

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 | *The Utility Code: How it works*
- 3 | *Misclassifying workers for profit*
- 4 | *A book for electricians, by an electrician*  
*N.Y. manufacturer grows*
- 6 | *North of 49°*
- 7 | *Teacher earns advanced degree*
- 8 | *Organizing Wire*  
*Safety spotlight*
- 9 | *Circuits*
- 10 | *Local Lines*
- 18 | *Editorials*
- 19 | *Letters to the Editor*  
*Who We Are*
- 20 | *LMRDA notice*



Photo Credit: Steve Salt

## Standout Utility Locals Promote Code of Excellence

*The IBEW's utility workers are adopting a new standard of professionalism.*

**T**he unveiling of the IBEW's utility Code of Excellence more than two years ago opened up a new chapter in labor-management relations in the North American power industry.

Building on the Code of Excellence in the construction branch, the utility code is a call for all IBEW utility members to meet the challenges of a changing industry—an industry that is confronting a generational turnover, a struggling economy and a growing alternative energy economy.

"The code is a bold restatement of the most fundamental principles of our union: a fair day's work for a fair day's pay and a commitment to excellence in everything we do," said International President Edwin D. Hill.

From redoubling members' commitment to safety and quality work to developing a non-adversarial relationship with management, locals across the United States and Canada are taking up the Code of Excellence with members and management as a first step in guaranteeing good union jobs for utility workers now and in the future.

### A Wake-Up Call

For Madison, Wis., Local 965 Business Manager Tony Bartels, the Code of Excellence was a "wake-up call."

Bartels says he was concerned that many members had grown complacent, taking for granted a secure role for the IBEW. "If we want the IBEW to be part of the future of the industry, we have to recommit ourselves to excellence on a daily basis."

His interest in the code began soon after it was unveiled in construction in 2007, a year before it rolled out in the utility branch. Bartels set up a meeting with management at Alliant Energy to talk about implementing its principles.

Management was cautious at first, particularly about the idea of using company time to promote a union-developed plan. But Bartels didn't give up, finally getting a chance to sit down with Alliant's vice president of operations.

The Alliant executive was impressed with the code's efforts to improve employee attendance and productivity, but Bartels

**CODE OF EXCELLENCE** *continued on page 2*

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Continued from page 1

## Code of Excellence

reminded him that that the code is a two-way street: he couldn't call on his members to live by the code unless management was willing to do the same.

"There has to be a mutual level of trust for it to work," he said. Management agreed and allowed the training on company time and property. Members and management watched International President Hill's video message; Bartels helped answer members' questions.

Since 2008 more than 1,300 members of Local 965—more than 90 percent of the local—have gone through the orientation. Bartels also put on a session for salaried managers, who "came out raving about the program," he said.

It has also been implemented at Wisconsin Power and Light.

Since then, Bartels has noticed a different attitude from management. "If there is an issue with an employee, a lot of managers will now come to the union first to see if we can work out a solution instead of resorting immediately to disciplinary measures."

The local has seen a big drop in employee grievances, from more than 40 a year down to 12.

### The Work Force of Choice

Soon after President Hill's live video broadcast launching the Code of Excellence, Detroit Local 17 Business Manager Kevin Shaffer approached management at DTE Energy about adopting it.

**"[The Code of Excellence has] gained the union a lot of respect from the companies we represent. The message is pretty straightforward: we're the best, most professional and safest workforce around and we're willing to put it into writing."**

— David George, business manager, Cedar Rapids Local 204

While there was some skepticism from some of his own members initially about whether or not the company was serious about holding up its end of the bargain, the most common refrain he heard after the training was: "It's about time."

Since then, more than 400 members of Detroit Local 17 have gone through the Code of Excellence orientation.

Although utilities are cutting costs, Shaffer said he is hopeful that the company can avoid resorting to wage and benefits cuts or relying on nonunion contractors by increasing employee productivity and attendance.

The state of the economy calls for a more cooperative labor-management paradigm, he said. "We have to find ways to work together to improve performance so we remain the work force of choice."

### A Professional Image

The struggling economy means customers are giving extra scrutiny to

their energy bills, making promoting a professional image for utility workers more important than ever.

Collinsville, Ill., Local 309 has trained nearly 100 utility workers, mostly at AmerenIP and AmerenCIPS, in the Code of Excellence since 2008. Business Manager Scott Hassall says that the code is a vital tool in improving the public's perception of the union and helping to improve customer relationships.

"It's a key time in the industry and we need to make sure that we are putting our best face out there," Hassall said.

Management also participated in the training sessions. "I had a lot of supervisors asking for DVDs of President Hill's video presentation," he said.

### Safety is Key

For Cedar Rapids Local 204 Business Manager David George, excellence on the job means making safety a priority.

"Every worker is part of a team," he said. "This is a very dangerous job and everybody needs to pull their own weight."

Local 204, which represents more than 1,300 members at utilities and power co-ops throughout the state, started implementing the code more than two years ago.

Since then, it has been incorporated into the local's yearly stewards' training school, with a session last year attracting one of its biggest attendances ever.

Stewards get even more extensive training in the code, with attendees role-playing different scenarios, from dealing with problem employees to difficult managers.

"It's gained the union a lot of respect from the companies we represent," George said. "The message is pretty straightforward: we're the best, most professional and safest work force around and we're willing to put it into writing."

Bartels says that the key to successfully implementing the code is winning buy-in from all parties involved: local officers, stewards, and management. "Because it's all about building a relationship based on trust, you have to make sure that everyone understands what the code is all about and supports its goals before it can be successful," he said. ■

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

In addition to your monthly issue of *The Electrical Worker*, check out the wealth of IBEW-related information in cyberspace.

### www.ibew.org

From breaking news to video stories, our updated Web site has information not available anywhere else. Visit us to connect with the IBEW on **Facebook** and to follow International President Edwin D. Hill on **Twitter**!

### IBEW on the Huffington Post

President Hill has a blog championing green jobs and more. Read it at [www.huffingtonpost.com/edwin-d-hill](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/edwin-d-hill).

### YouTube

The IBEW has its own channel on YouTube, devoted exclusively to videos about the union and its members. Watch online at [www.youtube.com/user/theelectricalworker](http://www.youtube.com/user/theelectricalworker).

### HourPower

Integrity, family and quality are important to the IBEW, but also to Klein Tools.

Go to [www.IBEWHourPower.com](http://www.IBEWHourPower.com) to hear about this American institution's dedication to making the best tools.



### ElectricTV

How is the NECA-IBEW team attracting tomorrow's construction managers? By reaching out to students across the U.S., especially those at Colorado State University. On [electricTV.net](http://electricTV.net), we show you how we're helping to build education in the 21st century.



## Utility Code of Excellence



### Union's Responsibilities

- ☒ Zero tolerance for safety violations
- ☒ Ensure members uphold their responsibilities under the contract
- ☒ Address bad work habits of members
- ☒ Set standard for excellence in work performed
- ☒ Zero tolerance for unauthorized work stoppages
- ☒ Confront issues before they become problems

### Employer's Responsibilities

- ☒ Provide adequate supply of equipment and tools
- ☒ Maintain a positive working relationship with union
- ☒ Ensure proper project planning
- ☒ Provide quality supervision
- ☒ Maintain safe workplace
- ☒ Take responsibility for management failures

# Cheating Workers Out Of Rights, Benefits

## Lawmakers Go After Employers Who Misclassify Workers as Contractors

**N**early three years ago, Warren, Ohio, Local 573 Business Manager Mark Catello found out the hard way how rampant is the illegal practice of misclassifying workers as independent contractors to circumvent labor law and cheat on taxes.

The local tried organizing cable workers at Baker Communications, a subcontractor for Time Warner Cable. Organizers got the majority of the 40-person unit to sign union authorization cards, but the National Labor Relations Board killed the unionization drive after agreeing with the company that most of its employees were independent contractors, making them exempt from the right to collectively bargain. "It's a scam," Catello said. "All the employees had to follow the company's manual, wear the company's uniform with the Baker Communications logo on it and follow their work schedule."

Federal and state officials are now starting to aggressively crack down on employers who mislabel their employees as independent contractors—an act that cheats both taxpayers and workers out of billions of dollars.

According to Steven Greenhouse of the New York Times, more than two dozen states are stepping up their enforcement of employment laws by increasing penalties for employers who misclassify workers as contractors. And Congress recently introduced tougher legislation to punish lawbreakers.

### 'Widespread Practice'

The practice is extensive, says James Parrott, chief economist of the Fiscal Policy Institute in New York. He testified earlier this year before the state Senate that an estimated 10 percent of the state's workers are misclassified as independent contractors.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that number has been estimated to be as high as 30 percent in some states. Lax enforcement of the rules has only encouraged the practice.

In 2007, the Government Accountability Office reported that 10 million workers were classified as

independent contractors, an increase of more than 2 million in just six years.

Misclassification ends up costing federal and state authorities billions in lost revenue. Companies that report employees as independent contractors avoid paying Social Security, Medicare and unemployment insurance taxes.

But misclassifying workers also cheats workers out of their rights and benefits. Laws regarding overtime, workers' compensation, sick days and minimum wage don't apply to independent contractors.

"This denies many workers their basic rights and protections and means less revenues to the Treasury and competitive advantage for employers who misclassify," Jared Bernstein told the New York Times. Bernstein is a noted economist and aide to Vice President Joseph Biden. "The last thing you want is to give a competitive advantage to employers who are breaking the rules."

The practice is particularly common in trucking and some sectors of the construction industry. It is also found in the telecommunications industry, particularly in satellite dish and cable installation.

And it's not just fly-by-night operations that are guilty. Corporate giants FedEx, Target and Comcast have all been sued for misclassifying workers.

Counting their workers as contractors has also proven to be an easy way for employers to prevent unionization.

### 'Keeps Them From Joining a Union'

For Eighth District Organizer Bob Brock, a crackdown on industry violators is long overdue.

Brock has been trying to organize workers who install home satellite dishes for more than a year. Many of these workers—located mostly in Idaho, Montana and Colorado—endure long hours, low pay, draconian work rules and unsafe working conditions. But according to their employers—including Direct TV and Star West Satellite—they are their own bosses.

"Most of these (satellite) companies operate a whole separate

wing, which they staff with what they call independent contractors," Brock said. "But they have to follow the companies' regulations, their work hours and use their equipment. What kind of boss is that?"

Brock says that the IBEW has been successful in getting many of these workers to talk with organizers, but until their job status is changed, they can't legally form a union.

He says he has seen workplaces where two different workers are doing the exact same job, but one is labeled an employee while the other is an independent contractor. "It's a selective way for the company to get out of paying benefits and taxes and to keep them from joining a union."

### Educating Workers on Their Rights

But the IBEW hasn't given up on organizing the satellite sector. The Eighth District has started an organization—Satellite Techs Allied for a New Direction—which brings together satellite workers to improve their working conditions. Organizers help workers document what's going on in their workplace so they have evidence to back up their claims that they are full-time employees.

STAND also helps misclassified workers with tax advice and how to avoid being preyed on by unscrupulous insurance agents who try to sell them overpriced liability policies. It's a long-term strategy, Brock says, but the campaign is starting to pick up steam. "The word is spreading throughout the industry. A lot of them don't know about their rights and they are hungry to find out."

The campaign is now moving into lobbying mode, with organizers talking to state leaders about rampant abuses in the satellite installation industry. "This is a good time, because with the budget shortfalls, politicians are more eager to crack down on tax cheats," Brock said.

### Rampant Abuse

Broadcasting is another industry where the practice has become widespread. "Many broadcast technicians will work for one of the big networks, be considered an



San Francisco labor activists protest a construction contractor found guilty of cheating its employees out of wages and benefits.

employee, but then go work for another network, do the exact same job, and all of a sudden they become contractors," said Broadcasting Department Director Ro Wratschko.

Many smaller production companies are also notorious for misclassifying employees to give them unfair advantage over local signatory companies. "They are bidding for the same work as our union shops but they are illegally getting out of paying the same taxes we do, so they have a leg up," he said.

While not as rampant in the electrical construction industry as it is in other trades, many inside locals have confronted nonunion contractors trying to pass off their employees as contractors. Last fall, Dublin, Calif., Local 595 helped bring to light one Bay Area contractor who cost the state and her employees millions of dollars by illegally misclassifying them.

"It's the primary means for nonunion contractors to get out of their responsibilities to their employees and try to cut into our market share," said Kirk Groenendaal, Special Assistant to the International President for Membership Development.

Federal prosecution of companies that misclassify their workers as contractors was nonexistent under the Bush administration, says Political and Legislative Department International Representative Dan Gardner, but the tide is turning.

President Obama has promised to hire an additional 100 investigators to look at companies accused of misclassifying workers and the Internal Revenue Service announced in February that it was launching a three-year nationwide investigation of the practice.

On Capitol Hill, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry (D) has introduced the Taxpayer Responsibility, Accountability, and Consistency Act of 2009—with Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) sponsoring a House version—which beefs up enforcement of worker classification regulations and closes tax loopholes used by unscrupulous employers.

In April, Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown (D) introduced a similar bill—the Employee Misclassification Act—that focuses on tougher enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The Department of Labor also recently announced tougher regulations of worker classification regulations, calling on employers to disclose to their employees their work status.

State authorities are also intensifying their crackdown. In Iowa, a six-month investigation by the labor department recently found more than 100 companies guilty of misclassifying employees, while in California, Attorney General Jerry Brown is aggressively going after lawbreakers, recently filing a \$4.3 million lawsuit against a construction company with several public works contracts that he says cheated workers out of wages.

In Nebraska, a bill is under serious consideration that would target trucking and construction companies that abuse the independent contractor label.

Gardner said that the IBEW is working closely with NECA contractors and other businesses to push Congress to endorse Sens. Kerry's and Brown's legislation to crack down on lawbreakers. "It's wrong for workers, wrong for taxpayers and wrong for the businesses that play by the rules and follow the law." ■



# N.J. Member Writes Electrician's Guide to Control and Monitoring Systems

**Y**ou should write a book." Years ago, says Al Cutter, his fellow members of New Brunswick, N.J., Local 456, suggested that he glean the lessons from years of intense self-education in computers and electronics into a book to help electricians upgrade their skills.

Cutter's co-workers knew that a journeyman electrician with a degree from a technical high school, who taught himself over 30 computer languages, had patented inventions, and worked in China and Germany for New Brunswick's native Johnson and Johnson Inc., could break complicated control systems down to understandable bites, giving them a needed edge to stay marketable in a tough economy.

Cutter's first book, *Electricians Guide to Control and Monitoring Systems*, was published by McGraw-Hill this spring.

"Thomas Edison said that everything comes to he who hustles while he waits," says Cutter. The grandson of electricians on both sides of his family, Cutter is already working on two more books to help electricians get proficient on alternative and emerging energy applications. He has plans for five more books covering building automation systems and other technologies.

In a forward to *Electrician's Guide to Control and Monitoring Systems*, Michael Callanan, Executive Director of the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, says that Cutter's book "goes a long way towards helping the next generation of electricians master the latest electrical/electronic systems that control and monitor processes that are critical to so very many industries, including the automotive, pharmaceutical, petrochemical and engineering community."

"My books are by and for electricians," says Cutter, who progressed from relays to card lock (programmable boards) to programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and ended up teaching college-level courses at his county's community college and at Lehigh University, years after first being introduced to electronics on scoreboards at Rutgers University and data systems in nursing homes.



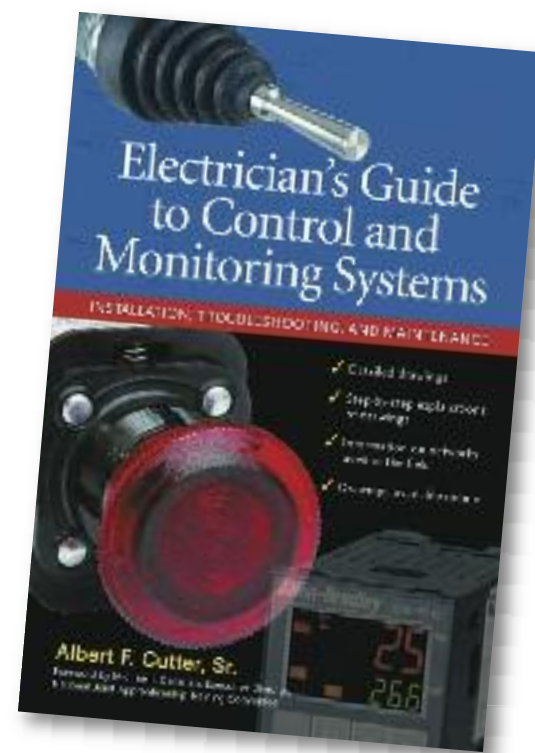
Author Al Cutter

While most textbooks are written by engineers, "I'm looking through the eyes of an electrician who wants to know the performance and function of a circuit," says Cutter, who was trained by Allen-Bradley in PLCs, by RCA as a video technician and Bogan Sound Systems as an audio technician. His book takes completed drawings and breaks them down line by line.

Unlike when he entered the trade, now "electricians can't just do one thing—you need to have a breadth of knowledge," says Cutter, who spent three years in China building a financial accounting system that tied together seven Asian nations. Knowledge pays off. Some computer data centers now have IBEW-trained personnel maintaining them, he says.

Single copies of *Electrician's Guide to Control and Monitoring Systems: Installation, Troubleshooting and Maintenance* can be ordered from **Amazon.com**. Bulk copies for training centers can be ordered from McGraw-Hill. ■

*'My book is by and for electricians,' the New Brunswick, N.J., Local 456, member says.*



## New York Lighting Fixture Plant Expands Despite Hard Economy

**W**ith more stories than can possibly be told about the outsourcing of U.S. manufacturing, isn't it time for a tale about "in-sourcing," a company expanding its work force and profitability and even gushing about its relationship with the IBEW?

That's the improbable story of Selux Corp., a high-end commercial lighting manufacturer north of New York City that opened its doors in 1983 with a skeleton crew—assembling parts made elsewhere into fixtures—and is now completing its third expansion of facilities and people.

"We have a pretty good relationship," says Joe Till, shop steward, New City, N.Y., Local 363. "When information needs to come down, the company's president, Veit Mueller, has no qualms about calling us all together and opening up." Till began as an assembler at Selux in 1992 and now works in the machine shop.

A May 2 story in the Poughkeepsie Journal reports on an April party at Selux where Mueller told local officials and other guests that his company's 20 percent average annual growth rate and sales of more than \$30 million in 2009 were achieved by "our union labor force [who] are your neighbors."

Till, who was one of only 20 workers in 1992, including salesmen and engineers, says that the steady growth to nearly 100 bargaining unit members was due to a "lot of hard work," and to a company president who is "personally involved" in selling the plant's products.



New City, N.Y., Local 363 member Oliverio Espinosa removes a part from the line at Selux.

A large export order, coupled with some smaller ones, has helped Selux weather economic hardships that have left 10 percent of workers in surrounding Ulster County unemployed. Selux supplies private and public sector customers—including stadiums and news organizations—with outside and inside lighting. The company is now concentrating on marketing solar-powered lamps.

Directly after its founding, Selux recognized Local 363, which represents employees at a vast majority of lighting manufacturers in the Hudson Valley and has a reputation for being fair with employers and providing outstanding advocacy for members.

Signing a collective bargaining agreement with Local 363 gave the company the opportunity to apply the IBEW union label on their fixtures. This is especially important in marketing products in New York City, where Local 3 has, for generations, promoted the quality of union-made, domestically-produced electrical supplies. Selux says that 85 percent of its materials are sourced from the U.S. and Canada.

"When business is good, Selux reciprocates in bargaining. They are one of the most progressive employers in the Hudson Valley

region," says Local 363 Business Agent Sam Fratto. "There are now many long-time IBEW members who work at the plant under a great contract who would certainly certify that the IBEW and Local 363 is the way to go when choosing a union to represent you." ■





## 2010 IBEW PHOTO CONTEST

**Grab your camera.** We challenge you to capture a scene, a portrait, a moment, in pursuit of the soul and spirit of the IBEW. It's time for the IBEW's annual photo contest.

We received hundreds of submissions last year, thanks to the online tool that allows members to upload entries electronically, with a limit of five. As always, you can also send in your prints via the mail.

At the contest's close, we will narrow the entries down to 15 finalists, which we'll place on the IBEW Web site for the final judging by members and the public.

Keep in mind what our judges look for in a good photo: technical quality, clarity and composition. As for subjects, we're looking for pictures as diverse as our unique and varied membership.

Future issues of the Electrical Worker and the Web site will announce when the judging will begin.

### PRIZES

**1<sup>st</sup>** FIRST PLACE ..... \$200

**2<sup>nd</sup>** SECOND PLACE ..... \$150

**3<sup>rd</sup>** THIRD PLACE ..... \$100

**HM** HONORABLE MENTIONS . \$50

### CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and state \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Local union number \_\_\_\_\_

IBEW card number \_\_\_\_\_

Photo description \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30, 2010**

### PHOTO CONTEST RULES:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter more than one photo.
2. International Officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Photos can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, in color or black and white, on slides or prints. The preferred print size is 8x10.
4. All submissions become the property of the IBEW Media Department.
5. Photo 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.
6. 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.
7. Photos previously published in IBEW publications or the Web site are not eligible for submission.
8. All entries must include a completed contest entry form. Please note that photo entries may be submitted through the IBEW Web site at **www.ibew.org**.
9. Please fill out the contest entry form and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest and mail it to the **IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001.**



# New Brunswick Local Taps Into Social Media to Mobilize Membership

**T**he announcement last October of a deal to sell off New Brunswick's public utility company, NB Power, set off alarm bells for employees and consumers across the province.

The sale would have put the jobs of more than 2,200 IBEW members at risk, and while initially freezing rates, would have had an unknown rate impact on thousands of New Brunswick consumers and businesses.

As the union representing a majority of the workers at the utility, Fredericton Local 37 was poised to play a key role in the movement to stop the sale, but the challenge facing Business Manager Ross Galbraith was this: how do you inform and mobilize a membership dispersed across an entire province?

Galbraith says he was initially going to mail letters to the membership detailing the situation, but after talking with his newly-hired staffer Mary Williamson, he decided that something more was needed.

"We set up a camcorder in my office and I spoke about the sale and what the IBEW's position was," he said.

The six-minute message was then posted to YouTube—the popular Internet video network. Within a week it had more than 1,000 views. "I'm not so sure we would have had the same impact with a mailed letter," Galbraith said. "You can convey a lot more information using video. Viewers can really see how you feel about an issue."

YouTube would become one of Local 37's top communications tools in the "Stop the Sale" campaign. The local would post more than 10 videos over the next five months, from updates from Galbraith to rally coverage and town hall meetings. Social media messaging also alerted members to rallies and other public events, increasing IBEW involvement.

"The whole campaign was done with a sense of urgency," said Williamson, who serves as the local's membership and organizational development lead. "We wanted to reach the membership

immediately and make them feel plugged in. YouTube turned out to be a very effective way to do that."

Other groups opposing the sale also utilized social media, with a grassroots Facebook site serving as a focal point for over 28,000 people opposing the sale and another well-organized group, called the "NB Power Not for Sale Coalition" also using the same tools to organize rallies and lobby elected officials. These efforts paid off when Premier Shawn Graham backed off the deal in March.

Now Galbraith is looking to expand their social media toolbox for future organizing opportunities.

"I've just started using Twitter," he said, referring to the micro-blogging site. "It allows me to post brief notes about some of the items I'm dealing with." Galbraith says that his members appreciate having more ways of communicating with the local. "With Twitter, Facebook and blogging we can inform members about different activities and issues, and also talk about some of the big

**YouTube would become one of Local 37's top communications tools in the "Stop the Sale" campaign.**

picture issues facing the local."

Local 37 is exploring even more options, looking at the possibilities of using text messages, virtual meetings and online chats to connect and inform members.

Social media has also allowed the IBEW in New Brunswick to pro-

mote itself on the wider Web. "These days, if someone wants to find out about something, they turn to Google," Galbraith said. "If you want to get your message out there, social media should be one of the tools you're using."

And with more journalists getting

## Une section locale du Nouveau-Brunswick a recours aux médias sociaux afin de mobiliser ses membres

**V**ers la fin du mois d'octobre, l'annonce d'une entente prévoyant la vente d'actifs de la société de service public Énergie Nouveau-Brunswick, a sonné l'alarme chez les employés et les consommateurs de toute la province.

Une telle vente aurait mis en péril l'emploi de plus de 2,200 membres de la FIOE et malgré le gel des tarifs résidentiels prévu initialement, nul ne peut prédire l'impact qu'elle aurait eu sur des milliers de clients et d'entreprises du Nouveau-Brunswick à plus long terme.

La section locale 37 de Frédéricton au N.-B. représente la majorité des travailleurs de cette entreprise de service public et à ce titre, elle était prête à jouer un rôle-clé dans l'action visant à arrêter la transaction; le gérant d'affaires Ross Galbraith devait toutefois relever tout un défi, soit celui d'informer et de mobiliser des membres dispersés à travers la province.

Le confrère Galbraith a d'abord eu l'idée de faire parvenir une correspondance à tous les membres en

exposant la situation en détail mais, après en avoir discuté avec Mary Williamson, une nouvelle venue au sein de son personnel, il a plutôt dé-

**Le site de YouTube est devenu un des meilleurs outils de communication de la S.L. 37 dans sa campagne « Non à la vente! ».**

cidé qu'une mesure plus percutante s'imposait.

« Nous avons installé un caméscope dans mon bureau et j'ai enregistré un message portant sur la vente et sur la position de la FIOE à cet égard. » dit-il.

Le message d'une durée de 6 minutes a été affiché sur YouTube—le site de vidéos très populaire. Après une semaine, on comptait plus de 1,000 visiteurs. « Je ne crois pas que l'envoi d'une lettre aurait eu le même impact. Nous pouvons transmettre beaucoup plus d'informations de cette manière. Les visiteurs reçoivent mieux le message car ils peuvent voir votre réaction sur un sujet » déclare le confrère Galbraith.

Le site de YouTube est devenu un

des meilleurs outils de communication de la S.L. 37 dans sa campagne « Non à la vente! ». Au cours des cinq derniers mois, plus de 10 vidéos ont

été placés sur le site, que ce soit sur les mises à jour par le confrère Galbraith ou les reportages sur les rassemblements et les assemblées publiques locales. La messagerie électronique des médias sociaux a servi à éveiller l'attention des membres en les invitant à des rassemblements et à d'autres événements publics, intensifiant ainsi l'implication de la FIOE. Selon la consœur Williamson, qui agit à titre de responsable du développement organisationnel pour les membres de la S.L., toute la campagne a été menée avec un sentiment d'urgence. Elle ajoute : « Notre objectif était de rejoindre nos membres le plus rapidement possible pour qu'ils se sentent impliqués et *YouTube* s'est avéré un moyen très efficace. »

D'autres groupes opposés à la vente ont aussi utilisé les médias sociaux. Le site populaire de Facebook a été un point central pour plus de 28,000 personnes. Une coalition de citoyens du N.-B. opposés à la vente d'Énergie NB a aussi eu recours au réseau social pour organiser des rassemblements et des opérations de pression auprès des élus. Ces efforts ont porté fruit car le Premier ministre Shawn Graham a abandonné l'entente au mois de mars dernier.

Le confrère Galbraith a bien l'intention de développer les outils de réseau social en vue de futures opportunités de syndicalisation. « Je suis un nouvel utilisateur de Twitter. Ce service me permet de diffuser de courts messages concernant certaines affaires dont je m'occupe » déclare-t-il, en référant au site de microbloggage. Les membres apprécient avoir de nouveaux moyens pour communiquer avec la S.L. « Avec les sites de Twitter, Facebook et les blogs, nous pouvons informer nos membres sur les diverses activités et autres sujets,



# For St. Louis Apprentices, There's a Doctor in the House

**S**t. Louis Local 1 member Linda Little finished a daunting, decade-long doctoral degree program in curriculum development at St. Louis University—all while working full-time as an instructor at the city's NJATC electrical training center.

"Getting a Ph.D.—I think in some ways it's a lot like climbing a mountain," Little said with a laugh. "I just wanted to see if I could meet the challenge."

Little's 12 years of experience teaching IBEW apprentices helped shape her dissertation, titled "Impact of High School Math Preparation in an Electrical Trades Program." The 100-page paper draws heavily on in-depth interviews from area high school guidance counselors to examine the link between students' math education and their levels of proficiency in the electrical trade.

She hopes her work will promote awareness among counselors and high school students—especially to graduates planning to go into the trade—about the importance of getting a solid foundation in geometry and algebra.

"I want potential apprentices to know before they apply what kind of rigor is required of them when they get into my class," Little said. "And being at the top of your game can only help you in the future. Apprentices should see all the opportunities there are in the industry. I tell them, 'Set yourself up so that someday down the line, you've got the choices—whether you want to open your own shop, move into the office or anything else.'"

Little's journey with the IBEW has been atypical.

In 1980, she worked for low wages as a bank teller when her best friend's father—a union pipefitter—suggested she should look into the electrical trade. "He told me it would be a way to make a good living and allow me to use my brain," Little said. She joined Local 1 that year as an apprentice and topped out in 1985.

Over the next few years, Little racked up degrees in math and engineering science, dividing her time between IBEW jobs and education. She spent three years teaching high school math and chemistry while working the trades during summer



*St. Louis Local 1 member Linda Little, center, recently earned her doctorate.*

vacations. Between college classes, papers and studying, she logged time as an adjunct instructor with the JATC before signing on for a full-time job in 1999.

Journeyman wireman Dana Evans, one of Little's first students, said Little's background in education was a boon to apprentices learning the ropes.

"She went above and beyond to make sure nobody fell behind," Evans said. "And I think that it's really admirable that she stuck with it and got her Ph.D. It's hard to work a job, be a mom and go to school all at the

same time. She's a good role model to men and women in the IBEW."

Little has also been a pioneer in another area of the trade. A nine-year member of the National Electrical Code Panel, she is the first woman from the IBEW to serve as one of the 19 principals of the group that sets the guidelines for safety and excellence in the electrical field.

She temporarily traded her hard hat for a mortar board when she accepted her diploma last month. While Little says she hasn't yet reached the summit of her education—she plans on taking more courses in solar technologies—she's happy to take time now to focus on her family and students.

"This industry has not only provided me with the skills to make a good living, but it has given me the means to pursue my dream of getting a doctorate," Little said. "I am very fortunate to be in a position to use the skills I have learned to give back by helping others in the classroom." ■

their news tips from tweets instead of press releases, the local's engagement with new media has resulted in increased news coverage for the IBEW. "One day I received a call out of the blue from a reporter with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. who was following me on Twitter," Galbraith said.

His advice to business managers looking to start in social media is to experiment with the different tools available to see which ones best fit the needs of your members. "None of this takes the place of building real face-to-face relationships, but it can be a great

tool to help facilitate them."

"We are facing a younger generation of members who aren't necessarily engaged with the union," Williamson said. "We recognize their value and importance, so we've made it a real priority to try and find new ways to reach out and get them involved in helping shape the future of their union—Local 37."

To check out Local 37's YouTube channel, go to [www.youtube.com/user/IBEW37](http://www.youtube.com/user/IBEW37). To follow Ross Galbraith on Twitter, go to <http://twitter.com/RossGalbraith> ■

en plus de discuter des affaires globales auxquelles fait face la section locale. »

La Section locale désire même explorer d'autres options. Elle étudie les possibilités d'utilisation de messages textes, d'assemblées virtuelles et de clavardage pour informer les membres.

Le réseau social a également permis d'augmenter la visibilité de la FIOE au Nouveau-Brunswick, sur la vaste toile. « De nos jours, lorsqu'on veut obtenir des renseignements à propos d'un sujet quelconque, on cherche sur Google. Alors lorsque vous avez un message à diffuser, le service de réseautage social s'avère un des outils à prioriser » affirme le confrère Galbraith.

Considérant que de plus en plus de journalistes ont recours aux sources électroniques, telles que les tweets plutôt qu'aux communiqués de presse, l'engagement de la S.L. dans les réseaux sociaux a donc résulté en une couverture médiatique accrue pour la FIOE. « J'ai même reçu, à ma plus grande surprise, un appel d'un journaliste de la Société Radio-

Canada qui me suivait sur Twitter. »

Le confrère Galbraith conseille aux gérants d'affaires intéressés à recourir aux services de réseautage social de tenter l'expérience avec les différents outils disponibles afin de trouver celui qui répond le mieux aux besoins de leurs membres. « Cela ne remplacera jamais les bonnes relations qui peuvent être établies en personne, mais peut s'avérer un bon instrument pour les faciliter. »

« Avec la venue d'une plus jeune génération de membres dont nous reconnaissons la valeur et l'importance, mais qui ne sont pas nécessairement impliqués dans le syndicat, notre principale priorité est de trouver de nouveaux moyens pour les rejoindre et les inciter à s'impliquer en nous aidant à façonner l'avenir de leur section locale 37 de la FIOE. » explique la consœur Williamson.

Pour voir les vidéos de la S.L. 37 sur YouTube, allez au [www.youtube.com/user/IBEW37](http://www.youtube.com/user/IBEW37).

Pour suivre Ross Galbraith sur Twitter, allez au <http://twitter.com/RossGalbraith> ■

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+ **2 ANTI-UNION THUGS** =

**WORKPLACE DEMOCRACY: CORPORATE STYLE**

See the IBEW-produced video on organizing in an age of labor laws gone amok.

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## Organizing Wire

### Mississippi Local Reclaims Municipal Workers Lost to Outsourcing

When municipal workers in Moss Point, Miss., were left without a union after the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees departed the state in the early 1990s, they turned to IBEW's Pascagoula Local 733.

City workers, who had been meeting in 733's hall, appreciated the IBEW's reputation for effectively representing hundreds of workers at the massive shipyard operated by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, located just a stone's throw to the south.

Jim Couch, Local 733 business manager, remembers visiting with the city's mayor following AFSCME's departure. After the IBEW asked the mayor to be recognized as the workers' bargaining agent, the mayor questioned what would happen if he didn't honor the union's request. "We told him we would get real, real active," says Couch. The mayor agreed to recognize IBEW and continue the terms of the AFSCME contract. "We built on it from there," says Couch.

In 2008, after successfully representing the bargaining unit for more than 25 years, the IBEW was notified that the city had decided to outsource the maintenance of streets, sewers and gas lines. Workers with at least 17 years of seniority remained working for the city. But other members retained their jobs with a private firm, Utility Partners. All were then working without union representation.

In 2009, supported by a labor-friendly majority on the city council, Moss Point's new mayor reviewed the municipality's experience with outsourcing and concluded that it had failed to save money and had actually created new problems. Last August, Utility Partners ended its month-to-month contract with the city. The privatized work was brought back into the public domain.

The city offered Local 733 the opportunity to be restored as representatives of the bargaining unit. About 90 percent of the bargaining unit—which had dwindled from 65 to 40 members—voted to support IBEW representation.

"We felt like the work could be done in-house," says Mayor Aneice Liddell. There were problems with the management of city services even before privatization that Liddell, a former alderman, hopes to solve through the recent hiring of a full-time civil engineer to direct departments. "There are so many liabilities that you still incur [after privatizing]," says Liddell, at the helm of a once-vibrant industrial city severely tested by manufacturing plant shut-downs and Hurricane Katrina. "You always have the question of who is at fault, the city or the contractor."

Liddell is targeting improved worker training in her dialogue with union representatives. "We are looking at the possibility of apprenticeship programs and cross-training," she says. "I have to look out for the betterment of the city. If the unions can help me and I can help them, I see no

problem. I know these guys and I hope to have a great partnership."

James Ratcliff, a 24-year heavy equipment operator and acting supervisor in the sewer department, worked as a member of AFSCME, then Local 733 and most recently as one of the senior city workers without union representation. Ratcliff was dismayed that—under Utility Partners—newly-hired employees started out at lower rates of pay than under the union's contract and paid holidays were not counted toward overtime hours.

The overtime issue was recently resolved prior to the conclusion of negotiations on a new contract between Local 733 and Moss Point. "I'm glad to know that the city is honoring changes prior to signing our contract," says Ratcliff. "Without a union, we could voice our opinion, but there was nothing we could do to change things," he says. ■



James Ratcliff, a 24-year employee of the sewer department in Moss Point, Miss., says he is pleased to be a member of Pascagoula Local 733.

## Spotlight on Safety

### New Drilling Tool Eases Physical Stress on Wiremen

**Pain. Fatigue. Wear and tear.** For journeyman wireman Fernando Sierra, such symptoms can be part of the job, especially when doing tricky overhead electrical work.

"You're operating a handheld drill above your head and looking up as dust and particles fly in your face," said Sierra, a member of Portland, Ore., Local 48. "Plus, it tires out your arms, shoulders, back—it can be very challenging, especially if you're up on a ladder."

But a state-of-the-art overhead drill press in development at the University of California's ergonomics laboratory in Berkeley could help Sierra and his fellow workers by eliminating much of the physical stress that accompanies rigorous construction projects.

Featuring a wheeled tripod base, an extendable shaft that can reach an 11-foot-high ceiling and a rapid action hinge that makes bits easy to change, the press allows workers to bore into stubborn concrete or metal ceilings with ease from the safety of the ground.

Dr. David Rempel is part of a team of researchers from UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco who have studied ways to reduce fatigue and injury resulting from overhead drilling. Rempel worked with Sierra and other IBEW Local 48 members—plus members of the sheet metal and pipefitters unions—to test and refine the device, which has been five years in the making.

"We wanted to reduce the associated musculoskeletal disease for



Portland, Ore., Local 48 members helped test and refine a revolutionary new tool for tackling tough drilling projects.

workers doing this task," Rempel said. "If someone does this work for many years, it can lead to arm and shoulder injuries."

Typical overhead drilling requires a worker to apply 55 pounds of pressure to a hand drill. The new press cuts that amount down to six pounds. Workers have also noted increased stability, reduced vibration and easier maneuverability when using the new device.

"It allows you to work smarter, not harder—which always pays off," Sierra said.

The press is currently in small-scale production in the Bay Area, and researchers are hoping the prototype device gets picked up by a large manufacturer. Two major companies have expressed interest but are waiting for the economy to rebound before deciding how to proceed, said Mary Watters of the Center for Construction Research and Training.

Members of various locals working for Bay Area-based Cupertino Electric are already test driving the new equipment. Cupertino is the first signatory contractor to employ the device in the field, and union leaders hope other companies will follow suit once the press becomes available nationwide.

"It's inexpensive, it's ergonomically sound, and there's no reason why it can't revolutionize the way many journeymen do a significant amount of their hardest work," said IBEW Safety and Health Director Jim Tomaseski.

To see the drill in action, visit <http://ergo.berkeley.edu/>. ■



# Circuits

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

### 13 Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and the Next Meltdown

By Simon Johnson and James Kwak

Even after the financial meltdown that nearly brought our economy to the brink, the top Wall Street firms that helped orchestrate the disaster are more powerful and richer than ever before. And without substantial congressional reform to reign in the power of Wall Street, they are poised to lead our country down the road to another crash.

This is the conclusion of economists Simon Johnson and James Kwak in the book "13 Bankers," a study of how Wall Street—including firms such as Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan, and Wells Fargo, among others—landed our economy in the worst recession since the Great Depression. It is an eye-opening history of unfettered financial greed run amok.

Economics is not an easy subject and many of the financial devices created by Wall Street—derivatives, hedge funds, credit default swaps—are too complex for even experts to comprehend, but Johnson and Kwak make high finance accessible to the lay reader.

"13 Bankers" is also a political history, a chronicle of how the financial sector grew in both power and

money starting in the '80s. The big banks used that power to influence elected officials, who then instituted much of the financial deregulation that allowed the banks to grow even bigger by engaging in risky behaviors—such as subprime mortgage lending—that eventually crashed the economy in 2008.

While praising aspects of President Obama's financial reform package, Johnson and Kwak argue that the proposed regulations don't go far enough. Avoiding bailing out another financial firm that is "too big to fail" will require capping the size of banking giants so their failure won't imperil the whole economy.

A recent amendment sponsored by Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Ted Kaufman (D-Del.) would have done just that, but it was defeated by a bipartisan majority in the Senate, again proving that Wall Street still exercises a powerful hold on Capitol Hill. ■

### Hydro Ottawa Workers Help Co-Worker, Community

For members of Toronto, Ontario, Local 636, helping a fellow employee at Hydro Ottawa was the right way to spend their weekends.

The workers volunteered to do the electrical work during construction of the Rotary Home, a facility that provides respite care for the



Enter to win this made-in-the-U.S. Triton boat in the USA giveaway.

families of physically and mentally challenged children.

Volunteers got the idea for the project after seeing a picture of a co-worker's son on a billboard for the home. Eighteen-year-old Brett Jeffries had a severe form of cerebral palsy. His family used the home's services until Brett passed away late last year.

"I was extremely proud to see my colleagues donate their time and expertise," said Brett's father Lance, a director at Hydro Ottawa. "Actions like these highlight the character and quality of our employees."

For the Kitchener Local 804 members who also volunteered on the project, their work is both a lasting tribute to Brett's memory and an ongoing service to other families.

"This endeavour was a great example of how members contribute to making their community a better place and was made possible via the leadership and support shown by IBEW Local 636," Lance Jeffries said. ■

### Win a Triton Boat With the USA

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance and Triton Boats want to cast away your shore-bound blues with a new U.S. made TR-18 SE bass boat powered by a Mercury engine and a day of fishing with Triton Founder and CEO Earl Bentz.

All active and retired IBEW members can enter to win this special package on the USA Web site: [www.UnionSportsmen.org/Triton](http://www.UnionSportsmen.org/Triton). Current USA members are automatically entered in the promotion.

Widely acknowledged as one of the most creative individuals in the fiercely competitive sports-fishing boat industry, Bentz is equally as patriotic. That's one of the reasons he partnered

with the USA to award a member with a Triton boat in 2008 and why he is supporting a second USA promotion.

"USA members are our customer base, and we're proud of this association," Bentz said. "Our boats are made in America, the Mercury engine is made in America and these union members are here in North America."

In addition to this new promotion, Triton developed a union appreciation program for any member who purchases a Triton boat package. The package includes a free one-year USA membership or

one-year extension of an existing membership, a custom engine cover featuring the USA logo and a gift certificate of up to \$300 to spend on Triton merchandise.

"Union members have made concessions to keep American companies competitive within the international market. They have made sacrifices and fought hard to keep jobs in this country," Bentz said. "Last year was one of the most difficult economic environments, so we asked ourselves what we could do to help those who give so much." ■



Brett Jeffries, center, with the IBEW members who helped build a house for families of physically and mentally challenged children.

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<b>\$9.00</b>	<b>\$46.00</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>Orange IBEW T-Shirt</b> Heavyweight, 100% cotton, crew neck t-shirt with IBEW initials above left chest pocket.	<b>Tan Breeze Hat</b> Mesh/brushed leather hat with IBEW logo. Offers 94% UV protection & 100% sun block protection. (Includes hat band inserts for size adjustment.)	<b>Trailer Hitch Cover</b> Heavy black plastic with 3" x 6" oval design and white raised IBEW initials.

These items and more are now available at your IBEW Online Store.



# Local Lines

## Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Members of Local 6 have reached out once again to our community to improve the lives of people in need and the organizations that serve them.

In partnership with the San Francisco Electrical Contractors Association, our industry worked together to provide labor, service vans and material to 13 projects in conjunction with Rebuilding Together San Francisco. Steve Powers, Paul Mitchell, Jim Reed and Tom Burrows are commended for their efforts in organizing this outreach, as are the many members who volunteered their time and labor to enhance the lives of others.

Work in the jurisdiction is still slow. We extend heartfelt thanks to our sister Locals 595 and 617 for providing employment opportunities to our apprentices during this difficult economic time.

Phil A. Farrelly, Pres.

## Tribute to a Brother

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Local 8 and our Toledo Electrical JATC are pleased to announce that the JATC’s welding lab has been dedicated to the late Bro. Kevin Flagg. A plaque honoring Kevin is placed at the lab entrance. As a welder himself, Kevin was a hard-working, dedicated union member and officer who worked tirelessly to advance the JATC, Local 8, and our industry. We are proud to give him tribute in this way.

We hope to see a few more job opportunities in coming months as the weather warms up. The book is moving slowly for now, but we anticipate a little more movement in the latter months of this year. Some projects we expect to start this year will be a boon to the Toledo area, as they will not only provide work for us, but also will bring permanent jobs for the area work force. Let’s keep in mind the work that went into getting these jobs to this area. Politics do pay!

Ben “Red” Tackett, P.S.  
Jim Kozlowski, B.M.

## ‘Foundation for the Future’

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—On Dec. 13, 2009, IBEW Local 16 celebrated its 110th anniversary of giving southern Indiana the highest quality, best trained electricians available anywhere. Many changes have come and gone in the electrical industry since the union’s humble beginning; however, the pride and integrity of

its membership remains strong and continues to serve as an excellent foundation for her future.

Special thanks to the following, who put together a portable solar/wind generator training lab: Mike Weinzapfel, Jeff Brady, Greg Ward, Dan Lasher, Mark Bittner, Brad Arney, Jeff Barr, John Bogan, Mark Marshall, Will Brenner, Robin Haskell and Roger Clark. It was used to power the IBEW/NECA display at Fantasy of Lights. This equipment was donated by the LMCC and has the potential of generating and storing enough power to independently supply the display. The unit uses a 1,000-watt wind generator, four 200-watt solar panels, and it saved the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center approximately \$600 in electricity during the 2009 season.

Local 16 was again recognized by the NJATC for the large number of journeyman wiremen who have voluntarily given their time to broaden their skills through advanced journeyman training classes.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

## Welcome, IUPAT

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—Local 24 is extremely proud to have members working on the headquarters and dormitory buildings for the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. Brown & Heim is the signatory contractor awarded the project. The project is located at the IUPAT’s Hanover, MD, complex.

The three-story headquarters building will house the offices of the IUPAT international officers. The 36-room dormitory building will house IUPAT members sent to attend the existing training facility, also located on the Hanover complex. Not only



Local 26 Bus. Mgr. Chuck Graham (left) presents Pres. Barack Obama a personalized IBEW Local 26 jacket during the president’s Feb. 16 visit to the local.

are our members proud to be helping construct the IUPAT facility but we also welcome their international to the area.

Gary R. Griffin, B.M.

## Historic Occasion

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Local 26 is extremely proud of a historic event that occurred here in February. Pres. Barack Obama chose Local 26 to use as a backdrop to announce plans for a new nuclear power plant to be built in Georgia and he also toured our training facility. You can see a video of his speech and photos of his visit on our Web site [www.ibewlocal26.org](http://www.ibewlocal26.org). This was an awe-inspiring and unprecedented event for our local!

Local union officers and agents remain very



At the IUPAT headquarters project, IBEW Local 24 Bus. Mgr. Gary Griffin (left) and Brown & Heim Executive Vice Pres. Jack Shiloh (second from left) join the Local 24 crew for a photo. From left: Griffin, Shiloh, Steve Langrill, Tim McGuigan, Dave Cummins, Paul Buchanan-Wollaston, Brandon Ingram, Jason Gilliland, Dayne Thomas, Jason Smith, Tim Legg, Charles L. Bradley, Tony Kontogeorgos, Brandon Cassady, Steven E. Smith, William Wilking, Johnny Wallace, Foreman Phil Gerber, Gen. Foreman Mike Kinn and Project Mgr. Jeff Cornelius.

busy. The Minority Coalition held its Annual Black History Month celebration; we attended the IBEW Construction Conference and the National Building Trades Conference; the golf outing preparations are in full swing; and we are planning our Manassas, VA, and Edgewater, MD, picnics scheduled for June 19 and Aug. 7, respectively. When you receive this article, results of the Local 26 elections will be known. Officers will be sworn in at the July general membership meeting.

We mourn the recent deaths of members John W. McKnett, Ronald J. Windsor, Daniel W. Riggs and Richard L. Chilcoat.

Best wishes to recent retirees: Roy L. Burgess, Donald W. Frantz, Maurice B. Griffin, Randolph E. Ramey Jr., James L. Wallace, Rudolph C. Worch, David M. Anderson III, Roy W. Curtis, Benjamin C. Judd Jr., Sidney G. Marsh, Ronald A. McConkey, Charles D. Meadows and John W. Hull Jr.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

## ‘That’s a Wrap 2009’

L.U. 40 (em,i&mps), HOLLYWOOD, CA—With the close of 2009, Local 40 celebrated by throwing our annual “That’s a Wrap” Luncheon. More than 200 members and spouses as well as 20 guests attended. At the luncheon, Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey spoke about the difficult economy, but also noted the positive direction in which Local 40 is headed. Int. Rep. Tim Dixon spoke about how nice it was to break bread with newly signed Commonwealth Studios management, Chief Executive Officer Bernie Weitzman and Chief Operating Officer John Marshall, and expressed hopes that much more work comes Local 40’s way.

Local 40 Bus. Mgr. Bill Brinkmeyer reported that although we are experiencing higher than normal unemployment, Local 40 had a near-record year of construction hours reported and 2010 looks to be just as promising.

We also introduced another successful apprentice class at our luncheon. Congratulations to Outstanding Apprentice Award winner John Smolonovich and fellow graduates Scott Billingsley, Michael Stobo, Bruce Milligan, Juan Rodríguez Jr., Peter Diamond and Ray Garcia. We wish these newly minted journeymen long and prosperous careers.

Service pins were also presented, as well as Longevity Awards, presented to Albert Norris, for 62 years of union membership, and Samuel Shanman, for 55 years of service.

Marc Flynn, R.S.

## Trade Classifications

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

Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.



## 'Big Footprint'

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—Perhaps we should ask ourselves just how large we want our union footprint to be. Unions are never covered enough in the 'major media' for the positive impact we make. We need to get the word out that our union makes a positive contribution to the community; that we do the right thing when it comes to making things better for the working class; and that when something is good for workers, it will be good for business. Our footprint isn't big enough. Please visit [www.UltimateElectricians.com](http://www.UltimateElectricians.com) to help make it bigger.

The OSHA Alliance quarterly recognition and awards dinner was held April 8, with 65 in attendance, including state Rep. John Soper, OSHA liaison Chris Matthewson and OSHA Deputy Regional Dir. Nancy Smith.

Speakers included Adeeb Khan from the American Red Cross, who spoke about automatic external defibrillators. IBEW 68's delegate to the National Safety Council, Chris Griego, reported about the recent NSC convention. NECA board member Rusty Gonzales accepted, on behalf of NECA, an appreciation award from Dwayne Adkins, executive director of Labor's Community Agency, for NECA's recent golf tournament fundraising effort for LCA. Also in attendance were 27 apprentices who recently completed the OSHA-30 class. A special award was presented to Erv Krueger, recently retired OSHA labor liaison, for his longtime positive influence on workplace safety.

We extend condolences to the families of our recently deceased brothers: Charles Elfeld, Maddie Robertson, Paul M. Mettam and Norman Young.

*Ed Knox, Pres.*

## 'Summer More Promising'

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA—Work has been slow in starting through the spring. Contractors have been awarded several jobs, which have not yet broken ground. Hopefully, an improved economy and better weather will lead us to more work starting in the coming months. Work continues at the Sentara Princes Anne Hospital, with many of the recent calls going there. Several other contracts awarded make the summer look more promising.

Most contractors now are requiring pre-employment drug screenings. Anyone who fails a drug screening will lose their place on the out-of-work list. Failure of a drug screen not only tarnishes your name, but also every other person in the IBEW. If you feel you cannot pass a screening, turn the call down and make sure you are able to be clear for the next job. As slow as work has been over the past year, no member needs to be denied the opportunity to earn a wage for a reason they can control. Don't let yourself be the one to embarrass our union.

*W. Dennis Floyd, P.S.*

## Member Receives Badger Award

L.U. 94 (lctt,nst&u), CRANBURY, NJ—Local 94 members congratulate Bro. Gene Kobuszewski on his recent retirement. Gene retired on April 1, with 42 years of service at PSE&G. He served Local 94 as a steward and a chief steward at the Fleet Maintenance location.

At the March 4 union meeting, Bro. Kobuszewski was awarded the Badger Award, an honor the local presents to a member who has provided outstanding



*Local 94 recent retiree Bro. Gene Kobuszewski (foreground, center) received an award at the March 4 union meeting.*

service to the local and the membership. Thank you, Gene, for your hard work and dedication to the union. We wish you the best in your retirement.

*Chip Gerrity, P.S.*

## High-Speed Rail Line

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rt&st), FRESNO, CA—The high-speed rail line in California is coming directly through Local 100's jurisdiction, with northern and southern San Joaquin Valley sections both connecting to Fresno, and we have an excellent opportunity to capture the work. Local 100 has its own labor representative, Chuck Riojas, on the "Fresno Works" high-speed rail committee. He and many others have worked diligently on the proposal to build the Heavy Maintenance Facility that supports the high-speed rail in Fresno County. The committee includes labor leaders and representatives from the City of Fresno, Fresno County, area businesses and others. The committee submitted its first-round proposal to the California High Speed Rail Authority. The proposal is available for anyone who wants to view it at the union hall. Visit Web site [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov) for more information.

Congratulation to the 2010 apprentice graduates. The new inside wiremen are: Guillermo Arce, Lonnie Barnes, Ryan Barnett, Andrew Cuthbert, Jamie Evans, Luis Flores, Rene L. Garcia Jr., Timothy Harven, Thomas Heisdorf, Timothy Johnson, Kham Lo, Adam Noble, Natcho Ramirez, Christopher Rodriguez, Miguel Romero, Aaron Schiebelhut, Justin Taylor, Eric Turpin, Charles Watson, Richard Whaley, Bryan Wilson and Rueben Sadler. The VDV graduates: Christian Duran, Hector Gonzales, Brian Jones, Sarita Ham, James Ramirez, Simon Rubalcaba and Kenneth Xayaboupha. Think safety always.

*M.A. Caglia, R.S.*

## Advertising Quality Labor Force

L.U. 102 (c,catv,i,it,o&t), PATERSON, NJ—Our local president is promoting a publicity campaign by advertising our skills on billboards on the major roads across our jurisdiction. The billboards introduce a positive image of our local—by explaining that we are part of the community and noting the benefits of choosing local union labor for upcoming electrical projects. Pres. Bernard Corrigan also says that soon we will take ads out in a New Jersey business weekly magazine and possibly start doing commercials on the radio and cable TV.

The message we wish to communicate is simple. We must explain who we are and promote the excellent quality, skill and knowledge we offer compared to our nonunion competition. This is vital for our survival as a union. We will explain the training required to become a journeyman electrician and at the same time offer apprenticeship opportunities for the community. We will let the end user know that we are trained for the green work of tomorrow,

and we can proudly showcase the projects we have completed. If we don't do this, no one else will.

*Ed Fredericks, P.S.*

## Flood Disaster Kits

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—On April 3, IBEW 104 members and their families helped out the Red Cross handing out flood disaster clean-up kits in Wrentham, MA. Massachusetts and Rhode Island were devastated after three days of record breaking torrential rains.

Many thanks to all the volunteers for their assistance.

*Chris Blair, P.S.*



*Local 104 officers, members and families assist Red Cross effort. From left: Local 104 Treas. Hugh Boyd, Jake McCaffery, Terry Place, Sarah Boyd, Ryan Boyd, Local 104 Pres. Jeff Place, Red Cross Partner Service Administer Jerry Sirk, Local 104 Organizer Chris Blair, Christina Blair and Jesse Blair.*

## Kansas City Local Goes Green

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rt&se&spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—Local 124 has gone green. Beginning March 17, the local sponsored a solar-powered entry in the Kansas City St. Patrick's Day parade. Currently, 70 rooftop panels supply 15 kW of sun power to our union hall. Wiremen from last winter's photovoltaic class installed the panels and earned credits toward photovoltaic/solar certification. Any excess power can be sold back to the utility for use elsewhere on the grid.

On April 8, Local 124 hosted the 2010 Sustainable Green Energy Conference at our union hall. More than 120 prospective customers, architects, engineers and contractors attended an all-day seminar exploring renewable energy strategies. Topics included: LEED green building rating systems, smart grid applications, and solar PV and wind energy.

Fifteen experts in the field of renewable energy presented materials on design and development of green communities, construction and maintenance of renewable energy projects, and more. Keynote speaker was Greg Searle, executive director, BioRegional North America.

We remember recently deceased members: Robert N. Gentry, Frank W. Hays, Gary S. Olson, Claude T. Owen, Glenn A. Long, Robert P. Long, Gerald R. Morriss, Kenneth E. Powell, Anthony D. Powers and Cyril T. Williams.

Congratulations to recently retired members: Gary M. Bly, William E. Hansen, Charles K. Harnar, Jackie M. Holiman, Ronald Hughes, Peter V. Inzerillo, William F. Joyce, Thomas M. Lacy Jr., Maurice T. Livingston, Glen Leehy, Gary L. McGill, Michael G. McCormick, Nicholas Polallis, Joseph E. Powell, Gary A. Ryan, Charles M. Turner and John H. Wise.

*Frank D. Mathews Jr., P.S.*

## Illinois State IBEW Conference

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—We congratulate Bob Schloz, Joe Woolums and John Taylor on their recent retirement. The local thanks these brothers for their years of service.

Four members recently completed the annual Union Commitee Activist Network (UCAN) training. Congratulations to Curt Young, Chad Young, Lynn Richards and Chris Hays.

Several officers, accompanied by Bus. Mgr. Shad Etchason, recently attended the Illinois State IBEW conference. We were honored to hear speakers including Gov. Pat Quinn, Speaker of the Illinois House Mike Madigan, and several other state dignitaries and candidates. On the second day of the event, Local 146 member and Illinois

AFL-CIO Pres. Michael T. Carrigan addressed the conference. All spoke on how it is so very important to elect labor friendly candidates in November.

Upcoming events include the annual golf outing in June, the Decatur Celebration in August, and the popular Poker Run.

Our condolences go to the James Shell family. Bro. Shell was a 41-year IBEW member and will be missed.

*Rich Underwood, R.S.*

## Picnic Date Set

L.U. 150 (es,i,rt&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—The work picture continues to be very slow. Changes to the referral system have allowed for a more even distribution of what work there is and the new system seems to be working as intended. We need to remember that we are all in this together.

Recently Bros. George Eberhardt, Ken Taylor and Dave Williams retired. We wish you long and healthy retirements. Enjoy yourselves; you've earned it!

Please remember if you are hurt on the job an accident report is supposed to be filled out by the contractor and remitted to the hall as per our agreement. This allows the Safety Committee to make recommendations to avoid these accidents in the future.

Local 150's annual picnic will be held June 26, 2010, at Lakewood Forest Preserve in Wauconda. Please lend a hand and work a shift doing something that day and help make it a pleasant day for all who attend.

Contract negotiations continue; it is going to be another bumpy ride. The negotiating committee has already met several times.

Don't forget our local elections. If you don't vote, you shouldn't complain. Make your voice count.

*Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.*



## Local Lines

## Stewards Training

L.U. 160 (lctt,o&u), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—On March 6, the local hosted our annual stewards training. Joe Herbulock, from the firm of Hauer, Farigione, Love, Landy & McEllistrem, again this year gave an informative update on workers' compensation. Jim Klatt of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance explained the benefits of membership in this hunting/fishing conservation group. Tony DeAngelis from Labor Education Services, University of Minnesota, detailed the role of the steward. Local 160 thanks these trainers for putting on a wonderful seminar. The educational instruction was followed by a lunch and raffle drawings. The local also extends many thanks to the 42 members who attended this training and to all our stewards for the great job you do!

Members are reminded that Minneapolis meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the new hall—2909 Anthony Lane, St. Anthony, MN. Becker meetings are held the third Thursday of the month. Check the Web site [www.ibew160.org](http://www.ibew160.org) for dates and times of all meetings.

*Daniel S. Seawell, P.S.*

## 'Clothes for Haiti'

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—Volunteerism is strong and well at Local 164. Hundreds of members turned out on four Saturdays in March to lend a hand and a strong back for a "Clothing for Haiti" drive.

The project was the brainstorm of attorney Thomas Wells. His charitable foundation, the Wells Mountain Foundation, the Ridgewood YMCA, the Paramus Sunrise Rotary Club and Local 164 partnered to collect, box and load ten 40-foot containers to ship to Haiti. Clothing, shoes, etc., were brought to Behnke's Lumber Warehouse on Century Road in Paramus, NJ.

On the first two weekends clothes were sorted, boxes palletized and staged for the two weekends that followed. This is when the Local 164 members really stood out. We loaded five 40-foot containers on both March 20 and 27. There was an 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. shift both days, with 60 to 90 members volunteering each shift! Other partners on the project were blown away by the teamwork and tasks performed by our folks.

After the clothing is distributed, the 10 containers will be transformed into temporary living quarters for needy Haitians who lack shelter.

Hats off to all who helped. We all had a great time and we hope thousands of Haitians will bene-

fit from our efforts. Special thanks to Bro. Joe Licinski, who was there for every shift and was a great "general foreman."

Well done, sisters and brothers!

*John DeBouter, Pres.*

## Fundraiser A Great Success

L.U. 176 (es,i,rts&spa), JOLIET, IL—Heart 176 Club held its 9th Annual Sick, Injured and Needy Cash Bash Fundraiser on March 5. The club was formed in 2002 to provide assistance to Local 176 members facing financial hardship due to illness or injury.

Over its nine-year history, Heart 176 has paid more than \$200,000 to members in need. This year's fundraiser was another huge success, raising more than \$20,000. Despite high unemployment and the difficult economic times, our members came through to help their brothers and sisters who may need it more.

Many thanks go out to Bus. Mgr. Dave Udstuen, his staff, 176 West Catering and Local 176 members who contributed to the event. Special thanks to local member/attorney Marc Bessette for his generous donation and his constant support. Most importantly, I thank club members Jeff Farrar, Neil Craig, Steve Newcomer, Greg Hess, Barry Aldrich, Greg Boyer, Doug Eungard, Steve Tutt, Dean Goselin, Dennis Lovato, Chuck McBroom, Ed Ferry, Jim Ryan, Jeremy Haddon, and Doug Fowler for their hard work and dedication. I am proud of these members and the work they do.

*Mark Ferry, V.P.*



*Local 176 Vice Pres. Mark Ferry (left) congratulates Heart 176 grand prize winner Wayne Lewandowski and Wayne's wife, Becky. The local's annual "Sick, Injured and Needy" (S.I.N. Bash) fundraiser took place in March.*

## Sun Shines on NAPA County

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—The local has supported renewable energy since back when it was seen as a "fad." Involvement has included: hosting the local utility, PG&E, to present a four-day class on energy audits; a Give-a-Watt (PV to nonprofits) program; and the Green Employer Council at the local community college. We have worked hard to help others train people for the green-collar jobs that do not duplicate or displace our members. Rather, we've supported the training in the occupations that create projects and return our members to work.

Relationships were bolstered as an outcome of various "green" meetings over a few years. We have signed a memorandum of understanding to create a Green Tech Academy within our Training Center with the Asera Group, a local renewable energy developer. We now have a partnership with Asera for the pending 6-megawatt photovoltaic farm in Napa and are undertaking joint business development for future renewable projects exceeding 110 megawatts.

This could not be possible without the support and assistance of our NECA partners and the JATC. Furthermore, NEBF is reviewing funding for the Napa projects and we look forward to their support on greening our area.

*Michael C. Smith, B.A.*

## Contract Negotiations

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Outside construction in our local is still much slower than usual as of this writing.

We are currently involved in several contract negotiations in our jurisdiction, where we have 15 separate agreements with cities, villages and governmental districts. These negotiations have been especially trying over the past year and a half as a result of the disastrous state of the economy nationwide, and especially here in Illinois, which has resulted in a very negative impact on the employers. Illinois currently has a \$13 billion budget deficit and the pension plans are grossly underfunded.

Working people did not create this problem. We will continue to do everything in our power to protect the wages and benefits that have been negotiated over the last several decades by this office. The membership, through their expertise and quality work, are the ones who on a daily basis negotiate their future agreements and conditions; I am simply their voice at the bargaining table.

The IBEW has put much time, effort and money into helping "labor friendly" candidates win elections and we need to remind them that we are still here and paying attention when legislation that will affect working families needs their support.

*Eric Patrick, B.M.*

## Training Classes

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL—The economy, as we all know, is still moving very slowly but with a small glimpse of hope in a few areas. Local 222 still has a large proportion of the membership unemployed. We remain strong in our union commitment and look forward to a more prosperous time in the future.

With regret we report the passing of several members: Kirby Joiner, Oscar Mathis and Jack Butler, all journeyman linemen. Jack Butler attended the February meeting and donated a line-man statue, which will be on display at the Local

222 hall (see photo). These brothers and their long-time support and working contributions will be missed. We salute them and bid Godspeed.

To provide information and training to our members, Local 222 has held training classes for Code of Excellence, OSHA E-T&D and CPR/First Aid, as well as a pilot class for crane certification, in recent months. Our goal is to continue to have a safe, trained and certified work force that is capable of meeting the high expectations often demanded of them.

Remember to attend your local union meeting, work safe and promote fair trade.

*Fredrick Morgan, P.S. Pro Tem*



*Local 222 journeyman lineman Jack Butler (left) presents a statue of a lineman to Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell for display at the union hall. Bro. Butler recently passed away.*

## Scholarships Awarded

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—We recently completed our annual scholarship essay contest for graduating high school students from each of the three counties that make up our local. Each student submitted a 500-word essay on one of the following topics: What is the IBEW and what has it done to enhance organized labor? Why is the organized labor movement important in the United States today? How has the union movement played a key role in the life and well-being of my family member who is or was in a union? What is the Employee Free Choice Act and how will it benefit organized labor? We received many good essays, which made the decisions of our Executive Board all the more difficult.

Local 234 Bus. Mgr. Ken Scherpinski will attend each of the school's award ceremonies and present scholarships to the winners: Kyle Pelot of North Salinas High School, Michelle Chatley of Anzar High School, and Robby John Pappas of Santa Cruz High School. We are proud to extend our congratulations to each of the winners, their parents and their schools. We are honored to assist in the students' future success.

*Stephen Slovacek, P.S.*

## Volunteers Support Community

L.U. 280 (c,es,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—"Communities support us, so we need to support our communities." These words were spoken prophetically by Bus. Rep. Tom Baumann to newspapers about the outstanding volunteer efforts at the historic "ZCJ" meeting hall in Scio, OR.

Volunteers on Saturday, Feb. 27 installed light fixtures, stage lighting, receptacles and basic electrical upgrades to this well-loved building. EC Electric donated the electrical permit and our Local 280 Public Service Fund donated more than \$1,000 in materials for a very worthwhile effort.



*IBEW Local 164 volunteers turned out in force to assist a major "Clothing for Haiti" drive.*





*Local 280 volunteers at the Scio hall project stop for a break. From left are: Bros. Tom Baumann, Mike Holt, Frank DeWilde, Don Anklem, Brian Samp and Steve Goodman and Sister Christina VanLeeuwen.*

This is just a small fraction of what Local 280 members give back to our area. Our Public Service Fund has donated more than \$500,000 to such nonprofit groups as Habitat for Humanity, youth programs, 4-H, sports complexes, etc. Our volunteers have donated many thousands of hours, so please tell them thank-you when you get a chance.

Work in the local is still very slow but the calls for the "Facebook" project have started. Bro. Jeff Fowlds is the steward on the site and has projected 80-100 wiremen over a 14-month period. Bro. Jeff has praised Rosendin Electric for their professionalism and respect for the highly trained craftsmen of the IBEW.

Work safe and have a great spring and summer!

*Jerry Fletcher, P.S.*



*Local 292 apprentice graduate Mike Rasmussen (left) receives 2010 Outstanding Apprentice Award presented by Sam DiPaola, training director, Minnesota Statewide Limited Energy JATC.*

## Outstanding Apprentice Award

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rt&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—The Minnesota Statewide Limited Energy JATC and Training Dir. Sam DiPaola announced that Mike Rasmussen of IBEW Local 292 received the 2010 Outstanding Apprentice Award. The Minnesota Statewide Limited Energy JATC program provides training for the following IBEW local unions: Local 292, St. Paul Local 110, Le Sueur Local 343, Duluth Local 242, and Hibbing Local 294.

Mike graduated in April at the top of his class from the three-year, Limited Energy Installer Apprenticeship Program. He is one of 49 graduates in the 2010 graduating class. The complete list of graduates can be found at the Statewide Limited Energy JATC Web site [www.statewidelea.org](http://www.statewidelea.org).

On his last day of classes, Mike received a certificate of achievement and a LinkMaster PRO XL test meter presented by senior sales manager Gary Shantz from Ideal Tools. Thank you to Shantz and Ideal Tools for being a great industry partner.

The future of our industry depends on individuals like Mike who are eager to learn and take pride in their craft to produce the highest levels of achievement possible. Congratulations to Mike and to all the graduates of 2010 on a job well-done and for all of their hard work.

My thanks to Limited Energy JATC Training Dir. Sam DiPaola, who provided information for this article.

*Tony G. Maghrak, B.M.*

## Kudos to IBEW Members at CVPS

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Central Vermont Public Service met all of its service quality standards in 2009, the sixth straight year it achieved that goal. IBEW Local 300 represents several hundred CVPS employees.

"We believe that's the best record in Vermont," said Joe Kraus, senior vice president for engineering, operations and customer service.

CVPS has 17 service quality measures. CVPS measures and reports to state regulators on everything from how quickly it answers calls to bill accuracy, customer service, outage numbers and duration, and safety. All Vermont utilities are required to file annual performance reports with state regulators.

In the Customer Information Center, CVPS employees answered 87.8 percent of calls within 20 seconds, beating the standard. Not one call was blocked due to system overload. Other key measures: 92 percent of customers said they were satisfied following customer-initiated contact; CVPS reported an average of 1.9 outages per customer, lasting 2.3 hours, excluding one major storm—beating standards of 2.5 outages per customer lasting an average of 3.5 hours.

"Our members at CVPS put it all on the line every day to ensure that a utility with one of the most rugged, rural service areas in the country stays online," said Local 300 Bus. Mgr. Jeffrey Wimette. "We are so proud of the exemplary customer service they provide to Vermont ratepayers."

*Matthew Lash, P.S.*

## Local 340 Sisters Unite

L.U. 340 (i,rt&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—In March, 17 out of 32 female Local 340 members got together to meet one another and discuss the importance of their involvement in the local. Pres. Greg Larkins, along with Organizers Scott Steelman and Andrew Meredith, led the discussions on becoming a Membership Development Volunteer Committee (MDVC) member as well as serving as a local officer.



*IBEW Local 340 sisters gather for meeting. From left, back row, Blanca Baragan, Sandy Kline, CC Moore, Alsester Coleman, Renee DeLucia; middle row, Chris Gallagher, Joanne Turner, Catherine Griffiths, Julie Foad, Leonor Amado, Cheryl Hadley, Gayl Anne Morris, Sandi Abbott; and front row, Tarasa Church, Cheryl LaRocco, Anna Jarman and Cay Anne "Caycay" Lawrence.*

Sisters CC Moore and Alsester Coleman put an "IBEW #340" team together for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Thirteen women in attendance signed up to go to the state building trades "Women Building California Conference" held in May in Oakland, CA. It was an informative meeting with many members reconnecting and promises of future involvement with Local 340.

Our work picture has definitely changed since our last article. We have had pretty big layoffs and our Book 1 has doubled. Also, quite a few of the travelers who were working in our jurisdiction have since returned home. We thank them for their help.

I am saddened to report the passing of: Bros. Wayne Overpeck, Frank L. Patten, Leon J. Sharfarz, Paul R. Tooker and Merrill Dow, father of Bro. Greg Dow.

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



*Local 364 Bro. Ray Pendzinski (right), a Democratic candidate for the Illinois state legislature, greets Winnebago County Sheriff Richard Meyers, a longtime friend of the IBEW.*

## Candidates for Office

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rt&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—George Gaulrapp is running for the U.S. Congress in Illinois' 16th Congressional District, where most Local 364 members live. Gaulrapp is running against Republican Rep. Don Manzullo, who has a stunningly low AFL-CIO lifetime voting record of 7 percent, doing nothing in the interest of working families! Gaulrapp held a fundraiser at our hall and many union members participated.

Our Local 364 vice president, Bro. Ray Pendzinski, recently held a fundraiser at our hall also, and 140 people attended. Ray is a candidate for 69th District state representative

and a current Belvidere alderman. When elected, Bro. Pendzinski will put the needs of hard-working families first.

The Adopt-an-Apprentice gathering was held at a Rockford IceHogs hockey match. Our yearly get-together is a chance for apprentices to meet their journeyman mentors to discuss all sorts of issues.

April 28 marked Labor Memorial Day in North America. Overlooking the Rock River's banks in Rockford, a memorial is held every year for those union members killed at work.

After nine years as recording secretary, Bro. Charlie Laskonis has stepped down from his position after being elected Winnebago County Democratic Central Committee executive vice chairman. Our E-board appointed Bro. Chris Molander to fill the unexpired term. Congratulations to them both!

*Ray Pendzinski, P.S.*

## Class of 2010 Graduates

L.U. 412 (u), KANSAS CITY, MO—After three years and many hours of training, the class of 2010 apprentice graduates celebrated completion of their apprenticeship and the beginning of their careers as journeyman mechanics. Graduation was held at the Ameristar Casino. Feb. 1, 2010, was the official date for the start of their journeyman careers.

Congratulations to the graduates: Ian Quinn (Iatan), Brenda Swartz (Montrose), Jason Ray (Iatan), Joe Chancellor (La Cygne), Dave Ashcraft (La Cygne) and Jeff Ford (La Cygne). Originally this class started out with seven people. Apprentice Chris Dame (La Cygne) is currently in the Army National Guard stationed in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. Chris will resume the apprenticeship program when he returns and graduate with the next class.

Other local news: Local 412 reached a tentative contract agreement with Kansas City Power & Light on Feb. 19, 2010. The three-year KCP&L contract agreement was ratified on Feb. 27, 2010.

Thanks to Renee Mosby, Hawthorn facilitator, and Tara Leslien, Iatan facilitator for their help with this article.

*Debi Kidwiler, P.S.*



*Local 412 union representatives congratulate apprentice graduates. From left, back row, are: Local 412 Bus. Agent Bill McDaniel, Vice Pres. Dewey Conrad, Pres. Jim Williams; middle row, graduates Ian Quinn, Brenda Swartz and Jason Ray; front row, graduates Joe Chancellor, Dave Ashcraft (seated) and Jeff Ford.*



## Local Lines

## Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 456 (i&o), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—The officers and membership congratulate the members who recently completed their apprenticeship training. They have all distinguished themselves through their hard work and commitment to our local and will continue to do so. We congratulate Bros. Benjamin Bajkowski, Stephen Charleston, Nicholas Ciriigliaro, Robert Corso, Keith Fugaro, Joshua Genthe, Daniel Hegeman, Andy Lai, Chase Layne, Michael Lomassaro, Patrick O'Rourke, Jason Tippet, Daniel Thorne, Brandon Williams, William Burns III, Keith Cimino and Shawn Hohner.

Many activities are planned for this year—Day at the Races, two fishing trips, family picnic, members picnic, golf outing and more. There is something for everyone and hopefully you have enjoyed and will continue to support all these fun events by attending. As always attend union meetings and be an informed and active member.

Wayne Martiak, P.S.

## A 'Home from the Heart'

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), MILWAUKEE, WI—When Spc. Jason Schulz, a military veteran and member of the community, returned home from Iraq after a life-changing injury caused by a roadside bomb, he never imagined that organizations like IBEW Local 494 and Homes for Our Troops—a national organization that builds specially adapted homes for severely injured service personnel—would come along and change his life again.

Throughout the past year, participants have been planning and building a home Jason could easily maneuver through at no cost to him or his family. Local 494 and Roman Electric jumped at the chance to help. After months of work and countless volunteer hours, the keys were turned over to Jason on March 13.

Dan Weber a retired electrician said: "The look on Jason's face, his heartfelt thank-you, and the tears of joy his family shed, made the rain, snow and long hours worth it. I was proud to help out on this home and hope they enjoy it for years to come."

Bus. Rep. Rick Gutierrez stated: "We have the skills and resources that other people don't have, and to be able to make such a huge difference in Jason's life makes you really proud." [Photo below.]

Ricardo Gutierrez, B.R.

## Training Center Courses

L.U. 502 (c,em,i,it&t), ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Local 502 was pleased to sponsor the Apprenticeship Appreciation Luncheon. The event is

held annually to thank the apprenticeship officers and instructors for their hard work and support.

The Local 502 training center has been very busy the last few months offering courses in Confined Space Awareness, Fall Arrest, WHMIS and Construction Safety.

Officers of Local 502 presented an orientation to 70 new members last month and feedback has been very positive.

The recent cancellation of the sale of NB Power to Hydro Quebec is being greeted with cautious optimism. Local 502 has been part of a vocal opposition to this deal given the potential loss of work to our members.

The PotashCorp mine in Sussex continues to ramp up and should keep our local close to full employment this summer.

We mourn the passing of Bro. Francis Melanson.

Dave Stephen, P.S.



Attending the recent Apprenticeship Appreciation Luncheon are, from left: Jean Marc Ringuette, IBEW Local 502 training director; Ike Gallagher, New Brunswick Community College Saint John department head, Construction Studies; and Dan Mills, apprenticeship director, Province of New Brunswick.

## Support 'Jobs for Local Workers'

L.U. 508 (i,it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—Savannah, the second largest city and the chief port of Georgia, is situated on the southern bank of the Savannah River. The Garden City Terminal is the fourth largest container port in the United States and the largest single-terminal operation in North America. This feature makes large companies attracted to our fair city.

After sitting vacant for seven years, a 1,500-acre industrial site near Savannah landed its first manufacturer as Mitsubishi Power Systems announced plans to produce giant steam and gas



Members of the Local 570 apprentice graduating class of 2010, joined by JATC instructors, gather for a photo. From left, front row, Ryan Lopez, Wesley Chong, Gabriel Ruiz, Instructor Greg Noriega, Corey Starcevic, Kevin Whiting, Francisco Carbijal, Benjamin Yates; back row, Christopher Brooks, Instructor Jim Redzinak, Tim Cervantez, Charlie Starcevic, Alexander Nicolini, Instructor Jay Marr, Chris Soto, Billy Sturgill, Stephen Serio and Instructor Dan Chavez.

turbines in coastal Georgia. The company, from Japan, awarded the general contract to Batson-Cook, an open-shop contractor owned by another Japanese company, Kajima USA Group.

The Savannah Building Trades organization erected a billboard advertising the exclusion of local labor to the jobsite. We certainly got a lot of attention! The sign is on Dean Forest Road at the entrance to the jobsite. Check it out the next time you come to our union hall.

People from our area pay taxes, buy from local vendors, attend schools and churches here, and many are unemployed. If this company wishes to become a good neighbor, they should do what is right and give local people a job.

Judith Sheahan, P.S.



Savannah Building Trades billboard advocates local hiring.

## Solar Farm Project

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—At the time of this writing things are looking good in Sarnia. Our new/renovated hospital keeps rolling along and North America's largest solar farm has started up again. With 20 megawatts built last year, an additional 60 megawatts will be added this year—totaling 1,050 acres of green energy.

June of this year will bring our local elections; nominations took place at the May meeting.

We thank Local 804 for continuing to supply employment for some of our members.

Local 530 is saddened by the recent passing of: Bros. Gerry Douglas, Don Partridge and Dave Tayles.

Al Byers, P.S.

## 2010 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ—Congratulations to the graduating fifth-year apprenticeship class. Local 570 and the Tucson Electrical JATC are proud to present our 2010 graduating class. Top honors for "Apprentice of the Year" go to Wesley Chong. Thanks go out to HD Supply company, which recognizes the efforts of our entire apprenticeship and is throwing the third annual barbecue dinner for them at the awards night that the JATC puts on at Local 570's hall.

Scott Toot, Organizer

## Health Care Reform Success

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—With the support of U.S. Rep. Alan Grayson of Florida, health care reform legislation successfully passed. Several members from Local 606, Pres. John Bregg along with Asst. Bus. Agents Larry Kidd and Ron Woodall, were meeting with Rep. Grayson's Orlando staff, while the congressman was still in Washington, D.C. Grayson's deputy director Debra Booth, a Local 606 member, placed a call to the congressman on the speaker phone and Grayson explained the vote and thanked his constituents for their support.

By the time you read this article, our local elections will be over. Good luck to all the members who run for office.

With sadness, I report the passing of three long-time members: Bros. Frank Drew, John Thompson and William "Bill" Green. Our deepest sympathy goes to their families.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.



Local 606 members meet with U.S. Rep. Alan Grayson's office staff in Orlando: back row, Local 606 Asst. Bus. Agent Ron Woodall (left), Pres. John Bregg, Local 606 member and Grayson's deputy director Debra Booth, and Asst. Bus. Agent Larry Kidd; front center, Rec. Sec. Jenny Kenny.



IBEW Local 494 members and other trade unionists volunteered for the "Homes for Our Troops" project. From left, back row, are: Al Wilkinson, Pat Cain, Bob Winn, Warren Trede, Don Weber, Roger Erdman; front row, Ricardo Gutierrez and Larry Buege.



## ‘All The World is Their Stage’

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—For more than 80 years, IBEW members working at a plant in Kitchener, Ontario, have been helping their company build a worldwide reputation for excellence in visual technology.

As both a pioneer and leader in this industry, Christie Digital Systems Inc. has successfully made the move from the small screen to the big screen—in a big way. First known for its work in the television industry, Christie is now responsible for 70 percent of all digital cinema installations globally.

Chances are that you have seen the company’s work—at a local movie theater, place of worship or other large audience presentation. In fact, equipment made by our IBEW sisters and brothers brought us the amazing images that wowed the world during the opening and closing ceremonies at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and Paralympic Games. Behind the scenes, Vancouver’s Emergency Operations Centre (critical to the safety of athletes, visitors, spectators and residents) was also equipped with Christie visual display solutions. For all Canadians, the Winter Olympics sparked pride and patriotism like never before—We Believe. Our members at Christie had special reason to stand tall and cheer—not only for our athletes but also for their own gold medal efforts!

*Paddy Vlanich, P.S.*

## Important Election Year

L.U. 648 (em,i,spa&u), HAMILTON, OH—The annual Local 648 fish fry and kid’s Easter party were held in March and each event was a success with great weather, good food and fellowship among our members and their families.

The Local 648 COPE Committee is working hard on the upcoming midterm elections. This will be a very important year to at least keep the offices we have gained in the state.

The work picture looks much better than it did at this point last year and we look forward to a busy summer.

*Jeff McGuffey, P.S.*

## Upcoming Elections

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—This November a number of seats in local, state and federal government will be up for election. Although it is not a presidential election, it is widely viewed as one critical to maintaining a more labor-friendly government. In our jurisdiction we will be voting for a governor, a U.S. senator, a U.S. representative and several state and local government officials.

Just as significant is the upcoming election for the officers of our local. Coming together to choose the best-suited candidates to manage our future is of utmost importance. As most members stay for a few hours after voting, even more is accomplished on this day. It’s a class reunion for those who apprenticed together, a chance for journeymen to relive stories from jobs past and an opportunity for the newer members to get to know more of their fellow members. It’s a demonstration of our organization’s greatest and strongest trait—unity. Be informed, get involved and be sure to vote.

*James Russell, V.P.*

## Step Up to Make a Difference

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—Congratulations to our most recent retirees: Alvin F. Durette, Larry K. Hannan, Harry F. Marcus, Gordon R. Seay and Charles H. Taylor.

Local 666 held a blood drive on Feb. 20 and it was a big success. Thanks to all the members who participated. Community projects are vital to the future of our union.

Our Centennial Committee is planning several events to celebrate our 100th anniversary. We will have a family night at the ballpark and a celebration in the summer. We will mail out details to our members and retirees.

Work in our area remains slow. Thank you to all the locals putting our brothers and sisters to work.

We mourn the passing of: Bros. Herbert C. Brooks, Stuart U. Guyton Sr. and Robert E. Martin Jr.

If you want to make a difference, get involved. We need all of our members to step up to the plate. The elections in November will be important to all working people and their families.

*Kendra Logan, P.S.*

## Members Volunteer Service

L.U. 688 (em,i,t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—The work outlook in our area is very slow with 44 journeymen on the out-of-work list.

Thank you to Jerry Conrad, who fixed the attic lights and moved a fixture in our union hall.

Todd Simmermacher managed a group of members who donated their time and expertise at the Richland Academy of Arts to provide power for a new kiln and new stage lighting. The electricians included Jarrod Clady, Fred Claus, Jerry Conrad, Dan Lloyd, Bruce Simmermacher and John Wallery.

We are sad to report the loss of members Walt Eaton and Leonard Brewer. We send our condolences to their family and friends.

*Dan Lloyd, P.S.*

## Solidarity

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—One thing that I think many people forget about, or in some cases never knew about, is the important role the union has played over the years. The union is responsible for helping create the 5-day, 40-hour workweek, the 8-hour day, overtime pay, minimum wage, vacation pay, sick leave, respect on the job, etc. If not for the workers who came before us many years ago, and their struggles to form unions to help mistreated workers, we wouldn’t have the benefits we have today. Many people who don’t work at a union shop also reap benefits gained through union efforts.

Strong solidarity is crucial in a union. The union is there to represent each member, so if there is an issue you feel needs to be addressed it is your responsibility to inform the union so they can look into it. In turn, always respect all members and our union. Our union has bargained with the companies for many years and always looks to get the best package for its members. So stand together in solidarity and support your union.

Many thanks to our brother locals for helping keep our members employed in these times

Our condolences to the family of retired Brother Robert J. Clements, who passed away.

*Tom Bartosek, P.S.*

## Championship Lineman’s Rodeo

L.U. 702 (es,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lc,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rt,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—The Local 702 Annual Retiree Luncheon was held April 14 at the Rend Lake Convention Center. We had a great turnout again this year with approximately 200 retirees in attendance.

On April 23-24, Local 702 sponsored the World Championship Lineman’s Rodeo at DuQuoin, IL. The rodeo was held at the new arena at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in DuQuoin. This is an indoor arena and a great competition, with many teams competing.

Our annual Golf Outing will be held June 16 at the Franklin County Country Club, southwest of Frankfort. We expect our regular good attendance and a fun day of golf for all who attend.

Currently we have 550 wiremen working at the Prairie State Campus located near Lively Grove, IL, and 96 wiremen at the Baldwin Power Plant. Linemen are at full employment.

Our local is very blessed to have the work in our jurisdiction and blessed to have experienced, qualified Local 702 members and travelers to staff these facilities.

*Marsha Steele, P.S.*

## ‘Don’t Retreat’

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Henry Miller and the founders started this union with no signatory contractors and no collective bargaining agreement in place—those two things came later. The founders started with a desire to better the lives of electrical workers and their families. Although history tends to glorify individuals, there is no way they did it by themselves.

What a relief and a sense of rescue workers must have had when organizers from the emerging IBEW visited a jobsite and told them there was a better way. Yes, there were detractors and naysayers; they’ve always been here. But the IBEW’s invitation into its ranks was well-received by electricians.

The IBEW has made many changes to reflect the fierce competitive climate that now exists in the modern-day electrical industry. It is now up to all of us in the IBEW to work together to bring the union back to its historic prominence. This can be achieved by involvement; don’t think that somebody else will fix it—that somebody is you. Apathy gets us nowhere.

We’ve been let down in many instances by politicians, including some Democrats who fail to support our issues after they are elected.

Half-governor turned tea-bagger Sarah Palin encouraged her sheep not to retreat. They need to know that she, like many others, loves the status quo. I encourage all working people not to retreat, but to stand up for the interests of workers and the middle class. It has to start at the local level; it has to start with you.

*Daniel Hunt, P.S.*

## Roadside Sign Updated

L.U. 760 (i,lc,rt,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Local 760’s big roadside sign has been updated. Bros. Daniel Holland and Michael Marlowe braved the elements to repair and renew our historical IBEW sign. The sign had been cleaned up and painted on the large part by apprentices from IUPAT Local 437. Thanks to all involved.

Many thanks to the Local 760 membership

for supporting community service projects including Project Help, breast cancer research and Casting for Recovery.

Local 760 was the only labor organization represented at the Knox County School Career Day. Market and Membership Development committee member Bro. Dave Weaver staffed a booth at the career day event. Knoxville NECA contractors Service 1 and D&N Electric are now doing the Knox County work.

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

## 50-Year Service Awards

L.U. 776 (i,o,rt&spa), CHARLESTON, SC—It was a dark and stormy night ... but that didn’t stop two of Local 776’s career electricians from coming to the meeting to receive their 50-year service pins. Richard Timms and Charlie Goodale once again showed their support of their local union.

Richard came from a union family; his father and two older brothers were members of the local. He worked many jobs across the jurisdiction and nation. Richard finished his longtime career after many years as foreman with Stroman Controls.

Charlie also came from a union family that included cousins in the local as well. Charlie worked throughout the jurisdiction and nation for many of our contractor partners. Since his retirement Charlie has stayed involved by teaching apprentices as one of our CJATC instructors. These two gentlemen have set a great example for our Brotherhood to follow.

*Chuck Moore, B.M.*



*Local 776 retired Bros. Richard Timms (left) and Charlie Goodale receive 50-year service awards.*

## NYSERDA Qualified Installer

L.U. 910 (ees,i&t), WATERTOWN, NY—The Local 910 membership voted at the March regular meeting to allocate this year’s contractual increase of \$1.50. Funds manager, John Love, was on hand to present the trustees’ recommendations for the funds. After discussion, it was voted that \$0.75 go to the wage; \$0.50 to the local pension plan; and \$0.25 to the health and welfare plan. New rates took effect April 1, 2010.

With some hard work and some convincing by the training directors from New York state, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority now accepts the IBEW/NECA apprenticeship program and the 40-hour journeyman photovoltaic training as a way to become a Photovoltaic NYSERDA Qualified Installer. (See information on NYSERDA Web site [www.nyserdera.org/funding/1050Section3.pdf](http://www.nyserdera.org/funding/1050Section3.pdf).) Local 910 members who wish to apply to become an eligible installer will need a letter from Local 910 or the EJATC of Watertown verifying that they meet all the qualifications.

Thank you to all the members who attended



## Local Lines

the Jefferson County legislative meetings in support of the Galloo Island Wind Farm. A large turnout by Local 910 members made a big difference in persuading some of the legislators to support the project. This was one of those instances where we could influence a project before it was bid and win a favorable vote by the legislators.

*Roger LaPlatney, P.S.*

## Kudos for Service



*Local 932 apprentice member Tim Flood is serving in Iraq.*

L.U. 932 (c,i&st), COOS BAY, OR—Local 932 apprentice Tim Flood is currently serving in Iraq. Tim is in the Oregon Army National Guard, Bravo Company 1st Battalion 186th Infantry. He has been there for a year and is due to come back home shortly. Our thanks go out to Tim and his family for his awesome service and dedication to our country.

I wish to thank the members and their families for attending our winter banquet and pin ceremony held Feb. 13 at the Mill Casino in North Bend, OR. We awarded several years-of-service pins. Members receiving pins included: for 60 years of service—Granill Cornett; for 55 years—Lavon Gammons; 50 years—James Fitzgerald, Dave West; 45 years—Tom Kyle, James Morgan, Don Peters, George Reese, Ray Toma; 40 years—John McCaffree, Stewin Prater, Silver Robles, Roy Warrens; 35 years—Doug Jolley, Rick Lattin, Louis Petrone; and 20 years—Anthony Revelle. Congratulations to all!

*Robert Westerman, B.M./F.S.*

## 'UCAN' Graduates

L.U. 1306 (uow), DECATUR, IL—Congratulations to sisters Ann Harris, Nikki Taylor, Arlene Trusner and Pres. Lucinda Wyatt on their recent graduation from the Union Community Activist Network, UCAN. This three-week course was made available through the local partnership of United Way and the AFL-CIO with graduates receiving a certificate from the University of Illinois' Labor Education Program. UCAN provides education and training on labor history, civic participation, community outreach, basic workers' rights and leadership. Our local is committed to member education and we are proud that to date more than 10 members have completed this training.

Local 1306 once again participated in the Letter



*Local 1306 congratulates recent graduates of UCAN, Union Community Activist Network. From left are members Nikki Taylor, Arlene Trusner, Pres. Lucinda Wyatt, Ann Harris and Sarah Sylvester Drake, who conducts the training.*

Carriers Food Drive on May 8 to help stock the shelves of area food pantries. This is one of many community service projects our members support each year.

Contract and benefit negotiations are to begin with Exelon and the IBEW-NECA Benefits Administration Assn. Our negotiation team is working diligently to secure the best contract possible for our members.

The local union has approved amalgamation with Local 51. The International President formally approved the amalgamation effective May 1. We encourage everyone to give eight safe hours of work for eight hours' pay and attend your local unit meetings. Remember, we are stronger together than we are alone.

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

## Care Packages for Troops

L.U. 1944 (t), PHILADELPHIA, PA—Local 1944 is involved throughout the year with special holiday drives to send care packages to our troops serving in the military.

The AT&T New Castle, PA, office located at 100 South Jefferson St. comprises relay operators who provide services for the speech and hearing impaired throughout the United States. It is a National Relay Center that employs 140 relay associates, and the dedication of these union members does not stop at workday's end.

The operators collect useful non-perishable items to send on holidays to troops serving our country. All Local 1944 members take part in this drive, buying items such as cookies, tea, crackers, toothpaste, sunscreen, face soap, lotion, hand-held games, etc. Monetary donations are accepted to help defray the cost of postage.

All members involved in this project volunteer their own time to collect, sort, pack and ship the packages. The effort is well worth it to pay tribute to our men and woman in harm's way. Our freedom depends on these brave men and woman.

*Mary Lou Lane, B.M./Pres.*

## Space Program Rally

L.U. 2088 (mt,pet,t&u), COCOA BEACH, FL—Congratulations to young Kevin Nolan, the 11-year-old son of Local 2088 member William Nolan, a union steward in the Voice Communications group at the Kennedy Space Center, FL.

Kevin was recently recognized for a letter he wrote to legislators about NASA's space program. Kevin had the honor of reading his letter at the Save U.S. Space Program rally held April 11, 2010, at the



*Student William Nolan (at podium) speaks at the April 11 space program rally in Florida. At left is astronaut Winston Scott and, at right, school board member Robert Jordan.*

Cocoa Expo Center in Cocoa, FL.

Kevin excels academically at Enterprise Elementary and is an honor-roll student. He also earned his black belt in Taekwondo. He is interested in science and possibly, one day, becoming part of the U.S. space program and maybe even an astronaut! Way to go, Kevin!

*Daniel Raymond, B.M.*



*Local 2100 Bus. Mgr. Curtis Stratton (left) congratulates retiring lineman Henry Atkins.*

## Sportsmen's Alliance Event

L.U. 2100 (cav&u), LOUISVILLE, KY—Local 2100 sends special congratulations to Henry Atkins. Henry is beginning a new career in the world of retirement after 40 years of service as a lineman. His years of service and knowledge of the trade are irreplaceable and leave a legacy for all present and future linemen to follow. Enjoy retirement and best of luck, Bro. Atkins!

Local 2100, along with members from 14 other locals, attended the Union Sportsmen's Alliance dinner held at Local 369. This event was the kickoff of the year for the alliance and all attendees received a free membership.

The dinner was held to provide information about the alliance and strengthen the bond of the union brothers and sisters. The Sportsmen's Alliance goal is to recruit and actively engage union sportsmen and women in the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's ongoing fight to create a better future for hunting and fishing while

bringing together an existing union community of sportsmen and women and extending the benefits of union membership beyond the workplace, into the woods and water.

Not only did new members get the opportunity to meet fellow members but many also won valuable prizes. Special thanks to Local 369 for hosting such a great event.

*Jennifer Kinsey, P.S.*



*Attending Local 2286 groundbreaking ceremony are, from left: secretary Tanya Hebert, Asst. Bus. Mgrs. Stephan Babin and Johnny Wilson, Bus. Mgr. Clinton Trahan and office manager Debbie Anderson.*

## Groundbreaking for Future Hall

L.U. 2286 (em,mar,mo,o,rtb&u), BEAUMONT, TX—On Saturday, March 20, the officers and executive board members held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of our future union hall and training center in Beaumont. Construction should begin in about eight weeks with completion expected before the end of the year. Thanks to our building committee, Bus. Mgr. Clinton Trahan, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Stephan Babin, and E-Board members Eddie Smith, L. D. Whitmire and Gary Fredieu, for all their hard work to get this project started. To see a picture of the new facility, visit our Web site at [www.ibew2286.org](http://www.ibew2286.org), click on calendar then announcements.

Outside construction remains slow but is expected to pick up once the Motiva job is awarded to a contractor.

Members employed by Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, L.L.C. and Entergy Texas, Inc. ratified a 17-month contract extension Jan. 15, 2010, with a modest general wage increase and a few other improvements—but, most importantly, no takeaways of benefits and maintaining our job security language.

Everyone stay safe at work and home. God bless our union!

*Mona Mack, P.S.*



*Verizon Pioneers and IBEW Local 2324 members Christine Casino (left) and Cheryl Moriarty (right) are joined by Girl Scout Erin Moriarty.*

## 'Operation Cookie Drop'

L.U. 2324 (t), SPRINGFIELD, MA—IBEW Local 2324 members recently partnered with the Verizon Pioneers and Girls Scouts Troop 505 on their project Operation Cookie Drop. Union members donated more than 200 boxes of Girl Scouts cookies and toiletries to be shipped to our U.S. soldiers serving abroad. The Verizon Pioneers organized the project and one of their clubs donated 50 hand knit helmet liners to send also. Girl Scout Troop 505 spent the day at the Local 2324 union hall making thank-you cards for the soldiers and packing the cookies. Eight large cartons of items were sent to soldiers in Kuwait and Afghanistan.

*Joe Floyd, P.S.*



# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in April 2010

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Baird, H. L.	3/21/2010	18	Oliver, V. K.	2/14/2010	72	Wade, C. R.	3/25/2010	134	Maltz, S. R.	3/2/2010	270	Duggan, G. L.	2/28/2010
1	Daskoski, C. S.	12/18/2009	18	Simmonds, W. G.	5/5/2009	73	Countryman, R. M.	2/4/2010	134	Meehan, P. J.	12/8/2009	271	Bradrick, H. D.	2/18/2010
1	Heeney, D. F.	3/6/2010	20	Calvert, B. E.	2/18/2010	77	Erickson, D. M.	3/1/2010	134	Miller, D. C.	1/27/2010	275	Stenseng, A. B.	3/7/2010
1	Jones, G. N.	2/28/2010	20	Choat, A. H.	3/30/2010	77	Fish, R. F.	3/26/2010	134	Miskiv, J. J.	11/5/2009	278	Bennetsen, D. A.	1/8/2010
1	Lipinski, A.	12/14/2009	20	Ransom, T. W.	10/18/1999	77	Hansen, K. L.	4/2/2010	134	O'Doherty, D. D.	9/21/2009	292	Alley, C. R.	2/27/2010
1	Novogoratz, J. F.	2/4/2010	20	Wynn, E. H.	2/1/2010	77	Jacobs, S. A.	2/21/2010	134	Perrino, V. P.	2/26/2010	292	Anderson, G. H.	3/14/2010
2	Messex, J. A.	3/4/2010	22	Jaksich, W. H.	3/7/2010	77	Knipe, H.	1/13/2010	134	Pinkowski, R. E.	2/14/2010	292	Bergstrom, A.	1/3/2010
3	Bauman, L.	2/13/2010	24	Macneal, J. W.	2/10/2010	80	Hogan, R. H.	2/20/2010	134	Schmidt, I. N.	2/14/2010	292	Briese, R. A.	3/16/2009
3	Beck, G. D.	3/14/2010	24	Ziegler, D. L.	3/18/2010	84	Burdette, F. L.	4/6/2010	134	Smith, M. R.	2/22/2010	292	Nevala, J. A.	3/2/2010
3	Bianchi, T. G.	3/28/2010	25	Bergmann, F. J.	2/1/2010	84	Grider, J. W.	2/22/2010	134	Stone, J. E.	3/10/2010	292	Rose, R. M.	7/6/2008
3	Brouillard, N. E.	1/31/2009	25	Kedlar, H. J.	9/27/2009	84	Mallory, J. B.	12/17/2009	134	Torres, H.	12/26/2009	295	Bentley, J. L.	3/8/2010
3	Church, J. N.	10/28/2007	25	Schulman, P. L.	2/5/2010	90	Aspland, R. G.	2/23/2010	134	Workman, T. J.	1/6/2010	300	Charlebois, R. G.	2/25/2010
3	Crugnale, M. D.	11/18/2008	25	Stokey, B.	3/30/2010	90	Carney, W. P.	12/25/2008	136	Lyles, T. M.	2/2/2010	301	Clapp, L. C.	12/20/2009
3	Dalzell, R. D.	2/12/2010	26	Chilcoat, R. L.	3/11/2010	90	Covaleski, J. W.	1/9/2010	143	Rush, J. A.	1/31/2010	302	Edwards, G. C.	2/13/2010
3	Dangelo, E. W.	1/29/2010	26	Dicus, R. A.	4/5/2010	95	Long, E. A.	1/10/2010	145	Allen, D. C.	2/12/2010	304	Miller, J. W.	3/24/2010
3	Debellis, M.	1/10/2010	26	Hill, W. P.	3/8/2010	96	Sinacola, J. A.	1/2/2010	145	Brasmer, J. B.	3/22/2010	304	Scott, J. L.	3/1/2010
3	Fesi, J. P.	3/13/2010	26	Meaney, G. E.	12/1/2009	97	Erdmann, E. H.	2/3/2010	145	Jones, M. D.	3/6/2010	307	Diehl, D. D.	1/29/2010
3	Frejer, F.	2/24/2010	26	Riggs, D. W.	3/6/2010	97	Pommer, R. S.	3/2/2010	150	Smith, R. T.	2/4/2010	307	Nelson, O. R.	1/21/2010
3	Hally, G.	2/12/2010	26	Simms, J. M.	3/20/2010	97	Sheffer, R. P.	3/17/2010	153	Higgins, J. E.	3/5/2010	309	Lukowsky, T. L.	1/20/2010
3	Hanna, R. C.	12/28/2007	26	Webb, P. J.	7/17/2009	98	Brusch, P.	1/25/2010	153	Howell, W. H.	4/12/2010	309	Weil, A. A.	2/23/2010
3	Holler, E. J.	2/14/2010	26	Windsor, R. J.	2/16/2010	98	Davenport, O. V.	1/15/2010	158	Schacht, W. A.	5/12/2009	313	Baylis, R. M.	2/21/2010
3	Lamberti, R. S.	12/20/2009	29	King, P. A.	3/4/2010	98	Given, S. J.	8/6/2004	159	Behling, R. W.	2/8/2010	317	Belcher, J.	2/19/2010
3	Mandragona, J. S.	3/1/2010	29	Pierce, D. G.	3/4/2010	98	Hardy, L. E.	3/10/2010	159	Kelch, J. M.	3/1/2010	317	Sarver, J. W.	1/24/2010
3	Maruscak, C. P.	3/21/2010	34	Leigh, W. H.	3/10/2010	98	Hutchinson, H. A.	3/6/2010	159	Trexler, E. W.	3/30/2010	332	Day, R. E.	10/24/2009
3	McCarthy, W. H.	2/6/2010	35	Delphia, R. L.	3/8/2010	98	Perry, A. J.	3/8/2010	164	Cirulli, R. L.	3/24/2010	332	DuVall, J. I.	1/17/2010
3	McDonald, T. V.	2/28/2010	35	O'Neil, C. J.	1/21/2010	98	Seidel, F. L.	2/17/2010	164	Deutsch, J. W.	3/2/2010	332	Gauss, A.	2/14/2008
3	Miller, E. J.	2/18/2010	35	Sargalski, E. J.	3/21/2010	98	Swartz, B.	2/6/2010	164	Gonnella, C. F.	2/11/2010	332	Harmer, H.	12/24/2009
3	Moccia, R.	12/24/2009	38	Myers, J. A.	12/19/2009	98	Tomkinson, D. H.	12/12/2009	164	Harris, C. E.	1/10/2010	332	Kirkendall, G. H.	2/23/2010
3	O'Leary, R. T.	2/10/2010	41	Hils, J.	8/4/2009	99	Corry, R. J.	2/23/2010	164	Mullamey, M. D.	1/27/2010	339	Young, F. J.	1/20/2010
3	Olive, E. J.	1/1/2010	41	O'Connor, M. J.	3/8/2010	102	Brall, S. M.	2/26/2010	164	Newton, H.	2/25/2010	340	Patten, F. L.	2/12/2010
3	Pavia, P. P.	3/3/2010	43	Brown, R. J.	3/17/2010	102	Eschrich, F.	1/4/2006	175	Scoggins, J. E.	3/3/2010	340	Tooker, P. R.	3/7/2010
3	Phuoc Tai, L.	2/26/2010	43	George, R. E.	1/22/2010	102	Menear, K. E.	1/21/2010	175	Sherrill, S. E.	1/24/2010	349	Hasker, R. G.	8/27/2009
3	Riepe, S. M.	9/21/2009	43	Towsley, W. C.	3/10/2010	102	Smith, T.	9/4/2009	175	Smith, G. F.	2/15/2010	349	Regan, T. B.	2/26/2010
3	Rosa, G.	1/3/2010	44	Dean, A. D.	12/30/2009	103	Sheehan, R. F.	3/11/2010	176	Kapinski, S. R.	2/2/2010	350	Behymer, W. R.	2/19/2010
3	Salimbene, G. P.	5/4/2008	44	Ehlenburg, W. C.	1/20/2010	104	Shank, S. S.	2/12/2010	176	Novak, E. J.	2/3/2010	351	Ellis, J. B.	1/6/2010
3	Samuels, S. J.	3/16/2010	45	Edwards, L. Z.	3/17/2010	105	Roscoe, R.	3/29/2010	177	Cooper, F. D.	2/26/2010	351	Garretson, F. I.	3/2/2010
3	Sanchez, L. E.	5/3/2008	46	Condon, G.	2/9/2010	106	Parks, R. A.	11/9/2009	177	Eisenhauer, W. G.	12/10/2009	353	Coughlan, W. T.	3/30/2010
3	Shertzer, M.	2/8/2010	46	Liedberg, H. G.	3/14/2010	109	Ocker, R. G.	4/4/2010	177	Higginbotham, D. W.	2/17/2010	353	Gersti, P.	1/18/2010
3	Sullivan, E. F.	11/20/2009	46	Vrsek, V. J.	3/4/2010	109	Schnoor, R. J.	2/11/2010	180	Guillory, C. A.	2/9/2010	353	Hopkins, N. W.	3/8/2010
3	Svebel, E. J.	2/13/2010	46	Widger, R. A.	7/29/2004	110	Anderson, J. R.	1/5/2010	191	Adam, R. L.	2/23/2010	353	Mastrokalos, D.	3/8/2010
3	Urio, L. A.	11/25/2009	47	Davis, C. C.	12/9/2009	110	Mertz, J. A.	2/26/2010	191	Bird, R. L.	3/15/2010	353	Merten, H. A.	4/4/2010
3	Vansciver, A. E.	2/24/2010	48	Bradford, W. T.	3/7/2010	110	Nelson, T. M.	3/1/2010	191	Grinstead, J. R.	3/20/2010	353	Quesnel, M. J.	3/7/2010
3	White, A. D.	3/10/2010	48	Corfield, G.	11/21/2009	110	Swanson, L. S.	3/11/2010	193	Craig, D. L.	3/16/2010	353	Riberdy, R. R.	3/20/2010
3	Zafarino, A. J.	10/16/2007	48	Lance, R. F.	2/12/2010	111	Thompson, R. K.	1/15/2010	193	Smith, R. L.	3/4/2010	353	Seifert, W. A.	4/4/2010
5	Beatty, E. J.	3/21/2010	48	Rainey, H. E.	3/15/2010	112	Curtis, G. A.	2/1/2010	197	Leary, E. D.	3/7/2010	353	Seis, W.	2/16/2010
5	Berkoski, D. E.	7/20/2009	48	Schneller, R. P.	2/20/2010	113	Leacox, C. S.	1/19/2010	210	Jeffries, J. J.	2/17/2010	353	Trombley, V.	3/11/2010
5	Clicquennoi, S. M.	2/19/2010	48	Stensrud, R. A.	12/18/2008	115	Hogg, R. M.	3/18/2010	210	Lecato, G. R.	1/28/2010	353	Waddell, M. J.	3/3/2010
6	Guiney, J. R.	2/6/2010	50	Morris, L. E.	3/1/2010	117	McEvoy, R.	8/14/2009	212	Gilliam, J. E.	1/31/2010	354	Pullan, D. D.	3/13/2010
6	Kern, M. M.	3/30/2010	51	Hall, G. A.	2/17/2010	120	Koyanagi, M.	8/1/2009	212	Gullett, R. C.	2/21/2010	357	Adams, W.	12/13/2009
7	McCarron, R. M.	3/4/2010	51	Perry, F. H.	2/28/2010	124	Powell, K. E.	2/18/2010	212	Schlueter, H. F.	2/25/2010	357	Bombard, T. M.	2/18/2010
7	Murray, T. P.	3/17/2010	56	Root, R. I.	2/24/2010	124	Powers, A. D.	3/1/2010	213	Caldwell, J. G.	12/4/2009	357	Coffey, W. A.	12/4/2009
7	Solari, P. B.	11/23/2009	57	Rodriquez, P. C.	2/16/2010	125	Brice, H. K.	8/22/2009	213	Clark, R. G.	1/10/2010	357	Lucas, K. J.	2/10/2010
9	Brogan, L. E.	1/20/2010	58	Emerson, F. E.	3/6/2010	125	Danill, S. E.	9/3/2008	213	Davidson, A.	2/17/2010	357	Martin, C. R.	1/21/2010
9	Froelich, A. J.	3/11/2010	58	Fraga, J. R.	1/2/2010	125	Hill, E. M.	4/2/2010	213	McCallum, E. G.	1/24/2010	357	Puschnig, M. J.	2/14/2010
9	Penning, J. J.	3/2/2010	58	Gnass, R. C.	3/14/2010	125	Maas, G. F.	9/2/2009	213	Midgley, T.	1/5/2010	357	Thomas, J.	2/22/2010
9	Sullivan, J. C.	2/23/2010	58	Jongste, W.	3/10/2010	125	Marr, E. M.	2/27/2010	213	Odegard, E.	1/22/2009	357	Williams, J. S.	2/26/2010
11	Barber, R. L.	3/17/2010	58	Katz, I.	2/26/2010	125	Newman, G. D.	12/10/2009	213	Urchuk, W.	1/19/2010	363	Carr, B. A.	12/27/2009
11	Borland, A. G.	3/27/2010	58	Riolo, J. L.	3/3/2010	125	Norgaard, D. A.	4/6/2010	223	Higgins, B. P.	3/4/2010	363	Davis, J. L.	1/8/2010
11	Cohen, H.	3/30/2010	58	Stencel, G. B.	2/21/2010	125	Rassi, R. L.	11/13/2009	226	Wulfkuhle, G. H.	3/16/2010	369	Brown, J. A.	6/14/2008
11	Davis, M. M.	7/12/2005	60	Center, G. M.	4/1/2010	125	Sansom, R. D.	2/26/2010	230	Hammersley, W. R.	2/21/2010	369	Byron, W. J.	3/15/2010
11	Ellis, G. D.	3/16/2010	60	Kenyon, C. C.	3/13/2010	126	Craig, H.	1/28/2010	233	Chestnutt, L. M.	1/20/2010	380	Watkins, C. R.	3/13/2010
11	Garcia, A.	1/22/2010	60	Rees, J. C.	3/19/2010	126	Lee, H. D.	8/5/2009	234	Cook, H. E.	12/9/2009	380	Weckesser, J. G.	3/5/2010
11	Hanaseth, T. J.	2/22/2010	66	Barber, W. S.	11/25/2009	130	Arnold, G. T.	2/7/2010	236	Harden, G. L.	3/14/2010	380	Wehr, G. J.	2/6/2010
11	Owens, T. H.	2/3/2008	66	Brinkmeyer, W. A.	3/12/2010	130	Cretin, E. L.	2/28/2010	236	Smith, C. C.	12/13/2009	386	Pinegar, H. L.	2/9/2010
11	Robinson, C. A.	1/28/2010	66	Fincher, F. A.	2/18/2010	130	Gallaty, D. J.	2/7/2010	237	Johnson, R. M.	1/18/2010	388	Christiansen, E.	1/17/2010
11	Rose, R. R.	3/8/2010	66	Williams, R. F.	1/17/2005	130	Gurtner, R. A.	3/9/2010	238	Williamson, M. C.	4/3/2010	397	Dorsch, F. A.	1/25/2010
11	Segler, T.	10/8/2009	68	Capraro, A.	10/12/2009	134	Ararsa, A. K.	2/13/2010	242	Schutt, W. J.	3/3/2010	400	Guastella, M.	3/31/2010
11	Shakhatuny, E. E.	6/1/2009	68	Dunmire, R. G.	1/30/2010	134	Brandon, R. C.	12/9/2009	245	Rundle, W. R.	3/1/2010	400	Shields, R. J.	1/13/2007
12	Brown, D. L.	2/25/2010	68	McNulty, R. E.	2/8/2010	134	Clettenberg, R. J.	2/10/2010	252	Kittel, J. N.	3/15/2010	402	Morris, J. A.	5/11/2009
13	Stubbs, W. R.	3/10/2010	68	Sauers, R. L.	5/1/2008	134	Eide, J. E.	1/29/2010	252	Meyer, R. A.	3/10/2010	405	Hrdlicka, L. L.	12/28/2009
15	Swacina, J. E.	3/31/2010	68	Young, N. J.	2/14/2010	134	Falstrom, R. W.	3/1/2010	254	Labercane, F.	1/9/2010	405	Petersen, M. K.	2/16/2010
16	Jones, K. G.	2/28/2010	70	Brown, D. R.	4/9/2010	134	Fergus, E. T.	2/12/2010	258	Leppard, L. J.	1/19/2010	413	Hawkins, T. M.	2/22/2010
17	Lewis, W. S.	3/7/2010	70	Criss, W. P.	3/12/2010	134	Herrick, M. C.	2/11/2010	258	Orr, E. F.	1/8/2009	424	Etienne, K. L.	2/5/2010
18	Alvord, E. W.	3/3/2010	70	Hardesty, V. F.	1/31/2010	134	Hoehne, R.	3/11/2010	258	Pinnington, P.	2/3/2010	424	Lamothe, M. R.	





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 is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks 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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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## Safety Takes Vigilant Unions, Not Just Regulators



**Edwin D. Hill**  
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**T**he horrific explosions at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch mine in West Virginia and on BP's offshore drilling rig on the Gulf Coast—accidents that resulted in the deaths of 40 hard-working Americans—have focused attention on the need for governmental regulators to hold companies more accountable for safety on the job.

It's about time. During most of the last decade, unions and citizens concerned about job safety nearly wore out the cliché about the fox guarding the henhouse as industry insiders were appointed to direct regulatory agencies by the Bush-Cheney crowd.

But chasing away the "foxes" and replacing them with honorable men and women more passionate about protecting workers' lives than companies' profits will not alone cure the tragic epidemic of workplace carnage.

Safety on the job takes workers standing together, refusing to put themselves in harm's way. And in an economy where unemployment remains high and workers are wary of putting their jobs on the line, real safety takes the protection of a union—something tragically lacking at Upper Big Branch mine and BP's Deepwater Horizon drilling rig.

Among the quiet successes of organized labor are accidents that never happened and lives that were not cut short or abruptly altered, thanks to the vigilance of workers asserting their rights. The recent work of Albuquerque, N.M., IBEW Local 611 is a powerful case in point.

In July 2008, in the wake of a successful organizing campaign at Public Service Company of New Mexico, workers at the utility were attempting to negotiate a first agreement when a member of the negotiating committee became aware of a potentially explosive condition on the job.

An underground vault located in one of the turning lanes on the second busiest traffic intersection in town was leaking natural gas. Measurements revealed that the leak presented an explosive hazard equal to a bomb.

The utility's own safety protocol and the state's pipeline safety regulations demanded that the leak be temporarily or permanently fixed and monitored until repairs were made. But from May 19—when they first detected the leak—until July 17, managers did not follow the company's own rules. Local 611 called in the state's pipeline safety bureau to investigate the utility's failure to address the gas leak.

A state inspector asked for the utility's leak detection crew to accompany him to the vault. But before he arrived, supervisors dispatched a worker to the site to vent the gas buildup. The local union contends that the company intentionally backdated tickets to document inspections that never took place. The utility says its actions were unintentional. State investigators found merit on most of the union's charges. State regulators and the pipeline bureau staff proposed \$66,000 in fines.

Local 611 filed a motion to intervene in the proposed settlement, contending that the fines do not reflect the severity of PSN's threat to public and worker safety. The results of the local's appeal will be known soon.

We should all be proud of the diligence of our brothers and sisters in Albuquerque and everywhere IBEW members stand up for safety.

But this story isn't over, and the future for a bargaining unit and safe conditions at the utility is—like in far too many places in North America—hanging in doubt.

In 2009, still working without a first agreement, members learned that the company had sold its gas division to New Mexico Gas. The company is supporting efforts to decertify the bargaining unit, telling workers they need a "fresh start."

"We are still concerned about the safety of members," says Local 611 Assistant Business Manager Ed Tafoya, pointing out that NMG makes \$60,000 a day in profits. That's enough to pay nearly the entire fine for jeopardizing the lives of citizens who—like their peers in the mines and oil rigs and workplaces from coast to coast—ask only to return home from work each day in the same condition they were in when they left.

And as always, a union is their best bet to do just that. ■

**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](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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## Letters to the Editor

### Solidarity or Demise?

*Don't let it be forgot  
That once there was an organization  
For one brief shining moment  
That was known as the IBEW*

It is this writer's opinion that our once-proud union is dead; oh, maybe not for another 15 years, but unless realities change, it's dead. The only chance we have is if we can get our membership to band together for the good of the IBEW. Instead, what we have now is linemen who don't trust wiremen, the wiremen downgrade other classifications, et cetera.

Meanwhile, the part of the membership that goes to work paying the local's bills and making the customer happy take our union for granted. They don't participate in elections or the actions of their local.

Quite a few local union business managers and officers are elected by the protectionist faction of the membership, often with no experience in management, just because they are of the same ilk. They take these guys off the street and expect them to run a multi-million dollar business. The task is so daunting and the staff so inexperienced, nothing gets accomplished.

*Tim Nichol  
Local 280 member, Salem, Ore.*

### Apple for the Teacher

I'm a first-year apprentice with Reading, Pa., Local 743. I never thought in a million years I'd see myself getting the opportunity to say I'm a union electrical apprentice. Now I am proud to tell people. Maybe those who want to learn will succeed, but what's a classroom education without a great teacher?

It is a privilege to learn from the finest in our trade, our first-year apprentice teacher, David Singer. He has gone out of his way to make sure his students know what they need to know and teach them more than what is probably required by the NJATC. He is there three hours early before class setting up for lessons. He built working models of electrical simulations by hand just so his students can see how it works rather than trying to explain it.

Dave taught us the importance of financial responsibility, what it means to save money and how to use it during those rough patches we go through. I once got a peek at all of Dave's certifications in his binder. And when he told me he was an average Joe like me in high school, it only pushed me to study harder. I only hope my next four years with my new teachers will be similar to my first year.

Thank you IBEW, NECA, and NJATC!

*Tyler Runge  
Local 743 member, Reading, Pa.*

### The Union Advantage

My father is a union man, as well as his father, and his father's father before him, and the opportunities supplied by their unions have given me the chance to be the first Brock to attend and finish at a four-year university and go on to pursue a career in law, defending those who don't have the means to defend themselves. My father has taught me to be humble and to never do anything halfway. He instilled in me a desire to help those who I can. My mother, through the law firm in which she works as a paralegal, has tirelessly worked on behalf of unfairly treated employees, including IBT and IBEW members. I listened to her description of the cases her office was working on and was disgusted by the unlawful actions taken by some employers against their own employees, the very people whose efforts keep the wheels of progress turning and brought profit to the businesses.

Unions have had a profound impact on my life; unions have ensured my grandfather and father fair and reasonable wages, decent hours, and above all, stability and safety in a sometimes uncertain world. I will take all that unions have done for me to heart in my career and I will remain eternally grateful for the opportunity they have given me. The protection of the American ideal of a fair wage for an honest day's work in order to make something of oneself is one of the pillars of our society and I would be nothing if unions hadn't given my father and grandfather the chance to do just that.

*Cole Brock  
Grandson of Local 606 retiree Floyd Brock, Orlando, Fla.*

## Who We Are

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

## New York High School Opens Up Career Opportunities in Construction

Many IBEW members first found out about the trade through a relative who was a member—a parent, an uncle or a cousin. But for many students, particularly those growing up in poverty, a career in the building trades is rarely presented as an option.

But a group of inner-city public high school students in Rochester, N.Y., are getting a unique opportunity to get a head start on a career in the construction trades, thanks to the new "Get Ready For Life" program at the Edison School of Applied Technology.

Every day for the last school year, more than 20 students strapped on their safety helmets and steel-toe boots after finishing their morning classes and headed to a nearby worksite where they helped build a new 1,600-square-foot house, working side by side with experienced union craftsmen.

Helping to lead the project was Edison instructor Tom Waydelis. Assisting the students with the wiring were fellow instructors Joe LaPlaca and Jason Millington, who are also Local 86 members.

Local 86 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee Coordinator Joe Intinni, along with Edison teachers Paul Healy and Phil Smith, also helped students plan the electrical installation at the house.

"The kids were required to put in real work, doing everything a regular apprentice is expected to do," LaPlaca said. "We wanted them to get a taste of what real construction is like."

But students got more than just a lesson in basic homebuilding—they learned the fundamentals of hard work and on-the-job etiquette. "All the students in the program have to be ready to take on a lot of responsibility," said Edison Principal Matt Laniak. Students are expected to keep up their grades, have no disciplinary problems and be at school every day. In return, they get a small stipend. "If they screw up, they don't get paid," he said.

Edison draws its student body largely from the most disadvantaged neighborhoods in the city, with more



*High school students from the Edison School of Applied Technology in Rochester, N.Y., helped build a house this year.*



than 70 percent of students living at or below the poverty line, says Laniak. More than 90 percent of students are black or Hispanic.

"None of these students can say I've got an uncle who's a carpenter or my dad is a plumber," Laniak said. "A lot of their caregivers are working two or three jobs at Wal-Mart or at Burger King."

Ken Warner, executive director of Unions and Businesses United in Construction, which provided seed money for the homebuilding project, says the program's goal is to combat unemployment among minority youth in the city. The joblessness rate for black males between the ages of 16-24 is approximately 30 percent—more than three times the rate of the rest of the population.

"We're letting students know that there are good-paying jobs out there," he said.

Vocational education has been stigmatized in last couple decades, as school administrators and elected officials emphasized college preparation over technical training, but Edison is providing an alternative career pathway for students that is garnering positive attention from parents, local leaders and educational experts.

The PBS show, the News Hour with Jim Lehrer featured the program, as did the American Teacher magazine.

"Not every kid is going to Harvard," Laniak said. "But when exposed to the benefits of going into

the building trades, many say they are ready to put in the effort."

Laniak credits UNICON, the Workforce Development Institute—a statewide nonprofit that promotes job training—and the building trades, including Local 86, for helping to make the program a success.

His goal is to get at least two to three students from each class enrolled in a union apprenticeship. "These are jobs that can't be offshored," he said.

Warner says he sees the program as a breeding ground for a new generation of home-grown construction workers. The city is undertaking an ambitious 10-year school modernization program that will require tens of thousands of man-hours of work, and local officials want to make sure the labor force will represent the diversity of the city.

"These students will be the future work force for our contractors," he said.

LaPlaca, who is now retired from Edison, says the program is looking to double in size next year. The school has already purchased a vacant lot to begin construction on another house. The completed house recently sold for \$100,000, which will help fund next year's program.

"It's great opportunity to get some really talented students into the IBEW," he said. ■



In Memoriam continued from page 17

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
424	Tchir, K. E.	1/23/2010	647	Day, D. L.	1/7/2010	1516	Brewster, F. T.	3/16/2010
429	Henson, D. E.	2/16/2010	649	Bowler, J. W.	2/17/2010	1531	Calhoun, J.	2/21/2010
429	Winfrey, K. R.	2/25/2010	654	Edwards, W. P.	1/16/2010	1547	Connolly, R. J.	3/7/2008
441	Krebs, P. W.	3/13/2010	654	Honey, T. H.	8/25/2009	1547	Connolly, M. K.	11/12/2008
441	McEachern, J. F.	11/4/2009	654	Powell, H. G.	5/1/2002	1547	Stallcop, L. C.	3/16/2010
441	Peters, E. W.	10/21/2007	659	Baker, R. G.	1/30/2010	1579	Murray, O. G.	3/15/2010
443	Baggett, R. H.	2/15/2010	659	Sparlin, H. L.	12/5/2009	1701	Clark, J. D.	1/6/2010
443	Hubbard, H. G.	3/6/2010	659	Warren, R. T.	3/13/2010	1739	Zabzinski, D. C.	7/5/2009
446	Hyatt, M. J.	2/13/2010	666	Brooks, H. C.	2/21/2010	1837	Taylor, L. E.	12/10/2009
449	Nyman, A. D.	3/27/2010	666	Welch, D. E.	1/28/2010	2085	Hoffer, B.	1/5/2010
453	Jackson, J. D.	3/14/2010	667	Beach, R. B.	4/8/2010	2131	Martin, N. N.	2/18/2010
461	Schroeder, T. J.	12/10/2009	667	Newton, I. F.	3/2/2010	2150	Rick, K. M.	3/10/2010
461	Young, R. W.	3/14/2010	673	Colagross, L. E.	1/30/2010	2295	Jett, M. R.	12/6/2009
465	Fairchild, G. B.	3/24/2010	683	New, W. S.	11/28/2009	2330	Pottle, S. W.	2/26/2010
466	Ellis, A. W.	2/16/2010	683	Stephenson, E. O.	2/12/2010	I.O. (134)	Crawley, R. W.	12/8/2009
466	Hardman, D. L.	3/12/2010	697	Carnell, P. L.	12/27/2009	I.O. (134)	Gonsowski, G. R.	3/14/2010
479	Adkins, C. T.	2/26/2010	697	Hathaway, W. B.	2/26/2010	I.O. (134)	Krska, M. M.	1/11/2010
481	Demick, R. A.	1/8/2010	701	Loser, W. M.	2/23/2010	Pens. (3)	Itzkowitz, J.	8/16/1996
481	Gehl, C. J.	2/10/2010	701	Nicholson, S. O.	12/18/2009	Pens. (222)	Butler, B. J.	3/16/2010
481	Hood, J. M.	2/5/2010	716	Farrar, R. L.	3/17/2010	Pens. (323)	Sasser, F. D.	10/9/2009
481	Zink, J. E.	1/16/2010	716	McGeary, C. K.	6/28/2008	Pens. (637)	Skinner, R. O.	3/2/2010
486	Mulvaney, J. R.	9/24/2009	716	Young, R.	2/20/2010	Pens. (1788)	McMahon, T. C.	11/9/2009
488	Carpentieri, P.	1/11/2010	725	McNabb, P. W.	2/23/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Anderson, H. M.	10/22/2009
494	Cox, M. J.	12/24/2009	728	Keller, L. O.	2/6/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Archbell, S.	2/11/2010
494	Gowens, M. X.	12/19/2009	728	Powell, M. E.	2/12/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Baker, F. H.	3/16/2010
494	Strassburg, J.	12/28/2009	738	Zamer, S. M.	11/10/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Bardebbsen, W. H.	1/23/2010
495	Ping, R. D.	3/1/2010	743	Braddock, R. S.	2/13/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Beaver, B. C.	11/13/2004
499	Chopard, P. E.	12/3/2009	744	Harfman, A. W.	2/22/2008	Pens. (I.O.)	Bridge, W. L.	2/15/2010
505	Jacobs, S. D.	3/2/2006	756	Martin, J. A.	3/10/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Brizes, W.	2/18/2010
508	Healy, T. D.	5/31/2008	760	Summers, C. R.	3/4/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Brunmeier, R. D.	3/16/2010
508	Miller, H. L.	3/2/2009	768	Eslick, L. E.	1/23/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Buckingham, C. E.	9/28/2009
508	Moble, R. G.	2/21/2010	812	Loudenslager, C. V.	1/27/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Butler, E. T.	8/26/2009
518	Bourn, C. R.	12/23/2009	816	Blincoe, M. J.	2/28/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Carter, J. C.	3/8/2010
518	Burchart, D. W.	2/9/2010	816	Crutcher, T. A.	12/16/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Cartwright, I. L.	3/7/2010
520	Roos, E.	1/29/2010	816	Young, T. L.	2/4/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Clapshaw, R. A.	2/28/2010
527	Ryan, W. L.	3/3/2010	817	Oser, W. E.	3/15/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Clutter, R. W.	3/1/2010
540	Crites, T. J.	5/15/2009	852	Caldwell, J.	2/17/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Coulter, O.	9/1/2009
551	Varney, P. N.	2/12/2010	852	Genry, T. H.	2/16/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Davis, A. C.	3/13/2010
558	Bentley, K.	2/2/2010	855	Townsend, D. R.	2/25/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Decess, D. D.	2/16/2010
558	Bratcher, T. G.	3/2/2010	876	Weger, K. J.	4/7/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Eaton, G. W.	2/28/2010
558	Forrester, H. C.	1/30/2010	890	Atwood, G. A.	3/2/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Hastings, J. C.	3/6/2010
558	Johnston, J. D.	2/20/2010	890	Westerman, T. J.	7/4/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Hatfield, J. T.	2/25/2010
558	Stoll, F. H.	2/4/2010	894	Helps, T. E.	2/26/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Hoppel, R. G.	3/16/2010
558	Thompson, D. L.	3/17/2010	894	West, J.	2/28/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Hund, F. A.	12/23/2009
567	Marquis, R. A.	1/12/2010	915	Thomas, T. D.	1/13/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Hutchinson, P. E.	2/28/2008
568	Chicoine, D.	3/25/2009	934	Fleming, C. G.	2/11/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Johnson, K. P.	3/8/2010
568	Lepage, P.	2/16/2010	934	Stewart, W.	1/20/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Kafarski, S.	2/9/2010
569	Olson, A. L.	2/22/2010	948	Haut, L. E.	3/13/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Leatherman, K. B.	3/8/2010
569	Osborn, G. E.	2/13/2010	949	Miller, C. W.	2/21/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Logan, M. F.	2/21/2010
569	Walsh, L. J.	11/20/2009	965	Anderson, B. J.	3/7/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Long, J. F.	2/11/2009
573	Riviella, R. F.	3/17/2010	972	Smith, R. E.	11/27/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Lorenzen, H. A.	3/30/2010
576	Ates, C. L.	3/17/2010	995	Chaney, F. L.	3/8/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Lukas, E. W.	2/18/2010
584	Crouse, L. E.	1/29/2010	1049	Christine, W. D.	1/30/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Lyons, D. F.	2/5/2010
584	Lees, D. E.	12/9/2009	1055	Havel, R. C.	11/1/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Mahurin, C.	11/15/2009
584	Robertson, J. L.	5/14/2009	1105	Strickler, E. D.	3/14/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Manning, R. E.	3/21/2010
584	Robinson, S. D.	2/15/2010	1116	Patty, E. M.	1/27/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Masters, R. L.	2/18/2010
595	Livermore, N. L.	2/7/2010	1141	Dunlap, C.	3/1/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	McClister, W. J.	1/21/2010
595	Ogden, L. R.	3/9/2010	1141	Ellison, G.	3/18/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	McKay, L. E.	3/9/2010
595	Smith, S. W.	2/12/2010	1141	Howry, R. L.	3/5/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	McLean, D. H.	12/18/2009
595	Young, B. J.	2/21/2010	1141	Shumate, R. V.	11/2/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Menchaca, R.	3/3/2010
601	Rhodes, W. S.	8/14/2009	1158	Russomanno, R.	2/22/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Miller, L. L.	3/10/2010
602	Ellington, A. F.	3/1/2010	1186	Mikami, Y.	1/29/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Mondeau, J. J.	2/6/2010
602	Maddox, D. L.	2/14/2010	1186	Tabar, W. J.	1/5/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Odom, H. R.	3/9/2010
602	Rowan, L. B.	12/8/2009	1212	Votik, A. A.	3/7/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Pamplin, B. A.	3/6/2010
606	Green, W. A.	3/17/2010	1245	Childers, F. K.	2/23/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Pikal, G. K.	3/11/2010
611	Beeson, K. R.	2/22/2010	1249	Drew, R. F.	3/29/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Richmond, F. W.	11/17/2009
611	Garcia, A. C.	3/5/2010	1316	Davis, B. W.	2/21/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Rzepka, W. J.	2/11/2010
611	Murphy, M. P.	3/16/2010	1319	Kresge, W. F.	3/6/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Sawkins, W. G.	3/12/2010
611	Rosewell, F. G.	1/22/2010	1319	Segedy, F.	2/6/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Schuett, N. J.	2/20/2010
613	Gentry, W. L.	1/14/2010	1319	Warnagiris, R.	12/8/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Shannon, W. H.	2/3/2010
613	Hendrix, J. M.	2/12/2010	1319	Yoder, M. J.	3/18/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Smith, N. B.	12/28/2009
613	Martin, W. L.	2/11/2010	1340	Spivey, R. C.	2/22/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Sportsman, B. L.	1/9/2010
613	Richardson, W. R.	1/26/2010	1393	Force, R. A.	2/17/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Swanson, L. E.	11/28/2009
617	Eiferle, F. W.	4/12/2010	1426	Landby, N.	2/22/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Thurman, C. A.	2/22/2010
625	Cole, A. R.	1/1/2010	1426	Linnell, L. K.	3/8/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Wamack, F. R.	3/9/2010
636	Lea, O. H.	6/24/2009	1439	Barbeau, L. J.	3/16/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Wheeler, J. J.	3/10/2010
640	Compton, R. L.	2/13/2010	1466	Kline, C. L.	3/17/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Whisman, J. H.	2/26/2010
640	Martin, R. D.	2/15/2010	1516	Arrington, R. D.	12/6/2009	Pens. (I.O.)	Worley, C. E.	1/22/2009

Union Member Rights and Officer Responsibilities Under the LMRDA

The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) guarantees certain rights to union members and imposes certain responsibilities on union officers. The Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) enforces many LMRDA provisions while other provisions, such as the bill of rights, may only be enforced by union members through private suit in federal court. For more information contact the nearest OLMS field office.

Union Members' Rights

**Bill of Rights**—Union members have:

- equal rights to participate in union activities
- freedom of speech and assembly
- voice in setting rates of dues, fees, and assessments
- protection of the right to sue
- safeguards against improper discipline

**Copies of Collective Bargaining Agreements**—Union members and nonunion employees have the right to receive or inspect copies of collective bargaining agreements.

**Reports**—Unions are required to file an initial information report (Form LM-1), copies of constitutions and bylaws, and an annual financial report (Form LM-2/3/4) with OLMS. Unions must make the reports available to members and permit members to examine supporting records for just cause. The reports are public information and copies are available from OLMS.

**Officer Elections**—Union members have the right to:

- nominate candidates for office
- run for office
- cast a secret ballot
- protest the conduct of an election

**Officer Removal**—Local union members have the right to an adequate procedure for the removal of an elected officer guilty of serious misconduct.

**Trusteeships**—Unions may only be placed in trusteeship by a parent body for the reasons specified in the LMRDA.

**Prohibition Against Violence**—No one may use or threaten to use force or violence to interfere with a union member in the exercise of LMRDA rights.

Union Officer Responsibilities

**Financial Safeguards**—Union officers have a duty to manage the funds and property of the union solely for the benefit of the union and its members in accordance with the union's constitution and bylaws. Union officers or employees who embezzle or steal union funds or other assets commit a federal crime punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

**Bonding**—Union officers or employees who handle union funds or property must be bonded to provide protection against losses if their union has property and annual financial receipts which exceed \$5,000.

**Labor Organization Reports**—Union officers must:

- file an initial information report (Form LM-1) and annual financial reports (Forms LM-2/3/4) with OLMS.
- retain the records necessary to verify the reports for at least five years.

**Officer Report**—Union officers and employees must file reports concerning any loans and benefits received from, or certain financial interests in, employers whose employees their unions represent and businesses that deal with their unions.

**Officer Election**—Unions must:

- hold elections of officers of local unions by secret ballot at least every three years.
- conduct regular elections in accordance with their constitution and bylaws and preserve all records for one year.
- mail a notice of election to every member at least 15 days prior to the election
- comply with a candidate's request to distribute campaign material.
- not use union funds or resources to promote any candidate (nor may employer funds or resources be used)
- permit candidates to have election observers.
- allow candidates to inspect the union's membership list once within 30 days prior to the election.

**Restrictions on Holding Office**—A person convicted of certain crimes may not serve as a union officer, employee or other representative of a union for up to 13 years.

**Fines**—A union may not pay the fine of any officer or employee convicted of any willful violation of the LMRDA.

The above is a summary of the LMRDA. Full text of the Act, which comprises Sections 401-531 of Title 29, U.S. Code, may be found in many public libraries, or by writing the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-5616, Washington, DC, 20210, or on the Internet at [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov). ■