In the past 20 years, 119,000 IBEW manufacturing members have lost their jobs. As delegates to May’s IBEW Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Manufacturing Conference gathered in Atlantic City in early May, they expressed their determination to fight to rebuild our nation’s industrial base. They agreed that, in addition to stopping bad trade deals, one of the keys to growth is “green” manufacturing—creating jobs in environmentally-advanced technologies to help restore the American Dream to working families.

Green jobs are no dream for members of Memphis, Tenn., Local 474, where a 55-person work force at Sharp started producing photovoltaic panels in 2003. One of only a few unionized solar producers in the United States, Sharp now employs 180 members making solar panels. The plant is praised by environmentalists and studied by academics who recognize the facility’s progressive labor relations as one of its keys to success.

The 450-employee Sharp plant, which produced TVs until production was outsourced to Mexico in 2000, also manufactures microwave ovens and copier toner. Japan-based Sharp has been in the solar market since 1963, but its sole U.S. involvement was a sales division in California until the solar product line opened in Memphis. The plant’s yearly panel output, for residential and commercial customers in the United States and Europe, creates 64 megawatts of potential power yearly, enough to supply 14,000 homes.

Sharp supplied panels to North America’s largest photovoltaic power system, installed by members of Las Vegas Local 357 outside Nellis Air Force Base. (See “IBEW Helps Air Force Harvest Solar Power,” The Electrical Worker, February, 2008).

George Sterzinger, director of Nevada Energy Independence Partners, a non-profit organization, worked with Las Vegas Local 357 on building a solar array at the union’s apprenticeship training center.

“We bought Sharp solar panels for Las Vegas precisely because they were domestic and unionized,” he says, adding that he is hopeful that the federal government will support domestic production and prevailing wages in renewable energy technologies. The alternative, he says, is that there will be more negative examples like the nonunion solar plant in Nevada operated by a Spain-based firm with all components made overseas. “They are unionized in Spain, but not here,” says Sterzinger.

At the Sharp plant, workers solder silicon solar cells made in Japan into PVC panels installed in frames. The units are then inspected and moved into an oven to seal...
Nebraska Local Branches Out

Columbus, Neb., is a small town of only 20,000 residents, but it has become a center of manufacturing in the Midwest in recent years. This has meant plenty of construction jobs, but the town—90 miles northwest of Omaha—never had much of a labor movement. So when Commonwealth Electric, a Lincoln-based signatory contractor, bought Steve Kaup’s nonunion shop in Columbus in February, Omaha Local 22 knew it would be pioneering new ground.

“It’s always been a nonunion town, and some folks there wanted to keep it that way,” said Eleventh District International Representative John Bourne.

The sale was encouraged by the local, which saw opportunities for growth. Kaup—now branch manager for Commonwealth—and his 21 electricians became the first IBEW members in the city’s modern history.

“There was definitely some concern at first,” Kaup said. “None of my guys had dealt with unions before.”

One of the first challenges Local 22 Business Manager Gary Kelly faced was integrating the new members. Columbus is making traveling to local meetings time consuming and increasingly expensive due to rising gas prices.

Business representatives Brad Doyle and Brett Johnson started making weekly trips to meet with the members to help them feel connected. “We started by meeting wherever we could, in coffee shops and hotels,” Kelly said. “If we were going to make this work, we needed to prove that we were in it for the long haul.”

The local eventually purchased a storefront office in a central downtown location, cementing its commitment to the town while increasing the IBEW’s visibility.

Apprenticeship training presented another challenge. The new shop had 10 apprentices and Kaup was planning to recruit more. Expecting apprentices to commute to Omaha two nights a week for classes was out of the question, so Kelly and the Omaha Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee set up video conferencing equipment at the new office. Apprentices follow along with the classes in Omaha through three 60-inch flat screen TVs. Students can ask questions and participate in classroom discussion with two-way microphones.

“It took a little bit of getting used to but now it’s second nature,” Kelly said. “These guys want to be part of the program, so their commitment really makes it work.”

City officials and business leaders, initially wary of organized labor, also had to be cultivated. “We joined the Chamber of Commerce,” Kelly said. “We met with leaders of all the big groups in town. We had to show patience and slowly try to gain their respect, but the reception has been great.” In March, the local’s apprenticeship program was featured in the local newspaper.

Commonwealth has recruited 15 new employees in recent months and has received contracts for some big projects, including work on a new school and an ethanol plant. Kaup credits the IBEW’s emphasis on education and training for its success. “Nobody is offering what we do,” he said. “Our schooling is attracting people looking for a career, not just a job.”

Bourne sees the work Local 22 has done as a model for the region. “We can’t just be happy stuck in the big cities, because there is a lot of manufacturing going on in small towns throughout the Midwest,” he said. “The skilled manpower shortage is critical in these rural areas and the IBEW can show great dividends in the future if we can capitalize on it.”

Tennessee Members Shine in Solar Panel Plant

continued from page 1

ing. “It’s very high-tech, and we are excited because the market is looking good,” says Kenneth Ingram, Local 474’s assistant business manager, who formerly worked as a chief steward at Sharp.

“We haven’t arbitrated a grievance in over twelve years,” says Local 474 Business Manager Paul Shaffer. The plant’s grievance procedure is patterned after the Committee on Industrial Relations in the electrical construction industry. The local, encompassing inside and outside construction trades, municipal employees and workers at rural electric cooperatives, sits on a grievance review board composed of three Sharp managers and three bargaining unit representatives. The board, which began hearing cases in 2002, makes final and binding decisions on all grievances.

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Sharp Solar Panel Production Plant

Memphis, Tennessee

- 190 members of Local 474
- Plant capacity: Panels which will generate 91 megawatts of power.
- 2007 production: 64 megawatts (enough to supply 14,000 homes with electricity)
- Milestones:
  - 1963—Sharp enters the solar panel market.
  - 2003—Start-up of solar production in Memphis; 55 bargaining unit members.
  - 2008—Sharp produces the 1 millionth solar module at the Memphis plant.
A partnership between Indianapolis Local 481 and Indiana’s two horse racing tracks could translate into more than 600 new members for the IBEW in the state’s growing gaming industry. The deal will increase membership in the local by twenty percent, said Business Manager Tom O’Donnell. “We’re looking forward to welcoming these new members.”

The Hoosier Park and Indiana Downs racing tracks, both located in central Indiana outside Indianapolis, were facing declining revenues due to a shrinking customer base. The owners were pushing the Indiana General Assembly for legislation to allow them to install slot machines at their facilities, creating a combination race track and casino known as a “racino.” But management needed help with the grassroots lobbying effort, so they turned to Local 481 and the Central Indiana Building Trades—whose president is O’Donnell—for assistance.

The local was immediately interested in the project, O’Donnell said. While boosting revenues for track owners, in addition to generating millions in additional state taxes, the casinos would create more than 1,000 new jobs for a state that has suffered badly from plant shutdowns. “And we were in a position to make sure they were good union jobs,” said Local 481 Business Representative Kevin Marshall.

An agreement by management to card check neutrality at both casinos cemented the local’s commitment to the project. Both tracks also signed a project labor agreement with the building trades for the casino’s construction, putting more than 120 electricians to work.

“It’s a win-win for IBEW Local 481, for the casino employees and for track management to expand their business,” O’Donnell said. The bill was passed by the legislature last year. The casinos are set to open this month.

Business agents Jason Haltem, Steve Montgomery and Marshall began visiting with workers at both tracks soon after the neutrality agreement was reached. At Hoosier Park, more than 250 race track employees—including gatekeepers, tellers and money managers—have gone without a raise for nearly five years and were open to hearing what the IBEW could offer. They signed their first collective bargaining agreement in February.

The contract, in addition to giving workers a raise, increased health and retirement benefits. Workers at the casino section will likely have a contract by the end of the June, Haltem said.

At Indiana Downs, the local has organized more than 300 track and casino workers, many of whom are new employees. Local leaders said they are confident that an agreement will be reached this summer, Marshall said.

“Negotiations with IBEW Local 481 were conducted in a professional and respectful manner,” said Rick Moore, president and general manager of Hoosier Park. “There was give and take on both sides that, in the end, resulted in a five-year contract that provides for significant wage increases.”

Former state House Speaker Mike Phillips, who acted as legal consultant for Hoosier Park, says the work of Local 481 members was key. “We look forward to many years of mutual success,” he said.

While the IBEW represents race track workers in other states, including in neighboring Illinois, this is the first track site to be represented by Local 481. “Our job is to organize workers—everyday Americans wanting to better their lives—whatever their industry,” O’Donnell said.

More than 300 race track and casino workers at the Indiana Downs Race Track have signed up with Indianapolis Local 481 this year.

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North of 49°
Canadian Labour Movement Says No to Trade Partnership

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ux qui ont aimé l'ALENA vont sûrement se réjouir du Partenariat pour la sécurité et la prospérité (PSP).
C'est le message que les militants du mouvement syndical canadien veulent transmettre aux travailleurs syndiqués partout en Amérique du Nord.

Ce partenariat a été convenu en 2005 lors d'une rencontre entre George Bush, Président des É.-U., Vincente Fox, ex-Président du Mexique et Paul Martin, ex-Premier Ministre du Canada, afin d'accroître la collaboration sur les questions d'économie et de sécurité.

Décrit comme un effort de financement en faveur d'une sécurité entre tous, ce partenariat a été établi pour permettre de mobiliser des ressources pour une meilleure sécurité nationale dans les trois pays.

Le secrétariat du partenariat a été assuré par le Conseil des partenaires, composé de représentants des gouvernements, des organisations syndicales et des entreprises.

Le CLC a demandé à ses membres de s'engager à faire pression pour que le partenariat soit ouvert à tous les citoyens.
National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee reported that the number of in-den-terred outside apprentices has nearly doubled in the last five years, with a record number of apprentices—more than 1,600—entering the industry in 2007 alone.

IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter says that increasing awareness about the problems of an aging power infrastructure due to recent blackouts coupled with new investments has spurred interest in the industry. The NJATC has also been aggressive about recruitment, producing DVDs about the apprenticeship program and running commercials on cable TV.

"You can’t get much for free these days, but apprenticeship training is one of them," said NJATC Executive Director Michael Callanan, who added a plug for the IBEW and industry sponsors. "We are providing an invaluable service to our economy at no cost to the taxpayer."

To accommodate the new apprentices, the NJATC has expanded its class sizes and increased the number of trainings held throughout the year. "The outside industry is perhaps one of the most demanding fields for electrical workers, but it is also the most critical," Callanan said. "We must do more to increase the numbers in our outside program…however these numbers are a great start.”

Members Approve Five-Year FairPoint Contract

IBEW members in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont overwhelmingly ratified a five-year labor contract in April with FairPoint Communications, their new employer.

Approximately 2,300 members in the three states will earn a 15 percent raise over the life of the labor agreement. FairPoint purchased the Northern New England portion of Verizon’s landlines for $2.4 billion on March 31.

The agreement that expires in 2013 calls for 3 percent yearly wage increases, with addition-AL cost of living hikes in years four and five of the contract, an annual increase in pension benefits and a continuation of the current practice of not charging members or retirees with any portion of health care premiums.

"This wouldn’t have been possible without the cooperation of the local unions, the Second District and the Telecommunications Department, who worked so hard to bring our members a good contract during a tumultuous time," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill.

Negotiators for Manchester, N.H., Local 2320, Montpelier, Vt., Local 2326 and Augusta, Maine, Local 2327 also won neutrality and card check recognition for FairPoint's unrepresented units in New York, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

The pact also includes corporate profit-sharing, the establishment of a 401(k) program with an employer match, a $500 signing bonus for each member, a restriction on work trans-fers and the creation of labor-management and work and family committees.

Electricians Turn Apprenticeship Training Into College Credit

Too often, high school seniors are told by their guidance counselor that they only have two options: go to college or get a trade. But thanks to the American Council on Education and the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, a job in the electrical industry doesn’t mean giving up on higher education.

The organizations are partnering to help electricians translate their apprenticeship training into college credits. Depending on the degree, they can use their training to get up to 60 hours of college credit at more than 1,700 institutions across the United States.

The education council evaluates each apprenticeship program to see how many credits can be applied to the degree pursued. Local JATCs are already helping thousands of IBEW members pursue a higher education with partnerships with more than 170 colleges and universities.

"It helps our members already working to take advantage of educational opportunities,” said NJATC Executive Director Michael Callanan. "But it will also make going into the trade more attractive for young people.”

Electricians interested in acquiring college credit should contact their local JATC direc-tor for more information.

Code of Excellence Makes Believers in Minnesota

IBEW's Code of Excellence garnered some new believers in April on a Minnesota construction site. When a general contractor and the new building's owner arrived at the site at 3:12 p.m., they were met by a sizable exodus of tradesmen. But after entering the building, they heard workers still on the job.

A crew of electricians from Minneapolis Local 292 employed by signatory contractor Parsons Electric stayed on the job until 3:30 p.m., the end of their shift.

After a getting a complaint from Knutson Construction, the general contractor, Jay Goldsmith, general superintendent of Parsons Electric, passed it on. He sent a note to Local 292 journeyman wireman foreman Tim Och thanking him for the work of his crew—giving the owner eight hours pay for eight hours work.

Since the Code of Excellence has been adopted, electricians and contractors have made a conscious effort to live up to its standards, says Local 292 Business Manager Steve Claypatch. "This isn't the first compliment we have received, but it is important to recognize the impact it will have on an area where there is much more to gain than lose," he said.

Organizing Wire

California Court Supervisors Join IBEW

Organizing can sometimes lead to unex-pected victories. San Diego Local 465 Business Manager John Hunter was seeking to organize irrigation system workers in Imperial County—located in the far southeastern section of California—when he received an unexpected tip.

A sister of one of the workers was employed as a court supervisor for the county Superior Court. The supervisors, who are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day tasks of court employees, were in the middle of con-tract negotiations and she thought they could use some help from the union, said Local 465 Business Representative Jerry Fecher.

Fecher organized a meeting with the eight court employees last November. The supervi-sors already had an employees association, but decided that affiliating with a union would put them in a stronger bargaining position.

“They were a little apprehensive at first because they thought we only represented electrical workers,” Hunter said. Fecher went to work studying state labor regulations after the supervisors agreed to be repre-sented by the local in the upcoming negotia-tions. Wages and spiraling medical costs were the top issues.

After six tough bargaining sessions and mediation by state officials, the local came to an official agreement with the county, which was unanimously approved by the unit.

“We didn’t get everything they wanted, but we helped to tackle some of their long-time concerns and recruited eight new members,” Hunter said.

The local has already signed up more than 300 irrigation system workers and hopes to become the exclusive bargaining agent for all employees soon. “We keep seeing movement and are making a lot of strides,” Hunter said.
The IBEW is saddened to report that retired Ninth District International Representative Richard “Dick” Rogers died on April 15. He was 67.

A native of Monroe, Wash., Rogers was initiated into Seattle Local 77 in 1957. An outside lineman who worked for various contractors for more than two decades, he became business manager in 1978, where he represented the union in outside line construction negotiations for more than 70 contracts.

One of Rogers’ main projects was a business manager centered on political engagement in state legislative issues. Rogers, a Vietnam veteran, is remembered for employing tenacity and fairness in labor and management negotiations, said Local 77 Business Manager Don Guillot.

“He could be very commanding, but he was also a behind-the-scenes kind of guy,” Guillot said. “He was there to defend the working man and woman, and he had no problem letting someone else take the credit.”

Jim McClain, retired business manager of Medford, Ore., Local 659, said “Richard was just an all-around great guy.”

Appointed International Representative in 1982, Rogers serviced locals in the areas of utility and outside line construction throughout the Ninth District.

New Brunswick, N.J. Local 456 member William Koch Jr.’s son died March 3 while on patrol in the Sabari district of eastern Afghanistan.

Cpl. Steven R. Koch, 23, died from injuries sustained by the explosion of a car bomb. A paratrooper, he was on patrol as an assistant gunner assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division.

His decorations include the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Army Commendation Medal. He was buried at the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

He leaves behind wife Amy Bethany Koch and his daughter, 17-month-old Zoe Koch. His brother, William Koch III, is also a member of Local 456. Anyone wishing to help his family is asked to contribute to the Cpl. Steven Koch Fund, c/o William Koch Jr., 8 Garden Terrace, Milltown, N.J., 08850.

One of his career highlights was the six-year battle at the Avondale Shipyard in Louisiana. The campaign, which involved more than a dozen unions, won representation for the more than 4,000 workers in 2000.

In 1994, he was transferred to the Fifth District. Anderson put his college degrees to work running classes on labor education. He received both his bachelors and masters in industrial education from Florida A&M.

In addition to his service with the IBEW, he served as president of the Florida chapter of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute in the early ‘80s.

The IBEW is saddened to report that retired Ninth District International Representative Charlie Silvernale said Rogers worked closely with locals and taught countless seminars on union organizing, upping the ante for his district’s active role in state politics. He retired three years ago.

Ninth District International Representative Rick Hite said people will remember him as a “lineman’s lineman” who was a good friend to many. “He would do extraordinary things to help people when they were in their time of need,” he said.

IBEW staff, members, and officers send our most heartfelt condolences to Brother Rogers’ family and friends, and we honor him for his decades of tireless service to the movement.

Eleventh District International Representative David Feller retired April 1. Feller was initiated into Sioux Falls, S.D., Local 426 in 1966, entering his inside journeyman wireman apprenticeship. “We were a small local and if you showed a little interest in the union, they put you on a committee,” says Feller, the son and grandson of union railroad men. Feller was elected to the local’s executive board and was a trustee of its pension and health plans.

After serving as the local’s business manager for 22 years, Feller, who attended Northern States University in Aberdeen, was appointed to the International staff in 1998 to service locals and organize in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Feller faced a unique situation organizing public sector workers in Nebraska, where a state agency resolves all disputes regarding wages and union representation. Unions are often forced to spend large sums of money to finance state-conducted surveys of prevailing wages and working conditions before they can win bargaining unit certification.

“He was so proud of the Nebraska utility locals, especially Grand Island Local 1597, for banding together with the Nebraska Utility Workers and the International union and putting their money where their mouths were, despite a ton of money being spent by the other side,” says Feller. Local 1597 started out representing members at three or four utility units and now represents workers at fourteen, says Feller.

“What a great organization to have worked for,” says Feller. “We’re all lucky to have the opportunity to be a part of it and we need to take advantage of good times.”

After years of job-related traveling, Feller looks forward to staying put before hitting the road again on pleasure trips with his wife, Diane. He plans to construct a model railroad, while also enjoying time with his two children and two grandchildren.

The officers and members of the IBEW wish Brother Anderson a healthy, fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

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San Francisco IBEW Local 6 won honors for its St. Patrick’s Day parade marching contingent, float and cable car entries.

**Local Lines**

**Code Update Classes**

L.U. 8 (as,em,cm,mr,mts,ts,skpsa), TOLEDO, OH—The out-of-work book has been steadily decreasing, and should continue to get better, as there are projects of decent size coming up. Thanks to the many locals that helped our traveling brothers and sisters with employment. Hopefully we can repay the favor in the future.

Be sure to sign up for your Code Update classes. The state of Michigan and city of Toledo will require that you take a 15-hour and a 10-hour course, respectively, in order to renew your 2009 license. We encourage you to take advantage of other journeymen education classes available to you as well.

We have a list of warm weather events planned, starting with our annual LMC/Golf outing on June 15. Our annual picnic is Sat., June 28, at the Electrical Industry Building grounds in Rossford. The perch tourney will be held in late August, and don’t forget the annual Labor Day parade!

Be safe at work and at play. We hope to see you at an union meeting!

Red Tackett, P.S.
Jim Koziwoski, B.M.

**Alternative Energy Class**

L.U. 16 (j), EVANSVILLE, IN—The IUU is planning an alternative energy class this fall. The journeymen training class will be multifunctional in that it will stress both solar and wind generated systems while serving as a practical working laboratory in which the training center’s utility costs will be greatly reduced. Component costs are currently being discussed with a knowledgeable local contractor. Bro. Mike Weinzelpiels agreed to serve as the classroom instructor. He is scheduled to head the National Training Institute’s classes on how to present the information most effectively. This project will showcase the IUU’s leadership in innovative green technology, furthering America’s energy independence.

Several of the hall’s most seasoned veterans decided to further the purposes of the IUU by forming an active Local 16 Retirees Club. Club functions have included using retirees’ skills for community support projects, promoting the local’s legislative goals, and lively discussions on everything from the best bird dog to taxes. To attend the monthly breakfast or for more information, call (812) 867-9670.

Washington D.C.—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 for information and a ticket request form. We are excited that this year’s picnic will also incorporate a health fair and 5-K run!

Congratulations to Bros./Bus. Agent Randolph Scott on his recent retirement. Bro. Scott is a 36-year IUU member and has worked in the business office since 1989. We wish him many happy years of retirement.

Sister Violet Quick was brought on staff as a new business representative. We welcome her on board!

We are saddened by the deaths of the following members since our last article: Sisters Nancy Neidert and Katerina R. Hawkins, and Bros. Benjamin D. Medley, Thomas D. Hicks, Neil M. Bell, Harry G. Ulrich, Larry L. Henley, Roger Andrew Myers, Frank Vincent Moran, Lloyd Reeves, Lawrence E. Allen and William M. Kneecker.

Congratulations to the brothers who retired since our last article: Robert T. Goss, Thomas A. Masinissa, Robert M. Metter, Joseph V. Pittare Jr., William G. Enlow and Richard B. Stover.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

**Best of the Best**

L.U. 34 (em,rtskpsa), PEDORIA, IL—The work outlook at this writing in Local 34 is not progressing as scheduled, due to the lack of building materials needed (mainly structural steel). Some projects are three months behind because of this shortage. The overall picture for this year is still very bright though. Local 34 will need a lot of help from our traveling brothers and sisters when things break loose.

Code of Excellence plays in Local 34. We must all show our customers that we are the best of the best! To survive in this competitive age we must embrace change. Local 34 is planning a History of the IEW class for all newly organized members. I suggest that everyone take this class. Sometimes we forget what our forefathers went through, and why we have what we have today! I encourage you to attend your union meetings and volunteer for whatever you can. Power is in numbers, and we can make a change if we all stick together.

Congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Robert Higham on his recent retirement.

Our sympathy goes to the families of Bros. Richard Towlis and Tom Picton, who recently passed away.

Paul O’Dee, P.S.
**Large Contracts Awarded**

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Local 38 journey- men are working at Cleveland’s Steelyard Commons for Ullman Electric. The newly opened giant shopping center has produced thousands of man-hours for Local 38 members.

Cuyahoga County Commissioners reached an agreement with Merchandise Mart Inc. to build the new Medical Mart in downtown Cleveland. With Medical Mart secured, the commissioners are pushing ahead with plans to build a new $400 million convention center. The site is scheduled to be selected by June. Two front-runner sites are at Tower City along the river and the existing convention center site.

We have several large contracts that were just awarded. Lake Erie Electric was awarded the $12 million electrical contract for the new county juvenile detention center and electrical work will begin this summer. Atlantic Electric was awarded a $2.5 million contract for the Lakewood High School remodel job. Ullman Electric was awarded the site work for phase two at Crocker Park.

Upcoming events include the Stewards Stag on June 14; the Cedar Point picnic July 6; and the Old Timers picnic Aug. 2.

We need to elect a labor-friendly candidate to the White House. If you think John McCain is a nice guy, all you need to do is check his labor voting record to see that he is not nice to us.

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**Local 38 Community Service Projects**

In addition, we support annualeventsincluding the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Family of Friends Foundation.

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**AFL-CIO Union-Industries Show**

L.U. 55 (em,rtb&spa), DETROIT, MI—Detroit was honored to host the 2008 AFL-CIO America @Work Union-Industries Show, held May 16-18. Our booth featured demonstrations such as pipe bending, cable splicing and panel wiring. In addition, we showcased our IATC’s photovoltaic installation. We are proud that we do and enjoy an opportunity to share it with everyone who attends.

Thanks to all who participated and everyone who made it down to the show!

Work has continued to be slow in our jurisdiction. Hopefully, a Democratic presidential victory in November will offer leadership for our national economy and a health care plan for all Americans.

Is everyone in your family registered to vote?

Thanks again to all our sister locals that have put 5thers to work during Michigan’s long recession.

We are all fortunate to have our referral system and the ERTS. Many of our members tell great stories about the hospitality and brotherhood on the road.

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**Labor 2008—Electio...**

L.U. 68 (i), BOSTON, MA—A special Constitutional Convention for the Colorado AFL-CIO was held at the Local 48 hall on March 28. At the convention, the new constitution was ratified unanimously, moving the state federation into the future with an executive director and a 17-member advisory council.

On March 29, the kickoff for “Labor 2008” was also held here. Approximately 40 politicians were joined by over 500 labor activists—all joining together to prepare for an exciting, historically significant election year. This year, history will indeed be made as the Democratic National Convention will be held here in Denver! Of this writing, the Democratic presidential nominee will be either a woman or an African American. Chances are that the Democratic nominee will go on to win the election in November!

There is strength in numbers. By working through the IBEW Committee on Political Education and with the AFL-CIO structures, we can truly make a difference. Please contribute to IBEW COPE today.


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**Newly Signed Contractors**

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—As we move toward summer, Local 90 members are reaping the benefits of projects and PLAs in the state.

We recently held a small-business start-up class for members interested in becoming IBEW contractors. Also in development is anestimating course for these members to attend. It is anticipated that some of our members will soon start in the electrical contracting business, always the backbone of our organization.

Local 90 also welcomes its newest organ- ized signatory contractors: EPS Technologies, Latec LLC, Southern New England Electrical Testing and Canterbury Communications. Welcome also to our new members employed by the newly signed contractors.

Welcome to the IBEW and Local 90. We wish you all the best in your endeavors.

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**Drug Free Allience Program**

L.U. 100 (em,rtb&spa), ROCHESTER, NY— Volunteer members and retirees sit up the faces of the kids at the Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush, NY. Local 100 teamed up with the rest of the building trades to build a new wheelchair-accessible pavilion there. Our local NECA Chapter donated electrical materials and tools for the project. Thanks to all who helped. Check out the pictures next time you are in the union hall.

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**Camp Project Volunteers**

L.U. 86 (ees,em,rtb&spa), ROCHESTER, NY— Volunteer members and retirees sit up the faces of the kids at the Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush, NY. Local 100 teamed up with the rest of the building trades to build a new wheelchair-accessible pavilion there. Our local NECA Chapter donated electrical materials and tools for the project. Thanks to all who helped. Check out the pictures next time you are in the union hall.

After a slow start this spring, construction has picked up quite a bit. Don’t forget to carry your OSHA 10 Hour Card on any prevailing wage jobs; it is a new law and the Department of Labor will be checking. If you don’t have a card, listen to the job line for the available class. Hope all is well with you and your families.

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**Community Service Award**

L.U. 76 (c,rtb&spa), TACOMA, WA—Regional civic leaders recently recognized the dedicated community service activities of Local 76 members. The Tacoma Events Commission presented Local 76 with the “2007 Volunteer of the Year” award at the February meeting. Special thanks to our members and families for helping victims of the devastating floods that hit Thurston, Lewis and Gray’s Harbor Counties in December.

Also, thanks to our members who helped the Make-a-Wish Foundation bring to life the dream of a 3-year-old girl to have her own bedroom. In addition, we support annual events including the Daffodil Fest, Tacoma Flower and Garden Show, Freedom Fair, Capitol Lake Fair, Ethnic Fest, Bonney Lake Days and Maritime Festival.

We’re recruiting volunteers for Tall Ships Tacoma, an international event held every three years. We are also recruiting volunteers for various political events.

Local 76 is proud of its active and retired members for their generous dedication in making our communities better places to live.

Remember: On-the-job safety is everyone’s duty. Work safe, stay safe.

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**Employment on the Rise**

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—A large-scale construction project on a Bristol-Myers Squibb pharmaceutical manufacturing facility has reached the point where it is putting members to work. Other projects in the area are also employing Local 96 members. In addition, as of this writing, the VTD technicians are at full employment and are supporting traveling brothers and sisters.

Politically, Local 96, in conjunction with the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, showed strong support for the governor’s casino bill. Although the bill was rejected by the legislature, the fight is not over.

Planning and development of the new union hall is still in progress. Construction will begin soon. Visit us online at www.ibewlocal96.org.

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**Drug Free Alliance Program**

L.U. 100 (em,rtb&spa), FRENSO, CA—In January 2008, IBEW Local 100 and NECA joined in a Drug Free Alliance program. As of March, two contractors have begun pursuing full compliance with their work force. By summer of 2008, the local union and signatory contractors plan to have at least six large contractors proudly announce a drug free work environment.
Kudos for Jobs Well-Done

L.U. 102 (c,em,ni,ts,spa), PATERSON, NJ—On Dec. 10, 2007, Local 102 held its annual Christmas party. Special guests included Santa and Mrs. Claus, a magician, cartoon figure Dora the Explorer and other friends who entertained the kids. The party was a big success. Mr. Claus provided toys and games while Mrs. Claus performed creative face painting for the children. Pictures were taken with Santa, lunch was provided and everyone enjoyed a good, fraternal holiday-time thanks to our Christmas party committee for a job well done!

Our Local 102 softball team won the New Jersey Men’s League championship last year. Congratulations to our team for their big win and for gazing our local some great press, all while having great fun. Good job, guys!

Ed Fredericks, P.S.

Safety Awards at Refinery

L.U. 110 (c,em,ts,spa,ku), ST. PAUL, MN—At this writing work is slow. At press time 281 members are on Book #1, with an additional one member out on short calls, and 111 members on Book #2. The summer outlook is uncertain.

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

Safety awards were given out at Flint Hills Refinery on March 25. Bros. Dave Narusiewicz, Mike Berry, Terry Fischbach, Eric Meier, Martin Wirt and Mike Kaiser won $500 each for achieving 180 days without a recordable incident (see photo).

John Scholes received a $500 “play of the third quarter” Safety Incentive Award presented by Local 110 Bus. Mgr. Mike Redlund. John found an uninterrupted power supply (UPS) panel that was mislabeled and would have shut down all the UPS circuits in addition to leaving a transformer energized that was supposed to be off—thereby avoiding a potentially disastrous situation. All seven Local 110 award recipients are employed by Total Construction and Equipment.

Flint Hills Refinery has a Contractor Incentive Plan that awards workers for safe work practices, observations, suggestions, identifying hazards and finding ways to improve the existing safety program by encouraging proactive participation throughout the workforce.

Steve White, P.S.

Tribute to Members

L.U. 124 (c,em,ni,marf,ts,spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—We remember the following deceased members: Frederick Alguire, John S. Bailey, Joseph M. Clark, James Penney, Ernest E. Hut, Philip E. Catanoff, Leonard R. James, Thomas E. Land, Donald W. Layton, William O. Pottmann, Harold Scott, Vincent J. VanCamp St., Logan L. Wilson and Lloyd G. Zuck.


Jim Beem, B.M.

Update on Projects

L.U. 146 (ci,ki,ku,rt), DECATURE, IL—In April, we reported that we were excited about Local 146 landing the $1.8 billion Future Gen Project in Mattoon. We are still “excited” about the project, but now it’s because the U.S. Dept. of Energy decided to scale down the project or scrap it altogether. Mattoon was one of two Local 146 sites in the running for the project along with two Texas sites. Local 146 will now collaborate with the IBEW Sixth District and the International Office in an effort to convince the Energy Dept. to continue with the project here. We also received disturbing news about the Taylorville Power House project; it is now in hold awaiting Illinois legislative action allowing long-term contracts to sell electricity. Also, the Secure Energy coal gasification project is awaiting legislators’ action for the release of funds. These are prime examples of why we need to elect labor friendly candidates.

The Coffeen Power Station work is still on schedule for the summer and will require additional manpower.

Local 146 and the IATC thank Bro. Joe Paradise for his years of service as a union representative on the NECA-IBEW Local 146 JATC board. Congratulations to Bro. Jason Brummitt on his appointment to the board.

Congratulations to Bros. Robert K. Finley and Jonathon Thompson on their retirement.

Rich Underwood, B.S.

Annual Steward Training

L.U. 160 (tlt,ock), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—On Sat., March 1, the local hosted its annual stewards training. Fifty-eight brothers and sisters attended to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of IBEW stewards. Joe Herbulick, from the firm Hauer, Fargione, Love, Landy and McElistrem, P.A., briefed us on Minnesota workers compensation laws. He covered the important steps to take, following an injury, to protect your rights.

IBEW Sixth Dist. Int. Rep. James S. Dahlberg gave an excellent overview of the “Guide for IBEW Stewards.” Among topics on which Int. Rep. Dahlberg provided instruction were: Duty of Fair Representation, Basic Legal Guidance, Right to Information, and Know Your Contract. The training was followed by lunch and door prizes. Local 160 thanks our guest speakers and stewards who hosted this training. Local union stewards are vital to the labor movement and Local 160 appreciates their invaluable service.

Daniel S. Sennell, P.S.

‘Rebuilding’ Volunteers

L.U. 164 (c,em,ts,spa), JERSEY CITY, NJ—On March 29, Local 164 came out in record numbers to support the Rebuilding Together Jersey City project. I am proud to report that 110 journeymen and apprentices volunteered and gave back to people who are less fortunate than we are. Brothers and sisters were blessed with beautiful weather and the day was a huge success.

The members who received the services of electricians, carpenters, plumbers and many other volunteers were all extremely grateful. It was the 17th year for Rebuilding Together Jersey City, formerly known as Christmas in April. Volunteerism is alive and well in Local 164.

On a sad note, I must report the passing on Feb. 16, 2008, of Daniel Solleder, a president emeritus of Local 164. Affectionately known as the “General,” Dan was a 53-year member who served as a longtime Executive Board member and then as president until he retired in January 1994. He was a decorated Korean War hero. Dan was a leader of our local as an active member and a mentor to many of us during his retirement years. He will be greatly missed. God bless you, General.

John M. DeBouter, Pres./Training Dir.

2008 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 234 (lrt,ts,spa), CASTROVILLE, CA—Our local proudly announces the graduating apprentice classes of 2008. Inside apprentice graduates are: Israel Estrada, Vladimir Ivanov, Felipe Jimenez, Rodolfo Martinez, Frank Rivera, Michael Rodda and David White. Residential apprentice graduates are: Israel Andrade, Bronson Huerta, Michael Kulich, Michael Magnana, Philippe Microrli, Joshua Murray, Ryan Ochinskas, Mario Zamora and Moues Zuniga. The sound and communications apprentice graduate is David Boggs.

After their years of generous sacrifices to complete their programs, we are pleased to present them as inside journeymen, residential journeymen, and sound and communications installers, respectively. Congratulations and thanks, graduates, on your years of study and training. We welcome you to an industry where your skills and contributions will always be needed and appreciated.

We also congratulate all apprentice graduates through the entire IBEW and look forward to their contributions to our industry.

Stephen Slawoch, P.S.

IBEW Habitat Volunteers

L.U. 280 (ces,em,ni,ts,mt,ts,spa), SALEM, OR—At this writing in early spring the snow is still falling here. The work is slow at press time with about 100 on Book I and few calls coming in. The housing bust has hit our jurisdiction hard but hopefully some jobs will start to break this summer.

Local 280 truck and trailer travels to Habitat for Humanity projects, helping local union volunteers get the job done.
Our local thanks the Habitat for Humanity volunteers who have worked and represented Local 292. These fine brothers and sisters have dedicated so much time and effort to help hardworking people in our area get a “step up” to home ownership. Our Labor Management Cooperation Committee bought a trailer, dedicated for Habitat projects, filled with tools and material to help our volunteers get the job done. Our Public Service Fund also donates $1,500 toward the electrical material, but the real difference is the outstanding IBEW members who volunteer. If you know anyone who donates their time for this great cause, please thank them and ask how you can help them and others.

With great sadness the local announces the passing of Hal Cadu, “Hutch” Metivier, “Jack” Lonsen, Carl Robinson, and Monty Rounds.

Jerry Fletcher, Pres.

Volunteers Aid Flood Victims

L.U. 292 (em, gov,t, rtb&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—Local 292 put together a membership volunteer group to help with disaster relief for the flood victims of Rushford, MN. When over 15 inches of rain fell in the Rushford area last August, rushing water jumped dikes and filled much of the town. Dozens of homes were destroyed in the flood. With the help of union volunteers from the IBEW and other crafts, Rushford is beginning to look like home again.

Eight Local 292 members wired a new house for a family who lost their home to the flood and had been displaced for eight months. These eight volunteers were: Russ Agrimson, Philip Matson, Brandon Romann, Steve Gunhold, Andy Melander, Rodger Kretman, Scott Lundquist and Jim Edwards, former business manager.

The area Lutheran church is serving as a temporary mess hall for the trade workers, with other volunteers spending countless hours preparing meals for the many people rushing to aid the small rural town in southern Minnesota. The effort is orchestrated by retired Local 292 member Russ Agrimson, who owns a farm in Rushford. Russ has been diligently working and organizing volunteers since the disaster happened.

Brendon Romann, PS/R.R.

‘We Can Make It Happen’

L.U. 284 (es, em,rt,ts&spa), HIBBING, MN—We thank locals that employed our members in the last year. Soon we should be able to return the favor.

Hopefully, after eight years of G.W. Bush, the country will elect a Democrat for president. It seems at times our members do not understand the damage Bush has done to working families and unions. On the state level we need to gain a few seats in the House to override Gov. Tim Pawlenty and his vetoes. U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman is up for re-election and we need to work hard to defeat him. This will be difficult with the Republican National Convention in Minnesota, but we can make it happen.

Local 294 holds its election of officers this month. We have a good selection of candidates, and we should thank them for running.

We can make a difference by donating a few hours every month to support our union. With a united effort the union will grow and prosper.

Sadly, Kimball Electronics (Hibbing Electronics) is closing its plant in Hibbing. That first contract was ratified in 1995. Hard work went into that organizing drive. It will be a sad day when the plant closes.

Ask yourself: Are you better off now than you were eight years ago? It is time for change.

L. 294’s annual picnic is Aug. 2 at Veterans Park, Ely Lake, in Elyville, MN.

Scott Wesappa, B.M.

Vermont Electricians Volunteer

L.U. 300 (gov,t, ml&ts), MONTPELIER, VT—The Central Vermont Garden Show recently welcomed electricians from IBEW Local 300 into the mix.

Seven IBEW Local 300 members volunteered nearly five hours apiece March 12 to help set up tables, display and brand new electrical mats for the event. Volunteers included Kyle Brown, John Burditt, Tiffany Copley, Randie Dayton, Steve Edwards, Katly Ramstack and Greg Tessier.

The IBEW was proud to partner with the Garden Show. Community service dovetails with our union’s commitment to social responsibility and the common good. The 2008 Garden Show ran at the Barre Civic Center March 14-16. All proceeds benefited the Friends of the Central Vermont YMCA. The electrical mats—used to safely cover power cords in pedestrian and vehicular traffic ways—were later donated to the City of Barre.

“We were so thankful for the help from IBEW electricians,” said Garden Show Chairwoman Jeanne Daniele. “Their much-appreciated volunteerism embodies what union labor is all about... and certainly helped make our first-ever promotion a success.”

Matthew Lash, P.S.

Negotiations began in April and will continue with both sides searching for the proverbial ‘win-win’ solution.

The Social Committee had to pull the Easter Bunny out of his hole and the children all wore parkas but everyone had a good time at the annual Easter Egg Hunt! Thanks to all who worked on this event.

Our condolences to the families of four retired brothers, Edgar Patten, Forrest Ryan, John Skraba and Chuck Johnson, who passed away in the spring.

Sunshine is welcome after a long winter! Remember to wear sunscreen and a hat if you don’t want to spend your retirement hours and pension checks in a dermatologist’s office.

Robert Sullaz, PS.

Wyoming Going Strong

L.U. 322 (gov, us, rtb, osu), CASPER, WY—The work picture here in Wyoming remains good. Local 322 members and the travelers who have manned the work deserve big thanks for giving 8 for 8, 10 for 10 and sometimes 12 for 12 to keep the customers happy and our contractors profitable.

The Industrial Agreement was negotiated earlier this year and ratified in March. The scale in Laramine and Converse Counties will be $26 an hour plus $20 a day per diem. In other counties covered by the agreement, the scale will be $25.50 an hour plus Building & Trades subsistence or customer negotiated rate.

The Activities Committee has been busy cooking meals before the union meetings in Casper. The committee also put together a contest for a new logo design. The committee will decide on the final five designs and then the members at the summer picnics will vote on the winner.

Participation at the monthly meetings has been good, but there is always room for improvement. More apprentices are attending, which is a positive thing. They are the future lifeblood of the IBEW.

Chris Morgan, PS.

Register & Vote!

L.U. 340 (em, rtb&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Are you registered to vote? Are your family members registered to vote? It was a real “eye opener” last March when records showed only 39 percent of Local 340’s membership was registered to vote. I am happy to say that, due to the hard work and dedication of our voter registrars and our dedicated apprenticeship instructors, that figure has grown quite a bit since then. This is not the year to “sit out the elections!”

November elections are critical to the livelihood of all working families! Let’s be sure to support candidates who understand and back the issues protecting worker safety laws, prevailing wages, health care for families, pension plans, Social Security, and the right to bargain collectively and form unions. Please register and vote in November!

Work is now better in our jurisdiction than it has been in some time. We have several projects under way.

We are saddened to report the passing of retired brothers Guy Snow (father of IBEW member Guy Snow Jr.), Robert A Phillips and James E. Boyle. Rest in peace, brothers!

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

Organizing in Utah

L.U. 354 (l, mt, ts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—The work in Utah looks very good for the next year or two. We have work at the refineries, a couple of high-rises, a microchip plant, and several other projects already awarded.

Our local is in a very aggressive organizing campaign statewide. Some of the flyers and commercials on radio and television have been very successful.

We have a new Web site, www.utahbestelectricians.com, which links to many useful and informative sources.

Our membership development coordinator, George Halliday, is being approached by numerous unrepresented workers, as well as contractors who want quality craftsmen doing their projects. The new members have been going right to work and making our signatory contractors even more successful.

We welcome all our new brothers and sisters to the IBEW. I wish everyone in this trade a long, safe and prosperous career. Together we can make a difference.

Mavour Blackburn, B.S.

Leadership Series Dinner

L.U. 364 (cav, ces, em, es, int, ts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—At this writing, our Labor Management Cooperation Committee is preparing to hold our next Leadership Series Dinner scheduled for May 20. At press time, we are very pleased that Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill is our scheduled special speaker for the event. Look for a report in our next Local Lines article.

IBEW Local 322 Automation & Electronics crew members are working for Anaconda Petroleum on the RCS/2 project in the town of Midway, WY.
Local 364 recently held our first annual Easter egg hunt for children. It turned out to be a snowy Easter holiday here, so the egg hunt was held inside. The Student Council, led by Apprenticeship Dir. Todd Kindred, planned and volunteered to work the event. Fifty children of Local 364 members attended and hunted Easter eggs. Bro. Matt Michel donated an Easter Bunny costume and passed out goodies to the kids. Thanks to all who helped with this event.

In March, the LMCC held our night with the Rockford IceHogs for members. Those who attended were treated to dinner at the new fan deck directly behind one of the hockey goals. New members, Rokuford IceHogs fans, were treated to dinner at the new fan deck directly behind one of the hockey goals.

The IceHogs won an exciting night as a fun-filled one held in the spirit of brotherhood. The night was a fun-filled one held in the spirit of brotherhood.

The packet also contained a silver commemorative medalion, a copy of our 1931 agreement consisting of 10 small pages and a copy of our 1934 agreement. The old agreements covered everything imaginable, probably because we had no lawyers or politicians involved. The old agreements were very interesting in the way they were written. For example the old contract specified that no benefits would be paid for members who sustained injuries or contracted diseases while out on “casuals.”

Ivan Beavan Jr., PS

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 502 (cm,cm,cm), ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Local 502 is proud to welcome new members Glen Griffin, Edward Spear, Doug Sharp, Scott Pennell, Arnold Mattson, Craig Graham, Dean Lisson, Mark Lamb and Josh Francis.

The Canaport liquefied Natural Gas Terminal is now well under way with the latest contract just awarded to IBEW contractor ICS State. The Point Lepreau Nuclear Station is now officially shut down for refurbishment. Local 502 members are committed to do their part to bring this project in safely and on budget and look forward to more positive announcements on Lepreau II. Irving Oil has just partnered with international oil major BP for the next phase of the proposed Elder Rock Refinery for Saint John. BP will contribute $40 million toward engineering and design work, the two companies will also investigate the possibility of forming a joint venture to build the new refinery.

Local 502 members are currently receiving skills training in Industrial Electrical, Fibre Optics, Forklift Operation, Rigging and Welding.

Thanks to IBEW members from Local 2166, Fredericton, NB, for their help on local projects and thanks to Locals 308 Sarnia, NB, 424 Edmonton, AB, and 120 London, ON, for the jobs on the road.

Dave Stephen, PS

Tribute to 60-year Members

L.U. 512 (mo), GRAND FALLS, NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR, CANADA—Two of our retired members, Harry T. Pinsent and Malcolm G. Locke, have reached the 60-year-member milestone. Both of these fine gentlemen are still active in our community of Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada. They were truly honoured and proud to receive their citations and pins.

The accompanying photos were snapped by Pres. Barry Saunders at each member’s home. Local 512 extends congratulations and best wishes to Brothers Pinsent and Locke. We thank them for their dedication and many years of service.

Alan Neftall, B.S.
Work Plentiful

L.U. 538 (i), DANVILLE, IL—Local 538 members mourn the passing of Leonard Colleen, a 63-year IBEW member. Work in the jurisdiction remains plentiful, with many traveling brothers and sisters helping complete projects in the area. Dan Smith is doing well. We wish him a speedy and full recovery. The members thank Gary Pollard for his service as press secretary over the past years and wish him well in his new endeavors. Local 538 officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin.Sec. Jim Bailey, Pres. Eric Bell, Vice Pres. John Rutta, Sec. Schuyler Bailey, Treas. Larry Van Yickie, and Exec. Board members Jeff Owen, Mike Walters, Tom Huls, Collin Bennett and Luke Modglin. Also serving the local are Asst. Bus. Mgr. Rex Modglin and Office Sec. Barbara Johnson.

Kathie Parker, Training Dir.

New Motor Control Lab

L.U. 606 (em,i,rts,spa), ORLANDO, FL—The new motor control lab is finished. The two lead instructors, Richard Merriam and Juan Santos, assembled all the parts and mounted all of the devices to complete the lab. The JATC will use this motor control lab to enhance the skills of the journeymen along with the apprentices, CWs and CEIs. Walt Disney World is building an identical lab on its property for their journeyman enhancement skills training also.

The Orlando Labor Management Cooperative Committee is working diligently on promoting the image of organized labor and union contractors. The committee is doing this through career fairs, hosting electrical-safety related classes, and participation in the JATC graduation.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.

Local 606 Bros. Richard Merriam and Juan Santos, lead instructors.

Western Area Power Units

L.U. 640 (em,gt,ts,m,mo,rt,spa,kau), PHOENIX, AZ—Western Area Power Administration is another of Local 640’s fine units in Arizona. At the WAPA Unit, Ted Miller is the chairman steward and Tim Alme is steward.

WAPA markets and transmits reliable, cost-bounded hydroelectric power and related services. WAPA sells power from 56 power plants operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the International Boundary and Water Commission. Western’s service area covers 1.3 million square miles (3.38 million square kilometers).

The Parker-Davis Project, which is the Bureau of Reclamation, consists of Davis Dam, Parker Dam and corresponding power plants, by the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the International Boundary and Water Commission. Western’s service area covers 1.3 million square miles (3.38 million square kilometers).

The Parker-Davis Project, which is the Bureau of Reclamation, consists of Davis Dam, Parker Dam and corresponding power plants, 1,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, and 32 substations. Parker Dam and Davis Dam, also Local 640 units, are located on the Colorado River, downstream of Hoover Dam, and supply electrical energy to Arizona and southern California.

WAPA is currently looking for lineman high voltage substations electricians and meter relay craftsmen experience. For information on how to apply go to www.wapa.gov or www.usajobs.gov. Current scale is $36.37 hr.

Frank Cisneros, B.R.

Award Recipients

L.U. 684 (c,i,ts,t,lt&st), MODESTO, CA—The local union picnic was held May 31 at Hagaman Park in Merced County. Events at the picnic included a kids’ fair and the traditional horseshoe tournament. Service pins were awarded, as follows. Receiving 50-year pins were Billy Barnes, William Dale, Stan Hicks, Alfred Rocha and Robert Thompson; 55-year pins—Warren Brown, Charlie Clem, Ed Hurley and Sam Nickerson; and 60-year pins—Ed Perry and Walter Randsell. Congratulations and thank you to the award recipients for their years in service to our union.

Congratulations to our newly graduating apprentices: Jordan Aivas, Justin Barrington, Jeremy Davis, Michael Lattin, David Pierce and Jerrett Stagno. (See photo below.) Good luck, guys.

Torrey Newton, P.S.

Local 640 members Scooter Godwin (left) and Kevin Trujillo test a 230-kv oil breaker.

The members employed by Alcoa Power Plant in Newburgh, IN, were recently recognized for their productivity and reliability by a leading industry magazine, Reliable Plant. In addition, the members received recognition awards for having over 450 days without a recordable accident and nine years without a lost-time accident. Prairie State Energy Campus has broken ground at Lively Grove. We expect it to be 2009 before we have manpower needs.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

Neighborhood Action Plan

L.U. 716 (em,lt,ts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—The work situation is steady here with more projects expected soon.

Our organizing effort is moving forward with our Neighborhood Action Plan being implemented across our jurisdiction. Local 716 held another open house, earlier this spring, to recruit and educate unrepresented workers about the IBEW, and the event was a success. We are giving these workers an opportunity to skill assess and then proceed through the steps to make membership.

With the primaries over in Texas, we have numerous members representing us as delegates and alternates at the state convention. We wish them the best. We were successful in the primaries with our labor-endorsed candidates, even with some disappointing losses. We will continue to work to get our candidates elected in November.

Recent successes in 716 include participation in the Cesar Chavez March; the Local 716 Golf Tournament; the Local 716 Brotherhood Bash picnic; and the Houston St. Patrick’s Day parade, at which we took first place in the pickup-drawn float division.

Congratulations to apprentice David Joseph, who won first place in the IBEW Seventh District Apprenticeship Contest. This is the second year in a row that a Local 716 apprentice has taken first place. Thanks to all who participated.

John E. Easton Jr., B.M./P.S.

Kudos to IBEW Electricians

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Signatory contractor SunGlow Electric completed a renovation in an existing AT&T building in Daytona Beach. The facility, which has been around since the 1950s, is being retrofitted to handle increased traffic via regular phone lines. A crew of journeymen and apprentices from Local 756 installed thousands of feet of EMT conduit ranging from 3/4-inch to 3 1/2-inch. Around 2,460 feet of 2 1/2-inch conduit was installed underground in the control room. Another 4,500 feet of 3 1/2-inch conduit was installed in the ceiling above and routed to adjacent rooms.

The control room houses the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) system, which is tied in with the primar ies over in Texas, we have numerous members representing us as delegates and alternates at the state convention. We wish them the best. We were successful in the primaries with our labor-endorsed candidates, even with some disappointing losses. We will continue to work to get our candidates elected in November.

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Local 684 congratulates newly graduating apprentices. From left are: Training Dir. Mark Bowden and apprentice graduates David Pierce, Jerrett Stagno, Jeremy Davis, Justin Barrington, Michael Lattin and Jordan Aivas.

Local 640 members Scooter Godwin (left) and Kevin Trujillo test a 230-kv oil breaker.
with a basement full of batteries to insure there is no interruption in the power supplying panels and equipment. Supervisors from AT&T were very pleased with both the quality electrical installation and that Greenway was able to complete the project within the schedule. Kudos to the IBEW electricians for exhibiting craftsmanship, while also meeting the needs of a good customer.

Daniel Hunt, Pres./P.S.

Meet & Greet Luncheon
L.U. 824 (1), TAMPA, FL—Local 824 was honored to host a ‘Meet & Greet’ luncheon for Int. Vice Pres. Joseph S. Davis on March 27 at our union hall. The attendees included Vice Pres. Davis, Fifth District Int. Rep. Danny L. Johnson, the Local 824 Executive Board, officers, organizers and staff as well as business managers and staff from Locals 108, 199 and 915. We enjoyed a good southern barbecue lunch prepared by our very own members Robert Dixon and Robert Bellott Jr., and honorary member Robert Bellott Sr. Good food and good times were shared by all.

On a more serious note, Vice Pres. Davis discussed with us some of the problems facing locals across the nation as we prepare for the upcoming contract negotiations in 2008-2010. Local 824 was honored to host this special occasion. Sincere thanks to all who made it come together.

Shauna Fulco, P.S.

Member Solidarity Projects
L.U. 910 (e&k), WATERTOWN, NY—At the March regular meeting, the Local 910 membership voted overwhelmingly to put the entire $1.50 contractual increase from the Inside Agreement into the paycheck. For the first time in many years, the increase was not split with portions going to the local’s benefit funds. Funds Manager John Love reported on the status of our funds. He stated that increased funding to the pension plan would not help the plan at this time, and although it never hurts to add money to the annuity or health plans, there is no immediate need to do so this year. There are still three remaining $1.50 increases for the current Inside Agreement. The last is scheduled to take effect April 1, 2011.

The Brotherhood Committee works hard for member solidarity. Many projects have been held. This spring a bowling tournament was held. A buck contest took place last fall. A raffle was a big success last summer and another is planned this summer.

The Brotherhood Committee helps our members and families at Christmas. They also donated $500 to the Local Hill Greg S. Maur memorial scholarship fund.

Our Organizing Committee came up with a jobsite photo contest. The NASCAR contest was held last summer and fall with great success.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

Banquet & Pin Ceremony
L.U. 932 (e&k), COOS BAY, OR—The work situation in Local 932 is slow at press time. Thank you to members and their families who attended our winter banquet and pin ceremony held Feb. 9, 2008, at the Mill Casino in North Bend, OR. Congratulations to members awarded service pins! Receiving 60-year pins were Eugene Bradley, Robert Cook, Ernie Speaker; 50-year pins—Richard Borg, Joe Gillespie, James Gorman, H. Al Hidman, Eddie Smock; 50-year pins—Peter Brophy, Leonard Butt, Jerome Lambie; 45-year pin—David Cockard; 40-year pins—Jerry Edmundson, Bill Foster, Lowell Lewallen; 35-year pins—Ted Cherry, Bill McCaffree, Roy Smock; 30-year pin—Roger Dunihan; and 20-year pins—Ed Steele and Eric Tobert.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

Pole Installation: Union Linemen Answer Call
L.U. 1116 (em.lettku), TUCSON, AZ—Who do you call to install a 155-foot tall, 62,000-pound steel pole when you have time constraints? If you answered “a union lineman” you are correct.

In March, our TEP linemen successfully completed just that project at a new Pinal West substation located between Tucson and Phoenix. While the regional line was taken out of service for this construction (which could have taken up to eight days), crews completed their work and released the line in less than five days.

Not only was new structure being put up, but old towers were simultaneously disassembled, crews also raised new fiber-optic cable to the top of new poles, energized a new transformer, and worked alongside other construction crews on-site.

This union lineman crew was a mix of old-school and up-and-coming apprentices, so our young work force got some great on-the-job experience for a project of this type. Working on this project with our linemen were our HEAT, Welding Dept., Automotive, Substations, and Warehouse union members. Just goes to show that when you need a job to shine, shine it with union craftsmanship and union labor.

R. Caivalette, P.S.

I wish to recognize the hard work that Training Dir. Judy Berkley puts into our apprenticeship program. Her efforts and commitment ensure that our apprentices become quality journeyman electricians. We appreciate all Judy does for the apprenticeship and training program.

Remember, the local union is run by those who participate. Attend your union meetings.

Robert Waterman, B.M./P.S.

Member Solidarity Projects
L.U. 1220 (r&b), CHICAGO, IL—We are pleased to announce that a settlement was reached with the Tribune Company that will provide first-year credit on all of our members’ pensions. Contracts were extended for one year with a raise in pay and no loss of jurisdiction as part of that settlement agreement.

Our members who work for WGN-AM Radio receive their pension credit and raises immediately. WGN-TV members will receive their pension credit immediately and their raises as of July 1, 2008. We worked for more than four years just to get a plan included in the Tribune Co. pension plan. Thanks to the stewards who got the word out about terms and conditions of the settlement offer.

Local 1220 initiated a new contract for Sports and Entertainment. Previously, these two divergent types of productions were covered under one contract. Aesthetic Abstractions, whose contract was recently ratified by Local 1220 members, has joined Program Productions and Camera Originals as Sports and Entertainment providers.

Recent layoffs at WBBM/CBS Chicago have affected Local 1220 bargaining units in Chicago and across the Midwest. Mgr. Madeline Monaco said, “It is time to hone our skills as technicians and as union organizers so the workplace is safe and profitable for all.”

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

Cooper Industries Agreement
L.U. 1804 (eskm), STUYVESANT, NY—On March 29 the membership of Local 1804 overwhelmingly approved the terms of a new three-year labor agreement with Cooper Industries, Crouse-Hinds Division. The terms of the new agreement call for wage increases of a lump sum of $2,000 the first year, 3 percent the second year and 3 percent the third year; increases in accident and sickness benefits; safety shoe allowance; and retirement contributions. I thank the negotiation committee for their hard work during these negotiations. The committee included Sylvester Beles, Jim Chipperfield, Jim Jackson, Harry Mosher, Dave Phillips, Guy Raymond and Bob Robinson. In addition, the committee wishes to thank Dominick Marchia for his assistance during these negotiations.

James E. Jackson Jr., B.M.
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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International President

Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

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Eighth District
Rick Dowling

Ninth District
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Robert P. Klein

Eleventh District
Curtis E. Henke

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Len Shinadel
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Lucas Osrawlt
James H. Jones
Elizabeth Pulitzer

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:
Letters to the Editor, The Electrical Worker, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
Or send by e-mail to: media@ibew.org

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

Stop Gambling with Workers’ Futures

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Very plant shutdown is personal when you come from a one-time manufacturing powerhouse like western Pennsylvania. So it was good to return to my home state in April to address the Beaver County AFL-CIO and celebrate last year’s 11 percent increase in union membership in Pennsylvania. It shows what the labor movement and the IBEW can do, and that those who keep trying to assign us to the history books are learning that we’re really part of current events.

Nowhere is our road more difficult than in manufacturing. The latest chain of shutdowns is hitting IBEW members at General Electric’s refrigerator plant in Bloomington, Ind. Even the Hershey chocolate plant is going down in eastern Pennsylvania. Bad trade policy is still killing jobs and dreams.

A powerful national economy, once based upon producing goods of value, has been replaced by one where states compete over legalized gambling to fill the cracks left by their declining tax bases. Meanwhile the gamblers who control Wall Street ask the American taxpayer to insure their risky bets on mortgage securities. Millions face mortgage foreclosures.

But perhaps the most telling detail of the global economic mess caused by the subprime mortgage and credit crisis is in the storm. Why? Because they had the good sense to develop plans for manufacturing and for training a skilled work force. They are exporting capital goods, the tools of industry. And they had the foresight to develop universal health insurance. Industrial employers there stay competitive because they don’t have to plow their profits into the accounts of pharmaceutical and insurance companies.

Developing an effective U.S. manufacturing policy is not a pipe dream. More shining success stories like the Sharp plant featured in this issue are possible. It will take a major change in Washington, D.C. Join our union’s grassroots movement to elect leaders who won’t gamble with the futures of working families.

A Fight For Us All

There are less than two months left in the countdown to the contract expiration at Verizon, the nation’s second-largest telecommunications firm, and the eyes of working families from Virginia all the way up to New England are focused on what is certain to be a difficult round of negotiations.

At stake are the jobs, health care and pension benefits of more than 10,000 IBEW members and 50,000 CWA members at the telecom giant. Workers at Verizon and its predecessor companies have historically had wage and benefit packages that set the pattern for the industry and brought telecommunications workers into the ranks of the middle class.

But management didn’t grant these benefits out of its own generosity. Working families had to fight for every one of them. Sticking together on the job and on the picket line and keeping the heat on management—like in 1989, 1998 and 2002—has kept Verizon a good place to work for those covered by a union contract.

Once again the company is trying to chip away at those benefits and continue to deny more than 65,000 employees at Verizon Business and Verizon Wireless their right to organize. The company has made clear it’s out to maximize its profits on the backs of its employees.

This fight is about what the workplace of the future will look like, both in the telecommunications industry and beyond. At the company’s growing nonunion sector, workers have no job security or pensions, high medical deductibles and a pay scale based on favoritism.

The other alternative is the workplace that generations of workers fought for: a place where workers have a voice at work, where their families’ health care costs are fully covered, and where they are properly compensated for a hard day’s work.

Make no mistake, corporate America is watching the Verizon fight very closely. The results will set the pattern for workplaces across the nation. For working families who are struggling to defend a middle class that is increasingly under siege, this is the front line.
Letters to the Editor

Tragedy Strikes
I have been an IBEW member of Local 1245 in Woodland, Calif., for 25 years. IBEW has done many great things over the years, from worldwide events, local community fundraising, and helping with individual tragedy.

On March 4, my son Timothy Royce, age 27, was brutally murdered in an attempted robbery while he was on duty driving his taxi cab in Tucson, Ariz. His passing affected many people in the Tucson area as well as the community of Woodland where he grew up and was a part of the IBEW family. Among many friends and family, Tim is also survived by his fiancée Melissa Bothwick, who is pregnant with Tim’s child.

Homicide Survivors Inc. has established a Timothy Royce Fund, which will be used to help with the birth and care of Timothy’s son. If he has touched your heart in any way, please make donations to:
Homicide Survivors Inc.
32 North Stone Ave, Suite 1408
Tucson, AZ 85701
Memo: Timothy Royce Fund

Daddy’s Helper
My husband was called out to work one stormy winter night and awoke our son Jack. He was only nine months old when I shot this photo in December of 2005 and he loved to “help” daddy put on his boots. I was making John a pot of coffee to fill his thermos when I snapped this photo of the two of them. We call it the “Littlest Lineman.” It remains a favorite photo today.

Angela Clements
Spouse of John Clements,
Local 77 member,
Seattle, Wash.

A Bright Idea
After suggesting to my husband, Rik, that we needed a new mailbox, he provided—in miniature and purely American made! I’m sure the mailman now knows his occupation. He loves and is proud of his job.

Misty Nußmeyer
Spouse of Rik Nußmeyer,
Local 702 member,
West Frankfort, Ill.

Who We Are
If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to media@ibew.org.

Buy America or Bye, America?

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Who We Are
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Buy America or Bye, America?

Lance Biglin cares passionately about an important way of American life that he sees fading. As president of Local 688 in Mansfield, Ohio, he has witnessed the deterioration of the manufacturing sector in his native state and beyond, as countless companies have shut their doors to American workers and moved operations abroad.

In times like these, workers pour their collective energy into ramped-up organizing efforts spreading the message of union solidarity. But Biglin has also taken it one step further: he wants to reach the workers of tomorrow. In a novel burst of inspiration, Biglin recently released his first self-published book, “Bye, America,” which he wrote to teach children about the loss of America’s industrial base.

“This whole area has been devastated by closing factories,” Biglin said, citing the local demise of Neer Manufacturing (an electrical fittings plant), Tyco (a plastics factory) and Miami Systems (a printing plant), to name a few. More than 224,000 manufacturing jobs have disappeared from the state since 2001.

“I got to thinking, what happens if my kids don’t get into college?” Biglin said. “What will they be doing? They’ll be making french fries because of the loss of good manufacturing jobs.”

“Bye, America” tells the story of young Brady, whose father loses his job when the local vacuum cleaner factory suddenly closes its doors and moves to China. As Brady’s father tells his son, “It’s important to be good neighbors to other countries, but we must stop giving away our American workers’ jobs.”

Biglin said that writing a book for children would be an effective way to start a dialogue with the next generation of American workers. His own father worked for auto glass plant PPG Industries in Crestline for 45 years. Biglin himself logged four years in manufacturing—doing electrical maintenance for Plastipak and crafting military and aircraft components at Hartman Manufacturing—before beginning his apprenticeship. He spent 13 years as an inside wireman before taking office at the local.

The book is no work of fiction. Last year saw the close of the Hoover plant in North Canton. Hundreds of workers—including more than 600 Local 1985 members—lost their jobs. Soon after, Biglin set to work on the book to help his own children understand what happens when corporations give the boot to the American worker.

Local 688 member Dan Lloyd, a fifth-year inside wireman apprentice at Lake Erie Electric and father of a two-year-old boy, said Lance’s book offers a lesson on the importance of having solid jobs here for the middle class.

Biglin’s first foray into the writing world became a family affair. The book’s crisp, colorful illustrations were drawn by Biglin’s wife, Kristi. Even the characters in the story are based on Biglin’s three children: Kimberly, 3; Brady, 7; and Isabelle, 10.

The endeavor has been self-financed, with $8,000 of the family’s money generating the first 1,000 issues. Books are available for purchase through his Web site, www.buyamerica.com.

All copies of the book were published in the United States. He said he hopes to spread the word of the book by providing free copies to locals and other trade unions.

“My children look at tags continuously now,” Biglin said. “One of them will say, ‘Daddy, I won this toy at school, but it’s made in China.’”

Get Connected
If you would like to receive your Electrical Worker via e-mail instead of in your mailbox, contact us at media@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.
Attention Photo and Video Buffs

Photographs have the power to inspire and motivate, and that's why we try to capture images of the IBEW through our annual photo contest. With improved and cheaper technology and the rise of YouTube and other uses of video on the Web, the ability to make moving pictures is accessible to many. That's why we have expanded our photo contest this year to include video productions and will be awarding prizes in both categories.

Also new with this year's contest is that the IBEW membership will pick the winners on our Web site. The judges will take an American Idol-type role by selecting the finalists in the contest, which will be posted on www.ibew.org.

Keep an eye on future issue of the Electrical Worker and the Web site for the announcement of when the judging will begin.

Read on for rules and eligibility for both contests. And start shooting!

IBEW PHOTO + VIDEO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NAME(S)
ADDRESS
CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP/POSTAL CODE
PHONE NUMBER
LOCAL UNION NUMBER
IBEW CARD NUMBER OF EACH ENTRANT(S)
TITLE/POSITION OF EACH ENTRANT (E.IE. PRODUCER, VIDEOPHOTOGRAPHER, EDITOR, WRITER)
CATEGORY TITLE (PROFESSIONAL OR NON-PROFESSIONAL)
ENTRY TITLE
ENTRY LENGTH (MUST BE NO MORE THAN 10 MINUTES)
PRODUCTION DATE

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

PRIZES
to be awarded in each category:
1st Place — $200
2nd Place — $150
3rd Place — $100
Honorable Mention — $50

PHOTO + VIDEO CONTEST RULES

1. This photo and video contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. For the photo contest, the person submitting the photo must be the one who took the photograph. For the video contest, all production work must be performed by active or retired IBEW members. Members may enter more than one video production or photo.
2. International Officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Photo submissions can be in color or black and white, on slides, 300 dpitiff file or glossy prints. The preferred print size is 8x10.
4. All photo and video entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
5. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g., a safety committee, a lineman’s rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
6. Photos previously published in the IBEW Journal are not eligible for submission.
7. The video contest offers two categories: one for members working in the broadcast branch (professional) and one for everyone else (non-professional). Each video entry must be clearly marked for category.
8. Video entries must be submitted on DVD-R and only one entry per DVD-R. All DVDs must be clearly marked in permanent marker with entry title, entry length, category name, entrant(s) name and a short, written synopsis of the video entry and how it relates to the IBEW.
10. All photo and video entries must include a completed contest entry form.
11. Video entries must be submitted as either a Windows Media File or full non-compressed video in the NTSC format and can be in either the 4x3 or 16x9 aspect ratio. No other video file formats will be accepted. Entries are limited to 10 minutes in length.
12. Video entries must be produced specifically for this contest. No entry should have been previously broadcast, cablecast or webcast.
13. All video and still photographs (unless historical in nature) used in the video production must be original video shot and edited by entrant(s). Use of video or still (unless historical in nature) from other sources is forbidden.

Deadline October 24, 2008
Move Over, Simon!
IBEW MEMBERS WILL BE THE JUDGE