

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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## Steel Salvaged from World Trade Center Builds USS New York

IBEW members at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems' shipyard in Avondale, La., take pride exhibiting their skills to the world with the launching of each new naval vessel. With the completion of the USS New York, a 684-foot long, 105-foot wide, vessel built to support amphibious assaults by the Marines, their pride turned to humility.

The bow that welcomed the traditional shower of champagne at the March 1 christening on the banks of the Mississippi River in New Orleans was forged in a Louisiana foundry out of twisted steel salvaged from ground zero at the World Trade Center. The ship's motto, displayed on a banner at the christening, is "Never forget." Hundreds of families of 9/11 victims witnessed the ceremonies.

"It is more than fitting that the same shipyard workers who restored the USS Cole and returned it to service three days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, have now built another vessel whose very soul is a monument to the heroes and victims of that day," says Chico McGill, director of Government Employees, and a former business manager of Pascagoula, Miss., Local 733. Seventeen sailors died in a 2000 terrorist attack on the USS Cole in Yemen.

At peak construction, up to 200 IBEW members worked on the billion-dollar USS New York, on projects that included the installation and testing of highly classified, sensitive electronics, advanced weapons and propulsion systems. Crews began work on the



Thousands gather on March 1 in New Orleans for the christening of the USS New York, whose bow contains steel from the World Trade Center.

ship in 2004 and were put to the test after Hurricane Katrina.

"I just wish the speakers at the christening had said a little more about what folks at the shipyard are still going through trying to rebuild their lives after Katrina," says Merlin Farria, assistant business manager of Unit 6, Local 733, who attended the event representing the union.

Ron Ault, president of the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, paid tribute to members of the metal trades who work in noisy, dangerous, heavy industrial environments with high humidity and air temperatures often hovering near 100 degrees, citing the example of J.F. Martinez, a shipfitter/welder

and a member of Boilermakers Local Union 1814. Martinez, who helped weld steel from the World Trade Center into the bow, is still living in a FEMA furnished trailer.

The USS New York will be commissioned in New York City in 2009 and based in Norfolk, Va. The ship, which can travel in excess of 22 knots (24.2 mph), will accommodate the simultaneous launching and recovery of four Sea Knight helicopters or two Osprey tilt rotor aircraft. The vessel, carrying 24,900 tons at full load, will accommodate up to 800 troops and 360 sailors. The prospective commanding officer is Commander F. Curtis Jones, a native New Yorker. ■

# Verizon-FairPoint Deal Approved; Union Objections Win Key Concessions

**M**ore than a year of an all-out campaign ended on Feb. 25, when FairPoint Communications cleared its final hurdle to purchase Verizon's land lines operations in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission approved the \$2.35 billion deal. With that, the IBEW and the Communications Workers of America, which together represent 2,500 workers in those states, have vowed to work with the new company to move forward.

"I want to assure everyone that we will do everything possible to work constructively with Verizon and FairPoint for a smooth transition," said Frank Carroll, vice president of the IBEW's New England region. "Our members will work with our new employer and regulators to ensure that customers obtain the highest quality and most advanced services that FairPoint can provide."

Although the unions worked for more than a year to stop the deal, the new attitude toward what will become the eighth largest telecommunications company in the country reflects the mutual respect gained in tough bargaining that produced key improvements to the deal that will help both union members and customers in the states.

The New Hampshire PUC acknowledged labor's contribution to the debate in its Feb. 25

decision: "Although they did not endorse the settlement agreement, in our judgment the labor intervenors' participation was key to the improved outcome."

Those "labor intervenors" were able to wrangle \$362 million more out of Verizon toward the deal, and convince FairPoint to cut its dividends by at least \$200 million to reduce its debt load.

Manchester, N.H., Local 2320 Business Manager Glenn Brackett praised those who spoke up to oppose the sale. "We can take comfort in knowing that because of our involvement, FairPoint will be stronger financially than it would have been under the original deal."

FairPoint, based in Charlotte, N.C., will increase its size fivefold with this purchase. The deal is expected to close on March 31. IBEW leaders are already talking to their counterparts at FairPoint. Those efforts are expected to intensify once the transaction is complete.

While the IBEW does what it can to smooth the transition to new ownership, some longtime members have decided to opt for retirement. International Representative Bob Erickson, a former Verizon technician and business agent at Manchester, N.H., Local 2320, said the concern is that a great deal of institutional knowledge of the lines will go with

them. "They are mentors for a lot of the younger people," Erickson said. "FairPoint may have a problem replacing them in the near term."

But, as many expressed during the past year, these employees are worried about their health insurance and pension benefits under a new owner. "There is a lot of apprehension about whether pensions and retiree benefits will remain intact," said Telecommunications Department Director Martha Pultar.

FairPoint agreed during the approval process to expand broadband availability in Northern New England with high-speed video capability, which would translate into

more opportunities for members. "We are hopeful that FairPoint will introduce next-generation technology," IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill said.

Now the unions and community activists and residents will closely watch FairPoint to ensure that it follows through on its commitment to the three states. But for now, at least some are giving the company the benefit of the doubt. "Telephone customers in Northern New England are better off with a telephone company that is publicly committed to serving the state than with one that was looking for a way to unload this part of its business," an editorial in the Burlington (Vermont) Free Press said. ■

## Washington Workers Win Neutrality, Organize FairPoint

In 2006, Matt Carroll, president of Seattle Local 89, called FairPoint, then a rapidly-growing 900-employee company, to talk about representing the company's workers. FairPoint's managers said, "We don't talk to unions." The local union went on to hold a representation election at FairPoint's subsidiary in Ellensburg, Wash. and lost the vote.

A year after losing the election, Seattle Local 89 took another shot at organizing Ellensburg's linemen, cable splicers and central office workers. This time, led by a new labor relations and human resources staff and a new chief operating officer, FairPoint took a different approach.

Carroll and Local 89 Business Manager Ray Egelhoff met with FairPoint. In the fall of 2007, after contacting other employers who maintain collective bargaining agreements with Local 89, FairPoint signed a neutrality agreement providing for a "positive" organizing campaign.

Each party agreed to review the literature put out by the other during the drive. FairPoint even extended the union the opportunity to meet with bargaining unit forces on company property during working hours to answer questions. In December, Ellensburg's workers voted 18 to 5 for union representation.

Old-fashioned IBEW solidarity spread the union's influence to nearby Yelm Telephone Co., a former family-owned company that was purchased by FairPoint six years ago. Chris Martin, an organizer with Seattle Local 77, had spoken to a fellow parishioner of his church, a Yelm retiree, about organizing. The retiree spoke to some active employees like Jim Holmes, a 12-year combination technician, who joined the union's efforts at Yelm after he heard about the Ellensburg campaign.

In December, workers at Yelm voted 10 to 9 for IBEW representation. Despite the close vote, Holmes expects more of his co-workers will appreciate the benefits of organization after a first contract is negotiated.

Carroll is now getting phone calls from nonunion FairPoint workers in other regions of the country who want to organize. He hopes that Local 89's experience will set an example.

"FairPoint didn't have to sign a neutrality agreement," says Carroll. "We have a lot of contentious issues on the table in first contract negotiations, but I told them that if they work with us, we'll work with them." ■



### Union Leaders of the Future Scholarship®

Embracing its mission to enhance the value of union membership and support a stronger labor movement, Union Privilege is launching a scholarship program to help more women and people of color become union leaders.

[www.UnionPlus.org/DiversityScholarship](http://www.UnionPlus.org/DiversityScholarship)

The Union Leaders of the Future scholarships, worth up to \$3,000 each, can be used for tuition, books and travel for leadership training at accredited labor schools, colleges, universities and community colleges.

Women and people of color should visit [www.UnionPlus.org/DiversityScholarship](http://www.UnionPlus.org/DiversityScholarship) to learn more about the program and application information.

This scholarship is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.



All applications must be postmarked by May 30, 2008.

# Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Charts Advances

The success of any conference of activists can be measured by what participants do when they get back home. If Linda Knolton's activities are any indication, the 18th Annual Leadership Conference of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, held in Los Angeles in mid-January, marked a major advance.

Knolton, a member of San Antonio, Texas, Local 500, immediately started organizing an EWMC chapter after she returned home from her first national conference.

Over 150 members participated in a community service day followed by plenary sessions and workshops under the theme, "Building Power to Make the Dream a Reality."

Delegates cheered the formation of an IBEW committee on diversity and inclusion that was proposed in a meeting last year between President Hill, EWMC President Robbie Sparks and caucus members. And they applauded efforts to increase minority representation on the Membership Development staff and other steps to comply with the resolution on diversity and inclusion passed in 2006 at the 37th International Convention.

Knolton, who 10 years ago helped recruit 273 fellow office workers at CPS Energy to join a 60-year-old IBEW bargaining unit at the utility, was impressed that L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other political leaders addressed the conference.

"It says a lot about the reputation of the caucus," noted Knolton, who is planning to include both veterans and newer members on the steering committee of her local chapter to maintain continuity and facilitate growth.

Sparks hosted a meeting for chapter presidents and a youth caucus welcomed members between 18 and 36 years of age. Speakers and workshops—chaired by experts from progressive organizations and IBEW leaders from all levels—addressed immediate questions facing EWMC members, including immigration, building bridges in the community and mobilizing for the upcoming presidential elections.

The EWMC executive board and chapter presidents attended a training session provided by the Breakthrough Leadership Training Institute founded by Sparks, retired Fifth District International Vice President Mel Horton and retired Director of Human Services Royetta Sanford. (See "Breakthrough Leadership Training Institute Empowers Future Leaders," *The Electrical Worker*, December 2007).

A workshop entitled "Keeping It Real," embodied the practical tone of the conference as members discussed strategies for increasing minority participation in the union. Eric Brown, treasurer of L.A. Local 11, one of the sponsoring locals, told workshop

participants that—despite Local 11's celebrated progress in building a diverse membership—there are still obstacles that must be overcome.

Brown, a co-recipient of the EWMC Award of National Recognition, said there will always be some members who try to stand in the way of progress, but "we have to push through our discouragement."

Members often don't want to support a mentoring program or build a new EWMC chapter. "But if we gain respect because we have been working for change, when the elevator hits the third floor, others will get on," he said.

In his keynote speech, International President Edwin D. Hill said, "I believe that the final judgment of the diversity resolution passed in Cleveland will be based not on the words it contained but on what we make of it." Hill outlined a series of

actions already under way to comply with the resolution, including the new committee on diversity.

Thirty percent of organizers hired for the Membership Development program, said Hill, are drawn from minority members and a course is being developed on diversity for all organizers and International staff.

"Training and mentoring have been part of the IBEW tradition since the beginning, but I recognize that many have reaped the benefit of these actions because they looked and sounded like those doing the training and mentoring," Hill said. "We want to develop ways to make sure



Dublin, Calif., Local 595 apprentice Rachel Bryan and Recording Secretary Earl Hampton participate in the community workday kicking off the annual EWMC conference.

that all IBEW members feel a strong sense of belonging in their own union—no excuses." ■

## Diversity Committee Aims for Minority Participation

Karen Stoshnof and Clarence Larkin live 2,500 miles apart but, as they sat across from each other at the first meeting of IBEW's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, they found much more in common than the challenges they surmounted rising to leadership of their local unions.

Stoshnof, assistant business manager of Calgary, Alberta, Local 254 and Larkin, business manager and president of Laurel, Miss., Local 1317, are both facing what Stoshnof calls "the changing fabric of who we are."

Planeloads of skilled workers from the Philippines and other nations are landing in Alberta to fill positions for linemen and other trades left vacant by a growing labor shortage. In the South, Hispanic workers are joining native-born workers at manufacturing plants like Howard Industries, where Local 1317 recently organized 400 new members.

"How does the IBEW get ahead of the demographic changes and become a reflection of our society?" asks Stoshnof.

The Committee on Diversity and Full Inclusion, formed to implement changes called for in a resolution passed at the 37th International Convention, aims to increase the active participation of more minority members at all levels of the IBEW. President Hill appointed Chicago Local 134 Assistant Business Manager Russell Ponder chairman. Members point to dynamic changes like those in Canada and Mississippi as closely connected challenges and opportunities.

After a strategic planning session facilitated by Education Department Director Jan Schwingshagl, committee members discussed different issues and problems.

Those breakout discussions, says Human Services Department Director Carolyn Williams, were only the first part of the strategic planning process. The members recognize the importance of their work and the opportunity it provides to establish realistic goals for the "growth and sustainability of the IBEW."

"I've watched the IBEW change," says Lorraine Tinsley, business manager of Hartford, Conn., Local 1040, a 40-year member of the Brotherhood. "Now I have the opportunity to put my two cents in. I'm lucky to be part of this committee."



The Committee on Diversity and Full Inclusion includes, from front left, Carolyn Williams, Director, Department of Human Services; Sabrina Hernandez, business representative, San Francisco Local 6; Karen Stoshnof, assistant business manager, Calgary, Alberta, Local 254; Lorraine Tinsley, business manager, Hartford, Conn., Local 1040. Second row from left are Javier Casas, business manager, El Paso, Texas, Local 583; Michael Yee, treasurer, New York Local 3; Clarence Larkin, president, Laurel, Miss., Local 1317; Ninth District International V.P. Michael Mowrey. Third row from left are: Greg Lucero, Sixth District IEC member; Sixth District International V.P. Jeff Lohman; Russell Ponder, assistant business manager, Chicago Local 134; Pat Lavin, Seventh District IEC member; Victor Uno, business manager, Dublin, Calif., Local 595.

Not pictured are Marvin Kropke, business manager, L.A. Local 11; Robert Klein, Tenth District International V.P. and Phil Flemming, First District International V.P.

## San Antonio Organizing Keeps the Heat on CPS Energy

**M**ore than 250 white collar workers at CPS Energy are now members of San Antonio Local 500, thanks to an internal organizing drive that began last fall.

The local has long represented maintenance workers, linemen and other blue collar hourly employees at the nation's largest municipally owned power company, but never had a presence among the utility's salaried work force.

Soon after taking office last July, Local 500 Business Manager Gary Kirby sat down with Seventh District International Representative Ralph Merriweather and Region 4 Lead Organizer Kitty Prouse to create an ambitious internal organizing campaign to target the more than 1,500 workers at CPS Energy's downtown office.

"We knew they wanted representation, but we never made an effort to reach out to them, and that had to change," Kirby said.

Texas labor law allows all municipal employees the right of union representation without regard to their wage status. The local mailed CPS employees a letter informing them of their rights, which they followed up with site visits.

The response was overwhelming. "New members started recruiting their co-workers, who would then go out and start recruiting on their own," Merriweather said. "We got

most of them organized before the company could figure out what was going on."

More than 30 stewards were recruited and given a crash course in internal organizing and labor law.

One of the top priorities for the new members is stopping the company's planned departmental restructuring, the details of which have not been released to employees or the union. "They want to keep their agenda hidden from employees because it involves layoffs and forcing longtime workers to reapply for their jobs," Kirby said. "It's downsizing, plain and simple."

Despite the local's organizing success, CPS Energy has refused to recognize Local 500's right to represent the new salaried members. Management still won't allow stewards to file grievances or to be present at disciplinary hearings and prevented members from posting union messages on the company bulletin board.

The local has also accused CPS Energy of unfairly targeting new union members, particularly minorities and older employees, for termination. "Right now, working here is like Russian roulette because you don't know when you could be fired or transferred," Kirby said.

The fight made the local media when it was revealed that a CPS Energy manager with authority over white collar employees had for years displayed a noose on his desk. "No community can tolerate this kind of hatefulness in a public agency. It symbolized the culture of

repression towards minority workers," Merriweather told the San Antonio Express-News. The noose was removed, but the manager stayed on, even receiving a promotion.

The continued harassment of union members and management's refusal to reveal details of its planned workplace changes led the local to file an open lawsuit against CPS Energy in U.S. District Court. The IBEW has filed 25 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charges on behalf of CPS Energy employees.

Local 500 also prepared a complaint for the U.S. Attorney General's Office alleging the company violated labor and civil rights laws of more than 90 employees.

Despite management's opposition, the local continues to sign up new members. "Often we're here until late at night, meeting with workers who want to join," Kirby said. "We'll meet with anyone at any time of the



San Antonio Local 500 members organize material for a stewards training at the municipal utility.

day to make sure that all CPS Energy employees are represented."

The local is also in the process of creating a chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus to be called the Local 500 Electrical Workers Minority Coalition. ■

## Contract Renewed at Kentucky Okonite Plant

**I**BEW members employed by Richmond, Kentucky's Okonite Co. ratified a five-year contract on March 3 that includes a 16 percent wage increase over the life of the contract and improvements to pension and life insurance benefits.

Dental care benefits were tripled, but the company insisted on employees taking a bigger responsibility for health care premiums. Early retiree health care – for workers aged 60-65 – was also cut, although union leaders held that provision off until 2012. The company had wanted to make that change immediately, said IBEW Manufacturing Department International Representative Randal Middleton.

"Retiree health benefits are under attack everywhere," Middleton said.

Labor bargained in a coalition that included Richmond Local 2356, a steelworkers unit in Paterson, N.J., and IBEW Local 1196, representing 85 members in Ashton,

R.I., whose contract expires next January.

The contract also calls for dependent health care for a disabled employee be limited to five years, and require 20 years of service for eligibility.

All in all, Middleton said, it was a fair contract for the wire and cable industry, where other companies pay workers \$12 hourly, while IBEW members of Richmond Local 2356 make an average of \$18. Workers also receive generous benefits from the employee stock ownership plan. Okonite has been an employee-owned business since 1976 and has been in the wire and cable industry since 1878.

The nearly 240 IBEW members at Richmond also received a \$1,000 ratification bonus and a \$1,000 enhancement on life insurance per year. The pension increase reaches \$2 per month for each year of service by the end of the contract. ■

## Political Effort Clinches Contract at Government Printing Office

**N**ineteen months after commencing negotiations over wages at the Government Printing Office, 60 members of Washington, D.C., Local 121 won a new contract in March providing for a 21 percent increase over five years. To break the logjam over negotiations, the local, with support from the International Office, successfully lobbied the Committee on House Administration, which oversees the GPO.

The hefty wage settlement includes the termination of a two-tiered pay structure that was established after the last negotiation. The pact, which enhanced respect for the union, is boosting an internal campaign to sign up nonmembers at GPO.

Robert Tapella, the public printer of the United States, took a hard line in negotiations and tried to impose a settlement that had previously been reached with six other unions at the printing office, says Local 121 Business Manager Bill Blevins. The IBEW unit at the GPO is one of only a few in the entire federal sector that bargains over wages rather than having them mandated by the federal wage system.

Local and International representatives met with Stanley White, chief of staff for Committee on House Administration Chairman Robert Brady (D-Pa.), and asked for the committee's support, suggesting that

meaningful negotiations would be preferable to federal mediation, which the union had already requested.

Within days after the Capitol Hill meeting, Tapella assigned his chief of staff, Maria Lefevre, to take over negotiations. The parties agreed on ground rules for 10 days of negotiations, agreeing to summon a federal mediator if no settlement was reached in that time frame. The settlement is retroactive to June 2007.

"Good faith bargaining only happened because members at the GPO stood their ground," says Dennis Phelps, International Representative, IBEW Government Employees Department, a former business manager of Local 121. The local's bargaining committee, supported by Blevins, Ed Witkowski, the local's vice president, and Fourth District International Representative Jim Kaufman "showed what teamwork is all about," says Phelps.

Local 121 members, who include electricians, stationary engineers, elevator mechanics, planners and schedulers at the GPO's four-building complex in Washington, D.C., and a remote facility in Stennis, Miss., maintain printing presses and other equipment used to produce the Federal Budget, the Congressional Record, passports and hundreds of government publications. ■

## North of 49°

# Ontario Local Riding Green Wave with Wind Turbines, Solar Panels

**H**amilton, Ontario, Local 105 scored a hat trick last October when three new wind turbines went online at their training center.

In addition to powering the center and serving as a large spinning virtual billboard that says that the IBEW is the place to go for wind power, the turbines provide hands-on practice material for Local 105 journeymen and apprentices who want to learn about renewable energy.

"It's the one of the few facilities in Canada that is capable of training skilled workers in renewable energy technology," said Local 105 Business Manager John Grimshaw.

The three turbines come in different sizes to give members experience working with different models. The largest turbine is more than 80 feet, the average size for industrial sites, while the smallest is 30 feet, which is used for residential power.

Local 105 Training Director Clarke Hurley said he hopes to start classes in the fall.

Local 105's renewable energy system is the result of a partnership between the federal government and the local. The former

Liberal government of Prime Minister Paul Martin had earmarked \$25 million for the development of union-run training centers across Canada. The local applied for a grant, but it was Hurley who brought up the possibility of using the money for renewable energy.

"I saw a future for the IBEW in installation and maintenance in the sector," Hurley said.

The provincial Liberal government of Premier Dalton McGuinty came into office more than four years ago with a promise to dramatically increase the use of green power. Major projects involving wind, solar and hydro were announced, and in 2006, one of Ontario's largest wind farms, Erie Shores, was opened, thanks to the work of more than 50 members of Local 105 and London Local 120, with additional assistance from linemen from Toronto Local 353 and Sudbury Local 1687. Members of St. Catharines Local 303 have also been involved in the project.

Located on the northern shore of Lake Erie, Erie Shores' approximately 90 turbines generate enough electricity to power more than 30,000 homes.



"It's been a boon to job creation, and we're talking about good-paying union jobs," Grimshaw said.

The local is also looking to get into the growing solar energy market. On the roof of the center's office is a 52-panel solar array. That, along with a two-panel array on a nearby residential tower, can provide enough power to keep the office running for up to four hours at a time.

The government paid for a little under half of the \$1 million wind turbine installa-

tion, which began construction in the fall of 2006. The turbines help the local save on its electrical bill, but they also serve as great advertising for the IBEW. "They're hard to miss," Grimshaw said. "They let people know that Local 105 is the place to come for workers skilled in renewable energy."

"We get a parade of people every day coming into the center to ask about them," Hurley said. "And our members haven't stopped asking about when classes are going to start." ■

## Au nord du 49° parallèle

# Une section locale de l'Ontario prend un tournant vert avec l'utilisation de turbines éoliennes et de panneaux solaires

**U**n véritable tour du chapeau a été réussi par la section locale 105 de Hamilton en Ontario au mois d'octobre dernier, avec la mise en service de trois éoliennes à leur centre de formation.

En plus de fournir l'énergie électrique au centre, ces turbines agissent comme un panneau d'affichage virtuel rappelant que la FIOE est l'endroit de référence pour l'énergie éolienne. Elles serviront également à la formation pratique pour les compagnons et les apprentis de la S.L. 105 intéressés à suivre un cours de formation sur l'énergie renouvelable.

"C'est une des rares installations au Canada capable d'offrir aux travailleurs spécialisés, une formation sur la technologie de l'énergie renouvelable" déclare John Grimshaw, gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 105.

Les trois turbines éoliennes sont de dimensions variées offrant ainsi aux membres l'opportunité d'apprendre sur trois modèles différents. La plus grande turbine est d'une hauteur de plus de 80 pieds, la taille

moyenne pour les sites industriels, alors que la plus petite de 30 pieds est utilisée pour l'électricité résidentielle.

Clarke Hurley, Directeur de la formation pour la S.L. 105 espère que les cours pourront débuter dès l'automne.

Le système d'énergie renouvelable de la S.L. 105 résulte d'un partenariat entre le gouvernement fédéral et la section locale. Alors que Paul Martin était Premier Ministre, le gouvernement libéral avait affecté 25 millions de dollars pour l'aménagement de centres de formation organisés par les syndicats à travers le Canada. La section locale a fait une demande de subvention mais ce fut M. Hurley qui a mentionné la possibilité d'utiliser cet argent pour l'énergie renouvelable.

"J'ai vu un avenir potentiel pour la FIOE dans le domaine de l'installation et de l'entretien de ce secteur" souligne-t-il.

Lors de son entrée en fonction il y a plus de quatre ans, le Premier Ministre libéral de l'Ontario, Dalton McGuinty, avait

promis de promouvoir l'utilisation de l'énergie verte de façon spectaculaire. De grands projets de production d'énergie renouvelable furent annoncés comprenant des projets éoliens, solaires et hydrauliques et en 2006 on assistait à l'ouverture du plus grand parc éolien de l'Ontario sur les berges du Lac Érié grâce au travail de plus de 50 membres de la S.L. 105 de Hamilton et de la S.L. 120 de London.

Le Parc éolien des rives du Lac Érié situé sur la rive nord du lac, comporte 66 éoliennes produisant suffisamment d'électricité pour satisfaire aux besoins d'au moins 25,000 foyers. Une quarantaine de membres de la S.L. 105 et de la S.L. 303 de St-Catharines travaillent sur un deuxième parc éolien dans cette région.

Selon le confrère Grimshaw, ce tournant a contribué à la création d'emplois bien rémunérés pour les syndiqués.

La section locale est aussi intéressée par le marché de l'énergie solaire en croissance au Canada. Le panneau solaire de 52

pieds recouvrant le toit du centre de formation et un autre module de deux panneaux sur une tour résidentielle à proximité, produisent de l'électricité à l'édifice, pour une durée de quatre heures à la fois.

Le gouvernement a déboursé un peu moins de la moitié du million de dollars prévu pour l'installation d'éoliennes dont la construction a débuté à l'automne 2006. Les éoliennes contribuent à réduire la facture d'électricité de la S.L. mais sont aussi une publicité extraordinaire pour la FIOE. "Difficile de ne pas les remarquer! Elles peuvent également inciter les travailleurs spécialisés dans le domaine de l'énergie renouvelable à venir à notre S.L." ajoute le confrère Grimshaw.

"Plusieurs personnes défilent chaque jour au centre afin d'obtenir des informations sur les éoliennes et nos membres nous demandent sans cesse quand débiteront les cours de formation" conclut M. Hurley. ■

## Circuits

### Kansas City Journeyman Wireman Wins Union Plus Scholarship

Porifirio "Pete" Raya, a Kansas City business representative, is one of nine recipients of the 2007 Union Leaders of the Future Scholarship from Union Plus. Raya traveled from Missouri to Washington, D.C., to attend a scholarship mentoring session, tour the AFL-CIO and meet with President John Sweeney.

The son and grandson of Sheet Metal Workers, Raya has served Local 124 as a foreman, steward and executive board member. The 22-year IBEW journeyman is a member of the Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council and the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement. He serves as president of the Kansas City Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.

The scholarship's financial assistance will help Raya pay tuition at Metropolitan Community College and the Cornell University Institute for Labor Relations, while his spouse and two sons also attend college. His son, Pete Raya Jr., is a second year apprentice in Local 124.

"I can utilize my knowledge and training when I am called upon to negotiate collective bargaining agreements ensuring that all union members receive fair pay, benefits and working conditions," says Raya.

The Union Leaders of the Future Scholarship Program, open to union members, leaders or staff, provides annual awards of up to \$3,000 to union women and people of color to help cover the cost of continuing their education or training to pursue their career goals and develop their leadership skills.

Each scholarship recipient is linked to an experienced trade union leader. Mentoring Raya is James Andrews, president of the North Carolina AFL-CIO.

Scholarship candidates are evaluated for leadership potential, career goals, social awareness and financial need.

To receive an application for the 2008 Union Leaders of the Future Scholarship, visit: [www.UnionPlus.org/DiversityScholarships](http://www.UnionPlus.org/DiversityScholarships). ■



Pete Raya, Kansas City Local 124, right, meets mentor James Andrews, president of the North Carolina AFL-CIO.

## Organizing Wire

### IBEW-Organized Sign Company Serves Labor's Candidates

When citizens who campaign for public office call Heartland Signs in Omaha, Neb., to put word of their candidacy on the street, they get far more than cardboard on a stick. "We arm them with information because winning matters," says Matt Saimp, a company marketing representative and a new member of Omaha Local 1974.

Last October, International Representative Ron Hug approached Gary DiSilvestro, one of four workers at Heartland, about joining the IBEW. Three months later, with the support of owner Brian Heinsley, they voted unanimously for IBEW representation. Negotiations on a first contract went smoothly.

"It's been a really good process," says DiSilvestro, who works in sales and customer service at the company. As a union shop, Heartland will more readily attract cus-

tomers who are looking for votes or support from organized labor.

Saimp, who grew up in a union family, has included 25 articles on the company's Web site advising candidates how to maximize the design, placement and visibility of signs.

Heartland's work, which includes silk-screened T-shirts, picks up every fall, says Saimp, but demand is present year-round for signs promoting campaigns across the nation for offices from school boards to sheriffs.

Heartland is the second IBEW sign shop in Omaha. Design 4 Inc., organized about six years ago by International Representative C.J. King, now serving as director of Membership Development for Region 3, employs six IBEW members specializing in banners and vinyl signs.

For information on IBEW-made campaign products, e-mail Heartland at [www.CandidateSigns.com](mailto:www.CandidateSigns.com) or Design 4 at [signs@design4inc.net](mailto:signs@design4inc.net). ■

## IBEW On Duty

### IBEW Training Serves St. Louis Member Well in Iraq

Petty Officer 1st Class Thomas Hammonds knew there was a problem. The electrical service panel powering the military installation in Northern Iraq was overloaded and he wasn't sure how long it would hold. An Iraqi electrical engineer said it would be fine, but Hammonds saw trouble coming.

His doubts were quickly confirmed when it blew out, knocking out the main power supply. The back-up generator was also in immediate danger of failing, so he knew he had only minutes before everything went dark.

"It was only because I used my IBEW skills that I noticed the voltage situation prior to the first time working on it," Hammonds said.

A member of St. Louis Local 1439 for 25 years, Hammonds is serving his first tour in Iraq, having been stationed there since September as a member of the Seabees, the U.S. Navy's construction battalion. Assigned to the Construction Corps, he has already been awarded with the Seabee Combat Warfare Pin, which recognizes his qualifications and training.

Safety was always Hammonds' top priority, but in Iraq it takes on even greater importance. Back home, work gloves, steel toed boots and protective goggles were enough before starting a job, but in the Iraq war zone he is required to have a Kevlar helmet, body armor, flame resistant coveralls, and an M-16 rifle before he can get to work.

But as Hammonds said in a message printed in the Local 1439 newspaper, "No matter what we are doing, there is some risk involved. Safety is a universal language in any environment."

Hammonds is hoping to return home sometime in the spring. ■



St. Louis Local 1439 member Thomas Hammonds was awarded with the Seabees Combat Warfare Pin for his service in Iraq.

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## Legislative Update

### Minnesota Lobbying Puts Teeth in Prevailing Wage Law

A year ago, Minnesota's 34-year-old prevailing wage law had no teeth. Gov. Tim Pawlenty, a Republican, enjoyed close ties with nonunion electrical contractors. Pawlenty left the state Department of Labor short on investigators who could hold his business friends accountable, even when glaring pay abuses deprived workers on state-funded construction projects of their fair pay.

Today, Minnesota contractors are under the gun to properly pay their workers, thanks to an amendment to the prevailing wage law, passed last year, after extensive lobbying by Minnesota IBEW locals and the state building trades. The new statute has literally deputized nonunion employees to stop their bosses from short-changing their paychecks. The law is tough, providing for double damages and attorneys fees for violating contractors.

"Minnesota is ahead of the curve," says attorney Justin Cummins who—only a few months after the new legislation was passed—sued Cole's Electric Inc. of Owatonna, Minn., on behalf of three nonunion workers. Their case was filed under the prevailing wage law's new amendment, which allows plaintiffs to act as "private attorneys general."

The concept of private attorneys general, says Cummins, goes back to the civil rights laws passed after the Civil War and then in the 1960s. Recognizing that federal and state attorneys general often lack the resources to enforce laws that are in the public interest, private citizens are empowered under that law to act in their place.

The December suit against Cole's Electric is the first under the new amendment and one of the first in the nation using the private attorneys general concept.

While some observers believe that prevailing wage laws don't serve the public interest, Cummins says he strongly disagrees. Keeping highly-trained, capable workers employed clearly benefits municipalities and the state. Workers who have complaints need to be protected.

"Often the employer tries to demonize workers and call them money-hungry. That couldn't be further from the truth," says Cummins. "These workers are seeking fair pay in the face of employer resistance. They're showing great courage in coming forward."

Rochester Local 343 and other Minnesota locals worked hard to successfully elect a Democratic majority in Minnesota's legislature to pass worker-friendly legislation like the prevailing wage amendment, says Local 343 Business Manager Al Stork. After the 2006 electoral

# SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

IBEW 2008

Continuing in our proud tradition as a leader in promoting safety and health, International President Edwin D. Hill and International Secretary-Treasurer Lindell K. Lee are pleased to announce the 2008 Safety Poster Contest.

**RULES**

The contest is open to all active IBEW members only. Artwork may be done either in black and white or in color. Each poster must be submitted on 8-1/2 x 11-inch white unruled paper or poster board. Posters cannot include a company's logo or company name. A contestant may submit a maximum of three posters. The following information must appear on the back of each poster entered: name, address, city, state, zip code, phone number, local union number and card number.

Posters will be judged on content of the safety message, originality and artwork. All posters become the property of the IBEW and may be used in any manner by the IBEW.

**MAIL ENTRIES TO:**

IBEW Safety and Health Department  
900 Seventh Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20001

**Deadline for entries is April 30, 2008.**

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

**2008 CONTEST WINNER PRIZES**

FIRST PLACE	\$250
SECOND PLACE	\$200
THIRD PLACE	\$150
HONORABLE MENTION	\$ 50

victory, the locals asked the law firm of Miller O'Brien Cummins to draw up the prevailing wage amendment and plan a lobbying campaign. Stork also hired a compliance-research/organizer, Derek Backus, who holds a degree in criminal law, to document violations of the prevailing wage statute.

Local 343's successful efforts "showed leadership and vision and have been instrumental in helping others in the trades understand how prevailing wage laws can be enforced," says Cummins. ■

### House Votes to Strengthen Protections for Workers Hurt by Trade Deals

A House bill to help workers who have been downsized thanks to trade laws was passed with strong bipartisan support, but President Bush and the Senate GOP are already set to oppose it. The Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2007, passed last fall, reau-

thorizes and overhauls the Trade Adjustment Assistance program.

"The American people are right to be concerned about the impacts of international trade agreements, particularly in light of the lack of safeguards available to workers affected by trade," said bill sponsor Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.).

The TAA was created in 1994 as part of NAFTA to help retrain workers whose jobs were shipped overseas, but the program has been criticized for not meeting the needs of the growing number of downsized workers.

The bill doubles the TAA's funding, requires companies to provide more advanced notice of impending job losses and extends the

time period that workers can continue their health coverage at their own expense with their former employer.

Also, for the first time, public and service sector employees would be covered by the TAA.

A Senate version of the bill is pending. ■



The Hong Kong-based owner of the Hoover plant in North Canton, Ohio, shuttered the factory, moving jobs to Mexico and Texas, and displacing members of Local 1985.

# Local Lines

## Community Volunteer Crew

L.U. 6 (c,i,st,&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—On Saturday, Dec. 22, last year 20 members volunteered to perform electrical work at St. Anthony Foundation's new administrative offices. St. Anthony's feeds the homeless 365 days a year and provides services to those less fortunate. The IBEW crew installed and wired five floors of general lighting, exit lights, switches and plugs. ASF Electric and Metropolitan Electric committed service trucks to support our efforts and made this a true Labor Management Cooperative community service day. A great crew turned out for the project, and we had a lot of fun doing it.

The third annual Local 6 Members Benevolent Fund Crab Feed was a great success. Several hundred members participated despite inclement weather. This event is made possible by the generosity of many individuals who give selflessly of their time and resources. Special thanks to Joey Alioto, of Alioto's Restaurant, who donated the crabs for the evening; he also spent many hours preparing the meal with the assistance of his nephew Michael, a Local 6 apprentice. Items contributed for the raffle were awesome and generated additional revenue for the fund.

*Emily S. O'Rourke, Unit 1 Chair/P.S.*



IBEW Local 6 members volunteer for St. Anthony Foundation electrical project.

## Work Picture Update

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—The work situation is not the greatest, but there are some bright spots ahead. The Monroe coal burner will be taking almost 200 people for the ongoing SCR, scrubber and conveyor projects. A small shut-down project is coming soon. The Fed Ex building will be gearing up. GEM has the building, but the conveyor portion has not been let yet.

Our current inside agreement expires in April. Pres. Joseph Cousino presented the Negotiating Committee at the Jan. 21 membership meeting. Good luck to our team!

Mark your calendars for our annual dinner dance scheduled for April 5. It will be held at

Gladieux's as in past years. Please plan to attend with your spouse or significant other, and spend time with your Local 8 friends and family.

Bro. Tim Tarka recently passed away. A moment of silence was held at the Feb. 4 membership meeting. May he rest in peace. Congratulations to Ed and Heather Hobbs on their nuptials. Best wishes for many happy years of married life together!

Please work safe and attend your union meetings.

*Red Tackett, P.S.  
Jim Kozlowski, B.M.*

## Light Display Volunteers

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—IBEW Local 16 once again took the lead in serving the disabled of the tri-state area by using its skills at the Ritz's Fantasy of Lights event in Evansville's Garvin Park. This premier seasonal event will fund 4,414 rehabilitation therapy sessions for handicapped children and adults in the coming year. Over 10,800 vehicles paid admission to drive the loop through the beautiful light show. This event allowed Easter Seals to raise \$134,422 for 2007, and it brought the total to \$1,789,250 for its 14-year run. Retired members made necessary repairs throughout the year to the larger than life displays, ensuring that the synchronized lighting worked as designed. Special thanks to members Kathy Boyd, Ben Ipock and Nick Vaught for their willingness to supervise setup and nightly maintenance needs.

Union building trades members are also donating their skills at the Holly's House project, which will provide a safe haven for abuse victims. The fourth year apprenticeship class and their instructors have volunteered for this worthy cause.

Local 16 has been evaluating its insurance options and wishes to thank committee members for their dedication and hard work toward securing the best choice.

*Donald P. Beavin, P.S.*

## DAD's Day Golf Outing

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Local 27 is busy planning events for the warmer weather.

Our annual Dollars Against Diabetes golf outing is May 5. The popularity of this event has spread to over four golf courses, and the big winner of the day is the diabetes foundation. Thanks to Bro. Butch Ramos for a great job coordinating the golf outing again this year. Hope to see you there!

Our annual picnic in the D.C. area will be held at Camp Letts in Edgewater, MD, on Aug. 2. Don't miss out on the fun and brotherhood. Watch your quarterly magazine for details or go online at [www.ibewlocal26.org](http://www.ibewlocal26.org) for information and a ticket request form.

The Local 26 Scholarship Committee is sorting through the many qualified applicants, and the two winners will be announced soon. We will publish the names in our third quarter IN Charge magazine.

The following brothers passed away since our last article: Laray E. Davis (retired), Jerry M. Parsons Sr. (retired), Christian Argueta, Delmer C. Dotson (retired), Anthony Casarella and Michael R. Dempsey.

The following brothers retired since our last article: Thomas D. Clarke, William E. Jeffers, Alvin G. Pennington, Gordon J. Dodson, Michael W. Mahoney, Charlie G. Ranson and Leon H. Sexton.

*Charles E. Graham, B.M.*

## New Agreement Ratified

L.U. 34 (em,i,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL—Local 34 recently ratified a new four-year inside agreement. Thanks to Bus. Mg./Fin. Sec. Mike Everett and his team of negotiators for all their hard work and a job well-done. On the negotiating team were: Asst. Bus. Mgr. Marty Clinch; Bus. Reps. Todd Holzinger, Mike Hall and Rich Jones; E-Board members Meredith Booker, Marc Burnap, Ron Maurmen and Dave Lowder; Pres. J.J. Walker; Vice Pres. Doug Sanford; Rec. Sec. Dennis Greiner; Treas. Mark McArthy; and Examining Board members Greg Happ, Scott McKnight and Andy O'Neill.

Check our Web site at [www.ibew34.org](http://www.ibew34.org) for all the details. The work outlook at the time of this writing is slowly picking up after the holidays, with powerhouses manning up for their shutdowns and scheduled projects. Other projects are gearing up as well.

This will be another very busy year for Local 34. Please remember to vote! Your vote does and will count. The November election is very important! Only 200-plus days left in the Bush administration!

Our sympathies to the families of members who recently passed away: Bros. William Lepper, Ken Schwinn, William Riggs and Mike Hunt.

*Paul O'Dear, P.S.*

## University Hospitals PLA

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—At this writing we have about 200 wiremen on Book I. Several upcoming projects should provide employment opportunities for members.

Ben Venue Laboratories in Bedford continues its explosive growth in the pharmaceutical industry and is building another \$50 million expansion for research and development and manufacturing. Harrington Electric is completing a \$2.5 million job there and Herbst Electric was just awarded a contract worth \$5 million. U.S. Communications will perform all the VDV work on the site.

## Trade Classifications

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

Local 38 members working for the City of Cleveland at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, from left: Fred Mack, Carl Onacila, Kevin Smith, Pat Chambers, Ed Warren, Joe Baran and Wendell Fuller.



The Cleveland Building Trades just negotiated and signed a Project Labor Agreement with University Hospitals (UH). The PLA includes \$1.3 billion of new construction work. UH calls its new expansion Vision 2010. The major new facilities include a cancer hospital, a neonatal intensive care unit at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, and a center for emergency medicine. Also planned are the expansion of cardiovascular facilities at UH Richmond and UH Bedford Medical Centers.

This election year is our chance to help put a labor friendly candidate in the White House. If you, or a family member, need to register to vote simply call the union hall and we will send you the forms. If you changed your address you will need to register with your new address.

*Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.*

## Commitment to Inclusion

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—Local 48 sent 14 delegates to the 18th annual Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) conference held Jan. 17-20 in Los Angeles. The conference theme was "Building Power to Make the Dream a Reality." The gathering was very special with over 250 members from all levels of the IBEW and the union movement coming together in unity to promote Resolution 15, which was adopted at the IBEW 37th International Convention. Guest speakers included L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and AFL-CIO Organizer Eddie Acosta.

More changes at the hall: We returned to serving sandwiches at the general membership meetings. The savings will be spent on Local 48 shirts to be given to those in attendance.

COMET classes began Feb. 18 at the hall and are scheduled for the third Monday of each month.

Special thanks to Bro. Ed Barnes, retired business manager, for his tireless work on transportation issues in both Washington and Oregon. Ed was honored at a reception Jan. 23 for his 12 years of service on the Washington State Transportation Commission. He is replaced on the commission by Local 48 Vice Pres. Phil Parker.

Voting Reminder: April 29 is voter registration deadline for the May 20 Oregon primary.

*Donna Hammond, P.S.*



Portland, OR, Local 48 delegation to the 2008 EWMC Conference in Los Angeles, joined by IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill (middle row, third from left). Front row, from left, NIETC Exec. Dir. Ken Fry, Chris Brown, Luis Rojas, Yedo Le, Marjorie Ramirez; middle row, Local 48 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Clif Davis, Terry Tims, Int. Pres. Hill, Local 48 Pres. Eric Hayes, Local 48 Lead Organizer Larry Warren; and back row, Abdul Love, Hilary Colbert, retiree Gus Miller, Donna Hammond, IBEW Int. Rep. Keith Edwards and retiree Bob Palandech.

## Charity Rockfish Tournament

L.U. 50 (u), RICHMOND, VA—The fourth annual IBEW Local 50 Charity Rockfish Tournament held Nov. 16-17, 2007, was organized to benefit the Local 50 United Way campaign. Organizers Bill Peeples, Doug Williams and Raymond Cassidy collected entry fees, sold tickets to the weigh-in cookout and had a raffle to raise funds. Anglers had 12 hours to compete for the prize money.

Notably, 100 percent of the registration fees went directly to United Way. The tournament became a tradition in 2003 when Bill, Doug and Raymond realized there was an opportunity to raise enthusiasm for the campaign by using their fellow anglers' passion for rockfish and a healthy competition. Local 50 is grateful for the support of Bros. Peeples, Williams and Cassidy; all the tournament anglers; and Virginia Natural Gas Pres. Robert Duvall for making this event a success.

Special thanks to Captain Mark Pulliam, an IBEW member, who donated an offshore fishing trip that was raffled off to help needy families in South Hampton Roads. Local 50 members at VNG won the "Labor Union of the Year" award in South Hampton Roads five out of the last six years. Thanks to all who participated. We hope to see you again in 2008.

*Mike Barclay, R.S.*

## Gov. Granholm Visits Local

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb&spa), DETROIT, MI—On Jan. 31, Gov. Jennifer Granholm toured our training facility. Asst. Training Dir. Tom Bowes gave a presentation and briefly outlined the history of the IBEW/NECA partnership and the JATC. Subsequently, he conducted a walking tour that culminated in the workshop where displays related to our solar program were discussed. Gov. Granholm spoke to students from classes 07B4 and T07B1. The governor acknowledged the progress we have made and our leadership in the development of training methods in the renewable energy field.

The fifth annual Ken Fitzhenry dinner party on Super Bowl Sunday is one of Local 58's great new traditions and the Benevolent Fund's main fund-raising event. Members and their guests enjoyed the game on the big screen and a buffet-style dinner. Once again, the festive football event was a huge success! Many members volunteer their time to help set up, cook, serve, and clean up. They deserve a heartfelt thanks for all their efforts.

*Michael Curren, P.S.*



Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm (left) visits apprenticeship class at the Detroit Local 58 Training Center. Also pictured are Bus. Mgr. Joe Abdoo (second from left) and Training Dir. Gary Polulak (third from left, front row).



Local 96 Bus. Mgr. Leo Miller (third from right) joined by several of the recently retired members. From left: Ralph Giangrande, James Bartlett, James Rolfe, Bus. Mgr. Miller, Joseph Bacinskas and Donald Chad.

## Unions Lobby for Reform

L.U. 86 (ees,em,es,i,rts&spa), ROCHESTER, NY—At the time of this writing, work is a little slow but steady. Spring should be more promising with many jobs starting to break ground.

Rochester Building Trades took a bus to Albany filled with many of our local labor leaders to lobby our state legislators on Industrial Development Agency (IDA) reform. We met with our senators and Assembly members to impress on them the importance of prevailing wages and what they pay for—health care, retirement, apprentice training, safety training, and a fair wage. Our message seemed to be very well-received. We will have to wait and see how they vote. We will be watching.

On a lighter note, the annual Kiddie Easter Egg Hunt was held Sat., March 15. Everyone had a good time. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen.

We hope to see you at the seventh annual Local 86 Awards Dinner on April 26 at the Rochester Airport Marriott. Contact the union hall for more information.

*Ron Freida, P.S.*

## Project Labor Agreements

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—The work picture in Connecticut is holding its own. We are anticipating some long awaited projects to start manning up. 2008 should be a busy year. Work has started on a \$450 million cancer center PLA project, as well as several other large PLAs.

Local 90 recently held an open house for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th year apprentices. We sent out mailings to registered nonunion apprentices to get them interested in the IBEW. The turnout was good and we are now testing these applicants to slot them into the program. Our future relies on taking in the best before they become our competition.

*Sean Daly, V.P.*

## Annual Holiday Dinner

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—At the Local 96 annual holiday dinner meeting on Dec. 3, 2007, active and retired members were honored.

Retiring members were commended for their dedication, and service pins were presented to members celebrating milestone years of service. Congratulations to all recent retirees and members who received service pins! Recently retired members include: Ralph Giangrande, James

Bartlett, James Rolfe, Joseph Bacinskas and Donald Chad, Peter Liddy, Douglas Pirani, Wayne Cooper, William Doiron, William Pugliese, Edward O'Toole, Wayne Theriault and Lawrence Baker.

Also, in the spirit of the holiday season, Local 96 retirees enjoyed an evening at the Boston Pops, with tickets compliments of the local.

Bus. Mgr. Leo Miller appointed George Carpenter as organizer last October. The local welcomes George to his new position and wishes him success with challenges ahead.

Thank you to Bro. Paul West for his six years of commitment to the local as press secretary.

*Luke E. Carpenter, P.S.*

## Leadership For Success

L.U. 98 (as,em,i&it), PHILADELPHIA, PA—IBEW Local 98 made some significant leadership moves early in 2008, which should ensure the local's continued success for years to come.

Pres. Harry Foy announced his retirement on Dec. 31, 2007. Well-liked and highly regarded within Local 98 and the IBEW, Harry served Local 98 as president with great distinction for 12 very productive years. Although his retirement is well deserved, his presence here at the hall will be greatly missed.

Succeeding Foy as president is Brian Burrows, longtime director of Apprenticeship Training. Brian is the logical and best choice to succeed Harry. Like Harry, Brian understands every aspect of the operations of this local and has a tireless work ethic. Through his years of leadership as a business agent and director of Apprentice Training, Brian has earned the respect of local union members as well as Philadelphia's broader labor community. The transition has been seamless and Local 98 is well-positioned for the future.

Assuming Burrows' former responsibilities for apprentice training is Michael Neill, who will continue to run the local's telecommunications training efforts, along with his new responsibilities.

With these changes, we have a great team of established young leaders who understand and are ready to take full advantage of 21st century technologies and exciting new opportunities for the continued growth of this local.

*John J. Dougherty, B.M.*

## Fresno Work Picture

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rtb&st), FRESNO, CA—At this writing we are at full employment, and the outlook appears good through the summer. We may

have achieved record man-hours for the 2007 calendar year (final figures are not in yet), but we have not gained in market share. It takes every member to go over and above the normal workday to think and act on organizing.

The Panoche 400-megawatt power plant in Mendota is ready to start; a second power plant in the town of Parlier is in the works. The Pixley ethanol plant, by Contra Costa Electric, should be completed by April 1. A project labor agreement was finalized for an ethanol plant in Hanford.

The December 2007 inside wireman's wage increase was \$1.00 (\$0.50 wages, \$0.25 pension and \$0.25 Healthcare). The June 2008 increase is \$1.00; distribution to be determined.

The Local 100 JATC recently conducted its first class on solar power and installation of solar photovoltaic systems. The JATC is conducting ongoing classes and just finished a confined space safety class. Remember, your California State Certification requires 32 hours of continuing education every three years to maintain your certification.

*M.A. Caglia, P.S.*

## Apprentice Graduation

L.U. 102 (c,catv,i,it,o&t), PATERSON, NJ—On Sept. 18, 2007, Local 102 apprentices celebrated their hard work by attending their graduation dinner at the Birchwood Manor. We had a great turnout for the occasion. There were 117 inside wireman apprentices topping out to the ranks of journeyman, along with seven residential wiremen and two teledata communications techs topping out also.

Special honors went to Steve Thul for highest five-year grade point average for the inside JW program; William Christian for the residential program; and James Scerbo for the communication division.

Honored guests included Dennis Fitzgerald from the N.J. Department of Labor and Dr. Kent Bania from Passaic County Technical School. Local 102 officers were there to enjoy the celebration and to welcome all the graduates to our ranks.

A heartfelt thanks to Tom Rillo, JATC administrator, and all the instructors, officers and committee members for a job well-done. To see photos of the graduation celebration, please visit our Web site [www.ibewlocal102.org](http://www.ibewlocal102.org).

*Ed Fredericks, P.S.*

## Work Picture Slow

L.U. 110 (em,i,rts,spa&u), ST. PAUL, MN—At this writing, work is a slow with 227 on Book #1, an additional 46 out on short calls, and 96 on Book #2. The summer outlook is somewhat better.

The November 2008 general election is only months away. Please support those who support us! Then please vote!

See accompanying photo taken at the completion ceremony for the class of 2007 inside

wireman apprentice graduates. The ceremony was held at Mancini's Char House in St. Paul.

*Steve White, P.S.*

## Tribute to Members

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se&spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—We remember the following deceased members: Frederick Algaier, Ernest W. Bregg, Frank G. Clark, Paul D. Craig, James Fennesy, Charles L. Ford Sr., Frank A. Halhuber, Robert E. Happy, Jack Hawkins, Herbert G. Hines, Ernest R. Hirt, Joe R. Hoge, Charles J. Holmes, Oscar B. Jack, Phillip E. Jack, Thomas E. Land, Royce C. Marshall, William B. Murray, Royce A. Myers, Herman F. Notz, Richard James Ost, William H. Phillips, James E. Rice, Frank Leonard Shaw Jr., Vincent Smiley, Timothy N. Thurber, Thomas R. Urton, Charles R. Zurn. We extend our condolences to their families. These members will be missed.

Congratulations to the following retired members: Howard W. Allen, John W. Barnes, John F. Batliner, Frederick Brownlee, Don Davis, John A. Deruse, Samuel Easter, George W. Ernst, Samuel M. English, Michael L. Hall, Bob Littell, William H. Richardson, James L. Rome, Roger Schroeder, John C. Sifers, Tony K. Skeen, Ira W. Smith, Kenneth E. Starr, Fred Stevens, Byron L. White.

*Jim Beem, B.M.*

## Successful Outage

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts) DECATUR, IL—We recently completed another successful outage at the Clinton Power Station. Thanks to all the traveling brothers and sisters for their help on that project.

As of this writing, unfortunately, work had slowed until spring or early summer. However on the bright side, Local 146 is excited about being awarded the Future Gen Project and work is expected to continue at the Coffeen Power Station.

Congratulations to 2007 retirees: Jon Thompson, Dennis Montgomery, Jim Daugherty Jr., Duffy Haremaker, Caleb Wayne, Jerry Gash, Matt Wrigley, Kenny Hayes, Kenny Schrader, and Brian Heise. We wish them well.

With deep regret we announce the passing of Barry Carr on Dec. 12, 2007. Barry was 48 and had been an IBEW member for 22 years. We also were saddened by the passing of Robert Younger on Jan. 13. Brother Younger was 83 and a 58-year IBEW member. We extend our condolences to the Carr and Younger families.

*Rich Underwood, R.S.*

## Picnic Date Set

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—The longest presidential campaign in history is slogging on. The endless primary season keeps on going. I, for one, cannot wait for this election to take place. Let's put a Democrat back in the White House.

The Local 150 picnic will be held July 19 at the usual location of the Lakewood Forest Preserve. Stay tuned to this spot for the date of the Local 150 Golf outing.

The cold and snow season really hit us hard this year. Please use caution when working in inclement weather.

We recently lost a fine union man when Bro. Jack Kolb passed away on New Year's Day. I worked with Jack several times and he was always a lot of fun to be around, in addition to being a great electrician. He was a mentor in every sense of the word. He started his apprenticeship in 1971 and was a Local 150 member for almost 36 years. He served on the Scholarship Committee since its inception and was also active with the SPARKS. He also was a member of the CRG. A fine man gone too soon.

*Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.*

## Industry Night Event

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Our local held a successful industry night event on Feb. 21. This followed an all-week blitz Local 158 put on with the participation of state market development specialists, reps, and members. The industry night was well-received and we gave an awesome presentation, with 68 people in attendance. There were five apprenticeship applications and 20 interviewees. Many journeymen, apprentices, organizers, contractors and a few reps participated.

The work situation has been good and hopefully will stay that way throughout the spring. Negotiations will start in earnest by the time of this printing.

*Donald C. Allen, B.M.*

## Focus on Labor's Survival

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—Each year we hear the same battle cries for action—organize, raise our P.R. profile, get out the vote. But seldom are we inspired to effectively mobilize and leverage our numbers. Our basic needs mount as our job security weakens and our solidarity wanes. Is it possible we've become more concerned with "want" than with "need"?

Marketing experts have identified the close link between these two, and they've parlayed their insight to the point of leveraging us against ourselves. The "need" for transportation becomes the "want" for an SUV. Precious home equity becomes a vehicle for short-lived luxury, even at the peril of losing our homes! Once weaned from lackluster "need" to glitzy "want," we find ourselves subject to insurmountable debt.

Politicians have mastered a variation of this same tactic. They've lured our focus from labor-respecting initiatives to exciting, single-issue stances. Guns, gay rights, Roe v. Wade. ... While they draw our attention to who crosses the border for work, they pave the way for entire manufacturing factories to relocate overseas.

It's time for us to refocus on our basic "needs"—to pursue initiatives that help organized labor at home and to hold politicians accountable for furtherance of such initiatives.

*Michael Smith, B.A.*

## Distribution Work Picks Up

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Our overhead and underground distribution work has started to pick up. Currently we could use six journeyman linemen. Our transmission work was slow but also has picked up. We have two small jobs, both related to wind turbine projects. We are also gaining on the telephone work but this is a slow process. We have made headway and will continue this struggle.

Our local has moved. Our new address is 1829 Suncoast Lane Batavia, IL. Our phone number is (630) 761-1829 and our fax number is (630) 761-1919.

Please make sure to vote in all elections. Remember to attend your union meetings—that is where it all starts.

*Edgar R. Mings Jr., B.M.*

## Canadian Sports Centre

L.U. 230 (c,catv,em,i,mar&u), VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—The Canadian Sports Centre Pacific project at Camosun College is on time and on budget. Local 230 members working for Emery Electric on this 75,000 square foot, \$38 million facility are going full out to ensure this sports complex of excellence gets the same treatment by the IBEW.

The Sports Centre Pacific is a world-class facility designed to bring sport and exercise academic programs, community sport and fitness programs, high performance athlete services and applied sport research together under one roof. It will house classrooms, sports research and sports medicine services, a triple gymnasium, a lit all-weather playing field, an outdoor training track and a high-performance fitness centre.

Dr. Gordon Sleivert, the Canadian team exercise physiologist at the Athens 2004 summer Olympics, is vice president of Sport Performance for PacificSport. "The connections between sports technology, innovation and health are important to all Canadians," says Dr. Sleivert. Phase I of the Institute opens to the public in September 2008.

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



Local 230 Apprentice Leah Chailer (left), Dr. Gordon Sleivert and Emery Electric Foreman Dave Mills in front of the Canadian Sports Centre project.

## Monterey Bay Hotel Project

L.U. 234 (i,rtb,rts&spa), CASTROVILLE, CA—We are always eager to support our many local charitable organizations. It was gratifying to donate nearly one ton of food to the Second Harvest Food Bank holiday season drive. Also, as a regular supporter of our area high school's



Local 110 inside wireman apprenticeship graduates, joined by local union officers and JATC representatives, attend 2007 completion ceremony. From left, back row: JATC Instructor Michael Gruber, Jeremy Reule, Jose Lopez, Kenneth Lewis, Benjamin Wood, Jason Whipple, Michael Roberts, Chad Langer, Scott Madson and Michael Highland. Middle row: JATC Training Dir. William Kendle, JATC Instructor Jerry Hagen, Michael Moore, Peter Everson, Daniel Weir, Conrad King, Kevin Peterson, Christopher Steinke, Christopher Brunsoman, Joshua Rezac, William LaPlante and Local 110 Bus. Mgr. Michael Redlund. Front row: Tony Sponsler, Bob Wegner, Mathew Reich, Matthew Fisher, Stephan Broughton, Dave Eschbach, Kenley Bonn, Mark Ostertag, Local 110 Pres. Jamie McNamara and JATC Asst. Training Dir. Ed Nelson.



Local 234 members, employed by Cupertino Electric, are working on the Cannery Row Hotel project in Monterey, CA. From left: Jake Mahler, Steven Luiz, Andy Gattis, John Parker, Junior Trujillo, Ruben Lozano, Chris Kiner, Devin Fehn, Robert Perez, Jesus Ramirez, Rudy Martinez, Seth Dietz, Tony Lazaro, Josh Sanderson, Ismael Estrada, Casey Chadwick and Mario Vera.

fund-raisers, we were encouraged by the success of their most recent event, sponsorship of a wrestling tournament involving 16 high schools. Although our contributions may be modest, they are always a heartfelt reflection of our members' generous response to the needs of our community.

One of the projects Local 234 members have proudly worked on for the past year is the Cannery Row Hotel in Monterey, which reflects the breathtaking beauty along our central coast. To each of our members we say job well-done and kudos for your skilled contributions to this magnificent project on the pristine Monterey Bay.

*Stephen Slovacek, P.S.*

## Customer Service Rep Summit

L.U. 266 (u), PHOENIX, AZ—On Jan. 25, 2008, we held a very productive Customer Service Representative Summit. It had been several years since we held a CSR summit and we were pleased to be able to get them started up again. The next summit is being planned for February 2009 and is currently set to be held in Los Angeles.

At the Jan. 25 summit we had representatives from Arizona, California, Florida, Kansas, Missouri and Texas, for a total of 23 participants. It was wonderful to meet everyone and exchange information, concerns and successes.

We discussed the common problems all our phone centers experience and the different solutions we have all tried. Many great and varied remedies were shared. We also talked about current trends each of us are seeing and how best to handle them. We had lively discussions on internal organizing and new employee orientations. It was informative to hear about different approaches we have tried and what was found most successful.

The summit concluded with a tour of the Salt River Project phone center. We thank everyone for their participation and insight on issues. We had a great time and hope to see everyone at the next summit.

*Wanda Waldo, A.B.A.*

## Journeyman Classes

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—At this writing, it is the end of January and the weather is cold with a lot of snowfall in the mountains. The work picture is seasonally slow and should pick up this summer with reports of a \$200 million basketball arena to be built in Eugene.

The journeyman class schedule is out, so make sure to sign up for some of these fine classes. Please don't wait until you have to get your hours in to renew your license; take those classes now! Dedicated instructors teach our apprentices and many of them, such as Mark DeForest, teach fiber optics and other BICSI approved courses to journeymen as well. Mark has

done an outstanding job of taking our Limited Energy program to the highest level and all of us really appreciate his efforts. Our Limited Energy journeymen do an outstanding job out in the field and on job sites representing the IBEW. Keep up the good work and please attend the union meetings to let the local know how best to serve you.

Local 280 mourns the passing of retirees Robert Stephens, Cecil Scott, Cliff Hieble and Arlo Joranger.

Please work safe. Remember the picnic at Timber Linn Park on Sat., Sept. 13!

*Jerry Fletcher, Pres.*



Local 280 instructor Mark DeForest (far left) talks with apprentices on last day of school. Apprentices, from left, are: Daniel Castillo, Michael Henebry, Dean Wilson and Derek Saele.

## Code of Excellence

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—IBEW Local 292 has been a front-runner in the Code of Excellence program. The local implemented the training program in August 2007. Local 292 has trained approximately 1,278 members and certified four shops as COE in a continued effort to be second to none in this competitive construction market. The Code reaffirms what we have always tried to be: the best value for electrical construction in the industry today.

In an increasingly competitive market, it is important to hone and improve our skills every day, and the Code is an attempt at doing just that. Come to work on time fit for duty; Obey recognized customer and employer work rules; Demonstrate zero tolerance for alcohol and substance abuse; Exercise proper safety, health and sanitation practices. The Code is a selling point that customers hold in high esteem when considering the contractors for a project. So far, 10 jobs have been won, in part, by the COE program. The Code is an effective means of continued growth and security.

*Brandon Romann, P.S.*

## Construction Foreman Training

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—IBEW Local 300 recently announced an intensive construction foreman's training session for its members.

The five-week course, coordinated by the Local 300 JATC, follows the "project control sys-

tem" methodology, a mechanism that allows managers to efficiently execute the work being performed. Core subjects covered include installation, documentation, administration and supervision. Classes were held Feb. 23, March 1, March 8 and March 15 at Local 300's South Burlington union hall.

"Leadership skills are undoubtedly in high demand throughout the building trades," said Apprenticeship Dir. Jean Watkins. "This lesson provides best practices for running a construction job from soup to nuts. Local 300 apprentices and licensed electricians receive the finest training in the business, which ensures that customers get top-shelf service from our members and contractors."

Jeff Sanford, owner of JS Electric in St. Albans, taught the course. For details about future IBEW Local 300 classes, contact Watkins at (802) 864-5864 or jmw@ibewlocal300.org.

*Matt Lash, P.S.*



Proud members of Local 292 on one of many Code of Excellence certified projects.

## Progress Brings Hope

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—The work year has begun on a positive note as property acquisition and demolition equipment have gotten busy in Akron. The utility infrastructure and streetscape conduits will be going in at the East Akron Goodyear Campus and the new Akron University Sports Complex, along with adjacent retail and housing facilities, as this issue goes to press.

The presidential election process is in full swing and reminds one of the past Andrew Jackson (our first popular vote president of humble beginnings) elections where "Democracy Versus Aristocracy" was the cry of the day! Washington lobbyists are shoving money anywhere they can to hedge their bets on the outcome of this election. The world watches and waits as we exercise what our forefathers risked everything for—the right to vote! Don't let them down!!

We mourn the loss of Bro. Pat Yankulov and retired Bros. George Csanyi and Forrest Ryan.

Love your families – install AFCIs (arc fault circuit interrupters) and GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters) in your home!

*Robert Sallaz, V.P./P.S.*

## Organizing/Ad Campaign

L.U. 322 (govt,i,it,lett,o&u), CASPER, WY—We are blessed with a boom in the energy markets that has supplied good work for our local and traveling members. A big thanks to travelers who have helped man our work.

2007 was a busy year for our local. The Organizing/Advertising Committee embarked on an aggressive campaign to improve market share and educate residents of Wyoming on what we have to offer as a labor organization.

Local 322 made contributions to the 'Make-A-Wish' Foundation and that turned out to be beneficial all the way around. Not only did the money help other families in the community – but we were also pleased that Local 322 member Jon Van Meter's daughter was granted a wish to go to Disney World!

Local 322 held several food drives and delivered food to various organizations that help the needy.

2008 promises to be busy. The local's monthly meetings in Casper were moved from Saturday to Tuesday to increase participation, and that has been a success. We also plan to modify the guidelines for the 40-Hour Club, to improve rewards members receive for participating/helping with local functions.

*Chris Morgan, P.S.*

## Solar PV Workshop & Seminar

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—At this writing, Local 332 was making plans to host a solar workshop for members scheduled for March 29-30, 2008. This two-day workshop provides electricians with an introduction to the latest and best techniques for installing photovoltaic systems. We will be training and certifying up to 200 Solar Integrators. At press time, 130 members were signed up for the class.

IBEW/NECA also was scheduled to host a "PV Solar Business Development" Seminar on March 5, 2008. This one-day workshop, for electrical contractors and future contractors, will provide management with an executive summary of the latest and best techniques for building and enhancing their commercial and industrial solar photovoltaic business. At press time we were expecting 30 contractors to attend this seminar.

The solar industry is growing by leaps and bounds. We need to have a workforce of members and contractors available to claim this work. This is one of many classes and seminars to be held. Please actively support solar by attending the classes.

*Gerald Pfeiffer, Pres.*



Local 322 members and families attend annual picnic.

## We Can Make a Difference

L.U. 340 (em,i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—I'm writing this on Tues., February 5, 2008, Democratic Primary day in California. Results aren't in yet so I don't know who the voters have chosen, how the propositions turned out or even how many of our Local 340 members voted. But I do know this. Those of you who did not vote today will probably kick yourselves tomorrow for not voting and I am sure you will have an opinion on the results! The upcoming elections in November are critical to the "health & welfare" of the middle class in America. We all need to get involved in politics and believe that this is a time in our democracy when we can make change! For our local to get larger and stronger, it will take the efforts of many. Join your local volunteer committees and get involved, whether by representing the IBEW at events such as political rallies, city council meetings, school board meetings, phone banking and precinct walking, wherever you are needed. You can help make the difference. Please vote in November!

We mourn the passing of retired members Charles L. Bachus, Vinton Byron Champe, William R. Johnson, Henry A. Talken and Henry "Hank" Wilson. Rest in peace, brothers.

*A.C. Steelman, B.M.*

## Salt Lake City Work

L.U. 354 (i,mt,rts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—The work picture for Utah looks very good for the upcoming year. We have a number of jobs awarded and will start as soon as the weather breaks.

With Bus. Mgr. Rich Kingery's guidance, our apprentices have started a committee to foster brotherhood and unionism. The ACES, Apprentice Council Encouraging Solidarity, started several recreational activities in which all members are welcome to participate. Watch the monthly newsletter for more information.

The following members passed away in 2007: Richard Woodbury, David Kunze, Carlos Clark, Larry Geisler, Ervin Gustaveson, Frank Mathews, Ronald Grange, Cory Olsen, Marcus Griffin, Ace Bills, William Holder, Lynn Nelson, Blen Morgan, Blair Kennedy, Warren Kister, Devon Boothe, Frank Brower, Robert Fry, Brian Monk, Larry Baker, Richard Beatty and Ronald Rohner. Our sincere condolences to the families of these fine members.

Local Registrar Carl Brailsford is getting information to the members about the upcoming election, and the entire staff is busy helping members register for the very important election this fall.

"Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote."—George Jean Nathan.

*Manya Blackburn, R.S.*

## Register to Vote!

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—With great sorrow we learned of the tragic loss of Bro. Josh Boomgarden, who died as a result of an automobile accident. Bro. Josh, who recently topped out, was an asset to our local and the IBEW. He will be sorely missed. Please pray for Bro. Boomgarden's family.

At this writing, the primary election campaign is in full-swing, with the Illinois Democratic presidential primary occurring the day this is being written. We are proud that both remaining Democrats, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary

Clinton, are from Illinois. We are very fortunate that either one will be a strong advocate for America's working families.

We're working to register to vote 100 percent of our membership for the upcoming election. We plan to contact our membership numerous times leading up to Election Day, to ensure they are aware of the candidates who are proven friends of union families.

On March 1 our LMCC held its annual evening for members to attend a Rockford IceHogs hockey match. The IceHogs are the minor league affiliate of the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks. The "Hogs" are fighting for first place this season. The event was a fun-filled evening of brotherhood coupled with exciting hockey. Go IceHogs!

*Ray Pendzinski, P.S.*

## Weston 4 Power Plant

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—The local wishes to recognize its members for their professionalism and outstanding work ethic on a recent project. The following members performed tasks for the startup and commissioning of the instrumentation and control systems for the Weston 4 Power Plant: Fred Sharer, Ron Fraser, Mike Grocholski and Glenn Kulas.

Many more IBEW members, too numerous to list here, helped build the Weston 4 plant, located near Wausau, WI. Without the fine work of all involved – their attention to safety and their commitment to excellence – this project, which was completed on time and on budget, would not have been such a great success.

Engineering firm Black & Veatch wrote a letter commending the work of IBEW members on the project. "We can honestly say this project would not be where it is today without the devotion and work ethics exhibited by these individuals," the firm wrote.

At press time, the work is slowing down, but we hope to have a busy spring and summer. Thanks again for the great work of the Local 388 members and the traveling brothers and sisters.

*Guy LePage, B.R./P.S.*



Local 388 members and IBEW travelers worked on the Weston 4 Power Plant project.

## Oil Sands Plant Construction

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—Announcements regarding construction of several Ft. McMurray oil sands plants are made almost weekly. Staying on top of events, along with a full employment picture, keeps the business office extremely busy. To lighten the work load and better service the membership, Bus.

Mgr. Tim Brower recently made several staff additions. Bro. Jim Watson assumes full-time local union president duties. Bro. James Stevenson is assigned as a business rep, and Bro. Doug Mark as business assistant for some of the Edmonton area industrial sector. In addition, Bus. Asst. Gord Graham, trustee for MRTF, has hired two more organizers. Bro. Ryan Saunders is assigned to Edmonton and northern Alberta, and Bro. Andrew Fowler to southern Alberta.

The rapid pace of developments has required innovative decisions. One such decision was to sign a "project labor agreement" for Suncor's multi-year, \$20 billion "Voyageur" expansion. Through shrewd negotiating, this PLA is vastly improved from Suncor's first offer, ensuring that millions of man-hours of electrical work are done by 424 at full benefits, (thereby enriching the members' Pension & Benefits Funds), with all overtime at double time and round trip airfares at the end of a 10-day shift. This allows our members, (southern Alberta residents in particular) and traveler members a more benign and safer commute to and from the job site.

*Dave Anderson, P.S.*

## Valentine's COPE Dance

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), MILWAUKEE, WI—Our local's annual Valentines dance was a big success this year and keeps on growing. We raised over \$2,000 for COPE and danced the night away. Fernando Hernandez was the big winner on a raffle for an \$800 Midwest Express travel voucher. Congratulations to Bro. Hernandez and all who helped make the event a success.

*Tim Hanson, B.R.*

## Turtle Creek Casino Project

L.U. 498 (c,catv,em,i&spa), TRAVERSE CITY, MI—At this writing our local is in the middle of the Turtle Creek Casino Resort project in Williamsburg, MI. This project should keep work steady through the spring of 2008, and other projects on the horizon are keeping us optimistic. We welcome all new Inside, Residential, and CW/CE members.

JATC Instructor Bob Schramski was recently recognized for 20 years of service to the Traverse City JATC. Congratulations to those who completed the inside and residential apprenticeship in the last year.

Our local recently lost retired Bros. John Weeman Sr. and Gerald Rickard. Our condolences go out to their families.

*Tim R. Babcock, P.S.*



Local 498 JATC Instructor Bob Schramski is honored for his 20 years of service to the Traverse City, MI, Electrical JATC.

## Mega Projects Beginning

L.U. 502 (c,em,i,it&t), ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Local 502 members are busy on two sites preparing for the refurbishment of the Point Lepreau nuclear power station with Local 502 contractors Safeguards Technology, Lorneville Mechanical, O'Brien Electric, ICS State and Sunny Corner Enterprises. The Canoport liquefied natural gas terminal is currently home to more than 60 Local 502 wiremen through Gardner Electric and ICS State with a peak of 150 expected in early spring. Several other projects include the Petcoke fuel project at Colson Cove generating station, the Potash Corp. mine and McCulley natural gas field near Sussex and a new hydrogenation amine tail gas unit at the Irving oil refinery.

We are pleased to welcome new contractors Safeguards Technology and Scoudouc Industries, currently working on projects at the Potash Corp. mine and Point Lepreau generating station.

The generosity of Local 502 was overflowing last Christmas. The Saint John Christmas Exchange, Hestia House for Battered Women and Children, the Romero House Soup Kitchen, the Sisters of Charity and five local needy families received food, clothing, presents and cash.

We mourn the loss of Bro. Harold Haggerty. Harold proudly served as recording secretary and EEAP resource agent.

*Dave Stephen, P.S.*

## Marketing Our Skill

L.U. 508 (i,it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—Local 508 has established a new committee whose purpose is to create a portfolio advertising our craft. To excel in today's world, every business must spend some time and money promoting itself. Our committee goal will be to market our union skill. Subjects to be highlighted will include apprenticeship training and our safety objectives.

Our apprenticeship program is one of our most important selling points. The finest electrical workers in the country receive their education through the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the IBEW form the partnership that produces the most up-to-date electrical apprentices and journeymen in the country.

Our Brotherhood also boasts a Safety and Health Department that is dedicated not only to the safety and health of our members, but also to the safety and health of all working people.

This portfolio may be a wonderful organizing tool that will win new contractors and draw more electricians to our local.

*Judith U. Sheahan, R.S.*

## Tulsa Centennial Celebration

L.U. 584 (ees,em,es,i,rts,spa&u), TULSA, OK—IBEW Local 584 recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. The local's charter was granted Sept. 24, 1907, predating Oklahoma statehood by nearly two months. This charter's listed address was Tulsa, Indian Territory, USA.

To celebrate this monumental occasion, our local hosted an outdoor affair on the evening of Sept. 15, 2007, attended by over 800 members, retirees, friends and family.

The centennial event featured a catered barbecue dinner, children's games, and live music from three bands, each of which included members of our local. A service pin award cere-

mony was also held. Additionally, commemorative 100-year pins were given to each member and retiree in attendance. Presenting the pins were: Seventh District Int. Vice Pres. Jonathan B. Gardner, Seventh District Int. Rep. Gary Buresh and Local 584 Bus. Mgr. Mike Burton.

Photos were made of each pin presentation, and will be made into a commemorative book soon. IBEW Local 584—100 years old and going strong!

*Johnny Patterson, A.B.M.*

## Confined Space Safety Class

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—The JATC recently held a “confined space” class for some of our members who work for Buena Vista Construction Co. In order to work for BVCC, the IBEW members must have a current confined space card.

The work picture looks good this spring. Through the hard work of our organizers and representatives, our local has organized nine new contractors this past year.

We extend sincere condolences to the families of the following members who recently passed away: Bros. Tom Hand and James Stakes.

*Janet D. Skipper, P.S.*

## Benefit Golf Tournament

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—Welcome to our newest Executive Board member Ian Morris, from Horizon Utilities, St. Catherines centre. Ian replaces John Thornton, who was recently promoted to Local 636 vice president! Congratulations, gentlemen, and we wish you both well in your respective stations and trust you will serve the local exceptionally.

Congratulations to municipal worker members at Central Huron, who recently ratified a two-year contract, and to the members at Sutherland-Schultz, who recently ratified a three-year contract.

Good luck to the members at Nexans, Chubb, ADT and Brampton Hydro One Networks, who are currently embroiled in contract negotiations.

Mark your calendar for the fifth annual IBEW Local 636 “Chatham-Kent” Golf Tournament on May 24, at Country View Golf Course – 18 hole scramble, cart, buffet, prizes, shotgun start at 12:00 p.m. Cost is \$70 per person. The event is hosted by Chatham-Kent Energy Services and Chatham-Kent Hydro & Utility Service Employees. Proceeds go to the CK Health Alliance MRI Initiative. For information, e-mail: joezimmer@ckenergy.com.

Shown in the accompanying photo is the latest group of apprentices at Enersource Hydro Mississauga, who are at varying stages of their line-man, substation, metering and control room apprenticeships. Welcome and good luck, brothers.

*Robert Mogus, P.S.*



Local 606 journeymen who recently participated in a confined space safety class at the JATC are, from left: Mike King, Allen Guy, Mike Stohlmann, Tom Licari, Ralph Fasan, Barry Krumwiede, Tom Carey, Ronnie Fields, Cliff Gilmore Jr., Lonnie Canady, Neil Benton, Javier Ramos and Mike Gonnely.



IBEW Local 584 in Tulsa, OK, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.



Local 636 apprentices at Enersource Hydro Mississauga.

## Members Win Township Offices

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—We congratulate Bro. Rich Digregorio on his election to the office of Borough Councilman, and Bro. Fred Grant on his re-election to the office of Township Committee. Bro. Grant was also sworn in as mayor. The increasing number of members becoming involved as candidates is encouraging to see. These positions present the surest way to learn of upcoming work. They also provide the ability to interact directly with other legislators, which is critical to developing sympathetic relationships with our lawmakers. These are the people who design the policies, ordinances and laws that affect not only our ability to secure prevailing wage work, but also the legislation that addresses health care, retirement, workers' compensation and workers' rights. These posts can also serve as the first step to a position of greater significance.

Congratulations also to Bro. Bill Martin on his recent election as president of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. [See article in *IBEW Journal*, spring 2008 issue.] This is a great honor for Local 654, as Bro. Martin becomes the first IBEW member to achieve this position.

*Jim Russell, V.P./P.S.*

## Richmond Work Picture

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—The work outlook in our jurisdiction really looks good! At Philip Morris, primary work will be underway by April 2008 at the Bells Road Plant. Also scheduled to begin by April 2008 are the Logistics University project at Ft. Lee, and the Reynolds Crossing project for Philip Morris headquarters.

Congratulations to recent retirees: Thomas Agee, Terry Pettiford-Barnes, Kenny Degan, Harry Hitechew Jr., Ronnie Lawhorne, Sherman Minter, Moses Mitchell, Wayne Neale, Ramon

Pollard, Jack Violette, Donald Welch and Conald Whitaker.

We mourn the passing of: Clarence Cumber, Andre Guimond, Aubrey Hall, Kenny Heath, Sterling Hill, George Lester, Todd Lester, Todd Lewis, Curt McMunn, Cecil Parker, Jack Pettygrew, Bill Satterwhite and Herbert “Willie” Williams.

*Larry Southward, P.S.*

## Work Forecast Improves

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—The work forecast in our jurisdiction has improved more. We anticipate full employment for Book I. We have consecutive blast furnace projects at Gallo Glass, the Gregori High School project, the El Nido biomass co-generator and Modesto Water Treatment, as well as the wastewater treatment plant jobs.

Electrical Project Supervision (EPS) classes are being offered at our JATC. Local 684 urges our members to attend these classes for the valuable skills this training provides.

Local 684 invites everyone to explore our Web site: [www.ibewlu684.org](http://www.ibewlu684.org). This new venue will expand as features are added.

Remember to vote. Together we can change the world.

*Torrey Newton, P.S.*

## ‘Welcome Aboard’

L.U. 700 (em,i,o&spa), FT. SMITH, AR—Local 700 congratulates the following members on completing their apprenticeship: James Gober and Steve Hammers. Bro. Hammers won the Outstanding Apprentice Award. We are very proud of these brothers.

We extend a warm welcome aboard to our new full-time JATC Coordinator, Debbie Carter. Debbie has been the secretary for the JATC since 1989. She invites everyone to visit the JATC's new Web site at [www.fort-smith-electrical-jatc.com](http://www.fort-smith-electrical-jatc.com).

Local 700 remembers all those serving in the armed forces, especially those from our own local. Bro. Donald McKinney will soon be deployed for his second tour of duty in Iraq. Our prayers and thoughts will be with him.

*Charles D. McKinney, B.M.*

## Award Recipients

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rt,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—Fifty-year-plus members were honored at the January union meetings. Award recipients in attendance at the West Frankfort meeting were: James Hagler, Donald Wheat, Frederick Dailey, William Eutsler and Raymond Flanigan. The Pana Unit had one attendee, Ralph Hughes; and the Evansville Unit had one attendee, Charles Koestring.

We currently have 104 journeyman wiremen and two apprentice wiremen on the Book 1 Out of Work List.

The organizing campaign in Missouri for outside construction is progressing well, and the

Power Line Consultant employees are awaiting the NLRB election results.

The Evansville, IN, members employed at ALCOA recently received \$3.92 an hour, out of a \$4 maximum, in 2007 for their incentive pay. Safety was included in the calculation with zero lost time and zero recordable accidents.

Brothers and sisters, this is the year to win back the White House. Be active in the political process. Get out and vote!

*Marsha Steele, P.S.*



Local 702 winners of the 24th annual Lineman's Rodeo, 1st place overall journeyman team - contractor division, from left: Brad Logan, Ian Moore and Kurt Diekemper. Not pictured: Jeremy Byers, 1st place overall construction apprentice winner.

## Service Pins Awarded

L.U. 712 (c&i), BEAVER, PA—The following members recently received their 50-year IBEW service award pins: Joseph Bahurinsky, James E. Barnett, James A. Bluedorn, Richard E. Bradley, John B. Etheridge, Hubert Gerstnecker, Robert K. Harry, Oliver T. Hill, F. Willis Kaufman, Robert H. Low, Glen A. Lutz, Herbert McClelland, Frank McCracken, Duane McCullough, Richard C. Merritt, Robert M. Namadan, Raymond H. Peters, William Phillips, Allen E. Sluder, Robert R. Smith, Gerald L. Talbot, Roy W. Turney, William E. Waid, Richard E. Weber, Donald W. Wilcox and Leslie W. Wise.

Members who received 55-year IBEW service awards are: Carlyle W. Davis, Clyde H. Ellis, Walter W. Kirchel, Earl Roman, Salvatore J. Tate and David R. Thompson.

Recent recipients of the 60-year IBEW service award pins are: William C. Attaway, Charles H. Bender, William N. George, Robert C. Hoke, Richard V. Leonard, Michael Namadam and Wesley F. Winkle.

The local building trades are negotiating a project labor agreement for a new harness racing track and casino, Valley View Downs, in Lawrence County, PA. The project should break ground in June.

*Larry Nelson, P.S.*



Local 712 members receive 60-year service awards. From left: Richard V. Leonard, William N. George, Charles H. Bender, Wesley F. Winkle and William C. Attaway.



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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**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:**

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## Never Forget



**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

**T**he steel columns of the World Trade Center left standing after the explosions and the searing fires of 9/11 were symbols that all was not lost. But it was clear that our nation and our values were being tested.

Those values are alive in the work force that gave birth to the USS New York and its bow, forged from some of those twisted columns. It takes teamwork and solidarity to build a giant vessel. At Northrop Grumman, those qualities were sharpened on the job in a long, difficult quest for safe working environments, fairness, decent pay and working conditions.

The ship is built. Powerful armaments are in place. But our American values are still being tested just a few miles down the road from Northrop Grumman's Pascagoula yard.

A group of electricians, welders and other workers at Signal International Shipyard, a subcontractor, are building sections of new Navy ships. They have been brought over from India under H-2B "guest worker" visas and housed in windowless trailers.

Though they are paid prevailing wages, the Indian workers are forced to rebate large sums of their pay in exchange for their accommodations. It's a modern-day version of "I owe my soul to the company store."

In March, 100 Indian workers at Signal walked off the job. Singing "We Shall Overcome" in their native language, they threw off their hard hats in protest. They told Biloxi's WLOX that they were sick of living "like pigs in a cage." The company has threatened them with deportation.

Signal International says that they are filling a shortage of labor. But the federal government awarded contracts for Navy ships with the expectation that work would be performed on American soil by American workers.

"Never forget," the motto of the USS New York, doesn't apply only to our enemies on foreign soil. It's a warning that, if we are not vigilant, we can lose our most cherished values here at home, too. ■

## On Course for Change

**T**hirty-nine years ago when I was initiated into Kansas City, Mo., Local 124, I couldn't have imagined that someday I would be speaking to you as International Secretary-Treasurer. I want to thank International President Edwin D. Hill and the members of the IEC for the confidence they have placed in me.

Born and raised in the heart of the Midwest, I've heard pundits, radio show hosts and others bash the culture of Washington, D.C., for years, criticisms echoed by members, neighbors and friends back home. "They just don't get it," was the frequent complaint.

I have to admit, going to work every day at my new office, I sometimes wonder if I'm stuck in a parallel universe.

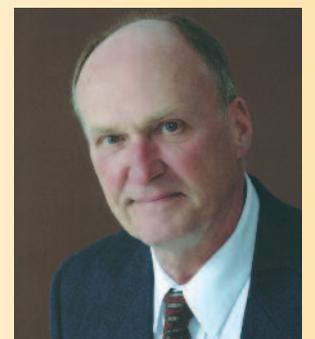
Our president has managed to rack up the biggest debt in our country's history while vetoing health care coverage for children. Within walking distance of my office, Congress continues to push for more tax cuts while our industrial infrastructure starves for funding.

I've seen the damage unlimited free trade has inflicted on working families across the Midwest and Great Plains, but the conventional wisdom is that NAFTA was a stunning success for our country.

But as the gray clouds of winter lift, it's hard not to sense the opportunities for real change that are opening up with the final days of the Bush administration. It's the kind of change we made in the Eleventh District through our organizing and political mobilization efforts, just as has been done in other districts of the IBEW.

There is no doubt that this is a great time to be here at the I.O. The legacy of leadership left by Jon Walters will act as my road map in the coming years.

President Hill's leadership has put our great union on the path of growth and stability. This is the time to kick it up a notch and build on what we have accomplished, and that is what I intend to do in this office. ■



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

## Letters to the Editor

### Unions for Kids

The IBEW is a title sponsor for the 6th annual Unions for Kids Poker Run and Chili Cook-Off in Portland, Ore. Our little poker run has grown from raising \$2,500 in 2003 to \$30,000 in 2007. We have asked for and received help from IBEW local unions as far away as Los Angeles in support of our project.

Though we are supported by many labor unions, the event starts and ends at Portland Local 48. Many of the photos have IBEW somewhere in the background, further highlighting the IBEW as a leader in the community. The recipient of our event is Doernbecher Children's Hospital, certainly the foremost children's hospital in the Pacific Northwest, and well recognized for its accomplishments in children's health care across the nation. Our Web site, [www.unionsforkids.org](http://www.unionsforkids.org), has more information.

Thanks again to all involved. We are on our way to donating \$50,000 to the kids in 2008.

*Lee Duncan  
Local 48 member, Portland, Ore.*

### Two Cents on FairPoint

As a customer of FairPoint Communications, I would like to add my own two cents about them. I have found them to be mediocre. When they purchased the local private phone company, FairPoint closed the local office. When we need assistance, we speak to someone in Washington state. When we purchased a bundle, not all of what we purchased was turned on. We have yet to receive any acknowledgement or directions about bundling, other than the bill. While the Internet access has improved, it is not as fast as I expected.

There are other inconveniences with them but they are just that, inconvenient.

I was actually quite surprised to read of the proposed expansion as reported in the *Electrical Worker*. Based on my experiences, I don't think that FairPoint has the kind of resources to consider such a move.

*Gerardo J. Caprario  
Local 102 retiree, Paterson, N.J.*

### Brotherhood Lives On

Brotherhood is alive and well in Local 25. At the December meeting Brother Michael O'Grady addressed a tragedy that affected many in our local union. February 2007 saw the untimely passing of Brother Elias Anchundia in a horrific electrical accident. Due to a fund rule, the family was left without dental coverage.

After becoming aware of the problem, Brother O'Grady went to work helping the family. Mike's son and brother are both dentists with ties to the IBEW. Mike Jr. worked as a summer helper in our local and Dr. John O'Grady worked in Local 3's dental clinic. These two doctors have agreed to provide free general dental care to the wife and children of Elias Anchundia.

Thanks to Dr. John O'Grady and Dr. Michael O'Grady for their caring gesture and special thanks to Brother Michael O'Grady for putting this together.

*James Donahue  
Local 25 member, Long Island, N.Y.*

### 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](mailto: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.

## Who We Are

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

## A Contractor's Tribute

In 1980, Howard Mayers took the reins of Mayers Electric Co., a small signatory shop in Cincinnati. Now president of one of the largest electrical contractors in the city, Mayers told the *Electrical Worker* how his career in the industry was intertwined with the three IBEW members who shaped his approach to life and work: Everett "Bud" Brown, Fred Holthaus and Adron Rice, all retired members of Cincinnati Local 212.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, I spent the summer and winter breaks working in my late father's electrical contracting business with his three main electricians, Bud, Fred and Rice.

I learned electrical work from them, but it all goes hand in hand with the union movement. Pay people well, give them good benefits, and people enjoy their lives. It's what I think unions are about.

Bud at 135 pounds is the strongest person for his size I ever met. He could bend 1-inch EMT with the smoothest motion, a feat most all electricians struggle with. He would pick me up and we would have coffee with Fred and Rice before going to work. They loved to joke with the waitress and each other. We'd arrive at the job site 15 minutes early, open the gang box and talk about work or current events. At 7:30 a.m. we were up and working.

Fred was amazing about laying out work. He had a "grab it and growl" philosophy: figure out what you want to do and go after it. No job was too hard. His racks of conduit were always nice and clean and efficient. He is extremely smart.

Rice was great with his hands. He showed me how to hold a hacksaw, screwdriver, a drill. He showed me how to use my hands and how to position myself to do the work, how to make the work go easy and correct.

Rice was a sign man. He did any kind of high work. We'd put lights on skyscrapers in Cincinnati, and he'd go out on the ledges on top of a 50-story building and it was no problem. He had great concentration. In World War II, he crossed several miles into enemy territory in Germany to be a spotter for tank-mounted guns. He'd tell them where the allies' bombs were landing. He would say aim to the left or right, or up or down.

We started off doing small jobs, installing a few light fixtures for a shoe store. Things like that. We had a very small company. I studied on my own. I got my master electricians license when I was 24 and my MBA at the University of Cincinnati.

Fred, Rice and Bud all wound up being foremen on our big jobs. They went from being mentors to my employees.

In 1984, there was a strike here. I had to preserve Mayers Electric. We had asked for a



Fred, left, Rice and Bud at the 1990 retirement dinner for Bud and Fred.

wage cut. I was trying to reach an agreement that would allow me to survive. Freddy told me at that time, "I agree with you but I can tell you I'm going to be union person all of my life." I realized then I had to come up with a settlement. I wanted to maintain these people as our employees, because they were such good employees. They didn't strike me. Of 50 contractors, 35 were struck over second shops.

The local didn't want second (open) shops. Other companies had started them, but I said I would sign an agreement that I would not. If you want to be open, be open, but if you want to be union, commit to the system and try to make it the best.

I was president of our NECA chapter for 14 years and have been on the health and welfare trust for 20 years. I try to make our signatory system the best way of work.

Bud worked 37 years, Rice 32 and Fred 31 for our company. In 100 years total on their jobs, there was never a serious accident to any one of them, or their other workers. And this was in a time with no safety books, manuals and programs. How did they do it? By getting to the job a little early – not running in, ringing the bell and jumping to work, but by relaxing and thinking about what they were going to do. They had a presence of mind and focus on their job. Not only did they perform their work safely, but they did correct work in an efficient and quick way.

At 10 minutes before 4 p.m., they cleaned up and at 4, they left to go home, most always happy with their day and ready to do something else.

I still have lunch about once a month with Bud, Fred, Rice and some more of the retired folks. It is still just as much fun. They showed me how to truly enjoy your job and have time and the ability to have a great family life. ■

## Local Lines

continued from page 13

### Houston Work Picture

L.U. 716 (em,i,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—The work picture in Houston continues to improve and several projects are still in the planning stages. Thanks to our organizing efforts and our traveling brothers and sisters, we are manning our work.

We are continuing our "Get Out The Vote" campaign. Thanks to those members who block walked and phone banked during our primary elections for our labor-friendly endorsed candidates. If you are not a registered voter, please register now. Your vote will count in November.

Thanks to our Pension trustees for their continued diligence in our recent increase in pension benefits for our active, retired and future members.

Our annual children and adult Christmas parties were a great success. Thanks to Fred Ellis and the Entertainment Committee for another great time!

Congratulations to John Easton Sr., on his retirement—and thanks for the years of service to Local 716 as a member and an assistant business manager. I love you, Dad!

Local 716 will have a Brotherhood Bash for all members in May. Also our last Code Update class will be held May 31 for those needing to renew their state license.

*John E. Easton Jr., B.M./F.S.*



Local 716 Bus. Mgr. John E. Easton Jr. (left), Asst. Bus. Mgr. John E. Easton Sr., Terry Neal, Membership Training director; and Roger Foster, Membership Development coordinator.

### New Contractors Join 760

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Local 760 recently welcomed its two newest signatory contractors: Tennessee Services Electric and Design 1 Building Systems. When asked why he moved his electrical division into Local 760, Design 1 Building Systems owner Ken Davis said: "IBEW 760 has the business sense we are looking for, access to skilled manpower we need—and the training program is huge."

Local 760 outside construction members ratified the Tennessee Statewide Agreement. Our journeyman linemen, apprentice linemen, groundmen and operators will see a well-earned growth in wages over the next three years under the new agreement.

The work outlook on TVA projects in 2008 is to be at an all time high with the expected projects at Bull Run, Kingston and Watts Bar.



IBEW Tenth District Int. Rep. Brent E. Hall (front row, far right) recently presented the initial Code of Excellence training course to Local 760 officers and construction stewards. Training Dir. A.J. Pearson (front row, fifth from left) also attended. Bus. Mgr. George Bove snapped the photo.

Voter Registration: Local 760 Registrar Frank Anderson and our Political Action Committee are assisting members who are not registered to vote. Frank will visit job sites, along with Asst. Bus. Agent Frog Jones, to get one-on-one with the members during this important election year. To contact Frank, call (865) 776-8772.

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

### Service to Community

L.U. 796 (u), DOTHAN, AL—IBEW Local 796 members at Farley Nuclear Plant teamed up to brighten the holidays of 23 families with "Toys for Tots." The project received wish lists from families who are serviced by the House of Ruth, Wise Children's Center, and Alfred Saliba Services. With the help of each agency, the mothers were able to pick up the presents for their children in time for Christmas. Each family was presented with a large box of food items and a certificate for a turkey. Extra food items went to the Food Bank. Many thanks to all who participated in the holiday project to serve those in need.

*A.G. James, Pres.*



IBEW Local 796 members employed at Farley Nuclear Plant sponsored a community service holiday project.

### 65th Anniversary Celebrated

L.U. 804 (i&o), KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA—With great joy this past year Local 804 celebrated its 65th year as a chartered local, and on Dec. 7 we celebrated. From our early beginnings as a local not large enough to man a small project, to a force of almost 1,300 members today, we all have something to be proud of.

Along with those celebrations, we also congratulated the following members for 55 years of service: Morris Brown, John Heron, Basil Krusky, Maurice Levesque and John Shantz. Also recognized were 50-year pin recipients: Charles Bard, Bruce Church, John Couch, Gerald Guidolin, Wesley Henry, David Rendell and Kenneth Tuffnail.

Thanks to everyone for their hard work and dedication to Local 804's success!

*Glen Hicks, P.S.*

### WCIU Contract Ratified

L.U. 1220 (rtb), CHICAGO, IL—On Tuesday, Jan. 29, bargaining members working at WCIU Channel 26 ratified a four-year contract. The vote was cast at Local 134's union hall, which is two blocks away from WCIU's broadcast facility. "Our thanks to Tim Foley [Local 134 business manager], who let us use his hall. Our members work strange broadcast hours, so they were able to meet and vote on break or lunch," said Local 1220 Bus. Mgr. Madeleine Monaco.

"The last negotiations took over three years; this time Ms Monaco requested Javier Ramirez, a federal mediator, to help the process along," said WCIU steward Chris Faulkner. "I was able to give a day-to-day report on the station's practices and procedures."

"It was pretty important to have someone from the bargaining unit at the table each time we met," Monaco said. "Chris told us exactly what the company was doing and how the bargaining unit felt about it. He spent a lot of his time for the union and kept his brothers and sisters informed and involved for over a year. ... He was invaluable and greatly appreciated," added Monaco.

*Jim Sterne, B.R./P.S.*

### AmerenIP Contract Ratified

L.U. 1306 (uow), DECATUR, IL—Our local union, in coordination with IBEW System Council U-05 (comprised of Locals 51, 309, 649, 702 and 1306), reached a five-year agreement with AmerenIP. The contract was ratified by the membership on Dec. 14, 2007. We are currently scheduled to meet with AmerenIP on our benefits agreement.

Our members working at Clinton Power Station successfully supported the latest refuel outage by performing additional tasks while still maintaining their routine duties. Members supported by manning the Outage Control Center,

performing core verifications, ensuring work packages were prepared and ready to work, and assisting with processing over 2,000 temporary workers. Congratulations to our members for having zero safety incidents during this outage.

Congratulations to Sister Angela Pierce, Sister Tami Ballenger and Bro. Brian Nicholson on becoming Senior Engineering Representatives.

Remember to vote in the November election. We must support the candidates who are working-family friendly. Please attend your unit meetings.

*Karlene Knisley, B.M./F.S.*

### New Officers Welcomed

L.U. 1900 (so&u), WASHINGTON, DC—New Executive Board members are William Miller Jr., Transmission, and Steve Sanner, Distribution. Ernest Harrison was sworn in as the local's new treasurer; and Vice Pres. Greg Waller agreed to take the position of local union registrar.

As the first order of business, Bro. Waller invited IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Dir. Brian Baker to attend a Local 1900 Executive Board meeting and Bro. Baker gave an overview of the process to get members involved in COPE.

I testified on several occasions at the D.C. Public Service Commission regarding PEPCO's aging work force and the deterioration of infrastructure due to little or no maintenance being done as a result of deregulation.

The officers are working closely with the office of the International Secretary-Treasurer in an attempt to have the companies we represent adopt the IBEW Health Care Plan. Presentations to the respective benefit managers are now taking place. In solidarity, the IBEW business managers who represent members of the holding company are meeting on a regular basis to discuss changes that can potentially affect all the local unions.

*John L. Holt, Pres./B.M./F.S.*

### Congratulations to Retirees

L.U. 2324 (t), SPRINGFIELD, MA—Our local extends congratulations and best wishes to the 41 members of Local 2324 who recently retired from Verizon. The departing members took early retirement packages in an effort to relieve the surplus declared by the company. Their service to the IBEW and their skills on the job were greatly appreciated.

The local reminds every member to take the time to work safely, especially during inclement weather. On the job safety is your responsibility, and your family wants you home tonight. Best of luck to all in the year ahead!

*Joe Floyd, P.S.*



Springfield Local 2324 Executive Board members attend December 2007 E-Board meeting. From left, Don Wasuk, Unit 2 Pittsfield; Jeremy Dillensneider, Unit 3 Northampton; Matt McDonnell, Unit 1 Springfield; Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. John D. Rowley Sr.; Steve Booher, Unit 5 Westfield; Dave Wasuk, Unit 4 N. Adams/Great Barrington; Karen Dowd, Unit 6 Greenfield; Chris Casino, Traffic at Large; Vice Pres. Richard Armida; Joseph Floyd, Plant at Large; and Chuck Duffy, Avaya at Large; Pres. Bruce R. Lambert. Wearing Santa cap is former E-Board member Paul Mark, now a Local 2325 member. Not pictured is Treas. Katherine A. Collins.