work picture has been improving. We anticipate this to continue throughout the rest of the year.

JATC class sizes are larger than usual this year for inside wireman and VDV classifications. Bros. Gary Sammons and Frank Trost are instructing wiremen and John Holt is instructing VDV students. Their time spent serving the JATC and this local is greatly appreciated. Congratulations to James Palmer on completing requirements for journeyman trimmer.

Newly appointed Organizing Agent Ed Taylor is working with business groups that are building in our jurisdiction. The importance of using local union labor to gain our patronization of their services is being used as a tool. Ed is using hand-billing and informational pickets to show our concern with the development of our community.

Bryan Berg, P.S.

Contracts Ratified

L.U. 667 (u), PUEBLO, CO—At the August union picnic held in Pueblo West, many families enjoyed swimming, food and camaraderie. The horseshoe tournament was won by Guy Runco and Javier Quintana. The adult long-drive golf contest winner was Dennis Briggs, and the children's contest winner was Nicole Bellah. This year's picnic was a success in large part because of increased participation by our Asplundh Tree members and the volunteer work of all who helped, including: Ed Hammel, Ernie Aguilar, Billy Carbajal, Curtis Berry, Terri Clevenger, Samantha Bellah and Nicole Bellah.

Contract negotiations with San Isabel



Local 667 annual picnic horseshoe tournament winners and runners-up, from left: Royce Miell, second place; Javier Quintana and Guy Runco, first place; Ernie Aguilar, second place; and Mike Swanson, third place. Not pictured: John Zane, third place.

Electric were more difficult than in the past, but thanks to the negotiations committee—which included John Zane, Dennis Brgoch and Lonnie Rhodes—a fair contract was reached and has been ratified. Thanks to all the members at San Isabel for their patience during this long process. Members at Aquila Inc. also ratified a fair contract, which had many changes this year including the addition of short term disability. This negotiations committee included Pat Zamora, Sheldon Reeves and Steve Javernick. Thanks to all for your hard work.

Jerry Bellah, B.M./F.S.

Union Sends a Message

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—The annual family picnic was held July 20 at the Cheers Chalet in Lancaster, OH. Jerry Lang was picnic chairman. Plenty of food, fun and games for all.

The 2007 golf league concluded with the winning team of Dennis Nicodemus, Don Richardson, Bob Sheets and Pat Rockhold.

The Local 683 Retirees enjoyed a road trip Aug. 9 to Put In Bay on Lake Erie.

The unveiling of "Ralphy" the rat is shown in the accompanying photo. The rat has been making the rounds and is currently on a job site in downtown Columbus. Local 683 member Kenny Dean is pictured hoisting a sign to send a message.

Condolences to the families of recently deceased members Charles Patterson and Daniel Merchant.

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



Local 683 and "Ralphy" the rat send a union message.

Florida Labor Day Fest

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Local 915 celebrated Labor Day 2007 with the West Central Florida Federation of Labor and affiliated locals. Area unions and their families participated in the festivities including a barbecue, a carnival for the kids and a visit to exhibits showcasing Tampa Bay



Local 915 members and their families attend Labor Day picnic, from left: Matt Bell with young Matt Bell Jr., Tracy Pierce, P.D. Carlisle, Billy Keene, Roddy Alvarez, Randy Tew and Jim McKendree.

unions. It was great to see so many trades gathering for a day of solidarity and brotherhood.

Local 915 had a good turnout of members and their families for the Labor Day festivities. This event gets bigger each year and I encourage all members to join in the fun next year.

IBEW Locals 915, 108, and 824 also sponsored a Classic Car and Bike Show. In the Bike Show category, Bro. Mike Bell won a third place trophy and Bro. Jim Beam and Bro. Kelley Ramirez won an honorable mention ribbon. In the Classic Car Show category, Bro. Clyde Tucker, Bro. Ryan Jones and Bro. Randall King won an honorable mention ribbon. Congratulations, brothers!

Theresa King, P.S.

Prepared for Challenges

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o&u), LONG ISLAND, NY—In August, our largest employer, Keyspan, was acquired by National Grid. This is not the first time our members have experienced a transition such as this. Working for a new employer brings new corporate officers and new challenges, which we are prepared to take on. Prior to the completion of the acquisition, Bus. Mgr. Bob Shand was able to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU extends our collective bargaining agreement by three years. During these next three years we will endeavor to develop a good relationship with our new employer. During this time National Grid will see that we are a safe, highly skilled, diversified and productive work force.

We face other challenges as well. Next year over 400 of our craft and utility members will be eligible for retirement. We will host a series of benefit meetings to discuss the pension and medical benefits we have negotiated for our members through the years.

Another challenge we face is keeping our members informed. With the correct information, our members will be able to manage any potential

changes. The best way to get the correct information is to attend a general meeting. An informed membership will be a stronger membership.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

Vacaville Update

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—A recent Letter Agreement with Pacific Gas & Electric could ultimately lead to \$15-\$20 million in back payments to Local 1245 members for missed meals. The agreement was negotiated after state and federal court decisions prompted the union and the utility to review their approach to missed meal pay. The union is also studying meal payments at other represented employers affected by the court decisions.

A newly-elected Advisory Council was sworn into office. New members are Russ Blacker, Craig Combs, Will Durinick, Marty Finnerty, Al Fortier, Sam Gutierrez, Karan Matta, Richard Lane, Mike McKay, Norma Ricker and Mary Wise.



Local 1245 PG&E gas serviceman Ernie Mello, a 35-year IBEW member, was nominated for the IBEW Lifesaving Award for his successful efforts to revive a toddler who had fallen into a neighbor's swimming pool.

Local 1049 recently organized Looks Great Service, a line clearance tree trimmer contractor. Owner Kristian Agoglia (second from right) is pictured with some of the new Local 1049 members employed by the company.



Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell, Pres. Mike Davis and all other officers and Executive Board members were recently re-elected to office, with one exception: the Southern Area Executive Board position was won by Mike Jacobson. New unit officers were elected at many of Local 1245's 100-plus units.

Members at Sierra Pacific were among the first on the scene during a forest fire in South Lake Tahoe, CA. Troublemakers assessed damage and were quickly followed by line crews who set new poles.

At press time Outside Construction members were voting on a new "Member Down" Fund that would allow Outside Construction members to contribute 5 cents of their hourly wage to a fund to assist members, or their families, who have been seriously injured or killed.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.

Six Utility Members Retire

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Congratulations to recent retirees: Bill Smith, John "Jack" Wheeler, Bob Dickerson, Ed Dennis, George Brittingham and James Chandler.

Bro. Smith began work with Delmarva Power at Indian River Power Plant in 1968. He worked as auxiliary operator, power plant machinist and welder. He retired from Indian River Power Plant, now owned by NRG.

Bro. Wheeler started at Indian River Power Plant in 1976 and transferred to Rehoboth District as a groundman. He completed his apprentice program and became a journeyman lineman and lead lineman. He later worked in the Ocean City and Millsboro districts as trouble serviceman and engineering fieldman.

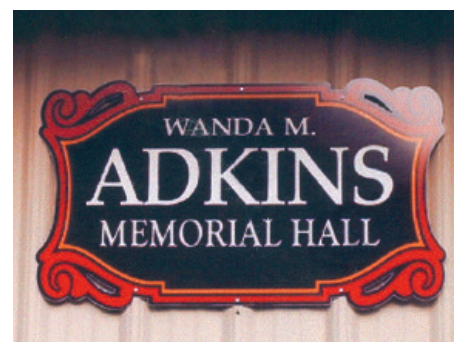
Bro. Dickerson began at Delmarva Power in 1968 and worked as service dispatcher. In the Meter Dept. he advanced to first-class meter tester.

Bro. Dennis began work as a junior clerk for Delmarva Power in 1963. He worked as stock handler and meter reader and advanced to a meter tech position.

Bro. Brittingham started with Delmarva Power at Vienna Power Plant in 1978. He worked in tree trimming and later as engineer's helper and field service person.

Bro. Chandler started as a building maintenance repairman 2nd class for Delmarva Power in 1988. He advanced to first-class and retired as a utility service person.

E.D. Sparks, F.S.



Local 1307 dedicated its union hall as the "Wanda M. Adkins Memorial Hall," in tribute to the late business manager/president, who passed away March 9, 2007.

IBEW Saves Lives

L.U. 1381 (uow), HICKSVILLE, NY—On Aug. 22, the NYS Public Service Commission unanimously voted to approve London-based National Grid's acquisition of KeySpan, the final regulatory approval required. Local 1381 currently represents 900 clerical/technical workers at KeySpan.

Recently Local 1381 and KeySpan had negotiated a contract extension, through February 2011, which included a no-layoff clause and retaining a customer call center on Long Island.

Additionally, Bus. Mgr. Donald Daley continues working closely with New York state senators in an effort to pass a Call Center Bill (S2007). This proposed NYS legislation will require utilities to maintain call centers in their respective service area.

Below is an excerpt of a letter from state Rep. Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) to Newsday entitled "Electrical Workers are Saving Lives."

"... Every day, phone operators of [IBEW] Local 1381 respond to calls about power outages and electrical emergencies. They live on Long Island and understand our unique geography and irregular roadways. They have relationships with the line crews, foremen and network dispatchers. They know what it takes to get the power back on quickly, which in some cases can save lives."

K. J. O'Connell, P.S.

St. Louis Update

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Effective July 1, we have a five-year contract with Ameren/UE. Our bargaining team and union officers went above and beyond the call with the effort they put into this agreement. Leo Beishir, John Desmond, Mike Walter and the Negotiations Committee are the ones who got it done prior to the expiration date.

Bus. Mgr. Beishir finished his tenure with a flare. He retired as of August 1. Thank you, Leo, for a job well-done.

Bro. Mike Walter, former business representative, was appointed business manager to fill the unexpired term. Mike is a good man and will serve our local well, with the support of the membership. As union members all, let's remember that we all serve and support each other.

As a follow up to our contract negotiations, the company (Ameren/UE) and union have initiated a dialogue pertaining to the IBEW Major Medical Family Healthcare Plan for the local unions with utility jurisdiction. As our discussions continue, our progress or difficulties will be reported to the membership. Local 1439 also plans to become active in the development of an IBEW training center in the Midwest for the utility industry. Again, our progress will be reported.

Remember our brothers and sisters in arms.

Ken Carroll, P.S.

Union Stewards All

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—We welcome our new Bus. Mgr. Merv Wiltshire and all our newly elected officers. They bring a combined total of 206 years of union experience.

As our local continues to support all our members, we can move forward and watch our union grow stronger. Come and get involved.



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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Edwin D. Hill
International President

Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

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Third District
John R. Clarke

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THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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C. James Spellane

Mark Brueggenjohann

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Malinda Brent

Len Shindel

Carol Fisher

Alex Hogan

Elizabeth Pultar

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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

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

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FROM THE OFFICERS**No Price Tag on Consumer Safety**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Wal-Mart's chief executive recently defended his company's reliance on Chinese imports, saying that it is necessary in order to offer consumers the lowest price.

But this summer, the American consumer found out that the low price tag came with a hidden cost, one that put every American—especially our children—at risk.

Fisher-Price recalled nearly a million preschool toys that were made in China, after they were found to contain a dangerous amount of lead. Tens of thousands of Chinese-made baby bibs were taken off the market after they were discovered to have high levels of poisonous chemicals. Candies, toothpaste, and tires imported from China were also found to be unsafe.

With the trade deficit with China hitting a record \$233 billion, the problem will only grow. As Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) recently put it: "It's bad enough that we have a record trade deficit with China. It's even worse that [it's] threatening the safety and health of American consumers."

Despite the fact that the number of recalled Chinese-made products has doubled in the last five years, the Bush administration has continued to cut the number of safety inspectors. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has a staff that is half the size it was in 1980.

We know how devastating trade deals like NAFTA have been to North American jobs. We are seeing the other side of unregulated trade, as cheaply-made imports flood our markets.

A century ago the muckraking writer Upton Sinclair exposed the horrendous working and safety conditions in the meatpacking industry—conditions that the young labor movement had been fighting—leading to the creation of the Food and Drug Administration. In our time, unions talked about the dangers of offshoring work to nations with low labor and safety standards, only to be derided as "protectionist." It turns out that we all need protection from toxic products. Fair trade advocates need to fight for similar consumer safeguards on a global scale. We can only get these protections if Washington is willing to stand up against trade policies that have gutted pro-worker and pro-consumer regulations. No price tag should ever be put on a guarantee that the food we eat and the toys our children play with are truly safe. ■

A Shameful Decision

As George W. Bush's favorable ratings continue to languish, and his lame-duck status grows every day, his appointees are shoving poisonous changes down the throats of those who have turned against him. One of the most glaring examples was a ruling by the Bush-dominated National Labor Relations Board in early October.

The board, in a 3-2 opinion, set aside 40 years of legal precedent covering situations in which employers voluntarily agree to recognize a collective bargaining unit after a majority of workers in a bargaining unit sign authorization cards. Voluntary recognition has helped to spread the wages, benefits and workplace justice to tens of thousands of workers.

Majority sign-up is a proven alternative to NLRB elections, which are often marked by hostility between employers and unions that damages relationships for years after the elections.

Now, with the board's opinion, a 30-percent minority of workers will be able to stop voluntary recognition and demand an election, even if the parties are already in first contract negotiations.

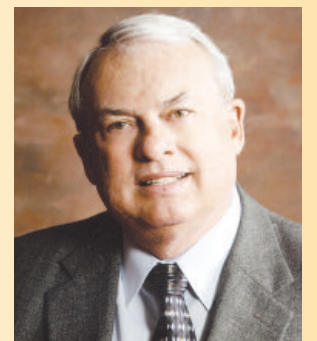
When unions and employers work through our differences, our nation's economy thrives. So it takes a Halloween bag full of tricks to make this NLRB decision look like a treat.

Leave that to the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation that brought the new cases before the board. The organization praises the NLRB for protecting workers from unions who "browbeat [the] employees to sign union cards." They even say that the decision will shelter anti-union workers from "captive audience" meetings held by unions. These lies don't wash.

Unions don't win organizing drives by browbeating workers. We win by painstaking effort and respect for their needs. And workers can only be held captive in meetings by employers who force them to be there on company time and wield the power to threaten their jobs.

Corporate law firms are cheering the NLRB's decision. But they are warning that unions will be stepping up their efforts to elect a Congress that will pass a veto-proof Employee Free Choice Act, which would, among other things, provide for the board to approve card check recognition with no hitches.

Let's not disappoint them. The election is one year from this month, so let's get ready. ■



Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

The Heart of Brotherhood

I am writing to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for the power of the union and its Brotherhood. My husband is an apprentice and relatively new to the union but this did not seem to matter to the Brotherhood when our daughter was born on June 10, two and a half months early, and weighing only 2 pounds, 12 ounces.

She was transferred from our local hospital to the IWK Health Center (Atlantic Canada's pediatric hospital) via Life Flight (she was too critical to travel by ambulance). Baby Abigail's lungs collapsed, she developed hydrocephalus, which resulted in two neuro surgeries, and she has also suffered many major infections during her struggle. We spent eight long weeks in hospital away from our home town and in a different province. We were eventually discharged home with our beautiful baby a month later (three months in total).

Needless to say, my husband needed to take some time off from work during this scary and difficult time. The members of (St. John, New Brunswick) Local 502 were quick to show us that we were not alone. They offered us emotional support, prayer and plenty of financial support, which was a great relief, as we had to sustain ourselves in one province as well as our home back in New Brunswick. There seemed to be no end to their amazing generosity!

Thank you to all Local 502 members. You have truly made an impact in our lives, one that will be with us forever. Abigail now weighs in at 7 pounds, 10 ounces.



Tina Landry

Spouse of Local 502 member Rick Learmonth, St. John, New Brunswick

Skewed Priorities?

Well, brothers and sisters, I try to keep an eye out for all of my union members. This week President Bush vetoed a bill for health coverage for children. Bush said \$6 billion for five years; Congress wanted \$35 billion. So he did not veto the \$127 billion for Iraq. Wealth and war mean more than health care for the less fortunate. What are his priorities?

Daniel Capozzi

Local 94 member, Cranbury, N.J.

Good Work

I enjoyed the new "Electrical Worker." It's a great format. Keep up the splendid work.

Roy R. Weipert

Local 639 member, San Luis Obispo, Calif.

What Do You Think?

Due to production schedules and time constraints, we will now print responses to "What Do You Think?" on the Web site. To review responses to earlier questions and to answer the following query, go to www.ibew.org.

This month's question:

How should we teach young people about the importance of the labor movement?

Who We Are

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

Fallen But Not Forgotten

It was 1917. World War I was ripping across Europe.

Frank Lewis Burghardt, a 31 year-old lineman in Missoula, Mont., Local 408, probably felt lucky that he wasn't headed for combat. But Burghardt's luck ran out instantly on August 27 when he was fatally electrocuted on the job. He was buried in Missoula's cemetery, with a temporary concrete marker above his plot.

There he lay for 90 years, a forgotten statistic of a perilous time, until a family looking for its roots and a local union reaching into its soul collected the memories and the marble to honor Frank Burghardt's life.

The steps to building a new monument for Burghardt took shape in Talking Point, Ga., where Al Rothe, and his wife Donna, AT&T retirees and former CWA members, were researching Donna's family tree.

After checking records in several states, they found a death certificate for Burghardt, Donna's grandmother's brother who was born in the mining town of Rico, Colo. The certificate read: "Cause of death—accidentally coming in contact with a live wire," and noted that his funeral was paid for by Missoula Local 408. After his death, Burghardt's climbing gear was sent to his father's address in Oregon.

An Internet search of Local 408 (amalgamated with Kalispell Local 768 in 1979) led the Rothes to Local 768's Business Manager Larry Langley.

"Anyone who appreciates labor history knows that in the early days of our union, one of the benefits of membership was the death benefit, a benefit utilized far too often in those days of unsafe work rules, before our union succeeded in the fight for job safety," says Langley.

In his reply to Al and Donna Rothe, Langley asked if they would allow Local 768 to raise funds to replace Burghardt's marker with a permanent stone. The Rothes and family members in Oregon donated some to the effort and thanked Langley for offering to raise the rest.

Langley read the correspondences with the Rothe family at a union meeting and asked for funds to be allocated to pay for a new stone. "The membership responded in the manner one would expect from IBEW brothers and sisters,"



says Langley. Two members of the local, located 120 miles north of Missoula, immediately made a personal donation and funds were transferred from the general fund.

"We were so delighted that we found Frank Burghardt and so proud of Local 768 for what they did," says Al Rothe.

The Rothes desired a simple stone and suggested the language: "Laid to rest by his union brothers of IBEW Local 408." Langley says that the workers at Garden City Monument Co. were touched by Burghardt's story and took extra care in etching a lineman climbing a pole into the stone.

Further research by Langley found that Burghardt, the descendent of a wealthy family from Great Barrington, Mass. that ventured west in the Colorado Gold Rush., was buried in a section of the Missoula Cemetery that had been purchased by the city's central labor council for members of the area's unions.

"To me, what we did for Brother Frank was little more than fulfilling the promise made to him in the early days of the 20th century," says Langley. "It's an honor for us to have a small part in finishing a task started 90 years ago." ■

Get Connected

If you would like to receive your Electrical Worker via e-mail instead of in your mailbox, contact us at publications@ibew.org. Give us your name, IBEW local union number, card number and e-mail address and we will send you the link to access *The Electrical Worker* electronically.

Local Lines

continued from page 13

At times we as individuals may think our small suggestions aren't significant, but several other members out there are probably thinking the same thing and wanting to ask the same questions. When your steward approaches you for help in recruiting, don't think that you have nothing to offer. Just knowing your rights as an employee covered by the union contract is one of the most important things to know. We should all be good stewards of our local. Watch for our local's newsletter, which will be coming out soon. Good communication is at the heart of any endeavor.

Congratulations to Sam Salas for completing his apprenticeship and advancing to journeyman status.

With safety and good work as your goal, we know that you will all do great. See you at the next meeting.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

Projects Going Strong

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—Local 1579's work picture looks strong. We have several projects coming up that should clear Book I, and hopefully put many traveling brothers and sisters to work.

Many ongoing projects are still going strong. Van Ert completed three diaper machines at Kimberly Clark and work there should continue until after December 2007. United at Augusta Mall and A&H at T-Mobile have also been very

welcomed projects in our jurisdiction.

Congratulations to all members who recently received service pins. George Barnes and Johnnie Russell were recognized for 60 years of service. Additional pin recipients included 49 members who received 55-year pins and eight members who received 50-year pins. Thanks to all for your service.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

Kentucky Activists

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—A public hearing was held at the Henderson County courthouse in June, conducted by the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet (EPPC), a state agency. The purpose of the meeting was to take questions and comments from area residents prior to issuance of permits for the Cash Creek powerhouse locating in the county.

Local 1701 Bus. Mgr. Gary Osborne gave a presentation to the cabinet in support of the powerhouse project. The building trades and Local 1701 members packed the courthouse. We thank all who attended.

We hope by the time you read this, the state of Kentucky will have elected Democrat Steve Beshear as governor replacing Ernie Fletcher (R). Our get-out-the-vote team for the Nov. 6 gubernatorial election has been very active staffing phone banks and walking precincts. We thank retired and active members for their effort.

Our newly elected Executive Board filled local union positions that remained vacant after our local union elections held in June. Appointed were: Rec. Sec. Mike Roby, Executive Board member Terry Stearsman and Examining Board member Tim Blandford.

In sadness we report the passing of Bro. Glenn Ford. May he rest in peace.

Remember to attend your union meetings, held the third Monday of each month.

Tim Blandford, P.S.

Appointed to Office

L.U. 1749 (u), NEW JOHNSONVILLE, TN—Congratulations to our two newly appointed officers, Bus. Mgr./Pres. Chester "Kim" Dawson and E-Board member Mike Finley.

Bro. Dawson, a longtime member, has served as Unit 1 chair for Local 1749 and as shop steward for operators at Allen Steam plant. He also served as TVA police officer and has many years as a good IBEW member.

Bro. Mike Finley formerly served as steward/instructor, E-Board member and JATC member for Nashville Local 429. He has been an A-member of Local 1749 and assistant unit operator at Cumberland Generating Station for three years.



Local 1749 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Chester "Kim" Dawson (right) swears in E-Board member Mike Finley.

Both these gentlemen have been faithful and active IBEW members for years. We wish them all the best in their new positions.

Hope everyone had a chance to go to the Labor Day rally sponsored by Montgomery County Democrats, Nashville AFL/CIO Central Labor Council and affiliated unions.

Stay informed about working family issues, register and vote. If you have any problems getting registered, please notify me and I will help you out!

Mark J. DeJuliis, P.S./COPE Registrar

Verizon Rally

L.U. 2325 (t), WORCESTER, MA—A rally was held Aug. 2 to mark one year until the expiration of our current collective bargaining agreement with Verizon. The rally took place in front of Verizon's New England headquarters in Boston. The turnout was good, with IBEW members from throughout New England traveling to take part in the mobilization kickoff. Bus. Mgr. Dave Keating and two busloads of Local 2325 members were in attendance. Rousing speeches by IBEW System Council T-6 Chmn. Myles Calvey, Boston Local 2222 Pres. Ed Fitzpatrick and a statement from Sen. Ted Kennedy were among the rally highlights. Workers from Verizon Business, who are currently fighting Verizon for their right to organize, were also present at the rally and will likewise be mobilizing for 2008. We remind all members that we are engaged in the fight of our lives and point out that there has never been a better time to get involved in your union.

Paul Mark, P.S.

You Get the Picture

The IBEW photo contest is again seeking your photos of life as an IBEW member. Photos do not have to be new, but they must have an IBEW theme, be it an IBEW member at work, at a union activity or an image of the industry. (See complete rules below.)

In the past, our photo contests have reflected the impressive field of this membership's photographic talent. Winners will be printed in the Winter 2008 issue of the *Journal*.

SO GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT.

PRIZES

1st Place — \$200

2nd Place — \$150

3rd Place — \$100

Honorable Mention — \$50

(Note- There will be as many honorable mentions as the judges deem worthy.)

RULES

1. The photo contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photograph must be the one who took the photograph.
2. International Officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Submissions can be in color or black and white, on slides, 300 dpi tif file, or glossy prints. The preferred print size is 8x10.
4. All submissions become the property of the IBEW *Journal* and Media Relations Department.
5. Photos must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union related activity, or still subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or purpose of the gathering (e.g., a safety committee, a linemen's rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
7. Photos previously published in the IBEW *Journal* are not eligible for submission.
8. Please fill out the IBEW CONTEST ENTRY FORM and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest, and mail photo(s) to the IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.
9. All entries must be postmarked no later than November 21, 2007.



**DEADLINE
EXTENDED!**
Nov. 21, 2007

IBEW® CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/PROVINCE _____

ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

LOCAL UNION NO. _____

IBEW CARD NO. (IMPORTANT) _____

HOME PHONE NO. _____

**Fill out this form and attach it to the back of each entry and mail to:
The IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001**